

Welcome to the second edition of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Newsletter, renamed 'Authority Matters' as a result of a reader's suggestion – Thank You! This e-newsletter will be circulated every eight to ten weeks bringing you up to date with the activities of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, letting you know how you can get involved and what to expect in the coming months.

Also included is an "Issue in focus" to give you more detail on an item of interest. This edition we look at the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme. On the final page you will find an overview of our website and facebook statistics, and the contact details for the office.

As we develop this newsletter we would welcome your ideas and feedback. Email us at [polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) We want this newsletter to be useful for anyone that reads it: members of the policing family at all levels; community members; and partner agencies – we can only make it relevant with your help. Please pass it on and spread the word.

## A changing national landscape

As readers will be aware all public sector organisations are facing a time of change and uncertainty and this is no less true in the policing environment. There are three significant areas in which the police authority is particularly interested.

### (i) Budget cut in public sector

Exact budget cuts (and relevant timescales) are as yet unknown but it is accepted they will be challenging.

### (ii) Scrapping of national policing targets

The requirement for police forces to report nationally on policing targets (such as confidence) has been removed but local targets are set by the Police Authority and the police's performance is still monitored against those.

### (iii) Directly elected commissioners

The election for directly elected police commissioners will be held in May 2012, but the model supporting that commissioner is not yet clear.

We will provide further updates on these issues as more information is known.

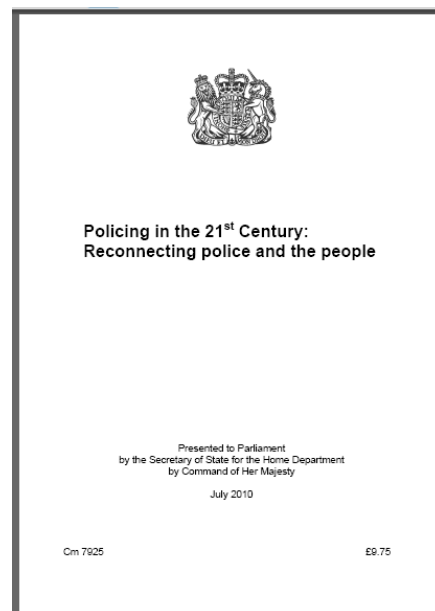
## National consultation: Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – reconnecting the police and public

This consultation sets out the government's vision for policing and how it will:

- cut crime and protect the public
- be more directly accountable to the public
- offer value for money

You can access the consultation, and respond, online at

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/policing-21st-century/>



## 11 Million Take Over Day

In November last year a group of young people from Exeter schools began work on a short DVD as part of the “11 Million Take Over Day” which engages young people with strategic decision making. The video, made by young people for young people, aims to raise awareness of your rights when stopped.



The video is now complete and plans are underway to launch the video in September. The 11 Million Take Over Day in 2010 is on 12 November and plans are already underway in the office to do a similar activity with a group of young people in Cornwall.

## Independent Custody Visitors Scheme

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010 the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme held it's Annual Conference in Launceston. Independent Custody Visitors are members of the local community who volunteer their time to attend their local Police Station and check on detainee's welfare and rights.

The Annual Conference not only allows Independent Custody Visitors the chance to meet each year, but also gives the opportunity for both Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and Devon and Cornwall Police to give their thanks to the volunteers for generously committing another year of volunteering to the scheme.

The conference was attended by Mike Bull, Chairman of Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and Sharon Taylor, Assistant Chief Constable. A talk from Julia Moore, Mental Health Liaison Officer was also included producing an update on Mental Health issues, Acting Inspector Scott Griffiths also contributed by demonstrating restraints used in custody and explained clothing used for detainees. The conference was well attended and enjoyed by all. See the 'In Focus' feature in the next edition for more information about the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme.

If you have any further questions about the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme or would like more information about becoming an Independent Custody Visitor, please either visit our website [www.dcpa.police.uk](http://www.dcpa.police.uk) or call 01392 268318.

## New website – we want your thoughts!

The proposed new website for the Authority is now available for testing. We are running a short testing period (closing 13 August 2010) during which users can access the site and then complete a short questionnaire or email their thoughts to us. Testing covers how logical people find the site, whether there are any obvious gaps of information they would expect to find on our site and can't, and understand why people use the site.



You can access the testing site at the following link:  
<http://www.dcpa.police.uk/testNewSite/index.htm>

## Out and about

The summer programme of getting 'out and about' is well underway and the Authority has been represented at a number of agricultural shows and community events across the two counties. At these events we are asking people whether they have received any information from the police about crime in their area. Then we ask whether people want this information. Almost 900 people have answered already. Only 44% had seen police provided information and 76% want the information.



Event			Location
Camelford	Wed	11-Aug-10	Halwill Barton
Okehampton Show	Thurs	12-Aug-10	Stoney Park Showground
Cornwall Respect	Sat	14-Aug-10	Victoria Gardens, Truro
Holsworthy Show	Thurs	26-Aug-10	Kilatree Cross
Cornwall Pride	Sat	28-Aug-10	Victoria Gardens, Truro

## 'Take Part' Events in Devon

The Police Authority has recently worked in partnership with 'Take Part' to develop a workshop exploring the work of the Police Authority and the different roles you could undertake to support them.

**Wednesday 1st September**

**Saturday 4th September**

On these programmes you will:

- Learn more about the role of the Police Authority and how you can get involved.
- Work with case studies, through the eyes of an independent Member of the Police Authority.
- Look at the recruitment process and the selection criteria for becoming an independent Member.

For more details or to book a place contact Linda Poole on 01392 202055 or visit

[www.takepartexeter.org](http://www.takepartexeter.org) Please note the Police Authority offices are not involved with the organisation of this event.



## Farewell, with thanks

In April the Authority said goodbye to Gill Bishop who had worked with the officer team as a Policy Officer, on a temporary contract. During her time with the Authority Gill researched and developed the draft single equality scheme which is currently out for public consultation. Her hard work during her time with the Authority was appreciated by all.

In July we said goodbye to Pauline Ward. Pauline had been an administrator for the Police Authority Liaison Meetings for four years and her commitment over this time was highly valued.

## Issue in focus

### Police Authority Liaison Meetings (PALMs)



Devon and Cornwall Police Authority is committed to consulting with the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in a meaningful way. The current economic and political climate means difficult decisions will have to be made about policing and the communities' voice in these high level considerations is important.

A recent review of our current Police Authority Liaison Meetings found that topics being discussed were often local operational issues. Whilst important these are the remit of the Constabulary and not issues the Authority can directly influence. Over the next twelve months therefore we will be trialling some new methods of face to face engagement that enable us to hear your views on significant high level policing issues such as target setting, budget setting, use of resources.

#### Cornwall

In Cornwall this means the same number of PALMs will take place and the venues/dates for the Autumn round of meetings are available on our website. The changes will be:

- The meeting will discuss a preset strategic themed topic such as the budget. This will ensure every PALM across Cornwall in a set period will be debating the same topics.
- The results of these discussions (action plans and meeting notes) will be collated by the Policy Officer for Community Engagement who will highlight the themes and salient points from a round of meetings. The resultant report will be presented to the relevant Committee/Working Group (i.e. a round of meetings could discuss council tax precept setting and the responses to this would then be fed to the budget working group for consideration)
- Police representation will no longer be neighbourhood policing teams but the relevant Local Policing Area Commander (Superintendent rank) to support the strategic discussion.

#### Devon

Across Devon (including Torbay) there will be no Police Authority Liaison Meetings for the next twelve months. Instead we will use the resources to host three conferences (one in central Devon, one in North Devon and one in Torbay) which will provide a new opportunity to debate key issues with Members of the Police Authority, senior officers from the Constabulary and representatives from your local authority. This forum will enable you to consider challenges facing the Authority and its partners currently, ask questions relating to these, and have your input to debates.

#### Plymouth

The current system in Plymouth will be maintained to offer a benchmark during the trial period.

#### Raising local issues with your neighbourhood policing team

These trials will not reduce your ability to raise local concerns with your local neighbourhood policing team. You can find information about and contact your neighbourhood policing team at <http://neighbourhoodpolicing.devon-cornwall.police.uk> or calling 08452 777444 (24hours non-emergency).

## Website update

The Devon and Cornwall Police Authority website: [www.dcpa.police.uk](http://www.dcpa.police.uk)

### Statistics at a glance

Month	Total visits	Unique visits	Highest single day hits	% New visits
April 2010	1,185	867 (73%)	62 on Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	62.7%
May 2010	1,283	888 (69%)	72 on Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	58.7%
June 2010	1,305	880 (67%)	63 on Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	55.1%
July 2010	1,433	957 (67%)	58 on Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	57.01%

The Police Authority has 143 Facebook 'friends'. This is since we started on 14 January 2010.

As always we welcome your feedback on the website and any requests for items to include. Please contact [polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:polauth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

## Supporting the Authority

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