



**Bedfordshire  
Police  
Authority**

**December 2009**

# PARTNER NEWS

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**This is a short communication from Bedfordshire Police Authority, designed to keep our partners up to date on key issues that affect us all.**

The last twelve months have seen a great deal of change as the two new unitary authorities have found their wings. We are looking forward to working with all our partners to help us all deliver a streamlined quality service that avoids duplication and repetition.

Over the coming months we hope to increase the understanding of our work with all our partners. One of our key responsibilities is to hold the Chief Constable to account for policing in the county.

The introduction of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Crime and Disorder provide an ideal opportunity for our partners to put our skills and expertise to good use, to improve the oversight of local services for the benefit of our communities, thereby effectively holding all service providers to account.



*Penny Fletcher  
Vice-Chair, Bedfordshire Police Authority*

## Who's Who

The Authority has recently welcomed a new member, John Williams, Bedfordshire's former Assistant Chief Probation Officer. He is very keen to progress partnership working and will be working alongside our members who lead on the different local partnerships.

### Who sits on what?

Central Bedfordshire CDRP - Peter Hollick and Fiona Chapman  
Bedford Borough CDRP- Sarah Holland and Tony Brown  
Luton CDRP - Martin Pantling  
Local Safeguarding Children's Boards - Linda Hockey

## Authority Partnership Seminar

A good turn-out ensured a lively and worthwhile debate at our Partner Seminar held in September. It gave us the opportunity to share our vision for policing and clarify the role of the Police Authority, illustrating the difference between the Authority and the Police Force.



The key aim of the day was to help us shape the action plan for the Authority's Partnership Strategy. The information and input from all corners has helped us prepare our Strategy which we will put forward for discussion and hopefully final approval in December.



Before the final version is formally approved in March 2010, we will consult with our partners to ensure that their views can be taken into account.

## Challenges Ahead

As the public purse becomes ever more stretched we are all seeking efficiency savings. At a recent meeting of the Performance Committee it was explained that it takes over 100 meetings to agree things with all three unitary authorities. This seems rather extreme and we would like to see the process streamlined.

We were also reminded of the impact alcohol can have on crime, abuse and anti-social behaviour. Whilst everyone appreciated that the new Licensing Laws do not leave much room for discretion, it was hoped that we could all work more closely to reduce the problem.

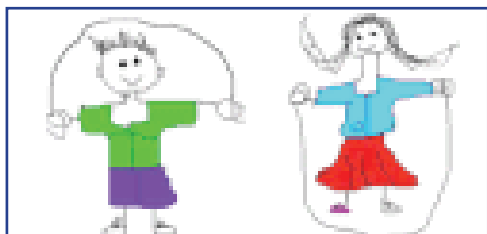
## Providing a Shared Solution

The success of Luton's soLUTiONS initiative shows how, by working together, we really can tackle the problems that face our towns. Crime has fallen in Luton significantly since the soLUTiONS launch three years ago, with full support from all CDRP members, including the Police Authority.



## Safeguarding Children

The Police Authority is represented on the two, soon to be three, local Safeguarding Children Boards. A valuable part of our role is to protect vulnerable people, something in which the Authority has invested significantly over the last two years with over £1M current invested in preventing Child Abuse.



With representatives from other agencies, we are working hard to try and prevent another Baby P case, and the workload is increasing.

We are also looking at how we can work together better, avoiding duplication and repetition and are hopeful that with

joint planning we can adopt best practices enjoyed elsewhere.

The Police Authority has also now become one of the statutory partners responsible for developing strategies for preventing Child Poverty.

## Local Confidence Survey

The Home Office now requires Authorities and Forces to conduct annual Local Confidence Surveys at the CDRP level. The findings will enable us to understand what drives confidence locally and how to improve it to meet the shared single confidence target.

The results will be available in February 2010 and we will discuss with partners how we can publicise these and use them in each CDRP area.

## Future Consultation Arrangements

The Police Authority has been a partner in the Bedsvoice Citizen Panel since the outset. As many partners will be aware, the panel will cease in March 2010 and the Authority is keen to explore any opportunities that may exist to create a new panel which is county-wide. Clearly, we all have to consult and to avoid consultation fatigue, duplication and to provide value for money, a joint county-wide panel would support us all.

Any thoughts anyone?

## TOTAL PLACE

We are proud to be associated with this exciting and innovative project.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR PARTNERS !

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