

## Neighbourhood Policing – Leeds District

### Changing lives

Leeds District Drugs Team has been making its presence felt throughout the city during the national 'Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives' campaign. The team carried out arrests in Killingbeck, Chapeltown and the City and Holbeck areas to drive home the message that drug dealing will not be tolerated on the streets of Leeds.

Twelve people were arrested on suspicion of drugs trafficking and related offences, with seven charged and two cautioned. The remaining suspects are on police bail pending further forensic enquiries.

Inspector Mark Sibson said: "local people were showing their support for the team, launched last year. "Many people give us information anonymously about those involved in drug dealing. Their knowledge is vital in pointing out where dealing is taking place and in helping us to identify those behind it.

"I'm confident we can continue to tackle drugs issues in Leeds to further improve the lives of those living in its communities."

# Policing knows no boundaries

**"One division, no divides" is the message from North East Leeds Police as they launch their new, streamlined, policing division following the merger of Chapeltown and Killingbeck divisions.**

The merger is intended to improve policing in the area, particularly in Harehills, which straddled both divisions and will mean more experience, skill and resources are available to all.

Chief Superintendent Marc Callaghan who leads the new division, explained: "I believe this will be a huge step forward for residents in the area. We will be able to provide a more efficient service through pooling our resources and sharing information across the North East Leeds area supporting more pro-active operations.

"It is good news not just for law-abiding residents, but for every criminal active in the area, it's time to look over your shoulder. There are now twice as many of us with your name high on our list of priorities. We are sharing information about you with more officers than before and have more officers searching the streets to bring you in." Chapeltown Station is also receiving a change of image as Police respond to local concerns.



One week into the new policing division, North East Leeds police take a tough approach to vehicle crime as they pull over suspicious vehicles on Harehills Lane, which formally sat on the border of the two divisions. Throughout the day 128 vehicles were stopped after hi-tech cameras scanned the number plates and checked them against police systems. Fifteen vehicles were seized after the cameras highlighted them as being linked to crime and five people were arrested.

Chief Supt Callaghan added: "Some members of the community expressed concerns about the name of the Chapeltown Police Station as they

believe it does not truly reflect the area covered and may cause confusion, particularly as the station sits on Stainbeck Lane in Chapel Allerton. To

address this we have changed the name of the station to Stainbeck Police Station."

### Clearer vision

Anti social behaviour in "Glass Alley" has been smashed as the newly formed Harehills Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) took the extraordinary step of using 'Crackhouse' legislation to close down the alleyway.

Leeds' Magistrates granted the order in a first across the country and closed down the problematic alley in Hovingham Lane using legislation more commonly linked with domestic properties or commercial properties.

Harehills NPT, supported by Leeds City Council, gathered information on the alley for a number of weeks after police were told of anti-social behaviour, including drug dealing and drug use. The alley has been closed for a minimum period of three months.

## Leeds police united in cutting crime

**Leeds Police have secured funding for a £1 million, city-wide fight against crime.**

The money will mean extra policing to tackle violent crime, vehicle crime, drugs and burglary.

Chief Superintendent Geoff Dodd successfully negotiated the funds from local police budgets for the next two years. The money will be used to provide extra officers from each of the

divisions to provide police action across the city where and when it is needed.

Each month the campaign will focus on the biggest crime issues in the area, in addition, operations involving officers working outside of their normal hours, supporting the daily police role inside and outside of their local division.

The operation is known as "Champion." Chief Superintendent Geoff Dodd said:

"This is about flexible policing. Through this extra funding we are able to respond to any increases in particular crimes and keep them capped at low levels, creating a reduction where possible.

"In most cases we are able to predict when a type of crime may escalate and put plans in place to ensure this doesn't happen, but in some instances it may need extra operations and this is where

Operation Champion will come in." Just one year in and the operation shows great success. Crime levels across Leeds are down by 5% (5,390 fewer crimes) since the launch of Operation Champion.

Whilst other factors have clearly contributed to this success it is believed that the pro-active approach has driven the reduction.

# A headstart in Garforth



The new headcam sported by local PCSOs. Picture courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Post

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Garforth are using lightweight cameras to gather crucial evidence in the fight against anti-social behaviour.

Eight PCSOs have been equipped with the cameras, which enable them to record up to ten hours of footage per day, at the turn of their head.

The digital cameras are attached to a headset and worn at eye level. These cameras will allow officers to capture any incident on camera as it takes place. The footage can then be used as evidence at court or to identify those responsible. The cameras have been funded by local neighbourhood tasking teams.

### Graffiti gang

Local children in Boston Spa are wiping out crime as they help in the fight against graffiti.

PCSO Emily Wilson has enlisted the help of local youths in return for a fun day out at the local Go-Kart centre. Local youngsters have been rushing to help remove the graffiti as soon as it appears.

PCSO Wilson contacted the centre for help in encouraging local people to stay out of crime and work with the police to improve the area.

A number of people have already received a free Go-Kart session as a thank you for their help and more are expected in the coming weeks.