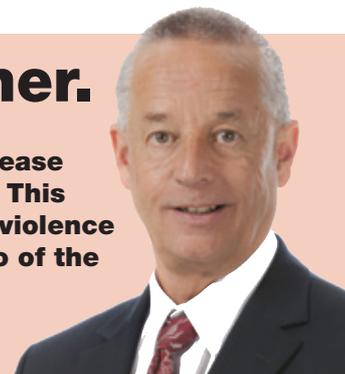




A message from our Commissioner.

Safety is a basic need for all of us, so it's heart-warming to see an increase in closer partnership working to help tackle Derbyshire's main threats. This includes providing more and better support to the victims of domestic violence and alcohol-related crime – both of which have been highlighted as two of the six crime prevention priorities in our county.

Alan Charles - Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire



Reporting domestic abuse is vital

Domestic violence is one of the main threats to safety in Derbyshire. To defeat it and protect its victims, we all need to work together.

In my Police and Crime Plan I made clear my determination to keep people – and particularly the most vulnerable in our communities – safe from harm, anti-social behaviour and criminal activities. That includes channelling resources into investigating domestic abuse and helping victims in their recovery.

Helping to keep victims safe relies heavily on people reporting cases of abuse. I therefore urge people who are being harmed in this way, or know of it happening, to tell the police.



I am working hard to make firmer links between partners and organisations experienced in domestic abuse work, and support their intervention programmes. This includes my recent grants worth thousands of pounds to groups dedicated to providing the help that domestic violence victims need.

Working with partners, Derbyshire Constabulary continually explores ways of improving the support of victims and encouraging more people to report crime. For example, The Domestic Violence and Serious Sexual Violence Governance Board is seeking to increase access to Sexual Abuse Referral Centre facilities in the north of the county. Some great togetherness work is underway – but there's more to be done.

Partners unite to tackle alcohol problems



The Alcohol Summit I held in the summer has led to a high level Alcohol Task Force being formed with partnership support.

That's music to my ears.

Alcohol abuse is behind so many problems – including domestic violence and abuse – anti-social behaviour and health issues. It is because of these far-reaching consequences that my Police and Crime Plan supports more effective early intervention.

Representatives from The Probation Trust, Local Authorities, Youth Offending Service, the Police, Public Health and Neighbourhoods have all agreed to lead different strands of work to develop a joined-up Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan. I'll be doing all I can to help the various agencies work together as productively as possible.

One plan involves taking Derby's nightlife safety measures into the rest of the county, the city having won a Purple Flag in recognition of its nightlife being among the best in the country.

Tackling countryside crime

More schemes for tackling wildlife and countryside crimes across Derbyshire are now either underway or imminent as a result of the enthusiastic response to my recent wildlife conference in South Normanton.

The first and already successful Farmwatch partnership in the Dales and High Peak areas is being rolled out across each of Derbyshire Constabulary's divisions, and the scope of specialist rural officers is now to include wildlife and rural crime.

Putting the brake on crimes from poaching and persecution of birds of prey to badger baiting and fly-tipping...

is part of my Police and Crime Plan, along with the theft of farmers' livestock, diesel and agricultural machinery. Partners have now pledged to deliver a streamlined solution to these offences.



One Year in the Job

My first year as Police and Crime Commissioner has shown me time and again the importance of pulling together, with the power of partnership working being further highlighted at my alcohol and wildlife conferences. These events successfully drew on expertise and experience to find the best solutions... and what could be better?

During the year, I have been pleased to be involved in a number of significant events and projects aimed at keeping Derbyshire safe, including:

- the award of crime and disorder grants to groups working with victims of domestic abuse
- the founding of my crime prevention fund for supporting organisations intent on making Derbyshire safer
- connecting with local communities through my walkabouts and, together with the Chief Constable, our extensive Your Police Your Views engagement project

Along with my Deputy, Hardyal Dhindsa, I now look forward to doing even more in the coming year to ensure that you stay safe from harm.



Child victims' needs put first

New guidelines for dealing with the reporting and prosecution of child sex abuse clearly put the victim's needs first. Deputy Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa points out: "It is vital that victims and anyone who suspects abuse have confidence in the system, so that they will report it. We are very fortunate in Derbyshire as we have police and partner agencies specially trained in helping those who report this type of crime."

The guidelines also seek to raise awareness of victims being manipulated and blackmailed to keep quiet, and how notions of 'honour' or 'shame' might be used in some ethnic communities to deter victims from reporting the abuse.

Face to face... and having your say



Meeting residents, businesses and those who work in our police and criminal justice services helps me and my Deputy to understand how we can further increase safety in Derbyshire.

Results from the county-wide **Have Your Say** and **Your Police Your Views** public consultation programmes indicate that most people in Derbyshire feel safe and have confidence in our police. Responses also showed the fear of crime to have a fairly small effect on people's quality of life.

• Buxton & Ilkeston Walkabouts

I've been privileged to have met so many people on the regular walkabouts that I undertake throughout the year. I would like to mention them all, but that would require a bigger publication.

Two visits in October gave me the chance to hear first-hand what people think about policing in the area, and assure residents and businesses that we take crime very seriously in rural areas and market towns. In both towns I also met local councillors to hear about any specific policing issues and priorities that affect them.

In Buxton, I met local people at Fairfield Sure Start Children's Centre, Fairfield Residents' Association, the Pavilion Gardens, The Crescent and Buxton Market Place. Insp Martin Coey and local policing team members talked me through the work they are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

My visit to Ilkeston started at the Town Hall where I was joined by councillors. Then it was on to meet local people around the Scala Cinema, Bath Street and the Cotmanhay Pavilion. This was a valuable insight into the lives of people in Ilkeston, what is working and what needs more attention.



These were among the many valuable results from the one-to-one questionnaires and surveys carried out between May and September. Both the Chief Constable and I are very grateful to all of you who took part. Around eight of ten respondents told us that Derbyshire is a;

'very' or 'fairly safe' place to live

and described their local area police service as excellent, good or satisfactory. This is good news but I want us to do better. The Have Your Say results – available online – will help to ensure that the issues that cause you most concern are being tackled. People at the Your Police Your View meetings also raised many points and helpful suggestions ranging from improved use of mobile police stations and sharing cross border intelligence to education on drugs and responsible drinking, and police response times. To get the full report on the Have Your Say 2013 survey please click [here](#).

• Calls where every second counts

Spending time with police call handlers in August confirmed for me and my Deputy how crucial it is for people to call the right number. Dialling 999 is for 999 situations only. The number for non-emergencies is 101.

We saw for ourselves how quickly call handlers need to respond on a 999 watch, and were greatly impressed by how the staff reassured and calmed people in crisis.

As Hardyal said: "It certainly brings home just how desperately anyone would want their call responded to quickly, calmly and professionally in an emergency."

• Thank you to volunteers

Whenever I meet our volunteers – including Special Constables, Neighbourhood Watch, Independent Custody Visitors and those who check the welfare of police dogs – I am humbled by their dedication and enthusiasm. Our thanks go to you all. You make Derbyshire a better place.

Your Police your Views Event

Is crime really falling in your area?

Do you understand the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner?

Do you get value for money for policing in your area?

Your views are important to us

To book your place please call
0300 122 6000
 email: pcco@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk
www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and a Chief Officer for Derbyshire Constabulary will be in your area on:

Thursday 5 September
 Arrival from 6.30pm
 Meeting commences 7.00pm

North Wingfield Community Resource Centre
 Whiteleas Avenue
 North Wingfield, S42 5PW



'Poverty Crimes' on the increase

Despite ten years' of falling crime figures, the latest figures show that all recorded crime across Derby and Derbyshire has increased slightly from April 1 to November 6. The most recent report presented to the Commissioner at his Strategic Governance Board, where he holds the Chief Constable to account for performance revealed that the figures had increased by 3% compared with the same period last year.

The increase can be attributed in the main to crimes such as non-domestic burglary, shoplifting and vehicle crime, which the Commissioner believes is due to the difficult financial position that many people are currently facing.

Mr Charles pointed out that this type of crime was most prevalent in areas with high deprivation, such as Derby West, Derby East and Chesterfield.

"I think that people are stealing everyday goods they now just can't afford, and while I don't condone it, I can see why they are doing it. People are shoplifting for food, for nappies, for baby food, and it has to be said this is poverty related,"

he said. "The police have strategies in place with businesses to tackle issues such as theft and cyber-crime, while we are urging partners and the Government for more help to support people who are so desperately short of money they are turning to crime."

Dealing with the budget cuts challenge

Further cuts in the policing budget earlier this year were disappointing but no surprise. That's why Derbyshire Constabulary had already made savings of £2.5m in year-end figures for 2012-13. Many of these savings resulted from cautious management practices designed to put the force in the best possible position to meet the challenge of more cutbacks.

Lower spending than anticipated by my Office and the former Police Authority also meant more money for the operational funding reserve aimed at helping mitigate the funding gap and protect local policing. Some of this underspend is now being used to boost local crime prevention projects.

• Grant funding

My Crime Prevention Fund is providing a total of £250,000 to community groups, public sector bodies or charitable organisations which support my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Some grants have already been made to organisations including: **Our Vision Our Future** to help raise awareness of hate crime; Remedi (Restorative Justice Services) to help with victim contact and enable victims of anti-social behaviour to take part in the Community Justice Panel Process; Derby-based Safe and Sound to assist with reducing the risk of child exploitation; Rhubarb Farm in Langwith to support its work with ex-offenders; and the Volunteer Centre for Buxton and District to help finance and install security systems in the homes of vulnerable people.



Fact-finding prison tour

During our tour of Foston Hall, Sudbury and Nottingham Prisons, my Deputy and I were impressed by their innovative and effective approaches to rehabilitation work.

We wanted to see for ourselves the work being done to prevent reoffending, the support offenders receive before they are released and the help they are given to re-establish them in the community.

Contact me

Do you have something to say
about achieving a safer Derbyshire?

I want to hear it! - YOU CAN:

Go to my website:

www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

Email me at:

pccoffice@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Call me on:

0300 122 6000

Write to me at:

**The Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Derbyshire,
Butterley Hall, Ripley,
Derbyshire. DE5 3RS.**

