



Dorset CJS brings record number of offences to justice

Dorset's Criminal Justice System has greatly exceeded its target for bringing offences to justice, according to recently published figures.

Recently published figures indicate that Dorset has exceeded its target for bringing offences to justice by more than 1,500 offences during the year ending March 2006. In total 16,582 offences have been brought to justice in which is an increase of 11.2% on the previous year.

In addition, further figures published for the same year show that over £800,000 of assets have been seized from criminals in Dorset and the collection of fines from offenders has continued at an extremely high level, outstripping the national target by 70%.

Assistant Chief Constable Adrian Whiting said: "We are extremely pleased with the results achieved last year. All of the agencies within the Criminal Justice System of Dorset are extremely committed to bringing offences to justice and the recent results will greatly contribute to our aim to make Dorset safer and also feel safer.



"During the last year there have been a number of initiatives to tackle the offences that cause our communities particular concern and bring offenders before the courts and during the last

three months, crime generally across Dorset is continuing to fall with reported crime falling by 10.6% when compared to a similar period for last year."

A major initiative that has contributed to the rise in the number of offences being brought to justice in Dorset has been Dorset Police's Operation Highland which is tackling anti-social offences in Bournemouth on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Operation Highland, a specific operation in Bournemouth, is designed to impact on the more serious crime that happens later in the night by targeting the offenders at an earlier stage. Through dealing with the offenders by the use of Fixed Penalty Tickets for offences such as urinating in public, swearing and littering, more Police Officers are kept on the streets as there is less paperwork to process and serious crime is prevented.

Acting Inspector Ian Jarred, Deputy Section Inspector at Bournemouth Police Station, said: "As a direct result of Operation Highland there has been a 20% increase in the detection of violent crime, which is solely due to the Fixed Penalty Tickets being issued.

"There has also been a 12% decrease in serious violent crime figures, which shows how Operation Highland's proactive approach is preventing the more serious violent crimes happening later in the night. We are never complacent and we will continue to target any offenders whose behaviour is totally unacceptable on our streets."