

POLICING PRIORITIES: CONSULTATION RESULTS

During October and November 2009, the Authority consulted with the public about their priorities for policing for the forthcoming year. Consultation was carried out in a variety of ways:-

Postal Surveys

In total, 1,800 Postal surveys were mailed, with second class reply paid envelopes to:-

- 'Have Your Say' meeting attendees;
- Custody visitors;
- Borough Councillors;
- Local Authority Chief Executives;
- CDRPs;
- Young People's Panel;
- Diversity groups, including the IAG; and
- the Citizen's Panel.

Web Survey

The survey was uploaded onto the Authority's website with people encouraged to complete the surveys through a press releases issued to raise awareness about the Roadshow. The press release resulted in printed coverage and a radio interview which was repeated during the weeks preceding the events.

Partnerships

The survey was publicised by partners using their consultation networks including:-

- Halton Borough Council (weblink)
- Halton Voluntary Action
- Warrington Citizen's Panel
- Cheshire Community Action
- Cheshire Community Voice

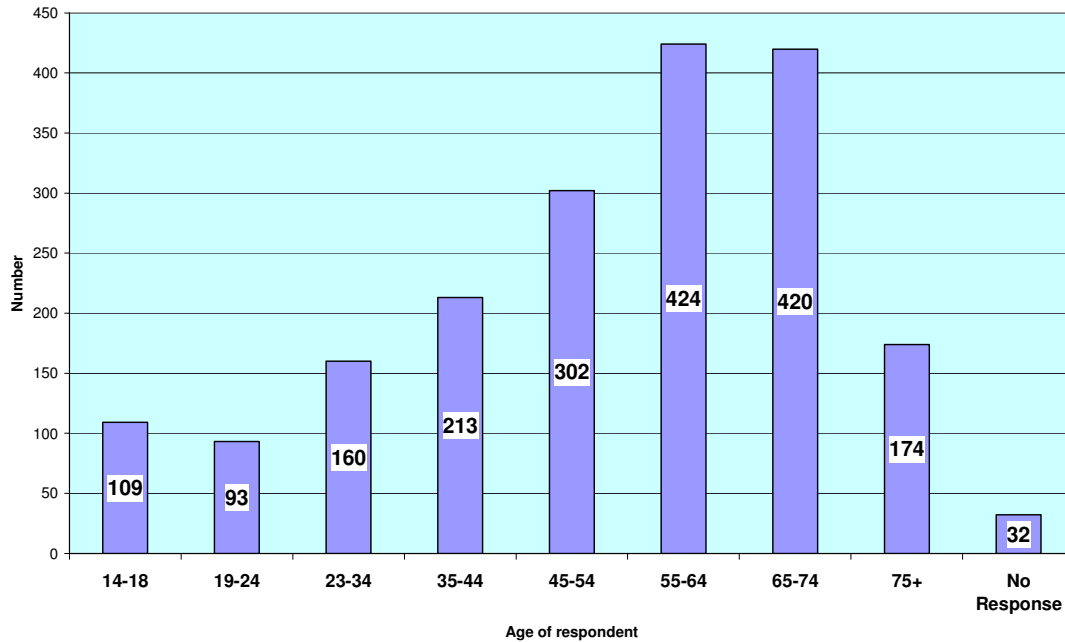
Roadshow

The Authority directly consulted with communities in 8 key town centre locations across the policing area to gather people's views about policing priorities and to tell us what they think about police services. The surveys conducted at Cheshire Show in June were also added to the analysis.

HEADLINE RESULTS

Overall, 1,927 people responded to the survey. The number of responses means that the results are statistically significant. 52.5% of respondents were female, 47.5% male.

The age of respondents breaks down as follows:-

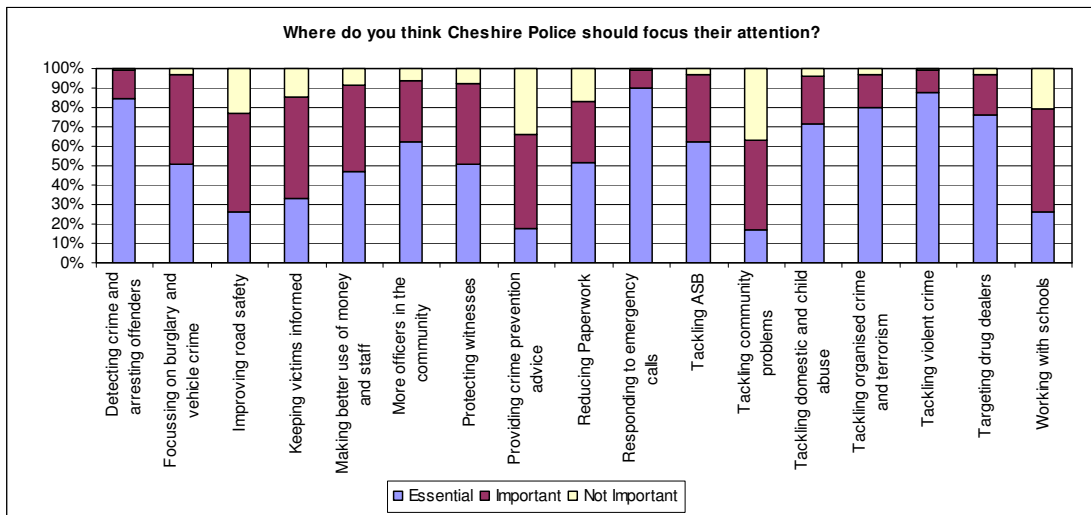


The table below indicates the areas of priority in order:-

		Force Level		
		Essential	Important	Lower Priority
1	Responding to emergency calls	90.0%	9.5%	0.5%
2	Tackling violent crime	87.9%	11.1%	1.0%
3	Detecting crime and arresting offenders	84.6%	14.6%	0.8%
4	Tackling organised crime and terrorism	80.2%	16.4%	3.4%
5	Targeting drug dealers	76.2%	20.8%	3.0%
6	Tackling domestic and child abuse	71.7%	24.7%	3.6%
7	Tackling ASB	62.4%	34.3%	3.4%
8	More officers in the community	62.2%	31.8%	6.0%
9	Reducing Paperwork	51.5%	31.3%	17.3%
10	Protecting witnesses	51.1%	41.0%	7.9%
11	Focusing on burglary and vehicle crime	50.5%	46.2%	3.3%
12	Making better use of money and staff	47.2%	43.9%	8.8%
13	Keeping victims informed	33.4%	51.8%	14.7%
14	Improving road safety	26.4%	50.4%	23.1%
15	Working with schools	26.4%	52.9%	20.7%
16	Providing crime prevention advice	17.5%	48.5%	33.9%
17	Tackling community problems	16.6%	46.2%	37.2%

The results show that the top 5 areas described as “essential” are:

- Responding to emergency calls
- Detecting crime and arresting offenders
- Tackling violent crime
- Tackling organised crime and terrorism
- Targeting drug dealers



1,238 (65.3%) respondents felt that Cheshire Constabulary do an excellent or good job.

55% agreed (strongly & tend to) that the police are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area compared with 54% when asked about the police *and* council.

44% agreed (strongly & tend to) that they can influence decisions in their local area.

RESULTS BY METHOD

The data can be analysed to ascertain whether there is a difference between the responses when asked face to face (at a Roadshow) or anonymously (by postal or web survey). The results showed that ‘face to face’ yielded a more positive result when asked how good a job the local police are doing and whether the police (and) council are dealing with anti-social behaviour.

RESULTS BY AREA

	Survey method	
	Face to Face	Anonymous
% who feel Police do a Good or Excellent job	70.9% (732 out of 1032)	58.7% (506 out of 862)
% who agree that Police are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime	60.3% (610 out of 1011)	49.2% (420 out of 854)
% who agree that Police and Council are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime	57.2% (574 out of 1003)	50.4% (434 out of 861)
% who feel that they can influence decisions in the local area (NI 4)	49.4% (501 out of 1015)	37.6% (323 out of 859)

The number of responses from each Area are illustrated below:-

Northern Area		Eastern Area		Western Area		No Postcode Supplied	
Postal & web Survey	111	Postal & web Survey	296	Postal & web Survey	450	Postal & web Survey	18
Roadshow:		Roadshow:		Roadshow:		Roadshow:	32
Halton	89	Macclesfield	126	Chester	82		
Warrington	200	Crewe	97	Northwich	98		
		Sandbach	84	Ellesmere Port	120		
Cheshire Show	19	Cheshire Show	48	Cheshire Show	52	Cheshire Show	5
TOTAL	419	TOTAL	651	TOTAL	802	TOTAL	55
Total							1927

The top 5 areas described as “essential” in each Council area are:-

Halton	Warrington	Cheshire East	Cheshire West & Chester
Responding to emergency calls	Responding to emergency calls	Responding to emergency calls	Tackling violent crime
Detecting crime and arresting offenders	Tackling violent crime	Tackling violent crime	Responding to emergency calls
Tackling violent crime	Tackling organised crime and terrorism	Detecting crime and arresting offenders	Detecting crime and arresting offenders
Targeting drug dealers	Detecting crime and arresting offenders	Tackling organised crime and terrorism	Tackling organised crime and terrorism
Tackling organised crime and terrorism	Tackling domestic and child abuse	Targeting drug dealers	Targeting drug dealers

It can be seen from the above table that in Halton, Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester, the same five areas are described as essential. The only difference in Warrington is that ‘targeting drug dealers’ is omitted, replaced by ‘tackling domestic and child abuse’.

The results for the national Indicator questions by Council area are:-

	Halton	Warrington	Cheshire East	Cheshire West & Chester
They can influence decisions in the local area (NI 4)	51.6% (65 out of 126)	51.5% (137 out of 266)	41.9% (271 out of 647)	41.6% (326 out of 784)
The Police & Council dealing with ASB & crime issues (NI 21)	42.7% (53 out of 124)	63.7% (167 out of 262)	50.9% (327 out of 642)	54.5% (428 out of 786)

KEEPING PEOPLE INFORMED

Overall, 37% of people said that they know how well the police are performing in their local area.

Top 5 methods of receiving information	How people would like to be kept informed
Local newspapers (56.9%)	Newsletter through door (52.0%)
Newsletter through door (52.5%)	Local newspapers (50.4%)
News programmes on TV/Radio (23.9%)	Information in public places (28.6%)
Word of mouth (19%)	Speaking to your neighbourhood officers (27.6%)
Meetings (17.8%)	News programmes on TV/Radio (22.6%)

The results of the survey will be used to inform the Chief Constable's objectives and police budget for 2010/11.