



## Safer Neighbourhood Teams & Response Policing

The duty of Leicestershire Police is to protect our communities. This is at the heart of everything we do and regardless of the challenges we face in the future, we will deliver the level of service demanded by the diverse communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

It is important that we have the right people in the right place, at the right time so that our resources match the demands placed on us by the public of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. However, due to the unprecedented change to the economy and the ever-changing needs of a modern day police service, we also need to embrace the principles of cost and efficiency savings, whilst ensuring we maintain the highest standards of service delivery.

During 2010/2011 efficiency savings were made without any impact on frontline services. This was done by reducing back office functions including administration, Human Resources and finance. During this time approximately 230 members of staff were lost reducing the workforce to 3335 officers and staff. Further savings were made by collaboration of some policing functions across East Midlands forces.

A review of neighbourhood policing was commissioned by the Chief Officers of Leicestershire Police in June 2011, no review had taken place since 2005. It was quickly recognised that there was scope to build on the success of neighbourhood policing by realigning resources to more effectively meet demand.

Increasing the resources in Safer Neighbourhood Teams (previously Neighbourhood Policing Teams) will allow greater police accountability and increase the number of geographically based resources. Safer Neighbourhood Teams will investigate local crime, problem solve and manage offenders. Safer Neighbourhood Teams will predominantly deal with incidents, offenders and vulnerable people within their respective neighbourhood. However at times of peak demand, Safer Neighbourhood Team officers will have the flexibility to be deployed across organisational boundaries.

Each neighbourhood will have a named 'Beacon Officer' and Neighbourhood Sergeant. The Beacon Officer will be the named point of contact for the community and partner agencies and will be constantly assigned to a particular neighbourhood.

Police Community Support Officers will continue to be an integral part of Safer Neighbourhood Teams, being visible in and engaging with local communities, identifying and managing vulnerability and anti-social behaviour issues in line with their skills and training.

Incident response officers (those who respond to 999 calls) will be more effectively deployed to meet peak demands and maintain attendance standards. A new shift pattern has been developed which will see the end of the 222 pattern (2 day shifts, 2 late shifts, 2 night shifts and 4 days off). The new shift pattern is more effectively aligned to manage peak demand and allows efficiencies to be made by reducing the footprint between the hours of midnight and 7am. This efficiency has enabled us to increase the number of officers and sergeants in Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Increased efficiencies will also be made by sharing response functions across the nine counties Local Policing Units (LPU); this will see the introduction of 5 hubs still leaving a response function at each LPU (District).

Our aim is to continue to provide a service embedded within our communities through neighbourhood policing where resources are effectively deployed to meet threat and risk, targeting those who cause most harm, ensuring the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are protected from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Further details about your Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant, your Beacon Officer and the Police Community Support Officers for your neighbourhood please check the Leicestershire Police website after 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013. You can also follow us on Twitter and facebook.

In order to tackle local concerns we want to know what matters most to you in the area where you live, work or visit. You can help shape local priorities by completing the short questionnaire at <http://www.leics.police.uk/surveys/consultation/>