

Warwickshire Police Authority – 21st May 2008

General Report of the Chief Constable

Recommendation

The Authority is recommended to note the contents of this report.

Missing Persons System Goes Live

A new computer system that will further improve the management of information relating to missing people went live this month.

The COMPACT system allows comprehensive details of every missing person to be captured electronically and be accessed from anywhere in the force.

The system will enable the force to better manage a critical area of risk of harm.

When a person is reported missing, a call handler will create a STORM log (operational log) and update the COMPACT system, followed by an immediate risk assessment.

The level of risk relating to a missing person can vary from low to high. Following the deployment of an officer, comprehensive details will be added to the system, followed by a further risk assessment and allocation of follow up tasks to officers and staff by supervisory staff.

All actions in relation to the missing person will be recorded by the system, ensuring that appropriate actions are taken at every stage, based on the level of risk to the missing person concerned, and that every enquiry is actively managed.

Further information or a demonstration of the system can be provided on request.

Serious Violence Reduction Manager

The force has appointed a Serious Violence Reduction Manager to lead the service's response to tackling serious violent crime in Warwickshire.

Detective Chief Inspector Adrian Pearson's role will be to ensure that the force works with partners to reduce serious violence in the county.

The role will support the force's response to the Government's three-year action plan – Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public.

Chief Constable Keith Bristow leads the national portfolio for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), focussed on tackling violent crime, and is responsible for

delivering progress updates against the 51 key actions identified within the action plan. Detective Superintendent Kevin Bradford has been appointed to the ACPO Violent Crime Portfolio to assist in the delivery of this work.

The Warwickshire approach will demonstrate that reducing violence is not an issue for law enforcement alone and promote the benefits of a multi-agency approach.

Good practice developed or identified locally will be shared with Government, other police forces and other agencies.

Reducing serious violent crime is a specific priority for the Government and has been identified as a priority for Warwickshire Police, whose aim is to reduce most serious violence crime by five per cent during 2008/2009. This in turn will help the force to continue to provide the best possible protection to the people of Warwickshire and help to protect the community from harm.

Independent IPCC Investigation – Nuneaton

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is to independently investigate the circumstances surrounding a death in custody on 2nd May.

On Thursday 1 May 2008 Sean Walsh, aged 42, from the Nuneaton area, was arrested on suspicion of theft and, at approximately 6pm, was taken to Nuneaton Custody Suite. He was determined as being unfit to question due to drink and was detained overnight.

The following morning Mr Walsh was in the custody area of the police station when he was seen to fall. At approximately 8.30am he was transferred to hospital where he subsequently died.

Warwickshire Police referred this matter to the IPCC, which has determined that an independent investigation should be undertaken.

Police Dogs Boost Weapons Recovery Team

Three Warwickshire Police dogs have qualified in the field of weapons recovery adding extra power to the force's ability to protect communities from harm.

Jake, Rio and Toby took part in an intensive two week training course at police headquarters in Leek Wootton under the leadership of trainer PC Chris Harvey.

The dogs spent time working on scent recognition technique before moving on to recovering items such as old guns, brand new guns, guns which had recently been fired, bullets and cartridges.

All three dogs passed the course with flying colours and now join yellow Labrador Scooby and his handler PC Graham Hall to make up a four strong weapons recovery team.

Improved Call Handling Performance

Control room call handling performance has shown a significant improvement in recent months. The number of 999 calls answered within target has risen from 72.7 per cent last June to 87.9 per cent in April this year.

Response to non emergency calls to the control room has also improved. The number of general calls answered within target has risen from 75.3 per cent in June 2007 to 81.3 per cent in April this year. The current trend highlights a consistent improvement following a slight dip in performance with the introduction of the new Symposium call handling software in December.

Commitment to delivering better protection and improving public confidence is further reflected in an improvement in response to switchboard calls. The number of calls answered within target has improved from 81.7 per cent last June to 91.1 per cent this April. The number of abandoned or missed calls to the switchboard has reduced from 2.4 per cent to 0.1 per cent in April this year.

Chief Inspector Appointments

Three officers were successful in the Inspector to Chief Inspector promotion process in April.

Bob Musgrove will continue in his role as District Commander at Rugby. Noel McMenamin has been appointed DCI in Specialist Investigations. Adrian Knight will be promoted to Chief Inspector when a post becomes available.

Performance

See chart attached.

KEITH BRISTOW
Chief Constable

Force Priority Performance April 2008

FORCE	End of April				Year to Date			
	Target		Current		Target		Current	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.

Death/ Injury	Most Serious Violent Crime Reduction	-5%	24	-8.0%	23	-5%	24	-8.0%	23
	All Violent Crime Sanction Detection Rate	50%	313	43.6%	273	50%	313	43.6%	273
	Force Road Related Death and Serious Injury	-5%	Data not yet available			-5%	Data not yet available		
	Serious Sexual Offences Sanction Detection Rate	35%	6	50.0%	9	35%	6	50.0%	9
	Domestic Abuse Arrests as a Percentage of Incidents	25%	Data not yet available			25%	Data not yet available		

Loss	Serious Acquisitive Crime Reduction	-5%	654	-15.0%	585	-5%	654	-15.0%	585
	Serious Acquisitive Crime Sanction Detection Rate	13%	76	11.3%	66	13%	76	11.3%	66

Fear/ Distress	Criminal Damage Reduction	-5%	776	-12.6%	714	-5%	776	-12.6%	714
	Criminal Damage Sanction Detection Rate	15%	107	21.1%	151	15%	107	21.1%	151

All Harms	Identify and charge 15 of the highest harm causers from the OCGs					15			
	All Crime Sanction Detection Rate	25%	758	24.3%	738	25%	758	24.3%	738

		Target				FORCE YTD			
Community Confidence	User Satisfaction Whole Experience (Updated end April 2008)	83.6%		N/A		83.6%		N/A	
	Public confidence in local policing (12 months end December 2007)	1% above 2007-08 Position	Figures updated every 3 months			1% above 2007-08 Position		48.6%	