

Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 9th April 2009

Subject: Community Safety Issues, Inner West Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley

☐

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

☐

Community Cohesion

☐

Narrowing the Gap

☐

Council
Function

x

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

☐

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

☐

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report introduces Inspector Mark Bownass from West Yorkshire Police who will give an update on Community Safety Issues in Inner West Leeds over the past 8 weeks and Detective Inspector Simon Atkinson who will present a DVD on the use of capture houses and cars within the division.
- 1.2 Inspector Bownass will also provide information on operation Champion taking place on the 19th and 20th March on the Aviaries in Armley, an update on the Dispersal Order in the Cedars, and an up date on the Police and Community Together Meetings in Inner West.

2.0 Capture Houses and Capture Cars

2.1 Capture House

This is a rented house made up to look like an occupied property with furniture, etc and a window left open. The property would have cameras and a trackable asset placed within it, such as a laptop with a tracking device. Once activated the Police are notified and are able to track the asset through the tracking device and Global Positioning Relay Service (satellite Navigation). This will show where the asset is taken and how long it is at a particular location (eg. If it is taken to someone's house then this is known and can be added to intelligence information about those handling stolen goods and investigated).

2.2 Capture Car

A car made up to look like any other car fitted with cameras and with a trackable asset on show (usually a laptop or Satellite Navigation device). Once activated the Police are notified and are able to track the asset through the tracking device and GPRS. This will show where the asset is taken and how long it is at a particular location (eg. If it is taken to someone's house then this is known and can be added to intelligence information about those handling stolen goods).

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 The North West Divisional Community Safety Partnership is responsible for delivering actions to reduce crime and disorder in the West Wedge. It is made up of representatives from key statutory agencies.

4.0 Main Issues

- 4.1 Community Safety is one of the priority areas for the Area Committee. Regular reports are received from West Yorkshire Police on key issues and activity in the Inner West Area.

5.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 5.1 Tackling crime and disorder and addressing the fear of crime is a top priority for the citizens of Leeds as evidenced by previous consultation undertaken on a citywide and local level.

- 5.2 The citywide community safety partnership, Safer Leeds, has identified a number of key priority themes for 2008 – 20011 these are:

- Creating safer environments by tackling crime;
- Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by substance misuse;
- Supporting victims and reducing the risk of victimisation;
- Reducing offending and managing offending behaviour;
- Improving community confidence and public satisfaction;

Locally delivered actions will contribute to these priorities. In addition Operation Champion has been rolled out throughout the city and will be targeting hot spot areas by Police division.

6.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 6.1 The West Area Management Team includes an officer with specific responsibilities for Community Safety who co-ordinates activity and acts as the link officer with West Yorkshire Police.

7.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Crime and Community Safety is a priority for the Area Committee, and a representative from West Yorkshire Police, North West Division, attends the Inner West Area Committee meetings to provide a regular update on key issues.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the update from West Yorkshire Police

Background Papers

- Police and Local Authorities Consultation Document for the dispersal of Groups and the removal of under 16s from the area. Section 30 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 .