

Shootings in Nottingham down 74%

The number of shootings in Nottingham fell by 74% last year, new figures reveal. Guns were fired on 11 occasions in the city in the whole of 2005, compared to 42 incidents the previous year. The number of people shot and injured also fell from 11 to five, with one person killed in 2005. A number of significant arrests and convictions, tougher penalties for carrying firearms and Nottingham Stands Together, a multi-agency initiative to prevent gun and weapon-related violent crime, have all played a part in reducing shootings and casualties.

Curbing the kerb crawlers

Tactics used by Nottinghamshire Police and partners to tackle street prostitution and kerb crawling have been recognised as best practice in the government's new prostitution strategy. The strategy, announced earlier this week, advocates tougher measures against kerb crawlers, including the confiscation of driving licences from repeat offenders. It also aims to help women get off drugs and out of prostitution. A special task force representing the police, Nottingham City Council and the voluntary sector has been taking similar enforcement and preventative measures for the past 18 months. In 2005, the task force helped to secure the arrest of 238 men for kerb crawling, five pimps and more than 100 prostitutes. Community drugs workers are also attached to the project to support women seeking a way out of prostitution.

Police appoint new head of intelligence

Nottinghamshire Police has appointed a new Director of Intelligence to boost its fight against serious and organised crime. Detective Chief Superintendent Neil James joined the force this week after spending 25 years with West Midlands Police. He will head up Nottinghamshire Police's restructured intelligence bureau as part of the force's drive to further reduce major crime and volume crime, such as burglary and thefts from cars. Mr James brings to Nottinghamshire a wealth of experience in major crime investigation and the intelligence world. At West Midlands Police he was head of the force's specialist crime units, including Special Branch. He also had responsibility for tackling robbery in the West Midlands.

Success for a sobering message

A 30% drop in assaults in pubs and clubs was recorded in Mansfield town centre over Christmas and the New Year when Nottinghamshire Police used a giant TV screen to broadcast video messages on the dangers of binge drinking and the penalties for alcohol-related crime and disorder. Hard-hitting radio adverts, posters and CCTV pictures of drunken antics in the town were broadcast from a state-of-the-art 'media van' to encourage people on a night out to act responsibly. The move was part of a package of policing measures to deter drink-related anti-social behaviour.

Crime falls in city centre

Crime in Nottingham city centre fell in December compared to the same month in 2004, and more offences were detected. Figures show the number of reported crimes was down by 125 offences, with detections up by 11%. Violent offences rose but this was expected due to more officers being on patrol and recording minor assaults. Nottingham was one of five cities that took part in the Home Office's Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign in the run-up to Christmas. Police received £40,000 from the initiative, using the money to deploy additional officers in the city centre at night and carry out a number of test purchase operations to tackle under-age alcohol sales.

