

## **FORCE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED BY AREA COMMITTEES AND WARD FORUMS IN D DIVISION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report seeks to inform Members of the Consultation and Partnership Committee about the Humberside Police response to community concerns raised by Area Committees and Ward Forums in D Division and actions taken as a consequence of those concerns.
2. The key local issues raised at the Area Committee and Ward Forum meetings were:
  - complaints about the reckless riding of quad bikes and motorcycles;
  - changes to the policing structure; and
  - the response to calls for service.
3. Changes to policing structure are being addressed at the Police Authority meetings. Neighbourhood Policing will be addressed by a separate agenda item at this meeting. Call and Incident Handling is also being addressed as a separate agenda item.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **The reckless riding of motorcycles and quad bikes and complaints against young people**

4. There are a number of hotspot areas in Hull where motorcycles and quad bikes are ridden in anti-social manner. A number of initiatives and/ or operations have been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Teams to try and eradicate this problem.
5. Rather than simply responding to individual incident logs in an unplanned way, Riverside employs a problem solving approach to deal with groups of logs in an area. This enables them to establish the root of the problem and assess the best methods to solve it. As an example of this there was a recent rise in the number of reported incidents along Welstead Street involving dwelling burglaries, car crime, drug dealing and motorcycles being ridden in an anti-social manner. A short period of evidence gathering was undertaken, which informed a tasking request to the D Division Daily Management Meetings. A joint operation was conducted between the Operational Performance Unit (OPU) and the Neighbourhood Team (NT). The scale of the problem has reduced significantly, along with the following outcomes:

- 4 problem youths arrested
  - 1 male charged with 6 breaches of ASBO
  - 1 male charged with 6 breaches of ASBO and one assault
  - 1 female charged with harassment and given bail conditions
  - 1 female given a reprimand
  - 1 Drugs warrant executed.
  - 2 males arrested and a quantity of white powder seized
  - 2 quad bikes and 1 motorcycle seized (believed stolen)
6. Work to resolve the problems faced by the residents of Welstead Street is continuing. The Hull City Council Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team is endeavouring to obtain an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) for the two females mentioned in the bullet points above and action is being taken to site a mobile multi agency community safety team in Welstead Street.
7. Another hotspot area for motorcycle problems in the Riverside NT area has been Hawthorn Avenue. Recently, successful police action has resulted in five bikes being seized and three offenders being given ASBOs. At the present time the problem of young people riding motor and quad bikes around Hawthorn Avenue appears to have been resolved. A community contact has been established should the problem arise again in the future.
8. Hull City Council provided funding of around £3,500 which allowed Northern NT to recently run Operation Espionage to specifically deal with nuisance motorbikes. The funding enabled officers to be dedicated to the task without any other commitments. The Operation was multi agency and included Wardens, Hull City Council ASB officers, the Cop Shop, officers from the Housing Department and Council Area Teams. Results of the Operation were:
- 3 arrests for disqualified driving
  - 1 arrest for TWOC
  - 2 summons for dangerous driving
  - 2 summons for riding no helmet
  - 2 summons for no insurance
  - 2 fixed penalty tickets for Section 5 public order
  - 1 summons for Section 5 public order
  - 7 motorcycles seized
  - 50 verbal Section 59 warnings (please see paragraph XX for details of Section 59 offences)
  - 26 written Section 59 warnings
  - In the 3 months prior to Operation Espionage there were 109 calls for service classed as 'vehicle related nuisance'. In the corresponding 3 months after the operation there were 59.
9. Both North Carr and Northern NTs have run operations with funding from the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign and the Reducing Violent Crime initiative in order to deal with calls for service relating to anti-social

behaviour by young people, which is often fuelled by alcohol. Such behaviour includes the anti-social use of motor vehicles such as motorcycles and quad bikes. The NTs secured additional funding from the North Carr Area Committee to extend Operation Salvidge in the North Carr area. The Operation is still ongoing, principally on Friday nights, and is well regarded by residents and involves plain clothed and high visibility police officers together with special constables. The results of the initiative in North Carr NT, from December 2005 to April 2006, are summarised below:

- 13 arrests
  - 34 prosecutions
  - 2 charged
  - 14 Penalty Notices issued
  - 2 cautions
  - 6 reprimands/ final warnings
  - 6 traffic fixed penalty notices
  - 4 reported
  - 3 persons interviewed
  - 49 vehicle defect forms issued
  - 21 motor vehicles seized
  - 60 public order warnings
  - 163 alcohol seizures
  - 37 alcohol seizures within the exclusion zone
  - 9 youths taken home
  - 195 warning letters sent
  - 84 (voluntary only) names of youths that have been given to youth workers to find out the activities that they are involved/ interested in
  - Hours spent by the NT
10. Regular meetings are held with the area stakeholders such as Wardens, officers from the Housing Department and ASB officers to co-ordinate responses to reports of anti-social behaviour by young people in the North Carr NT area. As an example of this, there has been a continual problem in and around the Housing Office and shopping arcade in the Roebank area. The NT is working with other stakeholders to try and reduce the calls for service. There are a number of on- going actions that include the targeting of five individuals for ASBOs, the establishment of a Cop Shop outside the arcade and patrols by the Mounted Section. Additionally, a sonic deterrent device, named Mosquito, is soon to be installed. It is named the Mosquito because the sound resembles that of a buzzing insect which works by emitting a harmless ultra sonic tone that generally can only be heard by people aged 25 and under.
11. Whenever possible East and Park NTs visit alleged offenders at their home addresses and instigate Section 59 procedures. Sections 59 and 60 of the Police Reform Act 2002 came into force in January 2003 and gave the police new powers to specifically deal with the anti-social use of motor vehicles on public roads or off-road. Included are powers to stop, seize and remove motor vehicles which are being used in a manner likely to cause

alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public or which are being driven off-road or on the public road or other public place without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for other road users. The legislation allows a police officer or a PCSO to order the person driving the vehicle to stop driving in an anti-social manner and under certain circumstances seize the vehicle, making the driver/ owner liable for vehicle recovery and storage fees. The money realised will contribute towards the seizure fees. It is intention of Park and East NTs to run a campaign during the summer months to enable members of the public to ring in and report named offenders who will be visited and whenever appropriate, their bikes will be seized.

12. The East Area Team has a multi agency community tasking group that covers two out of three wards and that meets to address specific problems and reduce calls for service. The third ward will be set up in the near future. Park NT encompasses the Preston Road New Deal Initiative and is in the process of developing a multi agency tasking group for the rest of the Park NT area. This will start at an area level but will develop to ward level. Work is underway with area directors at formulating and coordinating tasking for wardens, PCSOs, ASB teams and police officers. The tasking groups look at reducing crime with the emphasis on burglary dwelling, vehicle crime and robbery and also addressing issues that communities raise, such as anti-social behaviour and the anti-social use of motor vehicles.
13. Inspectors Bert Cuozzo (East/ Park NT) and Iain Dixon (Northern/ North Carr NT) are submitting a proposal to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for a city-wide Operation Yokahama. The bid will be for three motorbikes and the associated equipment, maintenance and overtime to ensure that the Operation is effective. Teams will be deployed during the school holidays and will work in conjunction with ASB teams and youth services and it is expected that a number of bike clubs will be set up as part of this. The training of D Division officers to undertake the Operation has been approved and once the funding is secured, the operation can be progressed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. It is recommended that Members of the Consultation and Partnership Committee:
  - i) Discuss the content of the Report; and
  - ii) Continue to refer matters of operational policing to the Chief Constable for appropriate action.

**TIM S HOLLIS**  
**CHIEF CONSTABLE**

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