



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Neighbourhood Watch schemes on the rise in County Durham and Darlington

Durham Police Authority received a presentation about expanding Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) initiatives across County Durham and Darlington earlier this week.

Members of the Police Authority's Partnership and Engagement Committee were informed of the increasing interest and involvement of communities in NHW across the Force area, membership of which has increased dramatically thanks to a new campaign to engage with members of the public from all communities.

Inspector George Osborne from Durham Constabulary, who is leading the NHW project, announced how the Force has incorporated the drive to establish new NHW schemes into Durham Constabulary's upcoming Force re-structure later this month.

Assistant Chief Constable Mr Michael Banks said: "As we move forward with the new Force Operating Model and move away from the geographical split between North and South Basic Command Units, I see this as a good opportunity to align this re-structure with the drive to increase new Neighbourhood Watch schemes across more local areas".

Mr Banks continued: "The whole committee of the Trimdon Station Residents' and Neighbourhood Watch Association in County Durham were recently honoured with an MBE for their hard work and dedication in keeping their area safer. This is an excellent example of how well communities can work together and be recognised for their hard work in protecting their neighbourhoods".

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "Following extensive consultation with members of the public, tackling anti-social behaviour is one of the Force's top policing priorities. However it is recognised that long-term anti-social behaviour issues cannot be resolved by one organisation alone which is why local organisations, and members of the public alike, must continue to work together.

“There are many external partner agencies that have a vested interest in Neighbourhood Watch initiatives nationally and I’m delighted to hear the latest developments from Inspector Osborne about how much public interest there is within County Durham and Darlington.

The Police Authority has launched an Awards scheme which is open for nominations from members of the public who are going the extra mile to keep their communities safe. We encourage nominations from people involved in Neighbourhood Watch initiatives such as these to step forward and be recognised for helping to keep their communities safe. If you know someone, or a group who you feel deserves an award, please contact 0191 3835511.

“Speaking on behalf of Members of the Authority, I commend the work done so far to drive forward Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the Force area and hope members of the public continue to come forward and be involved in keeping their communities safe”.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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:

Tel: 0191 3836471

Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk

Website: www.durham-pa.gov.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DPAuthority>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/durhampoliceauthority>