

## Welcome to Engaging

Nottinghamshire Police is delighted to welcome you to the very first issue of Engaging, a new fortnightly email bulletin of bite-sized news and information about the force aimed exclusively at our partner organisations and stakeholders. The NG in our title is short for Nottinghamshire, but if your part of the county has a different postcode – whether it's an S, a DN or an LE – this bulletin is still for you. Every other Thursday, Engaging will bring you the latest on what – and how – Nottinghamshire Police is doing. We've got lots to share with you. We hope you'll find our bulletin useful.

## Gun crime, serious violence and burglary down again

Gun crime, serious violence and burglary in Nottinghamshire are continuing to fall – and at a faster rate than the national average – according to the latest Home Office statistics. The figures show that firearms offences in Nottinghamshire fell by 17% in the year to June 2005, compared to a five per cent increase nationally. In the first three months of 2005/06, the level of more serious violence against the person offences, such as homicide and serious wounding, is down 29% in Nottinghamshire, compared to an eight per cent reduction nationally, while domestic burglary fell by nearly 24%, more than double the national average.

## Force mergers: two options go forward

Two options for the merger of police forces in the East Midlands region will be submitted to the Home Secretary tomorrow in the latest stage of the national review of police force structures. The options are:

1. Merging all five forces in the region into one region-wide force
2. Amalgamating Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire into one force and Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire into another force.

These options were accepted by Chief Constables and Chairs of Police Authorities in the East Midlands as the most viable when assessed against the Home Office's criteria for restructuring. A more detailed analysis of the two options will now be undertaken, with the preferred option due to be proposed to the Home Secretary by the end of November. A final decision is expected early in the New Year.

## Sherwood Project in running for national award

A pioneering partnership project that is helping to reduce drug-related burglary and theft in Nottinghamshire is on the shortlist for a coveted national award. The multi-agency Sherwood Project is a finalist in the 'Outstanding contribution to working with offenders' category of the 2005 Justice Awards organised by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR). The award winners are due to be announced in London on November 2.

## Nottinghamshire Police keeps on improving

A report today shows that Nottinghamshire Police made significant progress in 2004/05 in tackling serious crime and reducing more common problems such as burglary and vehicle crime. The force was praised for reducing crime at a faster rate than other similar forces and achieving "significant results" in the fight against gun and drug-related offences. The findings are contained in a report published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary of its latest Baseline Assessment of the force. The assessment shows Nottinghamshire to be performing at an acceptable level or above in 23 of the 26 activities measured. The report also identifies a number of areas for improvement, but goes on to acknowledge the progress being made to address these issues. Overall recorded crime in Nottinghamshire fell by 10.6% in 2004/05, with even greater reductions in burglary, vehicle crime, robbery and gun crime. The detection rate also rose, exceeding the force's target.

