

**Warwickshire Police Authority – 29 October 2008**

**General Report of the Chief Constable**

**Recommendation**

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

**1. Operation Crunch**

Operation Crunch is an ongoing major operation targeting burglars and car criminals. Crunch was launched in mid-September in response to a recent increase in acquisitive crime although overall burglary and car crime is down for the year to date. The force has formed a proactive team of officers and will use both high-profile and less-visible policing tactics to target offenders, both day and night, over the next three months.

The force-wide unit is supported by officers and staff in local Safer Neighbourhood teams, reactive and CID officers, Task Force officers and officers in the force's Offender Management Unit, which continually targets persistent and prolific offenders.

A media campaign and high-profile marketing campaign is also being delivered, with the operation featuring on buses, telephone boxes and poster sites in areas where burglary and vehicle offences have increased.

A mobile advertising van, promoting the 24/7 intelligence number that members of the public can call with information about burglars and car criminals, is also touring the force area over the next month. Daily updates on Operation Crunch including latest arrest figures are being communicated to all members of the force internally and to the public and media via the force's online news website.

The operation is running until the end of December and to date there have been 44 arrests, over £16,000 property recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act and a large amount of controlled drugs seized.

**2. Senior appointments**

Chief Superintendent Richard Sear's new job title is Deputy Director of Standards and Performance which has been established as a directorate to include Corporate Development and Professional Standards. Richard will report directly to DCC Andy Parker.

Chris Ward is promoted to Superintendent and becomes Head Of Corporate Development with effect from November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chris Wadsworth will be promoted to Superintendent and replace Superintendent Gary Hollis in Protective Services

(Operations) on his retirement early next year. Chris will work within Local Policing until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Mak Chishty remains in Local Policing as Boroughs and Districts Superintendent until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Adrian McGee will remain Temporary Detective Superintendent until December 31<sup>st</sup> while Detective Superintendent Ken Lawrence continues as SIO on Operation Westbere.

A recruitment process took place at the end of September to appoint two Assistant Directors in the Resources Directorate. Patricia Pennington has been appointed Assistant Director of Resources (HR) and takes up her position in mid-November. Marie Perry is the new Assistant Director of Resources (Finance) and starts early in the New Year.

### **3. Operation Rome: Demand management**

Chief Superintendent Neil Hewison delivered a presentation to the Force Executive Board on October 15<sup>th</sup> with proposals to manage demand and build capacity. The proposals were agreed in principle. Further work is being carried out involving the deputy directors to devise an implementation plan taking into account timescales, resource requirements and delivery.

### **4. Visit of Senior Home Office official**

Vic Hogg, Acting Director General of the Home Office Crime Reduction and Community Safety group visited the Force earlier this month. His purpose was to find out more about how Home Office policies are being delivered in day to day policing and to get a sense of what helps and what hinders the Force in delivering protection from harm. He attended daily tasking and was interested in learning about the implications of Home Office policy on initiatives such as Operation Crunch.

### **5. Operation Tours – ‘Your Town, Your Choice’**

A high-profile policing operation to start a debate about levels of unacceptable behaviour in Leamington has received positive feedback from local communities, partners and businesses.

Operation Tours – promoted as ‘Your town, your choice’ saw members of the force working with other emergency services, the primary care trust and district and county council services to ensure that anti-social and violent behaviour, particularly at night, was challenged and reduced.

Throughout the country, night-time disorder and anti-social behaviour causes concern to members of the public visiting towns for a night out. It also affects the quality of life for residents. Part of the initiative is to find out what kind of environment visitors and residents and what people consider acceptable behaviour.

The operation was led by Warwick District Commander Chief Inspector Martin McNevin, who said: "Although problems in Leamington may be small in comparison to other areas nationally, there have been a number of serious violent incidents since April 1 and

continued incidents of anti-social behaviour. This is unacceptable. We must endeavour to change the mindset of these people and help residents and visitors enjoy a pleasant town in which to live, work and have fun both during the day and in the evening.”

In addition to high-profile law enforcement activity and reassurance patrols, a triage centre to deal with minor injuries was established in the town centre. Mobile police stations and a fire service display vehicle were also used to communicate public safety and health messages, such as the dangers of binge drinking and use of drugs. Anyone arrested for drug or drink offences was offered support under drug or alcohol support schemes by health workers based within the Leamington custody suite.

Passive drugs dogs were in operation within the town with pub and club toilets checked for traces of illegal drugs. Test purchase operations on off licences were also conducted.

Other activity included enhanced parking enforcement, street cleaning, targeted domestic abuse patrols, additional CCTV monitoring and noise enforcement.

Early feedback from phase one of the campaign has been positive, with local newspapers and radio stations joining the debate about what should be acceptable in town centres across Warwickshire.

Further initiatives to take forward a debate in the county are being planned and will be taken forward by the local Safer Neighbourhood team, supported by others.

The operation has also cemented partnership relationships which will support future activity across a variety of work streams and promoted responsible licensing which is key to reducing violence. Members of the public have also had an opportunity to engage with officers and staff on a relaxed and informal basis, building trust, confidence and understanding.

## **6. Performance**

See chart attached.

**Keith Bristow**  
**Chief Constable**