

Fewer victims of crime in North and East Hampshire

The total level of crime is continuing to fall in North and East Hampshire according to Hampshire Constabulary's annual performance figures.

For the second year in a row there were 4,000 fewer victims of crime within the North and East Operational Command Unit (OCU) compared to 2006/07.

Total crime for the OCU, which polices the four districts of Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart and Rushmoor was recorded at 30,166.

Contributing to this fall in crime has been a 14 per cent reduction in robbery offences compared to 2006/07. There has also been a six per cent reduction in the theft of motor vehicles and an 18 per cent fall in the number of thefts from motor vehicles.

Vehicle crime has continued to fall year on year and is now at its lowest level for three years.

However the OCU has experienced an increase in car key burglaries, where vehicles are targeted by burglars who break into homes and take the keys in order to steal the car.

Commander for North and East Hampshire, Chief Superintendent Mark Chatterton, said: "I am pleased that we have managed to build on the significant reduction in crime levels that we saw last year. In the last three years there have been several thousand fewer victims of crime in the area.

"We have also managed to achieve the second highest detection rate in the force.

"North and East Hampshire remains one of the safest areas to live in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and we want to keep it that way.

"These achievements are due to the hard work and efforts of all of my staff, but most importantly it is also a tribute to the excellent support that we have received from all of our partners across the four districts that make up this OCU.

"At the moment one of our biggest priorities is burglary, particularly targeting those responsible for car key burglaries. We saw an increase in burglary last year and whilst this equates to just four a day it is still a concern.

“Homes with uPVC front doors are particularly at risk. When properly used they are among the most secure doors available. However many householders believe they cannot be opened from the outside without a key.

“Unfortunately, these doors can be easily unlocked by burglars if they are not double locked with a key from the inside.

·We would remind residents across all our communities to ensure their homes are as secure as possible at all times.

“It is also vitally important that we maintain and improve our performance in respect of public confidence. I am greatly heartened by the work that has been achieved this year in developing this important relationship.

“I am not complacent and would never take the excellent support of the public for granted. It is greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with the community and our valued partners over the coming year to improve crime levels and community safety still further.”