

THE BEAT

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016!

This month we are finalising our budgets for 2016/17 and looking at how we can best utilise our resources to meet the growing demands of crime. Our Police Grant is slightly better than expected and this will go some way to maintaining the excellent performance achieved last year which saw Nottinghamshire placed among the top-ranking forces for crime reduction. Every penny of funding counts and will help us to build on the intervention work already underway in areas such as domestic violence, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), victims' services and alcohol-related harm. Ensuring that help is delivered where and when it is needed remains key to my long-term strategy to keep the county safe and I will be making sure those organisations which support this vision continue to receive the support they need to fulfil this ambition over the coming months.

Paddy Tipping

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner



Improving Service to Victims

I have been focused on the improvement of services to victims of crime for a very long time, in fact it was one of my key aims prior to taking up the post. I was pleased when PCCs were given responsibility for commissioning victims' services as it meant we could create a service designed around people and their specific needs.

I have been determined all along that we will provide a service that is appropriate, inclusive and is based on the feedback from victims of crime. But I have also been determined that we will take the time to do our homework and get it right. So, in 2016 there will be a new contract for victims' support services and to ensure that we got the service requirement right, I commissioned an independent review.

The review recommended a new delivery model that includes local communities in helping victims to recover from their experience. To explain more about the findings of the review and give people a chance to tell me how they feel the new model should work, I am hosting a consultation event on 1 March at the Newstead Centre.

The feedback will help to shape the new contract for victims' support services which will be tendered in 2016.

If you, or your organisation is involved in victim support services, formally, or informally, and would like to attend, please get in touch with my office.

On the subject of supporting victims, I was delighted to learn that the Ministry of Justice has confirmed the county will receive a total grant of £1,318,659 to spend on victims' services from April. The figure incorporates an increase of £91,883.47 which is specifically to support victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in recognition of the increasing demand in this area.

Nottinghamshire has seen its funding grant to protect and support vulnerable victims of crime increase by more than £90,000 for 2016-17.





National award for transparency

Maintaining an open and honest relationship with the public and the panel is vital to my work as Commissioner and I'm delighted to have received formal recognition for the way in which this is achieved through my website.

Last month, I was presented with the national transparency quality mark by Bernard Rix, Chief Executive of CoPaCC, in recognition of the comprehensive information available on my website. CoPaCC is an independent national body set up to monitor police governance through the comparison of Police and Crime Commissioners.

This award is testament to everyone on my team who has worked very hard to exceed the very high standards expected by the CoPaCC. Websites offer an excellent opportunity to increase the amount of information easily accessible to the public and also provide a platform for residents and the Police and Crime Panel to hold us to account.



Chance for Change

As you know, with the help of my Deputy Chris Cutland, I have focused attention on tackling domestic abuse and crimes against girls and women. I'm proud to say that we have made a real and tangible difference.

On 9 March, to recognise and, yes, celebrate the progress that's been achieved I am hosting a national conference: 'Chance for Change'. It will form part of our response to International Women's Day and will celebrate the many successes of recent years including partnership working, research, innovative interventions and, not least, changes in the law to acknowledge the wider nature of abuse and coercion.

The partners in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City have a long history in the provision of wide-ranging support for survivors of domestic abuse. This is why, as well as hearing from key national and international speakers in the field, the event will showcase some of the ground-breaking research and practice taking place across the county.

There will be more about the event in my next newsletter, but if you are interested in attending, please [click here](#) to visit the right page on my website



Recently I visited Imara a child sexual abuse early intervention support service based in West Bridgford, to see for myself how my funding is helping to heal the lives of child victims of sexual abuse and vulnerable family members.

Diary Date 5 May 2016

The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will take place on 5 May this year, with the successful candidate taking up office a week later.

If you wish to know more about the elections please visit the dedicated website www.nottspcc-election.co.uk/

Make sure you are registered to vote!!!



Protecting policing for the future

Budget preparations are well underway and once again my focus has remained on delivering the best possible protection to the county that resources and funding will allow.

In December, the Home Office pledged to protect the overall policing budget for the next four years however this is very much dependent on Police and Crime Commissioners following its advice to increase the amount local people pay towards policing through council tax by around 2%.

This is a better scenario than we were expecting but still places the burden of finance on local taxpayers. With no viable alternative, I've followed the recommendation of the Chancellor and the Home Secretary and asked the Police and Crime Panel to support an increase of 1.99% for 2016-17. If approved, it will mean householders in the average Band D bracket paying an extra 7p a week (an extra £3.51 a year) taking their total yearly contribution

for policing to £179.91 a year; while those in the majority Band A bracket will pay just under 5p a week extra (£2.34 a year), totalling £119.94 a year.

Without increasing council tax we would have to reduce the budget further at a time when we must still make efficiencies of around £12m to address the last round of austerity measures. There are also new cost pressures to consider such as inflation, wages rises and National Insurance changes.

The positive news is that every penny we invest into the force is being used effectively. During the year to December 2015, Nottinghamshire Police was ranked in the top five forces nationally for reductions in all crime, burglary of dwellings, robbery and public order.

Funding continues to stretch our resources however the Chief Constable and I remain committed to protecting the frontline and maintaining performance improvements.



Net tightens on illegal poaching

As the focus on rural crime continues, a multi-partnership operation is underway to tackle fish theft, organised crime and wider-related criminality affecting the angling community.

Operation Traverse has been backed by a number of police forces, the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency, and works cross-border to gather intelligence.

In support of this, I recently took a trip to a fishing pond in South Muskham, near Newark, to discuss the subject with local anglers and to raise awareness on what they can do to help the police protect fish and fisheries.

Anglers and members of the local communities who know the rivers and fishing spots well are ideally placed to keep us in the picture. By reporting incidents to the police they become a vital cog in the wheel that tackles offenders and prevents crime.

Anglers and the public wanting to report incidents and information can dial 101 for the police or 0800 80 70 60 for the Environment Agency, quoting TRAVERSE in their calls.

Listening to Young People

Many young people still feel reluctant to report crime to the police, the early findings of my Youth Commission's 'Big Conversation' show.

Members of the Commission, which I set up in conjunction with social enterprise firm Leaders Unlocked last year, have held more than 400 conversations about policing and crime with young people living in Nottinghamshire.

Alongside a reluctance to report crime, there have been suggestions that the whole 'police process' could be made more 'youth friendly'. Other issues of concern for young people are stop and search tactics, a lack of police presence in some areas which made them feel unsafe and the need for greater diversity within the force.

The early findings also suggest young people are unsure how to access support for drugs and alcohol dependence and are unaware how to report incidents or concerns over substance misuse.

We will use this feedback to deliver more targeted communication work, increasing awareness of the facilities in place to report crime and the work we are doing to deliver balance and fairness in the workplace and operationally in terms of stop and search.

I'm delighted to see that the Big Conversation has already provided us with a valuable insight into how young people view the work of the police and what they think we can do better and I'm looking forward to receiving the full results in March.

Three-force Strategic Alliance offers real potential

Following months of work by a project team of officers and staff from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, it has been agreed that a three-force Strategic Alliance could be viable – operationally, financially and politically.

I recently joined Chief Officers, Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Executives from Leicestershire and Northamptonshire to review the “proof of concept” work that has been undertaken to assess the potential offered by the creation of a single policing model for all three forces.

Based on the early exploratory work, the argument for this Alliance appears compelling. As a result, it was agreed that a more detailed business case should be developed to consider the full operational and financial implications.

We can also confirm at this early stage that the options for our contact management capability will not include outsourcing in the future although we are very grateful to G4S for carrying out a feasibility study in this area.

The Alliance is not a merger but designed to protect the quality of local police services by maximising efficiencies. The three Deputy Chief Constables and Chief Executives will help shape the vision for the Strategic Alliance. If the detailed business case proves viable, a full Alliance could be in place by 2020.

There has also been much speculation on the subject of devolution, with a combined authority – and Mayor – for the North Midlands, comprising Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. I have been working closely with the local councils and in principle I support the concept, but there is a long way to go before the plans can come to fruition.

In the meantime, PCC elections will go ahead in May this year and that will be for a four year term of office.



New £250,000 Community Safety Fund

Next month I will be announcing the recipients of this year’s funding from my Community Safety Fund, which has seen numerous community groups apply for a share of the £250,000 pot which I have committed to help increase public safety and protect the vulnerable.

Applications for individual grants of up to £25,000 were invited from local grassroots organisations able to demonstrate their ability to turn lives around, reduce antisocial behaviour and prevent crime.

Helping me to launch this year’s fund were volunteers from Chat’bout, a project which aims to empower young people to participate in decision-making processes and improve the relationship between police and the younger generation. Last year, I provided a £15,000 grant towards Chat’bout’s My Streets, My Voice project, which aims to improve understanding and communication between the police and young people and help them set up independent liaison and scrutiny panels.

This year I’m keen to support third sector intervention including support for survivors of sexual abuse, help for vulnerable people who have complex needs and risk victimisation, initiatives aimed at driving down rural crime, innovative BME-led projects and those initiatives which support new and emerging communities to establish positive relationships with the police.





RURAL CRIME UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Talking to Nottinghamshire farmers about their experiences of crime has reinforced my views that preventing rural crimes calls for special understanding, dedicated teams and closer community working.

During a recent visit to the South Muskham area near Newark, I heard accounts from local farmers of their experiences of crime and how they were sometimes reluctant to report crimes, particularly when there was little financial implication, due to pressure on police resources. One farmer had seen his loading shovel worth £70,000 stolen in the same year masked raiders had broken into his farm workshop and stolen a pickup, fuel bowser and tools.

These first-hand experiences remind us how important it is to build links with our rural communities for prevention purposes and intelligence-gathering. One way we are aiming to deliver more protection to isolated communities is from the Rural Special Constables based at Ollerton, who work with Neighbourhood Policing Teams on problem-solving.

There is more work to be done but we are putting the infrastructure in place to enhance our response to rural communities.



Speed monitoring exercise

Speeding continues to be an issue of great concern, particularly within our rural communities.

Last month, I had the pleasure in joining residents in Mansfield in a speed monitoring operation to educate local motorists about safer driving.

The Speedwatch scheme educates motorists in the law and captures trends in those villages identified as experiencing speeding problems. It is one of a raft of measures we are expanding to empower residents to play a proactive role in the safety of their roads.

This initiative forms part of my wider rural crime strategy and I will be working hard to build trust among our isolated communities and show them that we are addressing their concerns.

This month, I went to Ravenshead to see their Community Road Safety Scheme, which tackles most of the issues affecting road safety, from driving under the influence of substances, speeding, mobile phone use and lack of safety belts to environmental issues and weight limits.

The roads are there for everyone, not just the drivers and pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders, joggers et al. I am determined that all of them should feel safe on our roads.

Goddard Inquiry

Nottinghamshire is to become part of a national enquiry examining historic cases of Child Sexual Abuse, it has been revealed.

The Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, Hon. Lowell Goddard DNZM, has announced that Nottinghamshire will be included within the first phase of the Inquiry's work.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, (IICSA, also known as the Goddard Inquiry) has been

set up to investigate whether public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales.

Both Nottinghamshire's Chief Constable, Chris Eyre, and I have sincerely welcomed this announcement. This is a huge step in the right direction and I'm really grateful that the Goddard team has listened to our appeals for Nottinghamshire to become part of the national inquiry.



Breaking the cycle of alcohol harm

Police, volunteers and partners are delivering positive results in the drive to reduce alcohol harm on Nottinghamshire's streets.

In support of Alcohol Awareness Week, which launched nationally in November, new figures released by the city's alcohol treatment services revealed an increase in the number of successful completions of alcohol treatment programmes, with 39.8% successfully completing treatment compared to 27% in 2014.

The local partnership is working hard to increase referrals to treatment services. This includes launching a 'Blue Light Project' which engages treatment-resistant street drinkers in the Arboretum

ward of Nottingham who play a significant role in antisocial behaviour problems in the area.

Tackling alcohol-related crime is one of my top priorities as Commissioner and I'm pleased that so many organisations are working together to deliver improved support and treatment options for those who misuse alcohol as well as tough enforcement measures and preventative education. We cannot afford to become complacent however, as every case of alcohol misuse has a ripple effect on individuals, families, employers, health providers and the emergency services. Alcohol will always present us with challenges until those dependent on drink are put on the right pathway to recovery.

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 Deputy, 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 me:

@PaddyTipping and @NottsPCC
or **Facebook PaddyTipping or NottsPCC**

You can write to me at:

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