



HUMBERSIDE
POLICE AUTHORITY

PRESS INFORMATION

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POLICE AUTHORITY WELCOMES OFFICIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Humberside Police Authority has today welcomed further proof, unveiled by the Home Office, that police performance in the area served by Humberside Police has improved once more.

Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) figures for 2007-2008, show that the Force has achieved many of the highly challenging targets set by the Authority. Members said today that the progress made over the last three years was outstanding.

Attributing the improvements to hard work and strategic leadership from the Force, superior partnership working across the whole criminal justice sector and the focus on performance improvements imposed by the Police Authority itself, Chair of the Authority, Ms Alene Branton MBE, said that she felt the Authority's stance had been justified.

"We kept raising the bar at a time when performance was not as we wished and many people felt that we were asking for too great a leap," she said. "However, we felt that this was something on which we could not back down and our faith has been justified.

"We have worked with the Force and all our partners to bring about significant improvements, particularly in the areas that really matter to our communities, such as vehicle crime, robbery and burglary. Violence is down, overall crime is down and more offenders have been brought to justice. By any standards that has to be good news."

Spencer Hunt, North East Lincolnshire Council's Service manager for Safer Communities said: "Over the last three years, and more importantly over the last year, crime has fallen significantly in North East Lincolnshire. When compared to the 2003/04 baseline North East Lincolnshire achieved a 29% reduction in crime in 2007/08 which far exceeded the 23% target set and also exceeded the Yorkshire & Humber regional average of 25%. This equated to 6000 less crimes.

"The partnership recognises the valuable contribution and support given by Humberside Police Authority which has not only seen a significant investment in Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the area, but in addition has enabled other Police resources to be targeted into our priority areas which has enabled the significant reduction in crime achieved in North East Lincolnshire. The Council and wider agencies look forward to working with Humberside Police Authority on the challenges that lie ahead and are confident that together we can achieve the new crime reduction targets set within the new Local Area Agreement 2."

The Police Authority was particularly pleased to see that its determination to see greater efficiencies in call handling, culminating in a public challenge laid down to the Chief Constable himself, has been rewarded, with the assessments noting the meeting of call handling targets.

The report also shows that fear of crime is reducing and the Authority is now focussing on informing the public about the impressive improvements in the safety of their communities, to address perception issues and raise the levels of public confidence.

Humberside Police Authority is the first to acknowledge that improving public confidence is a challenge and is currently considering ways in which it can support the focus on this important element of policing. As part of this, it is determined to secure even more improvement in the quality of policing delivered across the Humberside Police area.

Partnership working will be a key part of this strategy.

This year Humberside Criminal Justice Board (HCJB) produced a three year strategy setting out its ambitions for the Criminal Justice System on Humberside. It recognises that effective partnership working is a prerequisite to delivering improved services and performance for the people of Humberside.

Tim Hollis QPM, Chief Constable of Humberside Police and Chair of the HCJB said: "We face many challenges if we are to deliver our ambition of continued improvement particularly during a period when finances are stretched. There is, quite rightly, an emphasis on improving public confidence in the Criminal Justice System and we have a collective determination to rise to the challenge. By building strong relationships with key partners such as the Police Authority and the four unitary authorities the Board will continue to add value to the work it undertakes."

HCJB is one of 42 Local Criminal Justice Boards established across England and Wales in 2003. It brings together chief officers of the six criminal justice agencies that work together to prevent and deter crime, catch and convict offenders, rehabilitate and resettle those who have offended, and support victims and witnesses. The CJ agencies are Humberside Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Humberside Probation Trust, Her Majesty's Prison Service and Humberside's Youth Offending Teams or Services.

The Board's purpose is to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and fairness of the Criminal Justice System on Humberside, thereby raising the public's overall confidence so that they are more likely to report crime, act as witnesses and expect the system to work for them should they need it. It is working increasingly closely with key stakeholders and strengthening partnerships with key organisations such as the Police Authority, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Primary Health Trusts.

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