

THE BEAT

Recruitment campaign success



When I made provision in my budget for more Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) I was responding to what you said you wanted to help keep your communities safe.



What I hadn't quite envisaged was the huge interest in the recruitment campaign for 150 Police Officers. The campaign attracted more than 2,300 applications, 25,000 visits to the Force website jobs page and hundreds of phone calls.

A separate recruitment drive for 50 new PCSOs is now underway, and is expected to generate a similar level of interest including applications from under-represented groups. Closing date for these application forms is 2 April at 12 noon.

Nottinghamshire PCSOs support regular police officers, providing a valued and accessible uniformed presence to improve the quality of life in communities and offer greater public reassurance. By increasing the numbers we will have a more visible police presence on our streets.

Launching my Police & Crime Plan

Mansfield Town FC is a fantastic venue for football – and a great choice for the launch of my first Police and Crime Plan on 28 March.

I am equally grateful to Ruth Marlow and the Mansfield Partnership Against Crime for agreeing to host this event, which illustrates just what a difference effective partnership working can make.

As well as formally setting my plans in motion for a safer Nottinghamshire, I want to make it a day when partners and community project leaders can come together to learn about each others' work – and there's lots of it!



I am also pleased that alongside me will be Chief Constable Chris Eyre, Dave Walker from Nottingham City Council who will explain how Gang and Youth Violence is being tackled with a range of partners and Insp Neil Williams who will talk about the work of the Partnership in the Ravensdale area. We are also delighted that parents and children from four primary schools with members of the Holocaust Centre will demonstrate the 'In Our Hands' localities project.

All in all, the event will be a reflection of my on-going intention as The People's Commissioner to give victims and citizens a bigger voice in policing to achieve safer communities.

OUT & ABOUT

"Meeting people face to face across Nottinghamshire, gives my Deputy Chris Cutland and me the chance to find out what's going on in our communities' daily lives."

• Bilborough

This visit reinforced my view that Bilborough has an undeserved reputation. Crime is going down in the area, and the local neighbourhood policing team is working closely and positively with other partners, particularly Nottingham City Council. There is, however, a real concern over domestic violence, with reports seeming to be on the increase. The police are taking a positive approach with repeat callers to try to tackle this.

• Attenborough

Residents told me in a positive meeting that they were pleased with police performance and delighted that there are to be more Police Officers and PCSOs on the streets soon. We also discussed how the local neighbourhood policing team is working with the Community Action Team in relation to speeding and parking issues, particularly around Barratt Lane.

• Cotgrave

On the Day of Action organised by the Force on 15 March, I visited Candleby Lane School and walked around the village. My walkabout included the precinct, the Multi Use Games Area, the Leisure Centre, Lawrence Close and the Police Station. I also took a look at Flaxendale where the steps have been reconfigured to prevent anti-social behaviour.

• A day with Nottingham Citizens



In a seven-hour tour of the city on 15 March I met around 600 residents to listen to their views on crime and community safety.

Organised by Nottingham Citizens, my tour included a visit to Blue Bell Hill Primary School in St Ann's. After learning from Years 5 and 6 pupils about their safety concerns in the area, I walked

around the community to see for myself where they felt unsafe.

I also met pastors from Nottingham's churches to discuss their experiences of 'stop and search'. At the Forest Recreation Ground I looked at safety and environmental changes needed as part of the £5.1 million redevelopment project, and in Bobbers Mill I visited the Karimia Institute to discuss safety and policing issues in the Islamic community.

A most useful day, it enabled me to hear from so many residents of different ages and backgrounds about how they think policing can be improved in their area. Nottingham Citizens incorporates more than 35 groups and organisations. Its 90,000 members include people from faith communities, trade unions, schools, charities and migrant communities.

• Deputy on Walkabout in Newark



This walkabout on 6 March gave my Deputy Chris Cutland the opportunity to learn more about the town and situations that officers deal with.

Chris met officers at Newark Police Station and, together with Beat Manager PC Murdoch and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Terry Bailey, she visited the Hawtonville Estate where she talked with residents. She also walked around the town centre with local police to learn more about local partnership working, Specials in a rural context, the night time economy, drug use in the area and other policing issues.

During her tour, she was impressed by a DVD made by Newark and Sherwood Homes. Filmed on the Hawtonville Estate, 'Four Walls' aims to discourage anti-social behaviour by showing the impact an individual's behaviour could have on themselves, their parents or carers.



Mansfield Big Snore

Homelessness can affect anyone, from any background, at any time in their life due to financial or perhaps relationship problems.

So joining the charity Framework's Big Snore event on a freezing night allowed me to show my support for their work and the many projects they organise.

Volunteers from far and wide bedded down in St Mark's Church car park in Mansfield, helping to raise more than £15,000 for Framework to help rough sleepers in the area get their lives back on track and move towards independent living.

Tackling homelessness and changing lives is really important, and the work that Framework does to address the causes and consequences of homelessness should be commended.

As Framework Operations Director Michael Leng said at the time of the event, people who sleep rough are at increased risk of becoming either the victims or perpetrators of crime because of the extreme circumstances they find themselves in.

Spending Time in Custody

Teaming up for a visit to Bridewell Custody Suite in the city centre my Deputy Chris Cutland and I saw at first hand the checks that are made to ensure that detainees are well looked after while in custody.

Two members of the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) Scheme joined us, enabling us to learn more about this important volunteer role.

Chief Inspector Mark Turner's guided tour gave us the opportunity to see for ourselves the progress made since HMIC published a critical report in January 2012. In a follow-up visit later in the year the Government Inspectors noted significant improvements at the Bridewell, and this visit was able to show that progress continues.



As Chris said:

"Custody visitors give us an independent opinion on the way in which the Custody Suites are run, which is reassuring for the community. An impartial viewpoint is vital in this type of situation and I hope that people know by now that we will always do something about a problem if we find one. That said, I was impressed by the conditions at the Bridewell and was pleased to see how the ICVs carry out their visits in the normal course of events."

The ICVs give up their free time to make sure that those in custody are treated fairly and within their rights.

Being Aware

If you would like to know more about developments in policing, local and national, you might be interested to read the information that is added to my website each week.

A '**Horizon Scanning**' document is produced to help the Force and me examine potential opportunities, threats and likely developments

for policing. It involves identifying trends and developments to inform debate and flag challenges to generate recommendations for action from sources ranging from legal reviews to research. I find it really interesting and so we've made it public for all to use.

You can see these weekly e-briefings on:
<http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Horizon-Scanning.aspx>



Young people talk to me about Broxtowe

Members of Broxtowe Youth Council and Youth Mayor Adam Stockwell gave me their views about tackling crimes that affect young people when I met them at Beeston Town Hall.

They talked to me about mobile phone theft, bullying and anti-social behaviour. In turn, I answered their questions about policing and crime in the county.

It is really important that young people have the opportunity to make their voice heard and get involved in democracy, and I look forward to more valuable exchanges like this. Broxtowe Youth Council consists of pupils from schools across the borough, meeting three times a year to debate the issues affecting them. But it's not just talk. They also work on projects about community issues such as making a DVD about tackling alcohol abuse – which subsequently appeared on The One Show. Well done to them!

All dogs to be micro-chipped

New laws are to be introduced in April 2016 to help tackle dangerous dogs, along with compulsory micro-chipping to reduce the nuisance and welfare issues arising from strays.

Meantime, I will be continuing to discuss with the RSPCA and other organisations what more can be done to tackle anti-social and welfare problems related to dogs and also irresponsible owners who fail to clean up after their pets.

From April 2016, the dangerous dogs laws will be extended to cover private property, helping to protect members of the public including children, vulnerable people and visiting workers like health and postal staff.

We already have four police officers trained to implant microchips to ensure identification of dogs which the courts have ordered to be returned to their owners with conditions imposed. The Force has also organised dedicated kennels close to Police Headquarters for the boarding of suspected dangerous dogs from next month (April), cutting down on officer time and travelling costs.



Chatting on the Web

My first live web chat has opened up a valuable way of keeping in touch with young people's views about crime and policing.

I have listened to young people, and know that many are regular users of Facebook, Twitter and other web based forums. This is why I thought an online chat was a good way to communicate with them and find out about the subjects that matter to them.

So, on 19 February, I answered questions online from around 70 participants who asked about issues affecting young people in Nottinghamshire. I hope to do another chat soon.



Keeping in touch

You can keep in touch via:

My website:
www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

Twitter:
[@nottsPCC](https://twitter.com/nottsPCC) and [@paddytipping](https://twitter.com/paddytipping)

Write to:
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