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NEWS RELEASE

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VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION IN BEDFORD **New Partnership tactics are a resounding success for** **BED:SAFE CAMPAIGN**

Crime statistics just out have shown a substantial **11pc reduction** in violent crimes against people in Bedford town centre. The success has been attributed to the hard-hitting new measures carried out by the **BED:SAFE** team who aim *“to sustain a vibrant Bedford evening and night-time leisure based economy that is safe and where people feel safe”*.

With the launch of the new **“Banned from one, Banned from all”** campaign on **Friday 30th January** the BED:SAFE team are sending out the firm message that trouble makers will not be welcome in Bedford town centre. All late-night town centre venues have agreed that if an individual is banned from one place, they will automatically be banned from all venues for twelve months.

BED:SAFE project manager, Gillian Anderson, said: “We are very pleased with the crime reduction figures to date, but we want to continue to reduce them further. The new *“Banned from one, Banned from all”* campaign sends out a resolute message that if you cause trouble in Bedford town centre, you will not be welcome for another twelve months.”

The launch event will focus around a double decker bus in the town centre, supplied by BED:SAFE partner Charles Wells. Information leaflets and members of the team will be on hand to inform late night revellers of the new scheme, and also give them help and advice on other related issues, such as drugs advice from the Bedfordshire Drugs Action Team.

To raise awareness in clubs, bars and pubs bar staff throughout the town centre will be wearing "Banned" t-shirts as a reminder to their customers of the new rules. The BED:SAFE team will also be carrying out their monthly unannounced inspections on selected venues in the town centre. The inspections serve a number of purposes including increasing police visibility, checking fire exits at clubs and bars, and looking out for potential "trouble makers".

Notes to editors

1. The BED:SAFE partnership was founded in March 2003 is made up of members of the Police, Fire, County Council, Borough Council, Magistrates, Town Centre Company, Licensee's and Charles Wells.
2. Violent crime against the person in Bedford Town Centre has fallen by 11pc from a monthly average of 25.6 in 02 /03, to a monthly average of 22.8 in 03 /04.
3. The partners are members of the Bedford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). There are 48 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in the East of England, which work within district council or unitary authority boundaries. The Partnerships were established under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and include representation from the police, local authorities, probation service, health authorities, the voluntary sector, and local residents and businesses - all working together to tackle crime and disorder in their areas.
4. The work of the Partnerships is coordinated and supported by the Crime Reduction Unit at the Government Offices for the East of England. Further details are available on the team website at:

www.go-east.gov.uk/Partnerships/Crime_and_Disorder_Reduction_Partnerships

**Distributed on behalf of the Government Office for the East of England Crime
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