



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Local community champions and heroes to step forward

Durham Police Authority is asking for local people to come forward and nominate an individual or group they know about in their community who they feel deserves to be recognised for the work that they do. Members of the Authority are keen to give recognition to these outstanding individuals who go above and beyond what is often expected of them, by presenting them with an official Police Authority Award.

The Authority's Community Awards Event will take place on 1st December 2011 at The Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham which aims to recognise and thank individuals and/or groups who have made a real difference in making their communities safer.

There are 6 nomination categories:

- Caring
- Serving
- Volunteering
- Achieving
- Courageous
- Dedicated

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "In terms of community safety Durham Police Authority recognise that it is not just the police and community safety partners who do good work in keeping our streets and communities safe.

"There are local people and groups in our communities who have gone to extraordinary lengths to make their area a better place to live. In particular there are people who care for vulnerable individuals or groups to ensure their well-being or safety. There are local volunteers who work to provide better facilities and opportunities for young people, disadvantaged or the elderly. We believe outstanding efforts such as these should be acknowledged and that is what I propose to do on 1st December. We, as a Police Authority, are of the firm belief that these heroes should be recognised".

Local organisations currently sponsoring these exciting awards include the Northern Echo (who will be running regular stories about this Awards scheme) Durham Constabulary, Best Bar None, Durham Agency Against Crime, Durham Crimestoppers, Northumbrian Water and Durham County Council, to name but a few.

Mr Mike Barton, Deputy Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary said: "I'm delighted the Police Authority is recognising the unsung heroes of our communities in County Durham and Darlington. The Authority is made up of elected councillors and independent local people and represents all that is good in British Society that of selfless commitment for the common good".

Peter Thompson today stated that despite these difficult times of financial restraint he was always heartened by the genuine support and commitment shown by local business people to fund specific award categories.

Mr Thompson said: "Durham Police Authority have recently faced some difficult financial decisions and continue to carefully plan ahead, following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

"By acquiring funding through sponsorship and donations we will cover the funding of the event and there will be no cost to the Council Tax Payer. It's our aim to get local people involved by nominating people known for their achievements that often go unrecognised and unrewarded. With the potential demise of Police Authorities next year, I hope that any future Police and Crime Commissioner will continue to have a Community Awards scheme in future years".

Members of the public can pick up a nomination form/leaflet at Durham Police Authority's stand at the Miners Gala event in Durham on 9 July 2011, or by calling 0191 3835511 or through their website at www.durham-pa.gov.uk. The closing date for nominations is 16 October 2011. Any organisation/individual interested in sponsoring the event or making a donation should also call the Police Authority on the above number.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About Durham Police Authority

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority's Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact Durham Police Authority:

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