



# RIBBLE VALLEY CRIME AND DISORDER PARTNERSHIP

## Newsletter

April 2003

### PROPERTY CRIME

The Anti Car Crime Initiative reported in the last newsletter has been taken up as 'best practice' by the Police Force, this initiative involved Hotels and Golf Clubs, as at the time car thieves were targeting their car parks.

Following the above successes attention has changed to stone thefts, thieves from Burnley whom have stolen whole stretches of copingstones etc have targeted the area. It is believed the perpetrators are funding a drug habit. High tech measures are tackling this trend – Smart Water is being applied to stone, which is likely to be stolen, the liquid is a high intensity UV fluid which contains microdots, when 'read' under UV light there is a unique number in each of these dots to enable the origination of the stone to be known.

Other 'travelling criminals' have been stealing diesel. Michael Yale is subject to a five-year Anti Social Behaviour Order on conviction – this order prohibits him from carrying/possessing containers, pumps, hoses and cutting gear etc. and also from the Ribble Valley (and Craven) area 6pm to 8am. This is the first time an Anti Social Behaviour Order has been used in this way.

The key fobs printed with 'take your keys to bed' have been produced and distributed throughout the Borough, these key rings discourage householders from leaving keys in the hallway or in the back of doors. Several thefts have occurred where thieves had taken the car keys from inside the house and then driven away without setting alarms or immobilisers off.

An ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Reader) has been purchased, the equipment reads number plates and checks a database, which stores those numbers that the

Police are interested in. The equipment can be used from an unmarked or marked car, in connection with the CCTV system and even on a re-locatable camera - this equipment will particularly impact on travelling criminals.

The CCTV system is now operational; the system is very impressive with some successes already happening. A further three cameras are to be purchased to extend the periphery of the system. The re-locatable cameras have been sited in Longridge and also on an Industrial Estate in Clitheroe where diesel thefts have occurred.

The Mobile Police Station is now in use and has visited some of the Valley's villages; one of the three Police Community Support Officers will be driving the vehicle.

Other initiatives in the pipeline include re-launching 'E Mailer Watch' sent locally from Clitheroe.

### **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

John Barber, the Quality of Life Officer has been in post for three months, he has met with all relevant agencies, works closely with the Police and is able to task the PCSO's [Police Community Support Officers] directly. John has produced a series of leaflets to help those people suffering from anti social behaviour; he has also produced an Anti Social Behaviour Protocol. John has been instrumental in introducing the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts; these voluntary contracts do not involve the use of courts and have produced results already.

The Partnership is hopeful that an all-weather pitch may be possible within the grounds of St Michaels and St Johns RC School in Clitheroe, the land is used unofficially by young people to play football, or when wet the nearby car park has been used, which has caused problems for residents. This initiative is in its' infancy but initial soundings are proving positive.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The two Drug Education Workers are now working in all Secondary Schools and getting very positive results. The covert vehicle purchased by the Partnership has resulted in a £500,000 drugs haul.

Pubwatch continues to be successful; there is now a 'drinking on streets ban' in Clitheroe, Whalley, Longridge, Read, Simonstone and Sabden, however, signage is needed prior to the summer season.

### **YOUTH INTERVENTION**

The Equaliser Project, which targets 50 young people and helps them to get back to school/into work/into college, is up and running. Moving Up is starting again; this initiative aims to aid young people who are unsure what they would like to do on leaving school.

A site has been identified for the Longridge Skate Park, on the Playing Fields near Kestor Lane, this seems to be a popular choice and the initiative now seems to be

getting off the ground. The Clitheroe Skate Park refurbishment and the all-weather pitch within the Castle Grounds are also progressing.

The Partnership has also part-funded an analysis of leisure facility users with the ultimate aim of an improved leisure card being provided, particularly targeting young people.

Streetwise – an initiative to encourage young people to keep safe over the summer months is to be run again in June, this multi-agency programme targets 500 pupils from the Ribble Valley over a week.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

There are two sites under consideration by Lancashire County Council for improvements to street lighting, they are Highmoor Park and Riverside; this funding is provided to reduce crime and fear of crime.

### **VIOLENT CRIME**

The Partnership continues to support Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Outreach in their search for funding; this organisation offers advice and support to victims of domestic violence.

The need for self-reporting centres for victims of hate crime is to be pursued by the group.

Analysis of violent crime figures has resulted in a reduction of incidents at establishments for those people with learning disabilities.

### **STEERING GROUP**

The Steering Group received an update on the various funding initiatives, which for 2003/04 are to be one single pot BSCF [Building Safer Communities Fund]. The three funding streams [CAD, SCI and PDF] that totalled £86,000 are now to be one pot of £68,000.

In addition to this there is to be a contribution from the Police BCU Fund [Basic Command Unit], which totals £222,000 for the Division, 72 additional PCSO's will be funded from this (12 for Eastern Division). This reduces the pot to £123,000, which as all the CDRP's have a shortfall is to be reallocated.

As a Partnership we are committed to two Drug Education Workers, the covert ops vehicle, funding for Life Education Centres and the Quality of Life Officer – these initiatives alone require £70k - £75k.

MADE 2 [Multi Agency Data Exchange] will be launched in its' latest form in June this year. This facility enables the sharing of data between organisations i.e. Police, Health, LCC and census statistics, down to ward level and provides a useful tool to all agencies targeting resources.

## **FUNDING UPDATE**

In 2002/03 the money was spent as follows:

- Communities against Drugs – two drugs education workers - £35,000.
- Covert Operations vehicle - £12,000.
- Contribution to Life Education Centres - £8,800 (a £6,000 contribution from Lancashire County Council Youth & Community Service was also available).
- Partnership Development Fund – appointment of Quality of Life Officer - £20,000
- Safer Communities Initiative – purchase of automatic number plate reader£6,500
- Contribution towards Longridge Skate Park - £6,000
- Smartwater - £500
- Computer Project Projector for partnership - £1,800
- Property marking Kits - £700
- Key fobs - £500
- The Small Retailers Fund – various security measures for small retailers in Clitheroe, Longridge, Whalley and Read - £10,000

In addition, an under spend of £34,500 from the late appointment of the drugs education workers from year 2001/02 had to be identified. The under spend has been spent during 2002/03 in the following ways:

- Extra covert operations vehicle and signage - £10,000
- Two years contribution to Blackburn Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Arrest Referrals Scheme £4,500
- Part time Clerical Officer's salary - £7,500
- Recording Equipment for Youth & Community Service - £7,500
- Extra equipment for drugs education workers - £2000
- The remaining monies have been transferred to the Communities against Drugs Fund for 2003/04.

The funding for 2003/04 will be spent as follows:

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| • Two Drugs Education Workers            | £35,000 |
| • Replacement Covert Operations Vehicle  | £12,000 |
| • Contribution to Life Education Centres | £9,250  |
| • Quality of Life Officer                | £20,000 |
| • Extension to Smartwater initiative     | £1,000  |
| • Covert/overt camera system             | £6,000  |
| • Contribution to Drug Arrest Referral   | £2,500  |
| • Display boards for Partnership         | £1,500  |
| • Signage for alcohol ban on streets     | £3,000  |

The post of part-time Clerical Assistant will be Partnership funded in 2003/04 as follows:

RVBC	£2,000	Police Authority	£1,000
Savings from non-filled position	£1,000	LCC	£2,000

For further information on any of the above initiatives please contact Bill Alker or Averil Crowther on (01200) 414412.