



This year you have told us that your priorities are:

- Combating violent crime, burglary, robbery and vehicle crime
- Addressing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing domestic abuse.

Targeting crime,



making you safer in Luton



Last year we said that we would focus on reducing crime, particularly burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. We have delivered on our promise. We have also seen a reduction in violence against the person and a big increase in the number of people detected for drugs offences.

This has been achieved by a firm focus on Neighbourhood Policing, problem solving and excellent partnership working across the Division. It has been a real team effort between the Police, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and local people.

I would really like to thank the public for their ongoing support which makes a huge difference to the service we provide.

We intend to continue our work to reduce the crime and anti-social behaviour that matter most to you in the coming year.

Underlying all of this is our commitment to continually improving the service we provide to the people of Luton. We really are putting you at the heart of everything we do.

Chief Superintendent Andy Frost
Divisional Commander



How we performed in Luton in the year ending March 31st 2009

- **House burglary**
down by 412 offences or 17%
- **Robbery**
down by 150 offences or 21%
- **Vehicle Crime**
down by 1102 offences or 28%
- **Criminal Damage**
down by 315 offences or 9%
- **Violence Against the Person**
down by 302 or 8%
- **Detections for drugs offences**
increased 45%



Local Sergeant Honoured



A Sergeant from Luton Police Station was awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for his 'distinguished service' to policing in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Sergeant Pete Rawkins has been part of the Division's Community Cohesion Team for the last six years, and is known for his availability, whether on or off duty, to those communities who value his commitment to their needs.

Commenting on the award, Sergeant Rawkins said: "I am honoured that the work I have done throughout my policing career has been recognised in this way. However, I would also like to pay tribute to my colleagues, as well as the groups and individuals who regularly work with us from our communities, who help make the Community Cohesion Team as successful as it is."



Down on the farm

Twenty-six Luton children and their parents enjoyed a great day out at Woodside Animal Farm, including tractor riding, animal feeding and the farm's fun fair, thanks to funding from Bedfordshire Police and transport provided by Arriva.

The aim was to build relationships between young children and the

police with a short 999 educational safety talk and parents receiving a 'Stranger Danger' booklet to take home.

Children from the Chimps, Jump and Parot playgroups were invited to the activity day which was organised by PC Sarah Trew and PCSO Nadine Mee from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team



PC Sarah Trew said: "It was great to see so many young people and their parents enjoying the day. I hope this is one of many events that will help break down barriers and build strong foundations for the future between young people and the police."



Connecting Police & Communities



The Police Authority is a vital link between local communities and Bedfordshire Police. Our 17 members, made up of nine local councillors and eight independent members of the public, are here to represent you and your views.

The Authority does not carry out operational policing which is the Chief Constable's responsibility. It is however, our job to scrutinise every area of police performance on behalf of local people to make sure that the service provided lives up to your expectations.

We also set the police budget and check to see that the money is invested

wisely. For example, last year we agreed a budget that would help improve police performance. The resulting drop in crime across the county, which is being sustained this year, validates that decision. Bedfordshire is definitely a safer place.

An important part of our job is to find out what you think about policing, what is important to you and where you would like to see us use the resources available to us so that we can make sure the service provided reflects those views. We consult in many different ways, using surveys, questions on our website, a citizen's panel, focus groups and by simply listening to what local people tell us.

We believe that, as local people and tax-payers, you are our customer with a right to influence how the police service is delivered. Given the current economic climate, it is crucial that we understand your views on key aspects of policing. There is no need to wait to be asked for your views, you can log on to the website or email us to tell us what you think. So please, have your say.

It's your Police Authority, monitoring the work of your Police Force.

Peter F Conniff, Chairman, Bedfordshire Police Authority

? Did we perform?



There were 5,749 fewer victims of crime in Bedfordshire in 2008-09

Crime came down by 11% in the year ending March 31st 2009, compared to the previous year and Home Office figures showed Bedfordshire to be improving in 13 out of 16 key areas and on par with our most similar forces in terms of both total recorded crime and sanction detections.

Priority areas for the year, based on what you said was most important, showed significant improvements:

Robbery was down 16%	196
Domestic burglary was down 10%	445
Theft from motor vehicle was down 21%	1395
Theft of a motor vehicle was down 16%	279



Reducing crime, increasing safety



Over the last year we have, with your help, made Bedfordshire a safer place to live by reducing recorded crime by 11%, (that is potentially 5,749 fewer victims of crime), compared to the previous year.

We have also continued our work with local communities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Every area has a Safer Neighbourhood Team who are there to listen to you, find out what your concerns are, work with other local organisations and members of your community to tackle the problems you identify and give feedback about what we have done to improve your neighbourhood.

You can find out who your local Safer Neighbourhood Team is, how to contact them and get involved by visiting www.bedfordshire.police.uk or calling 01234 841212.

This year we will continue to focus on reducing crime even further. This is something you can help to achieve through simple actions like ensuring you lock your doors and windows properly and leaving a light on when you go out. With your help we can continue to reduce crime and make this an even safer place to live.

**Gillian Parker
Chief Constable**



When the Authority agrees the priorities for the year, we consult with local people and our partners such as the local Crime and Disorder Partnerships. As a result it has been agreed that this year we will focus on the provision of local policing in neighbourhoods and protecting people from serious threats.

The Pledge to you



Bedfordshire Police Force is committed to delivering the national Policing Pledge, which sets out clear standards of service which the public can expect to receive.

Appreciating how important it is that these standards are met, the Police Authority is monitoring the delivery of each element very closely and wants everyone to be aware of what the Policing Pledge means to them.

We have been asking how many people are aware of what the Policing Pledge means to them, with a positive response rate of 50%. If you want to know more about the Policing Pledge visit the website to read all about it or ask a member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

? Did you know?



Latest consultation shows that residents believe collaboration with other forces and partnership working is good value for money.

The Police Authority sets challenging efficiency targets for the Force every year and monitors how well they perform.

The Police Authority monitors complaints about the police service.

Over two thirds of people surveyed were aware of their Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

? Did you call 999?

99,305 people did! 90,932 were answered within 10 seconds.



Purse strings



The budget this year was designed to sustain the improvements in performance, maintain officer numbers, provide investment to keep you safe and develop neighbourhood policing. The current economic climate was taken into account which is why the Police Authority worked hard to keep any increase to council tax payments to a minimum.

The total budget was set at £99.507M, an increase of £3.451M over last year. This means that the amount of council tax paid by an average household (Band D) is £140.56 in 2009-10, still one of the lowest in the country.

This budget has enabled us to retain our highest ever number of Police Officers, 1274, and employ a further 20 police staff.



Solved 100%

The joint Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit investigated 14 murders across the two counties in its first full year and proved its prowess with a clear up rate of 100%!

This impressive performance has led to 29 life sentences with a total of 1000 years imprisonment for the people who committed these crimes, making Bedfordshire a safer place to live.

Detective Supt Andy Shrives, head of the unit, said: "The combined skills and experience of our 145-strong team has

increased our effectiveness in dealing with major incidents across both counties."

Peter Conniff, Chair of the Police Authority, said: "We are pleased to see such positive outcomes from this groundbreaking collaboration initiative. This led the way for our other joint ventures with Hertfordshire, from which we anticipate similar benefits."



New Authority Members

Following this year's local elections, the Authority has welcomed six new members.

Mrs Fiona Chapman, MBE

Ms Alison Graham

Mrs Sarah Holland

Mr John Mingay

Mr Lakhbir Singh

Mrs Christina Turner



Tackling the Serial Criminal

The successful techniques used in Luton to tackle the small number of habitual criminals, known as Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs), are being adopted across the Force, with specialist Offender Management Teams.

Chief Inspector Greg Horsford of the Force's Integrated Offender Management Unit explained that these people commit a high number of offences, usually burglary and vehicle crime, often related to a drugs habit. "It is critical that the cycle between drug dependency and crime is broken," he said. "A problem solving approach, looking at the cause of the crime rather than the crime itself, has proved very effective."

The police work with other service providers such as the Local Authority housing and social behaviour units, health professionals, Probation Service, Prison Service and organisations involved in treatment for drug and alcohol addictions to help offenders overcome the issues that drive them to crime.

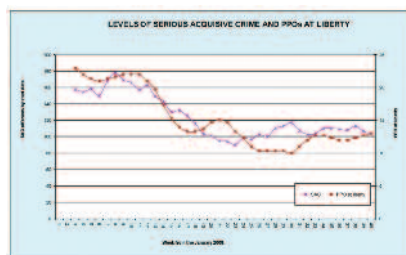
Chief Inspector Horsford added: "Our message to any offender is there is a lot of help available to help you break the cycle of offending and drug use. If you choose to carry on committing crime we will target you with all our resources and you will end up in Prison."

"We are prepared to help people to help themselves, but if they turn their back on that help, their criminal activities will only lead to the Court."

This multi-agency approach is now being used across the county to support the activity already in place to tackle those who commit the most crime.

Factfile

In January 2008 there were 24 PPOs at liberty in Luton. As a result of this targeted approach in July 2009 there were only seven at liberty, with the remainder either on remand or serving prison sentences. The benefits are evidenced by the reduction in crime in Luton, which it is anticipated will be mirrored across Central Beds and Beds Borough. In other cases, PPOs have been rehabilitated, are now in full time employment and no longer involved in crime.



Drugs week a BIG success

Twenty-five arrests were made and a significant amount of drugs taken off the streets during National Tackling Drugs Week.

The biggest haul was in Dunstable where 3.5kgs of cocaine with a street value of nearly £700,000 was discovered.

In addition, four large-scale cannabis production sites were closed, applications made for two crack house closures and further cash confiscated totalling about £12,000. Raids across the county recovered cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, hydroponic growing equipment, a large machete and dealing paraphernalia and paperwork.

Seven people were charged immediately while all the others, bar one given a caution for possession of a small amount of cannabis, were put on police bail awaiting the outcome of enquiries.

Det Supt Paul Coombes, who coordinated the campaign, said: "Much of the information we use is from the communities, neighbours, friends and families of those who are dealing. We deal positively with all information we receive, even if we can't do anything about it immediately."



We're Prepared



Large scale emergencies rarely occur, but if they do they can have a big impact on local people. That's why Bedfordshire Police and our partners are prepared for any eventuality.

We are part of the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum, a partnership that brings together police, councils, hospitals, health service, and other emergency services to respond to any major emergency in Bedfordshire. As well as dealing with the aftermath of a major incident, all services and organisations work together to ensure that the best possible plans are in place to deal with such emergencies.

In addition, the recently launched joint Civil Contingencies & Public Order Planning Unit for Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary will bring improved resilience and efficiency to important areas of specialist policing.

Information at Your Fingertips

Did you know that you can find out about crime levels where you live at the touch of a button? Simply log on to www.bedfordshire.police.uk and look for 'crime mapping' in the Safer Neighbourhood section of the website.



www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Stop and Search

Do you know your rights if you are stopped by the Police? Log on to: www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk to find out more.



Super Police Post at ASDA



You can find almost anything in a supermarket these days... even your local police!

ASDA's supermarket in Wigmore Lane is now home to part of the East Luton Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

The move is all part of Bedfordshire Police's drive to make it easier for residents in all areas to get in contact with and get to know those officers who are dedicated to looking after a particular area.

While 24-hour emergency response will still be mostly provided from the main Buxton Road police station, the job of the SNTs is to look at longer-term "quality of life issues" which may need a more in-depth approach involving the community and other agencies.



Prison for Career Burglar

Police from three counties went on the hunt for a career burglar, who had gone on a crime spree across Bedfordshire and neighbouring areas last year. At the time he was wanted for a minor offence.

Luton's Offender Management Unit coordinated the investigation and within days he was arrested. Initially he was remanded in prison for four offences, but after a month-long series of interviews a further 50 crimes that he had committed were detected. Following his appearance at Crown Court he was sentenced to four years in prison.

Mini-motos Driven out



People with mini-motos are getting the message and keeping away from public places.

Complaints, which were numerous, about people riding these bikes in Alder Crescent, Blundell Road, Avenue Grimaldi and Solway Road South areas of Saints have not just dropped, they have stopped.

A campaign, launched in response to local concerns, has seen high visibility patrols out and about seizing and, where appropriate, crushing any off-road motorcycles being used anti-socially.

A nuisance bike hotline number was also introduced so that members of the public could report anyone they know who owns a mini-moto or an off-road motorbike which they use illegally.

Police Sergeant Pauline Leng, who is coordinating the police activity, said: "Riding these bikes anywhere but on approved bike tracks is not only a real nuisance to people, but it is also dangerous and illegal.

"We are listening to the concerns of local people and are taking positive action to tackle them. If people are concerned, we urge them to get in touch."

Crackdown on Anti-Social Behaviour & Drug Crime



A rigorous crackdown on anti-social behaviour and drug crime in Dorrington Close is in place, supported by the Police, Luton Borough Council, the Dorrington Close Residents' Association, local residents, volunteer agencies and local businesses.

Alongside regular high visibility patrols, the area has been granted a Dispersal Order which means that the Police can move people on – something that is happening on a regular basis. Local residents have been given information about the police services that are available to them, including burglary deterrents, while vulnerable residents have been offered personal attack alarms and fireproof letter boxes.

A mobile CCTV camera has also been introduced and ways to deter criminals from using a private car park for illegal activities are now being considered.

No stone is being left unturned in the bid to drive out crime.

Students at Denbigh High School now need a letter from their parents before they are allowed to leave the school during school hours. To help keep young people off the streets and out of trouble after school PCSO Daniel McHugh has organised a number of diversionary football sessions. In addition, the Boom Bus has been providing free activities to young people in the area after school on Wednesdays.

One of the highlights of the whole campaign was the 'The Big Tidy Up' event, organised with the help of local residents, partners and businesses. PCSO Daniel Ciantar said: "The community felt so pleased with how the day went that they asked for a repeat. It is only through communities working together that long term improvements can be made in terms of crime and the environment."



A Beautiful game



Luton Town Centre's Local Safer Neighbourhood Team donned their boots for a football match at Slip End against the Zimbabwean Community team. Watched by local residents and supporters, the Zimbabwean's strolled to victory, winning 4 – 1, collecting a trophy for their efforts.

The match was organised by Police Sergeant Jon Pain, who said: "It is really good to be able to participate in this type of social gathering as it allows local residents groups and the police to build sound partnerships which in turn helps us understand their individual needs in the community. Hopefully this will become an annual event."



Cleaning up the Brickie



Football and other sociable pastimes have replaced anti-social behaviour on The 'Brickie', a play area in the Kinglands Road and Strathmore Walk part of Luton, which has recently been transformed for the benefit of local communities

The Park Town Safer Neighbourhood Team has worked with the local community centre and residents to see how the area could be spruced up and made more attractive to reduce anti-social behaviour and young people just 'hanging around'.

Fencing has been erected thanks to funding from Bedfordshire Police Authority and other partner agencies to prevent footballs landing in nearby residents' gardens and the walls have been painted by local children to make them more attractive.

PCSO Vicki Playford said: "It took us nearly two years to complete this project and it's great to see all the community getting involved and the children using their play area as it should be used."



Local Contacts

- **If personal safety is under threat,** always dial 999
- **To contact Bedfordshire Police for non-emergencies:** 01234 841212
- **Minicom Users:** 01234 842233
- **For advice on community safety & anti-social behaviour issues:**
Bedford Borough : 01234 221881
Central Bedfordshire: 0300 300 5490
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
Website: www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk
email: info@bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk

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