

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 JULY 2013

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

6

TITLE OF REPORT : NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE - SIX MONTH REVIEW

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR DONNA PIERCE, HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

In the last six months neighbourhood policing has undergone a review and there have been changes to the structure within the neighbourhood teams. This has not resulted in any significant changes to the teams within North Herts.

Inspector Danny Lawrence has joined the team in that period and has therefore has taken the lead in taking forward the recommendations made within the report. This work continues and Danny has a number of initiatives in the forthcoming months to implement within the neighbourhood teams.

It is noted that there are current internal reviews in terms of educational support PCSOs and the service provided on front enquiry offices within the district. The implications of these and the impact on the local community are being worked through and any foreseeable significant impact on neighbourhood policing subject to problem solving activity.

I have provided bullet point detail in line with the recommendations provided and submit this report prior to the meeting where I will be in a position to expand further if required to do so

Donna Pierce
Chief Inspector
North Herts CSP

2.17 The Constabulary should review its community engagement arrangements to ensure applied equally across the district

Inspector Lawrence has attended each Area Committee and has introduced and explained the new SNT model which was implemented 1st April 2013. Each Sergeant will have made contact with their local councillors and started communication re the best way of engaging the communities. SNT supervisors meet monthly and community engagement is on the agenda with discussion around methods of engagement

- Use of social media
- Surgeries and joint meetings
- Green Coin initiative
- On line surveys
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2.18 The Constabulary should consider extending the arrangements for remote working which are being introduced in Baldock to include the rural areas of the District

- Baldock uses a single location and the Constabulary have provided IT to allow the officers to work within the Town.
- There will be greater visibility at Parish Councils from staff
- Review of fleet to agree accessibility and appropriate training provided
- Agreement that Hitchin Rural will be supplied with in car facilities (Toughbook) so that they can operate out of their vehicles

2.19 The constabulary should consider greater use of volunteers, most notably special constables, as well as other statutory and community partners in helping them to achieve their aims

The first Volunteers Networking Seminar, hosted by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hertfordshire Police, was a resounding success, with in excess of 50 people attending, representing numerous different Volunteering groups, based both County and Country wide. The event coincided with National Volunteers week, with the theme for 2013 being 'Thank you'. The event was received very well by all those who attended, and it is hoped that it will run annually from now.

- Crime Prevention Panel has been dissolved in current format and will be integrated into volunteer scheme to provide more service across the CSP – visits, talks and general activity
- Use of external consultants - Ten2Two to progress further
- Cadets / Rural Specials added to list of volunteers for activities

2.10 The Constabulary should review the accessibility of its officers and its facilities

- There is a shift pattern review which is currently on-going within the Constabulary. Views have been passed to the change management team
- SNT have been assisted with the provision of 2 Quad Bikes

2.21 The Constabulary should review its Neighbourhood Watch Programme in North Herts and discuss with local councillors and local communities how best to plug any gaps

There are regular NHW meetings between the Coordinators and the SNT. This has been done both at tactical and strategic level to ensure that there is a clear direction. The liaison with councils and identified gaps are being worked on through the Op Guardian plans.

2.22 The Constabulary should review the responsibility for the policing of Great Ashby and bring it wholly within the North Herts Safer Neighbourhood Team

- Inspector Lawrence has attended meetings in Great Ashby and Chesfield to ensure that there is recognition of the differing landscapes. .
- There is an issue within the Constabulary over IT systems but this has been recognised and in the process of being resolved
- Great Ashby patrol plans