

PRESS INFORMATION



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Police Authority Investment Protects the Public

A Public Protection Unit (PPU), set up in April 2007 with the help of Police Authority investment, is paying dividends in helping to keep vulnerable people safe. The Authority agreed an additional investment of £500,000 in 2009/10, bringing the total to £3.3M.

A special report presented to Bedfordshire Police Authority's Performance Committee highlighted some of the excellent work the PPU is providing.

The Unit deals with specialist areas such as Domestic Abuse, Forced Marriage and Honour-based Violence, Child Abuse, Rape, Sex Offenders, Vulnerable Children and Missing People.

The report highlighted the increased confidence the public are showing in the domestic abuse investigation team, with more cases being reported, and a reduction in the number of repeat offences. This team also works closely with multi agency partners to help protect vulnerable people at risk from domestic abuse.

Members were pleased to learn more about the work to protect young people. The Vulnerable Missing Children/Young Person Co-ordination Unit, again supported by Police Authority investment, has led to a significant reduction (36%) in the number of people reported missing on three or more occasions. Further funding has led to the creation of a multi-agency Missing Children Group to respond when young people go missing, to identify the reasons for them running away and to try and resolve the problem.

Chair of the Performance Committee, Martin Pantling, said: "In police speak, Protective Services does what it says on the tin. It is all about protecting people and keeping them safe.

"Funding this area of policing is part of the difficult balance the Authority faces between funding high visibility safer neighbourhood teams and the often difficult and unseen side of policing involved in protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

"It does require a significant amount of our budget and yet many people do not really know what it encompasses. We want to highlight the work the force does to keep those who are vulnerable safe and to bring offenders to justice.

"The Authority places great significance on this area of business and we were pleased to see that our ongoing investment and support are delivering results."

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