

Web chat 19 February 2013

19:00 Welcome to the Commissioner's first webchat that will be focused around a number of issues affecting young people. We will aim to answer your questions in the order they appear. If it is not possible to answer all of your questions over the next hour, we will post the answers in due course.

19.01 Tonight's chat is with Commissioner Paddy Tipping and Sergeant Debbie Barton-Moran from Nottinghamshire Police.

19.02 Sgt Debbie Barton is responsible for how we work with our partners on youth and restorative justice issues. If you have any questions about this, send them in!

19.02 Please send us your questions and we will do our best to post the answers as swiftly as possible.

19.03 When typing your question, hitting return will send it in. So only hit return when you have typed the full question and we will reply!

19.04 Comment From Ryan: What's this about?

19.04 Hi Ryan, we want to use this opportunity to talk with young people about their experiences with the police and the courts. Do you think it could be improved?

19.05 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Good evening all, I am Adam Stockwell Broxtowe Youth Mayor.

19.06 Hi Adam, I'm honoured that the Youth Mayor of Broxtowe is online. Looking forward to hearing your views.

19.07 Comment from Pat: What does restorative justice mean?

19.07 Sergeant Barton: Hi Pat, restorative justice, simply put, is a way of working towards repairing harm between victims and offenders.

Paddy: I think it's effective and would like to do more of it.

19.10 Hi, have you thought about bringing back police cadets?

19.10 Hi Elaine, we've agreed in principle to bring back police cadets and this is happening in different forces as well as Notts Police. The details will be out soon and I am keen to give young people from different backgrounds an experience with the police. They have a lot to offer us.

19.11 Comment from Elaine: That's good to hear.

19.12 Comment from Adam Stockwell: To improve the relationship with the youth we need our confidence restored after last years scandals, involving the Hillsborough report, and the previous year's riots, which involved all age groups.

19.12 Hi Adam, The Chief Constable and I are keen that integrity of the force is a top priority. Put bluntly bad behaviour won't be tolerated.

19.13 Comment From Adam Stockwell: What is the planned age group the police cadets?

19.13 This hasn't been decided yet Adam. Full details will be out soon. What age group would you suggest?

19.15 Comment from Pat: how does it work? Do victims get paid?

19.15 Hi Pat, the resolution is agreed between the victim and the offender and this can involve a range of outcomes. For example, everything from a simple apology to spending time helping with a community project.

19.16 Comment from Ryan: Yes I believe sometimes in court you can feel pressured to plead guilty when In fact you're not but the fear of thinking you could go prison is overwhelming and when you offered probation rather than prison if you plead guilty it becomes a way out.

19.16 Hi Ryan, the simple answer is that you should always tell the truth and face any possible consequences.

19.17 A campaign was launched in Nottingham late last year called 'Love Your Phone' to encourage people to take care of their property. If your phone is lost or stolen you will lose your contacts, your data and your handset – so make sure you try to keep your property as safe as you can. Be aware of what is happening around you and don't leave your phone on tables in pubs or restaurants.

19.17 Comment from John K: I'd suggest between the ages of 13 and 18.

19.18 Thanks John for your suggestion.

19.18 You may have seen some reports in the media recently about mobile phone theft – have you or one of your friends been affected by this crime? If so, what happened?

19.19 In Nottingham there are PCSOs, CPOs, Traffic Wardens and Civil Enforcement Officers ... they all wear similar uniforms, would it not make sense to give them all the same powers so it is easier for the public to understand what they do?

19.19 The law lays down the powers of each group. For my part I'm keen to see PCSOs do more, I think people feel reassured by seeing uniforms in the streets and aren't bothered whether it's an officer, PCSO or CPO.

19.21 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Fair point and I agree that it should not be tolerated, but not all youth of today are badly behaved so if you have the attitude of

saying it will not be tolerated end of, then you will end up finding a greater resistance to the partnership we are trying to achieve, between the police and the youth.

19.21 Hi Adam, I'm saying that poor behaviour whether it's from the police or the wider community should not be tolerated. But I think young people are a force for good and change and we should be praising them not criticising them.

19.21 Comment from Lee: I am interested in becoming a 'responsible adult' in order to be able to support young people in the police station. Can you tell me where to find information on this please?

19.21 You can find out more about volunteering on Nottinghamshire police website. www.nottinghamshire.police.uk Volunteers make a big difference in police stations.

19.23 Comment from Adam Stockwell: A phone theft occurred last year to a year 8 student at George Spencer and as of yet it remains unsolved.

19.23 Mobile phone theft is a big problem but you need always to keep your phone safe and not put it down. Tackling phone theft is an important priority for Notts Police.

19.23 Have you seen the mobile phone security guide produced by Nottinghamshire Police?

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/uploads/library/940/Mobile%20phone%20security%20no%20crops%20JULY%202012.pdf>

19.24 Do we need to be more imaginative and supportive when dealing with young people who are involved in crime?

19.24 We need to treat everyone as individuals, with solutions tailored to their specific needs

19.26 Comment from Laura: How involved are Nottinghamshire Police in working with schools and social services where children are identified as being from 'problem families' or having issues, prior to any run in with the law? We hear reference to Broken Britain all the time and while it isn't the responsibility of the police service to tell parents how to raise their children or teach them respect, I feel that by the time kids are coming into police custody the damage is already done and they are almost destined for a life on the wrong side of the law.

19.26 Hi Laura, I think what you say is important and we are working in partnership with schools and others to try and get involved at an early stage. The Police are involved in what is sometimes called the priority families initiative. It's a new scheme to encourage us all to work hard with families that have got a lot of problems. I think it's important to keep young people away from the courts if at all possible.

19.26 Comment from Adam Stockwell: I agree, more praise and less criticism is needed in the right places.

19.26 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Only the theft was a mugging as she was texting her mum on her way home from school that day

19.27 It's a serious crime and you can be sure that the police take it very seriously.

19.27 Comment from Lee: Is that what your role is about Sergeant Debbie? Do you act as a consultant to other police officers who are requesting assistance with dealing with youth related issues?

19.27 Hi Lee, Yes, where other police officers need advice or guidance I make myself available to them. I also support other agencies that need help to deal with specific young people issues. It's important that we work with partners.

19.28 What do you think the biggest problems are relating to the police in Nottinghamshire?

19.30 Hi Adam, I think we need to get back to victims more quickly to tell them what's happening about their investigation. I'm very keen on putting victims first and so are Notts Police.

19.30 Comment from Adam Stockwell: I'm sure they do only as of today it is still unsolved and there doesn't seem to be much evidence that it will do.

19.31 The Crime and Drugs Partnership 'Alcohol Needs Assessment' report 2011/2012 draws on an online questionnaire completed by local children in 2010/2011.

The questionnaire found that a fifth of the children surveyed had their first taste of alcohol before they turned 11.

When did you taste alcohol for the first time?

19.32

5-8 years (0%)

9-11 years (0%)

12-14 years (0%)

15-17 years (100%)

18 years and older (0%)

19.33 Comment from Lee: I agree wholeheartedly with Laura above. We are criminalising young people far too readily. With a criminal record, they are doomed to failure and that is why I believe we need much more imaginative ways of managing young people who commit crime. Police need much more discretion when dealing with young people.

19.33 We have given officers a lot more discretion than they had previously, but we still have to stay within the law. The police don't want to criminalise young people unnecessarily and will do their best to prevent that from happening when they can.

19.33 What is your experience of drinking alcohol?

19.33 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Very good to hear.

19.33 Comment from Mark: This is my first time on here listening to this, it's interesting. I'm a serving officer of Notts.

19.34 Hi Mark, that's good to hear. Is there anything in particular you would like to ask?

19.34 Comment from Lee: Can you tell me? Do police officers have to reach targets in respect of arrests etc? If so, does this impact on a police officers discretion in respect of dealing with young people?

19.34 Individual police officers don't have targets. Notts Police are all encouraged to find the right solution to any problem.

19.37 Comment from guest: why is it everyone feels sorry for the youth of today

19.37 I don't feel sorry for the youth of today, I feel proud about what so many of them achieve. This chat is an opportunity to find out how to better communicate and work with the youth of today.

19.39 Comment from Mark: No I'm fine, just observing! I did 5yrs in Neighbourhood Policing so well versed on youth issues I'm just intrigued with the modern way of interaction and how effective it is, it looks good Debbie

19.39 Thanks Mark, we are trying to look at new ways of communicating. Older people like me find it a bit hard (Paddy)!

19.40 Do you use blog sites? If so which ones? We want to communicate as best we can with young people.

19.40 Comment from Lucy: Hi, are officers encouraged to only arrest young people when absolutely necessary?

19.40 This doesn't just apply to young people, officers will only arrest anyone when absolutely necessary and when the law says they can.

19.41 Tonight we have Natalie Robinson from Nottingham City Youth Cabinet sitting alongside me. Tonight we have been talking about the best way of communicating with young people. I would appreciate your views too.

19.42 The Commissioner and his Deputy aim to protect, support and respond to

victims, witnesses and vulnerable people.

19.42 It is one of Paddy's priorities to give extra priority to domestic violence and crimes against women. If you are in an abusive relationship and want advice contact Women's Aid www.womensaid.org.uk or call 0808 2000 247.

19.42 The Home Office is running a teenage abuse campaign from 14 Feb until the end of April this year. The aim of this is to prevent teenagers becoming victims and / or perpetrators of abusive relationships. Abuse isn't acceptable. How can the Commissioner, in your opinion, further educate young people about the difference between non-abusive and abusive relationships?

19.43 View video of Sam and Alice – teenage abuse video on the Home Office website <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/videos/view/13/sam-alice>

19.46 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Just a quick observation but don't you find it ironic that the target group for this chat who are the ones out on the street are actually on the street now not involved in this where we need them.

19.46 We are trying to use as many different ways to get in touch with young people as we can. If you have any ideas on how we improve we would welcome them. As the Youth Mayor of Broxtowe why don't you come in to see me?

19.48 Comment from Lee: I do feel sorry for youth of today. I think young people in more deprived areas suffer much more as a result of a breakdown in community spirit. Youth organisations are in meltdown because of cuts, bureaucracy, and fear of litigation. There are far more pressures on young people than previously and they require a lot of moral and emotional support. That's ok if they get it but sadly, many don.

19.48 Hi Lee, I think you're right to say that young people should be a priority, after all they are all our futures. We all gain from investing in them. What's more I've been talking with both the city and county council about improved youth provision. The councils face tough choices in a difficult financial situation.

19.48 We have a lot of questions and are working hard to answer them - please bear with us.

19.49 Comment from Mark: I must say to the guest posing the question of feeling sorry for youth, there needs to be an element of understanding that not every youth has activities, money, family, friends etc at their disposal and the Police work closely with those individuals to help them develop in ways other people take for granted.

19.49 Comment from Mark: This is in an attempt to give them the requisite life skills to avoid crime and disorder and this is something Debbie and her team do very well.

19.49 Comment from Adam Stockwell: I am more than happy to come and meet

with you, if it can not be done this week, i will need to work it around school and school work.

19.49 Adam, please ring my office and we can sort out a convenient time. 0115 967 0999 ex 801 2005

19.49 Thanks Mark, it's good you are on the team!

19.51 Comment from Laura: I must add that while I do think prevention is better than cure, I don't think children are entirely without blame for their actions. Look at the two 10-year olds who murdered Jamie Bulger, an extreme example I know but I was the same age as them at the time they committed that crime and I 100% would never have considered anything like that in a million years.

19.51 Hi Laura, I was involved in the Bulger case and understand your strong views, but as I said before the vast majority of young people are to be praised.

19.52 Comment from Lucy: Hi, on your earlier question about communicating with young people - I'm from urboss.org and young people told us they would like PCCs to come to them in places they hang out like youth clubs to talk to them. Others recommend the police do community work to learn about the issues in a local area. Our film is here and Paddy was very positive about our campaign <http://www.urboss.org.uk/campaigns/police-and-crime-commissioners-campaign>

19.53 Hi Lucy, I'm really grateful for all your help and support.

19.53 Comment from Adam Stockwell: Thank you very much I will get in touch tomorrow.

19.53 Comment from Lee: This is a very innovative means of trying to engage with young people. It is to be congratulated. I would like young people to be given the message that police are there to offer support rather than just to punish. It's also most encouraging that another police officer (mark) has joined the discussion to show an interest.

19.53 Comment from Ellie: I am currently a community safety volunteer for Notts police, and have recently been given my interview date for the specials. The information to become a police volunteer was there when I looked for it; however I had to search for all of the information off of my own back. I suggest that more information on the police volunteer opportunities could be given to the public in police events? What are your opinions of this?

19.53 We try to make this information easily accessible and we are hosting public events to recruit volunteers, including special constables. We also have a busy programme this summer when we will be at the biggest Nottinghamshire events, starting with Newark Show in May.

19.54 Thanks Lee, I agree with what you say and your very positive comments.

19.54 If you have any final questions let us know. The chat will be ending in 5 minutes

19.55 Comment from Adam Stockwell: It is nice to see an advert that highlights problems and that is aimed towards getting the youth to report crime without us all being made to look like the criminal

19.55 Comment from Lee: Laura, no one would condone the Bulgar murderers but it is unhelpful to judge what people do by how you would conduct yourself. Young people grow up in very different environments and have different issues to contend with.

19.56 Contact Crimestoppers online www.crimestoppers-uk.org

19.56 Paddy Tipping Facebook www.facebook.com/paddy4pcc

19.57 Paddy Tipping Twitter @PaddyTipping

19.57 Comment from Mark: Have we thought about having live blogs in the local youth clubs, ice skating rinks etc, those places where the youth frequent? You can coordinate these groups then in accordance with their scheduled meets to provide the best opportunity to achieve a captive audience

19.57 That's a good idea - a lot of young people don't have easy internet access at home, and this would give them the opportunity to work together and get involved. Give Debbie a ring and let her know your ideas!

19.58 Natalie: coming from a young person this wouldn't be something I would normally take part in on a Tuesday night. However, watching the chat tonight has warmed me to the concept and I think it's really good that everyone took the time to take part because we need more youth engagement in decision making.

19.59 Comment from Lee: Will there be regular on line discussions? I would like to see discussions on drug use/abuse, domestic violence, bullying etc etc

19.59 We are very pleased to see so many people have joined us tonight and we will certainly be doing it again, focussing on different topics. I've got a Facebook site and you can continue the discussions there.

19.59 Comment from Adam Stockwell: That is very true Lee

20.00 Thank you for taking part in Paddy's first webchat. We appreciate all of your comments and hope we have answered each of your questions. If you have posted a comment and have not yet received a message back – your response will appear here in due course.

20.01 If you want to find out more about the Commissioner's future events please

view the events calendar on the Commissioner's website <http://bit.ly/Y2p6M3>

