

The Common Statement of Performance

Home Secretary Theresa May MP is clear that the priority for the police service is to cut crime. This involves:

- The prevention and detection of crime.
- Dealing with behaviour that leads to crime.
- Understanding offender behaviour.
- Understanding the experience of victims.
- Building relationships with the public.
- Keeping communities safe.
- Maintaining public order.
- Policing public spaces.

The key role of the police is to respond to calls for assistance and initiate operational activity to ensure the safety of the community.

The service is available 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year, and last year Devon and Cornwall Police responded to more than one million calls for help; approximately 250,000 of those were emergency 999 calls.

A key focus for the Force is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Across Devon and Cornwall there are dedicated local policing teams, including police officers, Special Constables, police community support officers, volunteers, neighbourhood wardens and other partner agencies.

These teams are based in local communities, listening to local people and responding to those issues that matter most to them.

In common with the rest of the public sector, police forces are finding innovative and less expensive ways of working to meet the needs of the public while sustaining the quality of service.

Of particular note is the use of restorative justice (or community resolution) which focuses on the needs of the victims, offenders and the wider community. Victims take an active role in the justice process while offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, often making direct reparation to the victim or community.

Through restorative justice the police can reduce re-offending, reduce costs and better meet the needs of victims in dealing with crimes where the offender is known.

Devon and Cornwall Police has been using restorative justice for a number of years. This is also supplemented by moving towards the National Decision Model (NDM), which is seen as a return to common sense policing.

Through the model, police officers are trusted to decide the most appropriate way in which to deal with low level crime and incidents, such as neighbourly disputes or minor criminal damage.

Officers assess an incident and decide on a resolution that is proportionate and appropriate. Any resolution put in place by officers is in the victim's best interest; the victim will always be right at the heart of the decision making.

New ways of dealing with some crimes mean that some 'official' statistics, such as detection rates, under-represent the success in solving crimes.

Forces are also placing emphasis on understanding criminals, particularly those who represent a serious threat to the public and operate in organised groups.

Police forces are working together to prevent serious crimes, such as terrorism, as offenders do not recognise force boundaries. These crimes are relatively rare but take a great deal of effort and resources.

About Devon and Cornwall Police

Geography

We are the largest territorial police force in England - covering approximately 4,000 square miles, 550 miles of peninsula coastline and a road network of 13,000 miles. Policing an area this size presents many challenges, with the needs of rural, coastal and urban communities at the forefront of the police's approach to tackling crime.

The large rural population makes responding to target times for emergencies a challenge for the Force. The cities of Exeter and Plymouth also present their own unique policing issues, as do popular seaside resorts such as Torquay and Newquay.

Demographic profile

Around 1.6 million people live in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in approximately 740,025 households.

The minority ethnic population of about 76,300 people represents 4.5% of the total population (source: mid 2009 estimates).

It is estimated that a further 10.9 million people visit Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly each year, swelling the population to around eight million during the summer months.

Dealing with such a large number of tourists presents its own problems, especially as we have fewer officers per members of the population than most other areas of the country.

The main areas of conurbation are Exeter, Plymouth, Torbay and Truro. There are 241,000 residents in Plymouth alone with an additional 353,000 people commuting into the city for work and leisure.

By contrast there are areas of rural sparsity and important heritage sites, such as Dartmoor, Exmoor Bodmin Moor, the Isles of Scilly and the Cornish coastline.

The indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 ranked Cornwall as the second most deprived county after Durham and the most deprived of all shire counties. In Cornwall, 33% of households are based in areas ranked within the 25% most deprived nationally.

Budget

Along with other public sector organisations we face major financial challenges in coming years. The Force has been asked to make savings of about £50 million in the next four years as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. This is more than 20 percent of the overall Force budget.

Police officers and staff

We are reducing our non-staff budget by 33% through new ways of working but as 80% of our money is spent on people we cannot escape cuts to our workforce.

We have no choice at present but to reduce police officer numbers by up to 700 over the next four years and police staff by up to 500. This is subject to ongoing monitoring and review by the Force.

The challenge we face is substantial and cannot be underestimated; in this climate of budget restrictions our priority is to strike the right balance between officers and staff and maintain our commitment to becoming a top performing force.

The Force Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

Our mission statement is: '**building safer communities together.**'

This means doing everything possible to keep people safe and make sure they feel safe. To do this, it is important that the Force works closely with partner

organisations, such as local councils, to help deliver services that matter to local people.

Vision

Our vision is **to become a top performing force.**

There must be excellence in all tasks undertaken by all officers and staff to ensure the best possible service is delivered to the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Values

Our values are:

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Fairness and respect
- Trust
- Courage

Summary of performance

Performance against targets 2010/11

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority set the Force targets for 2010/11 around:

- Victim satisfaction
- Crime reduction
- Outcomes
- Recruitment

Victim satisfaction

The Force has recorded the third highest level of public confidence nationally, with latest results showing 64.1% of our community believe we are doing an excellent or good job in their local area.

The overall satisfaction rate in our service for the period April 2010 to March 2011 is 87.4%. Performance exceeded the Force target, with an increasing trend in victim satisfaction. The current satisfaction level is the highest year-end figure recorded.

Crime statistics

Annual figures show crime in the Force area fell by almost 6% in 2010/11 with 86,692 offences recorded.

Over the past five years there has been a 30% reduction in recorded crime.

Serious acquisitive crime (which includes domestic burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) reduced by 10% in 2010/11, compared to the same period the previous year, exceeding the 2% reduction target.

Domestic burglary fell by 2.1% to 3,530 crimes; this continued a five-year downward trend with 28% fewer burglaries than in 2005/6.

Vehicle crime fell by 14% with 6,738 crimes; this type of offence has been reduced by 51% over the last five years.

Total violent crime rose by 0.9% to 22,532 offences (including homicide, assaults, harassment, sexual offences and robbery).

There were 10,290 violent crimes resulting in an injury in 2010/11– this is down 0.3% compared to 2009/10.

We recorded a rise of 8.1% in sexual offences although this reflects a heightened awareness of offences and the work carried out with staff and partner agencies encouraging victims to come forward.

Drug offences increased by 8.7% from 4,850 to 5,270 which is largely due to more proactive work to tackle drug offences.

Bringing offenders to justice

The positive outcome target for the Force encompasses restorative justice resolutions and offences brought to justice (OBTJ) where an offender has been:

- convicted
- cautioned
- reprimanded/warned (for juveniles)
- issued with a Penalty Notice for Disorder
- issued with a cannabis warning
- asked for an offence to be taken into consideration.

The Force achieved a positive outcome rate of 40.8% for the period April 2010 to March 2011. This included a 36.3% OBTJ rate and a restorative justice disposal rate of 4.5% (of total crime).

Targets set by the Police Authority for 2011/12 are:

- To reduce violence with injury by at least 5%.
- To maintain our current position in the top 10 for total crime.
- To deliver a positive outcome in at least 40% of all offences.
- To exceed an 88% victim satisfaction rate in the overall service provided by the police.
- To exceed an 88% satisfaction rate in overall service by the police for minority ethnic victims.
- To exceed an 85% satisfaction rate in the overall service provided by the police for victims of antisocial behaviour incidents.
- For at least 36% of people, who when asked: "How often do you see the police on foot patrol in your local area?" to answer once a fortnight.
- For at least 63% of people, who when asked, agree that: 'The police in their local area are doing a good or excellent job' (British Crime Survey measure).
- To make savings identified in the 2011/12 budget.

Strategic priorities

The Force strategic priorities for the coming year are:

- Reduce crime and bring criminals to justice.
- Improve satisfaction in the service received by victims of crime.
- Maintain visibility.
- Protect people from harm

Crime statistics up to June 2011

In the 12 months leading up to 30 June 2011, Devon and Cornwall Police recorded a 5% decrease in total crime when compared to the same period the previous year. This decrease exceeds the 4% reduction in the south west region as well as the national figure of 4%.

The Force is ranked fifth in the country in terms of attitudes to policing with 64% of those surveyed agreeing Devon and Cornwall Police deal with issues which matter.

In terms of recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, Devon and Cornwall Police recorded 51 crimes, compared to 61 in the south west region and 75 in England and Wales.

In the majority of areas, Devon and Cornwall figures fell by more than regional and national comparisons.

Burglary decreased by 6% – this incorporates house burglaries which reduced by 3% and other burglaries which were down by 8%.

There was a 4% decrease in robbery during the 12 month period compared to the previous year, with Devon and Cornwall now having the 4th lowest number of robberies recorded per 1,000 population in England and Wales.

Reductions in reported crime in other areas included offences against vehicles, (such as theft of and from vehicles) which saw a drop of 10%, a decrease in criminal damage offences by 11% as well as a 17% drop in fraud and forgery offences.

There was no significant change in violence against the person (marginal fall 0.4%) or other theft offences.

Sexual offences reflect a 1% increase in the number of reported and recorded crimes when compared to a fall nationally and regionally of 1%.

This is likely to be down to an increase in reporting around domestic violence incidents and reflects a heightened awareness of offences, and the work carried out with staff and partners encouraging victims to come forward.

Recorded drugs offences also showed a 4% increase. The increase is attributed to more proactive operations in Devon and Cornwall, which target dealers and users.

Policing for the future

Devon and Cornwall is currently in the midst of a major restructuring programme which aims to reposition and improve the way it delivers policing services within a reduced budget over the next four years.

The restructuring programme began in 2010 and involves a complete redesign of structures, processes and systems to better match resources to demand. The programme comprises six work streams:

- Response policing
- Crime and Justice
- Local Policing and Partnerships
- Operational and Organisational Support
- Human Resources, Finance and Resources
- Leadership and Development

Each workstream is managed individually and a number of committees and boards are in place to oversee governance and monitor progress.