



## A message from our Commissioner:

**Tackling hidden crime has been a strong theme during the past 12 months and will remain so as we move into the New Year. As this bulletin shows, we've continued to shine a light on criminal behaviour that isolates victims, presents challenges to policing and is traditionally unreported. Sharing ideas and working with our partners in seminars such as the one held on Hate Crime is vital to improving understanding of the victim's point of view and helps us to deliver more effective solutions. Increasing confidence in reporting of these crimes is also top priority and something that I'm focused on expanding in 2016.**

*Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner **Alan Charles***



## CRIME PREVENTION



### Grant Success

**Community organisations, charities and public sector projects have now had six opportunities to apply for funding from my Crime Prevention Grant since my election in November 2012.**

The money has been invested in a host of projects during the past three years which have not only supported my own Police and Crime Plan priorities but enhanced the overall safety and wellbeing of people living and working in Derbyshire as well as vulnerable victims of crime.

As the most recent 12-month funding period draws to a close, many of the beneficiary projects are reporting positive outcomes, demonstrating the importance of supporting grassroots crime prevention work.

One example is Rhubarb Farm which received £8,434 to provide training for people at risk of offending or those recovering from substance misuse. This funding was used to purchase a portable building which has allowed Rhubarb Farm to expand its informal and formal courses and engage more people in training.

The Hope Springs Recovery Centre, which received £20,000 from the fund in September 2014, is another success story. Since the funding was allocated, the centre has been able to develop its work supporting those in recovery from substance misuse and commission, where necessary, services where necessary, to assist those affected by related offences and anti-social behaviour.

As a result of this specific intervention, none of the current service users with a history of chronic repeat offending have offended as a result of misuse in the past 12 months.

## Community projects benefit from NICE seized criminal profits



Five community projects focused on improving the local environment have won grants under a funding scheme that injects illegally-generated income back into crime prevention.

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Alan Charles has allocated £131,684 between five organisations as part of his NICE (Neighbourhoods Investing Criminal Earnings) Fund, which was launched last year to provide financial support to community capital projects which will leave a lasting legacy for their communities.

The funding, which has been distributed in grants of up to £40,000, is a proportion of the income confiscated from criminals in Derbyshire under the Proceeds of Crime Act. This legislation provides police officers with the powers to seize cash and recover the valuable assets that have been bought by criminals through their illegal profits including property, cars and jewellery.

Projects supported include The Chesterfield Canal Trust, the Mackworth Estate Community Association, Gamesley FC, Friends of New Mills Parks and Wilmorton Residents Association.

# Over to You

**More than 1,800 residents across Derbyshire have taken the time to share their views on policing and community safety over the past three months as part of a major engagement project which will aid the decision-making process as we approach next year's budget.**

This year, the Over to You engagement team collected feedback via digital tablets which was found to be much more efficient and enabled results to be uploaded immediately on return to the office.

A total of 1,897 responses were received both online and face-to-face and the headline results are set to be reported at a meeting of the Strategic Governance Board on Monday, December 14. These findings will further be broken down into local authority area and according to gender and age group, ready to be published early next year.

This year, the engagement project focused on key public interest issues such as budget cuts, the time taken to answer emergency and non-emergency calls, priorities and the responsibilities of my role and those of the police/council.

One significant response was 89% felt the police budget should be protected like health and education.



## Graffiti wall visit

**Youngsters at the Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School showcased their artistic talents in November as they unveiled their Christmas-inspired panels for a new graffiti wall.**

The school won a £1,000 grant from my Schools and Community Grant Scheme last year to build a bespoke graffiti wall which could be refreshed at different times of the year to reflect different seasons or themes. The project is part of a plan to reduce graffiti and antisocial behaviour within the community by providing a dedicated space for creative work which can be enjoyed by the whole community.

During my visit, I was really impressed with the quality of the artistic skills. This project was carefully thought out at the outset with pupils carrying out research with community police officers to find out the impact of antisocial behaviour and graffiti in the area.

The Schools and Community Grant Scheme was open to all secondary and special schools across Derbyshire as part of a wider aim to connect with young people and give the younger generation a bigger voice about how policing can be improved to reflect their views and needs.

## Building work moving forward on new police HQ



**Building work is progressing on the new Derbyshire Constabulary and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ.**

Completion for the new state-of-the-art building is anticipated to be summer 2016 and local construction firm Bowmer and Kirkland are pressing ahead with the work.

The new HQ will be situated at the current police site at Butterley Hall in Ripley and provides an opportunity for both emergency service organisations to work more closely together and close their mutual funding gaps while also delivering value for money for the public.

**Conference puts Hate Crime in the spotlight**

Derbyshire hosted an innovative community conference on Hate Crime to discuss what work was needed to improve the response to victims.



The day-long event, held at the University of Derby's Enterprise Centre in Derby in October, brought together a multitude of hate crime experts and community groups to focus on improved partnership working to increase confidence.

As joint host, along with the University of Derby and Professor Kevin Bampton, Head of department of Law and Criminology, I was impressed at the strength of feeling and commitment among the various partners to get things right and deliver a more effective and robust service to those who suffer hate crime.

Hate crime isn't new but we all recognise that we need to be doing much more to protect people, especially vulnerable or repeat victims, to ensure they're not living in isolation or fear.

Thankfully, reporting of hate crime appears to have increased which is a positive step. Under-reporting is one of the biggest issues police forces face and it is estimated that individuals experience up to 35 hate crimes before contacting the police. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency so that no one living in Derbyshire need ever fear reprisal or ridicule simply for seeking help.

**FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPS £1M**



**Helping victims of domestic violence recover and escape from their horrific experiences is a key priority in Derbyshire and as such I was honoured to support the national White Ribbon Day in November which urges men to make a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.**

During the past three years, I've invested more than £1m into services which support and protect vulnerable victims of domestic violence and their families. Most of the funding has been allocated from the grant received from the Ministry of Justice for cope and recovery services for victims of crime although some have received support from my Community Safety Fund.

The funding has provided a lifeline for a number of DV projects, facilitating the extension of out-of-hours service provision, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of services, enabling the recruitment and training of more volunteers to support victims and providing counselling and outreach services including helpline support.

To strengthen the relationship between the different support agencies, I held a conference in Chesterfield earlier this year which brought together leading figures from charities, voluntary organisations and the public sector to address a series of domestic violence issues including the lack of confidence among victims to report their experiences.

The aim of the conference, which was jointly organised by national criminal justice network NoOffence!, was to identify new approaches to protecting vulnerable people from abusive relationships - before they suffered physical or psychological harm.

White Ribbon Day, also known as the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, was held on November 25 to address societal perceptions about domestic violence and encourage men to take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.

**Youth project builds trust within ROMA COMMUNITY**

**A youth-based project aimed at strengthening the relationship between police and the Roma community is delivering positive results.**

The Derby-based Multi Faith Centre received a £25,000 grant from my Crime Prevention Fund earlier this year for its work with Central and Eastern European migrants, particularly the Roma community, on a host of issues such as housing, employment, health, education, crime and exploitation.

A series of youth sessions were held at the Club at Peartree and at the Mandela Centre

to raise awareness about the cyber bullying, domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and other risks to community safety. As a result of this work, confidence among the community towards approaching the police has increased from 46% to 77%.

The centre has also established a Roma youth leadership group taking responsibility within its own community and representing young people associated with the youth sessions. The group recently developed a celebration event involving young people from other ethnic backgrounds in the Normanton and Peartree area which took place in July and promoted further integration within the city.

## New victims' website to be launched

**A brand new website will soon be launched to provide a 'one stop shop' of help and support for victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.**

The CORE website has been designed as an online tool of information and help connecting vulnerable people to a wealth of local and national organisations that can provide assistance. It also provides visitors with the opportunity to report a crime to Derbyshire Constabulary, Crimestoppers and Fearless.

I'm determined to make it easier for victims of crime in Derbyshire to access the help they need quickly and easily. We've worked hard to deliver useful information and service details, both local and national, with help from victim services,

the police, local authorities, the fire and rescue services, health services, voluntary sector organisations and specialist support groups. We understand that different people will need different help depending on their circumstances and so the CORE site will act as a fantastic tool to search services for a wide variety of crime types and other social issues.



## Decision not to stand for re-election

**We are fast-approaching the New Year which will be my last as Derbyshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. After thinking long and hard about the future, I've decided not to stand for re-election in 2016.**

It's been a huge privilege to be Derbyshire's first PCC and I have enjoyed it immensely. I would also like to think that, despite the Government's extremely challenging funding cuts, significant progress has been made which will benefit policing, community safety and victims of crime in the years to come. However, I'm aware that the workload for PCCs, which is already pretty full-on, is only likely to increase in the future. I'm 65 next year and I want to enjoy some time with my family who say they rarely see me these days.

I am grateful to all those who have supported me including the Derbyshire residents who elected me to represent them, Chief Constable Mick Creedon and the entire Constabulary. Most importantly, this is not a job for a lone ranger and I have received great assistance from my Deputy Hardyal Dhindsa and from my team led by Chief Executive David Peet, who have all been tremendous and absolutely invaluable.

There is still a lot to be achieved before May 2016 and I remain absolutely committed to the role.



## Calls for UK Drugs Policy review

**Drug crime remains a serious and resource-intensive threat to our communities and I'm not convinced we're getting it right nationally.**

Recently, I wrote a firm and detailed appeal to Policing Minister Mike Penning asking him to reconsider his decision not to commission a comprehensive review of UK Drugs Policy.

In terms of death rates there has been a 64% increase in heroin and morphine related deaths in the last two years and it is at its highest rate since records began in 1996. In relation to crime rates, the Government's recent consultation document on Police Funding recognised drugs as a key driver of crime with heroin and cocaine addiction responsible for 43% of acquisitive crime.

I've sought the views of the experts who attended my drug summit in June which fuel my belief that there would be public support and the support of professionals involved in drug treatment, policing, health and education for a UK drugs policy review. It's time for a long hard look at all areas of drug policy including those adopted around the world.



## Wildlife Crime Awareness Week

**Derbyshire's 32-strong team of Wildlife Crime Officers (WCOs) took part in their latest training day during Wildlife Crime Awareness Week to enhance their knowledge of wildlife law.**

I joined the officers at Derbyshire Police Headquarters in October as they joined colleagues from Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire police forces to learn about Natural England's Disturbance Licence requirements which the officers need when looking for evidence at a damaged badger set.

Among the five speakers who talked about different areas of wildlife crime were Bill Cove of the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group and Irene Brierton of Mid-Derbyshire Badger Group. Also speaking were Andy Williams from the National Wildlife Crime Unit, Caroline Harrison from Natural England and Lee Watts from the Environment Agency.

As Commissioner, I'm keen to back all efforts to ensure the safety of the county's abundant wildlife, including birds of prey, badgers, otters and hares, and I believe that greater awareness among the public can play a crucial role in protecting these creatures.

These Wildlife Crime officers carry out every day police duties but also have specialist wildlife training and can focus on detecting all kinds of wildlife crime from exploitation of natural habitats by serious and organised criminal gangs to the persecution of rare species for no particular reason.



## Safe Night Out Launch

**As the Christmas festivities gather pace in our town centre entertainment venues, it is an appropriate time to remind people of the importance of drinking sensibly and remaining in control on a night out.**

In November, I launched my annual Safe Night Out campaign urging people to be mindful of their safety while enjoying Derbyshire's vibrant nightlife and to keep within their tolerance limits to avoid becoming a perpetrator or victim of crime. People should be able to travel to our towns and venues, confident that they will be safe. Alcohol-related violence can really harm what is a thriving night time economy, and whether people are a victim or a perpetrator, I want it to stop.

This year's campaign coincides with the unveiling of a new 'proof of age' card for students in the county to increase their safety. The new ID scheme, which is being coordinated by myself in partnership with the Force and the University of Derby's Students' Union, will provide students with a free PASS 18+ proof of age card to save them carrying passports and driving licenses and reduce their risk of identity theft.

This card is endorsed by the Home Office, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and Trading Standards and is open to all registered students who wish to apply. Individuals will have to go through a strict verification process carried out by the University of Derby Students Union before being issued with the card.

As part of the campaign, I am supporting the Student Union's Safe Taxi Scheme which enables students who run out of cash on a night out a lift home from a registered taxi driver if they temporarily surrender their student identification. This is something I would like to make more widely available in the future.

## Bespoke help for victims of crime

**A new era in victim support has dawned with the launch of a brand new service to help individuals recover quickly and effectively from their experiences.**

The £776,150 two-year contract has been awarded to criminal justice experts Remedi, who already deliver restorative justice services across the county which provide victims with the opportunity of closure through face-to-face meetings with an offender. It becomes operational on 1 April 2016 – following the expiry of the current agreement with Victim Support. There will be a greater focus on increasing the number of self-referrals from victims who, for whatever reason, do not wish to report the problem to the police and raising awareness of the service.

Around 19,000 victims of crime are expected to seek support from the new service each year. The aim is to create a streamlined, centralised system that brings together all available support under one umbrella and encourages providers to work together as a team rather than as separate entities.

Among the changes to be introduced is an 'opt in' referral system after initial discussion with police officers at the scene of the crime, rather than an automatic police data transfer. In line with the Victims' Code of Practice, services are free of charge, confidential, and available whether or not a crime has been reported to the police.

## 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](http://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk)

#### Email me at:

[pccoffice@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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.

## Key achievements highlighted in Annual Report

**Derbyshire has made strong progress towards the priorities outlined in my Police and Crime Plan – despite the unprecedented financial challenges.**

My Annual Report 2014-15 details the improvements made to enhance support to victims of crime and tackle emerging threats such as cybercrime and Children Sexual Exploitation (CSE) against a significantly reduced funding settlement from the Government.

The funding shortages have continued to serve as a catalyst for closer partnership working with public and voluntary sector colleagues delivering increased resilience and achieving better value from public funds. Investment has continued to fund local groups and organisations to provide local services driven towards preventing crime and supporting victims. In addition, we've supported a host of projects through the Crime Prevention Grant scheme which aims to enhance grassroots crime prevention and diversionary work.

I'm very proud of the progress made in 2014-15 despite the ongoing funding pressures that regrettably governs all of our decision-making. With limited investment opportunities and resources, the emphasis remains on finding new and more effective ways of working to make every penny count and it is now obvious how critical partnership relationships have become in achieving this.

