

Northern Police Area

Our next two meetings in the Northern Police Area are:-

Thursday 7 May 2009, 7pm
Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn

Thursday 14 May 2009, 7pm
Gateway Centre, Sankey Street,
Warrington

Please come along to either or both.

1. Local crime information

How to access local crime information on the internet – a briefing is enclosed.

2. Customer Service Desks

How the Constabulary are keeping victims of crime and witnesses updated – a briefing is enclosed.

3. HQ Crime and Operations Departments - how they support local policing

A presentation on the work of the Departments in supporting neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime – a guide to Force Operations is enclosed.

4. Policing in the Northern Area

Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett will discuss policing in the area. Details of crime levels and notable incidents are attached for your information.

5. Question Time

Your opportunity to question the Authority and senior Police Officers.

Future Northern Police Area meetings *All begin at 7.00pm:-*

Thursday 17 September 2009 at the Gateway Centre, Sankey Street, Warrington

Thursday 24 September 2009 at the Kingsway Learning Centre, Widnes

Thursday 14 January 2010 at the Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn

Thursday 28 January 2010 at the Gateway Centre, Sankey Street, Warrington

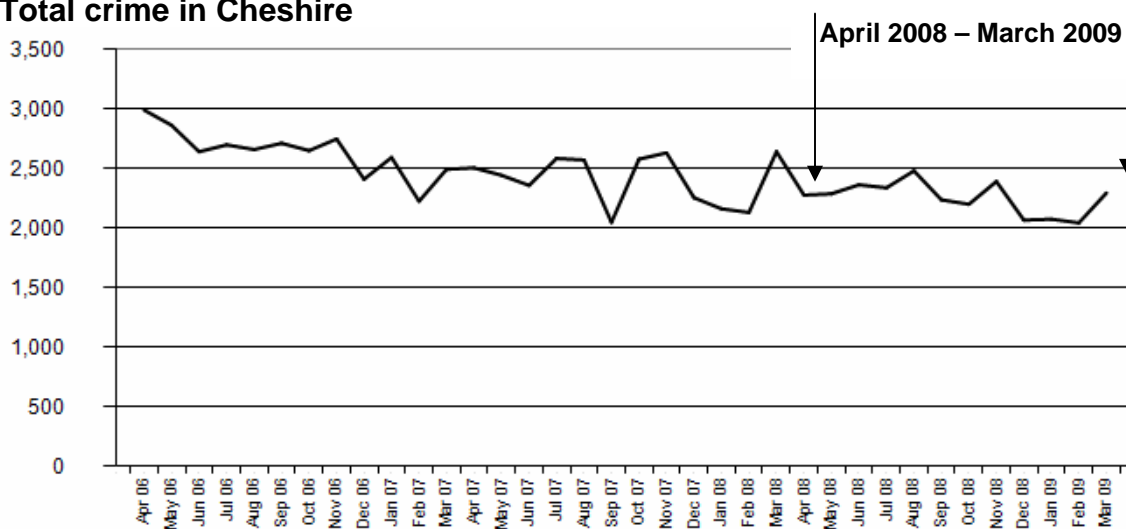
NORTHERN 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETING
7 & 14 MAY 2009

PERFORMANCE DATA: APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

Crime

Crime has fallen in the Northern Area by 6% for the year April 2008 – March 2009, when compared to the comparable period the previous year.

Total crime in Cheshire



Performance in relation to a number of key crime categories is as follows:-

Domestic Burglary	Up 8%	115 more crimes
Violent Crime	Down 7%	417 less crimes
Vehicle Crime	Down 7%	252 less crimes
Criminal Damage	Down 17%	1,166 less crimes

In Cheshire as a whole, crime is down by 5%, or 4,179 less crimes.

Detections

The detection rate for all crime for the same period is up from 26% last year to **31.9%** this year. If the positive outcomes from restorative justice resolutions are included, this increases further to **32.4%**. The performance in relation to the other key areas is as follows:-

	<i>This year</i>	<i>Last year</i>
Domestic Burglary	25.3%	21.5%
Violent Crime	49.9%	44.5%
Vehicle Crime	17.7%	11.1%
Criminal Damage	13.8%	11.6%

NORTHERN 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETING
7 & 14 MAY 2009

**SUMMARY OF NORTHERN AREA PERFORMANCE (WARRINGTON): JANUARY-
APRIL 2009**

The following examples provide evidence of the work that has been going on within the Warrington area.

Significant Recent Operations/Initiatives:

Police in Warrington are putting the brakes on the illegal and anti-social use of mini-motorbikes. Officers from across the town are currently carrying out a special operation targeting known hotspots at key times. Traditionally at this time of year there is an increase in the number of incidents involving these miniature motorbikes reported to police and officers will be using all the powers they can to deal with those who use these bikes in an illegal or anti-social manner. Mini-motorbikes are classed as mechanically propelled vehicles by law. This means people who use them must be at least 16-years-old, hold the relevant licence and MOT, where applicable, and be covered by insurance. Police have the power to seize bikes and cars which are used in a way which causes harassment, alarm or distress even if the motorist has tax and insurance. A warning is given first but if that fails to be effective and the vehicle is used in an anti-social manner again, it will be seized under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act. Vehicles can also be seized if the rider is not insured or has no road tax. During the first day of the operation officers seized three mini-motos and issued one section 59 warning notice in the Warrington area. There have since been further significant seizures of bikes across Warrington. Local officers will continue to carry out high-visibility patrols in hot spot areas at key times. Police Community Support Officers are also gathering vital intelligence from the local community in relation to mini-motos and this information will be acted upon.

An operation to target anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime in Warrington during the warmer months has been launched. The special operation, which will run for the next few months, will focus on hot spot areas – at key times - across the town. Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers will be working alongside colleagues from the Special Constabulary. They will be carrying out high-visibility patrols in hot spot areas at key times, identifying repeat offenders and dealing with any issues accordingly.

Police are continuing to crack down on drug use and supply across Warrington. Officers from the five neighbourhood policing units have executed a number of warrants over the past few months, which have resulted in significant seizures of drugs/weapons/suspected stolen property and a number of significant arrests. These include -

Officers from Warrington West Neighbourhood Policing Unit seized drugs after executing a warrant at a house in the town. Officers removed 19 cannabis

plants after they discovered them in the loft of the property. Three people were arrested on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis and supplying a controlled drug and enquiries are continuing.

Police arrested a man and a woman after early morning raids on two houses in Warrington. Officers from Warrington Central Neighbourhood Policing Unit executed warrants at two properties in the town. Items – which are believed to be stolen – were seized from both properties. A 45-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman were arrested at the scene. They helped police with their enquiries throughout the day and the man was later charged with handling stolen goods. The woman was later released without charge.

Police - and partners - are continuing to crack down on alcohol related violent crime and disorder across Warrington. Between April 2008 and April 2009 officers from Warrington Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Unit arrested 880 people and issued 554 Section 27 Notices – this is a new power asking people to leave a particular area for a period of up to 48 hours if police feel there is a chance of alcohol-related crime or disorder taking place. The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in Bridge Street and Academy Way fell by 60% whilst violent crime reduced by 30%. The new town centre NPU was created in April 2008 to provide a specialist pool of officers to police the town centre during the day – when it is bustling with shoppers – and at night – when thousands of revelers descend on the town. Officers and representatives from various agencies are working in partnership to ensure that licensed premises across Warrington are reaching ArcAngel's acceptable standards. ArcAngel is Cheshire Police and its partners' approach to tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder and it will continue to drive the agenda to raise standards. Officers - supported by licensing officials - are regularly carrying out routine visits to premises in the town centre to ensure licensees are adhering to the conditions of their licence – and to ensure they have any advice or support if needed. A number of licensed premises have recently been taken to licensing review hearings following problems in and around the premises.

Almost 20 unopened cans of lager and an unopened bottle of gin were seized from youths in Warrington. Police Community Support Officers from Warrington West Neighbourhood Policing Unit, confiscated the booze from a group of youths who were hanging around near the football pitch at Eagle Sports in Thornton Road. Officers have stepped up patrols in the area following a number of complaints from local residents regarding youths congregating in the area, drinking alcohol, being noisy and acting in an anti-social manner. The group of youths consisted of two 20-year-olds and two 15-year-olds. The officers took the names and addresses of all the youths and they were dealt with accordingly.

Almost 70 shops in Warrington have joined forces to launch a Shop Watch scheme. Businesses in Culcheth have agreed to work together to help reduce crime and make shopping in the area a more pleasant experience for everyone. A Police Community Support Officer from Warrington East Neighbourhood Policing Unit has co-ordinated the scheme after approaching every business in the area and asking them to sign up. The shops share information about crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour. Staff

have agreed to spread the word if they see anyone behaving suspiciously - or if known shoplifters or pickpockets are spotted in the area. Shopkeepers have a list of contact numbers for other shops in the area so that information can be shared. They also have contact numbers for their local officers, who will continue to regularly visit all the shops in the area. All the businesses have been provided with special stickers, which they will display in their windows. The stickers act as a visible deterrent warning against shoplifting and anti-social behaviour and let shoppers know that the premises are safe and friendly.

Officers from Warrington South Neighbourhood Policing Unit have been carrying out speed enforcement checks at various locations in key areas in response to concerns raised at local Community Action Meetings. So far, a number of motorists have been found to be driving over the speed limit and they will be dealt with accordingly.

Residents on two Warrington estates are being asked to air their views. Special suggestion boxes have been placed in Longford Neighbourhood Centre and Greenwood Community Centre and locals are being urged to leave their comments. The scheme is being piloted by a Police Community Support Officer from Warrington Central Neighbourhood Policing Unit and is supported by Stronger Together in Warrington and Golden Gates Housing. The boxes were recently unveiled at both locations and local residents can leave suggestions for any of the agencies involved. They will be emptied on a regular basis and all the comments inside will be passed onto the relevant people. Residents can also leave information about issues that might be concerning them – from problems with dog fouling, litter or speeding motorists to issues with anti-social behaviour. All suggestions will then be passed onto the relevant agency to deal with.

Warrington South Neighbourhood Policing Unit is continuing to work alongside other agencies on the Cobbs Estate to help put on activities for young people, address environmental issues - such as loose paving stones, litter and graffiti, - target speeding motorists and help reduce anti social behaviour. Funding has been secured to hold further football tournaments for young people in the area, which will be run by local Police Community Support Officers, during school holidays.

Two men have been charged after a spate of criminal damage in the Warrington area. A 52-year-old man, of West Lothian, has been charged with 15 counts of criminal damage. A 48-year-old man, of West Lothian, has been charged with 12 counts of criminal damage, one count of possession of Cannabis Resin and one count of possession of a Class A controlled drug. Both men were arrested by officers from Warrington East Neighbourhood Policing Unit on 31 January 2009 and were subsequently charged. The charges relate to a number of incidents of criminal damage at the Mercedes Benz dealership, which is adjacent to the M6 at junction 20. The men are next due to appear in court in May.

Significant Recent Convictions:

There have been a number of significant arrests/convictions in relation to the Warrington area over the past few months. The following are just a handful of cases:

A young man has been sentenced after pleading guilty to wounding his mum's boyfriend. Wayne O'Malley, 24, was sentenced to almost four years in prison after he admitted repeatedly hitting the man across the head with a metal bar while he slept. The man suffered serious injuries that needed 24 stitches. O'Malley was sentenced to three years and nine months. The sentence was reduced by 25% for his guilty plea, health problems and family circumstances.

Three men convicted of an armed robbery in Thelwall have been jailed for a total of 31 years. The trio appeared at Chester Crown Court in January where they were jailed for 12 years, 10 years and nine years respectively. All three were involved in the incident at Thelwall Post Office in April 2008 when two men wearing balaclavas and brandishing a gun, raided the post office on Barley Road demanding money. They managed to escape from the shop with more than £2,500 and got into a waiting car, which sped away.

Two brothers have been jailed after admitting a string of thefts. Nicholas Dean, 32, and Lee Dean, 33, of no fixed abode, were given custodial sentences after they each pleaded guilty to three counts of theft at business premises in Warrington and Halton. They were both sentenced to 12 months for each of the three offences – to run concurrently. The thefts all took place within the space of a week – between 10 and 27 November 2008. On each occasion the pair, who originate from the Runcorn area, stole a quantity of cash from the till before fleeing the scene. Shop staff - and customers who were inside the shops at the time - were not injured during any of the incidents but they were left visibly shaken.

A man who admitted killing a granddad has been told he poses a risk to society and will stay in prison indefinitely. Karl Middlemore pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Roy Waterfield. The incident took place at Mr Waterfield's flat in Leicester Street on August 27 2008. A confrontation between the two men left Mr Waterfield dead and Middlemore with numerous injuries including a broken jaw. Middlemore cannot apply for parole for at least two-and-a-half years.

NORTHERN 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETING
7 & 14 MAY 2009

SUMMARY OF NORTHERN AREA PERFORMANCE (HALTON): JANUARY-APRIL 2009

The following examples provide evidence of the work that has been going on within the Halton area.

Significant Recent Operations/Initiatives:

Around 200 officers from Cheshire Police were involved in a high-profile drugs operation on 20 January 2009. A total of 30 people were arrested during Operation Strikeout - a series of dawn raids, to target the use and supply of Class A drugs in the Halton and Merseyside areas. Warrants and searches were carried out at a total of 32 properties (17 of those were in the Halton area and 15 of those were in the Merseyside area). Three offenders were also produced from prison in connection with the operation, which was organised by officers from the Northern Area Dedicated Drugs Unit - supported by officers from Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Unit and Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Unit. Further support was also provided by the VECTOR unit and other officers from across the county. Officers were supported throughout the operation by representatives from the Safer Halton Partnership – these included Halton Borough Council, Halton Housing Trust and the local Drug Action Team. 12 men and 2 women have since pleaded guilty to charges of supplying Class A drugs (Heroin and Crack Cocaine). They are all due at Chester Crown Court for sentencing on 22 May 2009.

Revellers are being warned to be on their best behaviour during a night out in Halton. Police - and partners - are cracking down on alcohol related violent crime and disorder in Widnes and Runcorn. Potential troublemakers have been warned that bad behaviour will not be tolerated and that positive action will be taken against anyone caught breaking the law. That message was reinforced during two special alcohol enforcement operations in Widnes and Runcorn in March. The operations involved officers from Cheshire Police - working closely alongside officials from the Safer Halton Partnership. During the course of the operations a number of people were arrested for a variety of offences, a number of Section 27 Notices were issued and a number of licensed premises were visited by officials. Police and partners are working closely together in Halton as part of the ArcAngel approach to tackling alcohol related crime. ArcAngel sets certain standards of acceptable behaviour. Local officers will continue to pro-actively target those involved in alcohol related crime and disorder and will not hesitate to take action against anyone causing trouble.

Police – and partners - in Halton are putting the brakes on the illegal and anti-social use of mini-motorbikes. Officers in Widnes and Runcorn – supported by representatives from partner agencies - are currently carrying out a special operation targeting known hotspots in the area. Traditionally at this time of year there is an increase in the number of incidents involving these miniature motorbikes reported to

police and officers will be using all the powers they can to deal with those who use these bikes in an illegal or anti-social manner. Mini-motorbikes are classed as mechanically propelled vehicles by law. This means people who use them must be at least 16-years-old, hold the relevant licence and MOT, where applicable, and be covered by insurance. Police have the power to seize bikes and cars which are used in a way which causes harassment, alarm or distress even if the motorist has tax and insurance. A warning is given first but if that fails to be effective and the vehicle is used in an anti-social manner again, it will be seized under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act. Vehicles can also be seized if the rider is not insured or has no road tax. Local officers will continue to carry out high-visibility patrols in hot spot areas at key times. Police Community Support Officers are also gathering vital intelligence from the local community in relation to mini-motos and this information will be acted upon. A number of significant seizures of bikes have already taken place in Widnes and Runcorn and a number of riders have been warned about their behaviour.

An operation to target anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime in Halton during the warmer months has been launched. The special operation, which will run for the next three months, will focus on hot spot areas – at key times - across both Runcorn and Widnes. Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers from Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Unit and Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Unit will be supported throughout the operation by members of the Special Constabulary. They will be carrying out high-visibility patrols in hot spot areas at key times, identifying repeat offenders and dealing with any issues accordingly. Representatives from the Safer Halton Partnership - including officials from Halton Borough Council and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service - are also involved in the operation. They will be carrying out environmental audits across Halton (focusing on issues including abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, graffiti and litter) and engaging with local residents' associations and community groups. During the first night of the operation 101 young people were stopped and spoken to. Officers actively engaged with them, dealt with any issues and offered them advice or support if needed. Alcohol was also seized from underage drinkers throughout the night.

Police are continuing to crack down on drug use and supply across Halton. Officers from both Widnes and Runcorn have executed a number of warrants over the past few months, which have resulted in significant seizures of drugs/weapons/suspected stolen property and a number of significant arrests. Officers from Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Unit uncovered a substantial quantity of drugs after they executed a warrant at a business premises in Everite Road. Inside a room on the second floor, they found 199 fully grown Cannabis plants. The plants – and the equipment to grow these plants - were seized and taken away for forensic examinations. Four men were arrested at the scene. They helped police with their enquiries throughout the day and were bailed pending further enquiries. The warrant is part of ongoing efforts to tackle the issue of drugs in the local community.

Officers from Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Unit have joined forces with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to educate drivers about the potential consequences of their actions on the roads. Both agencies are working in partnership as part of a series of driver engagement and education days. Police are carrying out checks on drivers at

key locations across the town. They are monitoring the speed of drivers and checking that motorists are adhering to the law by not using their mobile phone while driving, not driving without a seat belt and not ignoring traffic signs. Representatives from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service will then invite drivers who have been stopped to watch a short road safety DVD, which features key road safety messages and highlights the possible consequences of their actions.

A group of teenagers from Halton have graduated from the first 'Respect Kooldown Plus' scheme of 2009. The teenagers, who have been taking part in the 9-week activity based course, attended a special ceremony in March where they were congratulated on their achievements. During the ceremonies the young people talked about their experiences on the course and received certificates to mark their achievements. The 'Respect Kooldown Plus' scheme is jointly delivered by Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. Teenagers aged between 13 and 16 are invited to take part in the course and work alongside local officers and local firefighters taking part in weekly activities. The scheme is aimed at developing the confidence and motivation of young people in the Halton area – and aims to drive home key concepts such as discipline, respect and responsibility. The aim is to contribute towards a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the Halton area.

Significant Recent Convictions:

There have been a number of significant arrests/convictions in relation to the Halton area over the past few months. The following are just a handful of cases:

A loan shark who threatened his victims in Widnes and Runcorn with violence when they could not meet their payments, has been sentenced to an indefinite term of imprisonment. Paul Nicholson, aged 39, was convicted of rape, 14 counts of blackmail, assault, acquiring criminal property and illegal money lending, following a trial in February. Nicholson's sentence was given to him under the Imprisonment for Public Protection Rules which means his sentence has no maximum tariff. His partner Tracey Rogers, 36 years, who was convicted of blackmail and illegal money lending, was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. Nicholson and Rogers were prosecuted by the North West Trading Standards Illegal Money Lending Team following a joint investigation with Cheshire Police. They were sentenced at a hearing at Warrington Crown Court on 20 March.

Nine men from Runcorn have been jailed after the largest ever drugs seizure in Cheshire worth £12 million. The men were charged with drugs offences under Operation Autumn - the largest pre-planned intelligence led drugs operation ever carried out by Cheshire Police. The investigation was launched when 120 kilos of cannabis crystal was discovered hidden in a van, which was stopped on the M56 in May 2008. Detectives continued to gather intelligence and identified safehouses used by the gang, uncovered a cache of firearms and discovered equipment used in drug production. The men were subsequently arrested and charged. The case concluded at Warrington Crown Court in March.

Two brothers have been jailed after admitting a string of thefts. Nicholas Dean, 32, and Lee Dean, 33, of no fixed abode, were given custodial sentences after they each pleaded guilty to three counts of theft at business premises in Halton and Warrington. They were both sentenced to 12 months for each of the three offences – to run concurrently. The thefts all took place within the space of a week – between 20 and 27 November 2008. In each occasion the pair, who originate from the Runcorn area, stole a quantity of cash from the till before fleeing the scene. Shop staff - and customers who were inside the shops at the time - were not injured during any of the incidents but they were left visibly shaken.

A man is due to be sentenced next month after being found guilty of cultivating Cannabis. The 44-year-old, of Halton Lodge, Runcorn, was charged as part of a wider operation by Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Unit in relation to a series of drug warrants executed in the town last year. The operation uncovered a number of residential premises being used for the illegal cultivation of Cannabis. An extensive investigation took place and a number of other people have since been convicted of cultivating cannabis.

A teenager has been sentenced to six months in prison for a burglary at a community based project in Widnes. The 17-year-old was handed the punishment after he admitted stealing three bicycles and a pair of cycling gloves that belonged to the Kingsway Bike Project in the town. The youth, from Kirkby, committed the offence on 25 May 2008. After numerous enquiries officers tracked down the offender after they discovered vital evidence had been left at the scene - the youths fingerprints were discovered on the surface of a plastic bag, which had been discarded at the site. The teen was arrested on 23 July 2008 and later charged with one offence of burglary other than in a dwelling with intent to steal. The 17-year-old pleaded guilty to the offence and asked for a number of other offences within the Halton area to be taken into consideration. He was sentenced to six months in prison when he appeared at Knowsley Youth Court