Ceredigion has the lowest crime level per 1,000 people

CEREDIGION has the lowest crime level per 1,000 residents in both Wales and England, the latest British Crime Survey figures have revealed.

Ceredigion police's senior detective, Detective Inspector Greg Williams, is proud that the division can boast an overall detection rate of 45.8 per cent.

Between April and June 2009, 867 crimes were reported in Ceredigion - which has a population of approximately 75,000 - which equates to 11.5 crimes per 1000 people.

In Aberystwyth, there were 451 crimes (14.2 victims per 1,000 residents), with a detection rate of 44.6 per cent. Lampeter and Aberaeron figures show 183 crimes (7.5 per 1,000), and a detection rate at 44.8 per cent. And Cardigan had 233 crimes (12.4 per 1000), with a 41.6 per cent detection rate.

DI Williams, based at Aberystwyth police station, said: "Residents in Ceredigion can be confident that they live in a safe place. "But although research for a new Tackling crime and keeping you safe' campaign shows that Dyfed Powys is the safest place, people's fear of crime is still quite high."

Ceredigion division also has the highest rate of public satisfaction when compared to its 'family' of 15 basic command units, which are of similar size and include divisions in Hereford, Norfolk, Shropshire, Cornwall, North East Yorkshire and North Wales.

DI Williams said: "We are the lowest crime area, but we still have the highest detection rate in our 'family' where the average is 32.9 per cent and Ceredigion's is 45.8.

"With the help of our communities, and by utilising our Neighbourhood Policing Teams to the full, we can reassure the public that we are in a low crime area where the majority of crimes are solved."

In the 'family', crimes of violence had an average of 3.5 victims per 1,000 people, with Ceredigion below average at 3 per cent - with the second highest detection rate (44 per cent).

DI Williams said: "Much of the success in this area is down to the Night Time Economy initiative, plus partnerships with the Local Authority and licensees, the registered doormen scheme, and the active reporting of incidents. Early police action often prevents an incident from escalating into something more serious.

Compared to the other 14 areas in the 'family', Ceredigion also has the lowest level of criminal damage, non-domestic burglaries, and vehicle crime, and the second lowest level of dwelling burglaries.

DI Williams said: "And our proactive approach in targeting drug users and dealers is greater than anywhere in the 'family'."