

## **TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME WITH PARTNERS**

### **Report by the Chief Constable**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of the work being undertaken within the Basic Command Units (BCUs) in Cumbria Constabulary together with partner agencies to tackle Violent Crime.

#### **1.1 RECOMMENDATION**

For members to note the contents of the report.

#### **2.1 DETAIL**

##### **Background**

Current work being conducted by Cumbria Constabulary with both statutory and voluntary partners to tackle Violent Crime;

##### **North Cumbria BCU**

North Cumbria restructured the Task groups of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership to streamline performance. The Violent Crime Task Group consists of representatives from: Primary Care Trust, Fire and Rescue Service, Victim Support, Youth Offending Service, Pubwatch, Local Enforcement Officers (Council), British Transport Police, Carlisle United Football Club. The Domestic Violence Sub group reports directly to the Violent Crime Group to ensure a coordinated approach.

The Primary Care Trust provides information from A&E concerning trends in relation to injuries and violence offences to provide a more representative picture of violent crime in North Cumbria. Information from the A&E is already utilized by Pubwatch to enforce bans of individuals who verbally or physically abuse hospital staff.

Victim Support provides information from interventions with youths and repeat victims concerning trends in relation to offences of violence in order to establish a more representative picture of violent crime. They have a key role in relation to reducing the fear of crime (particularly violent crime) in relation to repeat victims.

The Fire and Rescue Service provide the Deputy Chair for the Violent Crime Task Group. They are the lead agency in relation to structured visits of licensed premises, coordinating the various participating agencies and ensuring the follow up action is taken by the premises. The Young Firefighter's Scheme has been adapted to include an alcohol awareness program linked to the issue of violence and disorder.

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) provide information from interventions concerning trends in violence and disorder by identifying key locations (Off Licenses /

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Target locations) without breaching client confidentiality. The head of YOS also chairs the North Cumbria Prevent and Deter Group and provides regular updates concerning activities employed (what works / what hasn't) in an effort to promote best practice.

Carlisle United Football Club (CUFC) is the figure head for the recent high profile Domestic Violence campaign. The club have progressed the issue of combining Pubwatch Bans with Football Bans and have agreed the necessary protocols which will be fully promoted within the media on first implementation to provide added impact. The club has adapted their County wide Youth Programme to include key messages in relation to alcohol awareness and sensible drinking.

The Chair of the City Pubwatch scheme is responsible for promoting key messages from the Task Group and Pubwatch activities in relation to a sensible drinking culture. Funding has been made available for media marketing. Together with police, the Chair has assisted in coordinating the expansion of Banning Orders to include A&E and CUFC (Football Bans). The combining of Pub Bans and Football Bans is a unique initiative. Licensees in the City and Eden play a strong role within the Pubwatch scheme and are supportive of police initiatives.

Council Licensing Officers also play a key part in the multi agency visits to licensed premises both in Carlisle and Eden Districts.

British Transport Police attend local Tasking and Coordination Group meetings to promote cooperation and support. They are taking on a more proactive role in relation to the policing of CUFC games in support of North Cumbria BCU staff. A joint initiative involving the use of high profile knife scanners has been agreed as part of the local Respect campaign.

Trading Standards have recently conducted a test purchasing operation within North BCU in relation to the sale of knives. Further operations are part of the area plan.

The North BCU established a team of 4 Problem Solvers to service the Local Policing Teams. The City Council have "match funded" the initiative by identifying staff to work in tandem with our problem solvers to effectively drive partnership working. Their staff have been identified and joint initiatives have commenced, Violent Crime being an agreed priority.

An officer is currently seconded to Carlisle Housing Association as Tenancy Enforcement and Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) Officer (given the potential of this organization to address ASB issues). This has led to greater cooperation, improved efficiency in relation to the securing/use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)/ ASBOs/ Eviction Notices, etc. which will impact upon the issues of violence and disorder in the long term.

Persistent Offender Programme (PROP) is a unique multi-agency group with staff seconded from North BCU, Probation Service, YOS, Drug Action Team (DAT) and further supported by key workers from the NHS and CHA with the remit of supporting the rehabilitation of persistent offenders.

North BCU supports the Gillford Centre on the governing body, in an effort to provide an effective partnership arrangement. The Gillford Centre is a local pupil referral centre for pupils with severe problems who account for a substantial proportion of persistent offenders/ ASB and disorder issues.

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The Area has excellent links with the local newspapers. Recently reporters accompanied Police Officers during the high profile Respect Operations held in North Cumbria, reporting on the process, the outcomes and highlighting our key messages in relation to violent crime and disorder. Police Inspectors in Eden actually have their own article in a local newspaper which they use to promote local issues and key messages.

### **South Cumbria BCU**

Below is an overview of the most prominent partner agencies working with Cumbria Constabulary in South BCU to tackle Violent Crime; Barrow and South Lakeland District Council CDRPs – most prominent partners; direct police involvement in Violent Crime and Youth Disorder/ASB sub-groups.

Current formal operational responses to Violent Crime in South Cumbria follow, each of which have partnership involvement;

‘Summer Consequences’ is a BCU-wide operation under Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC), with strong support from both CDRPs. A broad approach to youth and drink issues, within which, violence and drunkenness play a prominent part.

The Violent Crime Steering Group (now Operation Respect Steering Group) manages the BCU Violent Crime Action Plan and oversees strategic activity to reduce violent crime in the medium and longer term. This group now oversees BCU activity and the Action Plan to address Criminal Damage and broader aspects of the Operation Respect agenda.

Barrow and SLDC Violent Crime Sub-Group Action Plans is a Joint Task Group that crosses over both CDRPs. They reflect the BCU Action plan and incorporate partnership approach to dealing with violence issues.

Operation Streetsafe is a multi-agency community safety operation, which has clear links to night time economy, violent crime and domestic violence. The delivery of street safe is to geographic communities, but this will shortly be expanded in South Cumbria to target the night-time economy in Barrow.

Operation Regulate is a five year operation running in Barrow focusing upon violent crime in the town centre and night time economy. Extensively funded by Barrow Borough Council to provide dedicated patrols on Friday and Saturday nights, plus finance for specific related initiatives, via the CDRP. There is some contribution for similar activity within South Lakeland supported by South Lakeland CDRP.

The Fire and Rescue Service is a key contributor to Streetsafe operations across the BCU. They have a senior manager within South Cumbria dedicated to partnership activity, support for police and other partner activities are reflected from their Divisional Commander downwards. Fire & Rescue officers also contribute heavily to joint inspection and enforcement activity throughout night time economy premises. Recent investment in 2 days per week posting to the barrow Neighbourhood Management Team will enhance work within the night-time economy sector as well as Barrow.

A dedicated Police Officer is based within the Town Hall and spends the majority of his time working directly alongside Local Authority colleagues and Partner agencies. This serves to virtually eliminate inter-agency communication delays and

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misunderstandings between those involved; equally providing a greatly reduced time lapse between identification of a need for involvement or intervention and the actual actioning of any response. This officer is now the lead on Streetsafe operations and coordinates the extensive partnership activity that underpins each event. The scale of this work may be illustrated by the fact that for the most recent operation, over thirty volunteers from a range of agencies spent one full day on partner premises packing promotional carrier bags with the range of informative and advisory literature which is handed to every household. The Streetsafe volunteers also conduct resident surveys to highlight their principle community concerns, thus providing information to help target service delivery and also yielding community intelligence of significant value.

The same officer also plays a significant role in partnership liaison to support youth intervention initiatives such as the Mobile Skate Park, funded by partners and deployed across the BCU as a resource for COPS, Community Officers and Youth Workers during school holidays. The initiative is particularly useful to combat community complaints of young people using skateboards etc on footpaths, public steps and other road furniture. These substantial pieces of equipment are carried in a trailer and can be erected anywhere to provide a series of custom-made skate, skateboard and BMX obstacles and jumps to entertain youngsters and teenagers in areas where no municipal facilities are available for them to “grab air”.

The Local Authority Enforcement Officers actively support joint inspections and enforcement activity, particularly in night time economy premises in both Barrow Borough and South Lakeland District Council areas.

Barrow Borough Council has provided 100% funding for a full-time Licensing PCSO in Barrow to support the Barrow COPS Licensing Officer. This COPS post is mirrored in Kendal and between the three members of staff there is continuous activity with key Licensing and enforcement partners (Local Authority, Trading Standards, etc.) which has seen a number of new initiatives over the past year. Traditional test purchasing for cigarettes and alcohol from Off Licenses has been dramatically updated to embrace underage sales in pubs and clubs, sale of knives and the proliferation of counterfeit goods being sold through markets, boot fairs and from private houses.

Trading standards fully support joint Test Purchasing operations using underage teenagers across the BCU. Recent initiatives saw this expanded from Off License premises (where such activity was historically limited) to On Licenses and to business premises retailing knives.

Licensees, both as individuals and in Barwatch/Pubwatch partnerships, prove very supportive of Police action. The World Cup operation highlighted willingness on the part of Licensees to work with Police to maintain a trouble free period, which was also good for business. Barwatch in Barrow has recently extended its exclusion remit for members to include drink related offending in the A&E Department at Furness General Hospital. There is also active information sharing between South and West BCUs in this area.

A&E and the Ambulance Service enjoy close working relationships with the police focusing upon night time economy and weekend A&E incidents. A watch scheme takes account of any verbal or physical abuse of staff and offenders are then considered for exclusions. Police Officers have access to a private office within A&E, day and night, it is used regularly by local the Community Officer and others attending with detainees, etc.

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Door supervisors - Security Industry Authority (SIA) accreditation process, police in South Cumbria have active input into door staff training and also in ServeWise initiative to reduce binge drinking and drunkenness in licensed premises. Despite active partnership work, there remains a strand of enforcement in which officers policing night time economy regularly and routinely inspect and enforce legislation concerning door staff and their SIA responsibilities.

CCTV Operators funded by Barrow Borough Council but employed, accommodated and managed by Cumbria Constabulary. In Barrow, Dalton and Ulverston they coordinate a sophisticated and very effective network of cameras. Regrettably for issues beyond police control, Kendal does not enjoy similar level of CCTV support. Operators are regularly involved in operational initiatives. Operators are supplemented by Police Officers for suspect ID/incident management during large operations; we also use local teachers to spot underage pupils, etc.

There are very effective Schools Liaison Officers on both Kendal and Barrow sides of the BCU, using experienced COPS officers. As well as schools talks, visits, etc. they are actively involved in school holiday and diversionary initiatives such as Junior Citizen, 'Keeping Young People Safe' (KYPS) and other activities that are managed via COPS officers but delivered to support LPT interventions for ASB/Damage reduction such as the mobile Skate Park.

The DAT is a key partner in South Cumbria Operation Reclaim, where funding supports a member of police staff to manage a long standing initiative of diversion into rehabilitation programmes of offenders identified by Drug Squad officers.

The Neighbourhood Manager is a new post created in Barrow using funding from the Safer and Stronger Communities/LAA Fund. In its early stages but already closely involved with Police in funding the intake of PCSOs to work in the town centre. Kendal, have a similar post of Town Centre Retail Crime Manager who was recently successful in securing Home Office Award for coordinated anti-crime activity in Kendal Town Centre.

The Primary Care Trust main input lies in linking to police youth work and supporting education programmes for issues such as alcohol abuse and sexual health, but is in second line involvement through such as A&E.

CUPS provide regular data on violent crime and can cascade this information down to LPT level.

The Probation Service co-operates with work on MAPP/VISOR; pre sentence reports on violent offenders to promote the use of exclusions/curfews/tagging as a method of sentence. Issues surround partnership working to resource and support POT working.

The Taxi Association is active in partnership working, again focused upon night time economy. A recent initiative under Operation Respect involved a number of Town Centre Taxi firms supporting police by printing business cards with Operation Respect key messages on the reverse.

Take Away Food premises have a more informal link, but remain within police night time economy activity due to high percentage of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community involved. They receive regular support and contact to ensure their employees don't become victims of racist incidents or abuse.

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Local Authority services have close working relationships linked to the night time economy; Bottle Banks, weekend street cleaning, removal of scaffolding and builders waste, etc. – all activities to reduce risk and safer streets in night time economy areas. Links will be enhanced through the Neighbourhood Manager, who has a specific remit to work with the Police and others in these areas as part of community safety and town centre community improvement activity.

South BCU enjoys a very close and effective relationship with the media, cemented by their extensive support under Operation Respect.

Government Office North West and Home Office initiatives, e.g. AMEC, are actively progressed across South Cumbria, supported by both Barrow and SLDC CDRPs. A number of unique initiatives include use of The Eye projector to display key messages on public buildings at night; Music CD for young people with key themes for personal safety and citizenship; Head Cam – live evidence gathering using miniature CCTV camera worn by police officer, etc.

Magistrates have recently engaged in a COPS initiative to provide informative inputs to Magistrates on ASB/alcohol abuse legislative developments, activities, etc.

Straight Line is a South Cumbria charitable group providing support for under-19's with alcohol problems and is subject of an information sharing exercise with COPS officers.

Youth Workers take part in joint patrol and intervention initiatives alongside Community and COPS officers, dealing with young people. They provide close support for the Police in educating young people and providing on-street diversion towards supervised activities and intervention when dealing with hotspots, ASB, etc.

### **West Cumbria BCU**

Below is an overview of the partner agencies working with Cumbria Constabulary in West BCU to tackle Violent Crime;

The Magistrates are part of the violent crime task group and representatives provide input for magistrates in relation to their sentencing powers re banning orders, curfews and reminding magistrates of the benefits of exclusion without the need to resort to prison sentences. The BCU works with the Probation Service in relation to pre sentence reports on violent offenders to promote the use of exclusions/curfews/tagging as an alternative method of sentence. We work with the Youth Offending Team regarding issues surrounding underage drinking.

The Fire and Rescue Service have specific powers which are sometimes more effective than police powers in relation to licensed premises. There are multi agency visits to licensed premises, using the fire regulations to close down premises, if that is appropriate. Fire Regulations limit the number of people that are allowed to use premises thus reducing the potential for violence.

Local Authority Enforcement Officers (LAEOs) also take part in multi agency visits to licensed premises, predominantly since the implementation of the 2003 licensing legislation whereby local authorities are now the legislative body for licensing. LAEOs can close premises for matters such as unauthorised sales or breach of licensing regulations, e.g. serving after hours, no door supervisors, no CCTV. This has worked

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to good effect at Fusions in Workington and the premises now has CCTV, plastic bottles and early intervention training for door supervisors.

Trading Standards have recently been running test purchase operations using children at both On and Off Licenses in Whitehaven and Keswick. A further operation is taking place in Millom using the same tactic.

Licensees across all LPTs in West BCU are involved in the Pubwatch scheme. The scheme empowers licensees, effectively giving a united front in banning people who commit offences fuelled by alcohol misuse. The PubWatch scheme takes account of any verbal and physical abuse of staff and offenders are considered for exclusions. The Pubwatch Coordinator employed in West Cumbria identifies incidents involving alcohol misuse and presents them to the Pubwatch scheme.

A briefing document has been circulated to all door supervisors outlining a Code of Conduct as to how they are expected to operate. 'Meet and Greet' and early intervention are the key messages in the code. In West Cumbria there is the Door Supervisor Forum which is chaired by the Police. These meetings are an opportunity for door supervisors to exchange best practice and for the Police to re-emphasise key messages. The Taxi Association are a useful partner in preventing excluded people from coming into town. They are also used to market and promote the Pubwatch scheme through speaking to their customers. Any issues surrounding Takeaways and other late night eating premises identified to the Pubwatch coordinator are fed into the Pubwatch meetings for discussion.

Arrest referrals are made to the Drug Intervention Programme via Turning Point for support and advice.

The Primary Care Trust's main input is in relation to improving the sexual health of night time economy users and they are a link between A&E, the Ambulance Service and the Police. They give advice on spiked drinks, ensure all licensed premises have condom machines and also do work on how underage drinking can lead to teenage pregnancy. A&E and Ambulance Service have an information sharing protocol re crime recording. They provide the police with information on patients with injuries which can then be compared with recorded crime and unreported crime.

CCTV Operators are provided with a police radio and a Pubwatch radio. They monitor licensed premises and town centres and can immediately dispatch resources if required. Money from the CDRP enables the Police to buy into extended hours to cover risk times

The Nightsafe initiative (Carrying the Can DVD) has been delivered in all the secondary schools in West Cumbria and with a link into the Head teachers to encourage them to do some class work activity on it. Community Safety Officers also carry out joint presentations in schools with the Drug Action Team (DAT), one of DAT's roles is to provide support services to those most at risk.

'Kinesis' are a marketing firm who provide the Nightsafe material, posters, etc. they provide up to date material for use throughout the year.

Town Centre Managers play an active part in the link between licensees and the night time economy users. Unfortunately, not all towns have one. They are a useful source of finance. They have used the 'Action against Business Crime' to promote best practice in preventing crime. West Cumbria have recently won the national prize for 'Managing the Night time Economy' and the town centre managers played a key role in securing this award.

CADAS are a voluntary network linked to drugs and alcohol abuse. They conduct mystery shopper exercises to look at a variety of issues in licensed premises such

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as: are glasses collected regularly, are the toilets clean, how busy the premises is, how many staff are available, are there door supervisors etc. From this research and Cups data, they can identify the top ten problem premises.

Cumbria Partnerships Support (CUPS) provide regular data on violent crime and disseminate this information down to LPT level.

Highways – After peak times, there are attempts to get the streets cleaned to reduce the fear of crime. The police are involved in the planning processes in relation to road safety, e.g. outside the Jailhouse, fencing has been erected to ensure people don't fall into the road. Designing out crime is a priority by taking appropriate steps, e.g. the rear of the Red House where a lot of antisocial behaviour has historically taken place.

The media is used to make specific press releases at appropriate times. Issues such as good practice are promoted and used to highlight our crime reduction performance.

The BCU actively took part in the Home Office sponsored Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC) and introduced measures that have enabled West Cumbria to be one of the best performing BCUs in the country in relation to how violent crime is tackled connected to the night time economy. The local authority have been encouraged to implement street drinking legislation.

Lakes College Tutors provide training for Door Supervisors and liaise with the police to assist with ideas of good practice. Training is provided for licensees and bar staff to identify a problem license premise with staff issues. Along with PCT, the BCU have funded training courses to address the problems.

The BCU is currently working with a solicitor, an expert on the new licensing legislation, to provide training for those licensees who automatically assumed grandfather rights under the licensing legislation. It has been identified a lack of clarity exists with the older licensee and clubs, so arrangements are in hand to provide conference facilities and give them training through West Cumbria.

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