

THE BEAT

Connecting with the public is one of my primary roles as Commissioner.

It's very important that this takes place in a meaningful way so that local people feel their views are both valued and acted upon. The recent launch of Nottinghamshire's Youth Commission for Police and Crime has been developed for this very purpose – giving young people an opportunity to play an active role in decision-making. Young people have a unique insight into the challenges police face in terms of youth offending and child safety issues and we are very excited to be working with our new Youth Commissioners on the priorities they raise. Information sharing is a proven way of improving services and the Youth Commission, together with the learning conferences we've held on underreported crime in September and October, helps us to better understand the risks to public safety so that we can be more proactive in the way we address them.



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and
Crime Commissioner



Youth Commission Launch

October saw the inaugural meeting of Nottinghamshire's new Youth Commission for Police and Crime, with 25 young people officially accepting their place on the panel.

The project has been developed by myself in conjunction with social enterprise firm Leaders Unlocked to give young people a bigger voice in policing and will see members airing their views on a host of community safety issues.

The final panel - which includes ex-offenders, victims and witnesses of crime, university students, youth workers, journalists, cadets and aspiring police officers – have now established the priorities they want to tackle during their time on the Commission.

Police 'stop and search' powers and the relationship between young people and the Force topped the priority list, followed by the rehabilitation of young offenders, the link between deprivation and crime, the night-time economy and lastly, prevention and education.

The Youth Commissioners, who are all aged between 14 and 25, will play an instrumental role in the Big Conversation project over the next five months which will see them engage with 1,000 other young people across the city and the county to find out their views on policing.





Rural Crime Update

Rural crime remains a focus of the community safety work we're undertaking across the county and in keeping with my Police and Crime Plan pledges considerable investment has taken place to strengthen our capacity in this area.

Since August, a dedicated Rural Special Constables team, based at Ollerton, has been introduced to work proactively within our local communities and the neighbourhood policing teams. These Specials are trained to specialise in dealing with rural crime issues, focusing on offences which impact upon forestry, conservation areas, and agricultural land, while preventing and investigating crimes including those committed against wildlife such as poaching, cruelty and animal baiting. They will also be looking to help people protect their property by target hardening homes and businesses.

Training has been delivered by national bodies including the National Farmers' Union, Historic England and the force's Wildlife Crime Unit, and the team will be responsible for targeting criminals who cause harm and suffering in some of the more isolated areas of Derbyshire.

To enhance our intelligence-gathering processes, particularly in relation to cross-border rural crime, we have secured funding for a ring of 24-hour Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which can monitor the number plates of passing vehicles in Bassetlaw. The data retrieved from the cameras will be used to target rogue traders and those who target the elderly and vulnerable through distraction burglaries.

In the near future we will be announcing several further initiatives designed to help rural communities keep in touch and reduce the risk of crime.



Street Harassment Conference

Police experts, psychologists and women's rights campaigners descended on Nottingham Trent University in September for a national conference examining street harassment against women.

The 'Safer for Women' summit, organised by the Nottingham Women's Centre, featured powerful testimonies from women who have been affected by gender-based street harassment and focused on different settings for the problem including the night-time economy and sexism on campus.

The conference, which examined varying types of misogynist behaviour from wolf whistles to sexual assault, heard nine in 10 students aged between 18 and 25 and living in the City reported being harassed on at least one occasion in the last year, with a quarter of the respondents reporting incidents happening at least once a month.

Presentations were delivered by a variety of experts including Dr Jacqueline Gray, associate professor in forensic psychology at Middlesex University and Bryony Beynon, co-director of Hollaback London - an international movement to end street harassment - and the Good Night Out campaign.

Moving on from the summit, we will be pushing for the development of a new Women's Safety Charter for Nottinghamshire that encourages local businesses, particularly the night time economy, to act responsibly to support victims of harassment and take reports seriously. It will send out a clear message to visitors to the county and the people who already live here that street harassment is not a trivial matter in Nottinghamshire.

Female Genital Mutilation Conference

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) became the focus of an international conference held in Nottinghamshire which discussed fresh approaches to safeguarding vulnerable young women and children at risk of the violent practice.



Around 250 delegates including health experts, academics and justice experts attended Nottingham Trent University on September 3 for the Ending Female Genital Mutilation Together conference which brought together local, national and international speakers to consider the latest in FGM research.

Key speakers included Dr Comfort Momoh, UK FGM national coordinator, Dr Phobe Abe, GP and FGM specialist, and Dr Tobe Levi, an associate of the Hutchins Centre for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

It is estimated that between 100 and 140million girls and women have experienced FGM while three million young girls are believed to suffer this kind of violence every year.

As host of the conference, in conjunction with FGM campaign charity the Mojatu Foundation, I'm very keen to enhance the support offered to victims or those at risk to encourage more people to come forward to police. FGM is an under-reported crime and without knowing the full scale of the violence we must concentrate our attention on training education professionals and other people who work around children to recognise the signs and risk factors so they can intervene early.

Tough financial settlement will mean tough choices

Like all public bodies, Nottinghamshire Police has been asked to make unprecedented budget reductions. Over the past three years, the budget has been cut by £42 million or 20%. This year further savings of £11 million have been required.

Alarmingly, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review the Chancellor has asked us to make plans for further savings of up to 25% or 40%.

The result would be that Nottinghamshire's budget would reduce by either £30 million or £50 million from 1 April next year through to 2020.

In broad terms 80% of the police budget is spent on staff, PCSOs and officers. This year, for the first time since the PCC election, Nottinghamshire Police will not recruit new police officers and officers who leave will not be replaced. It is anticipated that over 100 will leave. Disappointingly, alongside this, PCSO numbers are being reduced by 72.

Grant cuts on this scale will inevitably lead to further regrettable redundancies in staffing levels. Back in 2010 Nottinghamshire Police employed almost 2,400 officers. If the Chancellor cuts our funding numbers could be reduced to around 1,650 by 2020.



In Nottinghamshire we are campaigning urgently to maintain our budget. I'm at the Home Office and Treasury frequently. Both the Chief Constable and I know the value of neighbourhood policing. We intend to protect it.

Final decisions will not be made until early 2016 and there will be a comprehensive consultation about priorities.

At the end of the day, a tough financial settlement will mean tough choices.



Putting victims first: restorative justice launch

Real-life stories where restorative justice has made a positive difference to the recovery journey of victims of crime were the focus of a special event to formally launch Nottinghamshire's new restorative justice service.

Restorative Justice is a service offered to victims of crime which typically involves face-to-face meetings between offenders and victims to enable them to get answers to their questions and promote the healing process. It is also designed to help offenders take responsibility for their actions and to face up to the consequences by understanding the impact their offending has had on a victim.

Earlier this year, my office awarded the contract for delivering Restorative Justice Services in Nottinghamshire to justice experts Remedi, which is now the largest single provider of RJ services in England. The organisation has already received 90 referrals to the scheme to date – seven of which have resulted in face-to-face conferences between victims and offenders.

Now that the service has formally launched, we will be delivering proactive opportunities to all victims where appropriate to reap the positive benefits offered by this approach to justice.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) estimates that RJ saves £8 for every £1 spent in terms of reoffending reductions which means there are very real economic as well as holistic benefits to this style of system.

Strategic Alliance Progress

Nottinghamshire Police is progressing plans alongside senior officers and PCCs from Leicestershire and Northamptonshire to develop a three-force Strategic Alliance to maximise opportunities to protect the public across each area.

A decision to form the Strategic Alliance was made "in principle" on August 21 during a meeting involving all three forces and their PCCs. Currently, a full-time delivery team is in the process of being appointed to develop the new policing model which will be based at Leicestershire Police HQ, led independent advisor Jeremy Thomas.

The team will look at delivering a more effective and efficient policing model across the three forces, which will promote a better service to the public using a combined budget.

A senior operational policing lead from each force will be allocated to the team to provide professional advice in addition to experts from HR, Change, Finance, IT, analysts and programme support.

Meanwhile, an Assistant Chief Constable is to be introduced on a temporary basis to work on behalf of all three forces across a number of portfolios, within the Strategic Alliance.

Plans are at a very early stage and it is anticipated that an outline business case will be ready by mid-December. Day-to-day business for all three forces will be maintained throughout the planning process.

Lord McNally visits Nottingham's Youth Offending Team

Lord McNally, chair of the Youth Justice Board, visited the City's Youth Offending Team in September to find out more about our work to help prevent reoffending in young people.

The Nottingham Youth Offending Team is a partnership of agencies working together to rehabilitate young people and break the cycle of offending to make the City safer.

The Youth Justice Board has been asked by the Government to identify savings across youth services and the visit was designed to showcase the best of the work taking place to show how valuable the services are.

A reduction in services would undermine this work and ultimately affect crime rates in the long-term and I'm determined to fight for the resources we need to expand on our progress.

Lord McNally said: "We are hoping to make a case to keep the cuts down to a minimum and find smart ways to make that money go further."



COMMUNITY GRANT SUCCESS

A celebration evening was held in September to recognise the contribution to community safety local grassroots organisations have made through my Community Safety Fund.

Representatives from a host of crime prevention projects attended the event in Nottingham's New Art Exchange on September 4 to showcase the outcomes of their work during the past three years. They were also presented with certificates in recognition of their achievements.

Since 2013, 54 voluntary and community organisations have benefitted from the various funding channels overseen by my office, including the Community Safety Fund.

In the last year alone, 31 organisations shared a pot of £360k towards local crime prevention initiatives while a further £100k was invested into victims' support services. Many of the projects focused on tackling antisocial behaviour and substance misuse as well as diversionary activity to steer young people away from crime. Others aimed to strengthen relationships between the police and communities.

The Community Safety Fund attracts a large number of applicants every year and the selection process is rigorous to ensure we deliver the best outcomes from public funds. Much of the work is already coming to fruition which is testament to the role grassroots organisations play in keeping Nottinghamshire safe.

Nottingham retains Purple Flag status

Nottingham and Mansfield have been officially declared two of the safest places for a night out in the UK which is reassuring news for residents, visitors and students.

In October, the City received Purple Flag accreditation for the sixth successive year. This means it has been judged as a welcoming, safe, clean and accessible with a night-time economy that has clear policies and aims to protect revellers.

Mansfield has also achieved the accreditation and earlier in the year hundreds of people poured into Mansfield town centre to celebrate the occasion.

The award, which recognises excellence in the management of town and city centres at night, is an example of the good work taking place locally between police and partners to address alcohol-related crime and disorder.

Purple Flag status has a strict assessment criteria and it's reassuring that the City has achieved accreditation year-after-year. It sends out an important message to visitors and those who live in Nottingham that the City is a safe and enjoyable entertainment destination.

We also continue to support the Best Bar None schemes in the City and the County, which is a national



scheme that uses a rigorous assessment to identify licensed premises that are well-run and responsibly managed.



Not only has Nottinghamshire Police the lowest level of stop and searches but it has recorded an increase in the "arrest" and "positive outcome" rate of stop and search figures so far in 2015/16.

Year-to-date figures show the Force recorded an arrest rate of 14.7% for stop and search actions with a 30.1% 'positive outcome' rate while in 2013/14 the figure was 9.9% and 21.2% respectively. In 2014/15, the arrest rate stood at 12.4% with 25.3% recorded as "positive outcomes".

The increase in arrest and positive outcome rate is an extremely encouraging direction of travel, taking Nottinghamshire Police into a position of being within the top performing forces for arrest and positive outcome rate.

In October, the Force invited members of the public to take part in an online chat with senior officers to learn more about how and why it uses stop and search powers.

The one-hour live web chat allowed residents to pose their questions direct to Superintendent Paul Burrows and Chief Inspector Simon Allardice.

Representatives of the BME communities regularly monitor stop and search performance.

Helping the Police Treatment Centres

Supporting members of the policing family in both good and more challenging times is really important and I was pleased to be able to provide a donation of £10,000 on a visit to the Police Treatment Centre (PTC) in Harrogate earlier this month.

The charity provides two Treatment Centres where serving and retired police officers can receive rest, recuperation and treatment following an illness or injury with the aim of assisting their return to better health.

A spokesperson for the centre said: "This donation will allow us to continue to offer the very best care, not only to the many Nottinghamshire officers who attend the PTCs, but all our police patients and we are most grateful for this significant level of support."



Photo: Paddy Tipping (far right) is pictured with Trustee Mark Davis of the Nottinghamshire Police Federation and CEO Patrick Cairns.

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:

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