



Patrol & Visibility (Policy & Guidance)

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Publication Scheme Y/N	Can be published on Force Website
Department of Origin	Wirral Basic Command Unit
Policy Holder	Ch Supt Head of Wirral BCU
Author	Sgt – Operational Tasking Unit (Wirral)
Related Information	Standards & Values Policy
Date First Approved at FPG	27/02/2013
This Version	V1.0 – 16/01/2013
Date of Next Review	27/02/2016

January 2013



fighting crime
protecting communities

Policy

Statement

Merseyside Police recognises that patrol is one of its most important policing functions. Our ability to fight crime and protect communities at a local level is dependent upon having an effective and efficient patrol function.

We will patrol routinely in the right numbers and right locations at the right times according to given circumstances, with specific reference to the identified level of threat, harm and risk. In doing so we will always have due regard to the safety of the public, our officers and staff.

Single patrolling, whether mobile or on foot will be regarded as standard operating procedure. For safety reasons and maximum effectiveness it will sometimes be necessary or desirable to patrol in pairs (e.g. in high risk areas or during periods of raised threat or probationer constables during period of tutoring). The default position will be determined by local patrol plans but will predominantly be single patrolling. This should help ensure our available resources are used where they are needed most and to best possible effect.

Aims

The main aim of this policy is to ensure that officers and staff on patrol are deployed in a way that maximises police visibility and increases their availability to deal with demand as effectively as possible. It should enable Merseyside Police to better deter crime and provide an improved response to incidents. This should in turn have a positive impact on public confidence and reassurance.

The policy is underpinned by guidance designed to set out expectations and provide clear criteria for allocation of patrol resources.

Objectives

The overarching objective of this Policy is to maximise the number of resources available to the public at any one time and so increase their visibility and improve the quality of our response to incidents.

Some associated objectives are to:

- a) Keep the use of double crewing to a minimum and prevent officers or staff routinely patrolling in pairs
- b) Configure patrols to meet local demand and focus on local priorities according to the identified threat, harm and risk
- c) Apply dynamic risk assessments to protect the safety of our employees
- d) Increase the opportunity to engage with members of the public, make them feel safer and provide reassurance via the "Just Talk" approach

- e) Make best use of Automatic Resource Location System (ARLS)
- f) Introduce a mandatory period of foot patrol for new recruits
- g) Develop patrol patterns for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) that enable them to be deployed so their training and experience is used to best effect
- h) Help officers and staff promote the standards and values of the force in line with the 'Just Think' approach.
- i) Provide Value for Money

Application and Scope

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

This policy is intended predominantly to address the issues relating to uniformed Mobile, Foot and Cycle Patrols. It relates to patrols conducted by police officers, special constables and PCS&TOs operating from stations within their respective Basic Command Units (BCUs), but should, under normal circumstances, also be applied to those in non-uniform roles such as CID officers. It excludes crews for Armed Response Vehicles and other specialist roles including PRU, Dogs and Mounted. It also excludes the conveyance of detained persons.

The general principle is that officers will patrol as a single unit unless a threat and risk assessment indicates this is not appropriate to do so, taking account of the local patrol plan.

The Work Scheduling Unit will liaise with each BCU Resource Management Unit to produce a Resource Allocation Plan for patrol. These patrol plans will be subject to a dynamic threat and risk assessment before determining whether it is necessary for any officers or staff to patrol in pairs. The aim will be to make best use of all patrol resources at all times.

The Chief Officer Lead for this policy is the Assistant Chief Constable responsible for Operations.

Outcome Evaluation

Outcomes should reflect the specific objectives outlined above. Summary performance presentations will be scrutinised periodically at the bi-monthly strategic performance meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable. BCU Commanders should determine local arrangements to monitor compliance. This will include intervention of first and second line managers and regular dip sampling, supported by the standard quarterly inspection process.

Other considerations are:

- a) Relevant data from CIMS
- b) Reports of assault police /accredited persons
- c) Near miss reporting

- d) Comparative analysis of response grade 1,2 & 3 performance data
- e) Customer satisfaction data

It is expected that, in broad terms, compliance with this policy will expand our patrol and response capabilities and make police officers and PCS&TO's more visible in our communities. It should help ensure that patrol resources are deployed in the most intelligent way and that the balance between single and double crewing is appropriate to the prevailing circumstances. It will contribute towards improved performance, increased public confidence and satisfaction and will therefore help to further enhance the reputation of Merseyside Police.

Guidance

1. Uniform Patrol

1.1 Resource Allocation Plan

- 1.1.1 Each BCU must have a Resource Allocation Plan for patrol. This must be drawn up by the BCU Resource Manager with input from relevant stakeholders (e.g. Police Federation & Trade Union representatives) and be formally reviewed and approved by the BCU Command team annually.
- 1.1.2 The plan is intended to act as a model for allocating resources based on forecast demand regarding calls for service. It should help each BCU to design a “safe system of work” by setting optimum and minimum staffing levels.
- 1.1.3 The plan is not inflexible and Generic Risk Assessments (or where circumstances dictate, Dynamic Risk Assessments) should be overlaid to inform key decisions regarding deployment of resources that fall outside the Plan. Such decisions must be based on prevailing threat, harm and risk factors and should take into account local priorities and circumstances and be ‘policy’ recorded (preferably on the incident log) by the officer responsible for making the particular decision.

1.2 Default Position

- 1.2.1 The default position is to operate the minimum number of doubly crewed patrols in line with the Resource Allocation Plan and Risk Assessment. However, each BCU may exercise some discretion to vary this according to different factors (e.g. times of day/demand/demographic and risk level).
- 1.2.2 Any decision to vary should be taken by command teams as part of an annual review of the Resource Allocation Plan.
- 1.2.3 In the event of a major or Critical Incident the Duty CIM and / or the Duty Superintendent may apply a dynamic risk assessment to vary deployment of the available resources in any particular Area outside of the agreed Resource Allocation Plan.
- 1.2.4 Where possible, Patrol Teams should retain a balance of drivers and non-drivers. This should ensure that as many mobile patrols as possible are kept available to manage calls for service while foot patrols are used where needed to deal with necessary non-patrol functions including; persons in custody, constant observations and scene management etc.
- 1.2.5 All Uniform Patrol Officers, Neighbourhood Officers & PCS&TOs, and CID Officers must test call with Force Contact Centre (FCC) and provide details of their availability within 30 minutes of the beginning of each shift.

1.3 Non Drivers/Foot Patrol Officers

- 1.3.1 Foot patrol is recognised as an important factor in the development of essential skills and experience during an officer's probationary period. It is also a key element of the Just Talk Strategy and can have a positive impact on public confidence.
- 1.3.2 Supervisors and dispatch officers must always consider deploying foot/cycle officers to an incident as an available and realistic option if that resource is the most appropriate in the circumstances.
- 1.3.3 Where doubly crewed patrols exist and the passenger is a non-driver, the non-driver should take primacy for dealing with any arrests if circumstances permit. The main aim is to prioritise and allocate shared responsibilities in a way that frees the driver to deploy to another incident if necessary and thus maintain the capability of the Area to respond effectively to calls for service. This approach will also help the foot officer gain more experience. The decision as to how an incident is managed is for the officers at scene, taking into account the prevailing circumstances, legal obligations and the Force's Discretionary Framework and relevant Force Policy.
- 1.3.4 Wherever possible, Command Teams should examine the mix of available resources within the BCU and consider the use of cycle patrols. This should provide another deployment option that has the advantage of greater flexibility and mobility than foot patrols.

1.4 Probationer Constables/Student Officers

- 1.4.1 Probationer Constables should not be routinely posted to Neighbourhood Dedicated Teams throughout their first two years service, although it is accepted that a period working within a specific Neighbourhood will add the mix of skills and experience required to develop into an effective and efficient officer.
- 1.4.2 Probationer Officers should be exposed to as wide a range of varying scenarios and confrontational situations as possible to aid their development and build their confidence and experience. This may be better achieved by a sustained period as a foot patrol officer within a Patrol Team.
- 1.4.3 Officers should not normally be considered for cycle or driver training within their first 2 years of service.
- 1.4.4 Officers should be deployed predominately to foot patrol within their first 2 years of service with a mandatory minimum period of 12 months foot patrol within that probationary period which should be measured and monitored by the BCU Command.
- 1.4.5 Single foot patrolling should be the default position apart from periods when accompanied by a tutor constable or when a risk assessment dictates that single patrolling is inappropriate.

- 1.4.6 As a minimum position, Probationer Officers should patrol on foot between 07.00 hrs to 19.00hrs in areas of high footfall e.g. shopping areas, schools etc. They may also be used to target priority beats or specific issues on foot i.e. ASB, crime problems etc outside of these times.
- 1.4.7 1st and 2nd line managers must routinely visit officers engaged on foot patrol and those visits should be properly recorded via pocket notebook entries. The purpose of the visits is to ensure that officers are patrolling effectively on their designated beat and also to safeguard their welfare, provide advice and guidance and to aid in their development.
- 1.4.8 BCU Commanders should determine any other local arrangements needed to monitor compliance.

2. Neighbourhood Dedicated

2.1 Availability

- 2.1.1 All officers must test call and provide details of their availability within 30 minutes of the beginning of each shift.
- 2.1.2 Officers should be available for deployment on their beat if:
 - a) Patrol officers cannot meet demand and;
 - b) Force Contact Centre/CIM decides Neighbourhood is the most appropriate resource given the particular circumstances.

2.2 Double Crewing/Units

- 2.2.1 Dedicated officers should not be doubly crewed in vehicles or on foot patrol unless in an identified and documented high-risk area.
- 2.2.2 Every effort should be made to maximise the availability of Neighbourhood Officers. There should be no routine double crewing though it is understood there will be a need, at times, to transport colleagues to incidents or work locations for good reason.

2.3 Cycle Patrol

- 2.3.1 Cycle patrol should always be considered an option for effective patrolling depending on the relevant issues within the local community. Neighbourhood Supervision should determine when cycle patrol is the preferred option.
- 2.3.2 Officers should not normally be considered for a cycle course during their first 2 years of service.
- 2.3.3 Officers deployed on cycles must be competent and must wear appropriate uniform / equipment.

2.4 High Visibility

- 2.4.1 Neighbourhood officers must wear high visibility uniform whilst on foot patrol as part of their core function unless authorised as exempt by a Supervisor.

3. PCS&TOs

3.1 Risk Assessment

- 3.1.1 All deployments should be covered by Generic Risk Assessment or where circumstances dictate, be dynamically risk assessed by FCC staff to ensure the safety of the personnel involved. Where deployment is appropriate the principles endorsed by ACPO and outlined in the following paragraphs should apply.

3.2 ACPO Principles

- 3.2.1 PCS&TOs should be available for singly crewed foot or cycle patrol in full uniform. They should not patrol in vehicles and only patrol in pairs when deemed necessary to cover geographical areas of high risk.
- 3.2.2 All PCS&TOs must test call and provide details of their availability within 30 minutes of the beginning of each shift.
- 3.2.3 Whilst as a general rule PCS&TOs will not be deployed to calls for service, they should be considered by FCC staff, as deployable resources in appropriate circumstances to some incidents

for example:

- a) If grade 2 or 3 applies because of a designated “hotspot” by neighbourhood and this flags on STORM.
 - b) Grade 2 ASBs that are deemed suitable for officers with non-protective equipment.
 - c) Youths playing football in the street, YCA, neighbour disputes which are not ongoing at that time.
- 3.2.4 FCC personnel do not need permission from neighbourhood supervisors to deploy regardless of age of incident but it is good practice to consult with supervision prior to any deployment unless the nature of the incident is such that a delay would hinder its effective resolution.
- 3.2.5 PCS&TOs should be considered for deployment (if necessary by appointment through CSD) to attend and collect CCTV and make other initial enquiries such as obtaining MG11s (where appropriately trained) relating to an incident within their own neighbourhood.

4. CID

4.1 Availability

- 4.1.1 A proportion of CID officers within each BCU should be easily identifiable on DMS and regarded as available for deployment via radio rather than via office phone calls.
- 4.1.2 Nominated CID officers must test call and provide details of their availability within 30 minutes of the beginning of each shift. CID supervision will take responsibility for ensuring test calling, status updates and availability of CID officers for deployment.

4.2 Default Position

- 4.2.1 Whilst not all CID officers need to be deployable, consideration should be given by BCU Command to the determination of a minimum number of Detectives within the Area to be made available for general response incidents that are within CID's remit during any shift period.
- 4.2.2 CID Officers identified as being available for deployment during their tour of duty must test call with FCC at the start of their shift.

4.3 Role of CID Officers

- 4.3.1 The CID officers should be prepared to carry out an investigative function at scene including statement taking, door to door and seizure of items where appropriate (i.e. where demand dictates and when they are first at scene).
- 4.3.2 Activity should be conducted in line with the [Crime Allocation Policy](#).

4.4 Risk Assessment

- 4.4.1 If CID officers are attending addresses for any purpose; a dynamic risk assessment should be made to determine whether they need to be single or double crewed. However, in all cases, officers should be routinely informing FCC staff, via their handset, when they are at scene and clear. This applies, for safety reasons, even if they are following their own NICHE enquiries. CID Officers will carry an Airwave terminal whilst on duty.

5. Special Constabulary

5.1 Role

- 5.1.1 The role of the Special Constabulary is to support Merseyside Police in delivering against stated priorities and objectives. This can be achieved in a variety of ways including the patrol function. Special Constables will routinely patrol on foot and may patrol in vehicles alongside regular colleagues at the direction of Area Supervision and with the support of Special Constabulary Command and Supervision.
- 5.1.2 Special Constables must complete a designated period of training and operational deployment in company before achieving Independent Patrol Status (Level3)
- 5.1.3 Special Constables who have not achieved Level 3 will not be deployed as a single patrol unit and must be in company with a regular colleague or another Special Constable.
- 5.1.4 All Special Constables will test call within 30 minutes of the commencement of their tour of duty

5.2 Mobile Patrol

- 5.2.1 Specials will routinely patrol as foot patrol officers. A limited number of experienced Specials who have achieved Level 3 Status may be given the benefit of a limited driving authority that will enable them to transport colleagues to incidents or to priority beat areas or hotspots where they will then patrol on foot.
- 5.2.2 Special Constables will not be allocated a mobile patrol beat and will not routinely patrol in vehicles.

6. Force Contact Centre (FCC)

6.1 Mapping/ARLS

- 6.1.1 FCC should make best use of Maps/ARLS to strategically deploy patrols and monitor availability. This should increase efficiency by using the nearest patrols in the right areas to reduce travel time to incidents. An aim is to minimise risk to the public from police vehicles on emergency runs travelling from distance when there is closer alternative.

6.2 Beat Allocation

- 6.2.1 FCC must exercise control over deployment to ensure that the most appropriate resource available attends any particular incident. FCC must maintain the discipline to deploy within relevant allocated mobile patrol areas or allocated foot / cycle beats wherever possible to minimise the need for resources to travel excessive distances across a BCU area and to ensure the most effective response and efficient use of resources.

6.3 Dispatch

- 6.3.1 FCC staff should ensure that officer deployment matches demand for calls for service. This may involve increased deployment between 0700-1100hrs as analysis shows a reduction in deployment but not a reduction in incidents waiting to be serviced during this period.
- 6.3.2 FCC should manage all live logs in close liaison with BCU Commands to enable a standard and consistent approach. FCC staff should aim to minimise the number of STORM Logs downgraded from 2-3.
- 6.3.3 FCC staff should exercise control over the allocation of resources to any particular incident to avoid the situation where several unallocated and unnecessary resources attend. All incidents should be dynamically risk assessed and the right number of resources allocated at the outset. Patrols should not be allowed to self-deploy to incidents.