



# Staffordshire POLICE

# NEWS RELEASE

Issued: 12 February 2008

Issued by: Carol Evans

## OVERALL CRIME DOWN

Overall crime fell by over 13.79 per cent, violent crime was cut by 20.16 per cent, and almost £3 million was stripped from criminals in Staffordshire between April and December 2007.

Performance figures presented to Staffordshire Police Authority today show 68,660 crimes were recorded in the first nine months of the financial year – 10,980 fewer than in the same period in 2006.

Almost 83 per cent of people surveyed expressed overall satisfaction with the service they received from police.

Violent crime showed a significant overall fall of 20.16 per cent from 20,994 in 2006 to 16,762 in 2007. Sexual offences fell from 944 to 768 and racially or religiously aggravated offences dropped from 725 to 611.

House burglaries dropped by 12.42 per cent from 3,592 to 3,146. Vehicle thefts decreased by 11.49 per cent from 2,368 to 2,096 and thefts from vehicles fell 6.57 per cent from 5,613 to 5,244.

The force's ongoing battle against serious and organised crime saw a major increase in money and property seized from offenders. Officers stripped criminals of £2,966,750 through cash forfeiture and confiscation orders.

Assistant Chief Constable Douglas Paxton said: "These excellent figures which show a significant drop in crime across the board are a tribute to Staffordshire's police officers, staff and volunteers who work in co-operation with our partners and communities.

"Increasingly our focus will be on developing the way we tackle serious crime while providing an even better service to the people of Staffordshire, making their trust and confidence in us our number one priority.

"We have already made significant changes in cutting bureaucracy which was acknowledged by the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, in the House of

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Commons last Thursday (7 February) during a debate of the Flanagan Review. This was just days after the Prime Minister visited our headquarters to hear about the headway we've been making in this and many other areas of our work.

"We will continue to make our service more community-centred. We don't just want to see crime going down, we want people to feel confident in the police and in their neighbourhoods."

Ends

**Media note:**

Bids for interviews should be made via the press office on 01785 234864. Please note: Mr Paxton will only be available after the Police Authority meeting until 2pm, Tuesday 12 February.

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