



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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Crime continues to fall in Leicestershire but still no room for complacency, say police chiefs

Ambitious plans to drive forward police performance in Leicestershire are continuing to reap dividends, according to the latest figures.

Data for the period 1 April - November 14 2011 show overall crime in the county has fallen once again by 6.3% to 43,844 offences. This surpasses the 5% target set by the Authority in the 2011/12 Policing Plan and puts the Constabulary on track to achieving its promises to the public.

The downward trend continues in other categories of crime including domestic burglary which has fallen by -7.8%, theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle which has seen a reduction of -13% (significantly improving on the target of -3%) and theft from a vehicle at -9% against a target of -6%.

Satisfaction rates which measure the public's confidence with policing have also improved since the last quarter. Figures show 92.2% of victims of burglary are satisfied with the way the police handled their case compared to the target of 88%, while 87.3% of vehicle crime victims were satisfied (against a target of 88%).

However, Leicestershire Police Authority accepts further work is needed to strengthen confidence and improve satisfaction rates, particularly among victims of sexual offences. The Authority has welcomed the launch of a new task force called Operation Tempest which comprises a team of experienced officers to help increase detections in serious sexual offences, serious violence and Serious Acquisitive Crime. Bringing more people to justice for their crimes in the county will have a positive effect on satisfaction rates among victims and the wider public.

Meanwhile, the Authority is reporting excellent results from the launch of a number of recent projects designed to improve service.

Last month the 101 telephone number was launched for non-urgent enquiries. The memorable number is aimed at relieving pressure on the emergency services which spend a considerable proportion of time dealing with inappropriate 999 calls and allows residents to report minor crime or discuss other non-urgent matters.

Evidence shows the new number is already being used widely, and is currently dealing with around 19% of all non-emergency calls. This figure is expected to increase significantly with additional marketing campaigns.

Cllr Barrie Roper, chairman of Leicestershire Police Authority, said: "We are pleased that crime is continuing to fall in the county this year and that we've made significant progress against the ambitious targets outlined in our Policing Plan. However, we accept there is still more work needed as some areas still remain below our high expectations.

"The Constabulary is taking swift action to address any weaknesses, including the launch of Operation Tempest which will allocate specific resources towards improving detection rates, and I am confident this level of scrutiny will bring rewards. We also expect the public's experience of local policing to be greatly enhanced with the addition of 72 new beat offices in the heart of the community to target the concerns and issues which matter most to the public. These have been possible thanks to the support of our partners which have provided the facilities at no additional cost to the force and will no doubt increase accessibility to local officers.

"Over the next 12 months we will continue to robustly challenge the Force to retain the positive start made this year and to achieve further improvements which will make the county safer for residents and a more hostile environment for criminals. We mustn't forget that every crime has emotional and possibly financial consequences for its victim and until the message gets across that crime in Leicestershire doesn't pay there will be no let-up in our fight to drive criminals from our streets."

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