

Leicester City NEWSLETTER



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities – Your Commissioner

MAY 2022



Visiting the statue of suffragette Alice Hawkins.

A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to my first newsletter compiled for the Leicester City district. I believe that it is essential that we all work together to make life safer for all those who live, work or visit our area.

I thought that you might like to know what I've been up to and what that might mean for local residents.

I would also be grateful if you could share this email with your contacts and friends, encouraging them to do the same. Cheeky I know, but if you don't ask...

Rupert Matthews
Police & Crime Commissioner



Planting a flowering cherry tree at Juniper Lodge with my colleague Jess Ball.



Putting down roots

To commemorate Earth Day and to celebrate the bravery of survivors of crime, our People Zone Coordinator, Jess, and I went to plant a tree in our New Parks People Zone. We chose Juniper Lodge, one of Leicester City's Sexual Assault Referral Centres, as the site for the tree.

Staying true to this year's theme, which is all about "Investing in our Planet", we planted a Cherry Blossom – a symbol of Spring and renewal. I hope it encourages many more of us to get planting and reflecting on what we can do to help one another and our planet.

COMMISSIONER'S ADVISORY GROUP

Local people should be able to influence the way in which policing services are provided.

That is why I've launched a 'Commissioner's Advisory Group.' I have been recruiting members

who will give me information about local issues, events of which I should be aware, views on local campaigns and so on.

I want it to be truly representative of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which means I've been looking for people from all areas,

backgrounds and with differing experiences.

Everyone in the group will be independent, impartial and willing to express views, good and bad.

Follow us on social media to hear what they have to say.

Temporary Chief Constable Robert Nixon and Anne Cowan JP attending the Attestation for new police officers at Force HQ.



Going up!

I'm delighted to be able to announce a significant increase in officer numbers for Leicestershire Police.

The national 'uplift' programme of 20,000 additional police officers nationally will see police numbers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland rise – and rise significantly.

This operation has meant an additional 178 officers for Leicestershire Police by the end of year 2. However, we have recruited 329 officers by Dec 21. This is an additional 7% over our Op Uplift allocation based on year 2.



Meeting one of the cadets.

Our recruitment has been brilliant over the last quarter, and investment in our force remains strong. As you can see via our publicly available quarterly officer recruitment statistics as part of operation uplift: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-december-2021>

As of December 2021, our current headcount is 2,327. That is an increase of 16% compared to our baseline at the beginning of Uplift.

I am proud that Leicestershire Police have delivered the proportionally largest increase in Police Officers over this period of the operation.

Future looks £3.5 million brighter for VRN

I am bowled over to say that Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Crime, Police and Probation, recently confirmed that our Violence Reduction Network (VRN) will be eligible to apply for more than £3.5 million to support initiatives over the next three years. This is a first for the VRN who, up until now, has had to rely on year-by-year funding and announcements.

For those who don't know, the VRN brings together groups,

organisations and communities to design programmes that will help prevent and reduce serious violence in our city.

I had been lobbying for a more sustainable funding formula that can provide certainty to the VRN and its partners, and I know how much Grace, our VRN Director, has been working towards this outcome.

Three-year funding will mean the world of difference for the

long-term impact that the VRN can make locally. It is a real testament to the hard work that Grace and the team have put in, and now they will be able to provide stable, sustainable and longer-term support to those most in need.



Spring cleaning in Braunstone

To show my support for the Community Payback Scheme, I went over to Braunstone and got stuck in with their giant litter pick. I certainly won't be wearing a suit next time, but I was more than happy to help and to try and raise the profile of the amazing Community Payback Scheme.

I am thrilled to give some exposure to the Community Payback Scheme Leicester, whereby offenders provide unpaid work to pay back the city's community for their crimes.

The scheme is an alternative to prison and helps offenders recognise the impact of their crimes on victims and the wider



Helping the team from Community Payback clear flytipping from allotments at Braunstone.

community. Offenders perform unpaid work, including removing graffiti, clearing wasteland and decorating public places and buildings.

I was proud to be part of the Braunstone Big Spring Clean Up

and gain an insight into the huge value the Community Payback scheme brings to our neighbourhoods. Many hands make light work, and it was refreshing to see just how much we got done.

The commissioner will keep on visiting your area

I have begun holding a series of "Community Thursdays", when every Thursday I will be visiting a different area of our City and two Counties.

My most recent Community Thursday in Leicester saw me visit the city's LGBT Centre. I had a very productive and reassuring conversation there with Jackie, who told me that the LGBT community did not have any major problems and it was important for me to continue to establish positive relationships with community-minded groups.

Following this, I went to answer questions and discuss local crime and policing throughout the city with members of the of the Hindu community at the Geeta Bhavan Mandir. I have to say, the welcome and hospitality could not have been better.



And finally, I met with Simon from Leicester BID (Business Improvement District) to see how the PCC, business and the police can work together to ensure our independent businesses in the city feel and remain safe. You will be advised in advance

when I will be in your area for a Community Thursday, so that you may take part or send me your views on topical issues. I believe that it is essential that we work together to make Leicester City an even safer place to live, work or visit.



Saddened by the death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole



The police HQ flag was lowered to half-mast in his honour.

Like so many others, I was shocked and extremely saddened to learn that our former Chief Constable, Simon Cole, had died. Simon was the epitome of a great Chief Constable whose commitment to public service was unswerving. We live in a safer place thanks to his leadership.

I know that the officers and staff, past and present, of Leicestershire Police are feeling his death keenly.

It was always clear to me that he was held in high regard and genuine affection at all levels. My thoughts and sympathies

are with his family, friends and colleagues. I sincerely hope that they are given the time and space to grieve in peace.

Following the announcement that Simon was to retire, I asked the Deputy Chief Constable, Rob Nixon, to become Acting Chief Constable during the recruitment process.

I have now started the search for the substantive post holder – it is a remarkably complex process, and I am firmly focussed finding the right person to be the next Chief Constable for residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Chief Constable Simon Cole.

Helping to keep the area safe

All too often we hear people say, 'someone should DO something.' Well, I am. Projects to help keep the City safe are invited to apply for funding from my Commissioner's Safety Fund – the details are on my website.

There is £400,000 available over 2022-23. The Fund is open for applications from any community-based group, parish council, school or business (if the business can match-fund and supply their service free

Visit <https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Commissioning/Current-Funding-Available/Commissioners-Safety-Fund.aspx> to read more about community safety grants

of charge) and grants up to a maximum of £10,000 will be allocated per project.



That's Wrong!

I am proud to support a major campaign that is now underway across Leicester, encouraging men to reject unacceptable behaviour towards women.

I, alongside Leicestershire Police and the Violence Reduction Network, and with support from Leicester City Council, commissioned the "You're Right, That's Wrong" campaign.

Violence or harassment against women is never acceptable. It should not fall to women to change their routines or lifestyles to avoid being abused or harmed.

The idea behind the campaign is that it encourages young men, aged 18-30, to challenge unacceptable misogynistic behaviour towards women, and will encourage men to become

Launching the campaign on the campus of De Montfort University.

active bystanders by calling out negative attitudes and intolerable behaviour among their peers when they witness this type of conduct.

The campaign is promoted in and outside of bars, pubs and clubs across Leicester City Centre and will also run across social media platforms, including Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube.

Live Safe – wherever you are

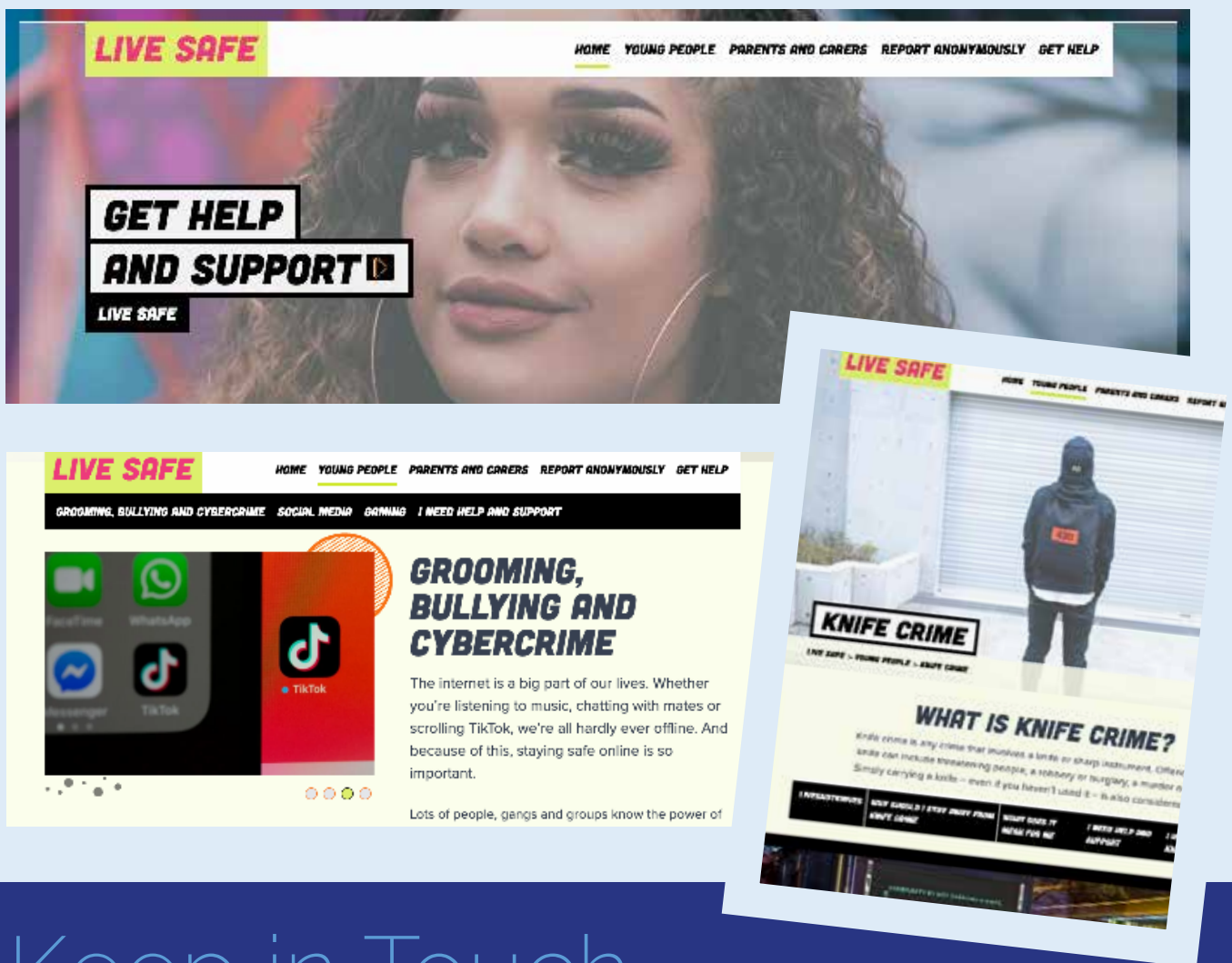
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and

Rutland to receive support and to explore issues relating to safety.

As 'everyone has a role to play,' the website aims to equip young people and parents with

factual information about key dangers facing young people such as grooming, gangs, child exploitation, and knife crime. It tells you how to get support and ways to anonymously report crimes and concerns.

It also includes information about the 'Make a Stand Against Violence' campaign which teaches young people how to take action against violence and look out for their friends.



Keep in Touch

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time using these contact details:

Email: opcc@leics.police.uk

Telephone: 0116 229 8980

Website: www.leics.pcc.police.uk

Facebook: LeicsPCC

Twitter: @LeicsPCC

You can also keep up to date with my day to-day work via Twitter, Facebook and my weekly blog.