

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

**23 March 2010
Agenda Item No 7
Part 1**

A Report by the Chief Constable

Local Policing Summary 2010/11

BACKGROUND

On the 22nd February, the Policing Plan and Performance Committee approved the draft outline for content, timescale and format of the Local Policing Summary for 2010.

The Authority has a statutory obligation to produce and distribute the summary. It has delegated the responsibility for preparing the summary and the budget related to this to the Constabulary. The recent Home Office White Paper 'Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed' set out the intention for the requirement to produce policing summaries to be repealed. However, this is not expected to be in place within this parliament and there will still be a requirement for police authorities to provide information to the public in the form of a 'public-friendly' report.

This report proposes a draft 2010 Local Policing Summary. The summary has been drafted in a similar style to last year, is easy to read and will provide useful information for the public. In order to improve efficiency and obtain maximum value for money, the summary has however been reduced in size. This has been discussed in detail at previous Policing Plan and Performance Committee's.

The summary meets the statutory requirements and incorporates the design principles identified in the Home Office good practice guidance. The summary also takes into account the feedback received from the public last year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Police Authority:

- Approve the text for the Local Policing Summary, subject to data contained within it being updated after the year end (31 March).
- Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, for oversight of the design of the summary and any appropriate amendments following consultation with the Community Advisory Group and Cumbria Equality Resource Centre.

DETAIL

The Local Policing Summary is a booklet providing information for the public about police performance and what service they can expect from the police in Cumbria. It is the only document produced by the Authority or Constabulary delivered to every household in the county.

The proposed summary attached includes:

- Our Policing Pledge – a summary of our commitments to the public.
- What the public told us – a summary of local priorities and how we contribute towards national priorities.
- How did we do – a summary of constabulary performance over the last year against the local priorities and other notable achievements.
- Local news – a summary of the main success stories and key messages each command unit would like to communicate to the public.
- Your Police Authority – a summary of the key role of the authority and request for feedback. Also, a summary of agreed future priorities.
- Brief contact details.
- Brief explanation of how to obtain a translation of the summary.

This format provides clear and focused information to the public on key messages about constabulary performance and priorities in a clear, brief and readable booklet.

This summary will be considered by the Community Advisory Group and Cumbria Equality Resource Centre. This will help ensure that the document is useful and understandable to the general public, including those who speak other languages or those with disabilities. This feedback will be used to make appropriate amendments to wording or format of the text to increase the likelihood of the document being read.

The timescale for producing the summary has been moved forward from previous years, when it was distributed in August, to ensure the public received information as soon as possible in the new financial year. Members are therefore being asked to approve the content now, subject to any minor amendments required to information on performance once the year end position is clear. This is unlikely to vary greatly. Further learning from last year has meant that the designing of the final document has not been initiated until the final text has been agreed, as the costs of redesigning this as a result of significant changes to content can add to the overall costs.

Following approval by the Authority, the summary will be updated by the end of April with the appropriate end of year performance results. The summaries will then be distributed by Royal Mail.

Craig Mackey
Chief Constable

23 March 2010

BACKGROUND PAPERS (*Section 100(d) of the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1985 refers*):

Home Office Circular 004 / 2008, Policing Plan Regulations 2008

Home Office Local Policing Summaries: Good Practice Guide

Cumbria Local Policing Summary 2009; Cumbria Police Authority's

Community Engagement Strategy; 'Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed' (Home Office, 2009)

RACE EQUALITY/DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS:

A thorough equality impact assessment of the summary is in progress. This will involve consultation with key diverse groups such as the Community Advisory Group. The format in which the summary is produced will affect who is able to and likely to read it. Using a document delivered to people's homes, as opposed to other forms of communication such as press articles, public meetings or events in public places also has implications for which groups are likely to read the information.

FINANCIAL/BEST VALUE IMPLICATIONS:

The change in the format, design and content of this year's summary has delivered a budget saving of approximately £10k.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS:

If the Authority does not produce and distribute a Local Policing Summary to all households in Cumbria, it will not meet its statutory obligations. If this is not done in a suitable format, the Authority will miss an opportunity to raise its profile and communicate key messages. If the Authority does not seek to reduce costs where it can, the production of the document will not be delivered in budget.

Safer *Stronger* Cumbria

Policing in Cumbria 2010

Our Pledge to you

We aim to:

1. Always treat you fairly and with respect.
2. Provide you with information about Neighbourhood Policing.
3. Be visible on your street.
4. Respond to messages you leave with us within 24 hours.
5. Get to you in an emergency within 15 minutes in an urban area and within 20 minutes in a rural area.
6. Get to less urgent calls as soon as possible, less than 60 minutes if it's a priority, or for upset and vulnerable people.
7. Let you know about meetings with us in your area.
8. Let you have information about crime and conviction.
9. Keep you updated if you become a victim.
10. Put things right if you are dissatisfied.



What you told us

Last year you asked us to deal with the issues you were most concerned about. These were:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Dangerous driving
- Youth disorder
- Criminal damage
- Under age drinking
- Drug dealing

This was to be achieved by improving neighbourhood policing. Our local priorities support the national policing priorities set by the government.

How did we do?

- We have increased people's confidence in the police by improving the quality of our services. We are one of the top 5 police services in the country.
- Overall crime has reduced by 8.1%. There were 2,115 fewer victims of crime.
- There were also 3,066 fewer incidents of antisocial behaviour in the last year.
- In order to prevent youth disorder and antisocial behaviour, we are actively looking at ways of engaging with the younger community through our schools.
- There have been 29 fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads last year. This reflects our partner commitment to making our roads safer.
- There have been 1,230 fewer criminal damage crimes reported.
- We have been extremely successful in the fight against serious and organised crime. In the last year, we have made 207 arrests and seized 231Kg of drugs.
- In addition to achieving these successful performance results, we have also delivered £3.1 million savings during the last year.

[Call 999 in an emergency](#)

[Call 0845 3300 247 in a non emergency](#)

Local News

North Cumbria News

- Last year, there were 480 fewer victims of crimes and 715 fewer antisocial behaviour incidents reported to us.
- There has also been a significant reduction in the number of criminal damage and vehicle-related crimes reported.
- A local drug dealer has recently received a 3-year sentence for supply of class A drugs. This success was a result of local residents saying that this was a priority for the community of Botcherby in Carlisle.

South Cumbria News

- Last year, there were 450 fewer victims of crimes and 863 fewer antisocial behaviour incidents reported to us.
- The streets of South Cumbria are a safer place, with 106 fewer reports of assaults and other violent crimes. These results reflect the good work with our partner organisations to tackle violent crime in our towns and homes.

West Cumbria News

- West Cumbria continues to be a really safe place to live and with crime rates falling every year, local people have every right to be proud. Last year, there were 1,185 fewer victims of crime and 841 fewer antisocial behaviour incidents reported to us.
- There were 50 fewer house burglaries reported this year. This was due to proactive crime prevention work with our partners to reduce the risk of burglary and improved management of known offenders.
- This significant improvement has been achieved in addition to West Cumbria experiencing one of the most challenging operational incidents in its history, with the floods of Cockermouth, Keswick and Workington in November. This incident demonstrated the pride, commitment and strength of community spirit in West Cumbria.

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Your Police Authority

The Police Authority is the body responsible for holding the police to account on behalf of the public in Cumbria. Our role is to make sure that your police force is fighting crime effectively and provides good value for money.

We have listened to what you want from the police and agreed that the police force will:

- Continue to keep crime at low levels and tackle antisocial behaviour;
- Deal with the issues that matter to you in your area, such as speeding or criminal damage, for example;
- Keep people safe from harm, including working to reduce domestic violence;
- Through their Pledge, deliver a fair and quality service in which you can be confident;
- Find ways to make savings, become more efficient and reduce sickness so that we can sustain frontline services and keep increases in the police part of the council tax as low as possible.

Young People have their say

Recently, we spoke to pupils from schools in Barrow, Maryport and Whitehaven and ran a youth survey across the county.

Young people told us:

- Speeding vehicles, burglary and antisocial behaviour are some of their biggest concerns.
- They want closer relationships with the police and to see them patrolling the streets.

What we did:

- We made sure that the issues that concern them are priorities for the police.
- We are working with the police to make sure that they deal with young people in a consistent way across the county. This includes how they deal with young offenders and how they engage with all young people.

Over the next year, we will be speaking to more young people across the county. We want to hear about the issues that matter to you and your experience of the police. For details of our events and how you can tell us your views, visit our website or contact us.

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