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Police chiefs vow to win crime war

Bradford's top police officers have pledged to step up their fight against crime.

At a high-powered meeting of the city's police chiefs, they emphasised the district is a safe place to live.

Figures just released reveal an overall drop in crime over the past three years of more than 16 per cent - with burglaries down 40.5 per cent and robberies down 41.8 per cent.

Now they have vowed to follow up their success in the next 12 months, continuing to make burglary, violent crime and drugs-related offences their top priorities.

Superintendent David Richardson, of Bradford Central police, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, said: "Sometimes the general public will not believe that Bradford is a safe place. But that perception is wrong - it is a safe place to live.

"We are working towards - and achieving - a sustained reduction in crime across the board.

"We have been set tough targets, but have met them and, in many cases, considerably exceeded them.

"However, we are not complacent and will continue to target criminals and criminal activities, to further improve the quality of life in our communities."

Supt Richardson denied recent claims Bradford was the heroin capital of the country.

"There is no evidence to support this claim," he said.

**By Ashley Bradley,
Star reporter**

"We are no different in Bradford to anywhere else in the country.

"These claims do no good for the city. We are trying to attract companies and people to Bradford, and these unsubstantiated claims could put them off."

Police chiefs said community safety was also high on the agenda across Bradford's five divisions.

Supt Richardson said: "The responsibility must be shared with all members of the community.

"We have formed partnerships to make people aware of the responsibilities of other organisations and sections of the community.

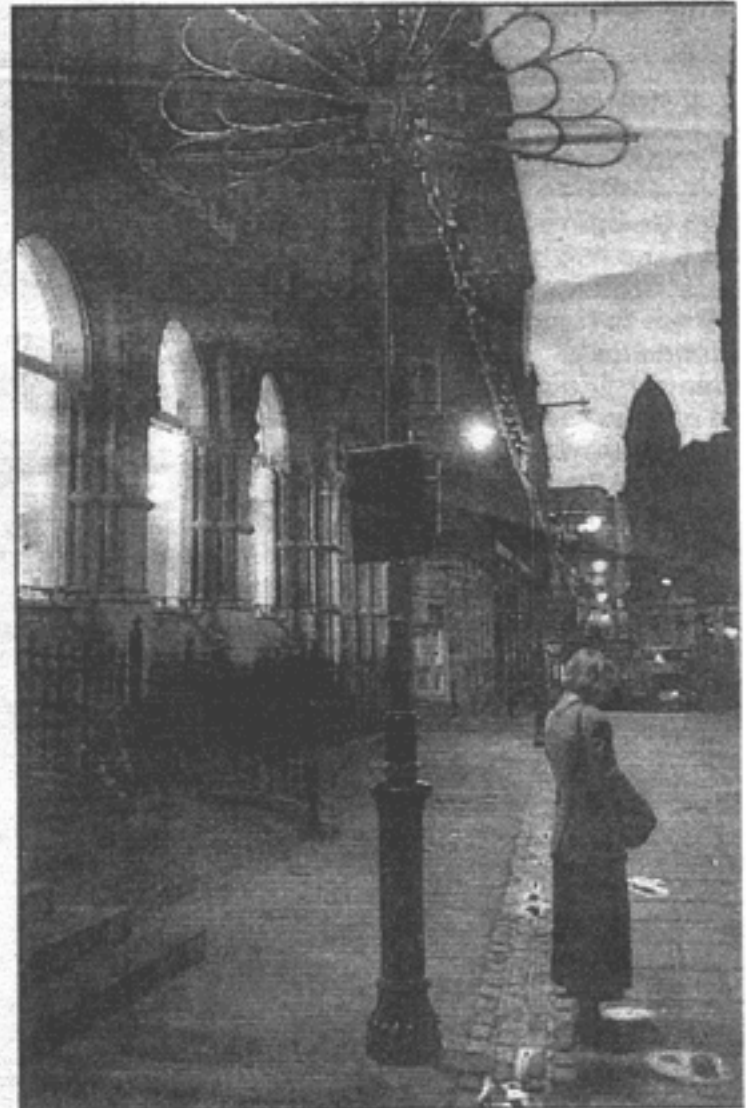
"For example, the local authority has responsibilities of youth provision and supermarkets, off licences and pubs must sell alcohol in a responsible manner."

Nigel Delaney, a community worker on Bradford's Canterbury estate, said: "We have, in partnership with the police, a plan of action for the next year on the estate.

"Partnership with the police is important - they can learn from us and we can learn from them.

"I used to see a lot of crime on the streets of Bradford. But personally I think it's looking up, and there's an air of optimism around.

"But that doesn't mean to say crime isn't still going on behind the scenes."



The city's streets are a safe place to be according to police chiefs