



Derbyshire
Police and Crime
Commissioner

ISSUE 2 - WINTER 2016

SPOTLIGHT

on safer Derbyshire

WELCOME

This is the second of my quarterly bulletins to keep you up to date with the work I've been doing to improve safety in Derbyshire. It's been a busy autumn and winter with a host of campaigns and activities underway to drive home our safety messages and promote the help out there available for vulnerable people, many of which are detailed here. Every month I have the pleasure of meeting hundreds of local people and finding out how their communities could be improved but if you have an important issue to raise – please don't wait. I'm always ready and willing to listen to your feedback.

Hardyal Dhindsa



Derbyshire Alert

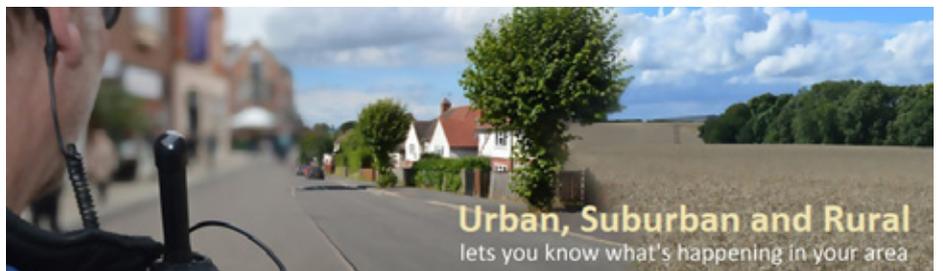
More than 4,000 people have registered with Derbyshire Alert since it relaunched at the end of September.

I agreed to fund the messaging service in honour of my manifesto pledges so that residents and businesses can continue to receive information that might reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime and I'm delighted that it's already proving its value.

Working in close partnership with Neighbourhood Watch, we've unveiled a new microsite and new branding to encourage greater uptake of this important crime prevention service. With a dedicated full-time digital engagement officer on-board, we're already improving our communications reach and building stronger relationships with Derbyshire's communities.

Anyone wanting to join the service can sign up at

www.derbyshirealert.co.uk



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WORKING WITH THE WATCH

I believe that our partnership with Neighbourhood Watch is invaluable to community safety. As an organisation they are often seen as the eyes and ears of the police and I'm delighted to hear that they too feel that the relationship has been strengthened in recent months.

We have agreed to meet on a quarterly basis and those meetings are having a tangible impact on the way we work. I'm

looking forward to becoming a regular attendee at the various events held around the county (when I'm invited!) and I will be updating all the members on my work via a regular contribution to the Watch Sentinel magazine.

Tony Grace is chair of the Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. He told Spotlight that Hardyal is an outstanding Commissioner

and a man of his word. "He has done so much good work since his election, not just reinstating the Derbyshire Alert but keeping other promises too. The co-operation we are getting from both him and his team is invaluable to our work. We can really work together," he added.

City centre summit on ASB and street drinking

The spotlight is firmly focused on ASB and street drinking in the City Centre following the first of my City Centre Summit meetings. In December I invited a multitude of partners to join me to consider what we can do, together, to address these issues which are in danger of blighting the area.



I was delighted to see over thirty people, representing the local authority, business sectors, voluntary and third sector groups, walking through the door.

It quickly became clear that there was a general consensus that street drinking and antisocial behaviour detracts from the appeal of the City to both residents and investors.

What to do to address the root causes and identifying sustainable solutions will take a little more time...

For example, I think many attendees were a little surprised to hear that some of the 'homeless' beggars

on the streets actually make up to £100 per day and have a property to call home. We heard that around £300K is donated on the streets of Derby annually and while public generosity should be applauded, I would like to see this money being channelled into a charity that provides support to those most in need.

Another big problem appears to be bad-language, unpleasant attitudes and antisocial behaviour.

Derby is a generous, caring city. None of us wish to see that supportive stance abused, when there are people that desperately

need that help but it's clear that we need to act and we agreed to develop an action plan.

Of course, this needs resourcing – with people and finance. I'm hopeful that we can use a partnership approach which I am happy to facilitate.

Obviously, we have to do more than simply move the problem around the City Centre and we have to find sustainable solutions. I'm sure that by working cohesively we can make a difference.

The next of our Summit meetings will take place in February, when I hope to have a clear action plan.

BUDGET

It's budget time again and along with the number-crunching that will take place to ensure our services are adequately funded next year, we have been talking to you to find out your views on the Council Tax precept.

My online survey which closed at the end of December asked a few brief questions on your experience of policing and also whether you would be prepared to pay a 2% increase in the portion of Council Tax you pay towards policing in 2016/17 which amounts to an extra 6.8 pence per week (£3.54 per year). This, as the survey explains, will help make up the reduction in Government funding.

I'm grateful to all those who completed the survey, the results of which will be published shortly.

The provisional settlement for 2017/18, announced in December, follows the broad guidelines set out in the Government's 2015 Spending Review. At local level, the proposals mean that Commissioners will be able to maintain budgets at current levels in cash terms as long as they increase Council Tax levels by 2% in 2017/18.

Now that inflation is starting to increase, while at the same time demands on local policing show no signs of abating, the proposals

will still mean additional pressure on local budgets next year.

Managing the budget is a challenging job and next year will be no exception as we attempt to maintain our performance and capacity with a reduced budget.



FRIAR GATE GOODS YARD UPDATE

Positive action is being taken to address the problems at Derby's Friar Gate Goods Yard following the multiagency talks I arranged in September.

The site has been plagued by drug taking activity in recent months and now a grounds maintenance firm has been hired to clear the area of trees and shrubbery which have acted as a screen to their activities.

Work started in December to clear the four-acre area and will be undertaken by Derbyshire-based Midland Tree Management. It follows meetings between myself, the landowner and local police to identify potential solutions.

This is a really positive step forward and demonstrates the power of multiple organisations coming together to tackle a problem jointly.

One of the issues with the site as it is currently, is the fact that bushes and shrubs allow those engaging in illegal activity to be hidden from the view of passing pedestrians and motorists. Once the site is cleared, there will be less incentive for drug users to meet and we will hopefully see some improvement. However, we will continue to monitor the situation.



Andrew Bock, a director of Clowes Developments, which owns the site, said:

"We've always known this has been an issue but collectively we've come together to try and come up with solutions. It's not going to stop people taking drugs – that will happen elsewhere – but it will hopefully improve this area considerably. Within a month it will look a lot different."

VICTIMS SPOTLIGHT

VALUING VICTIMS OF CRIME IN DERBYSHIRE

There are many merits to a simplified approach and nowhere is this more apparent than in the provision of victims' care. Making sure all the services out there that support victims of crime work in harmony has obvious benefits – most of which are felt by the victims' themselves.

Victims of crime see their lives turned upside down in a moment and accessing help for that

experience shouldn't add to their confusion or turmoil. I want to make it simpler which is why I've decided to co-locate Derbyshire Constabulary's Witness Care Team with the CORE Derbyshire Victim Services I commissioned earlier this year at Force HQ.

This move will ensure victims and witnesses' needs are now managed from a centralised point. It won't change how people

access help but it will ensure their cases are managed more coherently.

It's within our interests as a public organisation to ensure we utilise and manage our resources in the best way. We also need to ensure no one slips through the net that needs help and this geographical move symbolises the strength of our partnership moving forward.

GOT YOUR BACK

More than 150 young people have now accessed our bespoke service for young victims of crime since it went live in April this year. Got Your Back is delivered by Remedi and provides young people aged 17 and under with practical and emotional support to help them recover from the crime committed against them. This can be any offence except sexual violence for which there are different services.

So far, 159 young people have engaged with the service and a total of 255 young people have been contacted to offer support. By the end of December, the service expected to have contacted 360 young people to offer the service.

Most referrals have come from the Police where young people have given consent for service volunteers to contact them.

However, there have been 22 self-referrals which is positive news and something we will continue to strive towards.

The support offered from this valuable scheme can be as simple as listening to the young person affected but it could also involve liaising with the school or the Police on their behalf.

One of the priorities is to raise awareness about the service and Got Your Back workers are already one step ahead, organising workshops in schools in the City and throughout the county where high levels of ASB have been reported. So far six workshops have been organised, reaching a young audience of 1,000 pupils. The team is also utilising social media platforms to promote the service.



VICTIMS SPOTLIGHT

WHITE RIBBON DAY

I had the pleasure of enjoying a breakfast butty on November 25 with all the men signing up to support White Ribbon Day. The WRC campaign is the largest effort in the world of men working

to end men's violence against women and calls on them to sign a personal pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

As PCC, I signed my own pledge and donned a white ribbon for this event, which took place at Escape Services, Heanor, in support of White Ribbon Day



INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY

Over the coming weeks we will be distributing new information videos among members of the deaf community to help them understand the different police services on offer and importantly how to access them.

I awarded the British Deaf Association with £23,899 from my Community Action Grant for the project, which highlights the difference between emergency and non-emergency scenarios

and the right numbers people might need for help.

The work is supportive of the Force's PLOD (Police Link Officers for people who are Deaf) scheme – an initiative in which police officers and staff receive training in deaf awareness and the use of British Sign Language (BSL). These skills are used to provide communication support in non-emergency situations such as assisting on the front enquiry

desk or in the custody area.

We want to make it easier for vulnerable people to get the help they need. Being directly affected by crime is a frightening experience but more so if there is another layer of communication difficulty. The training undertaken by our officers and projects like this are aimed at reducing the anxiety and offering further reassurance.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Recently the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) confirmed me as their new national lead for Alcohol and deputy lead for Equality, Diversity and Human Rights.

This is a new approach to managing the development of policy for the APCC. PCCs chosen as Portfolio Leads will have responsibilities for

developing policy positions on behalf of the organisation and communicating these positions both internally and externally as well as continuing to be the voice for their own police force area.

I look forward to updating you on my work in this new remit in the future.

PCC BUSINESS

DEPUTY PCC APPOINTED

I'm delighted to announce the appointment of my new Deputy Kevin Gillott following a robust and competitive recruitment process

Kevin, a north Derbyshire solicitor, has a strong criminal justice background which compliments my own experience as a probation officer and he has the knowledge and insight necessary to enhance my work in community safety, particularly my strategies on offender rehabilitation.

Kevin's impressive legal background will be a huge asset to my own work and the work of my team. His appointment has received formal approval by the Police and Crime Panel and we were pleased to welcome him to our team as we returned from the New Year break.

WELCOME ANDREW DALE

This month I welcome Andrew Dale – my new Chief Finance Officer - to my team following another rigorous recruitment process.

Andrew comes to us from The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Leicestershire where he held the position of resources manager and deputy finance officer.

Andrew understands the policing landscape and has excellent contacts throughout the region, which will be a bonus in our collaboration with other East Midlands forces.

In welcoming Andrew we bid a fond farewell to outgoing Treasurer Helen Boffy who is retiring. Helen joined Derbyshire from Lincolnshire in 2008 to support the then Police Authority's executive office and took on chief executive responsibilities in 2012 to lead the transition to the new PCC structure.

The move followed 20 years of experience in local government finance.

Since then, Helen has been part of the innovative new partnership with the fire authority to establish the new joint HQ.

Helen has been a highly-valued and committed member of the team and my team and I wish her every happiness in the future – I'm sure that she will find something to keep her busy in retirement.

NEW HQ FULLY OPERATIONAL

The joint police and fire headquarters is now fully functional thanks to the completion of building work in the summer.

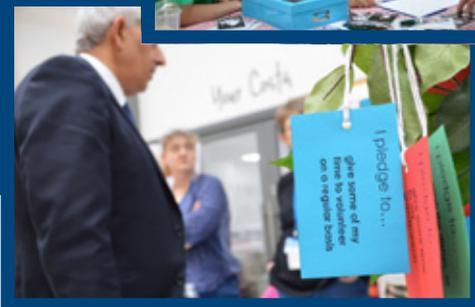
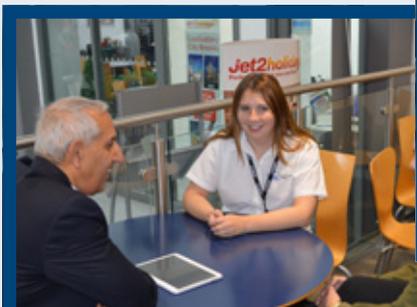
Representatives from the Force and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority accepted the formal handover of the keys in September and since then the new facility has been a hub of action as both organisations have settled into their new surroundings.

The new building, sited at the existing police headquarters at Butterley, houses mainly administrative functions for both organisations however uniformed and non-uniformed fire and rescue service personnel will move into the building to enable the delivery of efficient and effective frontline services.

Co-location offers us numerous advantages and is a visible symbol of our close partnership however both services will retain their independence.

PCC IN ACTION

Over the past four months I've continued to promote community safety messages across the county, meet local people and find out more about the work we're supporting to make Derbyshire safer. Here is a snapshot of our activity:



CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE, CHESTERFIELD

The College played host to a fantastic Connect 5 wellbeing event in November to promote physical and mental wellbeing among students. Representatives from a multitude of health and leisure organisations were on-hand to provide advice on eating disorders, sexual health and stress through to Bi-polar support and fitness. I chatted to lots of young people to find out the safety issues that most concerned them. 'Got Your Back' Young People's Victim Service was on hand to lend support.



PEAR TREE YOUTH CLUB

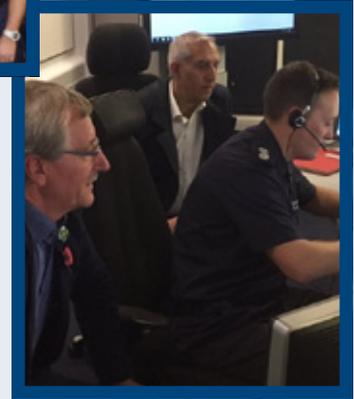
In October, I had the pleasure of meeting the volunteers running this Normanton youth club which brings together youngsters from different backgrounds for fun activities. Alongside offering recreational facilities, volunteers also work with young people on awareness projects such as reporting hate crime, healthy relationships, knife crime awareness and drugs and alcohol, helping to keep them safe. The visit was coordinated to coincide with Hate Crime Awareness Week.

PCC IN ACTION



BONFIRE NIGHT

I joined Cllr Steve Marshall-Clarke, Chair of the Fire & Rescue Authority, in the fire service control room to observe 999 emergency calls for assistance on what can be one of the busiest nights of the year. Thankfully there were no major incidents during the evening, thanks to the preventative education delivered by the fire service over many years.



BAKEWELL YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

I joined PCSO Ian Phipps to chat to young farmers about Farm Watch and promote the Got Your Back service for young victims of crime. We also discussed rural crime issues and offered crime prevention advice.



CRESSBROOK AND LITTON FLYFISHERS CLUB

I joined PCSO Ian Phipps and Chris Thirtle of the Cressbrook and Litton Flyfishers Club in October to carry out patrols of the river routes around Millers Dale, Monsal Dale, Litton Mill and Cressbrook as part of a campaign to deter poachers.



TAKE OVER DAY

Ambitious youngsters from Derbyshire Youth Council (DYC) stepped into my shoes on October 24 as part of the annual Take Over Day. The youngsters shadowed me throughout the day to gain first-hand experience of policing – even taking part in a special meeting. I was very impressed by the confidence and enthusiasm they showed and we are all very grateful for their input on the day.

LISTENING TO YOU

There is a myriad of ways in which I am 'listening to you'. My survey is one such way, which you can do on the website, or in person at one of our roadshows.

However, you can always get in touch

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