



Crime and Community Safety Briefing Paper Melksham Community Area Board 12th May 2011

1. Neighbourhood Policing

On Monday 4th April the structure of our Neighbourhood Policing Teams changed. The 55 NPT's in the Unitary Area have been reduced to 20 to correspond with the 20 Community Areas.

The public will not see any change to staffing levels as each Beat will retain its Community Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officer(s).

The changes have been made in order to enhance the service delivery to the public, namely...

I. **Increased police visibility, community engagement and more time to spend dealing with priorities:**

Due to a reduction in bureaucracy there will be a reduction in Neighbourhood Tasking Group (NTG) meetings where priorities are set each quarter. Currently up to 76 are held but in the new structure this will be reduced by 49 meetings per quarter. There is also a new NPT IT system which will make things easier and quicker for staff to enter information. There will also be one quarterly Newsletter for each Community Area with a dedicated page for each Beat Area.

II. **Service delivery will be enhanced:**

- a) If a significant priority is identified in a Beat Area, staff from other Beats within the NPT can be tasked to the area

to target the issue. Staff will still be primarily dedicated to working on their individual Beats.

- b) Each NPT will have a dedicated Sergeant who will provide support for the NPT and enhance supervision.

III. There will be greater partnership working with local authorities and stakeholders:

Due to the rationalisation of the number of NPTs, which will lead to improved targeting of priorities.

Current Priorities:

Up-to-date details of the current news about Neighbourhood Policing Teams, including, profiles, priorities and forthcoming community consultation events can be found on the Wiltshire Police Website.

🖥️ Visit the new and improved website at: www.wiltshire.police.uk

Team News:

There have been no team changes since the last Area Board.

2. Performance

Overall crime levels in the Community Area have been significantly reduced.

Table 1 – Reported Crime Figures
1st April 2010 – 10th March 2011

MELKSHAM COMMUNITY AREA						
MELKSHAM	CRIME				DETECTIONS	
	2009/10	2010/11	+ / -	% Change	2009/10	2010/11
Violence Against the Person	242	260	18	7.4%	52.1%	57.3%
Dwelling Burglary	119	48	-71	-59.7%	36.1%	25.0%
Criminal Damage	257	232	-25	-9.7%	24.1%	23.3%
Non Dwelling Burglary	106	93	-13	-12.3%	4.7%	8.6%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	91	64	-27	-29.7%	5.5%	0.0%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	28	18	-10	-35.7%	14.3%	22.2%
Total Crime	1290	1168	-122	-9.5%	30.3%	27.1%

**Table 2 – Reported Anti-Social Behaviour Figures
1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011**

APL-JUNE 2010 (2009)	JULY - SEPT 2010 (2009)	OCT – DEC 2010 (2009)	JAN - MAR 2011 (2010)	YEARLY AVE (10/11)
308 (368)	368 (308)	307 (259)	243 (238)	306.3



Wiltshire Police Authority

Mr Angus Macpherson is an Independent Member of the Wiltshire Police Authority and has the responsibility for overseeing police matters in the Community Area. He can be contacted via Wiltshire Police Authority: ☎ 01380 734022 or 🌐 <http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/feedback.asp>

3. Vision Wiltshire

Vision Wiltshire has been set-up to deliver a new policing model to meet the projected funding cuts over the next 4-years.

Wiltshire Police Authority (WPA) must reduce its budget from £108million in 2009-10 by £15million over the next four years. In order to identify where the public felt these savings might be made and what services should be protected, a special public consultation was conducted between 23rd November 2010 & 11th February 2011. There were 1,134 responses.

What did we do?

A questionnaire was posted on the WPA website which also sent to every town and parish council in Wiltshire and Swindon.

WPA Members attended Area Board meetings to present an overview of the situation and to encourage the public to express their views.

WPA Chairman, Christopher Hoare, presented similarly at meetings arranged by Wiltshire Council to consult with the public on their budget and that of partner agencies.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams distributed the questionnaire within their communities.

All Neighbourhood Watch Members and members of the public who had signed up to the Force website were alerted to the consultation.

WPA members also met with five of the six MPs in Wiltshire and Swindon to seek their views.

What you said

The conclusions that can be drawn from the results of the survey are as follows:

Many people were concerned about how public sector cuts will affect policing in their local area.

There was an overwhelming agreement that removing Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from neighbourhoods should only be done as a last resort.

85% of respondents said they would be happy with an answer rate of **up to** one minute for the non-emergency police number.

The public did not want to lose police stations and they were the primary choice for accessing police services. However, there was strong support for the use of shared facilities and of greater use of internet and telephone.

The majority of respondents agreed that we should spend the same or more than is now spent on the services we identified in our questionnaire.

WPA should be sourcing policing goods and services from others if it was more effective and efficient.

The respondents ranked the given priorities as follows:

1. Tackling crime
2. Answering 999 calls
3. Neighbourhood Policing
4. Keeping people safe
5. Being available 24/7

What we have done

The results of the consultation have been used along with a strategic assessment by Wiltshire Police to inform our Policing Plan for 2011/14. This directs policing effort as follows:

Strategic Priority 1 - Reduce Violent Crime

As part of our vision for Wiltshire to be the safest county in the Country, we are committed to further reducing violence and supporting the victims and witnesses of violent crime. Specifically, over the next year we will focus on reducing alcohol related violence and domestic abuse and further improving our quality of service to victims of sexual abuse.

Strategic Priority 2 - Manage the people who cause the most harm in our communities

It is estimated that one in ten offenders are responsible for up to half of all crime in Wiltshire. It makes sense, therefore, to focus on those people who are causing the most harm in our communities and deal with them through an integrated approach with our partners in the justice system.

Strategic Priority 3 - Tackle Antisocial Behaviour

The level of antisocial behaviour in Swindon and Wiltshire increases in the summer. Overall levels are low and falling, and most people view Wiltshire as a safe place. The Force will be working to protect the most vulnerable and to support the communities within Wiltshire to develop and implement their own solutions to local problems

Strategic Priority 4 - Developing Sustainable Policing

The scale of the cuts requires a wholesale review of what the police do and how they do it. This means a re-focus on the core role and a much keener focus upon productivity and resource usage. Minor adjustments to the operating model will not allow us to maintain performance whilst reducing cost. WPA has agreed the development of a new operational policing model, supported by new technology. To minimise risk that comes with change, we will introduce the new operational model gradually, ensuring that each component is properly consulted upon and tested before implementation.

For the full report on the WPA **Vision Wiltshire** public consultation or for a full copy of the **Policing Plan** visit the WPA website at: www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk

In June, WPA will publish its review of the performance of Wiltshire Police during 2010/11, and we will look to update the Area Board shortly thereafter.



David W Cullop
Sector Inspector
28/04/11