



Chief Constable's Report to the Police Authority



28th June 2005

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AREA COMMANDERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS – MONTHLY REPORTS

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Incidents of Note

West Cumbria

- A man was arrested by Maryport officers close to the scene of a brutal rape that left a young woman hospitalised. The man pleaded guilty to rape and causing grievous bodily harm with intent when he appeared before Carlisle Crown Court on 10 June. He is currently on remand awaiting sentence.
- During the early hours of the 4 May, a ram raid using a locally stolen vehicle occurred at Barclays Bank Workington. A number of charity boxes were stolen. A number of arrests have been made and the investigation continues.
- On Tuesday 7 June Sgt Mark Wear of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit attended Buckingham Palace to receive the QPM for Distinguished Police Service.

South Cumbria

- April saw the conclusions of a three-month trial at Preston Crown Court in regard to the outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in Barrow. Many relatives of the deceased and those who survived the illness attended the trial. Barrow Borough Council had earlier been found not guilty on 7 charges of corporate manslaughter; they entered plea of guilty to health and safety charges but will not be sentenced until the re-trial of the Head of the Council's Design Services. This individual was found guilty of charges under health and safety legislation but the jury could not reach a majority decision on charges of manslaughter. A re-trial is scheduled for January 2006. This is a landmark case attracting national interest.
- A recent court appearance resulted in a term of imprisonment for 2 yrs for one of two illegal immigrants from Moldova following their arrest for conspiracy to steal, in Windermere in June 2004. The Court appearance was the culmination of a complex investigation, which indicated that both men were members of an organised crime gang from Eastern Europe.
- Closure Orders under new anti-drugs legislation have been implemented on one house in Barrow and one house in Windermere, both used in persistent supply of drugs.
- Following intensive harvesting, the Morecambe Bay cockling beds were officially closed in April, until a date to be announced.

North Cumbria

- Two serious incidents of disorder took place at Longtown. Nine arrests were made with a number of high profile local criminals charged with serious assaults and public order offences. A long-term strategy has been adopted with other agencies i.e. Housing and Education using ABC's (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) ASBO's (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders) and tenancy enforcement policies.
- In May a 5-hour siege took place at a flat in Penrith Town Centre. After negotiations the armed man was subsequently taken into custody.
- In this reporting period two men, Hanlon and Grecian, pleaded guilty to the murder of another man, which took place at Bitts Park, Carlisle.

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- A man pleaded guilty at Crown Court to the murder of a woman at Lister Court, Carlisle.
- Noel Young, pleaded guilty to Causing Death by Dangerous Driving on the A7.
- An Aggravated Burglary took place at Brampton; two men have been arrested and charged with the offence.
- A further Aggravated Burglary is being investigated and to date one man has been charged with the offence but enquiries are continuing.
- Annual policing operation for Appleby Fair - This year saw an increase in numbers over the previous year. The majority of attendees were well behaved and there were few incidents of crime or disorder. However one incident did occur involving a serious sexual assault on three visiting teenage girls. This is currently under investigation.
- A rape and abduction of a male person in the Penrith area is under investigation.

Operational Support Department

- 10/05/05. Team of 3 Manchester shoplifters stopped and detained by Southern MSG. £1000 worth of items stolen from Marks and Spencer, Barrow. Car found to be full of items from a wholesale shoplifting spree.
- 11/05/05. HQ MSG stopped a vehicle at Tebay on M6. £60,000 worth of novocaine (used in the production of crack cocaine) found in 3 garden sacks in the boot and £20,000 cash. Two occupants arrested.
- 19/05/05. Northern MSG arrested 2 violent suspects from Liverpool delivering drugs to North Cumbria. Large quantity of crack cocaine and heroine recovered.
- HQ MSG officers stopped an arctic on the M6. Large quantity of cash found in the vehicle, believed to be £200,000. Driver arrested on suspicion of money laundering.
- SIB (Security Intelligence Branch) - Op Alert – Kidnap involving a Russian national – located safe and well achieved through work with Hertfordshire Police.
- In the three-month reporting period, Western area has seen a total of 7 fatal road traffic collisions that are being investigated by Western MSG staff. A total of 9 people were killed as a result of these collisions. Two are being investigated for offences of causing death by dangerous driving and three others for driving without due care and attention.

Partnerships

- Race and Diversity -The Constabulary Race Equality Scheme and Action Plan was on target with the national deadline of 31st May 2005.



Reducing Crime

West Cumbria

- The Area Community Safety Department contributed to Operation Acorn (the Constabulary's initiative to address the anticipated Spring crime rise) The prevention priorities action plan, sought to address several types of crime using the local media, prevention advice to potential victims, leaflet drops, Crimestoppers and the issuing of several thousand "ALL VALUABLES REMOVED" notices for vehicles.
- In conjunction with the CDRP and Neighbourhood Watch the Area has purchased the first batch of Smartwater Property Marking materials. This initiative is in the process of being rolled out on the Hillside estate, Maryport. Other hotspot areas have been identified and will be targeted once the first stage is complete. This is being progressed in conjunction with the Homesafe Scheme (Age Concern) as part of the new Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.
- Millom has established a Social Inclusion Panel. This group of local professionals identify youths in danger of "going off the rails". Individuals have been identified and are receiving help/ advice /support to deter them from anti-social behaviour and other offending.
- The Area has reviewed the Violent Crime Action Plan following completion of the new Violent Crime and Disorder profiles. Each LPT has produced their own representative action plan in order to address the Area's key priority.
- Operation Velour has been in effect throughout this quarter in an effort to reduce the number of vehicle crime offences within Workington. Three arrests were made and a local man has been charged with numerous such offences. The number of vehicle offences has reduced since his arrest.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit has secured 9 ASBO's across West Cumbria during this period. They have a further 15 applications in the court system at the moment in relation to the Area's most persistent offenders. The Unit have supported the Housing Associations to take out three Housing Act Injunctions and have successfully secured two more Crack House closures during this time.

South Cumbria

- Confiscation Order for £25,000 to accompany sentence of imprisonment against man from Kendal for drugs supply offences. Order under Proceeds of Crime Act to take effect on receiving a substantial inheritance in 3 yrs time.
- Barrow man served with Confiscation Order for £6,800 to accompany imprisonment for failure to pay previous confiscation order for burglary offences.

North Cumbria

- Operation Mallard – is ongoing targeting Trailer/Quad thefts in the Brampton/Penrith rural area.
- Operation Migraine – to tackle Carlisle City Centre Public Order and violence continues.

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- Operation Manse – took place in response to burglaries at premises as part of the post flood policing operation.
- Operation Marmalade – Disorder in City Centre & North/east
- Operation Mews – Youth Nuisance & Disorder City South
- Operation Alfresco – a joint anti-crime patrol re farm thefts with Durham Police particularly Alston Moor area (this builds on previous Operation Idaho).
- Operation MINX - specific operation to combat nuisance and criminal use of off road motorcycles.
- Op. Crackdown – targeted drugs operation.
- Dedicated team continue to target the most prolific offenders in North Cumbria with positive results.

Operational Support Department

- MSG staff has been continuing with Operation Takeaway. 79 uninsured vehicles have been removed under this operation during the past 3 months.
- Operation Action is predominantly an MSG operation aimed at getting unregistered vehicles registered. In the first 2 months of the operation 23 vehicles have been registered with the DVLA.
- SIB - Op Crackdown – As part of a national operation, the organisation has supplied results and intelligence in relation to the supply of class 'A' drugs. This has been underpinned through the exploitation of Crime Stoppers.

Partnerships

- Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPO's) - The Constabulary continues to take the lead in addressing the issue of PPO's in Cumbria. Of the three strands within the national programme, we lead on "Catch and Convict and support the partner agencies that lead on "Prevent and Deter" (Youth Offending Service) and "Rehabilitate and Re-Settle" (National Probation Service). Area Joint Agency Groups are chaired by senior police officers, and a county operational joint agency group meets under the chairmanship of the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations). All of the lead agencies are committed to writing and implementing a PPO strategy document on behalf of the Cumbria Criminal Justice Board, to capture the work that is already underway or else is planned.
- Licensing of Door Staff - A meeting was organised between officers involved in licensing and the Security Industry Authority and attended by the chair of the National Police Licensing Forum.
- Police in Schools Package - In conjunction with the LEA, officers have been trained to deliver appropriate crime prevention inputs to schoolchildren.
- Force Drugs Strategy - Staff in the Partnerships Department are engaged in delivering the Force Drugs Strategy in conjunction with the Detective Superintendent Crime Operations.



Investigating Crime

West Cumbria

- Operation Ladybird was conducted on 30 April in relation to drug supply at Whitehaven. Searches were conducted and 13000 ecstasy tablets, a large quantity of amphetamine and a crossbow were recovered. Three arrests were made, all were bailed pending forensic examination.
- A warrant was executed on 4 May at Workington, which resulted in the recovery of 14000 ecstasy tablets and 5 ounces of amphetamine (total value £10 000). A woman was charged with supplying.
- Two separate arrests for drugs supplying were made in Whitehaven and Workington resulting in the seizure of £3500 of amphetamine and £6000 worth of heroin respectively.
- A Cleator Moor man was arrested for causing criminal damage to a number of motor vehicles in that area. He was subsequently charged with three offences and had 5 other offences taken into consideration. The same offender was also charged with a racially aggravated public order offence following an incident at a local shop.
- Operations Harlequin and Bodkin, separate investigations into deaths in clinical care, are both ongoing with their respective team of investigators.
- The Area has continued to build on its success with regard to financial investigations and has initiated a number of money laundering operations across the Area. To further promote their services, the officers have conducted a number of presentations across the Area in an effort ensure that front line officers are aware of the legislation and the specialist support available to them.
- An investigation into a high value burglary at the Pringle shop in Cockermouth resulted in the recovery of property to the value of £6000 and the arrest and charging of three local men with burglary and handling offences.

South Cumbria

- Barrow, early May 2005 – male charged with serious domestic assault on partner, who subsequently died on 27 May. Murder investigation underway led by DI Huddleston.
- A Barrow man has been charged with the manslaughter of five-month-old child in October 2004.
- Operation Saffron, focussing upon the supply of drugs from Merseyside into Barrow, has to date resulted in 22 people being charged with a range of offences and the seizure of several thousands of pounds in cash. Trials for those involved will start in August. Op Saffron has become notable for the escalating levels of violence being used by Liverpool dealers and the efficiency of their drug dealing operation.

North Cumbria

- Problem solving approach to spate of criminal damage in Castletown, Penrith, ranging from targeted patrols to multi-agency public meeting, already bringing results with several key arrests of suspects.
- A man has been charged with 5 offences of Burglary at Carlisle.

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- An investigation into shoplifters disposing of goods over Internet auction sites, has led to, in excess of 350 thefts being detected.

Operational Support Department

- Dog Section – The dog section have assisted South Cumbria in property searches resulting in drugs and property to the value of £21750 being recovered.
- The section has conducted 168 crime searches for offenders / property which have resulted in 87 arrests and the recovery of 25 articles of property. The section has attended 113 incidents of disorder that has resulted in 25 arrests.
- SIB - Op Bracknell – Providing support to the Police National Information and Coordination Centre in relation to the Tsunami disaster. This has resulted in a number of Cumbria officers and support staff being deployed both to the Centre at London and out to the disaster area.
- HQ CID –SIO (Senior Investigating Officer) support provided to West Cumbria to assist with the investigation of a serious assault and rape on a female in Flimby.
- TSG – Provided support to;
 - North Cumbria with high visibility patrols in the flood affected areas of Carlisle to prevent/reduce Burglary dwellings in unoccupied properties.
 - Support to Specialist Crime Unit in Financial Investigations in South Cumbria
 - Provision of search teams for Operation Crackdown (Drugs offences) Force wide
 - Search and House to house enquiries carried out following serious sexual assault and a suspicious death at Carlisle
- In the reporting period, officers from West MSG have made a total of 69 arrests for numerous offences. 7 arrests have been made in relation to TWOC offences, 24 for drink drive offences, 10 for offences of violence / disorder.
- On 31/3, 4 WMSG officers attended as armed response in relation to a male who had threatened his parents with a high powered air weapon and had shot holes in the wall. The offender was arrested at gunpoint with no incident, and dealt with for offences of Affray and Possession of a Firearm with intent to cause Fear of Violence.

Partnerships

- Charging Scheme - The force operates a shadow charging scheme designed to reduce ineffective trails and promote early not guilty pleas. By November we expect to move to a statutory charging scheme as part of a national change.
- Video Identification - The Constabulary has recently changed from the VIPER computerised video identification system to a new system produced by PROMAT. The new system offers increased flexibility and less time to process identifications.
- Warrant Execution - During the last year the Constabulary almost halved the number of outstanding fail to appear warrants by a concerted effort.

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Promoting Safety

West Cumbria

- The "Respect" road safety campaign is well under way within Area. This is a joint agency initiative to promote safer driving in urban KSI (Killed or Seriously Inured) hotspots. This initiative includes the enforcement operation, " Leghorn " at Whitehaven and Workington.
- The Keswick Road Safety Display was a multi-agency event aimed at raising the issue of excess speed in causing accidents. This was aligned to the Respect campaign and received over 500 visitors. The display allowed the public to see the police, Camera Partnership and associated agencies at work.
- Operation Lagoon tackled the issue of speeding drivers travelling to and from Sellafield via Ennerdale village following numerous complaints.
- Operation Minx has been initiated across the Area in response to the dangerous and anti social use of motorcycles. This initiative is supported by the local speedway team who are working together with the police and other partners to identify a legitimate site.
- A problem-solving day was recently held at the Oval for LPT Community Constables, Supervisors and Police Community Support Officers. There were a number of presentations from guest speakers and each LPT, who were required to promote their respective problem solving initiatives and identify best practice.
- Maryport officers have assisted in establishing a high profile multi-agency working group in order to support the needs of the newly arrived migrant workforce and allay the concerns of the local community.
- The Community Safety Department have supported Workington LPT and Workington regeneration in working towards achieving a Home Office Business Crime Award (previously known as Safer Shopping Award). A similar initiative for Whitehaven is in its early stages and the long-term aim is to involve all towns within West Cumbria.

South Cumbria

- The summer violence reduction campaign has started this month in Barrow with partnership supported adverts appearing on local busses and the use of the "Eye" projector to project large size anti-violence key messages on key buildings in the heart of the town in Barrow.
- Street-Safe operations involving key CDRP partners have been conducted in Hindpool, Barrow Island, Parkside and Ulverston Wards. Several hundred households have been visited during this latest operation and a further series of visits are planned for Dalton in Furness in the third week of June.
- South Cumbria Junior Citizen four-week programme has just begun when the police and key partners will play host to over three thousand young people, giving inputs aimed at personal safety awareness and reducing anti-social behaviour.
- The Policing Priority Area funded initiative to provide a Central Point office for residents in Barrow Central Ward to access a range of partnership services is

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drawing to a close after a very successful period of operation which saw visits by a large number of residents.

North Cumbria

- Local emerging issues and updates on policing (good news events) provided in fortnightly article in Cumberland & Westmorland Herald newspaper entitled 'The Beacon Beat'.
- Extensive reassurance activity currently being undertaken re Life & Light gypsy & traveller convention to be held at Penrith in July.
- Caldew School at Dalston is being developed into a community facility. The head teacher has offered premises within the new build. Property Services have visited the site, which has enormous potential as a police post. This is currently being costed and protocols completed.
- Operation Acorn – Spring Rise in Crime - Streetsafe initiative throughout Carlisle and Brampton to raise safety awareness in areas that has been identified as at risk of crime.
- Operation Modern – dedicated patrols tackling anti-social behaviour by large numbers of local youths at weekends in Alston Town, with longer term problem solving through multi-agency approach (Town Council, Eden Health Locality Group and Eden Focus Group) together with extensive use of the local media.
- Night Bus service commenced in Carlisle to transport late night revellers home safely.

Operational Support Department

- MSG has been teaching the motorbike community safe riding techniques as part of Bikesafe. This is aimed at educating bikers to ride safely in order to avoid collisions.
- Operation FOCUS is a hi-visibility casualty reduction based initiative in support of a National Campaign by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and to further support the national BIKESAFE (educational) remit of forces. It also forms part of the Cumbria Constabulary Collision Reduction Strategy. This reduced the motorcycle casualties by 30% last year. This is having a positive effect in the reduction of fatalities and collisions involving motorcycles.
- PS Steve Lambert and PC Simon Taylor have completed two lecture sessions and two ride outs in relation to the BIKESAFE initiative. 56 West Cumbria riders attended and as usual the feedback was excellent.
- MSG Have been working with other agencies in running three operations targeted against vehicles in the haulage industry. Operation Mermaid was run at Harker on 16/03/05, stopping Haulage vehicles. 14 vehicles were found to be committing offences and prosecuted. On 12/05/05 there was a Carriage of Dangerous Goods stop check carried out. 16 vehicles were stopped, of which 12 were found to be committing offences. Operation Market trader was run at Penrith, stopping Haulage vehicles. 14 vehicles were found to be committing offences and prosecuted.

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Partnerships

- Stronger and Safer Communities - GONW are to give a presentation on 22nd June at Rheged to key people in the Constabulary regarding the process for the new arrangements for the Stronger and Safer Communities funding stream.
- County Neighbourhood Watch - Business Support officer Mr Greg Stephenson has been appointed to this new post as of 13th June 2005.



Providing Assistance

West Cumbria

- In May, Workington successfully trialled the use of a large mobile police station around the LPT communities to engage the public and increase visibility/ accessibility.
- Officers on the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and a number of LPT's have worked with the Residential Housing Associations to improve information sharing protocols, which has led to successful court evictions of anti-social residents.
- Whitehaven officers continue to work with the large number of partner agencies in preparing for the large scale Maritime Festival and World War 2 Commemoration (24-26 June).

South Cumbria

- Following formal request by Lake Wardens, police officers from the Windermere and Kendal areas have been providing support on special duty basis to assist in policing the new 5mph speed limit on Lake Windermere.
- An Inspector from Sussex Police visited Barrow in the second week in June looking at local policing initiatives with partners as part of work to underpin the National Neighbourhood Policing Strategy.

North Cumbria

- Route Action Tasking Package on A686 Penrith to Alston Road – KSI reduction which is the latest of series including A6 and B5305 in the Penrith LPT area

Operational Support Department

- MSG - Cumbria police have introduced family liaison officers for all Fatal collisions. This has resulted in many expressions of gratitude from the bereaved, and has greatly improved the liaison and understanding of bereaved relatives about the complex legal processes that follow.

Partnerships

- Witness Care Unit - The force is contributing staff and time to the newly formed Witness Care Unit at Kendal, which provides services to all witnesses and victims.



Awards and Recognition

Certificates of Commendation

- Constable 1828 Johnson
...is commended for his intervention in a domestic dispute in Barrow whilst off duty.

Good Policing Awards

- Constable 932 Christy
- Sergeant 601 Douglas
- Constable 354 Moffat
- Sergeant 534 Pickthall
- Constable 1819 Wray
... in recognition of their combined efforts which led to the capture of a man responsible for the murder of a young Lancaster woman in July 2004.

- Constable 1499 Shaw
...in recognition of her dedication and commitment to her role of Community Officer for the Roosegate Estate in Barrow.

- Constable 1594 Jones
...in recognition of maintaining high levels of self motivation, professionalism and commitment throughout all aspects of policing both on and off duty at Barrow Police Station.

- Constable 1646 McArthur
- Constable 1613 McKinley
- Constable 1693 Milby
...in recognition of their brave actions whilst rescuing a man from the dock at Buccleuch Dock, Barrow on 16 January 2005.

- Constable 532 Taylor
...in recognition of the planning and implementing of the up and coming phenomenon of 'Car Cruising' in West Cumbria.

- Constable 691 Ormerod
...in recognition of his consistently high standard of work, commitment and dedication over a period of time working within western MSG.

Certificate of Merit

- Mr Jonathan Routledge
...in recognition of his evidence gathering skills which assisted in the capture of a man responsible for the murder of a young Lancaster woman in July 2004.

Certificate of Appreciation

- Miss Fiona Lyon
...in recognition of her exceptional courage in rescuing her sister and her friend from a burning car on 7 December 2003.

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- Mr Adam Hudson
...in recognition of his brave actions whilst rescuing a man from the dock at Buccleuch Dock, Barrow on 16 January 2005.

Chief Constable Letter

- Mrs Janice Pinder
...for the contribution that she made to secure the conviction of the managing director and salesman of Catch Monitored Security Ltd.