

Extra police on standby for bank holiday

AS PARTYGOERS gear-up for the Easter weekend police are preparing to flood Tyneside nightspots with extra officers.

Plans are in place to make sure revellers stay safe and out of trouble over the bumper bank holiday.

Northumbria Police will be putting extra officers on patrol around the pubs and clubs, and top cops are warning police won't hesitate to intervene if things get out of hand.

Acting Chief Insp Darren Sweeney said: "We want to remind people coming into the city over the bank holiday not to let too

much alcohol ruin their night, or anyone else's night. This means watching how much you drink and looking out for your friends to make sure everyone enjoys their night out and gets home safely.

"We also want people to remember their personal safety and not make themselves vulnerable by having too much to drink or not thinking about how they're going to get home."

Police in Whitley Bay are also bracing themselves for the influx of revellers who traditionally hit the town's pubs and clubs early on bank holidays.

Chief Insp Steve Readdie said: "Large

numbers of people visit Whitley Bay over bank holidays including families and pub-goers.

"We want to make sure the town is a safe place for everyone to enjoy themselves while behaving responsibly."

Police in South Shields are also reminding people to drink sensibly this weekend. Chief Insp Brian Walker said: "We expect to see lots of visitors coming to South Shields as it has a well deserved reputation as a tourist attraction. We do want people to have a great time, and we will always take action against anyone intent on spoiling the fun for others."



BRACED Whitley Bay Chief Insp Steve Readdie

Residents sign up for watch schemes

MORE than 1,000 Durham residents have signed up as new Neighbourhood Watch members.

Officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the city, assisted by existing Watch volunteers, carried out two days of action in a number of areas in and around the city.

These included Gilesgate and Shincliffe village where previous volunteers had dropped out and not been replaced.

The recruitment drive was part of a national campaign to encourage more members of the community to become part of local schemes.

As a result, eight new schemes were created around the district increasing Durham's membership by 1,118.

Insp Paul Anderson said: "A vital feature of our ongoing Safe City initiative is the links we have with local retailers, agencies and of course local residents. Neighbourhood Watch is a first-class example of how we can work in partnership to keep Durham one of the safest places to live, work and visit."

Anyone wishing to sign up, contact Tim Thompson on 101 ext 668 2814.

'Pain is nothing compared to what Seb's gone through'

Dad running for hospital that saved his son's life

COREENA FORD

DEVOTED dad Ivan Hollingsworth today sets out on the challenge of a lifetime – to run 100 miles non-stop in just 24 hours.

The Whitley Bay dad, 34, has spent six months training for the race, with the aim of raising thousands of pounds for the hospital which saved his son's life.

Now two years old, Seb was born with a heart defect which saw him undergo complex surgery at the Freeman Hospital at just 16 weeks old.

Ever since his operation, parents Ivan and Nadine have pledged to raise cash and awareness for the Freeman's Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF), a mission which to date has brought in more than £177,000.

At 11am this morning, Nadine and little Seb waved off Ivan on a 100-mile route along the Northumberland Coastal Path from Eyemouth in the Scottish Borders to Tynemouth.

A support vehicle will follow Ivan for most of the journey, but there will be many sections inaccessible to cars.

Pausing only for refreshments en route, the plan is to finish on Tynemouth Longsands at 10.30am tomorrow.

"I will be in bits by the end, mentally, emotionally and physically," said Ivan.

Ivan, has already worn out several pairs of trainers on several marathons, completed two Coast to Coast challenges and skied down a mountain in a mankini to raise money for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF).

His sole inspiration is repaying the Freeman for saving Sebastian, who was just hours old when he was diagnosed with a condition known as Tetralogy of Fallot.

Ivan has used his running skills as a Morpeth Harrier to raise cash through a fund they set up called Seb4Chuf.

From Monday to Friday, Ivan has been out on a 10-mile run at 6am, returning home for core stability work and leg weights.

After a day at work, 90 minutes each night on an indoor bike has built the necessary endurance and on Saturday mornings he has been



BACK HOME Sebastian Hollingsworth with parents Ivan and Nadine

putting in a 20-30 mile run, followed by a dreaded ice bath, with Sundays off – and he even went for a run on Christmas Day before Seb opened his presents.

Last week, he admitted to suffering an injury to a tendon but he is determined to see it through.

He said: "I will do it, but there is a chance I will be in absolute agony."

"The reason I will finish it is because of Seb and all the other heart children."

"The pain I will endure during the training and the run itself are insignificant when compared to what Seb suffered after his surgery."

Follow Ivan's progress on twitter @Seb4chuf and through his blog – seb4chuf.wordpress.com

To make a donation, text CHUF99 and the amount you would like to donate, to 70070



RUNNING MAN Ivan Hollingsworth on a previous run. He faces an even bigger challenge over this weekend

Factory staff help in firm's success

STAFF at a North East factory have been praised after their work helped Japanese car manufacturer Nissan to record European sales.

The motors giant said it has sold more than 713,000 cars and vans in the last 12 months, but almost half of that was their North East-made Qashqai and Juke models.

A spokesman for the Sunderland factory said he was pleased that their 5,000 strong workforce were playing their part in the company's success.

"Nissan continues to go from strength to strength in Europe and at Sunderland plant we are proud to manufacture our two best-selling models in Europe in Qashqai and Juke," he said.

"We have an ambitious growth strategy for Europe and with three new models announced for production in Sunderland we are poised to play a key role in this expansion."

The results come on the back of news that £125m will be invested in the Washington site to build the car company's latest model – the Invitation – with the creation of 2,000 jobs. And that is on top of the £420m commitment to build Nissan's main European battery plant and electric Leaf car here.