

Warwickshire Police Authority – 30th July 2008

General Report of the Chief Constable

Recommendation

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

Senior Staffing Changes

Superintendents Mak Chishty, Graeme Pallister and Neil Hewison were all successful at the promotion board for temporary Chief Superintendents held in July.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Neil Hewison will lead the force's demand management (Capacity Building) work with immediate effect. This work is expected to continue until December. He is joined by Chief Inspector Mike Naughton who moves across from the role of Borough Commander at Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Chief Superintendents Neil Brunton and Richard Sear are going through a selection process to attend the Strategic Command Course (SCC) which, if successful, qualifies them to apply for Assistant Chief Constable posts. During this process they will be released from their present roles. Temporary Chief Superintendent Mak Chishty assumes responsibility for the role of Deputy Director of Local Policing.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Graeme Pallister assumes responsibility for the Corporate Development business area.

These arrangements will be reviewed in mid October once the results of the selection process for attendance on the SCC are known.

Chris Wadsworth will continue as Temporary Superintendent in Local Policing Boroughs and Districts until December 31st.

Chris Ward has been appointed Temporary Detective Superintendent Specialist Investigations until October 19th.

Adrian Knight has been appointed as the new Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Commander, on promotion to Chief Inspector.

Chief Inspector Martin McNevin has been appointed Warwick District Commander with effect from July 21st.

Chief Inspector Ian Whiting has been appointed Stratford District Commander with effect from September 1st.

Chief Inspector Tim Bailey has replaced Ian Whiting in the headquarters based Communications Centre role with effect from July 21st.

Warren Ayres will remain Acting Chief Inspector, Stratford District until August 31st.

Neil Harrison will remain Acting Chief Inspector in the Professional Standards Department.

Ally Wright will remain as Acting Detective Chief Inspector in Protective Services.

Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse

Warwickshire Police joined other public services, voluntary organisations and charities across the county to launch a new campaign urging everyone affected by domestic abuse to seek support or help.

The 'talk2someone' campaign and a new county website www.talk2someone.org.uk is being promoted by all local public services with a role to play in protecting people from harm. More than 600 incidents of domestic abuse are reported across the county every month and last year domestic abuse accounted for 16% of all recorded violent crime.

Abuse can take many forms - physical, emotional, financial or sexual - and most victims will suffer many times over several years before taking the first step and talking to someone they trust. Honour crime is also being addressed by this campaign.

The campaign was launched by Police Authority member Richard Hobbs in his role as Chair of the Warwickshire Safer Communities Partnership, supported by Victim Support and Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Services, representing victims and Deputy Chief Constable Andy Parker. The marketing campaign was coordinated by the force's Corporate Communications business area, with support from other agencies.

The campaign targets three key audiences, victims, friends, family and neighbours of victims and, thirdly offenders. One of its key messages is that help is available for everyone affected by abuse. The website has specific advice for each target audience, plus additional sections for children affected by abuse and professionals working to tackle it.

The talk2someone message will appear widely across Warwickshire including on posters, buses and in public buildings, giving those affected the opportunity to note the helpline telephone number - 0800 408 1552 and website address, www.talk2someone.org.uk.

Serious Violence Reduction Coordinator

Detective Chief Inspector Adrian Pearson has been appointed Serious Violence Reduction Coordinator for Warwickshire.

DCI Pearson continues his work alongside officers and staff supporting the Chief Constable, who holds the national Association of Chief Police Officer (ACPO) portfolio for Violence and Public Protection, to ensure that national initiatives and best practice are applied locally where they can assist in reducing harm in Warwickshire.

The Serious Violence Reduction Coordinator post is supported by the county council, crime and disorder partnerships and Warwickshire Primary Care Trust, among other

organisations. Work to tackle serious violence, a multi-agency priority under the Local Area Agreement, has already led to a number of local initiatives.

DCI Pearson has also identified opportunities to include information and skills from other agencies, such as Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Trust to tackle violence

Pilot activity currently already ongoing includes visits to licenced premises with Drug and Alcohol Treatment Teams to conduct drug testing, 'test purchase' operations against the illegal sale of both knives and alcohol and public safety crowding checks at premises with the fire service.

Results of these trials will be evaluated before being implemented more widely across the force if they are successful in reducing the harm caused by serious violence.

A funding bid for £50,000 to tackle serious violence has been approved by the Government Office of the West Midlands. A further bid for £20,000 has been made to the Tackling Violent Crime Programme for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

Cheshire Police Letter of Appreciation

Senior members of Cheshire Police visited the force and Authority during June to learn from the force's 150 forward change programme, which led to the restructuring of the force and Authority and a new vision, mission and set of values being created.

Brian Simmons, an Assistant Chief Officer with Cheshire, wrote to the Chief Constable following his visit to say: "It was one of those visits when you know you have stumbled on something different that has real resonance. We came away very excited, having confirmed a lot of our thoughts but Warwickshire has just got on and achieved it!

"Something different that has real resonance for protecting communities from harm is happening in Warwickshire... the force has tackled the post-merger policing challenges and got on and achieved.

"It was clear that the new vision has taken hold... I think Warwickshire have undersold themselves... it was not clear to me just how fundamental the change has been right across the organisation. I sensed that it has given police staff a value in contributing to the front line but you have reorganised the operational and performance structure to release resources ... [to] deliver your leadership vision."

Bulldog Bash

A major operation to ensure the safety of local communities and members of the public attending the Bulldog Bash event near Stratford-upon-Avon is being planned by the force.

Chief Inspector Chris Lewis is leading a planning team to manage the event, which will take place between August 7 and 10 2008. The Bulldog Bash takes place one year after motorcyclist Gerry Tobin was shot and killed on the M40 motorway. An objection to the granting of a licence for this year's event was submitted to Stratford-upon-Avon district council. The intelligence-led operation will require a significant level of resources from the force and partner agencies and is focussed on managing the risk of harm presented by this event.

The reasons for objecting to this event have been widely communicated to partners, media and local communities.

Manslaughter charge

On May 28 Mark Brian Hoolichan, aged 20, from the West Midlands was charged with the manslaughter of Jack Macleod. He was released on conditional bail and will next appear at court on August 18. Jack Macleod's body was discovered by a police search team in the river in Victoria Park, Leamington, on January 3, 2006.

Demolition of the Justice Centre

The Magistrates Courts and offices in Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, were demolished in front of the eyes of the media on June 2 for work to commence on the new £26m justice centre. Warwickshire High Sheriff, Anna Trye, and Chief Executives of the Justice Agencies were at the joint agency photocall.

Performance

See chart attached.

Keith Bristow
Chief Constable