

THE BEAT



Sue Fish
Temporary Chief Constable

Nottinghamshire is already a great county...

but I believe there are ways that together we can make it even better and I'm pleased to have the opportunity to play my part in this. So much has been achieved since embarking on my inaugural term as Nottinghamshire PCC in 2012 and I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in that. There is no doubt the county is a safer place to live and work than it was in the past and it's my aim in this new term of Office to make it even safer.

As one of the fastest improving forces in England and Wales, and one in which crime rates are falling faster than many other areas, the building blocks for further success are already in place and I'm looking forward to the next chapter, enhancing services for the most vulnerable including victims of domestic and sexual violence and developing the agenda to tackle low-level harassment and crimes against women and girls.



Simon Torr
Deputy Chief Constable

It is a challenging time for policing with the risk of terrorist activity ever present and a host of new and sophisticated cybercrimes threatening our personal security. We are working closely with other agencies to counter these risks and as ever rely on the public to contribute to the intelligence picture.

Since my last newsletter, there have been a few changes at the top at Nottinghamshire Police. Chief Constable Chris Eyre has left the force to take up a new position as Chief Constable, Sovereign Base Areas Police Cyprus and in the interim Sue Fish, who held the post of Deputy Chief Constable, has taken on the role of temporary Chief Constable until 31 March 2017. Meanwhile, Assistant Chief Constable Simon Torr has taken over his new responsibilities as Deputy Chief Constable.

Chris Eyre was an outstanding Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire. The force's current performance is thanks to his work as Chief Constable over the last six years and I wish him every success in his challenging new role.



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime
Commissioner





NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BUCKS NATIONAL CRIME TREND

Crime levels in Nottinghamshire remained unchanged last year – at a time when recorded crime increased by 9% nationally. This is very encouraging news and is a positive reflection of the work undertaken by Nottinghamshire Police and its partners to maintain community safety.

The figures, released by the Office for National Statistics, show a total of 72,345 crimes were recorded in Nottinghamshire in the 12 months to 31 March 2016, equating to a zero percentage change when compared to the year up to 2015.

One of the most satisfying aspects of this performance is the continued reduction in burglary rates, which fell across the force area to 3,372 – a drop of 17%. Burglary is one of the most, if not the most, feared crime among the public and has a hugely detrimental impact on people’s lives and wellbeing. Reductions like these mean fewer victims are spared the trauma of a break-in which is our ultimate goal.

There was also progress on antisocial behaviour, with almost 1,600 fewer antisocial behaviour incidents reported compared to the previous 12 months. It was also almost a third of the figure reported in 2008/09. Again, this is reflective of the strong partnership links

established to respond more effectively to resident priorities.



In addition, the figures paint a positive picture in terms of hidden crime areas such as sexual violence, domestic abuse and hate crime which saw increased reports. There has been a strong focus on encouraging people affected by traditionally underreported crimes to come forward and any rise in reports suggests increasing confidence in the police and the services we deliver, which is to be welcomed.

Other reductions include drugs offences (-14%), theft from the person offences (-11%), robbery (-10%), and bicycle thefts (-9%).

While all this is encouraging news, I’m well aware of the continuing risks to public safety from issues such as fraud and cybercrime and my plans for the future include a strong focus on internet crime, a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime, enhanced counter-terrorism activity and continued support to victims for historic child abuse in the county.

Hot weather burglars warning

The unusually high temperatures recorded this month have seen us all fleeing to the garden but it’s worth remembering that summer sun can increase our vulnerability to crime.

Heatwaves are always warmly received by opportunists who capitalise on open windows and unlocked doors to commit their crimes. Burglars don’t just wait until the hours of darkness to strike and will seize on any invitation – whether you’re at home or not.

With the current warm weather, it’s important to be aware of open windows and doors when you are inside your house or in your garden and when leaving your car, even for short periods of time. Valuables should always be removed from open view to avoid tempting the wrong visitor and buildings and sheds should be secure.

If you’re taking advantage of the warmer weather to carry out DIY jobs on your home, make sure you lock tools away after you’ve finished and don’t leave ladders lying around.

Many hot weather burglaries can be prevented by simple security measures including keeping ground floor or accessible windows shut and locked in rooms you are not using and locking patio doors when you’re in another room. A quick security check upon leaving your home can save you a lot of inconvenience and distress in the event of a burglary – and it’s worth remembering many insurance companies don’t pay out for an insecure property.





TRI-FORCE COLLABORATION MOVES FORWARD

Aligning the way we work cross border with other forces remains a focus for Nottinghamshire and plans for greater harmonisation of working practices, documentation and procedures are moving ahead.

PCCs and Chief Constables from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire Police met recently to consider a detailed business case setting out what operational policing in the three forces could look like in the future.

Recognising the benefits available from effective collaboration, agreement was reached to progress a number of local collaborative programmes, including Enabling Services (HR, finance, IT, asset management, procurement, estates and other corporate services), Contact Management and Niche Optimisation.

Resources will now be dedicated to these areas with scope for further talks with Derbyshire and Lincolnshire about future working.

Forces and PCCs in the East Midlands have been trailblazers in effective collaboration and we are all committed to optimising services even further to improve sustainability in policing services across the three areas and beyond.



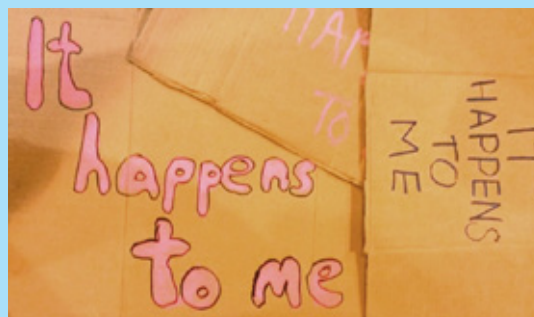
Zero tolerance to hateful behaviour

The recent Brexit vote has brought attention to the vulnerability of minority ethnic communities in the UK to hatred and discrimination.

Intolerance remains rife in society and until these damaging and harmful attitudes are addressed at source, we will continue to see lives destroyed by hatred. Crime reporting has gone up by 11% in Nottinghamshire in the past 12 months and although there have been no real trends in hate crime incidents since the EU Referendum in Nottinghamshire it is a situation I'm monitoring closely.

Hate crime has always been a priority for me and I'm encouraged that more victims are coming forward to report their experiences to police indicating increasing confidence in the systems in

place to protect vulnerable people. For me, the EU Referendum has highlighted a need for political figures, indeed any public figure, to recognise the impact of immigration hostility on community cohesion and understand how the part it plays in deepening rifts. Negativity can undermine the good work taking place on the ground to build embracing community relationships and provokes separation.



A number of partners are working together towards harnessing stronger, more embracing relationships across Nottinghamshire's

diverse communities. From an enforcement perspective, we will not tolerate hatred of any kind and will robustly investigate all incidents of hatred in an effort to drive discrimination and inequality from our communities.

Standing up to misogynistic harassment



Nottinghamshire's stance on street harassment against women has hit the headlines in recent weeks and has brought much-needed attention to an issue which has a detrimental impact on feelings of safety.

As Commissioner, I strongly support the steps taken by the force to classify misogyny as a hate crime in the county. Women have a right to feel safe and be treated with respect wherever they live. Sexist abuse or conduct that causes a woman to feel fear or intimidation is wholly unacceptable and in Nottinghamshire we want to make sure this is made abundantly clear.

The new approach follows last year's Safer for Women summit organised by the Nottingham Women's Centre

and funded by my office which examined in detail the experiences of women affected by gender-based street harassment. Research work carried out by the centre as part of the Nottingham Citizens Hate Crime Inquiry found as many as 40% of women affected by hate crime had linked abuse they received to the fact that they were a woman.



Nottinghamshire is well-placed to lead the way into this important issue and has made a very clear and bold statement by introducing the new classification. It means people can now report incidents which might not be considered a crime and the police will investigate, giving women greater courage to come forward.

Women are subjected to a whole host of distressing behaviour including unwanted physical approaches - it's not all about wolf-whistling. The classification mirrors the seriousness at which Nottinghamshire views this type of harassment and brings it in line with other hate crimes. Above all it is designed to make women safer and offer support to a victim to prevent them from being targeted again.

KNIFE CRIME IN FOCUS

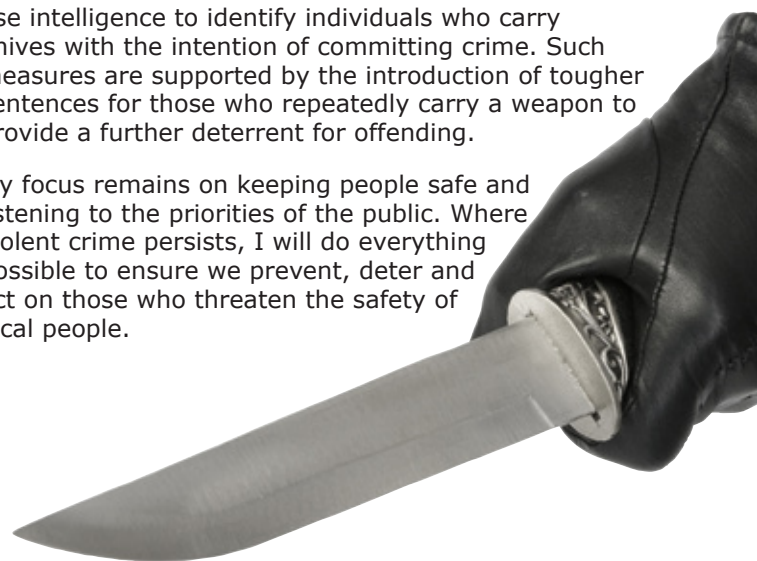
Knife crime remains a key priority for Nottinghamshire and proactive work is ongoing to remove weapons from the county's streets through a range of overt and covert policing tactics.

The number of knife crime incidents has risen slightly during the past 12 months however Nottinghamshire City remains a very safe place to live and I would like to reassure residents that we are working extremely hard to reduce weapon-carrying across the county and to deter young people from making a fatal mistake by arming themselves with a knife.

The force has a knife crime team in place and has made its stop and search policy and practice more effective and accountable to enable officers to detect weapon possession and prevent further offences while also working hard to improve local community engagement. There has also been a focus on the

use intelligence to identify individuals who carry knives with the intention of committing crime. Such measures are supported by the introduction of tougher sentences for those who repeatedly carry a weapon to provide a further deterrent for offending.

My focus remains on keeping people safe and listening to the priorities of the public. Where violent crime persists, I will do everything possible to ensure we prevent, deter and act on those who threaten the safety of local people.





Tenders sought for new-look victims' services

A new era is dawning for victims' services across Nottinghamshire and we are in the process of inviting tenders to deliver this fresh approach to support, which will launch in the New Year.

My aim is to have Nottinghamshire Victims' CARE (Cope And Recovery Empowerment) up and running from 1 January 2017 and a detailed tendering exercise is underway to identify an organisation which can deliver the new model in accordance with our key goals.

Contracts for existing services come to an end on 31 December this year. The new model aims to deliver help where victims are most likely to access it including from groups based within their communities. It includes a key role for grassroots organisations who will act as 'community points' in an effort to reach a greater number of people. The community points will be supported and funded by a Victims' CARE hub, which will also provide crime prevention advice, emotional support, expert advocacy and restorative justice help for victims.

Currently, most victims of crime receiving support are referrals however we are keen to ensure those who don't report crimes to the police still have access to help. I have made a commitment to give victims a voice and I believe the new model that has been created will see services improve and a far greater number of people helped as a result.

The deadline for tenders is midday on 2 September with the contract being awarded at the end of September 2016. It is published on Bluelight: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/8355881a-a0d5-4410-88e9-84ac4fc8c703>

Volunteers make a difference

Nottinghamshire's army of police volunteers are worth their weight in gold when it comes to community safety and maintaining performance standards for the benefit of all.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of personally thanking many of these dedicated people for their support by presenting service certificates as part of National Volunteers Week.

A number of volunteering roles exist within the force from Independent Custody Visitors and Animal Welfare Scheme volunteers to Mystery Shoppers and the benefits each brings to the force is invaluable. I cannot thank our dedicated volunteers enough for donating their time to oversee standards and quality and hope their example inspires others to consider lending a hand to keep Nottinghamshire safe.



KEEP ON TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:
www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

You can follow:
@NottsPCC
or **Facebook NottsPCC**

You can write to me at:
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU

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