

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL JUNE 2007 – REPORT BY MRS SODEN

Wiltshire Police – Re-organisation of Divisions

There are now two policing divisions in the area covered by Wiltshire Police. County Division covers the Wiltshire County Council area, and Swindon Division covers the Swindon Borough Council area. This change came into effect on 1st April, 2007. Chief Superintendent Julian Kirby is the Divisional Commander for County Division and he is based at Melksham Divisional Police HQ.

As a consequence of this change, Wiltshire Police Authority has appointed two Vice-Chairman, one for County Division and one for Swindon. I am the Vice-Chairman for County Division and will monitor policing issues in the new Division.

Neighbourhood Policing

As reported at the last meeting, all 67 neighbourhood policing teams have now been rolled out in County Division. The neighbourhood policing teams are divided up into eight sector areas and a member of the Police Authority has been allocated to each area to liaise with local police staff and partners and to monitor performance. This will be done on a quarterly basis with results fed back to the Authority's Consultation and Public Focus Committee which I chair. The eight sector areas and members allocated to each area are as follows:

- Wootton Bassett – Mollie Groom and Carole Soden
- Chippenham – Judy Rooke
- Trowbridge – Gill Stafford
- Warminster – Frederick Palmer
- Salisbury – Joy Hillyer
- Amesbury – Ian West
- Devizes – Margaret Taylor
- Marlborough – Chris Humphries

Performance – County Division

Performance figures are available for the period April 2007 to May 2007 (compared with April 2006 – May 2006). As this period covers only two months, the percentage changes can be misleading. I report as follows:

All Crime

- **An increase of 6% in total recorded crime (254 more crimes)**

Whilst this represents a fall in performance, two factors are believed to be influencing this:

- (1) A proactive approach to violent crime.
- (2) Targeting of urban and town centre crime.

Most recent comparative data shows that Wiltshire remains one of the safest areas in the country.

- **The overall detection rate is currently 24%** (which is an improvement on last year's rate of 18%).

We now record sanction detections, as opposed to all detections. The figure for last year is also therefore that for sanction detections. A sanction detection is a detected crime for which there is a positive outcome. For example, an offender is convicted, cautioned or has the offence taken into consideration by the court in other proceedings.

Domestic Burglary

- A decrease of **7%** (15 fewer crimes).
- **14%** of burglaries have been detected compared with 13% last year.

Violent Crime

- A decrease of **3%** (25 fewer crimes).
- Detection rate is currently **45%** which is the same as last year.

Vehicle Crime

- An increase of **12%** (48 more crimes).
- Detection rate is **8%** compared with 14% last year.

Regional Collaboration: Shared Services Initiative

I reported on this initiative at the last meeting. The initiative takes the form of a programme, headed by the Chief Constable, and is designed to:

- allow the region's 5 Forces to share services and operate in a consistent way (using common platforms, equipment and tactics) wherever there are demonstrable benefits from doing so
- make a tangible impact upon the region's Protective Services (serious and organised crime) capability through improved resource deployment
- attract substantial financial support from the Home Office as part of its 'Protective Services Demonstrator Site' programme
- be directed by a small programme team working alongside existing Force and Authority structures, funded by Authority and hopefully Home Office contributions in the first instance but becoming self-financing within 18 months.

Police Authority Meetings in 2007:

20th September

6th December

These are public meetings commencing 10.30 at Police HQ Devizes and all members are welcome to attend. The agenda is available on the website www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk.

Carole Soden, Vice-Chairman, Wiltshire Police Authority