



PRESS INFORMATION

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Police Authority Welcomes Anti-Corruption Unit

Members of Bedfordshire Police Authority's Complaints and Professional Standards Committee have welcomed the introduction of an Anti-Corruption Unit as a result of the joint Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Professional Standards Unit launched in April.

The unit's vision, agreed by the Chief Officers of both Forces, is *'To maintain and improve public confidence and quality of service and enhance the integrity of the Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary'*.

Members felt that the Unit's existence promotes the high standards expected from all police officers and staff and emphasises that any detraction from these standards will not be tolerated.

Penny Fletcher, Chair of the Complaints and Professional Standards Committee said the new unit would give members of the public confidence in the integrity of officers and staff.

"The Police Authority promotes the highest professional standards at all times," she said. "It has demonstrated its determination to ensure that the Force endeavours to identify any unethical behaviour within the officers and staff of Bedfordshire Police with its total support of the creation of this proactive Anti-Corruption Unit.

"There is no indication that there is a problem with corrupt practices and it is hoped that the very existence of this unit will deter people from even considering abusing their position, a position we believe to be based on trust and transparency."

The joint unit, the result of a collaborative project between the two forces, means that it will be better equipped to proactively protect both the service and public from the very small minority who, through their actions, undermine confidence in the Police Service.

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