



# THE BEAT

***It's time to close the door on another year. Although 2019 has brought its challenges, we've certainly got a lot to be proud of.***

*We've charged ahead with our innovation plans and are making inroads in so many areas, particularly in our early intervention work and support of vulnerable people and victims of crime. Next year, we will gladly have more police officers to put this work into action with the national uplift and I'm hopeful you'll see a real difference in visibility in your neighbourhood.*

*Nottinghamshire is a thriving county and with a dedicated and hardworking police force behind it, I'm sure there are plenty more successes around the corner. Christmas is a special time and I hope you all enjoy the celebrations safely.*

***May I wish you all a very merry festive season and a Happy New Year.***

**Paddy Tipping**  
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner





## Knife crime below national average in Notts



**I'm pleased to see that the knife crime trend in Nottinghamshire is going down compared to the rest of the country.**

Last week (13 Dec) we learned that, in June 2019, the number of offences per 1,000 of the population dropped below the national and regional average for the first time in over ten years.

The good news comes as figures showed that knife crime reduced by 8.4% in Nottinghamshire in the year to the end of October 2019 following a continued and concerted effort to tackle the issue through enforcement and education.

These results spring from real partnership work with colleagues in councils, education and health. In particular, I have been impressed with the help from parents, young people and the voluntary sector. It shows what can be done if we work together.

## New faces join policing family

**By the end of this financial year, we will have welcomed another 147 new officers. This increase in numbers will enable greater focus to be placed on pro-active neighbourhood policing.**

Earlier this month, I was proud to see the latest new group of trainee police officers who will be joining our communities in the near future.

Twenty-four new officers were sworn into their new roles in December and are part of Operational Uplift,

the national programme funded by the Home Office to return hundreds of police officers to frontline duty across the UK.

They include former PCSOs, Special Constables from Nottinghamshire Police and Derbyshire Constabulary, Despatchers and Call Handlers from the Force's control room as well as police staff from our Custody, Intelligence and Witness Care departments.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing them a very warm welcome and every success in their new careers.





## Tackling serious violence

For more information about the work of the VRU visit: <https://www.nottsvru.co.uk/>



No-one is complacent when it comes to violence, and Nottinghamshire's new dedicated Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) specialists have been busy with a series of multiagency meetings and conferences held to discuss our future approach to knife crime and violence.

November saw the VRU at a Knife Crime Symposium – an event bringing together senior church leaders from across Nottinghamshire together with key representatives from our VRU to agree action on youth violence. The event was hosted by Pastor Clive Foster, Senior Minister from the Pilgrim Church in the Meadows, and examined how the Church could proactively support efforts to support disengaged youth and their families and victims of violence.

As chair of the new VRU Strategic Board, I unveiled fresh funding worth £350,000 for community groups and the charity and voluntary sector to tackle the root causes of knife crime and deliver support to help those at risk develop skills, gain employment and reverse negative patterns of behaviour and life choices.

Of the funding, £250,000 will be available through my existing Community Safety Fund 2020-21 while a further £100,000 will be invested by the VRU, creating a combined Community Safety and Violence Reduction Unit Fund worth £350k.

From the beginning I've made clear my view that some people need support and challenge to overcome their problems and communities which take this responsibility seriously are those that thrive.

We have many plans to tackle violence and work is already underway. We've recently funded Beyond Recovery, for example, to work with a group of young men aged 18-25 in custody at HMP Nottingham, and in the community, up to March 2020 with the aim of addressing issues linked to knife crime and violence. It is still early days for the VRU but good progress is being made.

## Radical new approach to child protection



Police and safeguarding experts from across Nottinghamshire have been examining a radical new approach to child protection.

Alongside representatives from our new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and members of the City and County Council's safeguarding children's boards, we attended a conference to hear evidence about

Contextual Safeguarding – a trailblazing alternative to traditional methods of child safeguarding.

The method was developed by Dr Carlene Firmin at the University of Bedfordshire, who gave a presentation during the event. It shifts the focus of social work from the family home to a much wider setting, recognising the effect friendships, peer groups and external influences and environments can have on young people's lives and their wellbeing and looks at how these risks can be managed to make children and the places in which they congregate safer.

Young people today are increasingly exposed to negative influences which impact on their attitudes and behaviour and often these are outside the control of their families. It is time for a new approach to enable us to successfully tackle this vulnerability and we will be using the learning from this conference to consider what changes are needed.



## Awards for our heroes

**The Annual Nottinghamshire Police Awards recognises the courage and dedication of all those who received, and were nominated for, an award.**

All too often this is taken for granted as people habitually go that extra mile to protect and support people and I'm grateful to them all.

The ceremony also provides the perfect occasion from which to present the PCC's Community Safety Award and the PCC's Partnership Award.

My Community Safety Award is presented to an organisation which has made an exceptional difference to improving safety within a specific area or in the community as a whole while the Partnership Award goes to an organisation which promotes the benefits of partnership working to enrich the community.

I was delighted to present Equation with the Community Safety Award in recognition of its work at the heart of domestic abuse support in

Nottinghamshire, delivering a wide range of well thought-through, professional and safe interventions to tackle community safety issues.

My Partnership Award went to Nottinghamshire's Youth Commission which has made an outstanding contribution in engaging young people aged 14-25 from right across Nottinghamshire in policing. I'm proud that the Youth Commission has been cited as an example of innovative good practice by the College of Policing.





## New Joint HQ project moves forward



**Our vision for a new £18.m joint police and fire HQ is one step further to fruition.**

Proposals were approved at a Gedling Borough Council planning meeting earlier this month. It means

our plans to bring greater alignment of both services and ensure we are more effective in the way we respond to major incidents in the future are becoming a reality.

The shared headquarters at Sherwood Lodge will reduce costs in the long run. This approval is positive news for both organisations as we can now move forward with this development that will deliver modern, more efficient headquarters on a shared location for these two emergency services.

It makes practical and operational sense and I'm confident that it will help to improve and maintain our blue light services and increase our impact on public safety in the future.

## Problem solving conference



**Police and justice leaders turned out for a unique Problem Solving Conference in November, focusing on how we can reduce high harm incidents and examining exciting new research on how to tackle antisocial behaviour.**

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Among the speakers was Supt Colin McFarlane, from South Yorkshire Police and a member of the national

Problem Solving Programme, who set the scene by highlighting the importance of problem solving, how it can reduce demand and introduce a wide range of resources available to partners as a result of the national programme.

The conference also heard from Levin Wheller, from the College of Policing, and Dave Wakelin, Interim Director of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), who provided an overview of the new VRU and its work.

Professor Andromachi Tseloni delivered an early insight into current research on ASB, undertaken by a team led by Dr James Hunter, from Nottingham Trent University, in partnership with Professor Nick Tilley from University College London. The preliminary findings provided an insight into the risk factors of ASB, and further work is planned which will examine the journey from ASB to more serious offending.

Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Policing Inspectors Nick Butler and Riz Khan presented case studies of the work they had been undertaking in the Mansfield and Arboretum area of Nottingham, highlighting Operation Prolate which successfully tackled Mamba in Mansfield.

As a result of the conference, the force will be working with neighbourhood policing teams to build the learning into our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Action Plans.



## 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 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](http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk)

You can follow:  
**@NottsPCC**  
or **Facebook NottsPCC**

You can write to me at:  
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*May I again...  
wish you all a very  
merry festive season and  
a Happy New Year.*

**Paddy Tipping**  
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

