

THE BEAT

A community spirit to be proud of!



When I joined the crowds at the Nottinghamshire County Show in Newark I was struck by the strong sense of community and public spiritedness that made the atmosphere so special.

I always feel that shows like these are so much more than a celebration of our county's life and leisure. They help to reinforce the pride that we have in supporting our communities together.

That feeling became even more apparent to me when so many of you shared your thoughts with me on making Nottinghamshire safer. As I talked with people from different areas of the county, I wasn't just hearing about crime in your neighbourhoods; you gave me your ideas on how problems could be overcome.

In the coming months, my Deputy Chris Cutland and I look forward to meeting more of you at the county's summertime celebrations. Chris will be at the joyful Pride event at the Forest Recreation Ground in Nottingham, West Bridgford's Bridgfest for young people and the Gedling Show in Carlton. And I'm looking forward to a spectacular Caribbean Carnival at the Forest Recreation Ground. Other members of my Office staff will be out and about at Newark Carnival, Ashfield Festival, Moorgreen Show, Arnold Carnival, and Riverside. **Great times ahead...see you there!**

Tackling problems together

At the County Show, your views about alcohol-related problems were particularly constructive. What you told me will help me to shape my Alcohol Strategy for addressing drink-related crime and issues which affect town centres and local neighbourhoods. If you haven't already done so, please, do take part in my online Alcohol Survey questionnaire about excessive alcohol consumption.

To help me get a better understanding of things on the front line I recently visited A & E at the Queen's Medical Centre to see how drunken patients affect staff. I also joined the Retford Street Pastors late one night to observe their

work with regard to problem drinking and how it helps to bring an increased sense of safety and security to the community.

**** Please turn the page for more details what we are doing about drink-related crime.***



Getting to grips with alcohol-related crime



We all want to see safer streets, and that includes being free of the fear that drink-related anti-social behaviour can bring. That's why on 1 July I'll be hosting an Alcohol Conference together with the Police and Crime Panel.

Our discussions on alcohol misuse issues will be with key partners and agencies from across Nottinghamshire. And what I hear then, together with your views and my research in these past months, will play an important part in my formal Alcohol Strategy.

By sharing your opinions with me in my online questionnaire, you'll help me to address alcohol-induced issues and criminality – including drink-related violence, street drinking, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour.

The survey asks if alcohol is a problem where you live and whether you would like to see tighter controls over hours of sale, the marketing and promotion of drinking, minimum pricing and underage drinking. Also, who do you think should pay for the policing bill in terms of the night-time economy?

Collectively, we have a responsibility to reduce the harm that alcohol is causing to health, public safety and quality of life in Nottinghamshire. The NHS, the police and other emergency services foot a very large bill every year simply because some people cannot control their alcohol intake.

Impact on health staff



My visit to A & E at the Queen's Medical Centre in April introduced me to the pressures that health workers face due to alcohol misuse.

I came away with the greatest admiration for the health professionals' commitment and professionalism when working in often very difficult circumstances. Indeed, my concerns about the abuse and violence that doctors and nurses in A & E sometimes face prompted me to seek further discussions with the Trust managers to see whether a greater police presence would help to reduce these disgraceful incidents.

Street pastors

It was quite a tonic seeing the work that the Retford Street Pastors do in relation to the night-time economy and revellers in the town. The help they offer to people whose drinking has triggered problems both for themselves and those around them helps foster a stronger feeling of safety in the community.

Problems caused by people who drink too much often create a ripple effect on families, public services, businesses and members of the public. So the work of the street pastors is much appreciated on several fronts.

Retford and Worksop Streets Pastors are a common sight in the towns' weekend nightlife scenes. Part of an inter-denominational Church response to late night town-centre problems, they engage with people on the streets to care, listen and help. I'm delighted to know that the scheme, pioneered in London by the Rev. Les

Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, has brought some remarkable results including drops in crime.

Working with support from local churches and community groups in partnership with police, council and other statutory agencies, the pastors show us just how effective community effort can be.

• **My survey can be accessed via <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Surveys-and-Questionnaires.aspx>**





Fighting for fairer funding

I've taken my fight for fairer police funding for Nottinghamshire right to the top...but I'm not taking a breather yet.

In April I put my concerns to the Home Secretary along with a number of other PCCs about dwindling funds and the potential impact on police performance. Since then, we've been given a boost by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners which has now formalised the arguments expressed during the meeting in a written submission to the Home Secretary.

Strength in numbers always feels good, but we'll need to keep at it. The aim is to influence future funding decisions and obtain an improved deal which will offer greater protection to community policing for us and elsewhere in the country.

The Government's current funding formula means Nottinghamshire will lose out on £10.5m this year. It was this sorry state of affairs that led me to fight hard to bring an additional 150 police officers to our streets. These posts will fill the immediate gap in strength but greater investment is needed to achieve some of the goals the Government itself had visualised for PCCs. I'll continue to do all I can to make this happen.



New safety fund to make a difference

Welcome help is on its way from our new Community Safety Partnership Fund to a number of groups and projects tackling drugs and alcohol addiction, anti-social behaviour and other crime and disorder issues.

The fund, launched by my Deputy, Chris Cutland, combines all previous funding streams from the Home Office. But at £2.8m, it's less than the previous total of £3.6m. I have therefore increased the fund to £3m from my police budget and also set aside a further £150,000 to support smaller projects.

Applications are now closed for this fund, but we will look at more applications in the future from organisations whose work helps deliver on the priorities outlined in my Police and Crime Plan.

When launching the scheme, Chris pointed out that localised projects at the heart of our communities are often best placed to deliver permanent solutions to recurring problems. She commented: "This new grant scheme will pump funding into 'grassroots' organisations which are working hard to make Nottinghamshire safer."



Bailing me out has helped to support homeless people



I was Not Guilty, m'Lud, but I still depended on the good people of Nottinghamshire to avoid being thrown into our city's Galleries of Justice gaol.

Coming to my rescue, you bailed me out to the tune of over £1000 – money which has now gone to Framework, a charity that supports homeless people in the county.

Framework had wrongly accused me of impersonating the Chief Constable. As if! But Guilty or not, I was destined for the cells if I couldn't stump up bail of at least £1,000. So a huge thank you to all of those who came – not really to my aid – but in support of a hard-working charity that brings housing-related help for rough sleepers.



Keeping WATCH on performance



An important part of my role is watching over all aspects of policing in order to scrutinise standards, identify where improvements are needed and hold the Chief Constable to account.

I now have a new structure to enable me to carry out this role effectively and ensure that Nottinghamshire receives the best from its force. This includes:

- **Regular Strategic Resources and Performance meetings, open to the public at different venues around the county. The first one was on 21 May in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, the next one is 24 July.**
- **Community Stakeholder Forums to analyse performance progress and identify any areas of weakness needing attention (next ones: City 24 June; County 25 June).**
- **Weekly meetings with the Chief Constable to consider short term performance and receive briefings on significant incidents and events.**

My quarterly meetings with the chairs of key organisations are to ensure they share the same vision to keep Nottinghamshire safe, and to encourage closer working. These partnerships include the Safer Nottinghamshire, Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Adults, Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice and Youth Offending Team Boards; and the Nottingham Crime and Drug Partnership and District Community Safety Partnerships.

Altogether, this system puts me in the best possible position to supervise what is happening within local policing, making sure it tallies with what our communities are asking for and that public money and resources are being used sensibly.

Seeking solutions to work with discharged prisoners



The Government has announced radical plans to shake up the Probation system. Alongside many others, I've got big reservations about these proposals and have made my opposition clear.

Nevertheless, the Government is determined to press forward and, in the circumstances, I'm keen to explore possibilities that offer the best for Nottinghamshire.

Following a number of discussions with local partners about finding an appropriate and supportive solution to discharged prisoners, I am now looking into options with the Trust and with private and voluntary sector organisations.

The proposals include contracting out 70% of the service's work. It's clear that this would involve big private sector companies running probation services in Nottinghamshire – and because I'm not sure about their expertise in this area I want to find a more appropriate local solution.

A pivotal element of my plans to reduce crime involves finding innovative and sustainable ways to support people out of the reoffending cycle and I am hopeful that we can build on the work and experience of the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust in the future.

Deputy advises awareness of stalking risks



It's good news that stalking has now been made a specific crime. Stalkers should now be left in no doubt that they will be brought to justice and punished.

But as my Deputy Chris Cutland stresses, it's still important to raise awareness of the terror that stalkers can inflict and ensure that victims know that support is available for them.

Highlighting the increase in cyber stalking and how stalkers with technical know-how can invade people's privacy to a frightening degree, Chris explains: "Innocent people are sometimes pursued with relentless obsession by stalkers who know where their victims live, what they are doing, where they are going.

"So, do be careful of what is revealed when chatting online, using social media like Facebook or taking up online dating."



Deputy Chief Constable

It's time to say goodbye and thank you to the outgoing Deputy Chief Constable Paul Scarrott. Paul has made a massive contribution to the improvements in Nottinghamshire Police performance since joining the force in 2010 and we all wish him well for the future.

Sue Fish, formerly Nottinghamshire's Assistant Chief Constable, has been appointed as the new Deputy.

Sue joined Nottinghamshire Police in 1986 as a constable, working in a variety of uniform and detective roles. In 1999 she moved to West Midlands Police as a Superintendent spent four years there until her return to Notts in 2003 when she was appointed ACC.

In 2009 she began a secondment with ACPO working on the national Tackling Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence programme, followed by a secondment to the Met Police.

Mrs Fish was awarded the OBE for services to policing in the Queen's Birthday Honours' in 2008, and in the same year was recognised by the Nottingham Business Awards as Woman Achiever of the Year.



I'm delighted for her on this appointment and look forward to working with her.

KEEP ON TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:

www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

You can follow me

@PaddyTipping and @NottsPCC
or **Facebook PaddyTipping or NottsPCC.**

You can write to me at:

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