

MAR 2014 PERFORMANCE

Performance information (year ending March 2014)

Durham Constabulary has seen year-on-year reductions in recorded crime between 2006 and 2013 which resulted in a 44% fall in offences and almost 24,000 fewer crimes. During the past 12 months there has been a 10% increase in crime compared to the previous year, however, crime levels remain similar to the low levels of the early 1980s and Durham Constabulary still has some of the lowest recorded crime rates in England and Wales.

Police and Crime Commissioner The PCC said:

"Despite this increase in recorded crime, County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places in the country to live, work and visit. We have solved more crimes this year and continue to have some of the best performance for this in the country!

"The types of crime which has caused the increase relate to drug offences, violent crime and sexual offences and theft. We have seen an increase in the number of recorded drug offences. Some of this is due to members of the public being confident to provide us with vital information. 'Operation Sledgehammer' has continued to actively target and remove drug dealers from our streets, reducing the harm that these individuals cause to our communities.

"The increases in violent crime and sexual offences largely relates to a higher volume of historical incidents that are being reported in response to the Jimmy Saville investigation. Durham Constabulary's investigation of the Medomsley Detention Centre illustrates that victims are now confident to come forward. We will continue to deal with such crimes effectively and sensitively, ensuring that the victim remains at the heart of everything we do.

"The increase in theft and stealing offences are predominantly in relation to shoplifting where the most commonly stolen items are food, toiletries and clothes. However, people in our communities are now less likely to be victims of household burglary or having items stolen from their vehicles".

Chief Constable Mike Barton said;

"Durham Constabulary continues to put victims first, investigating and solving crime and community problems. This is reflected in the excellent feedback we have received from victims. This shows that 88% are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force when dealing with their crime. Similarly, 89% of victims are satisfied with the action officers take and 96% are satisfied with the treatment they receive.

"I am proud of our officers and staff who work hard to protect our neighbourhoods, tackle criminality in all of its forms, listen to our communities and partners to solve problems, ensuring that County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places to live and work in the country."