



PRESS INFORMATION

Police Authority's Pledge to Service

Despite the decision by the Coalition Government to discontinue the Policing Pledge, the principles behind it are alive and kicking in Bedfordshire.

Members of Bedfordshire Police Authority's Performance and Planning Committee discussed the implications on resources and performance of delivering the pledge with the Chief Constable Gillian Parker and Assistant Chief Constable Kath Govier.

Members were unanimous in their view that the principles of the Pledge, namely delivering a first class service to local residents and those who need the services of the police, should not be abandoned. However, they felt that many of the ten strands of the Pledge were in fact 'business as usual' and were already being met in different ways.

The need to report against every separate aspect was questioned and it was agreed that the Authority's Community Engagement Committee would consider specific areas to be monitored closely at its next meeting.

Martin Pantling, Chair of the Committee said: "In Bedfordshire both the Police Authority and the Force have long been committed to the provision of a high level of customer service and the abolition of the Pledge will not detract from that aspiration.

"We firmly believe that our services should be delivered in line with the expectations of individuals and the needs of different communities. The only question is whether reporting routinely against ten separate measures involves more resources than the benefits justify. The public should continue to expect a first class police service, pledge or no pledge, and we will continue to monitor performance in key areas to ensure there are no unwelcome fluctuations."

ENDS

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