

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP PUTS INTELLIGENCE AT THE HEART OF POLICING

"Effective public protection rests on information management services which help engage with the public and build up trust through enhancing police processes and promoting business change, according to Derbyshire Constabulary. The Force has used its innovative partnership with Northgate Public Services, a leading provider of innovative services to the public sector, to successfully deliver additional protection and support for vulnerable people over the past year, whilst streamlining its information provision and standardising its procedures." (From a recent News published in Geo:UK April/May issue). Ian Blackhurst, Managing Director of Public Safety at Northgate Public services, expands the message below.

"Effective public protection rests on information management services which help engage with the public and build up trust through enhancing police processes and promoting business change," according to Ian Blackhurst, Managing Director of Public Safety at Northgate Public Services, a leading provider of innovative services to the public sector.

"Intelligence is critical to effective operational policing", says Ian, "managing it effectively depends upon establishing and building relationships between the police and the community in local neighbourhoods, as well as having information systems which integrate intelligence with other

aspects of operational policing and the key objectives of the Force.”

Northgate, which works with every force in the country, has enjoyed a strong working relationship with Derbyshire Constabulary since 2006. It has been assisting it to provide a complete picture of crime and intelligence information held across the force. Derbyshire Constabulary has used its innovative partnership with Northgate Public Services to successfully deliver additional protection and support for vulnerable people over the past year, whilst streamlining its information provision and standardising its procedures. In a move which ensured compliance with the Management of Police Information (MOPI) guidelines, the Constabulary extended its work with Northgate to transform the management of public protection information using Northgate’s Guardian system, replacing its previous referral enquiry system in June 2008.

Diagram 1 Guardian - An integrated environment for the comprehensive management of operational policing information, placing an emphasis on the proactive support of police processes.



Northgate's Guardian System provides for the collection, recording, evaluation, sharing, reviewing, storing and disposal of information. It encompasses the management of intelligence, crime and disorder, public protection, arrest and case and custody. It provides police officers with a single inter-linked view of information from a number of key policing business areas. Information is managed flexibly around police processes to meet the requirements of individual forces as well as to meet national standards. Its unique public protection system provides for the recording and management of reports and referrals on such matters as hate crimes, child and domestic abuse and issues relating to vulnerable adults.

Assistant Chief Constable, at Derbyshire Constabulary, Peter Goodman explains:

"We are wholly committed to providing a high-quality policing service to everyone in Derbyshire. Our investment in public protection systems and people is critical to this. By minimising risk and promoting public engagement, we are reducing the serious crime that destroys the lives of individuals and costs the police millions to investigate."

Using Guardian, Derbyshire Constabulary has benefited from enhanced and strengthened risk assessment through the improved collection, linkage and evaluation of information on vulnerable individuals and their known associates, and the fact that the system proactively supports timely intervention directing activity where and when it is needed.

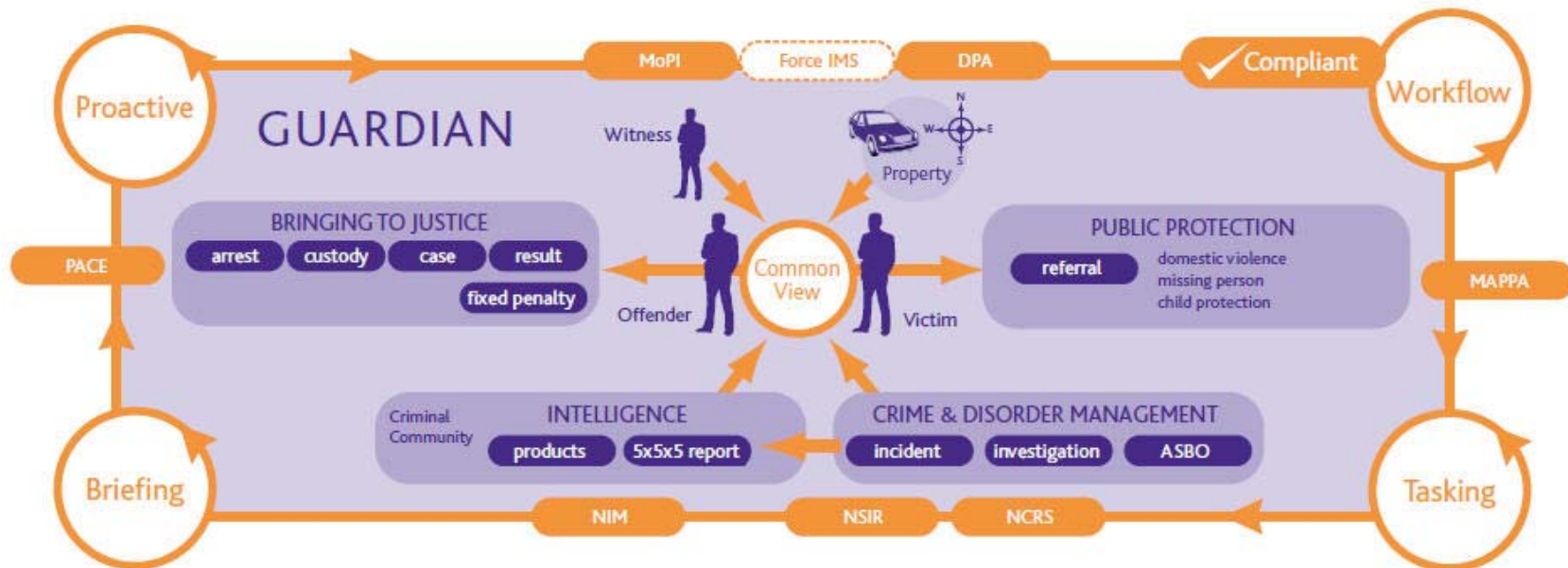
Assistant Chief Constable, Peter Goodman says:

"Innovation and change which focuses on a proactive approach to public protection gives the public greater peace of mind and provides more efficient and effective services."

Derbyshire Constabulary is certainly reaping in the benefits of its investment and the public are benefiting.

It is now able to provide specialist teams and partner agencies with accurate and joined-up information. A single view of an individual or a household and their involvement with the police leads to better management of risk and supports proactive intervention. It has improved its communications with its Neighbourhood Policing Teams - enabling them to be more aware of what is happening in their areas and helping them to evaluate current situations and required actions. There is increased visibility of victims and repeat offenders and greater security for front-line officers through the ability to warn officers about dangerous people in their area and those situations where sensitivity is paramount. The Force also benefits from improved performance information which supports the public requirement for improved visibility and accountability of police services in the UK.

Diagram 2 - Integrated justice with Guardian



Driving home its commitment to public protection, the Force recruited an additional fifty extra officers and staff to manage its public protection campaign and to address the needs of high risk public protection areas. Four public protection teams have been established – one in each division. These multi-skilled officers can use Guardian to help them deliver victim-led and offender-focused strategies, designed to reduce the risk of harm and serious crime through preventative action.

The benefits of partnership are recognised by both parties. According to Assistant Chief Constable Peter Goodman: “Our incremental partnership with Northgate is helping us in our battle to fight crime. It is built upon a joint commitment to promote transformation in our operations and business processes, and to build police services which put the needs of communities at their heart”.

Ian Blackhurst agrees:

“We are delighted that our work with Derbyshire Police is helping to achieve the service transformation public services need to rebuild public trust. Information is at the heart of effective, proactive and preventative policing. And people are key to delivering it. Our services have been designed to ensure that the police are fully engaged in their development. They are led by the day-to-day operational requirements of public safety organisations. It is this involvement that is integral to our success.”

Ian Blackhurst, Managing Director of Public Safety at Northgate Public Services. www.northgate-is.com