



A message from our Commissioner.

Keeping people safe from harm is the responsibility of a broad range of agencies, not just the Police, and we've taken some very important steps to cement the relationship we share with our partners to bring positive changes to public protection. Already this year we've examined important issues such as Forced Marriage and Mental Health with our colleagues to enable us to channel the right support and resources quickly to encourage confidence and ensure vulnerable people no longer have to suffer in silence. We're also making a huge effort to increase involvement in policing from the younger generation by providing them with a bigger voice on crime. Young people are the future and I'm very excited to watch the evolution of their ideas and views in the coming months.

Alan Charles - Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire



Over to You

Since the launch in February of our Over to You consultation, we've spoken to hundreds of local people to find out what are their priorities in Policing Derbyshire and which crimes concern them most. The results so far have been interesting, showing that many residents believe crime has fallen or remained the same in their specific areas during the past 12 months when in fact it has actually slightly increased. This suggests that people continue to feel safe regardless of the increases in overall crime in some communities.



Although individual figures vary from each consultation event, the majority of those taking part in the survey agree that the Police and the local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area. Similarly, many people rated burglary and

drug dealing as their biggest safety concerns which is understandable given that both are very emotive issues and have a significant impact on quality of life. Full results from the surveys will be published in December.

Youth Engagement

I've been very determined since becoming Commissioner to reach out to groups who've traditionally felt excluded from decision-making processes. Young people in particular have a lot to offer policing and I have ambitious plans to bring the younger voice into all our strategic planning. For this reason, we've been consulting with young people across Derbyshire, meeting local teenagers to discuss some of the most pressing issues facing them. These events have coincided with our Youth Survey which is collecting feedback on a range of criminal justice issues, providing invaluable insight into young people's policing needs.

One of the most recent events was held at Derbyshire Constabulary headquarters on June 5 and saw more than 100 youngsters and community volunteers turn out to give their views on policing and youth justice. Delegates discussed



a host of topical policing issues including the use of Stop and Search, Restorative Justice and E-Safety and were asked to complete the Commissioner's feedback survey.



Forced Marriage Conference

A host of support workers and criminal justice agencies descended on Derby in May for the UK's first national conference on the issue.

The event, jointly hosted by myself, Derbyshire Police and prominent Forced Marriage campaign charity Karma Nirvana, was held in response to changes in legislation which criminalise Forced Marriage for the first time and was aimed at improving the service victims receive to increase confidence in the system and encourage more vulnerable people to come forward.

Experts from a broad range of sectors took part in the one-day seminar and there was wide acceptance by delegates that the new legislation represented a significant step forward for victims of Forced Marriage. However, we all agreed more work was needed to encourage sufferers to break their silence and have faith in the police to resolve their situation. This work must include expanding the practical support and advice available to provide an ongoing source of assistance to victims throughout their ordeal. Further multi-agency meetings are planned for the future to move this work forward.

New Shared Headquarters Proposals

As widely publicised, the Force is in the process of working with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service to look at the possibility of creating a new shared headquarters. Plans are very much still on the drawing table but the focus of the project is building on the current police headquarters site in Ripley. Any project would require planning permission and design consultants are currently working with us to develop a detailed plan for a sustainable building that meets the needs of both organisations. It is anticipated the move would deliver significant savings on construction and maintenance costs. The buildings being replaced need extensive remedial work to ensure they are up to standard, so the new building represents best value for the taxpayer over time.



Community Remedy Consultation

I have recently launched my countywide consultation on the use of Community Remedy as a way of tackling low level crime and antisocial behaviour. Community Remedy is a way of delivering justice without involving court action and concentrates on rehabilitating offenders who have committed low-level offences by reconciling them with the victim of their crimes so that they might understand the impact of their offending.

As part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, I'm legally responsible for developing a Community Remedy Document which sets out how myself and public protection partners will use this system of justice but first I need to ascertain how the public feels about this style of justice and for which offences they would support its use.

This holistic approach to punishment is part of a school of thought that prison is not always effective at preventing reoffending. There is some evidence that prolific offenders respond better to punishment which magnifies the reality and effect of their behaviour.

A questionnaire on Community Remedy is available at:
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1662053/Community-Remedy-Consultation>



Mental Health Summit

At the time of publishing this newsletter, we are preparing to host a multi-agency event to examine mental health provision across Derbyshire and to work together to improve the response we provide to those suffering a mental health crisis.

The Summit, due to be held on June 25 at the Post Mill Centre in South Normanton, will involve professionals from public health, criminal justice, social care and policing and follows the recent launch of the Department of Health's Crisis Care Concordat. This document has been signed by a multitude of professional agencies including Police and Crime Commissioners to deliver a better, safer response to individuals suffering mental health problems. As Commissioner, I will play a leading role in the local plans developed in reaction to the Concordat and this event is really aimed at examining current provision and processes to identify where improvement is needed.

The Concordat is only part of a long journey to improvement - the steps we take now to implement its aims will be crucial to making positive, long-term changes and we are already working closely with our partners on how this is best achieved.

I am determined to see the consistent delivery of safe, dignified outcomes for vulnerable people. And, most importantly, we need to make sure that everyone understands that mental illness is not a crime.



Parking Campaign Launched

Of all the correspondence I receive on a daily basis from the public, one issue seems to appear time and time again – school parking problems and cars parking on pavements. While this is a relatively low-level nuisance in the grand scheme of things, it's certainly very clear to me that it's one that causes significant distress and anxiety and greatly affects quality of life, particularly for the residents who live close to the school gates and those with a disability who are finding it increasingly difficult to pass pedestrian routes safely.

I've launched an awareness campaign which this month has seen me join officers from the local policing team outside Loscoe Primary School in Heanor to chat to parents about the consequences of restricting the school entrance, parking on double lines and blocking pavements – all of which put the lives of pedestrians and school pupils at risk. While we would like to resolve the issue sensibly, I've made no secret of the fact that enforcement action – including fixed penalty fines – will be used against those who flout the warnings.

Wildlife Crime

This summer we've welcomed another positive step to our commitment to tackling wildlife crime with the creation of a new role. The Force is to appoint a dedicated wildlife coordinator, who will work with Derbyshire's wildlife crime police officers to execute warrants, carry out patrols in wildlife crime hotspots and operate the force's Farm Watch scheme, as well as working with partners such as Natural England and the RSPB.

The new appointment coincides with the launch of a new wildlife crime campaign in the county which aims to raise awareness on poaching, the import and export of endangered species, bat persecution and the killing of birds of prey. A series of posters have been created which spell out the penalties of wildlife crime which include imprisonment and a fine of up to £5,000 and urge the public to report suspicious behaviour to the police.



Annual Crime Data Released

We've always known that maintaining sweeping reductions in crime is impossible to sustain forever, especially in the context of our ever-shrinking budget and the increasing hardships facing our communities as a result of the austerity measures imposed by the Government. This year our fears have been confirmed, with crime rates increasing for the first time in 10 years. But while overall crime has slightly increased, the Constabulary has continued to deliver an extremely good performance when taking the brutal cuts and efficiencies into account and our streets continue to be safer than most other parts of the country.

The latest crime data shows that crime rose by two per cent in 2013/14 compared to the previous year which represents an additional 1,094 offences. This figure is still 15% lower than two years ago and about 50% lower than a decade ago.

Much of the increase relates to acquisitive crimes which may be explained by the impact of the economy on individuals and families. Shoplifting and domestic burglary, for example, rose by 17 per cent (848) and 2% (51). It is also interesting that the goods being shoplifted are predominantly of a low value indicating they are being taken by people who are really struggling due to losing jobs and/or benefits. These are frequently referred to as 'poverty crimes' and while it can never be condoned, it is a sad reflection on the state of the economy.

More positively, Derbyshire recorded its highest-ever level of confidence with more than 76% of people living in the county indicating they have confidence in their local police.

Youth engagement and anti-social behaviour

Early intervention is a key theme of the work I'm doing to keep our communities safe and nowhere is this more important than in our engagement with young people. For 20 years, the Force has supported Sporting Futures, an organisation which aims to reduce offending by increasing young people's participation in sport. My office has continued this support with financial assistance and I'm delighted that the work we undertake is now regarded as best practice by StreetGames, the only national charity dedicated to developing sport within disadvantaged communities. To increase our links with this important organisation, Stuart Felce, StreetGames Strategic Lead for Sport and Community Safety, has been seconded into my team to help shape future prevention work and to understand the role sport can play in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Sporting Futures not only helps to give young people a focus and increase their self-esteem, it also develops positive role models and addresses some of the negative stereotypes about young people we see in the media. One such example is Belper resident Georgie Hind, 15, who has recently been recognised by Coca-Cola Great Britain for making an outstanding contribution to junior football

in her community. As a prize the teenager, who is a junior coach for Sporting Futures, travelled to Brazil to carry out the England flag for the Three Lions when they took on Italy at the FIFA World Cup.

Georgie, (pictured on the left) who travelled with her friend Lien Lee-Ray, also a participant in the Sporting Futures scheme, was offered the once-in-a-lifetime experience in



honour of her commitment to encouraging young girls in the community to get into football. Positive stories like these demonstrate the valuable role sport and recreation has in instilling confidence and self-esteem and with more diversionary prevention work the hope is we can help more young people to take better routes into adulthood.

My fellow Commissioners have been quick to appreciate the benefits of this positive action and as a result of our work there are now ongoing conversations with 17 PCCs across England and Wales.

If you would like more information or wish to get involved, contact Stuart Felce on 01773 841372, or email Stuart.Felce@streetgames.org.

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:

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