

Palfrey and Pleck LNP

The following report will outline the various factors that influence the policing of the Palfrey and Pleck LNP. It will also provide such information as contact details for relevant beat officers, police boundaries within the LNP area, current initiatives and the future of policing.

Provision of Policing.

1. Current Model of Policing

Walsall Police currently operate under the SPECTROM model of policing. This creates a clear definition between officers that respond to incidents such as 999 calls, road traffic incidents and calls generated by the public on a day to day basis. The second strand in this model is the creation of Proactive Teams. These are officers who are geographically responsible for areas, and specifically for problems that may occur in these areas. This is policing above and beyond the day-to-day demand-led response. Officers employed on the Proactive Teams will focus on community issues, not necessarily crime led, but on those factors that have the greatest and prolonged impact on public reassurance, the fear of crime and actual criminality.

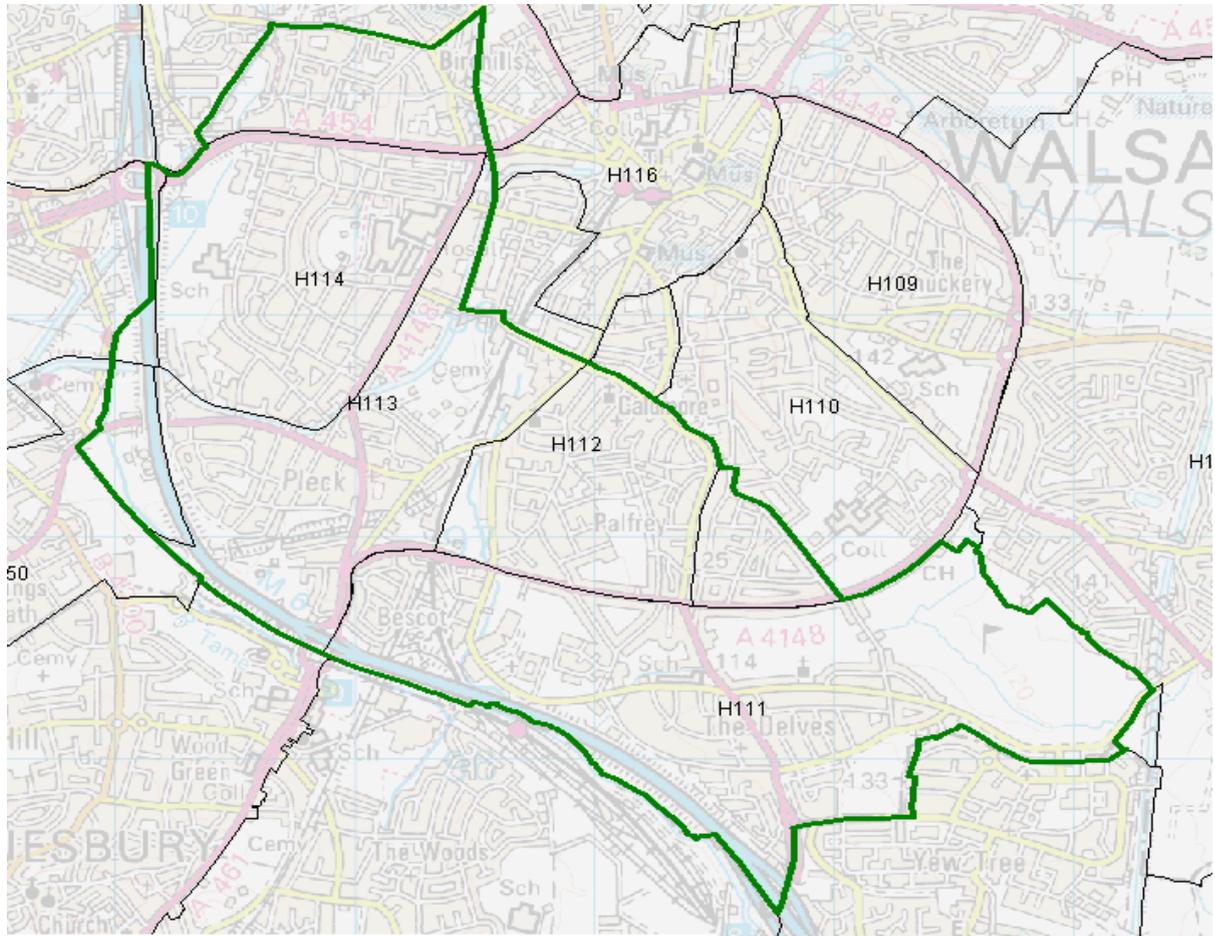
The SPECTROM system works on the basis that when officers' answer calls from the public, they make an assessment as to whether they are the appropriate officers to deal with the incident, or would it be more appropriate for a Proactive officer to become involved. The criteria would revolve around such issues as the size of the enquiry, the number of people involved, the impact on the local community and whether the incident was related to other incidents in the vicinity.

The Proactive Team, as the name suggests, actively target problems in any locality. This may be through the setting up of operations, the execution of warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act and other relevant legislation, directed high-visibility patrols, attending local meetings and forums, setting up communication channels through surgeries and attending Neighbourhood Watch meetings, plainclothes work and the targeting of known criminals.

2. Outline of boundaries

The LNP borders are distinct from the imposed geographical policing boundaries, known as Beats. For instance, the Palfrey and Pleck LNP comprises of 5 Beats, some of these being entirely within the LNP, but others only having a few streets within the LNP borders. This can be seen from the map. Each beat is unique in the policing problems that arise, and realistically, Beats are far larger than their constituent neighbourhoods and local communities. Therefore, one beat can have any number of different issues within its borders. That said, each LNP is therefore host to a considerable number of differing problems, distinct

neighbourhoods, distinct communities, each with their inherent characteristics. This is on a far broader scale than that of the individual Beats.



3. Current contact details for relevant officers.

Proactive Team.

Name	Role	Responsibility
Andy Gilbert	Sector Inspector	B Sector in full
Neil Creed	Sector Sergeant	Beats 10 and 12
Bob Harris	Sector Sergeant	Beats 14 and 15
Mick Hinton	Sector Sergeant	Beats 11 and 13

The number to contact Walsall Police is 0845 113 5000.

This is the main switchboard number. Upon calling this number if extension 7881 6264 is requested, this will direct the caller directly to B Sector Proactive office.

4. Current LNP crime figures

The following table illustrates the crime figures for the Palfrey and Peck LNP, by year, and as a comparison to the Walsall average and the National average. In summary the chart demonstrates that there has been a reduction in total crime year on year since 2003 to present, and that the total crime in Palfrey and Peck is above the average for Walsall, but below the national average. These figures are gathered from the safer Walsall Borough partnerships office.

Total population (2001 Census)	28,493				
	LNP 2002-2003	LNP 2003-2004	LNP 2004-2005	WALSALL BOROUGH 2004-2005	ENGLAND & WALES (LATEST RATES)
Arson	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.1
Burglary Dwelling*	35.2	25.7	19.2	15.0	18.6
Burglary Other Building	8.9	9.0	8.9	9.0	8.0
Criminal Damage Other	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.6	3.3
Criminal Damage to Dwelling	7.5	7.5	5.3	5.8	6.2
Criminal Damage to Other Building	2.8	2.3	2.2	3.3	3.5
Criminal Damage to Vehicle	10.9	8.7	9.1	7.9	8.8
Drugs	3.0	2.0	2.1	2.6	2.7
Other	21.6	20.3	18.0	18.2	-
Racially Related Crime	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.9	-
Robbery - Business Property	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Robbery - Personal	3.5	3.2	2.1	1.4	1.8
Sexual Offences	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.5	1.0
Theft from Motor Vehicle	14.1	11.9	10.7	8.4	11.5
Theft from Person	1.7	2.0	1.2	1.2	2.4
Theft from Shop/Stall	2.8	2.0	2.7	6.7	5.8
Theft of Motor Vehicle	7.7	8.5	6.8	5.7	5.6
Vehicle Crime Other	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.2	-
Violence Against A Person	21.3	23.1	24.6	21.0	18.4
TOTAL CRIME	127.6	119.4	108.2	103.5	114.0

Outlined areas of concern

1. Prostitution and drugs

Historically the Palfrey and Peck LNP has suffered with relatively high levels of prostitution and drug crime. Walsall Police have made significant inroads in dealing with this, through a number of different routes.

Prostitution has been a longstanding concern to local residents, and because of the types of person that prostitution draws to an area, has a dramatic impact on public reassurance and the fear of crime. The Police developed a number of approaches to deal with prostitution. Firstly, it should be clear that whilst considered a purely crime issue, the Police are duty bound to also deal with prostitutes from a vulnerability perspective. Therefore, through partnership working with such agencies as charities and the Primary Care Trust, efforts have been made to divert prostitutes from their current occupation, and provide the relevant care and support that is necessary to help them. At the same time the Police have a duty of care to the local residents who have suffered as a result of this anti-social behaviour. A number of policing operations were set up to arrest and prosecute prostitutes, with the long term goal of

dispersing the prostitutes and ceasing to have them openly touting for business. These have been successful, and the incidence of visible prostitution is much reduced. These operations have been combined with anti-social behaviour legislation which has allowed the police to seek ASBO and CRASBO's when prostitutes appear in court. Walsall Police are aware that following the success of these operations, there has now been a reoccurrence of visible prostitution, and similar operations are being developed to counter this issue.

In respect of drug offences, Walsall Police undertake a large number of operations and warrants under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Due to the nature of supply offences, and the small size of the commodity that we are seeking to recover, identifying and prosecuting drug dealers is a difficult task. As a respite for local residents who suffer with drugs dens in their street or nearby, causing concern for their property and safety, Walsall Police now actively seek to use legislation under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. This allows the Police to identify drugs dens, and with the presence of certain conditions, close the premises and evict the occupiers for a period of up to 3 months. This has proved very useful when dealing with established drug networks, and we will be seeking to use this legislation far more widely to support our operations when dealing with drug crime.

2. Anti-social behaviour

Walsall police have actively sought to use legislation brought in under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and were further supported under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. This has included such interventions as:

- ASBO and CRASBO's
- Dispersal Orders
- Closure orders

Each of these interventions has been used with good effect on the Palfrey and Pleck LNP. Walsall police also work closely with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit at the Safer Walsall Borough Partnerships office. We will continue to work closely with the unit and use these interventions in support of the usual criminal legislation.

3. CCTV funding

Walsall Police have little to do with the allocation of funding for CCTV. However, we are aware of, and actively supported, the cameras that were recently installed in Palfrey Park, following the anti-social behaviour and disorder incidents that were taking place. Obviously, as an evidence-gathering tool, the Police are in support of the use of CCTV systems, but this needs to be balanced with concerns about over-intrusion on behalf of the state.

Police Interventions

1. Police Operations and Interventions

Walsall Police endeavour to be proactive where possible in dealing with crime across Walsall, Palfrey and Pleck LNP inclusive. Below are two case studies of operations that have been successfully implemented in the Palfrey and Pleck LNP:

- Operation Sara. This incorporated the use of an outside agency to act as professional witnesses and gather intelligence and information to support prosecutions. Walsall Police are well aware that, unfortunately, some members of public are reluctant to provide information, let alone be prepared to stand in court as witnesses, due to concerns over reprisals from individuals or groups of people. Operation Sara sought to redress this concern by providing individuals who act as witnesses for a living, and spend time in a locality gathering intelligence and evidence. This operation was set up in the Alumwell area, and provided some good information that led to the arrest of a known prolific offender and generated a great deal of intelligence on other known offenders. Following this success of Operation Sara, further initiatives of this type are planned for the future in and around the Walsall area, and within the Palfrey and Pleck LNP.
- Closure Orders. Recently, Walsall police have actively sought two closure orders on two addresses in the same street. These addresses were identified as being used by drug dealers, and were receiving a large number of visitors both day and night, much to the distress and discomfort of the local residents. Walsall Police have canvassed local residents to establish the nature and scale of the associated problems, have liaised with other appropriate organisations such as the housing authorities and social services. Once agreed the matter is referred to Magistrates Court, where the order to close these premises can be agreed upon for the period of up to 3 months. At time of writing these closure orders are going to court and it is anticipated that at the time this report is presented, both of these orders will have been granted in the Palfrey and Pleck LNP.

2. B.R.A.G and associated figures (Operation Porto)

From 15th August 2005 to 30th September 2005 the Borough Resource Allocation Group has been in Palfrey and Pleck. A number of strategies have been employed with the B.R.A.G, including the use of automated number plate recognition operations, street clean ups and the directed high visibility patrols in key locations. Countess Street in Palfrey was selected as a location to set up a street cleanup operation in conjunction with the Community Wardens, Fire Service and Street Pride, actively seeking support from the local community to assist. This proved to be a very successful hearts and mind operation. Currently, in excess of 35 arrests were made by the B.R.A.G, including 1 for serious assault, 2 based around indecent images of children, 2 for street robbery and 5 for the possession of controlled substances.

Policing for the future

1. Emerging issues and policing priorities

A weekly analysis of crime is compiled by Walsall police in relation to emerging crime issues. This allows the Police to predict future crime trends and to proactively target areas that are being subjected to crime hotspots. From this resources are appropriately directed and the Police seek to quell any emergent issues and arrest any offenders identified.

2. Working in partnership

Walsall Police have developed some good relationships with other partner agencies who are able to assist in the reduction of crime and the fear of crime, as well as dealing with the public reassurance aspect. These have included the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Primary Care Trust, Street Pride, Neighbourhood Watch, charitable organisations, Walsall MBC and other statutory bodies. We will continue to support these links and where possible, try and strengthen and develop them. Ideally we would seek to strengthen links between the Police and community organisations who can provide finer detail about issues affecting local communities and neighbourhoods.

3. How the community can assist the Police

As always, the service provided by the Police is consumer led. We rely on intelligence from all sources to continue to be as proactive as possible. This can only be achieved by creating and maintaining strong community links, and where possible, supporting such organisations as Neighbourhood Watch. As such we welcome any ideas, concerns or criticisms from the public so that we may address these and provide a premium service to everybody.