

DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

Notes of the **POLICE AUTHORITY LIAISON MEETING** for the Carrick District Council area held on Thursday 29 March 2007 in the Council Chamber, New County Hall, Cornwall County Council starting at 19:30hrs.

Present

Authority

Mr J Currie.....Chairman

Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive)

Constabulary

Ch Supt R Cooper (BCU Commander), D Inspector R Mogridge, Inspector M Richards (Sector Inspector) Superintendent P Strawbridge (Call handling).

22 people attended the meeting.

1. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Officers present.

2. Police Report

Inspector Richards gave the report

- Reorganisation of resources in the area is intended to improve crime detection and look after victims of crime
- Police Community Support Officers are starting work in the rural Truro areas and their powers are being extended
- Neighbourhood policing is at the forefront of the Basic Command Unit's work
- The pub watch scheme started in Truro has been so effective that it is now being rolled out to other areas
- The key statistics regarding crime in the area were given

Supt Strawbridge gave a brief report on how the role and work of the communications rooms:

- Answer & response to 999 calls
- Answer & response to non-emergency calls
- Crime recording service
- Command & control incidents and send resources to them
- Initial management of specialist incidents e.g. firearms
- 24 hour a day, 7 day a week service
- 280,000 emergency calls are taken in a year – 90% of calls are answered within 10 seconds
- non emergency calls first go to a switchboard where they are prioritised and the average answer time is 10 seconds; 60% of those calls get passed to a call handler for a more detailed response - the average time to get to the call handler is 1 minute 15 seconds
- crime recording directly from police officers and the public over the phone speeds up recording details accurately which means that Police Officers can spend more time out in their neighbourhoods

- there are 2 communication rooms – one in Exeter and one in Plymouth
- Airwave has meant that there are very few places in Devon & Cornwall where good radio reception cannot be obtained
- Most of the staff are Police Staff but there are always Police Officers available as well
- All call handlers have access to a computerised mapping system and also internet access to enable accurate identification of locations
- Reminder that 999 is for when immediate action is needed, approx 1/3 of calls received on 999 are not emergencies
- People can use the crimestoppers number to give information anonymously
- The Force website has a lot of useful information on it

Chief Superintendent Cooper

- Cornwall in general has had a reduction in recorded crime,
- There are 3 house burglaries, 9 vehicles broken into in the county in a day, these are examples of how safe Cornwall is
- There has been a 4% increase in Criminal damage which is approx 25 reports every day – but there has been a reduction in Truro
- Partnerships And Communities Together (PACT) meetings – communities and police working together to agree priorities for that neighbourhood

3. Open Session

Members and Officers then responded to questions from members of the public, which included the following topics

- Definition of a neighbourhood population with regard to policing , most are 8,000-9,000 people
- Feedback to people who provide information regarding crime
- Call handling – time taken to answer to calls - steps are being taken to address this – looking at working patterns and using technology to identify peaks, troughs and problems
- Specific incident in St Clements – Inspector Richards will look into it
- Drugs and the impact on crime - much crime is committed to fund drug habits but often Cornwall does not follow the national trends. The police do take drugs issues seriously.
- There is a very effective Drug and Alcohol Action Team in Cornwall and investment in treating chaotic drug use.

4. Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

D Inspector Mogridge gave a talk on the work of MAPPA. The information provided included:

- Managing of people who have commit offences against children based on risk
- Based at Middlemoor
- 6 months before possible release the risk management process is started
- Police, Prison and Probation are the main partners
- Cornwall Sex Offender Register – approx 300 people are on the register, their crimes range from abuse of the internet to the most serious paedophilia. this number of offenders in an area is less that the national average
- The type of management activity may include assistance with housing, arranging education, electronic tagging, surveillance, extra conditions on their licence

Discussion included

- Time / resources used in the management offenders

5. Matters of Interest from the Police Authority

The Chairman explained his role and referred to the make up of the Authority with particular reference to representatives from Cornwall.

- Appointment of the Chief Constable and holding them to account
- Balancing of neighbourhood policing and contributions to issues such as counter terrorism, which can be difficult
- Need to maintain and receive public support

6. Neighbourhood Watch

A representative from neighbourhood watch provided information about the schemes in the area. Discussions included:

- Communication with PCSOs is good
- Vandalism is the main problem
- Traffic issues
- Late night economy
- Difficult in maintaining interest in Neighbourhood Watch
- Operation of the PACTs

The meeting closed at 21.00hrs