

## TOTAL CRIME RATE

1. The total crime rate for our Borough in 2006/07 was 93.6 (crimes per thousand population), compared to a Tees Valley average of 122.5 and an England and Wales average of 101.1.
2. This puts our rate 7.4% below the England and Wales average.
3. One of the ambitions stated in the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough 2008 – 2021, on which we have previously been consulted, is “to have levels of crime in Stockton well below national average figures during the duration of this strategy” (page 29).
4. With this in mind it may make sense to set targets in the next three year Community Safety Plan to increase the gap between our crime rate and the England and Wales average over the period. However, these will only be measurable at ‘month 16’, i.e. July of the year following the financial year in question, because of the delay in availability of the national average.
5. Any such target would be very challenging because it would mean that we have to improve our performance more quickly than the average performance improvement (or deteriorate more slowly than the average deterioration), in order to improve our relative standing. Over the last 10 years we have gone from having a total crime rate of 2.6% above the England and Wales average (1997) to 7.4% better than the England and Wales average (2006 / 07).
6. One of the issues to be debated is what we mean by ‘well below’ average. One option might be to aim to get to 10% below the England and Wales average over the next 3 years with a view to getting to 20% below by 2021.