

DETECTIVES AT WORK SHOWCASING THE ROLE OF DETECTIVES WITHIN POLICING



Karen Stephens,
Interim National Board Member
and Deputy Secretary for PFNDF

“Detectives play a vital role within policing of England and Wales, and often work alone, so their files are usually completely of their own doing and without any team assistance.

There is some excellent work being undertaken every day by officers across the country.

Here we showcase some of the inspirational stories of force and personal achievements.”

Lorry driver halted and jailed for child sex offences after significant operation

A paedophile was jailed for 20 years after a Lancashire Police investigation, during which there was a significant operation to halt his HGV.

Paul Evans, from Padiham, was arrested as he returned to the county from the south, an operation which required late work and the use of the police helicopter, motorway officers and telephony.

It was part of Operation Cayenne, an investigation into a series of sexual offences against children.

The small team was led by DCI Claire McEnery, DC Steve Munro and DC Madeleine Barrientos, and Evans was identified after communication with undercover officers.

He did not co-operate after his arrest, but was initially charged with possessing indecent images and remanded in custody. While a house-to-house plan helped to restore belief from the public over child safety, Evans' data storage devices were examined and three child victims of serious sexual offence, all known or related to Evans, were uncovered.

He was subsequently charged with nine offences and pleaded guilty to seven of them, including all of the child rapes, and was sentenced to 20 years and three months in prison.

Pain-staking efforts of detectives snare paedophiles

Ten men have already been sentenced to a total of 127 years for sexual offences against children – and more are likely to follow – after pain-staking work by officers in Greater Manchester.

Operation Doublet was set up in 2012 after the much-publicised Rochdale grooming case, when a number of young ladies came forward to report that they had been groomed and abused.

The operation was established to conduct a full-scale review of the problem of child sexual exploitation in Rochdale and beyond.

The investigation team, which

comprised of MIT Syndicate Five and PPD Officers who had volunteered on secondment, had to trace hundreds of potential victims, many of whom were vulnerable.

Over the course of the four years of the operation, more than 100 people have been arrested or interviewed as suspects, more than 200 crimes have been investigated and four large-scale trials have been initiated.

Two of the trials have been completed, with more set for later this year.

DC John Turner said: “The

investigation team and its partners were determined to deal with any instance of abuse by any means possible.

“The convictions have sent out a very clear message – those who seek to exploit children for their own sexual pleasure will be dealt with very robustly by the criminal justice system.

“But the real success comes from restoring faith and trust of these and future complainants in a service that will thoroughly and rigorously investigate these cases, while making sure that the most vulnerable in our society have the very best possible support.”

Praise for officers who investigated ‘assault’ on Alzheimer’s sufferer

The “outstanding professionalism” of Hertfordshire detectives helped ensure the safety of a woman in a complex and sensitive case.

DC Helen Wise and DS Abigail Salter investigated a string of alleged offences against the woman, who was suffering early onset Alzheimer’s, with members of her family accusing her husband of crimes including serious sexual offences and domestic violence.

The medical condition made it unethical for officers to interview the alleged victim, and things became even tougher for the officers when the victim was taken away from her home for eight weeks by her family, who were also

contacting their MP and PCCs with campaign-style material.

When she was returned to the area, she was put into a care home as an emergency place of safety but wanted to return home and thanks to a strict safeguarding plan – with DC Wise, DS Salter and social workers putting this together.

After 11 witness interviews and one suspect interview, all of which were treated with the utmost significance, it was established that the alleged victim had made no direct allegations but that her words had been misinterpreted and then spread around her family with a “Chinese whispers” effect.

Further investigation work showed that the family had chosen not to believe the Alzheimer’s diagnosis, and DC Wise liaised with agencies outside of the county – where the alleged victim had been taken – further added to suspicions that the family were concocting the allegations.

With insufficient evidence to make a case, attentions instead turned to providing a Safeguarding programme for the woman, with DC Wise attending several meetings and sharing details of the investigation, an excellent example of how the police play a crucial role within Safeguarding and partnership work.

Dedication key as mother is found guilty of murdering infant daughter

A mother was jailed for life for the murder of her daughter after “persistence and dedication” from four Staffordshire Police detectives.

DS John Bloor and DCs Scott Bradbury, Peter Cox and Trudie Rogerson played a key role in the conviction of Kathryn Smith for the murder of 21-month-old Ayeeshia, known as AJ.

Her partner Matthew Rigby was also jailed for allowing the death of a child after the incident on May 1 2014.

AJ’s injuries were similar to those seen in road accidents, and had been on a child protection plan since her birth.

DS Bloor was the case officer and led the team on a day-to-day basis, while DC Bradbury took on the role of Disclosure and Exhibits Officer, as well as being largely responsible for the case against the prosecution, a complex process.

DC Cox was the family liaison officer for AJ’s distraught father Ricky Booth, while DC Rogerson was part of the outside inquiry team, helping to collate bad character evidence and communicate with partner agencies, which proved crucial.

DI Andy Maxwell said: “The persistence and dedication of the officers led to this conviction and without their work this excellent – albeit heartbreaking – result would not have been realised.

“DS Bloor’s experience and management of the team contributed, while without the work ethic and quality of work from DC Bradbury, we would never have got ourselves in a position to charge Smith and Rigby.

“I cannot praise him enough – he is one of the most committed and professional officers that I have ever worked with.

“DC Cox’s calmness, competence and commitment were second to none, especially in times when he was dealing with issues outside of work.

“And DC Rogerson was the personification of what an investigator should be, always wanting to go the extra mile but with the ability to do so in a way that still maintained a positive relationship with professionals who were understandably upset and nervous in respect of their responses and interventions with AJ.”

Duo give their all to reduce burglary tally

Two officers have “consistently worked above and beyond expectations” to help reduce the number of burglaries.

DC Warren Gibson and PC Hanif Patel of Lancashire Police have worked long hours, and cancelled and swapped rest days in an investigation which has seen them collaborate with forces in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Yorkshire.

They worked with colleagues in Early Action, Revolution, Mental Health and other agencies to assist offenders to break the cycle of offending and promote rehabilitation.

This led to a number of offenders seeking out pathway services and reduce their criminal behaviour.

They have also built a strong relationship with Scientific Support – and have passed on that to their fellow officers.

The drive, passion, determination and professionalism they have shown is testament to their dedication to doing the right thing, making a difference and delivering a quality victim-focused service.

Fake name rapist captured thanks to officers' work

Eight officers from Hertfordshire played a key role in ensuring that a serial rapist was brought to justice.

Rafal Bargiel was jailed for life with a minimum tariff of 18 years after being found guilty of six rapes, two charges of false imprisonment, and four other charges relating to a string of offences.

Working as part of Operation Phonic, in November 2014 the officers investigated a claim of rape by a woman who had met a man named Thomaz Puchalski on a social media site. He denied the offence and after investigation was bailed pending further enquiries, having insisted that he had paid the victim.

Five months later, another female made a similar claim and this

time the man was charged and remanded.

The crimes, which took place in Hemel Hempstead and Cheshunt respectively after meeting in London, were both of a violent nature but extensive searches of Puchalski brought up no previous convictions.

However, a breakthrough came when DS Julie Hudson and DC Sarah Phillips searched his car and unearthed a female passport bearing the name "Bargiel" and a school diploma in Rafael Bargiel's name.

TI Allan Burnham then helped DC Phillips uncover Bargiel's past, revealing that he had been found guilty of a similar crime to the first incident in his homeland, and

served two years in prison.

Bargiel insisted that he was indeed Thomaz Puchalski, but the hard work of DC Phillips and TI Burnham uncovered the truth – and they also offered support to the victims, which helped them feel able to attend court to secure the conviction.

DS Hudson managed both incidents and was also involved in the search of the car, while DC Natalie Pickering and DC Duncan Montague gathered quality evidence from the second victim, showing compassion and victim care, and DC Kate Rickard and DC Liz Heath played a key role in interviewing the suspect which helped to reveal his true identity.

*Have you been involved or know of any great work that you would like to feature in the newsletter?
If so, then please let us know via email: Karen.stephens@polfed.org*