



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Bravery Award, 2017 Police Constables Julie Bennett and Leah Greenacre, Cheshire Constabulary, UK

In the early hours of Saturday 28th May 2016 PCs BENNETT and GREENACRE attended a report of a suspicious vehicle, upon arrival, they discovered an agitated male, clearly under the influence of drugs and who, it transpired, was a suspect in a crime of domestic violence.

PC Greenacre tried to obtain the male's details whilst PC BENNETT looked into the vehicle, this male became more agitated suddenly running off with PC GREENACRE in pursuit on foot. A short time later he returned to the vehicle followed by PC GREENACRE, who had taken a blow to the nose which was bleeding heavily. He started the engine and attempted to drive away with PC Bennett grabbing the keys, trying to stop him. By now he had become extremely aggressive towards both officers, PC Bennett deployed her Taser in an effort to subdue him. Despite this, he struck out at PC BENNETT several times continuing to try to drive away, revving the engine so hard the wheels were spinning, throwing up debris from the floor. He reversed the vehicle so hard it knocked PC BENNETT off her feet, she was dragged across the floor by the vehicle, the male turning the wheels so he could drive over her. Somehow, she managed to regain her footing and stand up. The male tried to reach into the passenger footwell for something but effective baton strikes by both officers made him pull his arm back. PC BENNETT managed to place a handcuff on one of his hands and despite the male being stronger due to being under the influence of drugs, she managed to drag him out of the car.

He continued to fight and resist both officers, at one point grabbing hold of PC BENNETT's baton but with repeated strikes from PC GREENACRE he released his grip. Eventually the officers managed to detain the male, a Stanley blade, drugs and cash were found in the passenger footwell of the vehicle. The week before this incident, the male had tried to run a Greater Manchester Police officer over and broke their wrist.

PC GREENACRE, a probationary constable at the time, was on a 3-week attachment with PC BENNETT. She provided her more experienced colleague with crucial back-up in a very frightening situation. Both officers received injuries which required hospital treatment. PC BENNETT was off work for 3 weeks.

Constables Bennett & Greenacre will be honoured at a formal luncheon during the IAWP's 55th Annual Training Conference due to take place between 17th and 21st September 2017, in Cairns, Australia.

IAWP President Margaret Shorter, "For the past 100 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the I.A.W.P. is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about I.A.W.P. visit www.iawp.org for BAWP, visit www.bawp.org

For further information on the 2017 recognition programme or permissions please contact Jane Townsley, media@iawp.org