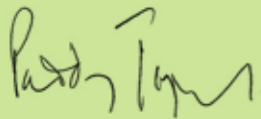
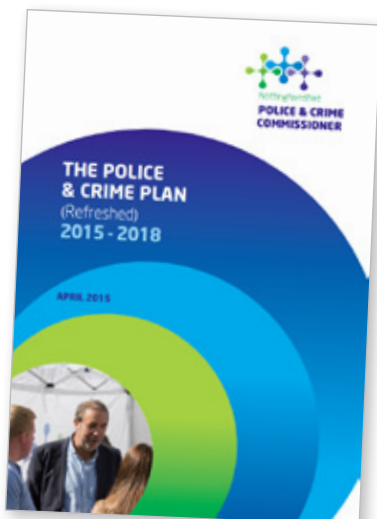


THE BEAT

It is difficult to understand the true risks of violence when so much is unreported through fear.

We are committed to increasing confidence among all victims of crime but specifically those at risk of 'hidden crimes' such as domestic violence, forced marriage, hate crime and female genital mutilation. Work is taking place across the partnership landscape to enhance our safeguarding processes and improve the support mechanisms we offer so that people are encouraged to seek help from the police. My refreshed Police and Crime Plan also prioritises rural crime in recognition of the vulnerability isolated communities feel by nature of their geographic location. Every resident is entitled to feel safe, wherever they live, and delivering a responsive and effective police service is key to reassurance and wellbeing.

Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2015-18

Criminality is constantly evolving and this determines how and where we target our resources. To reflect the changing patterns of offending and the differences in public priorities, I refresh my Police and Crime Plan at the beginning of every financial year to ensure it remains relevant to tackling risk and continues to focus on areas that are of concern to the public.

risk of criminal behaviour, or harm, a route out of their problems. We will be working closely with our partners in health and education to improve training and identify opportunities to engage with individuals to reduce and prevent demand for blue light services.

I've mentioned the focus on Rural Crime and according to various national reports (including the NFU), theft of high-value farming machinery, equipment, vehicles and heating oil and diesel is on the increase. Rural crime is very much top of the agenda and over the coming year

we will be directing resources towards making our rural communities safer.

Our goals remain as ambitious as previous years, despite next year's policing grant being substantially reduced by a further 5.1%. This equates to a loss of about £11m in Nottinghamshire, taking into account inflation, and the impact on our resources will be felt by the public. This month's Budget Statement gives clear indications that central police funding will continue to reduce in future so it is imperative we act now and match our resources to where they are needed most to reduce the risk of harm.



Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment

Putting the issue of threat into context, my updated Plan contains the findings of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment (NPCNA) for 2014. We have been working closely with the Force, local Community Safety Partnerships and key stakeholders to identify a number of new and emerging issues which need to be addressed such as cybercrime and unreported crime. There is a pressing need to increase confidence among many victims of crime

so that more come forward to report their experiences, particularly hate crime, domestic violence and sexual crime. We also need to improve our understanding of victims' needs and our new and emerging communities so we can respond appropriately.

During the past 12 months, we have undertaken extensive public engagement which has been vital to guiding the decisions I have made and continue to make. Collectively, our consultation projects have captured the views of more than 4,000 residents which have revealed strong support for investment in crime prevention work through education, which is why it features so heavily in my revised Plan.

We continue to face unprecedented funding challenges however this year I have continued to earmark £250,000 from the budget to be shared among local projects that aim to reduce crime and protect victims. I will also continue to maintain levels of community safety funding to Nottingham Crime and Disorder Partnership and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

I have a responsibility to take a fresh look at everything we do to protect the public and this revised Plan ensures that we continue to provide services which are appropriate to the needs of those they aim to safeguard.

Locality working

A year ago, I was asked to lead an independent review of the County's Partnership Plus Areas (PPAs) by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. PPAs are areas which have been identified as being ideally suited to a partnership approach to solving crime problems.

The review examined the current arrangements for addressing crime and managing problem-solving used by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board over the past four years, across 18 neighbourhoods. My overall conclusion is that the PPA model has been hugely positive for partnership working. However, it is believed – and supported by partners – that a new PPA neighbourhood model needs to be developed. This has led to the development of a new programme focusing on community consultation which puts citizens at the heart of service delivery with an innovative problem-solving strategy approach to crime and disorder.

An example of this is the work currently being undertaken by Ashfield District Council, Nottinghamshire Police, Ashfield and Mansfield Clinical Commissioning Group and criminal justice service provider Catch22 to form a pilot team who will work in an area of Sutton, which has experienced stubbornly high demand for a number of years. Alongside individual support, will be the development of a resident-led partnership facilitated by an organisation called Connecting Communities. It is hoped that sustainable change can be achieved by working at both an individual and community level.



Hate Crime

One of the barriers to identifying the risk of hate crime is the fact that this crime remains substantially under-reported. Understanding the hidden harm that exists is key to protecting vulnerable individuals and this requires improvements in risk assessment, recording practices, intelligence, information-sharing and above all a commitment to increase the confidence of victims to report their experiences.

A year-long study carried out by community alliance Nottingham Citizens Commission into hate crime found just 20% of hate crimes are ever reported to the police. Of the 3,000 people the organisation interviewed, 262 had been subjected to very serious incidents while only two incidents had resulted in the perpetrators being sentenced. Among a number of measures to arise out of the research has been the creation of a new hate crime manager post within the Force, a new hate crime officer post at the City Council and the adoption of a multi-agency No Place for Hate Pledge.

Meanwhile, my Deputy, Chris Cutland, has worked with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to establish a Hate Crime Steering Group to allow us to develop an action plan to enhance the response to victims of hate crime. As Commissioner, I have committed funding for the dedicated posts within the city and county who will work within an improved partnership structure under the leadership of Ruth Hyde OBE, Chief Executive of Broxtowe Borough Council. In addition, my office has provided funding under the new Victim Support contract to provide better support to victims of hate crime to help them cope and recover. We are working with Nottinghamshire Police to run a media campaign to encourage greater reporting by victims of hate crime which will help paint a true picture of the scale of the issue in the county.

Hate Crime is unacceptable and we need to expose those who are driven by hate and ignorance. To do this we must ensure survivors are given the courage to seek help and justice.



Supporting grassroots crime prevention

Every year, an amazing amount of work is achieved by local organisations to keep our communities crime-free. This year my Community Safety Fund will ensure that 22 of these crime reduction schemes receive a share of some £250,000 to support their efforts.

The first recipient of this funding, Chat'bout, received its £15,000 cheque earlier this month at Hyson Green Youth Club. The organisation's My Streets, My Voice project aims to improve understanding and communication between the police and young people and help them establish independent liaison and scrutiny panels. Last year, Chat'bout received £9,153 to help strengthen the voice of under-represented young people in the county.

My annual Community Safety Fund allows me to make small grants of up to £25,000 to third sector community groups which aim to reduce crime and protect victims from harm. So far, we've earmarked £235,455 from the fund to local projects which support the goals set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Other beneficiaries include Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for its Scam Hub Projects supporting victims of scams and fraud and Nottinghamshire Women's Aid for its counselling service providing emotional support to women who have been affected by domestic abuse.

Enhanced support for victims of crime



Helping the recovery of victims of crime is at the centre of all our improvement plans. The enhanced support I have promised is now underway with the launch of a new service providing focused support according to a victim's needs.

In recognition that we cannot offer a 'one size fits all' support service for victims, the new system will tailor help according to the specific crime, helping individuals to recover and reduce their risk of repeat victimisation.

Built around a streamlined referral and triage system, the service assesses and plans what support the

victim requires – whether practical or emotional – to help them cope and recover. Four full-time equivalent caseworkers have been assigned to different locations across the county to provide intensive support to the most vulnerable victims, including victims of hate crime.

Following the procurement process for the new service, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) has been working with Victim Support since January, and agreed a new model of support which will be delivered by Victim Support from 1 April until the end of the year.

The victim support service will be working closely with the Integrated Restorative Justice Service – a contract which the NOPCC has awarded to Remedi – to ensure that all victims are offered the opportunity to take up restorative justice as part of their recovery journey. This style of justice could involve the offender meeting their victim to help repair the harm they have caused and understand their actions better, which can assist the victim in moving on. It is expected that the service will provide nearly 1,000 RJ interventions of which 110 will be direct face-to-face conferences.

Rural Crime in Focus



Rural crime is an area I have prioritised in my Police and Crime Plan and we are already taking practical steps to ensure our rural communities are safer.

In the months ahead, we will develop a Rural Crime Strategy to identify approaches to tackling issues that blight rural areas. As part of this, we aim to recruit 10 rural Special Constables to support local neighbourhood policing teams. Police officers have also undergone training to raise awareness and understanding of the complex issues faced by rural communities. This has been further supported through consultation with local parishes to identify the issues which are prevalent in these areas.

Later this year, I will be hosting a Rural Crime Conference to gather views and discuss how we might further reduce crime and improve safety in the future.

Driving improvements in victim experience

Victim satisfaction has improved significantly in recent years and the momentum of change will hopefully continue as we further embed the Victims' Code of Practice, which is being overseen by my Deputy, Nottinghamshire's victims' advocate Chris Cutland. The Victims' Code places demanding requirements on police forces to ensure victims are kept informed when they report crime to the police.

Chris is working incredibly hard with partners to ensure future services for victims are the best they can possibly be, placing their interests and needs first in every situation, and that the Force is consistently meeting its responsibilities under the code. All partners within the criminal justice system locally are applying the code. However early results revealed there was not a joined up approach and different organisations were doing different things. As the lead on a group in the city and county, Chris has brought all the partners together and these agencies, including the police, have since reviewed their policies and practices. A common victim personal statement now exists across the city and county to ensure victims are not being asked the same questions twice. Progress will be reviewed again at a later stage via dip sampling to ensure standards remain high.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Like hate crime and domestic violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is another substantially under-reported and therefore unpunished crime, making it impossible to measure accurately. Not understanding or communicating with our hard to reach communities can lead to 'hidden harm', crimes concealed behind barriers of fear, threat and violence. As a means of breaking down these barriers my deputy, Chris Cutland, and I have made tackling FGM a priority in the recent small grants funding round, awarding Nottinghamshire charity Mojatu Foundation with up to £12,000 to develop community-led awareness work focusing on FGM. The charity works with African and Caribbean communities focusing on the empowerment of girls, women and young people through community engagement, media, education and health.

My office recently provided the Foundation with funding to deliver a national FGM conference on February 12 bringing together individuals from practicing communities, FGM survivors and police, local authority and health representatives. A report is being compiled from the event to help inform further FGM work and Chris continues to work closely with the Foundation and the Nottingham FGM Board on this serious issue.

Teen Abuse

Recent national and local statistics have revealed alarming attitudes to domestic violence among teenagers, with many young women believing it is normal relationship behaviour. My office has funded three different organisations to work with teenagers to understand perceptions around domestic violence which have revealed teenagers as young as 14 have experienced abuse from boyfriends.

By putting in place a specialist worker who understands young people and abuse, young women will not only be safer but will be able to consider healthier relationships in the future. Chris is working with other agencies to form a real picture of the domestic violence threat which will inform commissioning in the future.





Award success

A great number of people are involved in making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live and their hard work and outstanding service was honoured last month in the annual Nottinghamshire Police Awards.

Winner of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership Award was Nottingham Street Triage Scheme – a multi-agency initiative between the police, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust putting police officers and mental health nurses together in two police cars to attend mental health incidents and improve outcomes for people in crisis. Initial findings from the first six months show that the STS has saved Nottinghamshire Police over £78,000.

Meanwhile, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Award was presented to A1 Housing, an organisation responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of Bassetlaw District Council's housing stock which has invested funds into projects which increase community cohesion and public safety, and help tenants to carve a better future for themselves by providing skills-based training and work experience to improve their employment prospects.

TACKLING sexual violence

Victims of sexual violence often require acute, specialist help to recover from their traumatic experiences and we are already committing investment into these areas to enhance the support they receive. This includes providing funding to help female survivors through the services delivered by Nottingham Rape Crisis as well as increasing help for male and female survivors of incest and sexual abuse through the services delivered by local charity ISAS.

Through my Community Safety Fund, we have also provided financial support to Community Interest Company Imara which works with children who have been sexually abused and their families.

We have also supported a number of applications from local voluntary organisations for national funding to support sexual abuse survivors and are currently working with commissioners in the city and county to understand need and develop a new service delivery model which will be in place in 2016.



In addition, we are continuing to work with Nottinghamshire Police and NHS England to ensure that our Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), locally called the Topaz Centre, has the resources it needs to support survivors effectively.

Domestic abuse research



As part of a commitment to increasing support to victims of domestic abuse, Chris is progressing a unique piece of research, led by the University of Leicestershire, into medium-risk repeat survivors, looking into what makes a difference to women survivors' safety and understanding what helps them to move on.

So far, the feedback indicates that long-term work involving the same support worker on a continuous basis is a key aid to recovery. Similarly, the research suggests that a support worker who looks at domestic abuse as part of a bigger picture and acts as a keyworker for all other agencies is another indicator for successful rehabilitation.

Due to the unique nature of this work, a national conference is being planned for November 2015 to share learning.



Teenagers praised for alcohol abuse campaigns

Teenagers in Ashfield have been working together to make a very positive contribution to community safety as part of a Dragon's Den-style competition.

The Ashfield Community Safety Partnership invited Year 10 students at each of the district's secondary schools to produce an awareness-raising campaign aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle and challenging the social acceptability of alcohol – something which

is very much on the agenda within my own Police and Crime Plan.

An entry from The Holgate Academy offered the innovative idea of putting messages on the sleeves around paper coffee cups, as well as the development of a smartphone app and use of "Your health in your hands" as a campaign strapline. At the final of the competition, of which I was a judge, they were picked as the overall winner and also took the award for innovation.

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:

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