

Warwickshire Police Authority – 22 April 2009

General Report of the Chief Constable

Recommendation

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

1. Chief Constable appointed to lead efforts to tackle serious youth violence

The Chief Constable has been invited to lead the Government's extended Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) aimed at tackling knife crime and other serious youth violence across 16 forces in England and Wales during the next 12 months.

He is accountable to the Association of Chief Police Officers and will provide professional advice to Ministers across Government and report into a Home Office Ministerial steering group chaired by Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security.

In addition to advising Government on local and national funding priorities, the Chief Constable will liaise with force leads to agree cross-agency plans and work with national, local, and third sector organisations to drive action forward. All the areas of the extended TKAP are already contained within the Chief Constable's national portfolio of work which is supported by an extensive national team.

2. Superintendent Promotion Board Results

Three officers were successful at the promotion board for Chief Inspector to Superintendent held in March. They were Detective Chief Inspectors Nav Malik, Adrian McGee and Debbie Tedds.

Detective Chief Inspector Debbie Tedds will be promoted with effect from 22 April. She will undertake a business improvement review of Judicial Services looking at the efficiency and operational effectiveness of the Department. The exact terms of reference for this piece of work are still to be set.

3. Personnel Changes

Superintendent Chris Wadsworth was appointed Head of Operations with effect from 3 April. She has succeeded Superintendent Gary Hollis who retired at the beginning of April.

Superintendent Andy Johnson, Head of Force Customer Contact, has taken on the additional responsibility of co-ordinating the work for Priority Policing Areas, which will involve setting the strategic direction for the work and building the partnerships necessary to tackle the key issues within each of those areas.

4. Awards and Recognition

Detective Chief Inspector Ally Wright is to be recognised at the first 'Identifying Victims Needs, Promoting Positive Practice' conference organized by the registered charity Mothers Against Murder and Aggression (MAMAA) in London on 20 April. MAMAA work closely with government, and continue to advise police, the Home Office, bereavement organisations and many other bodies involved in violent crime. They form part of governmental decision-making round tables, helping to tackle violent crime at a higher level.

The presentation recognises those already applying best practice and have been nominated by victims they have worked with. DCI Ally Wright was nominated by Mr and Mrs Hawker, whom he has supported as Family Liaison Officer following the murder of their daughter Lindsay Ann whilst she was teaching in Tokyo, Japan.

Superintendent Andy Johnson has been shortlisted for Call Centre Manager of the Year Awards, which is run by The Call Centre Management Association (CCMA). The Association aims to endorse best practice, reward innovation and promote excellence within the contact and call centre industry. A site visit by the judges is scheduled to take place on 20 April.

5. Sex Offender Pilot – Update

A pilot scheme to provide parents, carers and guardians with information about individuals who have significant access to their children is having a positive impact on helping the force and partners safeguard children in Warwickshire.

Six months into the year-long pilot, initial indications are that the scheme sets out a clear process for people to help keep children safe by raising a concern about someone who has significant access to a child or children.

Warwickshire Police has received a total of 72 enquiries about the pilot. These range from general enquiries about the scheme to specific concerns about the safety of children. Fifty-four of these enquiries have developed into applications and as a result five disclosures have taken place to help keep children safe. These figures have yet to be confirmed by the Home Office, but are really positive and encouraging.

Nationally, 153 enquiries have been made under the pilot, 79 applications, and 10 disclosures have taken place.

Although anyone can raise a concern, where it is considered necessary and appropriate to release information about an individual, such information will only be made to the child's parent, carer or guardian directly.

This ensures that information is given to the person best placed to use it to protect the child from harm. Anyone given personal information is required to give an undertaking that they will not share it with anyone else without permission

Warwickshire Police has a dedicated public helpline for the scheme - 01926 415899 and email address keepingchildrensafe@warwickshire.police.uk. Applicants can call the dedicated telephone line, send an email or attend their local police station front desk where details of their enquiry will be taken.

On March 16, the three other police forces that are currently participating in the pilot, Cleveland, Cambridgeshire and Hampshire, extended their pilot scheme areas to cover

their entire force areas, including the Isle of Wight. Warwickshire introduced the pilot across the county at the beginning of the pilot.

The pilot will run for 12 months before being evaluated by the Home Office and before any decision is taken to roll it out nationally.

The pilot scheme builds on existing processes to proactively manage Registered Sexual Offenders under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

Warwickshire Police works closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Children's Services at Warwickshire County Council, the Probation Service and MAPPA, as well as local and national child protection charities.

More information is available at www.warwickshire.police.uk/keepingchildrensafe

6. National Counter Terrorism Awareness Campaign

Warwickshire Police is supporting a new national campaign to raise awareness of the anti-terrorism hotline number.

The security threat in Britain remains classed as severe and police across the country believe the public can play a vital part in providing information that could help disrupt terrorist planning and save lives.

The campaign urges the public not to rely on others when it comes to reporting suspicious behaviour that could be linked to terrorism in Warwickshire, and a series of 'Don't Rely On Others' press, billboard and radio adverts will urge people to call the number if they have any concerns about unusual behaviour or activity in their neighbourhood.

Callers to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline can speak in confidence to officers to discuss their concerns. The Anti-Terrorist Hotline is 0800 789 321. It is staffed 24/7 by specialist counter terrorism officers, but should not be used for emergency 999 calls.

7. Operation Rome – delivering the right service, first time

On May 12, the force will change the way it manages requests for information or policing services to ensure that it provides the right service, first time for communities across the county.

During 2009/10 the force intends to deliver more protection for local communities by continuing to target those criminals who cause most harm and by increasing policing activity in parts of the county most affected by crime.

To be successful in delivering more protection we have to ensure that we deliver the right service, first time and that we keep promises that we make. There will be changes to the way we deal with requests for information or policing services – from emergency calls to routine enquiries – both at the front counter or over the telephone. These changes are being communicated to the public and partners during April and early May.

The force will continue to attend 999, emergency and priority calls as it always has.

When the call relates to a priority incident that does not require immediate attendance we will attend where appropriate, usually within the hour. This is in line with the Policing Pledge.

If the caller does not need an emergency or priority response we will offer a private appointment with a police officer, to take place either at a police station or other location agreed with the person concerned.

If we do not need to send someone or make an appointment we will resolve the incident by offering support and advice. We will properly assess all calls and enquiries we receive and if we should continue to respond to them we will. Where the responsibility should rightly rest with another organisation, we will provide members of the public with the correct advice and information and contact information for that service.

These changes are being introduced to ensure that the force continues to focus on policing priorities, while other organisations focus on what they are required to deliver, and will allow us to use our resources more effectively during 2009/10, including achieving shared outcomes agreed through the Local Area Agreement.

Further information about these changes is available from Superintendent Chris Ward.

8. Uniform Changes

The force has decided to delay the introduction of uniform changes for operational officers, originally scheduled for introduction on April 1 2009, to allow further research to be undertaken. Initial research has indicated a need for more thorough trials of shirts before a purchase decision is made.

A number of police officers and staff, including volunteers, will trial a number of garments from different suppliers over the next few months.

Changes to Police Community Support Officer uniforms to standardise their appearance with colleagues nationally will be introduced.

9. G20 Assistance

Warwickshire Police supported the policing operation surrounding the G20 Summit that took place in London at the beginning of April 2009 by sending 9 motorcyclists and 2 firearms officers to London.

10. Visitors to the Force

The force continues to host police and law enforcement colleagues from other organisations and countries in the development of policing, both locally and internationally. In March three officers, one each from Kenya, Egypt and Pakistan, met with officers and staff from the Protective Services Directorate, Nuneaton Justice Centre and the force Communications Centre. The officers are students participating in the Chevening Scholarships, prestigious awards available to international students studying in the UK. The scholarships provide an opportunity for exceptional graduates to study their chosen subject and meet and network with their peers in this country.

Also during March, 17 officers from the Sudan visited the force as part of a leadership programme to learn about the management of major incidents and contingency planning. The officers are expected to provide support to high-ranking officers dealing with such incidents. The officers also studied administration systems and force use of IT systems to

help protect people from harm. The officers spent a day with the Task Force and Contingency Planning team and reviewed policing activity relating to the Bulldog Bash event and the murder of Gerry Tobin. Members of the group also visited Leamington Spa, Nuneaton and Rugby stations.

In April, the Head of External Relations from the International Directorate within the Home Office spent 2-days speaking to a variety of staff from the Protective Services, Local Policing and Resources Directorates to gain a broader understanding of policing in the UK.

11. Force Performance

The latest information will be made available at the meeting.

Keith Bristow

Chief Constable