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## CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN THE HARROGATE DISTRICT

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **HARROGATE'S FIRST-EVER SAY NO TO CRIME DAY MAJOR SUCCESS**

**HAVING** so many police officers involved in Harrogate's first-ever Say No to Crime Day certainly caused a stir in the town centre on Thursday, 26 August. High visibility policing is top of North Yorkshire police force's agenda and is a major priority in its plan to 'reduce the fear of crime and provide public reassurance'.

But the detection and prevention of crime is not just the responsibility of the police. Reducing and preventing crime and the fear of crime is also the aim of the Harrogate and District Communities Safety Partnership. The aim of the day was to demonstrate how partnership working has greatly increased and there is now an acceptance that if all elements of the community work together there is a better chance of beating crime.

Many members of the public took the opportunity to pop into the mobile police unit and talk to the police, the community beat teams and the community support officers and the general feeling is that this was a worthwhile event.

Cpl Pat Chapman, a member of the Royal Military Police based at the Army Foundation College was quick to commend the day: "We work very closely with North Yorkshire Police and the Harrogate District Safer Communities Partnership, but this day gave us the chance to visibly patrol together and to talk to local residents about what they expect from us. I think this was a very good initiative, which raised public awareness of what can be done to make sure that we all stay free of crime."

Just three crimes were reported on 'Say No to Crime Day' – a minor assault, a hotel room theft (for which an arrest was made) and an incident of youths throwing lumps of stone at a car. This compares to nine offences the week before and 14 the previous week.

Chief Inspector Chris Chelton said: "We are extremely grateful to all our partners, Harrogate council's CCTV control staff, the Royal Military Police, the Ministry of Defence Police, the British Transport Police and the Safer Communities Partnership for making the day a success. We have had some very encouraging feedback from businesses and residents and we hope that a few lessons have been learned. North Yorkshire Police has made major investments in increasing officer numbers and support officers. But we hope this special day has made people realise that policing and preventing crime is happening all around us every day and is not just being done by the police force. There are some very good examples of anti-crime initiatives in the town and it proves that if we all work together, we can make sure Harrogate remains a low crime area."

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** In the past year, there has been a good reduction in reported crime with a 33% drop in burglaries and 32% drop in vehicle crime. This means that there have been 585 fewer victims of this type of crime. Police officers and members the Harrogate and District Safer Communities Partnership visited commercial premises during the day to discuss a variety of initiatives to deter and detect crime.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Chief Inspector Chris Chelton is available on 01423 505541. General enquiries to Lynne Mee, Media Manager, Harrogate Borough Council on 01423 556022.