

THE BEAT

Nottinghamshire is becoming an even safer place to live.

For every single offence we prevent, there is one less victim facing the emotional upheaval of becoming a victim of crime – my chief motivation as Commissioner. What an achievement our success has been given our financial constraints – difficulties which continue. We've confronted the risks head-on and have ensured that our resources are managed in a way which prioritises the vulnerable, including children and young people. There is more work to do but our sights continue to be focused on delivering an expectations-breaking service; listening and engaging with our communities; upgrading our training and technology; making it easier to report crime and ensuring we are well-placed to deal with sophisticated criminals. Keeping Nottinghamshire safe is a priority and will remain so now and in the future.

Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner




Youth engagement results revealed

Members of the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission fulfilled a key challenge in March – presenting the results of their county-wide youth engagement project to a packed audience of criminal justice experts and crime reduction partners.

The Youth Commissioners took part in a conference at the University of Nottingham to reveal the results of their Big Conversation survey which gathered the views of 1,000 young people across the county.

The event, which was attended by myself, Chief Constable Chris Eyre and senior police officers and partners, saw the youngsters presenting their research in six areas: Stop and search; relationship with the police; the link between crime and poverty; education and crime prevention; drugs, alcohol and sexual harassment and re-offending and rehabilitation.

This PCC-led project, which is run in conjunction with social enterprise firm Leaders Unlocked, really has given young people a sense of ownership over public safety and demonstrates how the younger generation can make a difference to their communities.

Young people are often difficult to reach and the Commission members have worked really hard to change this. The full report of their research will be available next month and will no doubt help us to target our communication work more effectively in the future, learn from their experiences of policing – both good and bad - and understand the priorities that are most important to the younger generation.





DIVERSITY UNDER SCRUTINY

Academics, community leaders, politicians and students gathered at two high-profile events to examine relationships between Police and the BME community.

The annual Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Steering Group Conference was held on March 19 at the Afro Caribbean National Artistic Centre (ACNA) and was attended by MP Keith Vaz, Chair of the Parliamentary Home Affairs Select Committee, who delivered a speech on the progress made in race and policing in the UK since the Race Relations Act was introduced 50 years ago.

Presentations were also delivered from a host of race experts, including Deputy Chief Constable Sue Fish, to discuss the changes that have been implemented since I commissioned the 'Exploring and Improving Policing Experiences' research study in July 2013.

As well as sharing some of the outcomes of this work, undertaken by Professor Cecile Wright and her team at the University of Nottingham's school of sociology and social policy, we also listened and learned from the national experts on positive engagement and enhancing experiences among victims of crime from the BME community.

The event followed a university seminar I attended in late February which tackled prejudice.

The discussion event, which featured speeches from Ruth Hyde OBE, Chief Executive of Broxtowe Borough Council and Janine Smith, Chief Crown Prosecutor for the East

Midlands, was held at the University of Nottingham as part of a week-long campaign called Diverse Nottingham Students Tackle Prejudice.

The organisation, which is part of the UN award-winning ParliaMentors programme, works hard to inform and educate students and community members about what hate crime is, how to report it, the different support organisations and initiatives available to victims and projects that are actively involved in efforts to combat this type of crime.

One of the biggest challenges facing modern police forces is under-reporting of hate crime incidents. One of my top priorities has been to address this by building trust in police and our support services so more victims come forward.

Earlier this month I visited a Muslim women's group in Nottingham which is doing just that by helping people to understand what constitutes hate crime and where to go for help. The Nottingham Muslim Women's Network will receive £10,000 from my 2016-7 Community Safety Fund to improve awareness of hate crime and confidence in reporting for all victims. The organisation is working exceptionally hard to provide opportunities for Muslim women to come together in a safe environment to have a voice and bring about effective change. Their work will help to influence hate crime policy in the future.

Crime drops despite financial challenges

Every drop in crime means fewer victims and I'm delighted that the latest figures reveal some quite amazing reductions in offending, despite the ongoing financial constraints.

Burglary, robbery, drug offences and theft are among many crimes that are at their lowest level in Nottinghamshire since 2012. This is not only testament to the hard work of our police officers and staff but also shows how the community-led safety projects we've supported financially through my Crime Prevention Fund are paying dividends and protecting residents and businesses.

Since 2011-2012, distraction burglary has more than halved (56.2%) and theft from the person has dropped

by 38.6%. Burglary of people's homes has fallen by 24% with possession of drugs down by 23.4% and drug offences down by 18%.

While this is very encouraging news, we are determined to drive crime down even further and my immediate aim is to target our resources to where they are most needed. The pressures on Nottinghamshire's budget continue and we still need to find a further £12m savings. I therefore remain committed to cost-effective policies and practices that work to bolster frontline policing and keep our residents and businesses safe.

ALCOHOL STRATEGY IS DELIVERING CHANGE

A 'two-years' on' review of the ambitious strategy I jointly launched with police and partners to tackle alcohol misuse has highlighted impressive improvements in treatment success and drink-fuelled violence levels.

The Alcohol Strategy was the outcome of a major multiagency conference and set out how partners would work together and share resources to tackle alcohol misuse and its impact on violent crime, domestic abuse and hospital admissions – while also protecting the prosperity of the night-time economy.

Top of the list of achievements are:

- **A 21% decrease in violence in the night-time economy between April and December 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.**
- **Target exceeded for successful alcohol treatment completions at the end of 2015 making Nottingham one of the higher performing core cities for drug and alcohol treatment.**
- **'Drop outs' from treatment services at an all-time low of 10%.**

Confronting alcohol misuse and its impact on crime has been one of my top priorities as Commissioner and it's pleasing to see just how much we have achieved in the two years since the Strategy was launched.

Frontline help delivered 'on the street' has enabled many more people to access help. Earlier this month

I took part in a late-night walk-about in Newark to join the Newark and Sherwood Street Pastors whose patrols have helped to reduce under-age drinking and fights. I also watched the MORPHO drug testing machine in action which was set up outside pubs and used as part of a condition of entering the venue.

The Street Pastors, which I awarded funding over the past two years, have become a regular sight in Newark on Fridays and Saturdays, with fights and injuries on the streets being noticeably fewer. Also during that time under-age drinking on the park in Southwell has vanished.

The drug testing machine and the Street Pastors scheme are two simply excellent and invaluable additions to the work done by Nottinghamshire Police and its partners in keeping people safe when on a night out with their friends.



Funding announced for specialist DV and sexual violence support

Tackling domestic abuse remains a top priority in Nottinghamshire and this has been demonstrated by the £3m I've invested in support provision since my election. This month I announced the intention to award a major new contract to Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre (NRCC) to deliver specialist support services for victims of sexual violence.

Following a joint commissioning process alongside Nottingham City Council and Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group, NRCC has been awarded £521,376 to provide specialist victim-centred counselling and other support on a face-

to-face, telephone or online basis to female and male survivors of sexual violence aged 16 and over. Therapeutic support will also be available including art sessions, a mindfulness course, self-help and play therapy.

I'm determined victims of domestic and sexual violence in Nottinghamshire receive the help they need when they need it. This new contract which is part of a £1.8m multiagency pot for DV and sexual violence services, will go some way to protecting survivors of DV from future harm.

Psychology of relationship abuse examined



Nottinghamshire hosted a national conference this month examining the role of coercive control in domestic abuse.

The Chance for Change conference, which I hosted, was held in the Albert Hall in Nottingham on March 9 and saw a host of national and international domestic abuse specialists sharing their knowledge and expertise on the tactics used by perpetrators to control their victims.

Coercive control is a term coined by Professor Evan Stark, who delivered a presentation during the event. It explains the patterns of behaviour that lie at the root of most domestic abuse cases, stripping victims of their freedom, liberty and self-confidence. The coercive control model has been used by the Home Office to provide the basis for the new coercive control offence. Nottinghamshire Police was the first force to bring a prosecution under this legislation.

The conference gave Deputy PCC Chris Cutland and I a chance to update delegates on the work taking place locally to expand support for survivors and empower their freedom from control while also listening to evidence nationally. The concept of coercive control is receiving such wide attention and top level analysis that I am convinced it will help many more people understand the unhealthy behavioural patterns that constitute abuse.

To view the various presentations made at the conference please see www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/ChanceForChangeConference

NEW VICTIMS SERVICES MODEL UNVEILED

The goal to enhance practical and emotional support to vulnerable victims of crime has moved a step closer with the consultation of a new service model.

In March I hosted a stakeholder conference involving criminal justice experts, voluntary sector organisations and grassroots community groups to present my vision for a more holistic, integrated approach to helping people recover from the effects of criminality.

The new arrangements, which were drawn up by independent consultants in November 2015, give community groups a leading role to play in becoming 'Victim Contact Points' and providing direct access to support services.

Of those who attended, 76% supported the new model while 83% supported the integration of victim services and restorative justice, recognising the importance of RJ in the process of emotional recovery.

We know that victims of crime are often in the grip of a multitude of social problems including debt issues, eviction issues, housing crises and health problems. There are organisations in Nottinghamshire that are working hard to deliver practical help to resolve these issues and this new model of care will give them an even greater role to play in the future.





Community visits highlight 'on the ground' crime prevention

Throughout March I've visited a number of community-based organisations focused on keeping vulnerable people safe and strengthening community spirit.

One such visit was to The Crossing Church & Centre – a designated Safe Place in Worksop – which is being run by Nottingham Mencap and community groups and businesses to help people with learning disabilities feel more confident about going out and about.

Last year I provided the organisation with £9,000 to help it expand its burgeoning Safe Place scheme across the city and county. A further £10,000 has been awarded this year.

There are now around 100 volunteers and 145 venues have signed up to the scheme with the aim of offering a safe haven to those who suddenly feel ill, alarmed or vulnerable to hate crime and are in need of practical assistance – or simply a friendly face.

Elsewhere this month I visited The Noor Lunch Club in the Hermitage Centre to meet members of the multi-religious and cultural grassroots group to see some of their events in action. From running their projects 'on a shoestring' they are now offering two days of lunch clubs and classes in exercise, sewing, arts and crafts along with opportunities for neighbourly chats. The club is a great example of how to help communities feel safer and become better integrated.

Funding boost for community safety projects

Stronger and safer communities is the goal behind my Community Safety Fund and I'm delighted to say that in 2016-17 I have agreed to provide financial support to 24 grassroots organisations to continue their public safety work in Nottinghamshire.

A total of £261,250 will be shared among projects which support my crime reduction objectives, allocated in grants of between £3,000 and £16,000. Beneficiary projects range from those which are aimed at diverting past offenders from a life of crime to those based on protecting vulnerable people from victimisation.

During March I visited one of the recipients of last year's funding, Mixed Foundations' Safer Minds Safer Streets project in Nottingham. The early intervention scheme was awarded £15,000 from my 2015-16 funding stream to provide mentoring and anger reduction sessions to help prevent crime. In the main, the project works with young people who've become involved in gang culture, violent crimes and the use and supply of drugs and it was clear to me how vital it is in effecting change.

A full list of the projects and the award recipients for the 2016-17 grants is available on my website at (www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Our-Money/Grants-and-Funding/Community-Safety-Fund-2016-17.aspx).





New cameras for Bassetlaw to reduce burglary

Bassetlaw is the latest district hoping to follow the trend of Ashfield south area which has seen a reduction in burglary rates since the installation of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras in the area.

Nottinghamshire Police is in the process of installing a series of ANPR cameras on major routes in and out of Bassetlaw which are being joint-funded by the Force, my office and Nottinghamshire County Council's Community Safety Committee.

The cameras will be overtly positioned on roads and will electronically read the number plates of vehicles as they pass. Information obtained will help to reduce the number of burglaries in rural villages and help catch offenders.

ANPR cameras were installed in the Ashfield south area of the county in 2013 to help combat high levels of burglary. Research shows there was a 36% reduction in burglaries in the first year, with a further drop of 41% the following year.



Community help service championed

As the new victims' services model confirms, community-based intervention schemes are vital to developing healthier happier communities.

In late February I was invited to deliver a speech at the Improving Lives' stakeholder conference. The charity, formerly known as Interegritas and which is based in Nottingham's Community and Voluntary Service Centre, delivers free support services to vulnerable members of the community with complex health and social needs to increase their safety and resilience, prevent them from reaching crisis point and guide them to lead happier lives.

During the past two years the organisation has received PCC grants of £25,000 and £15,000 towards its services. More than 40% of the organisation's service users are victims of crime while many have serious and often undiagnosed mental health issues. Helping these vulnerable people prevents future victimisation and reduces demand on emergency services.

Canine crime-fighters set for new kennels

Nottinghamshire's serving police dogs will have a new home when resting at police HQ.

Work has started on a major building project to upgrade and modernise Nottinghamshire's Dogs Unit and I had the pleasure of visiting the site earlier this month before the builders move in.

Police dogs are an essential asset to investigation teams, helping to track criminals, sniff out illegal materials, search buildings and locate missing people. Without their advanced sensory skills vital leads would never be found. It's only right that these hard-working members of the police family receive the best facilities to rest from their crime-fighting adventures.





Text message service for rural communities

As part of an ongoing commitment to increasing the safety of our rural communities I've funded a new text messaging scheme servicing three rural areas of the county.

Anyone living in the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood areas can register to receive free text message alerts from officers about issues affecting their area, including information about recent incidents and advice to help them avoid becoming victims of crime.

The pilot project will allow the Force to share information with thousands of local people at the click of a button. Anyone in Nottinghamshire can register to receive free email and text message alerts from Nottinghamshire Police by visiting www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/alert.



HMIC success

Nottinghamshire Police is a "well-led" organisation and provides a good service in identifying and assessing the risks to vulnerable people and safeguarding vulnerable victims - that's the finding of the latest HMIC inspection into leadership.

The review, carried out in 2015, assessed how well forces were led at every rank and grade of the organisation. Its latest report completes the overall PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment into the force, which has been graded as good in all three areas.

The leadership review found that there is a clear sense of direction, and that the force's shared PROUD values were an integral part of everyday policing, leadership development programmes and recruitment. The force recognises the need for significant savings via a reduction in the workforce, and is focusing on new and more efficient ways of delivering a good service to the public.

I'm delighted that the HMIC has recognised the improvements Nottinghamshire Police has made and its robust leadership. We've faced difficult times in respect of the austerity measures and the impact this has had on the organisation but the commitment and dedication of the workforce has never wavered.

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:
@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

E-mail me at:
nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone me on:
0115 844 5998

