



Decision No 2015/25

REPORT TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

REPORT BY: IAN DICKINSON, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE OFFICER

DATE: 22 JULY 2015

TITLE: LANCASHIRE POLICE'S SPECIAL CONSTABULARY ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Appendix A refers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report provides the Police & Crime Commissioner with a summary of the work undertaken and the progress made by the Special Constabulary in the twelve months 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to consider the Lancashire Police's Special Constabulary Annual Report.

Decision taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire:

Original decision, as set out in the attached report, approved without amendment (please delete as appropriate)	YES	NO
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Original decision required to be amended and decision as detailed below:

The reasons for the amended decision are as detailed below:

Police and Crime Commissioner: Comments

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The PCC is asked to consider any personal / prejudicial interests he may have to disclose in relation to the matter under consideration in accordance with the law, the Nolan Principles and the Code of Conduct.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation.

Signed: *Clive Austin*

Police and Crime Commissioner

Date: *24th July 2015.*

Signed:

Chief Officer:

Date:



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

POLICE

SPECIALS

**Annual Report
2014 /15**



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Chief Constable's Foreword

Lancashire Constabulary is facing its biggest challenge in over 30 years. That challenge is to create a police force fit for the future, which is affordable within the financial constraints we find ourselves facing, and which delivers truly first class policing to all our communities. We need to find new and innovative ways to deliver policing services and the Special Constabulary will be integral to this as part of our Citizens in Policing programme over the next few years. Here in Lancashire we have really good quality people working as Specials, and their commitment and performance reflects that which we see in our regular officers. Collectively they volunteer for thousands of shifts and perform their duties in demanding, challenging and diverse environments - sometimes at very unsociable hours after they have finished in their 'day jobs'. Our Specials are an inspiration. They hold significant responsibility when they put on their uniforms, and demonstrate the utmost professionalism whilst performing their duties. I am sure this is a direct result of the positive approach that Lancashire Constabulary promotes to our wider policing family and beyond into our communities where our Special Officers live and work.

We are deliberate in our approach to using and deploying Specials, and this means that they are an integral part of neighbourhood policing, working alongside regular officers and Police Community Support Officers, as well as on independent patrol. The primary focus for Specials is on quality of life issues, including anti-social behaviour and the Community Alcohol Network approach, in partnership with Lancashire County Council Trading Standards and Social Services.

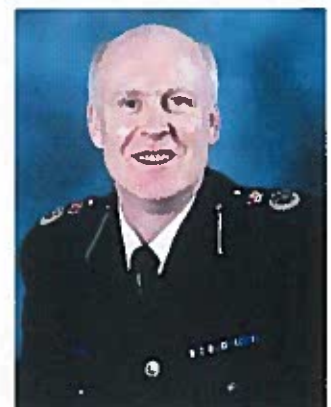
We continue to implement significant changes across the Constabulary in order to continuously improve whilst managing the financial challenges placed upon us. These changes are altering our structure - we have moved from six to three territorial divisions, from six to one contact management centre, we have reviewed our crime and HQ operations divisions and are moving our specialist operational resources back out to support everyday frontline policing.

We are now in a position to look to the future. We are working hard to shift the culture within the organisation embracing two main philosophies of quality and professionalism, focussing especially on well-being, encouraging greater staff engagement (through the likes of The Buzz) and we have adopted a leadership commitment. We are developing a 'systems thinking' approach to strip out unnecessary demand, as well as changing how we manage performance. The Special Constabulary will play a key role in the future of Lancashire Constabulary. They are public facing and professional and deliver great quality of service, for which we are well known.

Whilst obviously beneficial to the Constabulary and to communities, taking the plunge and becoming a Special Constable is a great step on the career ladder. Many of our Specials use the invaluable exposure and experience they gain to apply to join the regulars. Since 1st April 2014 25 Specials have been successful in their applications to become police officers; 50 others have become PCSO's or joined the Constabulary to work as police staff.

Quality and professionalism are important to us and we will continue to maintain standards by recruiting the best people from all communities to become Specials. I am delighted to present the 2014/15 Lancashire Constabulary Special Constabulary Annual Report and extend my thanks to all those working in the Special Constabulary and to those who continue to support them.

Steve Finnigan CBE QPM
Chief Constable



Police Commissioner's Introduction

I am very proud of the work of Lancashire Police's Special Constabulary. The role the volunteers play in helping their communities and the force are absolutely vital.

We currently have more than 400 Special Constables, but I have an ambition to increase the number to 650 by the end of 2016 so we can have a bigger and more efficient Special Constabulary. My aim is to totally integrate Specials, replicating the working conditions offered to regular officers. I want to ensure they feel as valued as their regular colleagues and I hope the root and branch review I commissioned will help us achieve this.

The priorities identified in the report include a professional push to ensure the appropriate divisional capacity of our volunteers, which will ensure that they are deemed 'safe and legal' and that they can be used as fully as possible.

We are also re-writing the roles of Special Constables, Sergeants and Inspectors to ensure clarity of purpose and a focus on pastoral care.

Special Constables in Lancashire are extremely hard-working volunteers who are a real asset to the force. Whenever I meet special officers on operation I never fail to be impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication. I am full of admiration for their ability to perform in the challenging and diverse circumstances they are asked to in a voluntary capacity, particularly as many of them also have demanding 'day' jobs away from the Constabulary.

I thank the Specials for their commitment and enthusiasm and wish them all the best.

Clive Grunshaw
Lancashire Police And Crime Commissioner



Chief Officer's Report.

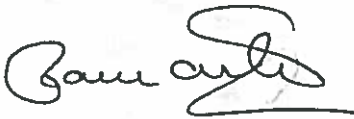
I am delighted to present the Special Constabulary Annual Report for 2014-15. Special Constables are unpaid Police Officers. We receive the same training as regular officers, we wear the same uniform, we carry the same equipment and we have exactly the same powers. We are unpaid Police Officers who are committed to supporting regular colleagues to police a population of 1.5 million residents and 50 million visitors a year.

Policing services are facing a period of fundamental change and the Special Constabulary continues to make a significant contribution in the delivery of a quality service. Our training really is of the very highest standard and the skills we develop are transferable.

The dedication and commitment of every officer has made a real contribution in helping to keep Lancashire safe and maintaining our reputation as one of the top performing forces in the country.

I do hope that you enjoy reading through some of the great work that we have undertaken this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank every single Special Constabulary colleague for their personal contribution. If you are reading this report and you feel that you or a family member or friend would like to join us, then please do contact us for further information. You will find our contact details on the rear cover. We would be delighted to hear from you.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Deputy Chief Officer Peter Allen for putting this report together for us and to everyone who contributed to its production.



Paul Airlie
Chief Officer



Recruitment

The Constabulary commitment is to fund the appointment of 650 Special Constables in Lancashire. With just less than 400 serving Specials at the end of 2014/15 the need for a sustained recruitment programme has been paramount.

To achieve this ambitious growth, recruitment procedures have been overhauled. In addition to the many local careers talks, coaching sessions and recruitment events, our HQ recruitment team hosted two force-wide recruitment events at Police HQ in March 2015. Supported by local press and social media coverage this resulted in over 300 applications being received that are now being processed for the July and October 2015 intakes. The number of officers that will be processed per intake is being increased from 48 to 70. Four standard intakes will be held each year, one per quarter. In addition Lancashire Constabulary continues to support our partner UCLan, whose Foundation Degree in Policing students undertake an intensive period of training prior to their 10 week assignments.

HQ Training Department is increasing the number of Special Constabulary trainers to support the larger intakes. Probationary training is being overhauled with initial pre-reads, so students' time at training weekends will concentrate more on practical aspects of training and role plays.

An updated recruitment video has been commissioned. This can be viewed via our Twitter site and is used to support HQ and local recruitment events.

Additional publicity has been sought to highlight the work of the Special Constabulary in Lancashire. The Chief Officer Paul Airlie was interviewed on several radio shows and the night of action in Blackpool was covered extensively by Radio Wave.

Photographs from HQ recruitment evenings



Local recruitment events



Headquarters SC Training Report, 2014-15.

The HQ SC training team's vision and ambition is to ensure that all Special Constables receive a quality, corporate, probationary and development training programme that provides officers with the necessary skills, competencies and opportunities to enable them to safely and confidently deliver policing in our local communities.

In 2014 /15

- **41** weekends of training delivered, whereby Hutton Hall was operational and functioning as a training venue for our Special Constables
- **108** training courses delivered
- **1457** training places taken by Special Constables on these courses

Observations of note for the year.

- **144** Special Constables have undertaken corporate training of which 39 were from the UCLan Foundation Degree programme partnership.
- **66** Special Constables have achieved Independent Patrol Status (IPS), also called 'safe and legal', with the average time to complete probationary training being 18 months.
- The HQ SC training team has won the '**Lancashire Team of the Year**' 2014 accolade and Special Inspector Jonathan Norris was awarded a Chief Constable's Commendation for his commitment and dedication to training.
- SC leadership training attended by North Yorkshire officers
- **L&D training and wellbeing newsletters** have been introduced to support student officer development.
- 39 UCLan Special Constables engaged on a 10 week tutored / coached phase.
- A harmonised SC training programme for Cumbria and Lancashire is near completion with a new onus on distance learning via pre-reads. This is an interim measure pending a new e-training solution for April 2016.
- Engagement with local communities through **social media**. An intake's progress was shared on **Facebook** with the use of supporting pictures and videos. Various profiles hit near 30,000 hits whilst videos were viewed on over 9000 separate occasions.
- Providing more opportunities and flexibility for training and development **four new Special Sergeants and two new Special Inspectors** have been appointed. This will allow us to build upon our successes and focus upon student progression throughout the new financial year 2015-16.
- Relocated to number 9 Hutton Hall Avenue to provide increased accommodation for the expanded training team.



2014 /15 Intakes—Attestation Ceremonies

June 22, 2014



July 5, 2014. UCLan

September 21, 2014



December 14, 2014

March 9, 2015



Facts and Figures, 2014 / 15

Headcount	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Recruited, all	158	144
Headcount	471	368
West	112	95
South	201	155
East	151	111
HQ	7	7

Breakdown by grade

Special Constable (includes STC's)	395	301
Special Sergeant (includes Acting)	53	47
Special Inspector (includes Acting)	21	18
Deputy Chief Officer	1	1
Chief Officer	1	1
Total	471	368
Of whom, probationers	288 (61%)	224 (61%)

Duties and Hours, 2014/15

Total hours	122,434
Duties	19,462
Public-facing hours	79,982
Duties	10,349

Average hours worked

Per Special / week	5.3
Per Special / year	275
Training hours as % of total	27.5%

2014 / 15 resignations

To PCSO - Lancashire	57
To PCSO - other forces	1
To Regulars - Lancashire	27
To Regulars - other forces	24
Transfer to Specials - other forces	2
Joined armed services	2

BCU Report - West Division

There are 95 Special Constables based in West Division, which covers the boroughs of Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster. There are three main operating centres at Blackpool, Fleetwood and Lancaster. The West Specials Team has developed in strength with a number of promotions and some officers undertaking acting supervisors roles.

In addition to their NHP duties, officers have policed a significant number of major events in the division, the more notable ones being Blackpool PRIDE Weekend, Lytham Proms, Bispham Gala, Fleetwood Tram Sunday, Several Club Days, 1940's weekend, Blackpool Air show, Blackpool International Fireworks displays, Morecambe Carnival, Vale of Lune Music Festival, Remembrance Sunday and a Punk Rebellion. In total across the division the officers covered approximately 80 events over the year, on many occasions they have been the sole police presence.

Special officers are being deployed more effectively, aligning to divisional policing priorities. Specials support both local Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Operational Response Teams and specialist departments such as Licensing, Roads Policing Unit, cycle teams in Blackpool and Lancaster, and a Prisoner Escort Team. Our Specials have been involved in many divisional and local operations.

Lancaster and Morecambe have a cycle team of 10 officers who are up and running, thanks to funding by Lancashire County Council. Training will shortly be available for officers in the Wyre, via a Lancaster PC who will be able to provide the necessary training in house.

The team at Fleetwood continues to grow and develop and in January we welcomed acting Special Inspector Sean Johnson into his new role. Sean has been part of the Fleetwood team since he joined the Special Constabulary in April 2013 and is looking forward to leading his team in supporting policing in the local communities. Congratulations on your appointment Sean.

The Fleetwood team now totals 10 officers, four of these are trained to independent level which means that they can focus on supporting the NHP teams on a weekly basis, offering Specials led ASB patrols in the area. The team also provide support for Nightsafe policing and look to develop the links between response teams and the Specials as part of their continuing development.

50 officers have left the West Special Constabulary in the past year, nine have joined other forces, five have joined Lancashire and 10 have become PCSOs. The balance left for other reasons. A number of officers will be joining Lancashire Constabulary as regulars in the April and July 2015 intakes.

Special Constables and the Divisional Coordinators have supported recruitment events at various venues including Lancaster University and Blackpool Football Club.



West Division, Great Policing Work

Special Inspector Mark Robinson was involved in the arrest of a male in Blackpool for an horrific double murder in West Yorkshire. His keen observations located the suspect in Blackpool Town Centre and he assisted in the subsequent arrest.

Acting Special Sergeant Thomas Malley attended the tragic scene of the drowning of a young girl at a St Anne's hotel. He conducted enquiries and obtained evidence at the scene. His good work was commended by the duty Detective Inspector.

Special Constables in the north of the division undertake frequent reassurance patrols along the length of the Lancaster to Morecambe cycle track, addressing antisocial behaviour issues and providing a high visibility presence.



As part of the Citizens In Policing programme, a Specials team led by acting Special Sergeant Rob Wade provided presentations to local cub, scout and beaver groups. The feedback from scout leaders has been tremendous. Here we see a presentation to the 13th / 16th Waterloo Beavers supporting a Citizens in Policing initiative.



A number of West Division's Special Constables were recognised for their service or received Divisional Commanders Certificates at the Divisional Commanders awards evening in December 2014. Congratulations to all officers who received awards, certificates and commendations, you are a credit to the division. Here we see award recipients accompanied by Special Inspector Sonya Boden.



During November 14 West Division officers led by Dave Barnes, Specials and Volunteers Coordinator, visited BAe's aircraft manufacturing facility at Warton on a team building day. The officers who attended found it to be both rewarding and informative and each were allowed to experience a 'flight' in a simulator.



BCU Report - East Division

East BCU covers the boroughs of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale. During the year our officers in East Division had continued success with dedicated Operations, these included:

Operation CAN (Community Alcohol Network)

The Burnley based Community Alcohol Network has performed 51 operations which involved 463 individual officer duties totalling 3547 hours. The financial value of this intelligence led, community focussed, safeguarding activity is estimated to be over £100,000

The team seized 495 litres of beer/cider and 57 litres of spirits from under-18s. They referred 197 to the Early Action Team, took 49 home to their parents, and handed 186 to their parents at the place they were found to be at risk. 47 people were arrested, 14 issued cannabis warnings, 71 issued PNDs/FPNs and two were issued with directions to leave. 262 visits were made to licensed premises to offer advice and support. Over 6,800 under-18s were positively engaged by the team.

Operation Voyager

This was a traffic based Operation run entirely by Special Constables designed to target travelling criminals. A total of 39 officers worked throughout the operation of which 31 were Special Constables. Using a mobile ANPR van located on Market Street, Whitworth near the checkpoint, just under 1000 vehicles were scanned throughout the evening with 10 'hits' for various offences ranging from no insurance to no road tax. Throughout the evening, across four check points, officers stopped and engaged with the occupants of 553 vehicles with the following results:

- 18 VDRS (vehicle defect rectification scheme) notices were issued
- HORT10 (producer) - 23 issued
- Traffic offence report non-endorsable - four issued for lighting offences
- Traffic offence report endorsable - three, all for no insurance
- Driving without due care and attention - two motorists reported
- Vehicle Searches - four
- Person searches - 12
- Youth Referrals - two
- Breath test procedures completed - 17 (all negative)
- Possession of cannabis (warning) - three
- Section 59 Warning - one
- Vehicle Seizure (no insurance) - two

During the course of Operation Voyager officers were approached by members of the public who were very supportive and pleased that we were engaging with vehicles and local residents.

Overall the operation was a great success with some fantastic results. Thanks again to everyone who assisted!



Ribble Valley, Nelson and Colne areas.

The restructure of our Specials supervision in 2014 resulted in the appointment of an additional Special Inspector for "Far East of East" in our Division. Whilst this increased the supervision cover we sadly lost the services of stalwart Special Sergeant Mandy Pickles who has secured a full time role with the regulars in Yorkshire. Mandy was a fabulous asset to our team and we all wish her well with her new career.

The commencement of operations under the SCART programme has enabled us to run a number of ASB operations at weekends in the Colne and Nelson areas. Links have been made with the officers from the neighbourhood teams which we intend to build on going forward. The Colne and West Craven policing team have established a popular Facebook page that has become well known locally for its witty and open portrayal of police activity in the area. Many initiatives, incidents and operations involving local Specials have been highlighted in the regular posts by Sgt Kim De Curtis and PC Nigel Keats.

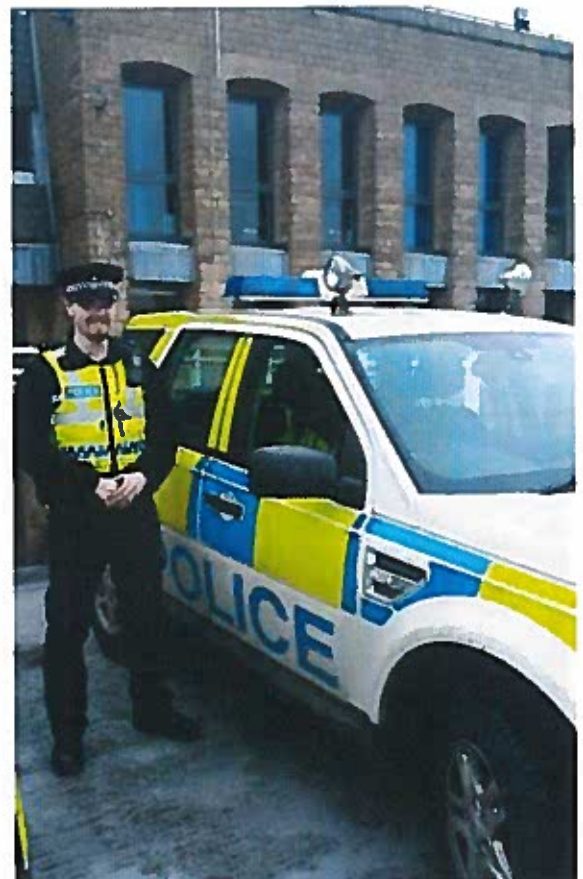
In the Ribble Valley there have been a number of areas where the Special Constabulary has made a regular contribution. The CANSAFE operations continue to run at regular intervals with Specials making up 95% of the officers deployed. The figures below give an idea of the results gained. One aspect that cannot be shown in figures is the gratitude and appreciation often shown by parents and guardians when vulnerable children are returned home, feedback from officers often demonstrates the rewarding experience of these operations.

Also in the Ribble Valley Specials have been involved in working with the Neighbourhood team to combat rural crime and wildlife persecution. Some of this work has involved working in partnership with South Division's Specials and rangers from Lancashire County Council. Over the winter several operations have been run with officers from South Division. These DETER operations at Beacon Fell Country Park are to combat drug misuse in the area.

We joined with Specials from Ribble Valley joining in operation FIRECREST which targets crimes such as farm machinery theft, poaching and associated rural crimes.

In 2014 / 15 There were three SCART operations in Nelson and Cone on weekend evenings during the winter with seven officers taking part. In Ribble Valley there were eight CANSAFE operations with involvement of over 65 officers and there were eight Ribble Valley CAN/SCART operations with involvement from 22 officers

In addition specials helped at a number of events including Remembrance parades, Longridge Field Day and a Boxing Day charity event. Six Specials took part in a Colne drugs dog operation to target use and distribution of controlled drugs in local pubs and clubs.



Blackburn With Darwen

The last 12 months have been a period of change for Blackburn Special Constables. The year has seen many of our Specials progressing their careers to join Lancashire as regular officers or as a PSCO. This goes to prove that the training and experience gained whilst being a Special Constable can help you progress within the police family.

This year saw Special Inspector Simon Wilkinson step down and retire from his role in the Special Constabulary after serving 20 years. Special Inspector Mark Harding has now taken over the reins and is continuing the good work within the community. The year has seen a shift in focus for the officers. Special Constables are playing a key role in supporting regular officers out in our communities. We also have officers working closely with Neighbourhood teams and have supported a few large scale operations offering a high profile police presence at events like concerts and events.

Officers have been involved with policing traditionally busy periods such as Christmas, providing professional and supportive policing to the public celebrating during this time. The officers at Blackburn have displayed the highest levels of professionalism and adaptability with their willingness to accept and embrace change. The future for the officers in Blackburn and Darwen is exciting with more opportunities to engage and serve our communities and we look forward to this.



HYNDBURN

2014 has seen some great work in Hyndburn and as an integral part of East Division we look forward to the new challenges that 2015 will bring to us. We will be working closely with our regular colleagues to support frontline services and ensure that the best possible services continue to be delivered to members of our community.

Accrington town centre was assisted by dedicated Special Constables supporting the Nightsafe haven at key dates throughout 2014. This high visibility operation worked in conjunction with one of our partners, St John's Ambulance Volunteer Service to ensure the safety and security of those in the town centre. The hub operated from a floodlit van, offering free water, medical assistance and help for those who were in need of additional support and safeguarding in the town centre. Licensed premises visits were a fundamental aspect of the operation and enabled us to foster great relationships with our partners in the licensed premises trade and ensure that any trouble experienced was co-ordinated and dealt with efficiently and effectively with the least possible impact.



The operation provided high visibility reassurance to taxi drivers and door staff and provided great engagement opportunities with members of the public. The feedback received from the public was overwhelmingly positive and the operation allowed a number of people to be treated in the town centre, taking some vital pressure off the medical emergency service in times of exceptionally high demand.

We continue to support the Community Alcohol Network (CAN) and CANSafe Operations that operate regularly in the area of Hyndburn. Our CANSafe Operations work with a number of our partners such as support workers who offer expert advice and early intervention to those most vulnerable who are under 18 years of age. As part of these Special-led operations, 149 cars were deployed in 2014, 97 youth referrals were issued, 85 licence visits conducted, 350 logs attended, 144 alcohol containers seized and 9696 young people engaged.

In October 2014 a number of Special Constables were instrumental in assisting with a double fatal road traffic collision that occurred in Accrington. This illustrates the great proactive work achieved by the Special Constables in Hyndburn in safe-guarding, engagement and in supporting our local community.



A number of new officers have joined the Hyndburn Special Constabulary team since the beginning of 2014 and a number of successful officers have also left to become PCSOs and regular Police Officers. This is a great achievement for our Special Constables and reflects the quality and dedication that our Special Constables demonstrate.

The latter end of 2014 saw a change in supervision at Hyndburn and the success of this new team and the great officers who work here has resulted in five 'Safe and Legal' officers completing their PDPs in the past three months. This is credit to all those who work here and hopefully this figure will continue to grow as we progress throughout 2015.

Recruitment and Career Progression

East Division held numerous recruitment events during the year. At these a total of 80 people were registered to become Special Constables, this from an attendees list of 118 people.

These events are part of a rolling programme with the next event to be held at Greenbank Police Station. Typically events attract up to 50 attendees, and as a result we are able to identify promising candidates to whom support with their applications can be given.

East has a target of over 200 places for Specials. At the end of 2014 / 15 there were 93 officers in post.

Six Special Constables from East became Police Officers in Lancashire with a further five being accepted into other forces. 19 Specials were successful in their applications to become full time PCSOs and an further three have become Part-Time PCSOs. In total 33 of our Specials have advanced their careers into other policing roles. Further Specials will be leaving the division to join Lancashire Constabulary as regulars in the April and July 2015 intakes.

Awards.

At the end of November 2014 an award ceremony was held at Greenbank Police Station where 21 Special Constables received awards for the length of service they have contributed to the Special Constabulary. They were awarded three, five and ten year service lapel badges.



BCU Report - South Division

During 2014 we saw the number of divisions in Lancashire Constabulary reduce from six to three. This brought together the Specials at Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire into one unit. Each area has different policing needs, ranging from the demands of Preston's city centre and its large night-time economy, to the market towns of Chorley, Leyland and Ormskirk. West Lancashire has seen its police presence expanded and Skelmersdale has become the second major operating centre in the division.

There are 155 Specials located around the division and they currently operate out of five police stations. In total the division's Specials contributed 50,784 hours of policing. The local breakdown is as follows:

Chorley and Leyland	15,430
Preston	24,996
Skelmersdale and Ormskirk	9,356
Total	50,782

Awards

Two of the top Specials awards during 2014 were awarded to South Division. These were the Specials Inspirational Team leader Award which was won by S/Insp. Sam Jackson of Preston and the Special of the Year Award went to Jess Martin from West Lancashire.

Preston

Preston has the largest single group of Specials based at any police station in the county. At Preston the Special Constables have completed a wide range of operational duties such as taxi licensing, private hire 'plying' operations detecting drivers who flout the Taxi Licensing Act by collecting passengers on the street without a pre booking. Officers have flagged down drivers who have then been successfully prosecuted.

In conjunction with Trading Standards Officers, our officers have obtained and executed warrants targeting those concerned in the supply of counterfeit tobacco supplies. With £11,000 seized under the Proceeds Of Crime Act (POCA) and the offenders reported for offences at court. Specials have worked alongside UK Border Agency Staff to ascertain 'sham marriages' and over stayers to the UK with arrests made for immigration offences. They have participated in test purchase operations targeting underage alcohol sales from retail premises with eight premise license reviews, prosecutions and revocation of liquor licences.

RASC Operation – Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign / Licensed Premise Operations. Officers carried out covert observations on licensed premises to ascertain poor management, overindulgence and underage sales of alcohol along with illicit substance use. This resulted in a premise licence review and reduced trading hours.

In conjunction with Neighbourhood officers, carried out reassurance patrols after the tragic and fatal stabbing of a young male in Preston, officers volunteered at short notice to work in the immediate area in the aftermath of the fatality to provide reassurance to those living and visiting the affected area.



Preston Operations

Numerous ASB operations where officers targeted ASB hotspots as well as key ASB nominals, preventing and intervening with ASB issues which were blighting the community. Working on these ASB operations to obtain the evidence to be used in court to obtain ASBO orders and gang injunctions. Officers have continuously worked on Operation Zero where they have targeted street sex workers and kerb crawlers.

Operation Change – in conjunction with NHPT officers interacting and targeting of vagrancy issues; signposting of those in need to other agencies for assistance and advice.

An SC officer was responsible for observing the movements of an intoxicated driver; giving commentary and location information to allow a traffic officer to safely intercept and arrest the driver.

There have been many and varied local events each assisted by our able and willing officers to include Hoghton Tower Symphony with over 5,000 members of the public in attendance. An event that presented a particular challenge with traffic management and incidents of alcohol overindulgence dealt with in a swift professional manner with minimal impact to the event.

Mischief night, Halloween and Bright sparks events, Remembrance Day parades, along with the World War One Commemorations to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Great War to name but a few.

Finally officers have worked tirelessly to provide support to our regular colleagues on the night-time economy of Preston through Operation Nightsafe.

Operation Nightsafe

Part of the success for our Special Constables providing consistent and regular support to our regular colleagues for Operation Nightsafe is the new SLA agreement that was drafted and then proposed to the Special Constables. The Nightsafe SLA agreement requires our Special Constables to work one Saturday Nightsafe per quarter. In return officers who work these operations are provided with valuable operational opportunities, which have and continue to support their development as a police officer with Lancashire Constabulary.

In Preston we are constantly looking to develop and support our officers and like the other divisions, our key goal is to reduce the number of non-independent officers. We have now run a development initiative where non-independent officers are given regular Sergeant and Special Sergeant mentors who give support with personal development. Opportunities include working with Tutor Constables, working with key departments as well as particular operations which help develop the skills required to become competent. Such support has started to show a positive drive in officer development.

We have also seen a number of officer's move on from the ranks of the Special Constabulary to start a new career within Lancashire Constabulary or other police forces within the country. We are absolutely certain that the experiences that they have gained from Preston will be taken with them in whatever role they undertake in their new career. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best in their new careers.



South Ribble and Chorley.

The focus for Specials based at Leyland has been working with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams at both Leyland and Bamber Bridge, carrying out many anti-social behaviour duties across South Ribble.

The end of this year has seen the retirement of one of our long serving Specials. Acting Special Sergeant Roy Middleton has retired and immediately transferred to becoming a Police Support Volunteer. He is continuing with his association with the Community Road Watch team and some of our serving Specials will continue to work alongside Roy on these operations.

The close of the year also sees the transfer of acting Special Inspector Keith Armstrong who is moving to Headquarters to take up a training role with another two members of the team from Leyland. One of Keith's trusted acting Special Sergeants James Cole is also leaving us but will be changing one uniform for another when he joins the Parachute Regiment in April. We wish James well in his new career.

Like other areas Leyland's Specials have been involved in local issues and events including Remembrance Sunday parades, Operation Bright Sparx, Leyland Police Station Open Day, and they have been actively involved with the Community Alcohol Network Scheme which focussed on underage drinking and child vulnerability through drink.

The strength of officers at Chorley is currently 35, a decrease of 11 since April 2014. Over the last year seven of Chorley's Special Constables have been successful in gaining employment as PCSOs within Lancashire while a further six have joined the regulars (One within Lancashire and the rest with other forces). Currently 10 specials are competent having passed their probation and 16 officers have passed an A-B driving test.

Once again it's been a busy year within the borough with Specials assisting with a range of operations and events. June and July provided an excellent opportunity to engage with local communities through the church walking days within Chorley and numerous other villages including Eccleston, Bretherton, Charnock Richard, Mawdesley and Coppull. The borough also saw the hosting of two carnivals, in Chorley town centre and at Adlington.

Other events policed with the assistance of Specials included Rivington on Good Friday (where many thousands of people take part in the local tradition to walk up to Rivington Pike); Croston Coffee Day; Hoghton Tower Symphony and the Chorley Christmas Lights switch-on. In addition, the nine annual Remembrance Sunday parades were supported across the borough with the added significance of the 100 year anniversary since the start of the Great War seeing much larger public attendances than usual.

In addition to the wide range of annual events, Specials have supported operations ranging from initiatives to tackle cross-border crime to the annual Bright-Sparx campaign around Bonfire Night. Assistance has also been provided to regulars on Operation Nightsafe and to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams executing a range of warrants. All these events and operations have been supported in addition to the regular shifts of routine policing, which have all contributed to the total of nearly 10,500 hours contributed over the last 12 months by the Chorley Specials.



West Lancashire

West Lancashire officers are based at Ormskirk and Skelmersdale police stations. At present West Lancashire has 32 Special Constables with 10 officers having completed their probationary period. These Special Constables support regular colleagues covering a wide variety of policing tasks and operations.

Together with Neighbourhood Policing Teams they supported a large rural crime operation focusing on continuing poaching issues in the rural southern parish area which has yielded some great results. To provide further support to the more rural parts of the area, Specials conducted wide spread ASB patrols focussing on Tarleton, Hesketh Bank and Burscough.

Specials have assisted in various community engagement tasks such as the highly successful open day at Ormskirk Police Station, Westhead carnival and various recruitment events across the division promoting the work of the Special Constabulary and encouraging others to join us. Continued support was evident at the large scale yearly event Motorfest in Ormskirk.

As the year has progressed, West Lancashire Specials have provided a large amount of support for various large scale operations including resilience for the annual Fresher's Week operation in Ormskirk. This allowed the operation to carry on until the early hours and ensured any ASB issues were quickly addressed as well as providing a welcome reassurance to the hundreds of new students in the area.

A Bright Sparx multi-agency operation was supported by the Specials in the run up to the Halloween / Bonfire Night period. Remembrance Sunday saw large demand for the provision of support in traffic management and road closures which allowed parades to take place in all the towns and villages locally.

Assistance was also provided with the Christmas Drink-Drive campaign; the annual walk of witness ceremony in Ormskirk; continuation of the work with local CBM on Op SSHH sometimes with the Specials being called upon, at short notice, to run this operation.

West Lancashire officers at Motorfest



West Lancashire officers at Ormskirk police station open day



Lancashire Constabulary HQ Open Days, Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September 2104.

22 Special Constables performed duties on the Saturday and 32 performed duties on the Sunday of the successful HQ "Behind the Badge" Open Days held in September. Duties ranged from "Meet and Greet" at the car park at Farington, and security and welcome at HQ. Specials safely oversaw visitors on and off the fleet of 30 buses used to transport visitors to and from Headquarters. The events were a great success and further ones are being planned for 2015.



UCLan - Foundation Degree in Policing

January 2015 saw the attestation of an intake into the regulars comprising exclusively of 19 former UCLan Foundation Degree in Policing students.

Warrant cards were issued at the ceremony, which came after Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw and Chief Constable Steve Finnigan opened up external recruitment for brand new PCs last year.

The Commissioner said: "It has been several years since Lancashire Constabulary was able to open up recruitment externally, and the demand the force received from people wanting to join was phenomenal.

The new recruits undertook a three-week "bridging" course, and after that they will spend 10 weeks working with a Tutor Constable before being assessed and signed off for independent patrol.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Bates said: "The Constabulary looks forward to welcoming this intake of new recruits. They are a vital part of policing our communities going forward and will be deployed to areas of greatest risk and threat throughout the county.

The two-year Foundation Degree gives students an introduction to policing, and provides training as a Special Constable.

Developed in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary, the degree now also involves several other police forces. Students gain all the necessary knowledge, practical, vocational and key skills to meet the requirements of the police service.

Training covers the equivalent of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme which all new police recruits have to complete.

Students complete the degree with a 10-week work placement in a police division undertaking full shifts alongside regular officers who assess each student's 'fitness' to patrol independently.



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Chief Superintendent's Commendation— Special Sergeant Adam Eeles, South Division

Special Sergeant Adam Eeles is based at Skelmersdale. He works in Warrington for an estate agent. On Monday 13 October 2014 as he was driving home from work at approximately 5.20 pm, Adam spotted something that appeared unusual.

A female in her 50's was tying her dog to the Cantilever Bridge in Warrington. Adam recognised the need to act decisively. He immediately stopped his car and made towards the lady. By the time he reached her she had positioned herself on the wrong side of the railings on the bridge. It was quite apparent to Adam that her intention was to jump from the bridge, so he grasped hold of her and fought all her efforts to become released.

Adam continued to cling to the lady and was later joined in this task by an off duty civilian staff member of Cheshire Constabulary. Together they both clung to the female through the railings preventing her from falling. Other members of the public also assisted controlling traffic until officers arrived. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service attended and secured the female to the railings before removing her from danger using their 'Rope Extraction Team'. Adam remained at the location until the female was safe and was in the care of paramedics.

There is no doubt that if Adam had not acted so promptly and shown considerable bravery the outcome would have been tragic. Through much of the incident Adam ignored the great risks to himself. It is recognized that thanks to Adam's initial action and his determination to hold onto the female undoubtedly saved her life.

The Chief Constable Of Cheshire, Mr. Simon Byrne met with Adam to personally thank him for acting so promptly and decisively. Adam has also had a personal meeting with Chief Superintendent Lee, Divisional Commander for South Division.

It is with great pride that we acknowledge Special Sergeant Adam Eeles brave actions and he was awarded a Divisional Commanders Commendation for his actions.



Blackpool Night Of Action

One Friday night in October 2014 a team of Special Constables policed Blackpool town centre and other areas of the Fylde on their own, whilst the regular officers covered other parts of the seaside town. For the 32 volunteers, it was a chance to run their own operation as thousands of holidaymakers packed into the resort on a cold and rainy Friday night. The Specials were on foot patrol in the town centre between 7pm and 1am and responded to a number of incidents, whilst their regular officers worked their tour of duty in the surrounding areas.

Some of the Specials also swapped their home beats of east and south Lancashire to join their colleagues for the evening exercise on the west coast of the county. The purpose of the exercise was to highlight the important work our Special Constables perform in support of an extensive recruiting campaign that was being held at the time.

The Specials were given a full briefing at Blackpool police station. 20 were deployed to Blackpool town centre and tasked to undertake licensing visits, high visibility reassurance patrol and police the town centre. All regulars were freed up to concentrate upon other priorities. 12 officers were deployed in a police carrier to do licensing visits and patrol St Annes, Lytham, Kirkham and Poulton, some of this on foot patrol.

Inspector James Martin from Blackpool police said: "Policing Blackpool town centre on a busy Friday night can be a real challenge for our officers and one that our Special Constables are more than capable of taking on. "We routinely deal with multiple incidents on a typical Friday night, the majority of which are linked to alcohol. It can be a huge drain on our resources so by utilising our Special Constables in this way it allowed us to free up our regular officers to attend other incidents such as domestic assaults and burglaries."



Special Sergeant 9186 Roy Middleton Retires after 20 Years Service

SC Roy Middleton joined Lancashire Special Constabulary in March 1995. He was initially based at Penwortham supporting the local policing team. This included duties at numerous events and processions, many of which were policed entirely by Specials or working with individual "village bobbies". Roy was the Section Officer (Special Sergeant) at Penwortham between 1997 and 2001.

Following a reorganisation Roy then moved to Bamber Bridge, where he developed an interest in traffic duties. Roy began to specialise in road traffic policing and was given extensive training by supportive traffic officers. One of these officers nominated Roy for the Special Constable of the Year award, which he received in 2009.

Roy's knowledge of traffic issues resulted in his transfer in 2009 to the Chorley Road Policing Unit (RPU), proving that competent Specials can be utilised for many 'types' of police work. In 2011 he was appointed as an acting Special Sergeant as the team of Specials assigned to the RPU team expanded. Roy continued to oversee Specials who needed to complete traffic tasks as part of their probationers development plan.

Roy supported many neighbourhood policing teams by addressing local concerns related to traffic issues. Raised at local PACT meetings. Roy became authorised to seize vehicles which extended his versatility. He was also trained to utilise the ANPR equipped van and supported many traffic operations. More recently Roy organised Community Roadwatch Operations across South Division. He was also trained to assess CRW and school-watch sites to ensure operations could be run safely. The success of the CRW team Roy led was recognised when the team received the Constabulary Volunteer Team of the Year Award .

Roy retired from the Specials in March 2015, but was immediately appointed as a Community Roadwatch Volunteer. He continues to organise and participate in CRW activities. Roy's service was recognised at the Constabulary Long Service Awards Ceremony in March 2015 where the Chief Constable awarded him with a bar to his long service medal and acknowledged his service. Roy also received a Certificate of Thanks.

Thank-you Roy for your loyal and faithful support .

Penwortham Specials team, late 1990's
Roy is on the extreme left

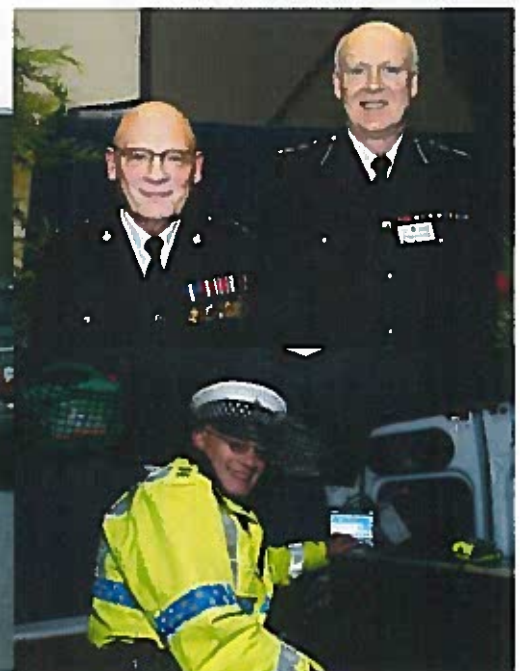
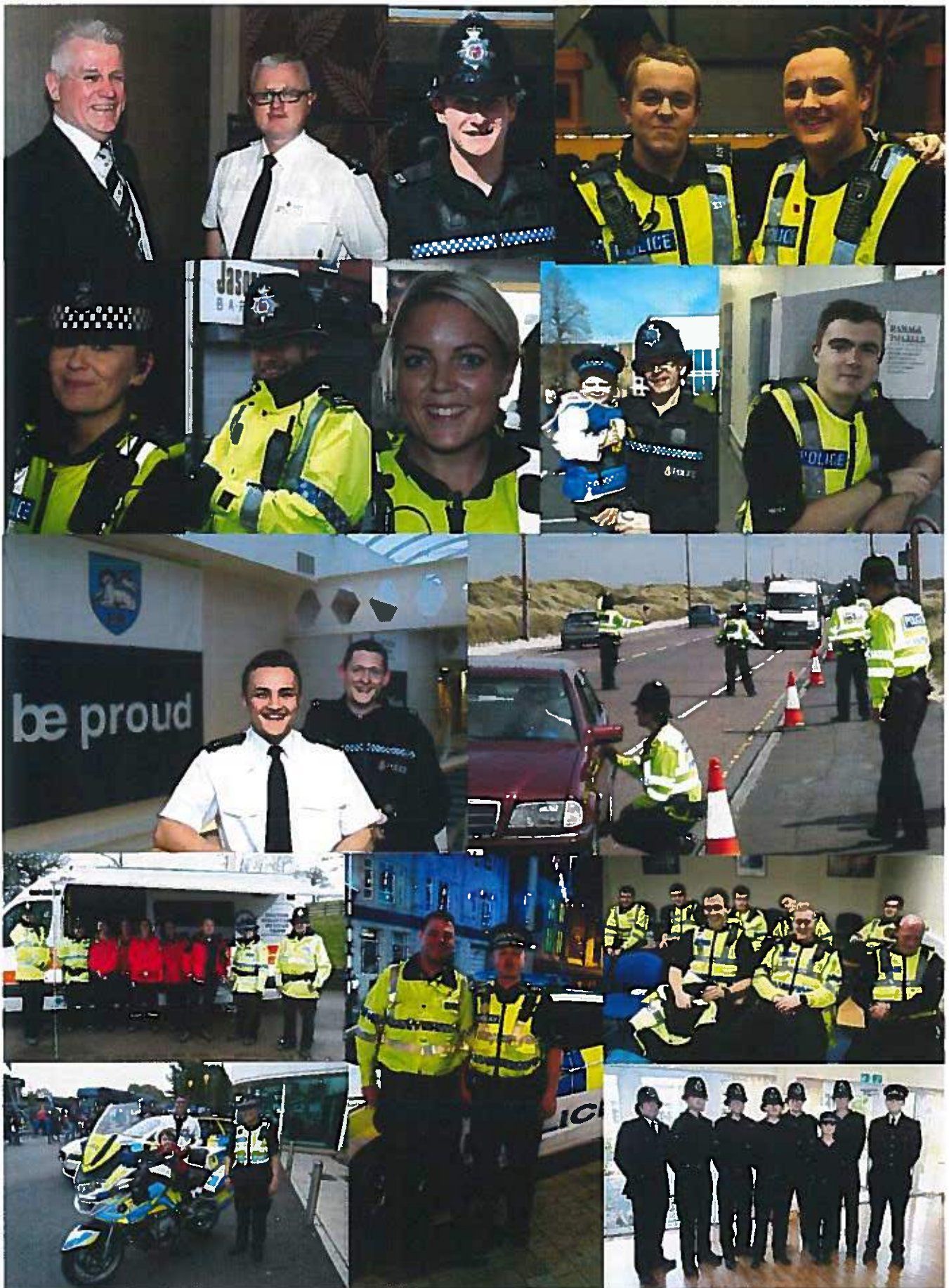


Photo Gallery



Reward and Recognition

Special Constables receive long service and good conduct awards at force-wide ceremonies at HQ with their regular and civilian colleagues.

Individual officers receive bravery awards and commendations for good police-work and leadership at divisional awards ceremonies held across the county.

Letters of appreciation are sent to thank officers for their individual contributions. Specials also receive awards from outside organisations and agencies.





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