

Safer Carmarthenshire - Local Policing Summary 2006/07



Introduction

This is the second Local Policing Summary produced by Dyfed-Powys Police aimed at providing you, our customers, with some information on how the Force has been performing. This is a new format for the publication, because we want to be sure that everyone who receives a police service in this area receives the information that they need and are entitled to.

From the information available, we hope you will conclude that the Dyfed-Powys Police remains one of the best in England and Wales and is delivering on the things that matter most to local people. 'Safeguarding our Community' lies at the very heart of everything we do and we will work with you to ensure that this special part of the world remains amongst the safest in the country.

Andy Edwards - Acting Chief Constable
Alasdair Kenwright - Chairman, Police Authority

How Did We Do In 2006/07?

The Home Secretary set all forces five priorities during 2006/07. Our performance in relation to these is shown below.

Reduce Overall Crime – The Force built upon a 7% reduction in crime during 2005/06 with a further 0.4% reduction. Crime levels in the force area remain the lowest in the whole of England and Wales.

Bring More Offences To Justice – By the end of the period, the Force was 27% ahead of its target for bringing offences to justice (judged against a baseline set in 2002). 46% of offences were brought to justice, the nearest comparator in our most similar force grouping being Suffolk with 34%.

Provide Neighbourhood Policing Teams In All Areas – By April 2007, Neighbourhood Policing Teams with designated officers and police staff were in place across the Force. The reduction in government funded Police Community Support Officers from the original 157 to 74 resulted in their deployment being revisited, but this has been achieved.

Serious and Organised Crime – Such criminality is fortunately rare in this area, but the Force has worked closely with colleagues in Gwent and South Wales to tackle it where it exists under the banner of Operation Tarian. This work is ongoing and its importance is reflected in the fact that it has recently been the focus of nationwide inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Terrorism And Domestic Extremism – Late in 2006, the Force hosted and led the largest counter terrorism exercise ever seen in Wales involving government, special services, the armed forces and other partners. The Force also played a major role in policing the construction of the LNG pipeline across south Wales and associated environmental protests.

In addition, the Police Authority set four priorities for the Force during 2006/07 after detailed and wide ranging consultation with the public. These were:

Class A Drugs – The number of offenders charged with Class A drug trafficking rose from 78 to 82 and the number of such offences leading to a conviction, caution or being taken into consideration by a court increased from 56 to 65.

Violent Crime – The detection rate for violent crime rose from 54.6% to 59.9% and the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse dropped from 856 to 744.

Anti-Social Behaviour – The number of reported incidents rose from 25,621 to 29,355. This can largely be attributed to the full implementation of the National Standard for Incident Recording, which more accurately reflects levels of anti-social behaviour, but the Force and Authority accept that this is an area where further work is needed.

Terrorism and Extremism – This is referred to under the Home Secretary's priorities.

Following further public consultation, the Authority opted to retain the priorities above during 2007/08 to reflect the views of the public. Progress against these objectives will be reported in the Local Policing Plan (available on our website or from the Force's Corporate Services department from June 30th 2008) and next year's Local Policing Summary. More detailed information on crime information in your locality will be available on the Force website from July 2008.

How You Are Policed

The Force is split into four Basic Command Units that match exactly the county council areas of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. These units are split into sections with Neighbourhood Policing Teams operating in each of these sections. To find out more about policing in your area and your local neighbourhood officers, log onto our revamped website at www.dyfed-powys.police.uk

How Do We Compare With Others?

The following table shows how we compare to other forces in some key policing areas:

| | 2006/07 Performance | England and Wales Ranking |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Fear of Crime | | |
| Risk of being a victim of Household Crime | 11% | Lowest |
| Risk of being a victim of personal crime | 3% | Lowest |
| Fear of Violent Crime | 8% | 3rd Lowest |
| Crime | | |
| Total Recorded Crime | 60 per 1,000 pop | Lowest |
| Domestic Burglary | 4 per 1,000 h/holds | Lowest |
| Other Theft | 11 per 1,000 pop | Lowest |
| Vehicle Crime | 4 per 1,000 pop | Lowest |

The latest assessments from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary paint a similar picture. It is important to remember from the assessments below, that a 'fair' grading is deemed to be the standard of service that the Inspectorate would expect to see for that particular function.

| 2006/07 Performance Area | Delivery | Direction |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Tackling Crime | Excellent | Stable |
| Serious Crime & Public Protection | Fair | N/A |
| Protecting Vulnerable People | Excellent | N/A |
| Satisfaction and Fairness | Good | Stable |
| Implementation of Neighbourhood Policing | Fair | N/A |
| Resources and Efficiency | Excellent | Improved |
| Local Priorities | Good | N/A |

Performance In Carmarthenshire

How We Performed On Your Patch

As well as national and force wide priorities there are certain things that your local officers will have focused on during 2006/07, some of them particular to the area in which you live. Below is a brief summary of these issues and how well we dealt with them.

Anti-Social Behaviour - Across the BCU, the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded between April and October 2006 was up by 0.6% (35 incidents). This represents the finalised data for the financial year as recording systems have been amended to reflect national requirements.

Burglary - Between April 2006 and March 2007, domestic burglaries fell by 14.2% (or 52 offences) across the BCU. The sanction detection rate for these offences was 39.5%, well above the Force average of 30.2%. Other burglary was down 4.4%, with a sanction detection rate of 24.9% (Force average 22.3%)

Class A Drug Trafficking - The total number of offenders charged with Class A trafficking rose by 24% (6 offences) during the year. This level of increase was higher than the Force average that stood at 5.1%.

Auto Crime/Thefts from Unmanned Vehicles - Up to the end of March 2007, there were 809 vehicle crimes recorded in Carmarthenshire, an increase of 3 or 0.4%. The sanction detection rate for these offences at 23.5% is above the Force average.

Alcohol Related and Domestic Violence - Offences of alcohol related violence were up by 17% or 232 offences during the financial year. In the same period, there were 6.6% (99) more domestic violence incidents recorded.

Roads Policing - The number of serious and fatal road traffic collisions recorded across the BCU between April 2006 and March 2007 was 90, 4 fewer than in the previous year.

If you want to know more about the work of Dyfed-Powys Police or tell us your views about the service we provide, please log onto our website www.dyfed-powys.police.uk, or email corperv@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call us on our non-emergency number 0845 330 2000.

Useful Numbers

The Samaritans
08457 909 090
Police Non-emergency No.
0845 330 2000

Victim Support Dyfed
0845 303 0900

Crimestoppers Wales
0800 555 111

Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 901 0800

Domestic Abuse
24 Hour National Helpline
0808 2000 247

National Drugs Helpline
0800 77 66 00

Confidential helpline for parents and school staff concerned over drugs incidents in schools
0345 366666

Equality and Human Rights Commission
0845 6048810

Immigration Advice Line
02920 433983