

# **1. MAJOR INCIDENTS AND POLICING DIARY**

## **MURDER / ATTEMPTED MURDER**

### **1.1 Operation Albany – Murder in Dartmouth**

On Thursday 3 November, police attended an address in Dartmouth and discovered the body of an 86-year-old woman. On Monday 14 November, an 87-year-old man from Dartmouth was charged at Torquay Police Station with her murder. He has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter where he is awaiting trial.

### **1.2 Stabbing - Exeter**

On Saturday 5 November, a 37-year-old man from Exeter suffered a stab wound to his back in Exeter. The injuries were serious but not life threatening. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.3 Operation Devonia - Police Excavate Garden -Torquay**

On Monday 7 November, police officers executed a Section 8 PACE Warrant at an address in Torquay. The warrant was in connection with the disappearance of 43-year-old Saraya Broadhurst who went missing from Torquay sometime after February 2001. Despite numerous enquiries there had been no positive sighting of her since that time. A 51-year-old man from Torquay has been charged with the common law offence of ‘obstructing the coroner’ by preventing the ‘lawful and decent burial of a body without lawful cause’ and with the murder of Saraya Broadhurst. He is now awaiting trial at HMP Exeter for the two offences.

### **1.4 Attempted Murder – South Brent**

Police in the South Hams have charged a 35-year-old Paignton man with two offences of attempted murder following an incident in South Brent just after midnight on Thursday 29 December, during which a 29-year-old woman and a 32-year-old man from South Brent suffered stab wounds. The man has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter where he is awaiting trial.

### **1.5 Crossbow Incident - Newquay**

On Friday 30 December, a report was received of an attack on an 18-year-old man at an address in Newquay. A 40-year-old man has been charged with attempted murder and remanded into custody at HMP Exeter. He is due to appear before Truro Crown Court in February.

## VIOLENCE

### **1.6 Disorder on the Strand - Torquay**

On Friday 18 November, police were called to a disturbance on the Strand, Torquay during which an 18-year-old man from Chippenham, Wiltshire suffered a fractured cheekbone and broken nose. Six youths, one fifteen years of age, two sixteen years of age and three seventeen years of age, all from Torquay, were arrested for violent disorder. They were released on police bail to re-appear at Torquay Police Station at the end of January.

### **1.7 Assault and Attempted Robbery - Truro**

On Saturday 26 November, police were called to Goldsmith's jewellery shop in Truro following a report of an assault and attempted robbery. As the owner was closing the shop, two men armed with a screwdriver and baseball bat entered and instructed him to lie on the floor. He was then assaulted by one of the men using the baseball bat. The owner was subjected to a prolonged assault before both men fled empty-handed. The men were seen to run from the shop along St Mary's street towards the cathedral at around 5.10pm and then disappeared. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.8 Serious Assault - Penzance**

On Thursday 15 December, a 21-year-old man from Penzance was attacked. As he thought himself uninjured, the matter was not reported to the police. He was later diagnosed with a fractured jaw and bleeding on the brain. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.9 Affray - Torquay**

On Tuesday 3 January, police were called to a residential address in Torquay following a report that a man had made threats towards other residents and caused damage to property. A 40-year-old man from Torquay was arrested and charged with affray. He has since been released on conditional bail pending a court appearance in February.

### **1.10 Serious Assault - Barnstaple**

Police in Barnstaple are investigating a serious assault that left an 18-year-old man from Barnstaple with his jaw broken in three places. The incident occurred at the 'Shout' nightclub on Monday 26 December. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.11 Serious Assault - Torquay**

On Tuesday 3 January, police were called to a report of disorder in Torquay. On arrival, they found a 25-year-old man from Torquay with serious head injuries. He was initially treated at the scene by ambulance staff before being taken to Derriford with a serious head injury. Although heavily sedated he has

shown signs of improvement and has been able to move his limbs. An 18-year-old man from Torquay was later arrested on suspicion of Grievous Bodily Harm and then charged. He has been remanded into custody where he is awaiting trial.

## ASSAULT ON POLICE

### **1.12 Assault of Police Officer - Plymouth**

In the early hours of Saturday 31 December, a police officer was assaulted while dealing with an incident of disorder on Union Street. The officer received minor injuries as a result of this assault but did not require any medical treatment. A 22-year-old man from Plymouth has been charged with assault causing actual bodily harm and assaulting a police officer. He has been remanded on conditional bail and is awaiting trial.

## FIREARMS

### **1.13 Firearms Incident - Honiton**

Following a report of a domestic assault, police attended a residential address in Honiton on Wednesday 23 November. A 57-year-old man from Honiton was arrested and has since been charged with threats to kill and assault causing actual bodily harm. He has been released on bail and is awaiting trial.

### **1.14 Firearms Incident - Plymouth**

On Monday 12 December, an 18-year-old man from Plymouth was charged with possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter where he is awaiting trial.

## ROBBERY

### **1.15 Robbery - Plymouth**

On Saturday 5 November, two men committed a robbery at the post office in West Hoe, Plymouth. Upon leaving the premises one offender was confronted by the postmaster who received slight injuries during his efforts to detain the offender and recover the stolen cash. The two men made off in a white Citroen van, which was located unattended a short while later in Hoe Approach. Enquires are ongoing.

### **1.16 Shop Robbery - Barnstaple**

On Sunday 13 November, police were called to the incident of a robbery that had occurred at the Spar shop in Bear Street. A 32-year-old man from Barnstaple was charged with robbery and has been released on police bail. He is awaiting trial.

**1.17 Robbery - Barnstaple**

On Sunday 20 November, two men were arrested for robbing the BP garage in Newport Road, Barnstaple on Friday 18 November. A 32-year-old Barnstaple man was charged with robbery and has been remanded into custody until his plea and directional hearing at Exeter Crown Court in March. A 26-year-old man from Barnstaple was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy and has been re-bailed to a date in February.

**1.18 Assault with Intent to Commit Robbery - Paignton**

A 20-year-old man from Liverpool has been charged with assault with intent to commit robbery in connection with an incident at Barclays Bank in Paignton on Tuesday 29 November. He has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter where he is awaiting trial. Enquiries are ongoing.

**1.19 Armed Robbery - Looe**

On Wednesday 30 November, a report was received of an armed robbery of the post office and stores in Nomansland, near Looe. The offender, holding some kind of weapon, demanded money before running from the scene with £7,000 cash. He gained entry into a car parked close by and escaped. Enquiries are ongoing.

**1.20 Bank Robbery - Newquay**

On Friday 30 December, police received a report of a robbery at the HSBC Bank in Newquay. On Saturday 31 December a 36-year-old man of no fixed abode was arrested and charged with armed robbery. He has been remanded into custody at HMP Exeter where he is awaiting trial.

**1.21 Robbery - Redruth**

On Thursday 5 December, a 15-year-old boy from Redruth was robbed as he was walking home from a youth club. Three youths, two aged 15 and one aged 14, all from Redruth, have been arrested on suspicion of a robbery. One 15-year-old has been released without charge. The other two youths were charged with robbery and are awaiting trial.

**ARSON**

**1.22 Burglary and Arson - Torquay**

On Monday 31 October, police and Devon Fire and Rescue Service were called to a serious fire in a flat above the British Heart Foundation Shop, Union Street, Torquay. A 39-year-old man from Torquay has been charged with burglary and arson. He is currently on remand in custody where he is awaiting trial.

### **1.23 Suspicious Fire - Brixham**

On the evening of 6 November, Brixham coastguard was alerted by Devon Fire and Rescue Service of a fire at Yealm coastguard station, Newton Ferrers. The garage building was totally destroyed by the fire, as was the coastguard rescue vehicle, a Nissan Navara, cliff rescue equipment and a trailer. An inspection by a Fire Investigation Officer indicated the fire had been started deliberately. The cost of replacing the building, emergency vehicle and equipment is likely to be in excess of £150,000. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.24 Arson - Plymouth**

On Sunday 27 November, police attended a report of fireworks being thrown into a take-away in St Budeaux, Plymouth. Two youths from Plymouth aged 16 were arrested on suspicion of arson and released with no further action. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.25 Arson - Truro**

On Saturday 31 December, police attended a major fire at the Truronian Bus depot, Truro, which resulted in the destruction of seven buses. The cause of the fire is being treated as arson. Enquiries are ongoing.

### **1.26 Suspected Shop Arson - Redruth**

On Sunday 1 January, CCTV cameras discovered a fire in a disused shop in Fore Street, Redruth. Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service attended and extinguished the fire before it caused further damage to the adjoining premises. Enquiries are ongoing.

## **ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**

### **1.27 Fatal Road Traffic Collisions**

Between 1 November and 31 December 2005, there were 17 fatal collisions resulting in 17 people being killed on the roads of Devon and Cornwall that were investigated under the remit of the Road Death Investigation Manual.

### **1.28 Fatal RTC A39 - Wadebridge**

On Tuesday 8 November, a fatal road traffic collision occurred on the A39 near the Halfway House near Wadebridge. A white Renault traffic van was in collision with a green Rover motor car. A 67-year-old man from Wadebridge was pronounced dead at the scene. A 24-year-old man from Bedfordshire was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and has been re-bailed to 9 March pending further enquiries.

### **1.29 Fatal RTC - Bude**

On Tuesday 8 November, a fatal road traffic collision occurred on the A39 near Bude. A Dairy Crest milk tanker and trailer was in collision with a Fiat Cinquecento. A 21-year-old woman from Bude died at the scene. A 53-year-old man from Bude was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and has been bailed until February.

### **1.30 Fatal RTC – A39**

Early on the morning of Wednesday 16 November, emergency services were called to the scene of a road traffic collision involving a white van and a silver car on the A39 North Devon Link Road. The car caught fire on impact and an 18-year-old man from Northam was killed. A 33-year-old Barnstaple man was arrested on suspicion of failing to stop at the scene of an accident and on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He was bailed to re appear in March.

### **1.31 Fatal RTC with Horse – A3058**

On Saturday 10 December, emergency services were called to a collision between a green Renault Scenic motor vehicle and a horse on the A3058 in the vicinity of Quintrell Downs, near Newquay. A 65-year-old woman from Newquay was admitted to the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Trillick where she later died of her injuries. The horse died of its injuries at the scene. Enquiries required the road to be closed for five-and-a-half hours.

### **1.32 Fatal RTC - Camelford**

On Friday 30 December, police received a report of a road traffic collision on the A39 near Camelford, Cornwall. A vehicle had collided with a herd of bullocks that had strayed onto the highway. A 60-year-old Cornish man from a town near Bude, was taken to Derriford Hospital where he later died. A second vehicle also collided with a bullock from the same farm, the driver, a man from Bude, received only minor injuries.

### **1.33 Serious Road Traffic Collisions**

Between 1 November and 31 December 2005 there were 10 serious injury collisions with 14 people being seriously injured on the roads of Devon and Cornwall that were investigated under the remit of the Road Death Investigation Manual.

### **1.34 RTC - Ilfracombe**

An incident in Ilfracombe during the early hours of Monday 2 January left a 21-year-old man from Devon with a fractured hand and a woman with serious leg injuries after a car mounted the pavement and collided with them both. Two men aged 18 and 19 from Exeter and one man aged 21 from

Wolverhampton, were arrested for grievous bodily harm. The men have been released on bail to re-appear at a later date.

## OTHER

### **1.35 Drugs Operation – Braunton**

On the evening of Friday 28 October, police conducted a ‘pubs against drugs’ operation in Braunton and Croyde. A specialist passive drugs detector dog and handler helped lead to the arrests of two men, one aged 18 and the other aged 38, both from Braunton, for drugs offences. Both men have been charged with possession of cocaine and bailed to appear before court. The operation was one of a number being carried out in the area and linked to Braunton police’s zero tolerance drugs policy.

### **1.36 Public Disorder - Totnes**

At about 11.30pm on Friday 4 November, over 23 police officers from across the South Hams area attended a scene of public disorder at The Plains in Totnes. As a result of the disorder, three men from South Brent aged 19, 24 and 27 were arrested for public order offences (affray) and an offence of causing actual bodily harm. All three have been remanded on bail to return in February.

### **1.37 Drug Seizure - Bideford**

On the morning of 5 November, police executed a warrant under the ‘Misuse of Drugs Act’ in the Bideford area which resulted in approximately 3000 ecstasy tablets being seized. A 40-year-old man from Bideford was arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply. He was remanded into custody following a guilty plea on 24 November and appeared before Exeter Crown Court on 22 December 2005, where he received a nine-month custodial sentence suspended for two years with curfew conditions applied for the first three months.

### **1.38 Collision at Sea - Teignmouth**

On Thursday 10 November, police were notified of a collision between a merchant vessel and a pilot vessel in Teignmouth harbour. A 47-year-old man was arrested after failing a breath test and charged with being a master/pilot/seaman whose ability was impaired by being drunk. The man appeared before Torquay Magistrate’s Court on 11 November where he was ordered to pay £4000 in damages and £55 court costs.

### **1.39 Operation Ayres - Drugs Seizures in North Devon**

On Thursday 10 November, police executed a warrant under the ‘Misuse of Drugs Act’ in Ilfracombe. A 41-year-old man and three women from Ilfracombe were arrested during the operation on suspicion of drugs offences. All four have been released on bail to return in February.

#### **1.40 Racial Disorder - Plymouth**

On Saturday 12 November, police were called to a report of disorder at the Plymouth Guildhall where a celebration of the South Asian Society Conference was being held. Reports were received that several youths on mopeds and in cars were abusive towards conference delegates from the Asian community. This occurrence is being treated as a racially motivated incident. Statements have been collected from witnesses and liaison is taking place between the Diversity Unit and community leaders.

#### **1.41 Puppy Kicked to Death – Camborne**

Camborne police are investigating an offence of animal cruelty that happened in Camborne on Thursday 10 November. A seven-week-old Labrador cross puppy was reportedly kicked like a football until a local woman intervened and took the animal to a vet. The dog later died of its injuries. Enquiries are ongoing.

#### **1.42 Drugs Arrest - Barnstaple**

A 37-year-old man from Barnstaple was arrested after officers executed a search warrant under the 'Misuse of Drugs Act' at a property in Bickington and a nearby industrial unit. He was charged with possession of drugs with the intent to supply Class C Cannabis and has been released on police bail.

#### **1.43 Drugs Arrests - Tiverton**

On Saturday 26 November, a 33-year-old man from Tiverton was arrested for possession of a Class C drug with intent to supply. As a result of another search, a 21-year-old woman from Exeter was arrested for possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply. Enquiries are ongoing.

#### **1.44 Aggravated Vehicle Taking - Exeter**

On Thursday 8 December, officers were called to Russell Way, Exeter following a report of a road traffic collision. A 20-year-old man from Exeter has been charged with offences of vehicle taking, no insurance, failing to stop and no driving licence. On 9 December 2005, he was sentenced to 240 days' imprisonment at HMP Exeter. A 19-year-old man from Exeter was charged with two offences of vehicle taking and four of aiding and abetting no insurance and no driving licence.

#### **1.45 Controlled Explosion - Newquay**

On Thursday 8 December, the Plymouth Bomb Disposal Unit reported to the police that a fishing vessel had brought a rocket thrower onto Towan Beach at Newquay. An exclusion zone was placed around the device which was made safe by the bomb disposal unit.

**1.46 Police Pursuit - St Agnes**

On Wednesday 14 December, a 53-year-old man from St Agnes was charged with offences of disqualified driving, failing to stop, dangerous driving and no insurance. He was remanded in custody to appear before West Cornwall Magistrates Court on Thursday 15 December 2005 where he was convicted of driving whilst disqualified.

**1.47 Public Reassurance Patrols - Truro And Exeter Railway Stations**

On Monday 19 December, officers from the Force Counter Terrorist Support Team, in partnership with the British Transport Police, undertook patrols on the rail network. The operation was a high visibility exercise to reassure the public, coupled with the security of the transport infrastructure, in the run up to the festive period. The operation was not a response to any specific threat and officers were not armed. The operation took place at Truro and Exeter railway stations.

**1.48 Smash and Grab at Woolworths – Dawlish**

Police at Dawlish investigated a smash and grab burglary which happened at Woolworths around 4 a.m. on Tuesday 20 December. The thieves used a large rock to smash their way into the front of the building before stealing a number of satellite navigation systems, mobile phones and 20 hand-held computer games. Enquiries are ongoing.

**1.49 Rescue of Man - Torquay Harbour**

On Thursday 22 December, a 35-year-old man from Torquay was found by police calling for help whilst in the water off the inner harbour at Torquay. A member of door staff from nearby club Route 66 swam to the man and dragged him to the shore, where he was pulled out and treated for hypothermia by officers and then taken to Torbay Hospital by ambulance. The man's father who was also at the scene suffered an angina attack and was treated by paramedics. Both father and son are recovering well.

**1.50 Tortoise Theft – Paignton**

Police in Paignton arrested a 31-year-old man from Paignton for theft on Wednesday 28 December in connection with the taking of a leopard tortoise from the town's zoo. The tortoise has been returned to its keepers. A man was released on police bail to return to Torquay Police Station on 1 February.

**1.51 New Year's Eve - Forcewide**

Between 10pm on Saturday 31 December 2005 and 6am on Sunday 1 January 2006, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary dealt with approximately 900 incident logs and made 117 arrests; more than 200 extra police were on duty on the night. More than 600 999 calls and 200 non-emergency calls were received from midnight to 6am. The Force dealt with a variety of incidents, the

majority of them alcohol-related assaults and disorder. There were no major incidents. The number of incidents dealt with was about 15-20% down on the previous year.

**1.52 Stolen Digger Recovered - Redruth**

On Monday 2 January, officers recovered a stolen mechanical digger valued at £43,000 from an address in Redruth, Cornwall. Two men aged 42 and 36 from the Redruth area have been arrested on suspicion of theft. They have been released on police bail until 23 March 2006. Enquiries are ongoing.

**1.53 Supply of a Controlled Substance - Barnstaple**

On Wednesday 4 January, a 33-year-old man from Torrington was arrested on suspicion of supplying a controlled substance. The man has been released on bail to re-appear at Barnstaple Police Station on 23 February 2006.

## **2.0 OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES**

### **2.1 Coppin's Law**

A recently introduced initiative within the Exeter area has dramatically reduced officer workloads and significantly decreased the average delay in response times.

The Exeter Prioritisation of Demand (EPD) initiative targets two key areas; how the decision is made regarding what to deal with and focusing on where a real difference can be made.

Introduced at the end of August last year by Inspector Peter Coppin-Harris, in response to Exeter's high level of demand on resources, the initiative has become known locally as 'Coppin's Law'.

The initiative is about matching demand to resources and has empowered officers to prioritise incidents on a case by case basis with a view to enhancing service quality.

Guidelines have been provided for officers, enabling them to act with confidence when prioritising logs and the initiative has also provided the ability to say 'no' to certain requests for services.

It dovetails into the 13/15 scheme which has adopted its principles and has now been taken on by Paignton. Plymouth RAU look set to implement this practise also. A pilot is now in place within North & East Devon BCU.

'Coppin's Law' has recently been highlighted as best practice by Charter Mark, the government's national standard for excellence in customer service.

### **2.2 Volunteers applauded**

The work of a voluntary crime prevention panel has received high praise from their local inspector.

The Ilfracombe Crime Prevention Panel, a voluntary organisation chaired by ex-army Colonel Bob Gilliat, helps their local police all year round in reducing crime in the coastal North Devon sector.

The panel, which formed over 15 years ago, has 18 members – some of whom have been members since the group's inception – all from the local community. Each parish council has a representative on the panel, and all the major organisations in the coastal sector are represented.

The panel monitors CCTV footage for Barnstaple and Ilfracombe on a regular basis, and on special occasions, and then alerts the police to any potential problems.

The panel has worked in partnership with the police and other organisations to launch both Business Watch, which established communications between shops and businesses to exchange information on shoplifters, and Pub Watch, which saw a similar initiative in place for licensed premises and trouble-makers.

And the panel's dedicated team shows no signs of ceasing their attack on local crime – continuing to find new ways to assist and support the police in making Ilfracombe a safer place to live.

### **2.3 Truro scheme to beat antisocial drinkers proves a success**

Officers in Truro have been working in partnership with local off-licences to combat antisocial behaviour – barring a total of 27 unruly individuals.

In September last year, local shop-keepers formed a group that identifies problem individuals, with the help of officers, and then takes steps to exclude them from their premises.

The move follows ongoing issues involving aggressive drinkers behaving antisocially and intimidating staff in Truro off-licences. Licensees were particularly concerned with female shop assistants becoming victims of antisocial behaviour at the hands of disgruntled customers demanding alcohol.

Officers informed the shop-owners that they had the right to ban trouble-making individuals from their stores, and then provided the group with guidance on good practice at the scheme's inception.

The Force also assists the group in the process by providing them with photos and information on individuals, based on which the shop-owners decide whether or not to ban those in question.

Police Community Support Officers work in the area to ensure that the licensees have the assistance they need to reinforce the bans.

### **2.4 From little acorns...**

Financial investigators have successfully concluded a confiscation investigation – and removed a total of £643,557.40 from criminal circulation.

Operation Oak started in September 2001 and combined with Operation Operatic a month later with the aim of securing evidence against drug trafficking in Exeter and Plymouth.

The police operation – led by Stuart Newberry – involved 15 officers and was run from Torquay police station. Three years later, Richard Webber, Seamus Murphy, Paul Evans, and brothers Leon and Ryan Butt received jail sentences at Exeter Crown Court totalling more than 30 years.

Following the conviction of the gang, known as 'the Untouchables', Detective Inspector Steve White began a thorough financial investigation to establish all the assets the men had accrued through drug dealing.

On 4 July 2005, Plymouth Crown Court ordered that Leon Butt pay £91,000. The financial investigation – and consequently Operation Oak – concluded on 27 October 2005 when a confiscation order totalling £551,927 was obtained at Plymouth Crown Court against Richard Webber.

The confiscated assets will be used for regeneration, law enforcement and covert policing within the Force area.

## **2.5 Police launch property marking campaign**

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has launched a campaign to encourage people to mark their personal possessions to reduce theft, the handling of stolen goods and to help police recover items.

People are being encouraged to mark items which are popular on the black market, such as mobile phones, MP3 players, laptops, televisions, computers and DVD players, as part of the 'Mark It, Register It, Keep It' campaign.

As part of the campaign, students at Ivybridge Community College have had their mobile phones property marked.

Businesses in Southernhay, Exeter, have been given the opportunity to have their valuables property marked by police and second-hand shops in Exeter will be encouraged to ensure that they thoroughly check that the goods they buy aren't stolen.

Crime reduction and property-marking advice will be offered to people who move home in the Plymouth area and rural communities in Cornwall will be given property-marking advice to reduce the theft of items like farm machinery and quad bikes.

## **2.6 Force praised for promoting diversity in the workplace**

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has received national praise for its support to lesbian, gay and bisexual police officers and staff in the Force.

The Stonewall charity, which works to ensure the rights and needs of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are addressed in the wider community, has recognised that the Force adopts best practice as an employer to look after the welfare of LGB people.

The Force has been named as one of the organisations following Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme for promoting diversity in the workplace.

## **2.7 Locking out domestic violence**

A man whose daughter was murdered by her partner has worked with police and the local authorities to create a Sanctuary Project in West Cornwall, which provides support for the victims of domestic violence.

Ron Little's daughter, Tammy, was murdered by her partner, Errol Leong, in Hayle in November 2000. Following Leong's indefinite incarceration on the grounds of diminished responsibility, Mr Little told Family Liaison Officer PC Elaine Trethowan about a scheme in Kent which makes victims of domestic violence safer in their homes.

PC Trethowan has worked for the last 18 months alongside the West Cornwall Community Safety Partnership and Penwith & Kerrier District Council Housing Services to obtain funding from Government Office South West to make Mr Little's idea become a reality.

The Sanctuary Project is a victim-centred scheme, which aims to make it possible for repeat victims of domestic violence and hate crime to remain in their homes and feel safe without having to make themselves voluntarily homeless.

Depending on the level of risk, additional security and safety measures such as locks on windows and doors, panic alarms, fire safety equipment such as smoke alarms and anti-arson letterboxes can also be provided.

In December, the Sanctuary Project was officially launched in Penzance by police representatives, the West Cornwall Community Safety Partnership and Penwith and Kerrier District Council Housing Service.

## **2.8 Underage sex issue targeted**

The Force is running a campaign in Mid Devon to remind men that sex with underage girls is illegal and to urge them to act responsibly or face punishment.

Those found guilty could face up to two years in prison and could have their name put on the Sex Offenders' Register.

Posters have been put up in the area with the message: 'Appearances can be deceptive'. They show a schoolgirl who makes herself look older so that she can go clubbing.

The campaign is being run in partnership by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Youth Work in Devon and Mid-Devon Primary Care Trust.

## **2.9 Police on call**

A new campaign has been launched in Cornwall to encourage members of the public to put the police number for non-urgent calls into their mobile phone address books.

The initiative, launched in the run up to Christmas, was introduced to familiarise people with the Force's non-emergency number and encourage them to use it more frequently.

Most people recognise 999 as the emergency number for the police, but 08452 777 444, which is the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary's number for reporting crime, connecting to a police station or requesting police attendance, is not as well known as the Force would like.

Across Cornwall, the police worked in partnership with Jag Communications to promote the use of the number. The mobile phone company handed out campaign cards to every new connection over the festive period. The card displays the Force non-emergency number and requests that the holder add it to their mobile address book.

## **2.10 Policing under one roof**

Deploying officers in a marquee in Plymouth's city centre over the Christmas period has resulted in a reduction in antisocial behaviour.

In the run up to Christmas 2004, retailers in Plymouth City Centre voiced their concerns to police about large groups of young people who intimidate staff and shoppers centring round the sundial. A police marquee was erected next to the sundial and staffed by city centre neighbourhood beat managers and specials and was well received.

The marquee was used from 5 to 9pm on Thursdays - late night shopping evenings - from 17 November to 22 December.

## **2.11 Help for same-sex domestic violence victims**

The Safer Communities Torbay Partnership – which includes the police – has launched a new campaign to encourage same-sex domestic violence victims to report incidents.

Police in South and West Devon are working with partnership agencies to improve engagement with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups (LGBT) and increase trust and confidence.

Police are working with the Probation Service, Health Service, Torbay Council and other organisations to raise awareness of same-sex domestic violence and reassure those in an abusive relationship who may feel isolated, alone or afraid that they can receive help and support.

There have been 11 reported incidents of same-sex domestic violence in the Torbay area since the start of the year.

A number of partner agencies and organisations attended the launch at Rocky's nightclub, Torquay, along with Assistant Chief Constable Caroline Winter and Andy Hunt from the Eddystone Trust, a local HIV organisation.

Posters and beer mats have been distributed around venues in Torbay, as part of the campaign, including one with the slogan: 'Touch me, don't punch me', which highlights the physical aspect of domestic violence.

The Force was praised for its same-sex domestic violence work in South and West Devon at the recent Police Review Awards.

## **2.12 Roll-out of 80 new detectives**

The latest stage of the Forcewide roll-out of 80 new detectives to tackle major crime will see posts filled in Plymouth, Bodmin, Camborne, Exeter and Torbay this month.

The new detectives are being recruited to improve police resources to address the most serious incidents, specifically homicides and serious and organised crime. The ultimate aim will be for major crime officers to investigate all homicides without abstracting BCU staff.

This will mean that fewer staff from local policing areas will be called away to work on murders and major incidents, allowing them to spend more time policing the communities they serve and tackling crime that has a broader impact.

The 80 additional posts will help to improve efficiency – both in the investigation of major crime and into serious and organised criminal networks. The growth will allow the Force to have local major crime teams working on local homicides, improving travelling time, cost effectiveness and the welfare of officers investigating such crime.

The new detectives will provide specialist local knowledge and tactics to compliment the Force's neighbourhood policing work in local communities.

Alongside the teams investigating murder and other serious crimes a new Serious, Organised and Specialist Crime Team is in the process of being established, to deal with the serious harm caused by gangs involved in drugs, people smuggling, firearms and other matters across the Force.

Total crime fell by 7.2% for the first six months of the Force performance year to the end of September 2005.

## 2.13

### **Crackdown on criminals**

A police scheme to tackle prolific offenders is making the streets safer in Cornwall.

The Prolific and other Priority Offender Scheme (PPOS) aims to reduce crime in Cornwall by focusing on the offenders who are most active or destructive in the community.

The scheme is a multi-agency initiative, with the police working in partnership with the Youth Offending Service and the Probation Service.

A small number of prolific offenders in Cornwall commit a high proportion of the county's crime; the Force has recently proved successful in identifying the most harmful criminals and detecting their crimes.

Cornish officers dealt with 17 prolific and priority offenders in the first six months of the scheme's operation, with almost 500 crimes being detected or taken into consideration.

A significant number of the 17 individuals dealt with were found to have drug, housing or social issues that could motivate them to commit crimes. The scheme looks at these issues with each individual case to see if assistance will stop the offender from committing crimes in the future.

### **3.0 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS**

**3.1** The Chief Constable Maria Wallis presented officers with more than 22 years of service with Long Service and Good Conduct medals at police headquarters, Middlemoor on Tuesday 20 December 2005. Awards were presented to:

Constables Michael Dodd, North and East Devon BCU, Stephen Ellyatt, South and West Devon BCU, Simon Matthews, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU, Stephen Mullen, South and West Devon BCU, Bryan Rice, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU, Christopher Rowe, South and West Devon BCU and Alaric Spendlove, North and East Devon BCU.

Special Constable Jonathon Sims, North and East Devon BCU.

Detective Constables Graham Creasey, South and West Devon BCU, Iain Matthews, Crime Department and Nicholas Shapland, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU.

Sergeants Conrad Chun, and Paul Viney from the Criminal Justice Department.

Detective Inspector David Beer, Plymouth BCU.

Chief Inspector Adrian Brigden, North and East Devon BCU.

Mrs Julia Wordley, Purchasing Department.

**3.2** Dean Hain, Systems Analyst, ICT Department, has been awarded the Diploma in Business Systems Development, specialising in Systems Analysis and Design, by the Information Systems Examination Board, British Computer Society.

David Cameron, Health and Safety Officer, South and West Devon BCU, has been accredited Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner status with the Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH).

Inspector Julie Challoner, Force Incident Manager, Headquarters, has been awarded a Graduate Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Criminal Justice Studies with the University of Portsmouth.

David Carter, Business Analyst Strategic Development Department, Headquarters, has been awarded a Masters in Business Administration (Enterprise) from Plymouth University.

## **4. SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES – UPDATE**

### **4.1 CRIME**

In the period April to December 2005 the Force has recorded a 6.9% decrease in crime. This figure includes a 13% reduction in domestic burglary, a 5.2% decrease in vehicle crime and a 26% reduction in common assault. It is projected that the year-end target for BCS crime will be exceeded. Total recorded crime has also fallen by 6.5%.

Although not a target for 2005/6, total violent crime is showing continued improvement in recorded levels compared to last year. To date a 10.0% decrease in total violence has been recorded.

The Force has detected 27.3% of recorded total crime. The sanction detection rate is 24.6%, above the year-end target of 22.1%. An increasing trend in sanction detection has been seen over recent months, with the target projected to be achieved at year-end.

### **4.2 ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**

The Force is committed to reducing the number of casualties on our roads. To date a 9.9% decrease in RTCs has been recorded, with a decreasing trend in casualties in the past few months. Over the past eight years, casualties have fallen significantly and remain on line to achieve the ACPO target by 2008. The number of RTCs is defined as the number of people fatally and seriously injured in RTCs.

### **4.3 PROVIDING ASSISTANCE**

75.1% of service users are satisfied with the service they received. This is above the year-end target of 75%. 86.8% of burglary victims are satisfied with the overall service, 82.8% of RTC victims, 66.2% of vehicle crime victims and 65.5% of violent crime victims. Racist incident victims' satisfaction is just below the 75% target, at 74.4%.

Overall confidence in the local police, as measured by the British Crime Survey, is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest level nationally.

### **4.4 PERSONNEL**

Police Officer strength as at 31 December 2005 stood at 3,447.7 officers (Full Time Equivalent). This shows an increase of 61.8 officers in the nine months since 31 March 2005. The recruitment programme continues to meet its schedule for new intakes and transferees (206 officers as at 31 December 2005). With 137.2 officers leaving during the same period (80.9 retirements), combined with a slight increase in the number of seconded/part time officers, this has had an impact on the overall strength figure. However, the focus remains unchanged with the Force's drive to achieve 3,500 officers (FTE) by

31 March 2006 and current projections indicate that the this target should still be met.

#### **4.5 SICKNESS**

Following the successful implementation of the finance element of the new Force Integrated Management System (FIMS) at the end of 2005, attention has turned to the data transference of personnel information in readiness for the rollout of the Human Resources element.

The sickness data is one of the first major areas to be transferred from the current system onto FIMS. Final verification of the information is underway but unfortunately, until such time as this has been confirmed, the quarterly download that is used in the sickness projections is unavailable.

It is anticipated that the data will be forthcoming for the year-end figures.

#### **4.6 CALL HANDLING PERFORMANCE**

From 1 April until 31 December 2005 a total of 199,209 999 calls were received, 175,776 of those have been answered within target. Performance against target of answering 90% of emergency calls within 10 seconds was 88.24%.

Demand on New Year's Eve and the early hours of New Year's Day was significantly lower than anticipated based on last year's demand. British Telecom and bordering forces also predicted a similar demand as the previous year and early indications from British Telecom suggest that demand was down in other Forces.

*There is a discrepancy between the departmental and Force 999 statistics due to a software fault on the logger system. A method is available to verify the statistics which leaves us confident that the amended figures are accurate.*

91.57% of non-emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds at the switchboard to the end of December 2005. In total, 773,323 non-emergency calls were received at the switchboard for April until December 2005, compared to 775,079 for the same period the previous year. This equates to a 0.23% decrease in demand, or 1,756 less calls.

September commenced a rise in performance in secondary call handling which has continued through to December 2005. A total of 451,760 calls were offered to the Force Enquiry Centre between April and December 2005 (51.92% answered in target, against a target of 75%). This is an overall increase in performance of 7.69% since 1 October 2005. 442,079 calls were offered for the between April and December 2004. These figures show a rise in demand of 2.14% or 9,681 calls.

## 4.7

### RECOVERY OF ASSETS

Recovery of assets ordered by the courts in the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary area for the period 1 October to 31 December 2005 as recorded by the Force Economic Crime Unit/Financial Investigation Units.

1. Number of Confiscation Orders obtained = 6
2. Value of Confiscation Orders obtained = £651,377.06
3. Number of Forfeiture Orders obtained = 9
4. Value of assets recovered through Forfeiture Orders = £8934.14
5. Value of Cash Forfeitures under POCA = £6330.00
6. Number of Production Orders for the purposes of asset recovery = 28
7. Number of Financial Investigations for the purposes of asset recovery completed = 49
8. Prosecutions for Money Laundering = 6

Total value of recorded assets = £666,641.20