



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

08 November 2010

Durham Constabulary has the best crime detection rates in the country

Members of Durham Police Authority are pleased to announce its Constabulary is performing well, with falling crime rates and good crime detection rates across County Durham and Darlington.

Police performance was reviewed by the Authority at its quarterly meeting of the Effective Policing Delivery Committee and shown that the crime detection rate has increased by over 15% in the last year. This means that between April and September this year, 41% of all crimes have been detected.

Police Authority Members welcomed the reduction in overall crime in the Force area which is now at the lowest recorded crime rates since the 1980's.

All recorded crime fell by 14.9%, equating to 3,266 fewer crimes and members were pleased to see reductions in burglary, vehicle and all violent crime, plus drug related incidents and criminal damage.

Peter Thompson, Chair of the Police Authority said:

“These performance figures are extremely impressive and I hope that the residents of County Durham and Darlington are reassured to know that we are doing everything we can to keep them safe – and that they really are safer.

“The Authority has consistently listened to local people and set challenging targets for the Constabulary based on this feedback, thereby ensuring that the things that matter most to our communities are being successfully addressed.

“Fear of crime is a national issue, which is usually inflated in the national press. Locally, as these figures illustrate, Durham Constabulary is doing an excellent job and one which we are working hard to help them maintain.

“On behalf of all residents I would like to say a big thank you to the Chief Constable and everyone connected with the Force for these magnificent achievements in these very challenging times”.

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority's Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

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