

Ex-Bacup sergeant is new police chief

LANCASHIRE'S new Chief Constable is Bacup-born Paul Stephenson.

And he spent a year working in his home town as a sergeant in 1983.

He has worked around the county, as well as a four-year spell in Merseyside, and returned to Lancashire in May 1999 to become Deputy Chief Constable.

Mr Stephenson (47) said: 'I had a full head of hair in those Bacup days, unlike now. But that is not the town's fault.'

'I have great memories of my eventful time there. I had a focused team of officers who locked up a lot of bad people and gave a good service to the community.'

He added: 'I am very con-

Lancashire's new Chief Constable recalls hair-raising Bacup days

by Kerry McQuade

scious that, historically, outlying places like Bacup can get forgotten and there was talk of shutting the police station down.

But I am very committed to local stations and local policing - it is very important to people.'

Mr Stephenson said he would carry on the good work of Pauline Clare, present Chief Constable, focusing resources on community policing and

officers on the beat, which is what people wanted.

He said: 'It may sound trite but I am looking forward to being Chief Constable, with a mixture of pride, humility and ambition.'

'I am proud of what we have achieved but want to achieve still more.'

Mr Stephenson has a wife and three children.

He takes over the top job at the end of July when Pauline Clare completes her seven-year term of office.



AMBITION: Chief Constable Paul Stephenson.