

Warwickshire Police Authority – 29 July 2009**General Report of the Chief Constable****Recommendation**

The Authority is recommended to note the contents of this report

1. Senior Appointments

Paul Mason-Brown was appointed as Deputy Director of Resources on 14 July 2009, having covered the role on a temporary basis since November 2008. He served as a police officer with two other forces before joining Warwickshire in 2001 as a Superintendent. Since then he has led Learning & Development, been Operations Manager of the former Southern Basic Command Unit, was attached to the Strategic Force Amalgamation Team, and was the Programme Manager for force reorganisation, *150 forward*.

2. Awards and Recognition**2.1 Force Awards**

The force has honoured a former officer and two former Special Constables for their distinguished and loyal service by the presentation of Chief Constable's Certificates of Appreciation. Mohammed Ahmed Malik, was the first Asian police officer to serve with Warwickshire Police, Jagtar Singh Doot, the first Asian member of Warwickshire Police Special Constabulary, and Bruce Williams MBE, the first black member of Warwickshire Police Special Constabulary. Two of the awards were awarded posthumously.

2.2 National Recognition

The Warwickshire Police Federation nominated PC Murray Young for the Police Bravery Awards 2009 for averting a tragedy when he saw a young woman teetering on the edge of the M6 bridge at Coleshill, Birmingham, just after midnight in April 2008. By the time PC Young had turned his vehicle round and reached the woman she was in the carriageway of the M6. He ran out in a gap between the fast-moving motorway traffic and managed to drag the injured and bloodied woman to safety on the central reservation until back-up arrived.

3. Special Constabulary Recruitment Campaign

A high-profile recruitment campaign to increase the number of people volunteering to join the Special Constabulary was launched this month. The campaign aims to encourage those 'plodding' through life to consider joining our workforce and other volunteers in protecting communities from harm.

The 'Plod Plod Plod' campaign is using newspaper, radio and website advertisements to enable members of the public to find out more. Full details of the campaign are available at www.warwickshire.police.uk. Media releases to publicise stage one of

the campaign feature the experiences of existing members of the Special Constabulary.

Since 2008 Warwickshire has welcomed 60 new special constables into the force and the current campaign aims to recruit an additional 100 officers. Nationally an additional 6000 Special Constables are being sought.

Traditionally specials have been uniformed volunteers giving anything from four hours a week, at a time that suits them, helping to protect local communities. Now, there are additional opportunities for people with specialist skills to work in some of the unseen areas of policing dealing with financial matters, computing and technical communications.

Special Constables are thoroughly trained in basic police work including self-defence, powers of arrest, preparation of evidence for court and dealing with crime. Initial training takes place during the weekends and in the evenings, but once officers are deployed to a police station, Special Constables receive supervised on the beat training with a tutor including the use of airwave radios and basic tuition on criminal law.

4. User Satisfaction Improvement and Annual Crime Figures

4.1 User Satisfaction

Members of the public who used Warwickshire Police services during 2008/09 reported improvements across all areas.

'Ease of contact' improved by over 2% to 92% compared to the previous year, 'Actions Taken' recorded a 4% improvement and 'Treatment by Police' rose to just below 94%. The largest improvement was in being 'Kept Informed' which rose from 62.9% in 07/08 to 73% in 08/09. The 'Whole Experience' satisfaction figure rose from 81.6% to 85.7%.

Further work to improve both User Satisfaction and Public Confidence work is ongoing, with a Public Confidence Board, led by Chief Superintendent Richard Sear being established.

4.2 Annual Crime Figures

Working with partners and local communities, the force achieved the biggest reduction in violence of all forces in England and Wales, according to annual crime figures released on Thursday July 16. Between April 2008 and March 2009 the force reduced the number of violent offences by 21 per cent.

Since April 1 this year the force has achieved a further 21 per cent reduction in serious violence. In the last 16 months a total of 904 fewer people have been injured as a result of serious violence in Warwickshire.

The force published its crime figures for 2008/09 in April this year and took the opportunity presented by this month's publication of national figures to update local communities on current (first quarter) performance.

Since the start of the performance year (April 2009), the number of victims of aggravated burglary and robbery has been reduced by 20.5 per cent compared to the same period last year (96 victims compared to 121).

The force has also seen the detection rate for serious sexual offences rise and the number of people reporting serious sexual offences increase. This increase reflects the

confidence and trust more people have in the force to deal with these types of offences and the force's efforts to encourage more victims to come forward.

So far this year Warwickshire Police has achieved a 13 per cent decrease in thefts from vehicles, with 103 fewer vehicles being attacked compared to the same period last year.

Positive results are also being recorded in the Priority Policing Areas (PPA). Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT), working with other parts of the force partners and local communities have achieved impressive reductions in anti-social behaviour.

In Nuneaton PPA anti-social behaviour (ASB) has decreased by 24 per cent (269 fewer incidents) compared to the same period last year. Rugby PPA has seen a decrease of 15 per cent (119 fewer reports) and in Leamington ASB in the PPA area is down 11 per cent (88 fewer reports).

The full media release can be viewed at onlinenews.warwickshire.police.uk.

Keith Bristow
Chief Constable