



THE BEAT

Christmas is here and I am sure you are all looking forward to some festive cheer. It has been a tough year and I know for some of you, the worries will not ease during the holiday season. While we are still very much in the midst of a health crisis, I truly hope Christmas does bring you some fun, laughter and hope for 2021. Please do observe the national restrictions and be sensible about your contact with others to avoid putting people at unnecessary risk. We have all worked hard to keep Covid at bay and these efforts must continue for as long as they are needed. I hope 2021 will bring you good health, peace and prosperity.

Please enjoy this time and have a wonderful, safe Christmas.



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire
Police and Crime
Commissioner



Supporting our communities

Nottinghamshire's food banks are gearing up for a busy Christmas with demand for emergency food parcels likely to be high.

Instead of exchanging Christmas cards this year, my team and I made a donation of food to the Arnold Food Bank at Daybrook Baptist Church on December 9th. Our food banks, and the volunteers who run them, do a fantastic job helping people through crisis and adversity and we are honoured to support them.





Nottinghamshire returns to Tier 3

Normality is still some way off for Nottinghamshire and we find ourselves once again in the highest tier of Covid restrictions.

Despite infection rates dropping across the city and county during the national lockdown, we will continue to face the toughest restrictions to stem the spread of the coronavirus. It is a situation I'm monitoring closely and have made it very clear in my discussions with the Home Office that residents here are unhappy with the way the pandemic has been handled thus far. Information and guidelines have changed daily, making it incredibly difficult to plan and prepare a response. That said, I have stressed that the people of Nottinghamshire will abide by the instructions as they have throughout this crisis. We must all act responsibly to safeguard lives.

Nearly 500 fixed penalties have been issued for breaching the rules up to November 16. We understand this is a difficult time for everyone but there are no excuses for behaviour which could cost lives.

Spending Review

The Chancellor's recent Spending Review, announced in November, has given us an indication of the finance available for policing in Nottinghamshire next year and the implications this may have on the service.

Although the detail is yet to be confirmed, the review signals another challenging year for police funding with a 2,000 reduction in the number of new police officers previously promised nationally, a requirement for police forces to make efficiency savings totalling £120m, the freezing of police officers and staff wages and an expectation to raise Council Tax to help meet the costs of policing. In Nottinghamshire, this will mean an extra £15 for a Band D property, taking it to £244 a year. This will be consulted on.

After a tough and challenging year, this is disappointing news. We are expecting to know more about the police grant in the week prior to Christmas where I hope to have clarity about what this will mean locally.

New faces join policing family

More than 50 new officers at a variety of career stages have joined Nottinghamshire Police, bringing a welcomed boost to the frontline.

November saw a socially-distanced Passing out Parade for a new cohort of officers who have all completed their training while an Attestation ceremony at force headquarters, attended by the Chief Constable, marked the start of an 18-week training programme for a team of new starters.



Further new faces joined the policing family as transferees from other forces, including a married couple who have returned to the force after completing six years in Western Australia.

Nottinghamshire Police has welcomed around 350 new officers since September 2019 as part of the national Uplift programme. This is exactly what our communities want and need to improve safety. More than 25 per cent of these new officers come from BAME backgrounds and more than half are women reflecting the huge amount of work that we have undertaken to attract individuals from different backgrounds and become truly representative of the county we serve.



Door opens for crime prevention funding

Community groups and non-profit organisations are being given a fresh opportunity to help me prevent crime and violence and support the vulnerable.

The doors have officially opened for applications to my 2021-22 Community Safety and Violence Reduction Unit Fund which will invest up to £250k into projects that support my Police and Crime Plan ambitions to protect vulnerable people from harm, help and support victims and tackle crime and antisocial behaviour among other priorities.

Grants of up to £25k will be available and I am particularly keen to support projects which deliver diversionary activity to engage with people at risk of serious violence, crime or ASB in the 18-24 age range.

Other priority areas for me include protecting young people from sexual and criminal exploitation, safeguarding older and vulnerable people from online fraud and doorstep crime and initiatives that work in partnership with the force to build positive relationships between BME and new and emerging communities.

Organisations have until midday on Monday 11th January to apply for a share of the funding. For further details visit my website at: www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

Free security for burglary victims in Newark

Safety partners are moving ahead at pace with plans to cut crime in the Chatham and Northgate areas of Newark.



This month, Chief Constable Craig Guildford and I wrote to burglary victims in these neighbourhoods offering the possibility of free security improvements to reduce their risk of being targeted.

Among the measures on offer are state-of-the-art solar security cameras, new fencing, high-security doors and windows. It is anticipated up to 240 homes will be improved.

It is all part of the Safer Streets Partnership, led by my office, which has secured a £550k Home Office grant to improve safety and reduce crime in these areas of Newark.

Alongside my colleagues at Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police, I have set aside

£102k to undertake free target hardening (security improvements) at the homes most at risk. Other investment areas include new street lighting, which is already underway, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and environmental improves as well as additional enforcement.

The programme's newly-appointed Burglary Reduction Officer, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Eleanor Smalley, from Nottinghamshire Police, is currently calling at homes and undertaking free risk assessments on eligible properties and I have also visited the area to meet burglary victims.

Meanwhile, Newark officers have continued to deliver a free bike marking service as part of the project, marking around 30 bikes on residents' doorsteps in a bid to reduce theft.



RESPECT FOR SHOPWORKERS

A national awareness week got underway last month highlighting the plight of shopworkers following increased reports of physical and verbal abuse.

The National Respect for Shopworkers' Week is a week-long, annual event, organised by retail union Usdaw, which ran from November 16 to 22 and urges the public to show greater respect towards shop workers and retail staff.

Ushaw warned incidents of violence and aggression against retail workers had doubled during the pandemic as a result of shopworkers being given greater responsibility to protect the public through the supervision of social distancing rules, the 10pm curfew and the requirement to wear masks.

Retail workers play a crucial role in our communities and put their own safety at risk during the health crisis as key workers. It is simply unacceptable that they should face abuse while performing their job.



Neighbourhood task force makes an impact

A specialist police team set up to focus on community concerns has arrested or interviewed 111 people since January.

Since its launch at the start of the year, the Operation Reacher Team in Gedling has carried out 146 stop and searches, made 81 drug seizures, taken 29 weapons off the streets and seized nearly a quarter of a million pounds in cash. Much of the £241,905 cash, which was often seized in large bundles of notes, is believed to be linked to drug dealing.

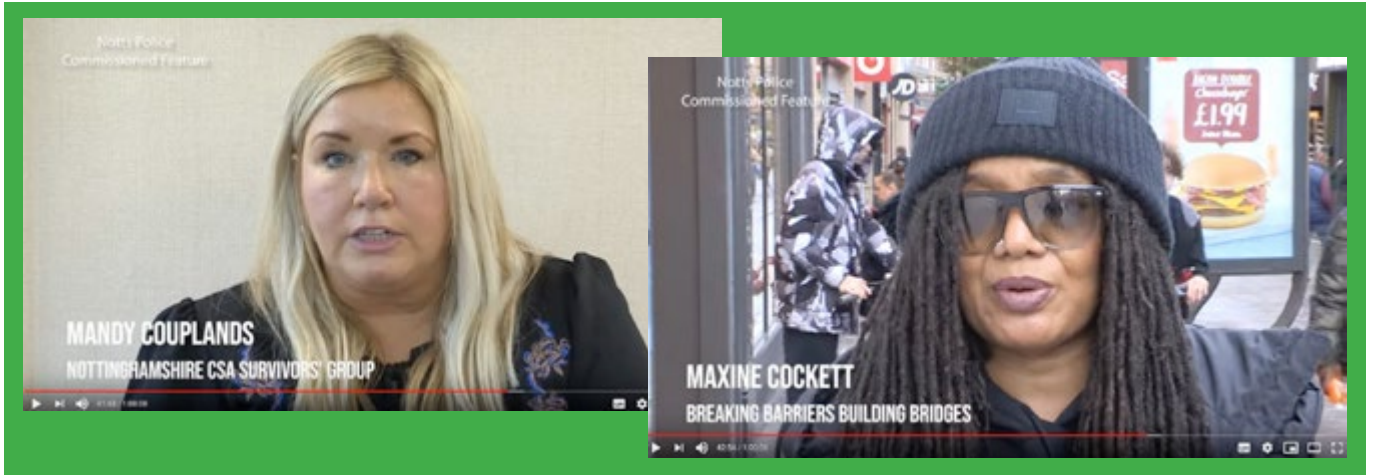
Gedling was the second Reacher team to be introduced after the original Bestwood Reacher Team and the model is now replicated in all 12 neighbourhood policing areas.

The approach has been very successful and these results will make a big difference on the lives of those who live and work in the Gedling area.



Show goes on for Police awards ceremony

Nottinghamshire Police's annual awards ceremony took to the small screen as part of an innovative idea to ensure this year's event went ahead amid the health crisis.



The force commissioned its own documentary, Notts Police: Operation 2020, which saw officers, staff and volunteers honoured for their efforts and dedication during the past 12 months.

The documentary, which was presented by Iain Chambers of Gem 106 Radio fame and was generously funded by sponsors, was broadcast on Notts TV on Saturday 28 November and also premiered on Nottinghamshire Police's YouTube channel and Facebook.

Highlights included the dramatic moment officers took the opportunity to save the life of a terminally ill child, the way a boy turned his life around thanks to the force's remarkable cadet programme and how an officer bravely put herself in danger to stop a killer's rampage.

My own 'PCC's Partnership Award 2020' went Nottingham CSA Survivors' Group in recognition of its valuable and ground-breaking work to increase awareness of the abuse suffered by children in the care of the Nottinghamshire councils. The group encouraged survivors to come forward and campaigned for a public inquiry and improve access to therapy and support.

I was delighted to present the award to three key members of the group: Mickey Summers, Mandy Coupland and David Hollas at a socially distanced meeting in October.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Mickey recently passed away. Mickey was determined to improve the experiences of survivors in Nottinghamshire and his work with the CSA Survivors' Group created a legacy of lives and services changed for the better.

My 'PCC's Community Safety Award' went to Breaking Barriers Building Bridges (BBBB) working in partnership with Nottingham Forest Community Trust. BBBB are a team of skilled youth workers who work in key meeting places in the City to engage and support young people away from harm and crime. They are supported by Graham Moran and the team at Nottingham Forest Community Trust to sustain youth outreach in areas where conflict is most likely to arise.

The team, led by Maxine Cockett, has built good and trusted relationships with young people and the wider community in Nottingham. Despite the restrictions, as at September, Breaking Barriers Building Bridges had safely supported 350 young people in person, as well as many more through their social media platforms. Through their efforts we have seen a reduction in reports of violence within the area they operate and a safer space for the community.

You can find out more in the Notts Police: Operation 2020 documentary, available on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/k4EiYnKC6ps>



Spotlight shines on partnership work to tackle knife crime

Determined efforts to tackle knife crime across Nottinghamshire have been showcased as part of a national enforcement campaign.

Operation Sceptre launched on Monday 9 November to provide a snapshot of the ongoing year-round work undertaken to combat knife crime involving police, partners and local communities all together.

The week highlighted the pioneering work of Nottinghamshire's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which has delivered intensive support to more than 900 young people at risk of violence and has reached a further 80,000 through targeted social media.

So far in 2020-21, the VRU has invested approximately £250k into projects to develop young people's confidence, skills and motivation to help them resolve the problems known to escalate the risk of violence and an additional £50k to children's charities and non-profit organisations to support the mental wellbeing of young people and their families during the coronavirus pandemic.

One of the VRU's flagship mentorship programmes, custody intervention scheme U-Turn, has supported 24 young people aged 16-26, arrested for various offences, and helped them move away from crime and make a fresh start.

All 24 have stayed on the right side of the law since volunteering to join the U-Turn project. Twelve of

them have progressed into education or training, four have attended a bespoke six-week course designed to affect change in offending behaviour, two have gained employment and another two are now actively seeking employment.

In other awareness work during Operation Sceptre, one of the VRU's newly appointed Community Ambassadors Courtney Rose, founder of community charity and independent school Take 1 Studio in Nottingham, launched a new film on social media 'Know Your Knives' depicting a distraught mother who discovers one of the kitchen knives in her daughter's schoolbag.

It was co-produced by pupils attending the school, alongside their film teacher Gavin Gordon and the VRU, and warns parents to pay attention to their children's behaviour, concerns and associations as well as their household knives.

On the enforcement side of Operation Sceptre, police made 20 knife-related arrests during the week, stopped and searched 121 people, carried out 45 weapons sweeps in open spaces and seized 26 knives during arrests, warrants and proactive operations.



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

You can follow us on:
 @NottsPCC  NottsPCC

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