



Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter | March 2019

THE BEAT

Strong leadership is vital in any organisation, but nowhere is this more critical than in policing.

In Nottinghamshire, we are never afraid to take a new direction in the face of an on-going problem and we never shy away from tackling tough issues head on. We are taking bold action on today's problems, including knife crime, gang and gun violence and domestic violence. Every day we see changes.

There is always more to do, but we are working hard and we are learning a lot along the way. And there is so much more to come...

Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner





Ground-breaking anti-violence project

Earlier this week I visited the latest, and really innovative, project to tackle violence on our streets. I was keen to hear how this scheme is working as part of my long-term strategy to tackle knife crime, having successfully applied to the Home Office for £30,000 to fund it.

So, I met the "violence interrupters" who gather at fast food restaurants, trainer outlets and high-end fashion shops in the city frequented by young people.

It's this type of establishment that seems to create a trigger point where rival groups of people arrive at the same time. It is hoped the new recruits will be able to positively engage with those most at risk of engaging in violence and prevent conflict before it arises.

In the first week of going live, the city team interacted with between 80 and 100 young people aged between 14 and 19. On three occasions they stepped in to stop episodes escalating into violence and around 15 of those they have interacted with are known within community circles to be knife carriers. Meanwhile, in Gedling, the team has interacted with a group of 10 young people who are frequenting Asda in Front Street.



NEW recruits hit the road

Nottinghamshire's pioneering police apprenticeship programme, which launched last year, has made the final of a national awards contest for its work promoting diversity.

The first cohort of 31 apprentices enrolled on the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) scheme are enjoying their first experiences out on patrol, putting what they have learnt in the classroom to good practice.

A second cohort of 16 apprentices joined the Force in February while recruitment for a third intake began this month.

Nottinghamshire was one of the first forces to introduce the national PCDA programme, and has since received national recognition for its work, earning a nomination for the Apprenticeship Diversity Award in this year's Annual Apprenticeship Conference Awards.

Nottinghamshire Police celebrated its award nomination at a special reception at the Houses of Parliament earlier this month. The Force will attend the Annual Apprenticeship Conference Gala Dinner in Birmingham later this month where the award winners will be announced.



Preventing young people from becoming a victim and from committing violent crime is a top priority.

Together with the Home Office, I hosted a Serious Violence Conference at the end of February which raised a detailed debate on police funding, current legislation and the necessity of multi-agency preventative partnerships.

Knives were involved in half of all homicides in the region during the past two years – a figure provided to delegates by the East Midlands Special Operations Unit.

As I pointed out to this conference, none of us can afford to retreat from this problem. Every death from a knife or gun is one too many. This is why I'm investing more money than ever this year into knife crime prevention activity for young people, sending more officers into our schools to educate and listen to those most at risk of violence, creating new response teams and recruiting a further 40 new police officers over the next 12 months to build up resilience again following a decade of austerity.

But this is not just about the police it is about everybody coming together to fight violence together.

Gun crackdown progress

Increasing hauls of weapons and drugs are being seized in Nottinghamshire as part of proactive policing operations to disrupt violent crime – much of which is covert and not seen by the public.

Intelligence-based enforcement work has led to a substantial rise in charges for possession and conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and the possession of offensive weapons and firearms. The success is partly due to a new Force Ops Room and additional surveillance operatives within Nottinghamshire which enables the Force to respond faster to risks and threats within its borders and rely less on the resources of regional counterparts. It also enables them to act swiftly to crucial information and intelligence from the public.

Police recovered 72 firearms between January 1 and February 28 this year, including those weapons voluntarily handed into police for safeguarding. The haul includes air rifles, Tasers, BB guns and antiques.

During the same period, police recorded five discharges in the county compared to 38 for the whole of last year.

A lot of work is taking place behind the scenes, with officers utilising increasingly sophisticated methods to assess threat, harm and risk and generate intelligence. Ultimately the recovery of dangerous weapons off our street will make the county safer. There is so much more to do but I'm very grateful to the public for continuing to remain vigilant and sharing any information that can help us keep Nottinghamshire safe.





New funding to tackle vulnerability

Lots of exciting work is about to begin around helping people to turn their backs on crime and avoid becoming a victim.

I've chosen 20 community safety projects to benefit from grants in 2019-20 as part of my Community Safety Fund scheme. This investment, which I've funded every year to the tune of £250,000 - despite funding cuts - will deliver much needed support to break addiction, tackle online exploitation, support victims of domestic and sexual violence, address hate crime and keep young people on the right path.

The successful recipients, who share more than £220,000, celebrated their grants at a special ceremony at the NBV Enterprise Centre in Nottingham earlier in the month. We've also reserved a further

£30,000 for youth-based projects which will be decided upon completion of my independent review into youth crime diversionary activity.

Among those celebrating are The Children's Society, which is providing a service addressing the needs of boys and young men at risk of being sexually and criminally exploited and Nottingham Muslim Women's Network which has received £18,600 for its Engage Inform Empower project raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence and abuse in the Muslim community.

For more information visit:
<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Our-Money/Grants-and-Funding/Community-Safety-Fund-2019-20.aspx>



Nottinghamshire against FGM

I was very proud this month to add my name to a high-profile movement to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation in a generation.

I was pleased to see so many community leaders setting an example when I joined more than 60 survivors and local organisations to sign up to a pledge brought by Nottingham-based campaigners, the Mojatu Foundation, offering my zero-tolerance of this violence.

I've continued to offer my full support to the Mojatu Foundation this year, granting a further £21,513 in funding in 2019-20.

The declaration, which originally launched on the International Day of Zero Tolerance Against FGM, puts Nottinghamshire at the forefront of efforts to tackle this barbarism by becoming the first county in the UK to officially declare zero-tolerance on FGM.



Uniting Nottinghamshire's communities

I'm always keen to seize opportunities to celebrate our richly diverse county and was delighted to be invited to an open day held at the Muslim Cultural Centre Wollaton in Nottingham earlier this month.

This inspirational event brought together people of different faiths, backgrounds and cultures in the spirit of friendship and conversation to promote greater understanding of Islam. It was a hugely valuable experience for everyone who attended.

The event, which was developed in association with women-focused community group An-Nisa Network, was part of the national #VisitMyMosque initiative.

Each year, I invest substantial funding into bringing our communities together and promoting respect and acceptance. I've also supported projects that drive out hate crime and offer better support for victims. There's so much proactive work taking place and I'm very grateful for this ongoing support.

Sajid Mohammed, from Nottingham Citizens, said: "The complexity around dealing with hate crime means it can only be tackled by partnership and collaboration. The courageous leadership shown by the Police and Crime Commissioner has brought people and communities together, enabled better research that has shaped strategic planning, leading to intelligent resourcing of the police, city council and community organisations."



Celebrating inspirational women - the Superheroes

The courage and determination of women across Nottinghamshire was celebrated this month in the inaugural Notts Inspirational Women Awards.

The awards ceremony, organised by Nottingham Women's Centre under the theme of 'Superheroes', was held at the Nottingham Council House Ballroom and brought together 23 amazing finalists all deserving praise and recognition for their work which ranged from bereavement counselling and mentorship to domestic violence support work and mental health intervention.

This event attracted more than 120 nominations, revealing the powerful and inspiring work women are doing to improve their communities and protect people. It was honour to listen to their stories and hear about what motivates them to change lives for the better.





Standing together for gender equality



Nottinghamshire stands side by side with every police force in England and Wales in its commitment to improve gender imbalances at senior levels and achieve real gender equality within policing.

As part of the International Women's Day celebrations, I became the first Police and Crime Commissioner in the country to publicly sign up to the United Nations' HeForShe movement, pledging to continue my work towards achieving gender equality and creating communities that are free from domestic and sexual abuse.

All 43 police forces in England and Wales, along with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, have backed this movement, which was announced at the Senior Women in Policing Conference held in Birmingham.

I'm proud to support the achievements of women and will do everything in my power to improve gender balance at all levels in policing. Outdated stereotypical beliefs have no place in society if we are to achieve full and genuine equality.

National Bystander Awareness Day



How ordinary people can safely intervene to support victims of hate crime was the subject of an insightful meeting of community leaders to mark National Bystander Awareness Day.

The annual awareness day raises attention to the role people can play when others need help. Figures show safe intervention by a bystander can help de-escalate a situation in 50% of cases.

The meeting, organised by social enterprise Communities Inc, brought Nottinghamshire Police together with a host of health, education and community partners to learn about safe and simple interventions that can support victims of hate crime in vulnerable situations and increase reports of incidents. It was a thoroughly productive morning and we are all determined to disrupt and counter hate at all levels in our communities by sharing this valuable information to the public.



Together we'll beat hate crime

What a fantastic and powerful message the Salaam Shalom Kitchen (SaSh) is sending to the world with its drop-in kitchen for vulnerable people in Nottinghamshire.

The facility, run by the Nottingham Liberal Synagogue and not-for-profit Muslim organisation Himmah, brings together people of all cultures, faiths and backgrounds to work in unity to help deprived and vulnerable members of the community.

The weekly service, which has around 40 volunteers, provides hot meals and volunteer support from Hyson Green's Bridge Centre in Gregory Boulevard and is thought to be the only one of its kind in the country. It is a shining example of the good that can be achieved by people coming together in friendship and mutual support which has shaped much of my own work on hate crime across Nottinghamshire.



Communities pull together for knife amnesty

Hundreds of bladed weapons have been handed into police in Nottinghamshire as part of the annual Operation Sceptre amnesty. This year's event comes at a time when knife-related deaths are reaching epidemic levels across Britain with serious questions being asked at how we prevent young people carrying and using knives.

Ending knife crime and violence is a team effort and this year many of our partners provided their own red knife amnesty bins, alongside the 15 at police stations and multi-agency receptions across the county.

Removing dangerous weapons from our streets is clearly important but it is not a complete solution. What is critical is that we change people's behaviour. Education begins in the home. Parents must know what their children are doing.



Disrupting organised crime

A sustained campaign to target and dismantle organised crime and drug networks in Bestwood and the surrounding areas has seen the recovery of £1.8m of drugs.

Police have arrested or interviewed under caution 203 people since Operation Reacher launched in April 2018 as part of a multi-partner investigation which has also seen cash worth more than £300,000 recovered, 23 weapons including eight firearms and the seizure of 337 vehicles.

The activity, which has generated significant intelligence in the Bestwood area, has had a huge impact on public safety with local people reacting very positively to the results.

A total of 104 people have so far have been positively dealt with, either by being charged, reported for summons, cautioned, given penalty notices, cannabis warnings, or community resolutions with the bulk of the most recent enforcement activity resulting in charges for conspiracy to supply class A and B controlled drugs as well as the possession of firearms.

While many of the prosecutions are currently going through the criminal justice system, Jordan Needham, 26, formerly of Comfrey Close, Bestwood, was sentenced to five years and eight months in October 2018 after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin. A Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation order was also granted against him this month with a benefit figure of £27,847. He was told he must pay £7,500 immediately in available assets.



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

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