



PRESS INFORMATION

DATE: 31st March 2010

Bedfordshire Police Authority Unveils its Plans for Policing

The policing priorities for Bedfordshire in the coming year have just been unveiled by the County's Police Authority.

These priorities are incorporated in the plans for policing the County, including Luton, which are published today (31 March, 2010) and represent a joint commitment between the Authority and Police Force to build on the improvements made over the last few years.

Before agreeing the priorities and strategic objectives for the future, the Authority consulted widely with local communities, businesses, partners and the Police Force, to ensure that the things that matter most to people are being addressed.

As a result the key priorities for policing in both Bedford and Central Bedfordshire in 2010-11 will be:

- Tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime (including burglary, robbery and vehicle crime)
- Addressing re-offending rates
- Reducing the number of repeat incidents of domestic abuse
- Increasing the number of drug users in effective treatment

In Luton, the priorities have been agreed as:

- Tackling Serious Violent Crime
- Tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime (including burglary, robbery and vehicle crime)
- Addressing perceptions and local concerns regarding Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing re-offending by prolific, priority and young offenders
- Reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse

Peter Conniff, Chair of the Police Authority, said: "It is tremendously important that we address the things that people tell us are of concern where they live. We are committed to ongoing performance improvements such as reducing burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. I'm pleased to see that overall crime fell by 8% between April and December 2009, compared to the previous year.

"However, there is no room for complacency and we need to ensure that we use our resources to greatest effect at all times. The financial picture is looking increasingly challenging and it is our job to ensure that the public receive a value for money service that meets their needs and expectations."

“We will continue to explore ways in which we can develop critical areas of service delivery while protecting frontline services. This is imperative if the standards set out in the Policing Pledge are to be met consistently.”

In the nine months April – December 2009, compared to the previous year there was:

- A fall of 33% (269) in robbery offences
- A reduction of 15% (452) in domestic burglary offences
- A 20% (789) drop in theft from a vehicle
- A 21% (217) drop in theft of a vehicle.
- A 7% (477) reduction in criminal damage;
- A 14% (59) drop in sexual offences
- A 26% (285) fall in fraud and forgery offences.

The Authority and the Force are committed to the provision of a police service that ensures people are safer – and that they feel safer – with increased confidence and satisfaction in Bedfordshire Police.

This is why the Authority, in partnership with Bedfordshire Police, has also published a plan which sets out the strategic aims for the next three years.

Peter Conniff added: “The Strategic Plan provides the direction and focus for the next three years, to enable us to increase public confidence and meet the needs of our diverse communities. Our approach to tackling the challenges, threats and risks faced by Bedfordshire Police, including the importance of working with our partners to provide more streamlined services are outlined in this document.

Both the Annual Plan and the Three Year Strategic Plan can be downloaded from the Authority’s website www.bedfordshirepoliceauthority.co.uk or from the Force site at www.bedfordshire.police.uk

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