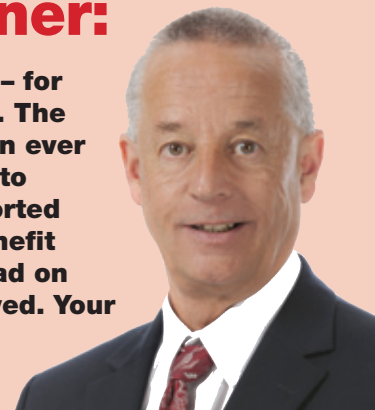




## A message from our Commissioner:

**Since their introduction, PCCs have been fighting for a better future – for victims and witnesses of crime, for the public, and for policing itself. The relationship between the police and our communities is stronger than ever and it is thanks to this special partnership that so many innovations to local policing are bearing fruit in Derbyshire, some of which are reported here. Meaningful change is best driven by the people it serves to benefit and I hope that local people are encouraged by the impact they've had on community safety over the past four years and continue to get involved. Your opinion counts and is helping to make a difference.**

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



## Protecting future policing

Maintaining performance and policing resilience has been at the core of the recent budget discussions and I'm pleased to report the decisions I've made to secure our financial position have now received formal approval by the Police and Crime Panel.

Although our funding situation is not as severe as we had initially feared, Derbyshire will receive £600,000 less from the Government's policing grant in 2016-17. This, combined with the fact that we're still recovering from the effects of the sweeping cuts that began in 2010, continues to place the Force under financial pressure.

However, this better-than-anticipated grant does mean that I don't foresee the big reductions in police officer numbers that might have been the case previously.

In an effort to safeguard performance, local people will see a small rise in the contribution they pay towards policing from April which equates to an extra £3.46 per year for the average

Band D householder (1.99%). Such action is in accordance with the expectations of the Home Secretary and will go some way to helping us manage demand against ongoing resource pressures.

The net revenue budget for 2016-17 stands at £162.8m. Since 2010, the Force and I have identified more than £30m of savings to ensure there are healthy reserves available for future investment in information technology, operational priorities and to strengthen our collaboration ties with the Fire Service. By continuing to identify savings, I also hope to be able to invest in different services to meet future risks including cybercrime, child sexual exploitation, counter terrorism, human trafficking and IT.

Throughout the austerity period, whilst under significant strain we have been able to maintain our performance. My vision for the future is firmly fixed on maintaining optimum service levels to ensure that we continue to police according to areas of greatest need.

## Election Day – Make your vote count!



Election Day will soon be upon us and preparations are already underway. The public head to the polls on **Thursday, May 5** to vote for the candidate they wish to become Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner for the next four years.

As the serving PCC, I will remain in office until midnight on May 11 with the new PCC taking over responsibilities on May 12.

PCCs have an important role to play in championing the interests of the public and holding their police force to account, making sure they are running efficiently and effectively. If you would like to find out more information about the PCC's role and responsibilities [click here](#).

Candidates considering standing [click here](#).

You can only vote in elections if your name is on the register of electors, which is prepared by the electoral registration officer at the district or borough council where you live. Individuals can register to vote at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

Make sure your vote counts! Research the candidates standing and vote for who you think will be the best person to head up this vital public service.

# Community projects benefit from seized criminal earnings



Chesterfield Canal Volunteers, Boat Builders and Alan Charles

## Projects across Derbyshire that are focused on putting something back into local communities have benefitted from my new funding scheme.

Last year, I allocated more than £130,000 to community-based capital projects as part of my NICE (Neighbourhoods Investing Criminal Earnings) Fund. This project was set up to reinvest 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.

Many of the projects have since come to fruition and I've spent the past few weeks visiting volunteers to see how the money is being spent.

Last month, I had the pleasure of meeting members of the Wilmorton Residents' Association to see how its community garden project had taken shape. The Association received a grant of £19,500 to transform local waste ground into allotments and a community garden to be enjoyed by residents and to help reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the area.

This impressive project has brought the whole community together with local people and apprentices from Toyota and Derby Homes volunteering on the refurbishment and supplying tables and chairs to provide a social hub for children to meet and access resources, quizzes and worksheets. There are also plans for a community orchard with the planting of 40 donated fruit trees while young people from the YMCA have been able to gain horticultural and bricklaying qualifications through the project.

Also in February, I joined members of the Chesterfield Canal Trust at the Boat Builders Yard to see the nearly finished hull of the new narrow boat funded with a £20,850 NICE grant. The boat was nearly ready to be fitted out, paid for by the Trust, with a launch at the Canal Society Festival on 28 May.



Liam Redmond, Alan Charles and Mick Dewhurst

Meanwhile, the Mackworth Estate Community Association (MECA) is soaring ahead with its ambitious project to refurbish the local community centre. The initiative received £19,750 from the NICE fund towards the cost of transforming the former Mackworth St Francis Family Centre into a community centre for local people. The project followed the closure of the Derby College site on Mackworth which meant there were no buildings left in the area capable of accommodating community events for more than 20 people.

The grant has helped cover the cost of drapes and lighting for the stage area, sound equipment, dressing room completion and the installation of a fully functional kitchen as well as new tables and chairs.

Earlier this month I visited Gamesley FC to present a plaque and see for myself how money from my NICE fund had been used to good effect. The Club was awarded £16,824 to help it purchase a new spectator barrier system and to upgrade the changing room facilities. The improvements will be really impressive and benefitting the club, its supporters and visiting teams.

In another NICE visit, I am soon off to see how the £40,000 awarded to redevelop Bowden Crescent Park in Ollersett has helped to establish a community park for all the family to enjoy.

It is very satisfying meeting people who are so obviously appreciative of the financial support we've been able to provide. Many of these projects enhance the local environment and play a valuable role in discouraging offending. The successful projects, all of which have received a special presentation plaque to commemorate the funding, are committed to putting something back into their community and creating a safer and harmonious environment for local residents – goals that inspire other people to care more about where they live.

*And a very strong message to local criminals; if you try to profit from crime we will take that profit away from you!*

## SAFER ONLINE DATING

**The horrific circumstances behind the case of online dating rapist Jason Lawrance this month has given us all a reminder of the inherent dangers in communicating with strangers online.**

Lawrance, from Hampshire, was found guilty of raping five women he contacted on dating site Match.com and charges of sexual assault and attempted rape. Three of his victims were from Derbyshire. He was sentenced to life in prison, to serve a minimum of 12.5 years, at Derby Crown Court.

I share the concerns of the Judge Gregory Dickinson in this trial that the industry needs to put in place a robust system whereby serious incidents such as rape and sexual assault can be referred at the earliest opportunity to protect other potential victims.

The internet provides all sorts of serious predatory criminals with a mask to carry out their crimes easily and without detection. Arm-chair communication encourages us to let our guard down and trust more readily than face-to-face contact. This carries serious risks and can expose us to fraud, identity theft or in the case of online dating, rape or sexual assault.

These innocent victims have endured a dreadful experience beyond people's comprehension and one that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. There is absolutely only

## Safer Internet Day

**In the face of the growing cybercrime threat, it's vital that parents and education professionals arm themselves with the right knowledge to advise and protect young people while online.**

Earlier this month, we celebrated Safer Internet Day which continues to promote the importance of safe internet usage for adults and children. We are all at risk of cybercrime – in fact we are more at risk of falling victim to crime while sitting in front of a computer screen than we are of being attacked on the street.

The old adage that 'knowledge is power' couldn't be more applicable to cybercrime and we can reduce the risks to ourselves and our children by becoming more internet savvy.

Parents in particular need to be vigilant about how their children spend their time online and install the appropriate filters to protect them from those who prey on innocence. It is the responsibility of adults to ensure that the world of digital technology is a positive and safe experience. Similarly, there are important lessons for adults in protecting their personal information while online. You wouldn't leave your door open when leaving for work so why would you leave your finances at risk on an unprotected laptop? A good quality protection software is the same as a high-quality lock on your front door.

one perpetrator in this case who manipulated the site for his own twisted gain. It warns us that there are dangerous and determined individuals using the internet to prey on vulnerable people. In fact, there is more likelihood of being targeted in this way than attacked in a dark valley.

Online dating on the whole provides positive opportunities to meet people but we can take our own precautions to stay safe by following simple safety advice. For more information visit: [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk) (Stay Safe when using online dating sites).



## Role of PCCs examined

**The role of Police and Crime Commissioners was subject to a one off examination by the Home Affairs Select Committee in February in which I was invited to provide oral evidence.**

The evidence session covered a range of areas including the funding formula, PCCs' relationship with the Police and Crime Panel and Chief Constables, HMIC inspections and the voting system for PCC elections. For more information on the content of the evidence, [click here](#).

## New website to help victims of crime

**As part of a wider goal to improve the support available for victims of crime, we've launched a new website offering a 'one-stop-shop' of help services to victims of crime and antisocial behaviour in Derbyshire.**

The CORE website, which went 'live' in December, has been designed as an online tool of information connecting victims of crime to a wealth of local and national support resources.

**Click here to go to the site.**

A host of agencies including health services, the police, victims' support groups and voluntary sector organisations are committed to improving the response to vulnerable victims of criminality and ensuring help is accessible as and when it is needed.

This new website service, funded through my office, guides victims' to the appropriate support services for their needs. It also offers a search facility enabling users to identify sources of help for a variety of crime types and social issues.

It's paramount that we provide the right recovery process for victims of crime. This includes providing victims with an opportunity to report a crime to the Force, Crimestoppers, Stop Hate UK and crime advice charity Fearless in a way that feels safe and comfortable to them. Equally, some people aren't sure whether they've been a victim of crime or not and the website provides a host of useful definitions to help them make that decision.

Now that the website is up and running we will be keen to monitor user feedback to ensure the facility is as effective as it should be. If you are a victim of crime and have used the website, I would love to hear your views. I have a feedback form on **my website**.



## Deputy Commissioner lends his support to International Women's Day

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa helped to celebrate International Women's Day at an event held to highlight how the police are protecting vulnerable women and encouraging their career success in the Force. He also spoke of the support services available for victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime under the CORE (Cope and Recover Victims) Services, commissioned to meet the needs of people who have experienced this type of criminal behaviour.

"The event recognised the achievements of women worldwide in politics, the workplace and artistically," he said. "And, on a more local basis, visitors had the opportunity to raise any issues they have about crime or policing to the people who can answer their questions. I was particularly pleased to be able to highlight the support services available in Derbyshire, which we have designed to help victims of domestic and sexual abuse."

The International Women's Day Festival is a global day held on March 8 celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. It also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Campaigners are encouraging men and women to make a pledge to help women and girls achieve their ambitions, root out workplace bias and call for gender-balanced leadership. To make a pledge visit:

**[www.internationalwomensday.com/Pledge](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/Pledge)**





## Deputy goes late night walkabout

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa has been on walkabout with two Derbyshire Police licencing officers to see how management of the night-time economy is helping to keep people safe from drink-fuelled harm.

"We have schemes rolling out across Derbyshire that are specially designed to encourage both responsible drinking and retailing – and I am confident that this work is helping to prevent harm among those who want to enjoy a night out," Mr Dhindsa said.

"These campaigns are not just for Christmas. It's important to be consistent in our approach whatever the time of year," he said. "We need to keep at it, and ensure that all our partners are working with us with the same goals to ensure even greater success."

Work to reduce alcohol-fuelled harm gathered momentum in Derbyshire following Commissioner Alan Charles' Alcohol Summit which, led by the Deputy Commissioner, made good use of information and experience from across the country in tackling drink-related issues.

## Teenager shares Deputy PCC's call to raise awareness of FGM

**A 19-year-old Derby student told Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa that she feels "blessed" not to have become a victim of female genital mutilation (FGM).**

Ayaan Ahmed told him that a workshop he had supported to raise awareness of the crime had "opened her eyes" to the abuse. This prompted her to give talks about FGM at her school to help all children, and especially those from Somalia, become aware of it. The teenager met the Deputy Commissioner at the offices of the workshop's organiser – the charity Hamaari that helps East African people integrate in Derby and understand the law.



Mr Dhindsa is a long-time campaigner against FGM. Condemned by many countries around the world, it carries a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment in England and Wales. "I urge people to take any suspicions to the police about this greatly under-reported and brutal crime," he said.

## High Praise from HMIC

**It seems to have been the season of HMIC reports, which culminated in Derbyshire being awarded an overall grading of 'Good' in the HMIC's 2015 Peel Inspections. These inspections assessed Derbyshire Constabulary on its ability to reduce crime and keep people safe. These reports should give local people great confidence in our Police Service.**

The first line of the report sums up the position well: 'Derbyshire Constabulary is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime'. It highlights once again that strong leadership, prudent financial management and a strategic approach to threat, risk and harm is delivering a robust police service for the people of Derbyshire.

I was particularly pleased with the assessment of 'outstanding' in respect of the force's effectiveness in tackling serious and organised crime, and its arrangements for fulfilling its national policing responsibility.

The HMIC report highlights that we are good at keeping people safe and reducing crime; we work extremely well with others; the quality of our crime investigation is good and we work well to stop re-offending.

The one area where I am keen to see further work is recording Stop and Search outcomes after the HMIC identified it as requiring improvement. I have therefore asked the Chief Constable to report progress to my successor in six months' time.

## Buxton Magistrates' Court closure

Regrettably, the Ministry of Justice has announced its decision to close Buxton Magistrates' and County Court building to much opposition and disappointment locally.

The announcement follows a consultation on the Ministry's proposals to shut down 91 courts across England and Wales. Of those 91, 64 sites will close as proposed in the consultation and a further 22 closures will take place but with changes to the original plans.

The Buxton closure, expected in the next few months, involves moving the workload to Chesterfield Justice Centre and Stockport Magistrates' and County Courts. Consideration will also be given to some family public law (care work) being moved to Manchester Civil Justice Centre.

I am deeply disappointed at this decision which will affect many vulnerable victims and witnesses of crime, particularly those who live in the High Peak area. Chesterfield Court is 25 miles from Buxton and access to public transport is limited, especially in the winter months. This could, in my view, potentially discourage many vulnerable victims such as those who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse from seeking justice.

The decision has been made on the basis that the court system requires urgent modernisation. During the next four years, the Government plans to invest more than £700m in updating the court and tribunal estate, installing modern IT systems and making the justice system more efficient.

While I understand that the courts need to be modernised, this shouldn't be at the expense of fairness and justice for those who depend on it.

However, the Ministry of Justice has announced changes to its plans to cut the number of duty solicitor contracts at magistrates' courts and police stations.

It was revealed in early February that two tier contracts will not go ahead; the second fee cut will be suspended for a year from April 2016 and there will be discussions about a new model from April 2017 and existing contracts will be extended in the meantime.

## 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,  
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