



SPOTLIGHT

on safer Derbyshire

WELCOME



My campaign to strengthen Derbyshire's thin blue line is really gaining momentum! We have recently seen a further 20 new police officers sworn in and they are now out on the

streets of our communities increasing the visibility of Derbyshire Constabulary. But we mustn't forget that this is not just about using handcuffs and making arrests – we are busy building networks of support and working to prevent people getting involved in crime in the first place.

Early 2020 will see an additional 50 officers recruited as part of the national campaign to increase police numbers. But working as a warranted officer is not the only way to get involved. There are lots of opportunities to become part of the policing family – visit the Force's website: www.derbyshire.police.uk for more information.

This edition of Spotlight illustrates some of the great work that took place during the latter part of last year. It shows the wide range of work undertaken by this office and demonstrates the vital role of partnerships in everything we do.

*Hardyal Dhindsa
Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire*



New officers to bolster frontline

A national uplift in police officers from the Government will see more bobbies on patrol in Derbyshire.

We've been allocated an extra 85 officers in the first round of a UK-wide resource boost, although we are unable to recruit until the money has been received.

These new officers will join the 58 additional officers delivered as part of the increase in council tax contributions this year and we can expect a further 50 officers in position by March this year from the national uplift programme.

As well as fighting more crime, we'll be able to increase the diversity of our workforce and become even more reflective of the communities we serve. However, we do have some way to go before reaching the levels we had in 2010. Our numbers dipped by around 450 police officers between 2010 and 2018 due to austerity. There is a big job to do in Derbyshire and the sooner we increase our capacity to do so the better.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Knife Angel unites Derbyshire against violence
- Confronting County Lines
- Saving Whaley Bridge
- Threat to Children's Services
- #D383 Finale
- New speed measures funded
- New centre for victims of sexual abuse and violence



Knife Angel unites Derbyshire against violence

The view of Derby Cathedral was dominated in October by the towering presence of the nation's Knife Angel statue.

Thousands of people flocked to the cathedral to see the 27ft monument and reflect on its poignant message of loss and hope.

The Angel's visit was something I was keen to orchestrate for some time and I was delighted it drew so many visitors. A host of events were held to coincide with the Knife Angel's presence, including a victim support day where volunteers and staff from my specialised support service, CORE, were available to chat to victims of crime about how to access help.

I hope the Knife Angel's symbolic message will linger in the thoughts of the people who live and work here for a long time to come.



CONFRONTING COUNTY LINES

Getting to grips with the drug dealing phenomenon known as County Lines has been a top priority and the work is paying off.

This type of crime involves drug gangs from big cities expanding their operations to smaller towns, often exploiting children to sell drugs.

I recently hosted a partnership summit bringing together experts from across the county to find out the best way of preventing the exploitation of young and vulnerable people through County Lines and how we can successfully prevent activity taking a foothold here in Derbyshire.

Already, there are County Lines gangs serving long prison sentences but there is much more to do. Recently, three men were arrested on suspicion of human trafficking and being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs following a county lines investigation. They have been released under investigation while inquiries continue. A teenage boy was safeguarded as part of the same investigation.

The summit has given us a whole new area of knowledge and expertise to maximise the effectiveness of this work and improve the flow of information between the agencies and we will be using it.





SAVING WHALEY BRIDGE

The awesome emergency operation to repair Toddbrook Reservoir dam and safeguard the lives of a whole community last summer were nothing short of heroic.

The whole world watched as our fantastic blue light services and a whole raft of experts and

agencies averted what could have been a terrible and tragic disaster.

We have the exceptional leadership of Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Swann, who led the operation, to thank as well as many, many more including the Fire and Rescue Service, the RAF, the Environment Agency, the Canal and River Trust, Derbyshire County Council and the High Peak

BC. There were also the fantastic volunteers providing crisis care and emergency supplies.

The enormity of their service and actions in what has become one of the largest and most complex multiagency responses ever undertaken will be appreciated for many, many years to come and I cannot praise their efforts enough.

Threat to Children's Services

It is disappointing to see that Children's Services in Derbyshire are the latest victim of cuts in funding for vital public services. These services play a pivotal role in preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The undoubtedly difficult decision taken by Derbyshire County Council will affect Derbyshire's Youth Service, Early Help and Careers Service and will, I believe, lead to an inevitable shift in demand onto schools, the voluntary sector and the police, all of whom are already over-stretched, and who will be expected to pick up the pieces and fill the gaps.

At a time when many column inches are taken up with the call for preventative work, alongside the need to provide young people with the opportunity to develop their talents to help them realise their potential, I am bitterly disappointed that the very services needed to do this are being stripped of their vital funding.

#D383 FINALE



The final stop of my tour of Derbyshire's 383 towns and villages saw me at Matlock Bath, supposedly to join the fun of the famous Illuminations. However, sometimes the weather takes over and unfortunately, heavy rainfall meant that the Illuminations were cancelled, as was my trip down the river by boat!

We still had a great time though, and thanks to everyone who turned out.

The tour, #D383, has taken over three years. I feel a great sense of personal pride at what has been achieved by listening to what local people have to say. But it's not just about listening, we've taken a lot of action too, like reinstating and upgrading the popular Derbyshire Alert service and increasing road safety

programmes such as Community Speedwatch, more of which you will hear about later.

I've met so many lovely people along the journey and I would like to thank them for their continued support. My job has been to increase the opportunity to have the public's voice heard. Thanks to their ideas and opinions they've had a wonderful impact on public safety.



Aldwark



Upper Langwith



Trusley



New Sawley



Boylestone



Heathcote



Thorpe



Hackney



Middleton



Hurst Farm Estate, Matlock



Speeding has by far been the most common concern raised on my #D383 rounds across the county.

NEW SPEED MEASURES FUNDED

Last year, I was able to reinvest an underspend from my 2017-18 budget into new speed checks through the worst affected towns and villages, to address these concerns and gather evidence on trends.

The funding paid for over 1,000 hours of additional speed enforcement during March and April and saw 1,200 motorists caught for speeding and other driving offences including the use of mobile phones, not wearing seatbelts and driving with no insurance.

As a result of this work we are expanding the Community Speedwatch programme to a wider area which will empower more local people to monitor speeding trends in their area. To support this, we have recruited two new posts to coordinate the project.

New centre for victims of sexual abuse and violence

A state-of-the-art centre providing the latest in forensic technology and support facilities has opened for victims of rape and serious sexual assault.

I was proud to open the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in August, alongside local MPs, stakeholders and charity partners, knowing that victims of these awful crimes will receive the very best care and attention in the future.

The new unit, which cost nearly £1m to develop and was funded by my office, contains advanced forensic facilities for adults which meet the new UKAS Forensic Standards, so that evidence gathered during an investigation can be used in court. As well as vulnerable witness interviewing facilities, including a live link to court, there are three ground floor examinations suites, art therapy provision for children, and meeting rooms to provide instant support from qualified practitioners.

Victims who receive prompt specialist help have a much higher chance of recovery and this facility will ensure that is delivered with the highest sensitivity and compassion in mind.



Supporting people

I'm so pleased that I have been able to help so many groups throughout the last three and a half years. From Neighbourhood Watch - one of the largest anti-crime groups around - which encouraged me to reintroduce Derbyshire Alert, to smaller initiatives that simply wouldn't get off the ground without a small financial helping hand.



I was pleased to meet Joye Dobbs (middle), a recently retired NHW Project Officer receiving the Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch Association Trust Annual Award. It is inspiring to see such dedication.

I am also the national lead for Hate Crime and during the latest awareness week I awarded up to £500 to nine organisations to deliver awareness raising events. Campaigners focused on increasing the profile of Derbyshire's victim support services for victims of hate crime, reaching vulnerable people and highlighting all the different ways of reporting hate crime incidents.

Proud to see the work that Safer Communities Action Group are doing using Graffiti (legally)



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

www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

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.