



PRESS INFORMATION

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POLICE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINISED

Bedfordshire Police Authority's Performance Committee closely scrutinised police performance for the first quarter of 2009-10 when it met earlier this week.

Members of the Committee looked at elements of the Policing Pledge to assess how the standard is being met. It was felt by all members that meeting the targets of the Pledge and informing the community of the progress being made are both vital to public confidence.

The Committee asked that more was done to publicise the Pledge and the availability of crime information.

The Force's work to address burglary, robbery and vehicle crime has brought significant improvements, with all areas showing reductions well above the target levels set by the Authority. Overall crime levels are also below the target, with 974 fewer crimes than the same period the previous year.

Crime	Target	Actual
Overall recorded crime	11035	11012
Burglary	795	743
Robbery	225	189
Vehicle Crime	1521	1440

However members were concerned that detections were not increasing at the same rate and that the figures for all categories of violent crime were deteriorating.

Members were told that racially aggravated crime had increased as a result of incidents such as the Royal Anglian March in Luton and that additional funding has been secured to address serious youth violence, including knife crime. The committee was assured that the trend of increasing violent crime was not expected to continue, with performance expected to show improvements at the end of the next quarter (September 30th 2009).

Martin Pantling, Chair of the Performance Committee, asked that a report on the strategies in place to address violent crime be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on 3rd November 2009.

He said: "It is important that people know that there is action being taken to address the problem of violent crime. We know that the public are always concerned to hear of violent crime, whether local or further away, and I hope it reassures them to know that the Authority is taking a very robust approach, monitoring any fluctuations in performance and asking for appropriate action to be taken.

"We are here to represent local people and we want them to feel safe and confident in their communities and the police service they receive."

Members remained concerned to see the continuing large gap in satisfaction figures between white and BME victims of crime and were informed that the Force's intention is reduce the gap to target levels by March 2010.

ENDS

Note to Editors

A copy of the Policing Pledge is attached.

Bedfordshire Police Authority is a separate, independent, organisation from the Police Force. It works on behalf of local people to improve local policing and ensure that the service provided meets local needs.

The Authority does not carry out any operational policing, which is the Chief Constable's responsibility. Its role includes involving local people in setting priorities, setting and monitoring the police budget, scrutinising performance and holding the Chief Constable to account for police performance.

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