

Hampshire Police Authority Annual Report 2009/10



Hampshire
POLICE AUTHORITY
for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the 2009/10 Annual Report for Hampshire Police Authority, which looks at our performance over the last year.

Policing is one of the key services that people rightly expect to be excellent – and there when they need it. As the organisation responsible for ensuring that local people get the best possible policing services, we speak to a wide range of groups, communities and businesses across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to find out what people want from their local police.

Throughout last year we arranged 30 community events to meet local people and ask them about their priorities for local policing services. These priorities are included in the annual Policing Plan (<http://www.hantspa.org/hpa/hpapublications/policingplan.htm>), so our work has focused on the areas you told us about and is reported here.

In the past 12 months we have seen some significant changes, both in the policing world and beyond. The impact of the recession and the drive for more cost effective services continues, and will become even more of a focus for us in the future.



We've been working closely with the Constabulary to improve their performance and reduce costs. The drop in the number of overall crimes last year – 16,536 – is more than a 10 per cent reduction, a tremendous achievement and a credit to the Chief Constable and his team. This is more than three times the target we set and means that local residents and visitors can be confident crime rates are falling and that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are even safer places to live, work and visit.

But as well as looking back we should look forward, including the opening of the new police headquarters in Southampton in 2011, which will transform policing in the city. We should also soon be welcoming a new Deputy Chief Constable following the departure of Simon Cole to become Chief Constable of Leicestershire. Simon did a fantastic job in Hampshire and we wish him well for the future.

Councillor Jacqui Rayment
Chair, Hampshire Police Authority

'...and the drive for more cost effective service continues...'

What you want from YOUR local police

Cuts in crime

We asked about your priorities and took action to tackle:

anti social behaviour

vehicle crime

speeding/anti social use of vehicles

criminal damage

- **All crime down 10.4 per cent**
(16,536 fewer crimes)
- **Criminal damage down 19.06 per cent**
(6,738 fewer crimes)
- **Vehicle crime down 19.71 per cent**
(2,832 fewer crimes)
- **Rowdy & nuisance behaviour down 18.7 per cent** (14,005 fewer incidents)
- **Vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use down 24.78 per cent** (3,243 fewer incidents)
- **Gun crime down 12.6 per cent**
(15 fewer crimes)
- **Knife crime down 8.4 per cent** (60 fewer crimes)

During the same period **Serious Violent Crime declined by 4.43 per cent** from 948 to 906 - 42 fewer crimes.

However, the detection rate for serious and acquisitive crime (robbery, household burglaries and vehicle thefts) was 3.3 per cent short of its target.



Confidence and trust in the police

Public confidence in the police in our area is growing and we will continue to work with the Constabulary to meet our target of raising the confidence level by 12 per cent over three years from 47.3 per cent to 59.3 per cent.

The latest British Crime Survey shows that 52.3%¹ of people believe the police and local councils are 'dealing with anti social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their areas'.

67 per cent of people who have been in contact with the police as a result of burglary, vehicle crime, violence and road traffic incidents are satisfied.

We set 12 tough targets last year, of which 11 were achieved. Five recent government inspections have also highlighted Hampshire Constabulary's strengths as a low cost and effective police force, but we are not complacent and recognise there is always more to do.

¹ British Crime Survey 31/12/09

Complaints

We oversee complaints about the police. Our latest survey showed that most people who had complained thought the process was too long and they did not get enough feedback. As a result, the police are introducing changes.



Using the latest technology

Good value for money and high quality, efficient policing

We made sure the police delivered good value services through:

- the police budget**
- use of resources**
- recommendations from inspections**
- measuring performance**

The budget for 2009/10 was 304.7 million compared to £294.2 million the previous year, an increase of 3.6 per cent.

The Constabulary not only made efficiency savings of over £6 million during the year but also achieved significant improvements in performance.

The police authority and Hampshire Constabulary are using efficiency savings made in the 2009/10 financial year to support the 2010/2011 budget, with a contribution from reserves of £2.3 million. Another £1.5 million is being saved by delivering further efficiency savings in police staff working practices.

Further work included collaborating with neighbouring police authorities in specific areas to make savings, for example the joint IT Service Desk.

Our first government inspection judged us to be performing 'adequately' with many strengths including:

- seeking the views of local communities and planning with them to develop the Policing Plan
- tackling inequality and improving outcomes for vulnerable people
- good monitoring of police performance, supported by clear information
- setting challenging targets which have resulted in falling crime rates.

Areas where we need to improve included:

- setting clearer long term plans for the effective use of resources
- improving our longer term financial planning to protect frontline policing in difficult economic times



Keeping our streets safe

Working with partners

The police authority is a statutory member of all 15 community safety partnerships in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, including the County Strategy Group, which includes all 11 district councils. Members work with community safety teams to make sure local priorities are heard at a strategic level and are reflected in the policing priorities for Hampshire Constabulary.

We also work with partners on crime prevention grants (see page 7).

Following last year's successful event to discuss the implications of the government Green Paper on policing, we held another stakeholder conference in February 2010 at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton to hear from leading experts on 'Delivering partnerships and winning confidence'.

Independent Custody Visitors

The police authority runs a scheme to check on people detained in police cells. As of 31 March there were 60 volunteers carrying out visits to custody suites across the two counties. Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 there were 337 visits and 1,168 detainees who agreed to be seen by visitors, 96.94 per cent of those asked. The high uptake is a measure of the scheme's success.

Protecting your rights

The police authority has a statutory duty to make the public aware of their rights in relation to 'Stop and Search' and 'Stop and Account'. We did this through a series of 10 Stop and Search roadshows across the two counties.

We're working with the Constabulary to drive up their performance after they were named as one of the worst police forces nationally for disproportionately targeting ethnic communities in Stop and Search operations.

This includes providing regular reports on performance and quality to our Performance and Engagement committees respectively, identifying and focusing on the action needed to tackle the issues, and clearer instructions for officers. Funding for research into the use of Stop and Search powers has also been secured from the local Criminal Justice Board.



What you need to know about Hampshire Police Authority



The police authority is:

- Is made up of 17 local people who hold Hampshire Constabulary to account
- Engages with local communities to find out what you want from your local police
- Makes sure the Chief Constable delivers a police service that deals with people's concerns as well as national priorities
- Has the power to hire or fire the Chief Constable and other senior police officers – and checks complaints against the police
- Publishes a policing plan based on engagement with local people that sets out the services your police should provide and the targets they need to achieve
- Has a legal duty to promote equality, comply with human rights laws and foster good relations between different groups of people
- Holds the police budget and makes sure you get good value for money by engaging with local people before setting the police council tax
- Sets the strategic direction of local policing to make sure everyone benefits from a better police service

Our goals:

- Providing strong, effective leadership in supporting and challenging the Constabulary, underpinned by robust governance and effective member support.
- Ensuring that listening to our communities contributes to confidence in local policing
- Ensuring that resources are used effectively to increase productivity
- Promoting equality, respect and dignity in the workforce and in all our dealings with the public
- Working in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, while at the same time keeping an objective view about the needs of our own communities

Our values:

Honesty

Integrity

Objectivity and independence

Accountability and openness

Leadership

Our vision:

Hampshire Police Authority exists to ensure that the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight receive an effective, efficient policing service.

Working with you

The Community Engagement Committee meets four times a year to scrutinise the work of Hampshire Constabulary as well as giving grants for projects that promote crime prevention.



Helping prevent crime

Each year, Hampshire Police Authority, through the Community Engagement Committee, gives grants to a range of organisations - many from the voluntary and charitable sector - to help prevent crime or reduce the impact on victims.

In 2009/10 these grants totalled £187,893.

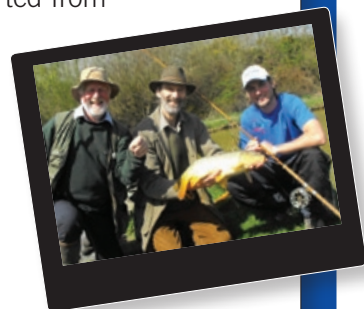
Standing grants of £86,500 to county-wide organisations in 2009/10 were approved by the committee and included:

Be Your Best Foundation - Rock Challenge	£25,000
Victim Support Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	£28,000
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	£6,000
Winchester Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling	£4,500
Basingstoke Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis Centre	£4,500
Portsmouth Area Rape Crisis Service	£6,000
The Bobby Trust	£7,500
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crimestoppers	£5,000

Small discretionary grants totalling £101,393 were made to 40 organisations for general crime prevention work, and projects to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime. These grants are approved by the police authority's chief executive and chair of the Community Engagement Committee and the average grant is £2,535.

For Life Experiences (FLE) — a grant of £3,000

FLE is a small charity that aims to introduce people of all ages to the positive benefits of fishing and other outdoor activities. Working with youth organisations, charities, councils, the police and fire and rescue services who 'sponsor' groups of disengaged young people, FLE offer activities in Ampfield near Romsey. The fishing school and activity centre has been converted from a derelict building and the official opening in April 2010 was attended by three giants of the fishing world, Hugh Miles, Len Arbury and Chris Yates (pictured).



To find out more about our grants, please see the contact details at the end of this Annual Report.

Listening to YOU

The police authority has a statutory duty to engage with the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to find out their community issues, concerns and priorities.

This ensures people's views and opinions are reflected in the future plans including the Policing Plan - a three year rolling document that sets the policing priorities for Hampshire Constabulary.

Thirty community engagement events were held in 2009/10. The groups we consulted with included:

- young people
- rural communities
- disabled communities
- neighbourhood watch coordinators
- partner agencies
- businesses
- local parishes
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents (survey)

The results of these events are reported to the Community Engagement Committee, who discuss the issues raised and make sure that Hampshire Constabulary responds to them. The top three issues raised last year were:

- anti-social behaviour
- criminal damage
- speeding



Working with partners and the community

The police authority is committed to working with partners at a local and national level on a range of issues.

In the past year we have worked with colleges, schools, Crimestoppers, councils, community safety partnerships, local residents, neighbourhood watch schemes, shopping centres, disability groups, youth organisations, rural communities, businesses and trade unions (at the Budget setting consultation).

Through engagement with all our communities we can ensure that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are safer places to live, work and visit. Our engagement activities enable us to measure the public's level of confidence in the local police.

Details of future engagement events are available on our website.

How to contact us

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