



PRESTON NHW NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

NEW SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT...



Following concerns regarding varying levels of support extended by the Lancashire Police in support of the Preston Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, further impacted by the loss of a dedicated NHW Co-ordinator post in November 2008 as part of cost efficiency savings, a Service Level Agreement has recently been produced. The new agreement, endorsed by Chief Constable Steve Finnigan, comes into effect on 28th of April 2010 and is intended to help improve performance by setting out specific targets regarding the delivery of the scheme.

PS 2357 Nigel Parkinson is appointed as the 'Single Point of Contact' for the Preston Division, however responsibility for the scheme remains with the

following Sector Sgts:

PS 2135 Ade Stephenson Fulwood North 01772 209515
PS 2372 Chris Barton Fulwood South 01772 209519
PS 1143 Julian Ormiston City Centre 01772 209730
PS 2130 Phil Orme Lea 01772 209437

Communication was a major area which featured in the concerns raised. Significant work has therefore recently been undertaken to

address these concerns, including a review of the police database held for NHW Co-ordinators within the Preston area. A bi-monthly newsletter will also be produced, featuring news items that are of local interest and relevance to each ward area, starting with this first edition. If anyone has any articles which they would like to be featured in future newsletters please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on the above contact telephone numbers shown.

INTERESTING FACTS...

A Survey conducted on www.onepoll.com in March 2010 reveals that only one in five know their neighbours well. One in ten claim to be too shy to even say hello and exchange pleasantries with the people next door. However, 95% believe knowing their neighbour could have a positive impact on their community.

In order to build stronger neighbourhood relationships, The Big Lunch, led by the Eden Project, aims to encourage as many people as possible to sit down together with their neighbours for lunch on Sunday 18th July in a simple act of community.

For further information or additional stats, please contact The Big Lunch Press Office at Cake on 020 7307 3104 or email The-BigLunch@cakegroup.com

PRESTON NHW AGM 21ST APRIL

Over 60 coordinators attended the Preston Neighbourhood Watch annual general meeting held at St Cuthbert's Church Hall. The retiring committee were re-elected and a number of new people volunteered to become active members of the committee.

Coordinators were impressed with a number of presentations which included a demonstration by armed response officers. They demonstrated the use of a Tazer machine used a less lethal option to detain violent offenders. Officers also talked about the issues surrounding replica weapons and the use of such items during incidents.

The police community engagement team also talked about their role in preventing violent extremism. There were a number of interesting questions but the message was that any piece of information from members of the public is important to the police.

The sector Sergeants will be organizing a number of meetings for Coordinators throughout the year. Please ensure that you keep in contact with your sector Sergeant as they are your direct link to the Constabulary.

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RECENT SCAMS..(FROM PRESTON TRADING STANDARDS)



Burglar Alarm salesmen have been cold-calling in the Preston and S Ribble areas offering free alarms to residents and discussing crime problems in the respective districts to persuade the customers to agree to survey visits. Be warned that whilst the alarms may be free, consumers sign up to expensive service agreements which may last for several years and cost a total in the thousands.

Two UPVC window salesmen entered a signed No Cold Calling Area in the Thornton Cleveleys area and informed householders that they had been authorised by the local police to enter the zone. When challenged by one resident, they gave him a police log number which they claimed exempted them from the usual NCCA controls. The resident rang the police in front of the salesmen, who then ran away. The log number was of course bogus.

A well known vacuum company have recently been operating in Lancashire handing out draw tickets to win a car. They then ring the customer to tell them that they have not won the car BUT have instead won the opportunity to have a carpet in their home shampooed free of charge. Once inside the property, they then proceed to use pressure sales approach to sell them a vacuum for almost £2500

LCC Trading Standards strongly advises residents NOT to invite cold-callers into your home. Please refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 55 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tele 08454 040506. If there is any loss of money the matter should also be referred to the police.

Warnings issued by Dawn Robinson LCC Trading Standards 01772 532763

CRIMESTOPPERS INFORMATION...



FIGHT CRIME WITHOUT REVEALING YOUR IDENTITY

Latest Annual Statistics (Apr 2009 to Mar 2010) for

Lancashire Crimestoppers show that 2775 Actionable Calls were received through the 0800 555 111 anonymous telephone number, leading to 607 Sanction Detections.

Central Division has the highest conversion rate for the year with 39.2 % of calls leading to Sanction Detection.

For the year the total conversion rate of calls leading to Sanction Detection is 21.8%

compared Nationally to 8.2%.

If you have any information about people committing crime in your area call

CRIMESTOPPERS anonymously on 0800 555 111

We will not ask for your name & we do not trace your call. You may also be eligible for a cash reward.

Are You Fearless?

Crimestoppers has recently launched a new youth brand that introduces young people to the service provided by Crimestoppers. It consists of the website, fearless.org, where young people can get information about crimes that affect them. The website also gives young people the opportunity to pass on information about crimes.

CRIME REDUCTION NEWS...

Although crime rates are low and continuing to fall in Lancashire, around this time of year there can be a trend where sheds and garages are targeted by burglars.

In order to make your garden more secure and help minimise the risk of your shed, garage or outhouse being broken into, residents are advised to take a mo-

ment to look at their current security:

Make sure that shed doors are fitted with a sturdy hasp and staple, with mushroom headed bolts that can not be tampered with. Secure this with a closed shackle padlock which could not be snipped by bolt cutters. It is important to check the wood for rot and splitting, and

make sure that the hasp and staple could not be easily prised off away.

Inside your shed or garage, consider property marking any valuables with your postcode and house number, and keep a record of what is marked and where the marking is on the item.

Keep garden gates, fences & walls in good repair.

Grow prickly plants to vulnerable areas such as win-

Dows, fences boundary walls & drainpipes.

Don't leave ladders & Tools lying around in your garden on view—not only could these be stolen from you but they also be used to break into your home.



For specialist advice on your shed or garage, contact Sue Slater on 01772 209793.

Keep your keys safe.....

A car key burglary is a crime where an individual breaks into your home with the specific aim of removing your car keys and stealing your car. Perpetrators of this crime often work to order and will target specific vehicles, based on demand and value. If a criminal is targeting a certain vehicle they will also be targeting the owner, looking for easy ways to exploit their security and get to their keys. The most common methods used by thieves are to follow victims

home or 'cruise' around residential areas looking for opportunities. If you think you are being followed or see any suspicious vehicles, take the registration number and report it to the police.

Reduce Your Chances of Becoming a Victim of Car Key Burglars

Simple crime prevention methods are the most effective way to deter potential thieves. The more difficult you make it for them; the less likely they are to bother. You can use a number of meth-

ods to protect both your car and home:



Protecting your car:

- Always keep your keys somewhere safe and out of sight
- Always lock your car away safely in the garage, if you have one
- Fit a high quality alarm to your vehicle

- Use additional security systems such as immobilisers and visible security locks
- Always take your keys with you when leaving the vehicle unattended
- Make sure that doors, windows, the boot and sunroof are secure wherever you leave your vehicle.
- If you own more than one vehicle, park the lesser valued vehicle behind the more expensive one on the driveway, making it more difficult to remove.

For specialist advice crime reduction advice in the Preston area, contact Sue Slater on 01772 209793.

RECENT RESULTS.. "IT'S AS SAFE AS THE 70's"

Glam rock, Space Hoppers, Ford Cortina's and Chopper bikes. The energy crisis, some distinctly dodgy fashions and haircuts. Lots of things have changed since the 1970's. Although lots of things are different, however, crime levels in Lancashire are one thing that hasn't changed much. In fact, some crimes in Lancashire haven't been this low for 37 years. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime are both at their lowest levels since 1973, and,

there are more than 10,000 fewer victims of crime this year than last year, and ten years ago for that matter.

Over the last five years, Lancashire has consistently been among the top performing forces in the country. Indeed, last month Lancashire Constabulary was rated as one of the strongest performing forces in England and Wales by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) as part of the new Police Report Card as-

essment. As for detection rates, Lancashire is consistently in the top ten performing forces at 35 per cent - this means there is a good chance that people committing crime will be caught.

Chief Constable Steve Finnigan said: 'The figures clearly demonstrate that we are enjoying more success in our determination to ensure that the county continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. But we couldn't have achieved



SUCCESS without help from our partners, and from

members of the public, so I want to say a big thank-you to them. 'Despite these positive figures, we are not complacent and we remain committed to keeping our communities safe from harm, and through our local policing teams we will ensure that we remain accessible and in touch with community priorities.

SECTOR NEWS

USEFUL CONTACTS...



Emergency

Dial 999 when there is danger to life or a crime in progress.

Non emergency

Dial 0845 1 25 35 45 for all non emergencies. Calls will be charged at a local rate.

CRIME STOPPERS

Dial 0800 555 111

Lancashire NHW Forum

E-Mail at www.lnwf.co.uk

PRESTON NHW DETAILS...

www.pnwa.co.uk Preston NHW website

WATCH NEWS...

The Preston Neighbourhood Watch Association was set up in 2004 to provide an association that would aid all schemes who become members with help, advice and assist in obtaining funding.



We have been able to assist schemes in obtaining funding for signs and stationary costs, as being constituted we can accept the monies on their behalf. We reintroduced a scheme called Data link (or message in the fridge) which is a small canister kept in the Fridge containing all health issues for easy access by paramedics in case of emergency, and these are still available.

We are excited by the introduction of the Service level agreement and look forward to an exciting future.

The association runs its own website: on which the alerts sent out by trading standards can be accessed as soon as they come out. There are also articles of news and interest, details of Pact meetings and Priorities, newsletters and details of the Data link scheme. (www.pnwa.co.uk)

STOP PRESS...MOTORCYCLE SAFETY!



Motorcyclists are some of Lancashire's most vulnerable road users with 14 fatal casualties between April 08 & March 09.

Research shows that the motorcycle crashes are likely to involve junctions, bends & overtaking manoeuvres. Many collisions involve other road users who haven't seen the motorcyclist.

Lancashire Constabulary is focused on making our roads safer & reducing casualties with an emphasis on vulnerable groups including young and recreational riders.

Pathway is an operation aimed at educating ALL road users. During the operation officer's from Lancashire's Road Policing Unit will be raising awareness of bikers on the road as well

as advising them on how to stay safe when out, the safety equipment available to them & the correct clothing to wear.

Some of the activities taking place across the county this month include:

- Working in town centers talking to young motorcyclists
 - Working with recreational riders on the 'A' roads
- Focusing on other road users whose behaviour poses a risk to motorcyclists

Urban Speed

FACT: Driving too fast was the main cause of 1,200 deaths and more than 20,000 serious injuries on built up roads in the UK last year.

Statistics show the main cause of road crashes is the combination of inappropri-

ate or excessive speed with some form of human error.

Govt research shows:

- Around 1 in 3 deaths are speed related.
- 7 out of 10 drivers regularly break the speed limit - usually by about 5mph.
- An average family car travelling at 35mph will need an extra 21 feet (6.4 metres) to stop than one travelling at 30mph.
- If you hit a cyclist or pedestrian at 35mph the force of the impact increases by more than a third than at 30mph.
- Reducing your speed by an average of 1mph will cut accident frequency by 5%.

On urban roads 76 % of cars will exceed the speed limit if the road is clear.

It's not safer to drive faster at night. Casualty rates are double that during daylight hours due to the higher speeds & less traffic, higher alcohol consumption, tiredness & of course the darkness.

Temptation

Whether you're a new driver or have been driving for years sometimes a clear road can make it really tempting for you to speed. Don't ever risk it, what you might think is harmless fun can end in serious consequences.

Remember: The faster you drive a car the longer it'll take you to stop. The faster you hit something, the greater the effect of that impact. Speed is a major cause of road crashes. The speed limit is there for a reason.