

## **Willi Pietsch, Detective Chief Superintendant**

In the view of the panel discussion „Youth violence: Repression and Prevention“ in the frame of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Cities for Children Network on May 6, 2008 at the Stuttgart City Hall

### **Juvenile crime in Stuttgart**

- In the course of the past ten years, juvenile delinquency figures have risen also with us in Stuttgart.
- Criminal behaviour has changed especially in the violent juvenile crime segment. The crimes have become impersonal and merciless.
- The age at which delinquent behaviour starts has dropped. In the mid-eighties we were dealing with fifteen and sixteen-year-olds, today it is no rarity to encounter thirteen and fourteen-year-olds.
- Alcohol is increasingly playing a part in juvenile crime.
- The causes of juvenile delinquency are many – but a high percentage is due to the family situation of young people.
- Effective prevention strategies cannot be developed and implemented by the police alone. Successes are possible with the co-operation of other parties - first and foremost the school.
- It is of particular importance to give young people the prospect of a future in their lives.
- As the juvenile department at police headquarters in Stuttgart, we have put together the most varied strategies under one roof to prevent and combat crime. In particular, we deal with the following sectors
  - Juvenile gangs
  - Hooliganism
  - Juvenile "career" and "threshold" criminals
  - Juvenile ethnic German immigrants
  - Juvenile and adult missing persons
  - Child neglect/abuse
- Our *Haus des Jugendrechts* provides a pioneering example throughout Germany of networked procedures which comprise juvenile welfare authorities, police, public prosecution office and juvenile court – all under one roof. The almost ten years of experience with this project have exercised an influence on police work throughout the whole state of Baden-Württemberg.