



# PRESS INFORMATION

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## Police Authority Investment Shows Results

Investment approved by the Police Authority last year for the creation of a dedicated Rape Investigation Unit has helped drive significant improvements in the way rape cases are handled in Bedfordshire.

Members of the Police Authority's Performance Committee were pleased to learn that there was a substantial increase in the number of successful cases going before court. Of the 23 cases that went to court between April 2009-end February 2010, 18 (78%) were successfully concluded which is considerably above the Crown Prosecution Service's national target. This was double the rate for the previous year.

In addition, positive feedback had been received from the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Mr Richard Newcombe, who had praised the professionalism of referrals, the timeliness of investigations and the way in which the Unit had complied with the Force's 'Rape Action Plan'.

Martin Pantling, Chair of the Performance Committee, said: "We were delighted to see the increase in the number of cases reaching court which have a successful outcome. It's important that victims have confidence in the whole system and justice being clearly done is one of the best ways to achieve this.

"As a result of the Authority's investment in the Rape Investigation Unit, victims of rape and sexual assault receive help and support from specially trained officers throughout the entire process, from the initial report to court proceedings.

"We hope that these measures will encourage more people to come forward and report incidents of rape and we will continue to keep up the pressure for an increase in the number of crimes detected."

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