



SPOTLIGHT

on safer Derbyshire

HELLO

This newsletter gives you a whistle-stop tour of some of the work I have been doing since I was elected as your Police and Crime Commissioner just over four months ago. This is a wonderful job, one where you can push for change, and I am determined to work with all communities - urban, suburban and rural - to do just that and improve the services that they receive.

Whether you voted for me or not, I am here to represent you, to be your voice and the link between you and the police. So, let me know what type of information you would like to receive, and how. Let me know if you have any policing or community safety issues. Let's start a conversation.

Hardyal Dhindsa

SNAPSHOT OF Your Commissioner

For this first edition of Spotlight we talked to the Commissioner to find out more about the man himself.



Hardyal Dhindsa has spent a lifetime in public service. Like his father before him he is a local councillor – they were the first father and son to have a council seat simultaneously in Derbyshire for 50 years.

He arrived in Derby from the Punjab in 1967, equipped with a will to work and an acceptance that he would indeed have to work very hard.

He is passionate about equality and diversity in every sense, not simply because he is the first BME and Sikh Commissioner, but because he believes that everyone has potential if they have the right support.

He worked in the probation service for over 30 years, working in Tower Hamlets, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire at all levels from hostel warden to management. Albeit unplanned, it has to be said this was the perfect background experience for his current role.

Married with three grown up sons, Hardyal is a keen supporter of Derby County FC and he is a City Councillor for Normanton Ward in Derby. Nowadays however you are just as likely to meet him in rural hinterlands of north Derbyshire, helping to protect the rural countryside and wildlife he values so much.

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THE #D383 TOUR BEGINS

I have pledged to visit all 383 towns and villages across the county during my term of office in a 'meet, greet and listen' epic being billed on social media as the PCC's #D383 tour!

I am determined to understand what local people want to make them feel safer and I know full well that this differs depending on where you live.

While I am quite happy to drop in unannounced, if you have an event or meeting that you would like me to attend, please let me know. If I can, I will.

Festival of Leisure

#D383 got off to a flying start in Swadlincote, at the popular Festival of Leisure.

When I was elected as PCC, I pledged to listen to people and show them how I can help address their problems, wherever they live in the County. This tour will go a long way towards helping me do exactly that.

Not everybody has time to fill in online policing surveys and some groups including young people

are harder to reach than others. This is why it's so important to me to go out into the heart of the community and engage with people in person to find out their personal experiences of crime and develop that connection.

Although there is still a long, long way to go, I've been to:



Aston on Trent's annual Well Dressing. A tribute to the local community. I will be back next year.



LGBT Street Party in Bramble Street in Derby – great atmosphere!



Barlow Carnival – Not only did I meet a lot of people and talk about local policing visibility and speeding, I was asked to judge the Carnival Queen and best float award. They didn't tell me that in the job spec!



Staveley Armed Services Day is always a popular event and I was pleased to hear the views of those who so clearly support our Armed Services.



The TMUK Eco Day at the Toyota Burnaston Plant saw over 4000 attend this annual event arranged by Toyota for their staff and families. It was a great day for everyone, and the sun shone.

IN BRIEF

Volunteers make a huge difference

I am always grateful to the often silent brigade of people who volunteer in support of policing in Derbyshire. The Annual Report of the Independent Advisory Group illustrates the contribution they make – it's well worth a read.

The IAG will help me and the Chief Constable to make the whole of the Derbyshire Policing Family more representative of the communities it services and ensure that the use of potentially controversial powers such as Stop & Search are proportionate and do not target people on the basis of their ethnicity.

New HQ Opens its Doors

I was delighted to see my former boss Alan Charles, who joined us for the official key handover of the new joint Police and Fire Headquarters. This is a fabulous facility which illustrates how blue light services can really work in partnership.

Deputy PCC – the Hunt is on

My own election means that we have had a vacancy for a Deputy PCC which, now that my Police and Crime Plan has been approved, I intend to fill. An open recruitment process commenced in mid-September, details of which can be found on my website.

Website Newsflash

To keep up to date with all our news, please visit my website regularly.

Coming next edition

Derbyshire Alert is BACK – As I promised during my election campaign, I have funded the Derbyshire Alert Scheme following calls from Neighbourhood Watch for its reinstatement.

Community Action Grants – Please visit the website for details of my funding priorities.

ENDING MODERN SLAVERY TOGETHER

I was privileged to be invited to join the Archbishop of Canterbury at an event hosted and organised by the University of Derby's International Policing and Justice Institute.

The event was held to encourage companies from across the East Midlands to pledge their support for the Athens Ethical Principles, which were adopted by the United Nations Global Compact in Athens in 2006. My Office was one of ten local organisations signing up that day.

The United Nations has a target date of 2030 for the eradication of all forms of human trafficking; it is one of their sustainable development goals and reinforces human trafficking's status as the second most prolific crime in the world.

Who would believe in this day and age that I am fighting to stop the tyranny of modern slavery and human trafficking? Tackling this type of hidden crime will feature in my Police and Crime Plan but I feel that all of us — police, community leaders, businesses and the public — have a

responsibility to work together to address the problem and protect Derbyshire's residents.



GETTING KNIVES OFF OUR STREETS

The force's countywide knife surrender saw nearly 400 knives and blades handed in. In my view every single blade being surrendered is a success.

This initiative was part of a wider strategy to get the message across that carrying a knife is a danger not only to the potential victim but the carrier. I'm pleased to be working with partners towards a more tolerant and inclusive society where we can all be safe and feel safe.

In 2015/16, 207 people were arrested in Derbyshire for possessing a bladed article. Of these, 119 were charged and 47 were dealt with by other positive outcomes, like summons, for example.



GETTING ABOUT THE COUNTY

One of my first engagements as Commissioner was to drop in on the celebration of Pear Tree Library's Centenary. This fantastic facility is a real community hub and I was pleased to join the wonderful programme of events. What came home vividly as I was talking to people was that all communities have rapidly changing needs, whether that is cultural, social, support or financial. I left knowing that we must take this on board and adapt our own services, quickly, in response and help newcomers to integrate into the Derby way of life.

Visitors to this year's Amberfest got more than they bargained for when they met my team and I out on walkabout! The event, held this year in Alfreton's Indoor Market Hall, was organised so that residents could learn more about local services and how local organisations are working to deliver an improved quality of life. Most importantly I felt it epitomised my belief that local partners can work together to provide a wider range of services and activities more effectively.

Hundreds of people packed into Gresley Old Hall, in Church Gresley, for the 13th annual Liberation Day event in South

Derbyshire. They were able to make the most of a wide variety of entertainment and information and advice available from organisations taking part.

The event is organised for those over 55 and I was pleased to be able to get there and talk to people about their policing concerns and see how they feel we can improve. I particularly enjoyed the ABBA tribute band!

It was also good to see young helpers joining in from John Port School, The Pingle School, William Allitt School and Granville Sport College.





FLYING START FOR POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

To celebrate my first 100 days in office, I went to Matlock Market to launch my Draft Police and Crime Plan to members of the public. Armed with only 100 balloons and a small team of helpers we talked to shoppers, onlookers and businesses about their policing priorities and explained what I am trying to achieve.

The balloons were a big hit with our younger audience, while the plan itself was similarly well received amongst those we talked to.

Above all, my aspiration for Derbyshire is a safe, inclusive county with a police force that is fairly resourced and properly respected. This strategy will guide all the community safety work that my office, the force and our partners will collectively work towards up to 2021 but is by no means a definitive plan of what areas of crime will take precedence in the future. Crime is continually changing and the strategy is designed to be fluid so that we can develop and revise our direction as new threats emerge.

The plan organises my goals in seven headline priorities, many of which were key to my pre-election manifesto and continue to drive my improvement aims.

These are:

1. Working to keep the most vulnerable in our communities safe from crime and harm and supporting those who unfortunately find themselves a victim of crime
2. Working to provide strong and effective partnership working
3. Working to tackle the impact of drugs and alcohol on communities
4. Supporting those with mental health issues, including those with learning difficulties, who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System, as victim or offender, to get the right support, from the right agencies at the right time
5. Working with young people, including those who have been either victims of crime or offenders, to understand their needs and prevent them becoming involved in criminal activities
6. Working with the Constabulary to develop the policing family to become more representative of the diverse communities it serves
7. Working with the Constabulary and partners to maximise the opportunities from developments in technology

HELP NOT CUSTODY

I'm delighted that a major overhaul of the way police and other public agencies respond to those who are mentally unwell in Derbyshire has delivered dramatic safety improvements.

On no occasion since the beginning of the year have police cells in Derbyshire been used as a place of safety for vulnerable people thought to be suffering a mental health crisis.

As co-chair of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Strategic Stakeholder Group for Derbyshire, I have worked hard to ensure that vulnerable people who need

help and specialist care are now getting this support in the most appropriate environment. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of all agencies involved in the Concordat to design a stronger safeguarding model. Indeed, Derbyshire police cells have not been used as a place of safety under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983

since the beginning of the year. This is a fantastic achievement.

I was also pleased to learn that Derbyshire is one of ten police force areas to benefit from a share of £6.1m from the Government, which will be used to help health, police and other partnership organisations to expand the work being done.



JOINING FORCES FOR HEN HARRIER DAY

The threat facing Derbyshire's wildlife is a concern for a number of organisations and collectively we are working hard to raise awareness of the illegal activity responsible for damaging our natural heritage.

In August, I spoke at the Hen Harrier Day in Edale to highlight the plight of this iconic species and talk about our efforts to protect populations within the Peak District.

Derbyshire Constabulary receives 280 calls relating to wildlife crime every month and we have a fully trained team of wildlife officers ready to act and use

the full force of legislation to protect endangered species from persecution, cruelty or illegal trade.

I am determined to support this work. Please help us by reporting suspicious activity at the earliest opportunity. You are our eyes and ears in this respect as we seek to improve our intelligence picture of wildlife crime.

MATLOCK ASB ON MY RADAR

I've taken up the baton regarding a problem with late night noise and antisocial behaviour in Matlock highlighted by local residents at the launch of my plan.

Brought up to believe that action speaks louder than words, I went out on late Saturday night patrol with members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Despite a public meeting a while ago, residents tell me that since then the situation has remained the same.

Having met local bar owners and managers, observed the siting of the taxi rank and walked around the nearby serenity garden and park, I am now planning to meet

the local council leader to see if solutions can be speeded up.

What residents need is for solutions to be pursued – and quickly – by partners working together. A multi-agency approach is the only way to go to resolve the problem.

Suggestions for dealing with the nuisances include moving the taxi rank, closing the park gate at night and working with the bar managers and other businesses.



NO MORE WALKING ON EGG SHELLS

I'm delighted to be co-funding, with the County Council, a new campaign designed to help make it easier for people experiencing domestic abuse to get support.

Posters featuring a footprint made out of eggshells and asking the question "Are you tired of walking on eggshells?" are being put up around the county, addressing the feeling many people may identify with if they're in an abusive relationship.

Importantly, we were keen to make people aware of the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Line which brings all local support services together in one place including refuge, community support and support for children.

TACKLING HATE CRIME IN DERBYSHIRE

No-one should become a victim of crime, or hated, just because they belong to a minority group.

I was pleased to host, together with Derby Homes and the Sophie Lancaster Foundation three days of Derby and Derbyshire Tackling Hate Crime Together events.

Hate crime is often a hidden crime, in fact sometimes, sadly, people simply don't realise that they are being subjected to a criminal offence. Let me be

quite clear. There is no place in our society for intolerance of difference and those who seek to victimise people on that basis should appreciate that the police and criminal justice partners will take action.

We heard a series of expert views and victim experiences along with a focus on the police and council responses to hate crime.

This week also highlighted the work of Sylvia Lancaster who has campaigned tirelessly to include subculture hate crime

among police force categories. She introduced both private and public screenings of 'Black Roses: The killing of Sophie Lancaster', and took questions from the audiences. She began her campaign to extend the hate crime categories after her daughter Sophie died in 2007 following an attack by a gang of youths in a Lancashire park.

Over the coming months, you will hear a lot about my work to tackle hate crime!

THE CYBERCRIME CHALLENGES

Cybercrime represents multifaceted challenges. We need to police it, but not through the visible policing that communities so want to see. We need to make people aware of the different aspects and how to protect themselves. We need to educate young people about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and sexting. We need to arrest those behind this type of crime.

It's a long list and a big deal.

A huge amount of work is being done and personally I've been involved in many projects designed to educate young people and raise their awareness.

One such project that I funded was Ucreate, a school competition which asked young people to create an advert warning of the dangers of sexting.



A radio advert created by Hasland School in Chesterfield was chosen as the winning entry.

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

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