

# Crime at an all time low in Tameside

QUITE often when you turn on the news, you could be forgiven for thinking that our streets are full of criminals committing crime and behaving in an anti-social manner.

So Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership are really happy to be given this opportunity to tell you about some of the fantastic reductions in crime in Tameside and to be able to paint a brighter picture for our borough.

Over the past few years, those crimes that cause the most amount of harm to our communities like burglary, robbery and vehicle crime, have fallen by 28.3 per cent. So what does this actually mean for us in Tameside?

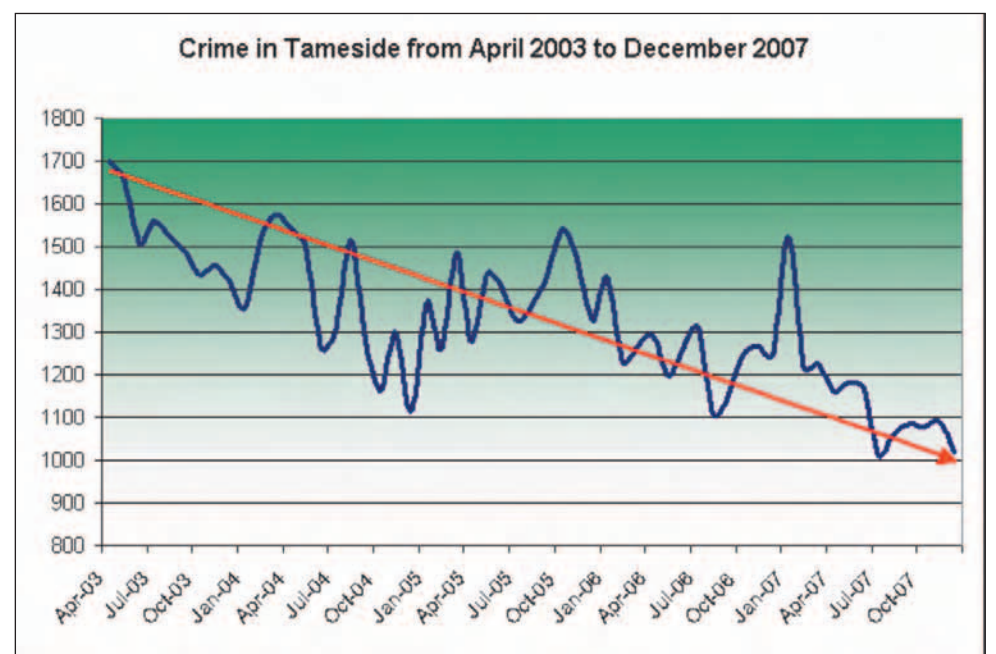
Well, it means there are currently 3,896 fewer victims of crime now than four years ago or 70 fewer victims a week.

Key facts now:

- Domestic burglary has fallen by 55 per cent. This means there are 1422 fewer victims.
- Vehicle crime has fallen by 25 per cent meaning there are 681 fewer victims.
- Violent crime is down by 20 per cent, which equates to 563 fewer victims.
- Criminal damage has fallen by 19.7 per cent, which means there are 860 fewer victims.

And when we ask people how they feel, 95 per cent of people say they feel safe in their neighbourhoods, and when asked what people were most satisfied with, the number one response was levels of crime.

So next time you switch on the news and it's all doom and gloom – just remember, things are a lot brighter in Tameside!



## Our new police chief's vision for Tameside

**TAMESIDE's first female top cop has issued a rallying call for public support as she launches her bid to drive down crime in the borough.**

Newly-installed Chief Superintendent Zoë Hamilton is relishing the challenge of making Tameside's streets even safer as she steps into the shoes of departing Divisional Commander Stephen Hartley. Chief Supt Hamilton has served with the Greater Manchester force for 20 years, first hitting the beat in Rochdale before moving on to Bury, North Manchester and Oldham divisions, before working in force headquarters in the Criminal Justice Division and as staff officer to the Chief Constable.

Chief Supt Hamilton,

### INTERVIEW BY CHRIS MAXWELL

speaking from the hot-seat at Ashton Police Station, set out a bold vision for the future.

Tackling issues which matter to the public, such as anti-social behaviour, robbery and violent crime will be top of the agenda as she gets to work in Tameside.

Tameside's new chief will be giving full support to neighbourhood policing to forge closer links with the community.

Chief Supt Hamilton said: "I have been away for three years, but still have personal ties to the area and in that time I have kept an eye on the progress being made here.

"I am delighted to be back as Chief Superintendent.

"The implementation of neighbourhood policing is already making a huge difference and I hope to strengthen this, making sure the service people receive is both helpful and courteous and meets their needs.

In a direct appeal to the public, Chief Supt Hamilton said: "You are not just part of a process, your information is vital to our work so I would ask that you work with us, report crimes you are a victim of and tell us what is happening in your area.

"If we don't know the full picture we can't tackle the problems effectively."

The new borough chief is eager to make further inroads into crime after healthy progress from her predecessor.

Chief Supt Hamilton added: "We have made a lot of progress in terms of reductions and with detections we are doing quite well.

"The volume of offences for violent crime has also gone down."

Police in Tameside are determined to curb the number of robberies and burglaries against both residents and commercial properties.

Chief Supt Hamilton added: "We

will be giving advice to shop keepers about their security.

"Burglary is a perennial problem. Plasma screen burglaries and high performance vehicle burglaries are still an issue. We must be vigilant."

Chief Supt Hamilton is hoping to boost relations with the public and slash call out times to ensure the needs of residents are met as soon as possible.

Police in Tameside will continue to work with neighbouring forces to tackle cross-border criminals travelling to the borough from outside areas, such as Gorton and Openshaw.

"Criminals do not just commit crimes in their own areas unfortunately," added Chief Supt Hamilton.

"We share intelligence resources and put a plan together.

"It was once the case that if an offender committed a crime outside their area, they were not interested.

"But intelligence co-operation is much better now."

As well as taking on Tameside offenders, Chief Supt Hamilton has another big job at home as a mum of two.

Chief Supt Hamilton believes the chances for women to progress in their careers in the force, while still maintaining a family life, have improved greatly since she first hit the beat in the 1980s.

Chief Supt Hamilton added: "The profile of senior women in the police force is changing.

"It is about representing the community. Three out of 12 superintendents are women. This is probably still not enough, but it's going in the right direction."

Now settled in her new role, residents can be assured that Zoë and her team will be leading a renewed charge against crime.



## 'In my opinion Tameside will go from strength to strength'

FORMER Tameside police chief, Chief Superintendent Steve Hartley said of his time as Tameside's Divisional Commander: "While I am looking forward to my new challenge,

I am sorry to leave Tameside. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the division. There is a good partnership of people and organisations who are always eager to put in the time,

energy and resources to make the area a safer place. In my opinion Tameside will go from strength to strength. I wish the new Divisional Commander all the best in her new role."



Former Tameside police chief, Chief Superintendent Steve Hartley.