

Annual Report

2006/07



Joint Annual Report of Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police Authority

Crime in Nottinghamshire at its lowest for eight years

Crime in Nottinghamshire fell for the fourth year running in 2006/07 and is now at its lowest for eight years.

Overall crime dropped by 1.3 per cent last year, meaning there were 1,754 fewer victims of crime in our county than the previous year.

Since 2002, Nottinghamshire Police has registered the fifth largest reduction in crime of any police force in England and Wales.

We continued to be judged efficient and effective in 2006/07 following a wide-ranging independent review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

And our annual performance assessment showed we were improving in six out of the seven activities in which our performance is measured. Our performance in the other activity was stable.

To help ensure we build on this progress over the next few years we also refreshed our vision for policing in Nottinghamshire.

The new vision *Policing for you* has at its heart a style of policing that engages, understands and meets the needs of everyone we serve. By delivering on this commitment, we aim to improve public satisfaction and confidence in the service we provide.

2006/07 in numbers

Between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 Nottinghamshire Police:

Investigated **136,531** recorded crimes

Solved **31,186** crimes

Helped to bring **29,790** offences to justice

Cautioned **9,596** offenders

Issued **2,675** fixed penalty notices

Seized **£3.7 million** in criminal assets

Detailed information about Nottinghamshire Police's performance in 2006/07 across a range of activities is available in the 2007/08 Annual Policing Plan for Nottinghamshire.

[View the plan](#)



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Nottinghamshire Police
Police Authority

www.nottinghamshire.police.uk
www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/npa

Policing for you – putting you at the heart of our policing style

The service that we are committed to delivering is summed up in three words – Policing for you.

Policing for you is our refreshed vision for policing that we launched at the beginning of 2007. It represents a series of commitments to the public. These are:

- To provide a service that we are proud to deliver
- To deliver the service that the public expects
- To deliver a service that understands people as individuals and their circumstances
- To make the best use of our people and our resources
- Together, to all be responsible and accountable for delivering our commitments

Policing for you aims to improve customer service and satisfaction. It will challenge and change the way we do some things in order to reduce bureaucracy and police paperwork, improve our efficiency

and enable our officers and staff to focus on the issues that matter to you.

As the Policing for you programme unfolds over the next three years, you can expect to see and be able to engage with local policing teams more regularly, as well as help shape policing priorities in your area. We will also be working to further improve the services and information we provide to victims of crime.



Performance boost is recognised

Nottinghamshire was one of the most improved police forces in England and Wales in 2006/07, according to national police magazine *Jane's Police Review*.

The force was ranked as the joint second most improved force based on the 2006 Police Performance Assessment published in October by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Home Office.

In the seven broad areas of performance measured by the assessment, Nottinghamshire was judged to be improving in six areas, stable in one and deteriorating in none. *Police Review* converted these ratings into points, giving Notts the joint second highest total.

The HMIC's Baseline Assessment, also published in October 2006, recognised that Nottinghamshire has made significant progress in reducing crime and improving its performance.

The force was praised for achieving a number of improvements, including cutting burglary, reducing life threatening and gun crime to below the level of similar forces and bringing a number of dangerous and prolific offenders to justice.

Baseline Assessment is the process by which HMIC judge the relative strengths and weaknesses of all 43 police forces in England and Wales. The report identified areas for further improvement, but acknowledged the progress being made by the force to address these issues.

Out of 23 indicators, Notts was rated Good in nine, Fair in 12 and Poor in two. The survey also assessed whether performance was getting better or worse. In Notts, performance in all areas was either improving or stable.

A copy of the 2006 Baseline Assessment report on Nottinghamshire Police is available on the HMIC website at

<http://inspectors.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/>

OUR VISION IS DEFINED AS

Policing for you by working in partnership to protect and reassure through a visible and accessible service that is flexible and responsive to community and individual needs

Force 'efficient and effective' - HMIC

Nottinghamshire Police was declared efficient and effective in June 2006 after a comprehensive inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

In a report, Her Majesty's Inspector Kate Flannery acknowledged that the force had made "substantial, practical advancement" in five out of six key areas. In the sixth area – volume crime – the force had achieved significant crime reductions, but had not yet managed to match the average rates of forces deemed 'most similar'.

Chief Constable Steve Green said he was not surprised that the force had passed the inspection and had

never doubted that the compelling evidence put before the HMIC would show year-on-year improvement.

Mr Green said that the HMIC report had attempted to give a fair assessment of where the force had been and where it was now. The report acknowledged the progress the organisation had made and was honest about what still needed to be done.

"The force is getting better all the time. I am immensely proud of my officers and staff. They are working on the front line and are turning in excellent results, and many of their initiatives are being identified as best practice nationally," said Mr Green.

Tackling the issues that matter to you

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour does not always involve a crime being committed but we know it is one of the main concerns for people living in neighbourhoods across Nottinghamshire.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Teams, working in partnership with local communities and partner agencies, are at the forefront of the crackdown against anti-social behaviour in the areas they patrol.

A number of high-profile multi-agency days of action were held in neighbourhoods across the county in 2006/07, targeting issues such as criminal damage, dog fouling, littering, untaxed vehicles and truancy. Other measures to tackle anti-social behaviour include:

- High-visibility patrols by uniformed officers in anti-social behaviour 'hotspot' areas to reassure local residents and deter offenders
- Test purchase operations at pubs, bars and other licensed premises to tackle the unlawful sale of alcohol to under 18s and discourage problem drinking by young people
- Closure orders against 'crack houses' being used for illegal drug use and supply
- The creation of alcohol exclusion zones – such as those in Beeston and Hyson Green – enabling police officers to enforce a ban on drinking in public places
- A dispersal order in Edwinstowe to enable officers to break up groups of young people congregating on the streets and reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour
- Enforcement and education activity to combat the illegal use of mini motorbikes and go-peds
- Working with local authority partners to secure Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against persistent troublemakers



VEHICLE CRIME

Vehicle crime in Nottinghamshire fell by 8.7% in 2006/07. Almost 2,000 fewer people had their vehicles broken into or stolen compared to the previous 12 months.

Over the last four years, the number of autocrime offences has been reduced by more than a third – that's 10,435 fewer victims.

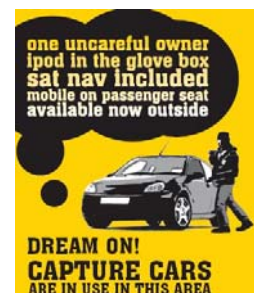
A range of tactics has been employed by the force and its partners to cut vehicle crime and promote simple security measures.

In the City of Nottingham vehicles specially equipped with the technology to catch criminals have been deployed.

It is impossible for thieves to tell the difference between the vehicles, known as Capture Cars, and other cars. However, if they break into a Capture Car and steal the valuables deliberately left inside, the police are alerted and the thieves and stolen property can be traced.

Campaigns have also been undertaken encouraging people to use accredited safer car parks in town centres and to consider registering their in-car

valuables, such as stereos and satellite navigation systems, with Immobilise, the national online property database.



BURGLARY

Although burglary rose slightly (1.8%) in 2006/07, the longer term trend is very firmly downwards. Since peaking in 2002/03, burglary has fallen by 38% - that's 12,600 fewer victims.

Having identified an unwelcome increase in house burglary part way through the year, the force took positive action to get its burglary reduction performance back on track.

Launched in December 2006, Operation Cracker was an initiative



to counter the historic increase in break-ins in the run-up to Christmas and afterwards.

The operation involved dozens of police support staff visiting public places such as shopping centres to give out crime prevention advice. This, in

turn, enabled more uniformed officers to go out on visible patrol.

Further phases of Cracker focused on robust enforcement against prolific offenders and the disruption of criminal activity linked to house burglary and the stolen goods market.

Having succeeded in preventing the seasonal increases in burglary, Operation Cracker became the model for Operation Spectrum, which targeted a broader range of offences over the remainder of 2006/07, but with burglary remaining a priority.

Supported by partner agencies, Spectrum resulted in more than 1,000 suspects being arrested – 23% up on the same period in 2006 – and around 100 search warrants being executed.

To complement enforcement activity, a campaign was undertaken to promote awareness and use of the Immobilise online property registration scheme, which makes valuables less vulnerable to being stolen and sold on.



Customer service: setting the standard

Nottinghamshire Police is committed to providing a high quality, responsive and professional service to the public whenever and wherever they have contact with us and for whatever reason.

In November 2006 we formalised this commitment by setting out the standards of service that people can expect from us.

These commitments will be developed and updated as we work to become even more customer focused.

Under a national policing initiative called the Quality of Service Commitment, all police forces in England and Wales published their standards of service across eight areas of customer service practice:

- Making it easy to contact us
- Providing a professional service
- Dealing with your initial enquiry
- Keeping you informed
- Ensuring your voice counts
- Supporting victims of crime
- Dealing with complaints
- Dealing with Freedom of Information requests

Our current customer service standards are published on our website.

New rights and a better deal for victims of crime

Nottinghamshire's criminal justice agencies have improved the service they offer to victims of crime.

In April 2006 a new national code of practice for victims of crime came into effect, setting out the standards of service that victims are entitled to receive from the police and our partners.

The code gives victims rights to information about the status of the investigation of the crime committed against them. It specifies the stages in an investigation at which they must be notified – such as when someone is arrested, bailed or charged – and how soon this must be done.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams out, about and listening

Neighbourhood Policing is a style of policing that means there is a visible, accessible policing team dedicated to the area where you live who work to tackle the types of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour that most concern you.

In Nottinghamshire, these teams are called Safer Neighbourhood Teams. They were extended to more areas of Nottinghamshire in 2006/07 and by April 2008 they will be established in every part of the county.

A Safer Neighbourhood Team can be made up of police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs) and special constables, who work closely with neighbourhood wardens (known as Community Protection Officers in the City of Nottingham), housing officers and other providers of local services. The size and make-up of each team depends on things like how many people live in the area served by the team and how much crime happens there.

The teams focus on resolving local problems in partnership with

communities. They also provide a uniformed police presence on the streets, which helps to deter criminals and make people feel safer about where they live.

One of the most important things the teams do is engage and consult with local people to:

- Ensure the community's interests and concerns are reflected in the planning and delivery of local policing services, and
- To let local people know what action has been taken to deal with the problems and priorities they have helped to identify

By empowering local communities in this way, Neighbourhood Policing is also designed to increase people's involvement and confidence in local policing.

Further information about your local Safer Neighbourhood Team is available on our website at:

www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/local/

Force targets improved customer satisfaction

The proportion of victims of crime and road traffic collisions satisfied with the overall service they received from the force in 2006/07 remained unchanged at 74%.

The proportion who were satisfied about being kept informed about their case rose from 53% to 56%, although the force recognises that it

needs to make further progress in this area to achieve the challenging satisfaction target set by the Police Authority.

Burglary victims expressed the highest levels of satisfaction with the way the force responded to the crime committed against them, followed by victims of road traffic collisions.

On the Street launched to increase police visibility

The force launched an initiative in January 2006 aimed at increasing the visibility of its officers in the community by freeing them of some administrative duties.

On the Street is a programme of short, medium and long-term objectives designed to reduce the amount of time that uniformed officers need to spend doing tasks in stations.

National research and local surveys show that the more people see the police out and about, the more confident they are in our service.

A package of measures and changes to working practices was introduced immediately to kick-start the initiative. This involves:

- Encouraging officers to take refreshment and meal breaks, wherever practicable, in appropriate public places
- Ceasing the practice of officers typing witness statements where it is quicker for them to write them out by hand
- Changing how intelligence submissions from officers contribute to the measurement of their performance, reducing the time they need to spend entering data into a computer.



On the street

Police training getting close to communities

The way that Nottinghamshire's student police officers are trained changed in April 2006 to give them an earlier appreciation of the communities in which they will work.

Instead of doing most of their initial learning in a training centre outside the county, new recruits now stay in Nottinghamshire for every day of their 20 weeks' training prior to starting supervised patrols.

As well as getting to know the area they will eventually patrol as fully-fledged officers, they also spend some time on placement with local

community organisations to gain an insight into their work and a different perspective on policing and community safety.

It's all part of the national Initial Police Learning and Development Programme which tailors training to individual force needs while ensuring national standards are met.

Student officers were seen learning in public for the first time when Nottingham's Victoria Centre hosted a training exercise in which officers dealt with volunteers in role play situations.



Student officers, their tutors and volunteers involved in a training exercise in Nottingham's Victoria Centre

Celebrating our success

Nottinghamshire Police won numerous awards and plaudits in 2006/07 for excellence and achievement. Here are a few of the highlights.

In March 2007 the force was **commended in the Home Office Tackling Drug Supply awards** for exemplary work carried out by officers and staff who worked on Operation Long Island.

The main target of this long-running operation was Robert Briggs-Price, of Newark, who was convicted in May 2003 for attempting to smuggle heroin into the country and in April 2004 for illegally importing tobacco.

Briggs-Price is currently serving 17 years in prison and in June 2006 was also ordered to repay £4.5m after incurring the county's largest ever confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

In October 2006 force's Forensic Science Unit was officially recognised for the excellence of its processes and practice. The unit, part of the Scientific Support Department, **achieved ISO 9001:2000 accreditation** - the highest standard of quality assurance within the service industry. The unit provides the only service of its kind outside of the Metropolitan Police and one of the most cost-effective compared to similar forces.

In December 2006 the force was re-accredited as an **Investor in People organisation**, meaning it continues to be officially recognised as a good employer.

In November 2006 Nottinghamshire police officer Det Sgt Jan Rusdale finished runner-up in the witness care individual category of the **National Justice Awards**. The county's Young Witness Service (YWS) won the team category at the same ceremony.

In January 2007 the Independent Police Complaints Commission commended the **courage of Notts officers** who responded to an armed incident and dealt with the situation without using lethal firearms.

Dealing a £6.7m blow to drug traffickers

The force recovered a massive haul of drugs with a street value of more than £6.7 million in December 2006. The seizure is the biggest ever in Nottinghamshire.

Officers from the Force Crime Directorate and Operational Support Unit executed a warrant in Ruddington near Nottingham. They seized more than 64 kilograms of heroin with a street value of £6.4 million.

In addition to the heroin, they recovered 54,000 ecstasy tablets worth £270,000 and five kilos of amphetamine worth £50,000.

Head of Crime Det Chief Supt Neil James said: "This demonstrates not only our commitment to tackle serious and organised crime, but our very real ability to deal with it. We have made a big investment in this area and we will continue to deal with those who pose a serious risk to our communities."

Chief Supt Pete Moyes, pictured with the haul, said: "I have never, in



my entire career, seen a drugs haul on this scale. These drugs are the scourge of towns and cities throughout the country. They are the major cause of acquisitive crime. All of this was destined for the streets. It is extremely satisfying to know that we have disrupted a major supply in such a dramatic fashion."

Three people were arrested in connection with the discovery.

Increase in robbery mirrors UK trend

Robbery in Nottinghamshire went up in 2006/07, mirroring the national trend.

The increase from 2,112 offences in 2005/06 to 2,434 last year was equivalent to less than one offence a day.

The rise in robbery was a factor in the 3.8% increase in violent crime during the year.

Although this increase is unwelcome, and the force is taking action to reverse the trend, violent crime accounts for a relatively small proportion of overall crime in Nottinghamshire. The county has one of the lowest rates of more serious violent crime, such as homicide and serious wounding, in the country.

The number of violent offences detected by the force increased by 856 to 12,179, meaning that just under half of the crimes committed were solved – the highest rate in five years.

Amnesty targets knives

More than 1,900 knives were handed into the police in Nottinghamshire when the force took part in a nationwide knives amnesty in May and June 2006.

The five-week campaign was organised to increase public safety by reducing the number of illegal knives being carried in public and challenging knife carrying behaviour.

During the amnesty, members of the public were able to hand in knives to the police without fear of prosecution unless the weapon has been used to commit a crime.

Knife disposal bins were sited at a number of police stations in the county for the duration of the amnesty. The campaign also reinforced the message that carrying knives is illegal and unacceptable.

In March 2007 a new website was launched to warn young people of the dangers of carrying knives.

No More Knives was set up by



the Nottingham Crime and Drug Partnership, which comprises Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Council and other agencies working to reduce crime in the city.

The site includes useful information, a short documentary film and other resources designed to discourage young people from carrying knives.

Nationally, fatal stabbings outnumber gun deaths by three to one. Statistics also show that a child in Britain dies every two weeks from a knife attack.

The No More Knives website can be found at:

www.nomoreknives.com

Gun crime down again

Firearms offences in Nottinghamshire fell for the third year in a row in 2006/07.

Both the number of incidents and the number of reported casualties continued to reduce.

These achievements are attributed to a combination of police enforcement activity, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of serious violent criminals, tougher penalties for being caught in possession of a gun and the work of the Nottingham Stands Together partnership with local communities most affected by gun crime. Key achievements include:

- Reported gun crime offences down 30%, compared to 2005/06
- Incidents involving a firearm being discharged down 28% - 52 fewer offences
- Injuries from discharged firearms down 20% - 23 fewer victims

CRIME STATISTICS ONLINE

The force and the Police Authority launched their new websites in May 2006 with improved content and navigability. Up to date, area-by-area crime statistics can be viewed online at www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/crime_statistics/

New police station opens in Newark

Newark's new £6.5 million police station became fully operational in October 2006.

The new station in Queen's Road includes a custody suite of 11 cells and a state-of-the-art victim examination suite.

With a large blue and white checkered glass front the new station is a major contrast to the dark and weathered former station in Appleton Gate.

Architects wanted the new station to be an important landmark for Newark and one the town could be proud of. They designed it so that when the lights are on inside the front of the building should glow blue - reminiscent of the old police lamps that used to hang outside police stations.

The modern feel of the building continues inside. The raised counter of the old station has been replaced by one on ground level that has a wide plexi-glass screen to allow for



good communications while retaining a high level of security. The new counter also includes a lowered section for use by people in wheelchairs or small children.

Suspects brought into custody will also notice the benefits of the new station. Each of the 11 cells is fitted with CCTV cameras so the custody sergeant on duty can keep an eye on prisoners. There is also a larger custody desk to speed up the processing of prisoners.

Listening to our staff

Most people who work for Nottinghamshire Police enjoy their job and are committed to delivering a high quality service, but a significant number also say their workload is too high and less than a third feel valued at work.

These were among the main findings from the force-wide staff perception survey carried out in October and November 2006 to which more than half the workforce – more than 2,000 people – responded.

The survey was undertaken via an electronic questionnaire delivered to all officers and staff to find out what they think about their job and the organisation as an employer.

They were invited to agree or disagree, in confidence, with a series of positive statements across nine categories ranging from their job satisfaction to their opinion of senior management.

The results of the survey have helped to shape action plans to address issues such as leadership, recognition, performance and development and internal communication.



Safer Business Initiative unveiled

Nottinghamshire Police and its partners launched the Nottinghamshire Safer Business Initiative in January 2007 to help tackle business crime across the county.

The initiative helps local businesses by offering advice and assistance through free crime prevention surveys with follow-up advice reports, information on crime prevention and security and the sale of cost effective security products at discounted prices.

Further information about the Nottinghamshire Safer Business Initiative is available on our website.

Mergers abandoned, collaboration in

Plans to merge the five police forces in the East Midlands were dropped in July 2006.

The structure of policing throughout England and Wales had been under review since September 2005 when HMIC recommended the creation of bigger forces that are better able to deal with such threats as serious and organised crime and terrorism, while continuing to deliver effective local policing.

Nottinghamshire Chief Constable Steve Green, joint chair of the strategic board which has been overseeing the region's response to the merger proposal, maintained that services needed to be strengthened, but said the board had always recognised the potential to achieve this through closer working and collaboration.

Disability equality commitments

The force and the Police Authority published their first Disability Equality Schemes in December 2006, setting out how they intend to build on work to promote equality for disabled people and prevent discrimination against them.

The schemes and a supporting three-year action plan detail the steps the force and authority will take as employers and service providers to ensure they serve disabled people fairly.

The duty to promote equality for disabled people arose from the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

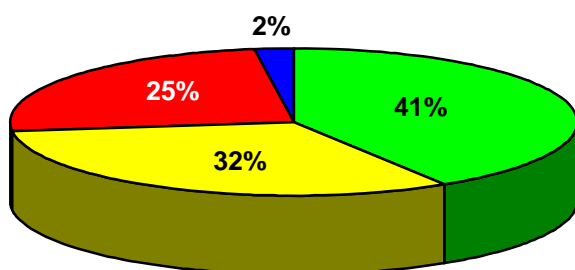
Specials mark 175th anniversary

The 175th anniversary of the Special Constabulary was celebrated in Nottinghamshire in September 2006 with a service and parade at Southwell Minster.

The Special Constabulary is a volunteer organisation that helps to provide local policing. Its members have the same powers as regular officers.

Our funding in 2006/07 and how it was spent

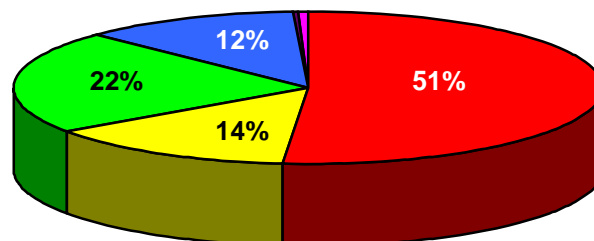
Where our money came from



■ Police Grant ■ Council Tax
■ NNDR/RSG ■ Reserves

SOURCE	£m
Council Tax	42.731
Police Grant (incl counter terrorism)	71.546
National Non Domestic Rates/Revenue Support Grant	55.494
Contribution from reserves	4.017
TOTAL	173.788

How the money was spent



■ Territorial divisions ■ HQ Departments
■ HQ Support ■ Police Authority
■ HQ Crime ■ Central budgets

BUSINESS AREA	£m
Territorial divisions	88.680
HQ Crime	23.826
HQ Support	38.315
HQ Departments	20.336
Central budgets	0.553
Police Authority	0.952
TOTAL	172.622

Gross revenue expenditure 2006/07

EXPENDITURE (INCOME)	Budget £,000	Actual £,000	Variance £,000
Police officers pay and allowances	113,212	113,991	+779
Police staff pay and allowances	38,657	36,458	-2,199
Other employee expenses	1,181	1,236	+55
Premises running costs	5,618	5,662	+44
Transport allowances	645	792	+147
Transport costs	4,966	5,201	+235
Equipment, furniture and materials	969	1,116	+147
Expenses	249	322	+73
Clothing and uniform	486	503	+17
Stationery and general expenses	1,037	1,067	+30
Communications and computers	4,881	4,860	-21
Miscellaneous expenses	2,979	4,182	+1,203
Other supplies and services	2,756	2,911	+155
Agency and contract services	459	484	+25
Joint authorities	576	548	-28
Net pension expenditure	3,370	3,041	-329
Police Authority	950	952	+2
(Special services/mutual aid)	-568	-733	-165
(Fees, reports and charges)	-320	-416	-96
(Other income)	-9,752	-10,306	-554
(Internal recharges)	-834	-971	-137
Capital financing adjustments	2,780	2,267	-513
(Investment income)	-509	-505	+4
TOTAL	173,788	172,662	-1,126

Further information

Further information about the performance of Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police Authority is available in:

- The Annual Policing Plan 2007/08
- The annual Local Policing Summary for Nottinghamshire
- On our websites

Please contact us if you require the information in this publication in an alternative format.