

9 March 2011

Audit Commission praises Leeds' cut in domestic burglaries

Domestic burglary rates in Leeds have decreased by over 1,100 in the last 12 months according to figures published by the Audit Commission

The commission is publishing its latest inspection report on its website following a recent inspection looking at how the Safer Leeds Partnership is tackling domestic burglary across Leeds.

The previous report in 2009/10, completed as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, awarded Leeds a 'red flag' area for performance on burglary as it had one of the highest rates in the country.

The latest report acknowledges the improvements made over the past 12 months and states that the 'reductions in burglary during 2010 reflect the commitment and effort of partners across Leeds'.

The report also highlights several other areas of good work including: an effective offender management programme; partnership working with private landlords and the universities in improving student safety; and joint working with partners at a neighbourhood level.

The report also states that more needs to be done to co-ordinate a consistent approach to tackling burglary is needed across Leeds.

Councillor Peter Gruen, chair of the Safer Leeds Board, said:

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“I’m pleased with the overall positive conclusions of this report. There has been some good work carried out to tackle burglary but I acknowledge that we still have a lot of work to do to achieve our vision for Leeds to be the safest city in the country.

“Tackling burglary rates remains a key priority for the council and to demonstrate this we made an additional £850,000 of funding available for burglary reduction and community safety in our recent budget.

“We will continue to work with the police and other key partners across the city to address this important issue and ensure that Leeds remains a safe place to live, work and visit.”

The Safer Leeds Partnership is currently finalising plans that will ensure Leeds remains one of the safest cities in the country as part of the new City Priority Plan for 2015.

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