



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Today's (July 2008) Green Paper on Policing ... read it chapter by chapter at ... <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/green-paper-chapters/>

**The government says .....** It builds on the substantial achievements in policing and tackling crime already delivered. Earlier in the year the Government reached the milestone of a neighbourhood policing team in every area, **with nearly £1 billion pounds over the last three years** spent supporting police forces in rolling it out. The police workforce has grown and changed, there are now nearly **140,000 officers, 16,000 PCSOs and over 76,000 civilian staff**. Overall crime is down by a third in ten years and the fear of crime is at its lowest level since 1981.

### New structures

At the national level, important **new agencies** have been established, including the **National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)** <http://www.npia.police.uk/> which works for the tripartite, through a Board that represents the interests of each. **The NPIA's income/ expenditure is around £600m/a** . Peter Neyroud, currently Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, is also Chief Executive of the new National Policing Improvement Agency. He is also a widely published author on policing and in 2004 was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Services to Police.

He states .... *We have also had to reinvent local policing in a new way. Neighbourhood Policing is not a recreation of Dixon of Dock Green...if we walked around estates like we did in the 1960's we would be lonely and ineffective! Nobody is in the estate during the day (what about the MILLIONS of unemployed and pensioners?) because they are dormitories for the men and women who work elsewhere. What we have to do is to tackle the things that make them feel unsafe when they are in their local space and do so in a very targeted way and in a way which they can see, feel meets their priorities and which, as far as possible, involves them. They also need to be confident that someone - their neighbourhood policing team - owns their problems, is accessible, responsive and always there...the government is absolutely right to be grasping this nettle and has the full support of the policing profession to do this - this is what we thought we joined to do!*

*Some of the following suggestions (some of which may be a bit off the wall) might help:*

- Justice in the magistrates courts must be more visible. Why cannot we webcam magistrates courts so that communities can see them operate? They should also be forced to web publish their court lists and the results. As in a number of US states, the victim and witnesses should be able to log on and see the progress of their case and, in the case of the victim, follow that through to the sentence and any subsequent enforcement. They should also be able to contact the case worker to get updates.*
- Strip out some of the procedures in the Magistrates courts. This will bring on the pains from some, but I think we have been playing at the reduction in bureaucracy in system. The really big hit is if we can reduce the amount of paper/information required to deal with volume cases, speed them up and seek to resolve them at the first hearing.*

• *Move as much outside the courts into **conditional cautioning, fixed penalty notices and restorative approaches as possible (21st Century Justice)** and give the local community as much involvement in this, the definition of priorities, involvement in the helping the police create and manage the conditions, information about the numbers and results, as possible. Give communities back as much control of their justice as possible - the Liverpool courts experiment is one way, the Chard Community Conditional cautioning pilot is another. And over the past year, the NPIA has set up from scratch a new grading structure, a new appraisal scheme, and a new reward system, run 356 training courses, **evaluated almost 300 posts, restructured and filled more than 700 posts**, recognised unions and set up a staff council, and gained IIP status. We have a significant agenda for improvement and are making real progress, thanks to the hard work of **our dedicated NPIA staff**.*

**The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). SOCA 's income and expenditure is approaching £500m/annum and it's pension liability is of the same order.** During 2008/09, SOCA will employ approximately **4,000 full-time equivalent staff**. These staff will operate from almost fifty sites in the UK, as well as forty overseas.

For the first time, the Home Secretary meets regularly with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Association of police Authorities (APA) to discuss policy at the National Policing Board.

## **New powers and tools**

Through legislation, the government has given the police new powers to tackle crime and terrorism, from Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) to extended powers in terrorist cases. Major new techniques and technologies have become widespread, including DNA testing, Automatic Number Plate Recognition, and the use of CCTV. New arrangements locally have strengthened the focus on the police working with other public agencies, on crime, justice and the management of dangerous offenders. And the police now have strengthened abilities to operate against criminal finances and money laundering, including the power to **seize criminal cash**.

**The PPP comments .... Nothing changes, they cannot help themselves. Without looking at the fine print we have a **£billion** worth of new quangos all messing about, meeting, producing Gigabytes of websites and massive reports, all stealing resources from REAL policing and national security, all jobs for the boys and girls many of whom are already supposed to be doing major jobs. Many so called independents are business owners probably with government related contracts. The Home secretary, of the moment, is even more **hands on**.**

**140,000 REAL police officers and **92,000 staff and others**, no wonder the Police federation is critical and rightly concerned about the civilianisation of our Police Forces. We are always asking where are ALL our police officers, we now ask what are all these staff members doing. We don't agree with PCSOs in principle but generally we know where they are. The results of the latest British Crime Survey (BCS), have a look at trends in violent crime table 2.04 ...at....<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107.pdf>**