



Report of the Chief Community Safety Officer

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 12 January 2009

Subject: The role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.0 The report outlines the role and deployment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in West Yorkshire, and provides an outline of PCSO activity in Leeds.

2.0 Role

2.1 The fundamental role of a PCSO is to contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods, primarily through high visibility patrols with the purpose of:

- Reassuring the public
- Tackling anti-social behaviour in public places
- Being accessible to communities and partner agencies working at a local level

2.2 The PCSO role is one of engagement as opposed to enforcement. Day-to-day activities and emphasis could vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood depending on local priorities.

3.0 Deployment

3.1 On appointment, PCSOs commence a seven week training programme, which is followed by four weeks of tutored patrol at their appointed Division. Thereafter they are required to patrol alone unless a risk assessment determines otherwise. All PCSOs in the West Yorkshire Force are posted to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and are deployed on a ward basis.

- 3.2 In keeping with the Neighbourhood Policing focus of the West Yorkshire Force, PCSOs work to a common shift pattern that ensures cover every day (see appendices).
- 3.3 Leeds City Council provide 30% of the funding for 170 of the 320 PCSOs working in the Leeds area, distributed as 5 per ward except Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward with 8 and Gipton and Harehills ward with 7. A contract governs this arrangement. In terms of the Leeds policing Divisions this equates to 70 funded PCSOs in North East Leeds, 65 in North West Leeds and 35 in City & Holbeck.
- 3.4 The following table illustrates the spread of PCSOs across the North of England:

City/LA	Approx Population	Total No. Of PCSOs	No. LA Part Funded	Approx PCSO per 1000 Population
Leeds	750,000	320	170	0.43
Bradford	470,000	205	130	0.44
West Yorkshire	2,200,000	762	407	0.35
Greater Manchester	2,500,000	848	25	0.34
Sheffield	530,000	143	25	0.27
Newcastle	272,000	109	0	0.40
Liverpool	436,000	119	0	0.27
Merseyside	1,500,000	466	0	0.31

- 3.5 A monthly updated list of PCSOs in post is supplied to Leeds City Council. This is supplemented by a quarterly report of PCSO activity.

4.0 PCSO Activity

- 4.1 At the end of each tour of duty a PCSO is required to complete an electronic monitoring form covering that day's activities. Amongst the activities currently measured are:

- Time spent on high visibility patrol
- Time spent on high visibility patrol in their allocated area
- Time spent at incidents
- Time spent on school related activity
- Surgeries/contact points held
- Asb complainant and offender visits
- Intelligence reports submitted
- Alcohol, tobacco and vehicle seizures

- 4.2 Neighbourhood Policing Team Internet sites are regularly updated with details of local policing activity; however, below is a snapshot of activities involving PCSOs during quarter 2 of this year.

4.3 North East Leeds

July

Car Boot (27th) - Operation to target the sale of counterfeit goods at Crossgreen car boot sale - £10,000 worth of goods seized. 2 stops, 4 intelligence reports.

Operation Champion (29th to 31st) - Multi agency operations to address 'crime and grime' issues - Seacroft - 61 stop searches, 9 arrests, 14 vehicles seized, 1250 homes supplied with crime reduction information material.

August

Car boot (17th and 31st) - £10,000, 1 arrest, 1 stop search, 1 intelligence report.

Gipton area - 3 month dispersal order commenced in the Gipton area.

Operation Champion (12th to 14th) - Harehills - 12 intelligence reports, 4 vehicles seized, 1 arrest.

September

Car boot (7th and 26th) - £25,000 worth of counterfeit goods seized.

Operation Bulgaria - Wetherby Villagers - Collingham and Scarcroft - 2 day operation to address burglaries in the villages - 1 arrest.

Wetherby area - Multi agency operation - test purchases at off-licences.

Operation Champion - East End Park: 19 calls attended, 4 arrests made, 19 traffic related fixed penalty tickets, 72 Stops, 15 intelligence reports, 32 Tons of waste removed from gardens/bin yards, 30 Tags of graffiti removed from properties, 50 bin yards cleared of rubbish, 250 leaflets delivered offering free home fire safety checks.

Operation Champion (30/9 to 2/10) – Roundhay.

4.4 City and Holbeck

July

Operation Catch - Coordinated NPT-led operation to arrest priority crime type offenders in the Morley area deploying targeted PCSOs - 48 arrests including participation in a number of drugs search warrant operations.

Operation Dampen - Operation to address off-licence alcohol sales to underage customers. Clampdown on teen drinking during the summer holidays has helped to cut calls about anti-social behaviour by 20%. Operation Dampen launched in late July saw officers and PCSOs from the NPT seize more than 120 bottles and cans of alcohol from underage drinkers on the town's parks and streets. More than 50 local youngsters caught drinking or committing anti-social behaviour were dealt with during the operation, which officially concluded on 2 September. Action taken against the youths included taking them home and speaking to them in front of their parents, and writing letters to parents advising of their child's behaviour. The operation also clamped down on those who were buying the alcohol, with fixed

penalty notices issued to people for either buying or attempting to buy alcohol for a person under 18.

Operation Champion (14th and 15th) - Belle Isle - 650 homes supplied with crime reduction information material, 60 VCRAT referrals (generating letters to vehicle owners re. valuables left on display in their cars), 33 vehicles removed, 4 arrests, 4 warrant arrests, £225 recovered in outstanding fines.

August

Trojan Bus (6th to 8th) - use of 'undercover' bus staffed by police staff - 3 youths arrested for trying to cause damage to bus by throwing objects at it.

Drugs operation (14th) - Belle Isle - 2 arrests and several stolen vehicles recovered.

Dispersal Order - 15th of August for 3 months - Middleton Park area.

Operation Catch - As above - 33 arrests.

Operation Divensure - through August - is a combination of diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour, positive action when called to deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour and reassuring local people that their concerns over such activity are being taken seriously. Organised and partly funded by the Holbeck NPT, it ran throughout the school summer holidays and gave teenagers aged between 13 and 16 the chance to take up activities such as canoeing, caving and rock climbing, and car mechanics, along with sports including football and swimming. Officers and PCSOs also took enforcement action, including working with local residents to identify anti-social behaviour hot spots and tackle problems for the benefit of the local community. 40% reduction in ASB reports over 5 weeks.

Operation Champion (6th to 8th) – Beeston.

September

Operation Catch - 52 arrests.

Operation Date (25th) - Morley - Operation to address nuisance off-road motorcycles.

Operation Champion (9th to 11th) - Beeston - Target hardening at 110 addresses.

4.5 North West Leeds

July

Operation Champion (23rd to 25th) - New Wortley - 23 vehicles recovered, 11 fixed penalty tickets issued, 2 vehicles seized under Sec 59 and 7 Sec 59 warnings issued, 10 arrests, 21 arrests for outstanding warrants and £2,277 recovered in fine defaults.

August

Operation Champion (20th to 22nd) - Woodhouse - 1000 homes supplied with crime reduction information material, 8 vehicles seized, 6 arrests, 5 fine warrant arrests.

September

Belle Vue Open Day (13th) - 350 visitors to an open day, including the Dog Section, Crime Reduction, Neighbourhood Watch, Ward information, Graffiti Removal Demonstration, Mountain Bike Display, Mounted Section, Police Uniform and Kit Display, HeadCams, Specials Recruitment, NPT Presentation, CJS, the Amplitude Van, the Motorway Unit, FSU - Fire Arms Support Unit, Traffic Vehicle with Automatic Number Plate Recognition capability, Off Road Motorcycle, NPT Vivaro, the Otley Land Rover and a Fire Engine from the Leeds Fire Station "Red Watch".

Otley Police Station open day (20th) – as above

Pudsey Police Station Open Day - as above (extensive media coverage).

Operation Walksafe - through September - increased uniformed patrols around the University and Headingley area with University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and Trinity and All Saints College. Students visited and crime prevention advice given, property marking with a UV marker. During the 'Walksafe' Operation, high-visibility patrols were conducted in joint patrols with all the Universities security staff, around halls of residences and the main Woodhouse Lane corridor, resulting in a decrease in street robberies around this area during 'Freshers' Week'.

Operation Acrid - from 5th of September - Operation to address burglary in the Pudsey area.

Operation Champion (17th to 19th) – Farnley.

5.0 Surgeries/Contact Points

A review of current NPT web sites reveals that there are over 100 public surgeries/contact opportunities held by the District NPTs. PCSOs are involved in these and in many cases have responsibility for their operation. Many of the surgeries are held in school premises or community/village halls or similar familiar public buildings. A number of the opportunities are held jointly with councillors or parish council surgeries.

6.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to note this report.