

## Cleaning Up Coyney Green

Coyney Green is looking better thanks to a make-over from Luton Central's Safer Neighbourhood Team, which included removing unwanted graffiti.

PCSOs Daniel Ciantar, Daniel McHugh and Paul Fright donned their overalls to clean up an area that was attracting anti-social behaviour due to its image.

Luton Borough Council provided the paint and in a great display of community spirit a number of residents and local children showed their support and took part.

PCSO Daniel Ciantar said the event went very well. He added: "We were delighted with the show of support we got from the residents, and in particular the youngsters who turned up and enjoyed putting on the overalls and slapping on the paint!"

"Events such as this in Coyney Green are a perfect example of the things we are keen to do in order to support and improve our neighbourhoods. By working together with residents and the council we really can make a difference to the look and feel of where we live and work and make everyone feel safer and more positive about their surroundings," he said.

The Luton Central Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to hear from other residents who have issues or ideas that they could get involved in or support. Anyone wishing to make contact should call 01582 394051 or email [SNT.Luton-Central@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNT.Luton-Central@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)



The graffiti wall - before and after

L - R: PCSO Daniel McHugh and a willing volunteer and youngsters (Abdullahi Maday, Mohammed Ahmed, Amin Uddin, Tuhyal Ahmed and Ismaeil Abdul Jawad) enjoying the painting!

## A SPECIAL AWARD



Bedfordshire's Special Constabulary won a national award for closing down a series of cannabis factories.

The volunteer officers were honoured with the Ferrers Trophy Team Award at the Special Constable and Police Support Volunteers Awards ceremony held in London.

The team was recognised for a policing operation described as having made a significant impact in tackling the number of cannabis factories in the Luton area. The dismantling of six factories in as many months is estimated to have cost cannabis producers in excess of £1.6 million a year, causing serious disruption to the illegal production of cannabis and the subsequent crime it generates.



## EVERY TOUCH LEAVES A TRACE

Police in Luton are stepping up the fight against street robberies with special one-off forensic kits designed to be used at the scene of a crime.

All patrol cars have been equipped with single use DNA collecting kits, with the aim of immediately retaining any evidence from victims that has been left behind by offenders.

Detective Sergeant Iain Morgan, from Luton's Robbery Squad said: "Advances in technology are almost in the realms of science fiction

nowadays. Smaller and smaller samples of fluid can now be tested for DNA, which means that literally every touch leaves a trace."

"In practical terms, it means that people who have perhaps had their pockets searched, or their coats grabbed by someone in an effort to steal their valuables, will be carrying traceable samples of the offender's DNA on them. The new kits mean that all officers can 'swab' the clothing or skin immediately and easily, collecting the DNA that could lead to the arrest of the robber."

## 'SoLUTIONs'

Luton Borough Council's SoLUTIONs project benefited from the help of Luton South Safer Neighbourhood Team during a week long operation designed to tackle a host of issues in Farley Hill.

The operation involved some specialist police departments as well as uniform officers and PCSOs from the Safer Neighbourhood Team carrying out high-visibility patrols all week.

Police tactics began with Operation Dedicate, aimed at tackling nuisance motorcycles. In addition, specialist passive drugs dogs were used; officers carried out 'Failure to Appear' and drug warrants for arrest; speeding patrols and ANPR checks were undertaken and both the mobile police station and burglary reduction Ad-van were out and about.

Over six days five people were arrested for drug and other offences, two bikes were seized, 34 vehicles were 'diesel dipped' with the help of HM Customs colleagues, three fixed penalty notices were issued and six motorists dealt with for speeding.

Sergeant Michelle Moore from the South SNT said the weeklong clean up was a real success. She said: "We've already had some great feedback from the community who saw for themselves the benefits of SoLUTIONs.



Burglary Reduction Ad-Van

"This is a very effective way of blitzing an area and Farley Hill has really benefited. I hope the residents will now help us to keep their neighbourhood this way - their support last week was brilliant."

### SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

## Purley Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team Moves In

Officers and staff from the Luton North Safer Neighbourhood Team have settled in to their brand new home in Luton's Purley Centre.

The base, which opened earlier this summer, benefits residents in Marsh Farm, Bramingham, Limbury, Sundon Park and Runfold as they have their Safer Neighbourhood Team right on the doorstep.

Inspector Rob McCaffray, responsible for North Luton said: "This is yet another positive step forward for all the communities living in the Marsh Farm area.

"Crime has seen a dramatic fall in recent months in the area and having a service so close to home increases the feelings of reassurance.

"Our thanks go to Luton Borough Council and the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust, who are partnering Bedfordshire Police in this initiative."

Dave Crean, chair of the MFCDDT Board added: "Basing police in the Purley Centre is something that residents said they wanted, so it's fantastic that we have been able to respond to that. It is now a one-stop shop for residents to get help with a range of issues."



Operation Pride, which aims to reduce speeding in built up residential areas where people are ignoring the 30mph speed limit, has been introduced across Luton.

Borderline speed limit breakers are offered a chance to re-educate themselves about the dangers of speeding instead of receiving points on their licence and a fine, which is working very well. The number of people caught speeding is starting to fall, which is a very positive sign.

Bedfordshire Police Authority is committed to equality and diversity in every area of its business. If you need this document in another format or language please let us know.



Bedfordshire Police Authority, Bridgebury House, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford MK43 9AX  
Tel: 01234 842066  
[www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk)  
[info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk)

# THE LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY

is published by Bedfordshire Police Authority.  
It is a statutory publication.

This document was produced as a wrap-around cover on Luton on Sunday, 14th September 2008

Local Policing Summary, September 2008

[www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk)

## Policing in Luton Division - It's getting BETTER



ANDY FROST -  
Divisional Commander,  
Luton Division

We have worked hard over the last year to improve policing in Luton. However many challenges still remain which we are actively addressing.

This year we will be particularly focussed on: reducing and detecting crimes such as burglary, robbery and vehicle crime; working with communities to resolve local issues; protecting the public through taking preventative measures; and strengthening our relationships with communities and partners to make Luton a safer place to live.

Underlying all of this is our commitment to improving the service we provide to the people of Luton - PUTTING YOU AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Performance improvements in Luton compared to the previous year.

- Overall recorded crime in Luton fell by 2834 (11%).
- Recorded violence against the person offences fell by 811 (18%).
- Detected drugs offences rose by 121 (36%).
- The Safer Neighbourhood/Neighbourhood Policing project was completed across the division.

## DRUGS FACTORY SHUT-DOWN

Bedfordshire Police has had a lot of success closing down illegal drugs factories, particularly those cultivating cannabis plants.

If you suspect a drugs factory is operating close to you, tell us about your concerns. Things to consider:

- Are your neighbours bringing home lots of compost but don't like traditional gardening?
- Are they buying lots of plant containers, but there is no outdoor sign of their green fingers?
- Are there a lot of deliveries, boxes etc which could contain lights and plumbing equipment?
- Are there strange and pungent smells coming from the property?
- Are there strange 'comings and goings'?
- Landlords: Know your tenants! Who are you renting to? Do you regularly check your property? Any damage the growers cause will have to be paid for by you!



Drug factory shut down

### Priorities

The policing priorities for Luton Division have been agreed following consultation with local people.

They are:

- Crime Reduction
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Increased Visibility

### Award Nomination

The Luton Divisional Intelligence Unit, which targets illegal suppliers of drugs, has been nominated for a National Award. The nomination is a result of the increased number of detections in this area, and winners of this award receive £10,000 of funding to help continue their work.

### Changes = Detections

In July 2007 a number of organisational changes were made to improve workload management so that our officers and staff could be deployed more effectively.

One of the consequences of this change has been that, in the first three months of 2008, detections went up by 18% (212) compared to the same period the year before.



If you think that someone may be cultivating illegal drugs, contact the police, or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111



# Police Authority Takes Action



The focus on improving performance has seen the Police Authority increase the resilience of the Chief Officer team with the appointment of a second Assistant Chief Constable to lead the Protective Services Directorate. Bedfordshire had been one of only seven forces to operate with just one Assistant Chief Constable.

We also decided to increase the budget to provide the Chief Constable with the resources to improve performance, a move which will see our officer numbers rise to 1274 by March 2009.

In addition, having led the way on collaboration with the joint Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit, we are devoting more efforts to explore future collaboration agreements with other forces in areas such as legal services, professional standards, scientific support, firearms and dog sections. Collaboration in these areas would bring further financial and practical efficiencies.

  
**PETER F CONNIFF** -  
 Chair Bedfordshire Police Authority

On these pages you will see how the police are tackling your priorities and dealing with issues where you live. Please let us know what you think by writing, emailing or logging on to our website.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Over the last year we have made improvements to a number of services that Bedfordshire Police provides to the public. Our aim is to build on these achievements and continue to make steady progress that can be sustained over time, as we focus on serving communities and making them safe from crime.

Last year, overall crime in Bedfordshire fell by 10% and our Safer Neighbourhood Teams started to make a real impact with the support of communities and other partners. However, we are not complacent and we continue to work hard to improve the service we give to you. Thanks to increased funding this year, we are able to recruit a further 24 police officers taking the total number to the highest level in the history of Bedfordshire. We are also adding to our police staff numbers to support police officers in operational delivery.

I am confident about our progress and future. It was always going to take time to turn our performance around but we are moving in the right direction and together we can make Bedfordshire an even safer place to live.





**GILLIAN PARKER QPM**  
 Chief Constable

## NO MORE KNIVES

Bedfordshire Police is launching a new campaign to educate youngsters about the dangers of carrying knives by going into schools and promoting a 'No More Knives' website.

[www.nomoreknives.com](http://www.nomoreknives.com)

includes a series of films made by young people for young people and is designed to dispel the cultural myths surrounding knives and get the message across about the damage they can cause. The site will be live from September 17, 2008.

In addition, police officers and PCSOs from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be going into every middle, upper and high school in Bedfordshire from October 1 to further sell the message that carrying a knife is more likely to harm rather than protect you from crime. The presentations are being done in partnership with the Youth Offending Service.

## GROUNDBREAKING MAJOR CRIME UNIT

"A groundbreaking initiative" is how Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) recently described the joint Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit.

Since its creation in November 2007 the joint unit – the first of its kind in the country – has achieved a 100% detection rate for offences of murder, as well as supporting work which has led to significant reductions in violent crime.

## Criminals Pay Up

In 2007-2008 criminals in Bedfordshire were d to hand over either cash or assets worth a cool £1.2 million - all of which had been considered by courts to have been acquired with the proceeds of crime in 83 separate cases.


Bedfordshire Police will receive £108,270 of this figure, which is awarded under a Home Office sponsored incentivisation scheme.


The cash sum, the most the has ever been awarded under the Proceeds of Crime Act, will be ploughed back into crime fighting tactics to help police seize yet more cash from those criminals trying to make crime pay.




## Fresh Faces at Police Authority

In October the Police Authority welcomes three new independent members: Kathy Johnson, Rev. Lloyd Denny and Tony Brown.

 Kathy Johnson spent 20 years in the Health Service, and is currently a lay member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

 Rev. Lloyd Denny is a Christian Minister Housing Consultant.

 Tony Brown is an independent Finance and Governance Consultant.



Bedfordshire Police put a serious dent in the drugs world with a week long operation under the banner of 'National Tackling Drugs Week'.

Drugs were seized, factories closed down and people arrested.

In this week alone a large number of drugs were seized:

- 3,468 cannabis plants with an estimated street value of £650,000
- 1.85kg of cocaine with a street value of £70,300
- 109.4g of crack cocaine with a street value of £2,200
- other drugs to the value of £250.

## RISING NUMBERS AT RINGMASTER

Ringmaster, the computerised messaging system that sends people information about criminal activity in their local area, is going from strength to strength.

Ringmaster gives people direct contact with the Police, sending them information about crime in their area, passing on crime prevention advice and asking for help in solving crimes that have taken place.

The service is free and information is sent via email. For more information visit [www.safer-beds.org](http://www.safer-beds.org) where you can now register on-line, or telephone Sandra Murphy on 01234 275149.



## Cracking the Drugs Issue

Detective Superintendent Linda Kelly, says that working in partnership with other agencies is the only way to really get on top of the drugs problem.

Linda, who has responsibility for the force's anti-drugs strategy, emphasises that 'catch and convict' tactics need to be balanced with effective rehabilitation and resettlement of offenders, to prevent reoffending.

"The benefits to the community when people stop using drugs are significant," she explained. "Those dependent on crack cocaine or heroin will spend approximately £290 a week on their habit, often funded through serious acquisitive crime.

"On the other hand, every £1 spent on drug treatment saves the taxpayer £9.50 on typical costs associated with drug users."

There has been a seven-fold increase in detections of drug crime over the last five years and the force works closely with the two local drug action teams to ensure that appropriate services are available to users seeking treatment after arrest.

"Someone with a drugs habit needs a lot more help to stop using than just drug treatment," said Linda. "We want all the agencies, housing, benefits, employment, health, education, to work with the criminal justice sector teams to provide a real integrated solution to offender management."

## Bedfordshire Police Call Handling Centre Just Keeps Getting Better!

Bedfordshire Police's Call Handling Centre (CHC) has been recognised as one of the best in the country by an independent report which found that 90% of callers were satisfied with the way their call was handled, which was answered within 20 seconds.

In addition Typetalk has been introduced for the hard of hearing community plus a translating telephone service for people whose first language is not English.

Another new service being considered is an SMS texting service, allowing the public and to communicate by text message. This is initially going to be trialled with the hard of hearing community.



Bedfordshire Call Handling Centre

## OUR PERFORMANCE

Police forces are all assessed by the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in the same way. Last year, for each performance area they were assessed against similar forces and then graded as 'Excellent' (performing significantly better than similar forces), 'Good' (better than its group), 'Fair' (broadly in line with the group) or 'Poor' (much worse than its group) and whether or not performance is improving.

Last year Bedfordshire was graded "fair" under the headings of tackling crime, serious crime and public protection, satisfaction and fairness and resources and efficiency. It was graded as "poor" at protecting vulnerable people, the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing and local priorities.

However, the same report also recognised the force as "excellent" at tackling violent crime, the fairness of stop-searching ethnic groups was graded "good/excellent" and efficiency was "excellent".

Work had already started to address problem areas and the progress made can be seen below.

In the year ending March 31st 2008

- All crime down 10% (nearly 6000 fewer crimes)
- Violent crime down 15% (1675 fewer crimes)
- Robbery down by 7% (78 fewer crimes)
- Vehicle theft down by 10% (188 fewer crimes)
- Theft from a vehicle down by 6% (395 fewer crimes)
- Detections up to 22% and still rising

Significant reductions have already been seen during the first part of the performance year for 2008-2009 particularly in Burglary Dwelling, Theft from Motor Vehicles and Robbery.

There has been a steady increase in the number of crimes detected and this has continued into the current year. Year to date figures show Bedfordshire detecting 27% of recorded crimes, close to the 28% average of our 'most similar forces'.

The level of confidence in "bringing offenders to justice" for Bedfordshire is significantly above the England and Wales average for this measure. Bedfordshire is third out of the 42 criminal justice areas for this measure and is first in its most similar grouping.

This year activity will be focused in four main areas:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Incident Response
- Crime Management
- Protective Services

## The Budget

To provide the funds essential to improve police performance and increase the number of frontline officers the Authority set the budget for 2008-09 at £96.056M.

The Government provides £68.508M towards the budget with local taxpayers providing the remaining £27.548M.



## YOUNG MATTERS

Police Authority member Linda Hockey says that initiatives for young people are high on the agenda. "These range from our work on the Every Child Matters programme, which protects the most vulnerable, to inclusive and diversionary activities," she explained.

"The successful Police Cadet Scheme continues to attract young volunteers. After training they go out with Patrol Officers and take part in ceremonial duties such as the Remembrance Day Parade and many go on to pursue a career in the Police Service.

"The Police Authority's Youth Issues Group supports projects which are designed to keep young people off the streets and out of trouble, and has helped sustain a wide variety of diversionary activities for young people, from skateboarding and theatres, to advice centres.



Cadets at Kempston's Outdoor Centre

"The aim is to keep young people safe and confident in the Police Service."

## LOCAL CONTACTS

If personal safety is under threat, always dial: **999**

To contact the police for non-emergencies,

North or mid-Beds: **01234 841212**  
 Luton or South Beds: **01582 401212**  
 Minicom Users: **01234 842233**

For advice and action on safety and anti-social behaviour issues,

Bedford Area: **01234 275260**  
 Mid-Beds: **01462 611224**  
 South-Beds: **01582 472222**  
 Luton: **01582 451478**

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Victim Support Line: **0845 30 90 900**

National Domestic Violence Helpline: **0800 2000 247**

Bedfordshire Police Authority, Bridgebury House, Woburn Road, Kempston, Bedford MK43 9AX  
 Tel: 01234 842066 [www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk) email: [info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk](mailto:info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk)