Welcome to the Christmas edition of my newsletter which tells you about the work underway to make Derbyshire safer.

We’re fast approaching the end of 2017 which has been a tremendously successful year for policing despite the funding challenges. As always we’ve seen vast changes in the way we work but these have brought positive results, especially in the arena of crime prevention and helping people to conquer their problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the next 12 months.

Hardyal Dhindsa
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Fighting for a fairer future

I’m immensely proud of the dedication and effort of Derbyshire’s police officers and it’s extremely important to me that we give them the financial support and resources they need to do the best job possible.

Ever since taking on this job I’ve been fighting for a fairer funding deal from the Home Office and in recent weeks this has intensified with a series of meetings with local MPs to highlight our plight and provide the necessary financial detail to demonstrate just how critical it is the force receives adequate funding. You have also been a part of that pressure, answering my campaign pleas to contact your MP and voice your serious concerns over the long-term safety of your communities.

The reality is that policing demands have changed and so has the way we tackle criminality. For example, online crime is a substantial threat and requires labour-intensive, specialist solutions, while counter-terrorism activity is more important now than ever before. Sitting back and watching our police service crumble under this weight is not an option. I will continue to fight for what is fair and just for Derbyshire.

At the time of writing this newsletter we are still waiting to learn what next year’s funding from the Government will be. Even small delays like this can be very unhelpful to the planning process.

IN THIS ISSUE

• New funding boost
• Young victims recovery
• HMIC Praise
• Alcohol Action Campaign
• Hate Crime Awareness
• Shopworkers Week

Protecting Communities, Fighting Crime
New funding boost for community projects

Christmas has come early for charitable groups and community organisations with the return of a special fund to improve community life in Derbyshire. Early next year, I will be allocating grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 to projects which bring communities together and improve them for future generations.

This income has been derived from criminal acts in 2016-17 under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and comes on top of the £275,000 I invest annually through my Community Action Grant to support crime prevention work. The NICE (Neighbourhoods Investing Criminal Earnings) Fund, as it is known, will support capital projects which leave a lasting legacy for their communities.

To apply visit: www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

YOUNG VICTIMS OPEN UP ABOUT RECOVERY JOURNEY

Brave victims of crime have spoken out about their experiences to raise awareness of the services available in Derbyshire to help people.

Members of the Got Your Back Youth Forum hosted a special event at The Royal British Legion in Mickleover in November which saw youngsters talking candidly about their journey to recovery after becoming victims of crime.

Got Your Back is a victim support service I commissioned back in 2016 to enhance the wellbeing of young people affected by crime. Run by restorative justice charity Remedi, it has helped a number of youngsters through the criminal justice process by offering them practical and emotional support to help them cope.
An ambitious new alcohol awareness campaign is underway in Derbyshire to test new approaches to irresponsible drinking.

"Intoxicated" was rolled out across the county in November and is part of my Safe Night Out strategy bringing partners together to prevent alcohol-related crime and antisocial behavior.

Backed by more than 100 licensed premises, the campaign includes:
1. Bespoke training to bar staff on the law
2. No entry system to tackle drunkenness
3. Refresher training for police officers
4. Marketing campaign promoting responsible drinking
5. Alcohol Diversion Scheme to reeducate offenders on the risks of over-consumption

Respect for shopworkers

Derbyshire's retail workers are a dedicated bunch and deserve the very best treatment and respect of their customers. This is why I was keen to lend my support to Respect for Shopworkers Week in November which is part of the Freedom from Fear Campaign to prevent verbal abuse, threats and violent attacks at work.

The campaign is run by shopworkers' trade union Usdaw which has revealed worrying figures of a 25% rise in assaults and abuse in the past 12 months. During the week, I had the pleasure of meeting shopworkers at Ripley Co-op to back the campaign.

HMIC praise

The most recent report from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary into police efficiency praises Derbyshire for its approach to managing demand and working with partners.

The report examines the efficiency with which the force keeps people safe and reduces crime in three key areas all rated as 'good'. These are:

How well the force understands demand
How well the force uses its resources
How well the force is planning for the future

This is a very positive report but we are not complacent and will always strive to improve further.
HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

As national lead on hate crime for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), I was delighted to support National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October and shine a spotlight on this hidden problem.

Derbyshire hosted a series of events to get local people talking about hate crime and signpost victims to the help services on offer.

Among the events held was an awareness day hosted by the Da Vinci Academy in Derby which saw hate crime victims speaking candidly about their experiences to young people as well as a ‘Question Time’ panel event where local people could ask questions about hate crime to panel representatives of which I was one. I also joined other PCCs and MPs in a candle lit service at St Paul’s Cathedral promoting a message of hope and togetherness in the face of prejudice.

Anti-hate SUCCESS

Back in September I joined anti-hate campaigners on a special walk to celebrate Derbyshire’s Step Up Beat Hate campaign at Markeaton Park in Derby.

STEP UP BEAT HATE is a campaign funded through the Home Office’s Hate Crime Community Project Fund to increase access to restorative justice (RJ) services for victims of hate crime across Derbyshire.

The pilot project targeted past and potential victims of hate crime to raise awareness of RJ and saw the development of new referral routes for victims to increase uptake of RJ services as well as training for frontline staff.

The four-month project resulted in a 24% increase in reports of hate crime to the police and a 91% increase in hate crime referrals to Derbyshire Victim Services - figures which I was able to share with everybody taking part on the walk.
The work coincided with the start of the academic year and saw the safety messages behind my Safe Night Out campaign aired at various venues including Derby University’s Welcome Fair. I also met new recruits from the Drink-Aware Crew scheme – a project run by national charity DrinkAware involving the specialist training of club hosts who work in bars and clubs to reduce drunken and antisocial behaviour among young people aged 18 to 24.

The deadline for applications to my large grants scheme for 2017 has closed and over the coming weeks we will be making decisions on where best to allocate this funding.

Every year, I invest £275,000 to local organisations which support my Police and Crime Plan priorities through my Community Action Grant. The large grants scheme is a once-yearly event offering community groups, voluntary or charitable bodies the chance of applying for up to £25,000 to assist their work and make a difference to people’s lives. Further small grant funding rounds take place throughout the year.

Decisions will be made in January 2018 and successful projects will be expected to commence from April 1 2018.

Student safety was in focus in September as we launched a month of action on alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour.

The work coincided with the start of the academic year and saw the safety messages behind my Safe Night Out campaign aired at various venues including Derby University’s Welcome Fair. I also met new recruits from the Drink-Aware Crew scheme – a project run by national charity DrinkAware involving the specialist training of club hosts who work in bars and clubs to reduce drunken and antisocial behaviour among young people aged 18 to 24.

Community Action Grant
I have been exceptionally busy in the run up to Christmas travelling all over the county to meet people and hear about local problems as part of my #D383 tour. #D383 will see me visit every town and village across Derbyshire during my four-year term. Already we’ve taken action on the issues you’ve raised and I will continue to do what I can to make life better in your area. Highlights include:

**STANTON BY DALE PARISH COUNCIL** meeting where local people raised their worries about travelling communities, speeding through the small village and heavy goods traffic which have been relayed to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team for review.

**NORTH WINGFIELD** Christmas Fayre at Community Resource Centre where we discussed the very active local scout and guide group and wider issues relating to antisocial behaviour.

**KILLAMARSH PARISH COUNCIL** meeting at Killamarsh Community Centre where we discussed the benefits of signing up to Derbyshire Alert and also raised awareness of how to access our victims’ services through the 101 telephone number.

**AMBER VALLEY** area where I joined the mobile library at Riddings and Ironville to meet residents and answer their policing questions followed by a visit to the bonfire and fireworks display in Codnor where I chatted to visitors.

**LOWER DERBYSHIRE DALES** (Yeaveley, Sudbury, Doveridge, Norbury and Marston Montgomery) where I joined local officers for Derbyshire Constabulary’s Operation Illuminate event offering local residents crime reduction advice and home security kits.

**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

Phone: 0300 122 6000  
Fax: 0300 122 7797  
Email: pccoffice@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk  
Twitter: @DerbysPCC  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DerbyshirePCC

**FOOTNOTE**

This newsletter is produced to give you an overview of the work of my office and of course, me! We are always open to ideas for articles and if there is some area of our work that you would like to see in here, either as a regular update or a one-off please get in touch.

I’m always pleased to hear from members of the public so please, if something is concerning you, or you wish to compliment the service you have received, either pick up the phone or email us.