



Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter | March 2021

THE BEAT

Your priorities are my priorities. Every year, people tell me they want more police officers in their communities and I am immensely proud to have delivered. Our frontline has grown by 260 officers over the past two years alone and another 100 are on the way. These extra resources have helped put Nottinghamshire in an enviable position – as one of the best-performing forces in the country when it comes to cutting crime. Together with our partners, we are also helping more people to tackle their problems and access the support they need. The list of achievements is endless but maintaining this success is critical and I am always looking at what more I can do. Amidst a pandemic, it is more important than ever that we respond to the needs of vulnerable people and remove any risks that increase the risk of harm across our communities.



Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire
Police and Crime
Commissioner



New boost to frontline policing

A further 100 officers are on their way to Nottinghamshire following the finalisation of my budget for 2021-22.

The new additions will be a huge boost to the frontline, helping us to build on the progress already made to tackle crime and delivering on my promise to increase police visibility.

During the past two years, we have recruited an additional 260 officers and by March 2024, almost 500 additional

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officer posts will have been created in just five years. The investment has been accompanied by a significant reduction in crime across Nottinghamshire at twice the rate of the national average. Meanwhile, we have sustained reductions in knife crime, outperforming national and regional performance.

Of the 100 extra officers, 36 will be deployed to the successful Operation Reacher teams, 20 will go into CID and 15 will boost our response teams.

This year's budget, which has been set at £233.2m – an increase of £13.6m – has been developed in close consultation with the Chief Constable and other partners. This incorporates the Government's expectation that PCCs will use the full precept level announced in the provisional funding settlement. This will see most properties in the City and the County paying a total of £189.98 towards policing in 2021-22, representing an increase of £11.62.



Collaboration success

Joint working arrangements first developed six years ago are helping to protect critical support services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Since 2014, my team and I have been working closely with the City and County Councils and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) through multi-agency governance groups to co-commission effective support services for the recovery and safety of survivors.

The arrangements are underpinned by multi-funder legal agreements which ensure the partners make the best use of the expertise and resources within each organisation. Since 2014, local funders have been able to protect domestic abuse budgets. They have also been able to respond swiftly to changes in domestic abuse provision and soaring demand during the pandemic's lockdowns with local authorities helping to inform the way I have allocated £950k of MoJ emergency Covid funding.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence is a top priority for all partner agencies across Nottinghamshire and our shared ambitions have delivered far-reaching improvements for both providers and their service-users. Together, we have proved beyond doubt that working collaboratively to address pressures and problems when they arise and understand the complexity of abuse has put us in a stronger position than many other areas of the country.

Crime falls faster in Nottinghamshire than national average

Increased Neighbourhood Policing and targeted enforcement have driven down crime by almost 20,000 offences over the last year.

New localised data released by Nottinghamshire Police shows crime has reduced by nearly a fifth in the last year which is twice the rate of the national average up to November 2020.

Fewer crimes mean fewer victims and this strong performance shows we are using our resources to maximum effect. By the end of March, the force will have taken on 260 additional officers, with a further 100 new posts in the next financial year. These new recruits have been positioned in the best places including the new Reacher teams to deliver results.

Clearly, we can see the focus on a strong frontline is paying dividends. What is also particularly pleasing is that knife crime continues to go down, outperforming the national and regional performance. We are doing everything we can to maintain the momentum of these reductions so that people feel even safer in their homes and neighbourhoods.



National plea to secure community-based domestic abuse services

PCCs nationally have written a joint letter to the Home Secretary calling for greater support for domestic abuse services delivered within the community.

Together, we are worried about the potential impact of the new Domestic Abuse Bill on community-based provision which is utilised by more than 70% of victims.

The Bill includes a new statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide victims of domestic abuse and their children with support in refuges and other safe accommodation.

Although this is welcomed, we believe it should be extended so families can rely on receiving effective, holistic support in the community with specific services for perpetrators. Many of these organisations are suffering financially through the pandemic and need the reassurance of future funding.

Since 2014, I have increased domestic abuse funding in Nottinghamshire from just under £500k to around £1m in 2019/20 – 14% of my total commissioning budget – showing my commitment to supporting the recovery of survivors. A further £1m has been distributed to help charities respond to increased demand amid Covid-19.

Nottinghamshire hosts meeting with Domestic Abuse Commissioner

Nottinghamshire welcomed Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs to a virtual meeting in January to discuss surging demand for domestic abuse support during the Covid-19 crisis.

Support providers from across the county joined my deputy, Emma Foody, in delivering an insight into pressures facing frontline support workers as they respond to increased calls for help amid the pandemic and the need for funding to sustain services in the long-term.

The volunteers and staff who deliver support have demonstrated remarkable dedication and commitment throughout the health crisis and continue to work long hours to help those most in need but many are under immense strain. Further reinforcements are needed but it is almost impossible for commissioners and providers to plan ahead to meet future demand because of short-term Government funding decisions.

We welcomed the opportunity to raise these issues with the Commissioner and increase understanding of the investment needed to stabilise support beyond the pandemic.

Support for Domestic Abuse Charter

Tackling domestic abuse is a top priority in Nottinghamshire alongside supporting vulnerable survivors.

Last month, Deputy PCC Emma Foody joined Nottinghamshire Police in signing up to a new Domestic Abuse Charter calling on employers to offer greater support to any worker experiencing violence.

The Charter has been developed by the GMB Union, which represents thousands of workers across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and calls on employers to take shared responsibility for the challenges facing their workers and provide adequate support to help them, especially those experiencing abuse or violence.





Safety makeover in Newark well-underway

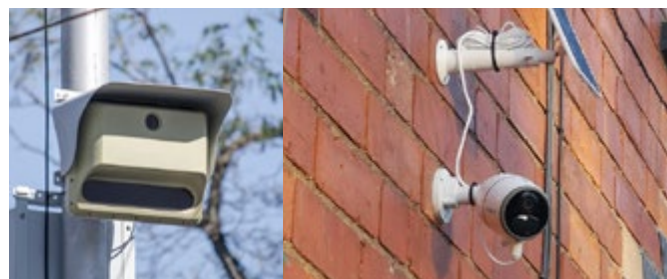
A £550k project to increase safety in Newark has delivered a series of improvements to the town including sophisticated crime-fighting technology and advanced security.

The Safer Streets programme is being delivered by my office in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council and has already brought upgraded street lighting, new automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to detect crime and free security improvements – including solar-powered 4G cameras – at vulnerable properties.

The programme, which focuses on the Northgate and Chatham Court areas of the town, is also delivering an extra 90 hours of police patrols per month while cyclists are benefitting from free GPS cycle trackers and security marking to protect their bikes from theft.

One of the driving ambitions of Safer Streets is to build resilience within the community and support people to overcome the issues impacting their lives and safety. Work has now started on an innovative Community Hub where locals will be able to access a host of services including housing, policing enquiries and other council support.

Plans to expand Neighbourhood Watch in the area are also underway and residents are being encouraged to join the force's Neighbourhood Alert system. If you have not joined already, you can sign up at: <https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/#SignUpSection>



Investment to improve cycle safety

In a world when cycling is an encouraged form of transport, it's important that we support the safety of those cyclists on our roads. I have been told that there are some antisocial and dangerous drivers putting riders at risk.

That's why I am working closely with the Force to increase the number of prosecutions brought against drivers who flout the law and supports investment in new technology which will help officers process helmet or dash-cam footage submitted by the public more effectively, ready for use in court.

The force carries out proactive exercises to police the close passing of cyclists and, thanks to the uplift in police numbers is the county there has been a boost in roads policing officers.

Road safety officers really value the helmet cam footage sent by cyclists and appreciate their support in keeping Nottinghamshire's roads safe. While it is not always possible to proceed with every item of footage submitted due to evidential thresholds not being met, officers are working incredibly hard to prosecute drivers where there is a clear breach of the law.

Protecting all road users, including cyclists, is a top priority and I will continue to do everything possible, alongside the Force, to ensure those who flout the law are held accountable for their actions.



Community projects share £352k

Community projects across the county have received vital funding to help rescue vulnerable people from the clutches of crime.

A total of 23 charities and non-profit groups have successfully applied for grants under my Community Safety and Violence Reduction Unit Fund 2021-22.

These projects will help me tackle the driving forces behind crime and provide people of all ages with the support and opportunities they need to live a life free from crime and harm.

Among those to have received awards in the latest round are The Inspire and Achieve Foundation which has secured £25,000 for the 'Through the Gate' programme delivering intensive mentoring to offenders in a community setting and Evolve Nottingham CIC which has received £15,000 to fund phase two of The R Programme which helps young people build resilience and develop life skills to make safer choices.

Meanwhile, Al-Huraya has received £25,000 to provide ongoing crime prevention support to BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) communities through its Growth+ initiative, with a specific focus on tackling serious violence and organised crime.



£400k boost for domestic abuse and sexual violence support

Nottinghamshire has been earmarked for more than £400k of extra funding to increase support to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence amid the pandemic.

The MoJ has awarded the county a grant of £424,514 – on top of the usual Victim Services Grant – to help support providers expand their services to cope with the additional pressure and strain of soaring demand during the health crisis.

My team is also preparing to submit a bid to the MoJ for additional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) funding.

During 2020-21, I have secured £924k from the MoJ to support local services delivering help to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The many volunteers and support workers across Nottinghamshire have shown extraordinary commitment during the health crisis but they are under immense strain and I will continue to push for the resources and funds needed to help them cope with these pressures.





Nottinghamshire secures extra £880K to tackle serious violence

Nottinghamshire's efforts to prevent young people being drawn into violence have been boosted by an additional £880k Home Office grant.

The Government has announced a further £35.5m to help Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across the country continue their work to break the cycle of violence in 2021-22.

Nottinghamshire's VRU has been allocated £880k to support its work which has already provided help to 1546 young people while reaching a further 142,000 young people through targeted social media. The team continues to work with some of Nottinghamshire's



most prolific offenders – members of street gangs who would be in prison without specialist intervention funded by the VRU. Many have embarked on education and training since agreeing to support, taking the first tentative steps to a life free of crime.

The additional funding will help prevention experts sustain the reductions in knife crime achieved so far, which have seen a 4% drop according to the most recent figures.

Survey on dog theft in Nottinghamshire

Following a national rise in dog theft, my Deputy Emma Foody launched a survey to better understand public views on dog theft.

The strength of feeling was obvious from the huge number of respondents, despite the fact that dog theft has not increased in line with national trends in Nottinghamshire.

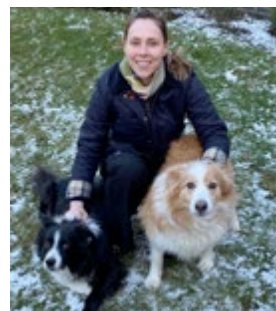
Emma is calling for tougher penalties for offenders while raising public awareness of the risks and the prevention measures that can be taken.

As Emma says: "There is growing justification for pet theft to become a more serious offence and quite simply, unless we make dogs too hot to handle and the penalty

too high to risk, many more dog owners will face the pain and trauma of losing their beloved pets.

"In reality, dog thieves rarely, if ever, receive the maximum seven-year jail term available. In any case, it does not reflect the seriousness of the crime. Dogs are part of the family and loss in such dreadful circumstances can take a lifetime to heal."

Watch out for Emma's prevention video and the next steps in her campaign.



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

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