

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY
CARLISLE AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM

Notes of the Forum held at Kingmoor Business Centre, Carlisle on Tuesday 20 April 2010

- Beth Furneaux, Chair, **welcomed** 8 people to the meeting.
- **Apologies** were received from Reg Watson OBE, and Diane Moses.
- **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 were agreed.
- The clerk reported that the 10 **Independent Custody Visitors** (ICVs) of the North Cumbria panel had made 13 visits to detainees in the cells at the Custody Suite at Durranshill, Carlisle in the last three months to check on their welfare and ensure that correct custody guidelines were being observed. No serious complaints were reported to the ICVs by detainees.

Insp Paul Telford demonstrated the TASER conductive energy device which can be used to send an electrical charge to the body of an offender and cause temporary incapacitation, with no risk to health. This is a useful device for officers to deploy as an alternative to a fire arm in situations where urgent intervention is required to counter violence or the threat of violence and it is considered less harmful than other means of restraint such as a baton strike. In Cumbria all fire arms officers and some 200 specially trained officers carry a TASER device. They operate in pairs when carrying the weapon. Every use is recorded on a microchip within the device, so it is fully auditable. A question was asked whether other weapons had been de-commissioned following the introduction of TASER. Ch Supt Spiller said that other weapons such as hand guns had not been de-commissioned because the 45 hand guns held by Cumbria Constabulary are required to provide an armed response. TASER device costs £1025 and each cartridge £20.50. Paperwork re TASER is minimal due to data from microchip easily downloaded to computer.

- **Ch Supt Don Spiller, Area Commander for North Cumbria**, reported that the total number of crimes in North Cumbria had fallen from 8832 last year to 7742 this year, a reduction of 1090. This reduction is attributable to partnership working, correct placing of resources, identifying priorities by daily tasking, and intelligence led policing. Anti social behaviour is one of the top priorities for the police in North Cumbria, together with reducing crime, detecting crime and providing a quality service.
- Cumbria Police Authority guaranteed in the Policing Pledge to listen to community needs and have engaged Joanne Thornborrow, Community Engagement Officer, to liaise with members of the public to find out their priorities.

Questions and comments from members of the public:-

- Inadequate/incomplete data in a Carlisle City Council information sheet re police budget should be addressed by the Police Authority to ensure that meaningful information is given.
- Footpath obstruction by delivery lorry was not given sufficient importance by the police officer to whom it was reported, pedestrian requirements considered secondary to vehicular access.
- Motorists are jumping red traffic lights and not given sufficient punishment.
- Insufficient differentiation of fines/points for road traffic speeding offences.

The chair thanked everyone for attending and for their comments and involvement in the Forum.

The next **Carlisle Forums** will be on Tuesday 20 July 2010 and Tuesday 19 October 2010.

The Chair thanked the speakers and the members of the public for attending. The meeting closed at 2030.