



Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Making Leicestershire Safer

I am pleased to report that Leicestershire remains one of the safest force areas in the East Midlands!

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed impressive performance in several key crime categories in the 12 months up to March 2023.

When comparing crimes per 1,000 population, Leicestershire had the lowest rate of Violence Without Injury offences at 11.4 per 1,000 population in the East Midlands region. The national average is 12.4 offences per 1,000 population.

The area has also had the lowest rate of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents per

1,000 population for the past 15 years when comparing other forces in the East Midlands – an issue I have been robustly addressing since my election.

In other areas of performance, the force area saw a four per cent reduction in stalking and harassment offences – the largest percentage decrease in the East Midlands region alongside Nottinghamshire.

The force is consistently outperforming others in the East Midlands with the effect of making our streets and public spaces even safer. The challenge now is to continue the momentum and deliver further improvements in the year ahead.

Out and about around the County

While the weather hasn't always been kind over the Summer, I'm grateful to Leicestershire's many residents who have warmly welcomed me as I've visited the county.



In Market Bosworth to consult with shop owners and publicans

In Market Bosworth to consult with shop owners and publicans about some issues that were causing a problem a few months ago. It seems that prompt and sustained action by the local beat officers have got on top of the situation.



With County Councillor Kevin Feltham

In Kibworth to meet county councillor Kevin Feltham about speeding traffic on the A6 and ways in which engineering works might be used to deal with the problems.

On patrol in Wigston with local officers. Great to see them solving local problems by working with the community and local partners.



On patrol in Wigston

Tugby Lay-by, the scene of repeated anti-social behaviour. PC Amy Stokes showed me where she caught three men and issued community resolutions - after which reports of ASB dropped sharply. Great result from great policing.



Tugby Lay-by

Market Harborough with PC James Monohan showing me where he ran enforcement action on e-bikes. Two were confiscated for having illegally powerful motors and one man was arrested. Effective proactive policing to crack down on a serious issue causing much concern.



In Market Harborough with PC James Monohan

The police station at Melton Mowbray - complete with the knife bin taking dangerous weapons off our streets. Tackling knife crime with the help of my Violence Reduction Network is one of my leading priorities. And it appears to be working.



Knife bin in Melton Police Station



Graffiti Wall - Marlene Reid Centre

Helping to make Leicestershire safer

Our community partners do a great job helping to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour on our streets and in our communities. I am proud to be supporting their efforts again with another £400k of funding this year.

Applications will open for the third round of my Community Safety Fund for 2023-24 on

4 December, and there will be further rounds in 2024. Charities and community groups can bid for a slice of the cash to help me prevent crime and increase public safety.

Grants of up to £10k are available for projects that support my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

In the two years since I launched this fund, I have seen sweeping improvements in areas struggling with drug crime, anti-social behaviour and violence. I am determined to do even more.

For more information visit: <https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/CSF-2023-2024/>

£400k home safety boost

Victims of high-impact crimes will be eligible for free home security improvements thanks to a new project designed by my team.

My office successfully applied for funding from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to help people cope in the aftermath of crime. Part of the funding will be invested in a new free home security service over the next two years benefitting victims of burglary, domestic abuse,

anti-social behaviour and various other offences.

Helping people recover and cope with life after crime is vital. The emotional and physical effects of crime can last many years and prevent people from enjoying their lives and freedom as they should. High-quality security devices such as door alarms, timer switchers, door chains and window/door locks can help to provide peace of mind and ease anxiety.

The new service will receive referrals exclusively from the victim support services I already fund including my flagship Victim First service. This is part of my continuing strategy to prevent crime.



Ministry
of Justice

New efforts to crackdown on knife crime

The police have been given the green light to ramp up the use of powers to protect the public from knife crime and violence.

The Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, and I are in agreement that to save lives Leicestershire Police should increase their use of tactics to prevent violence, including the use of stop and search.

Protecting law-abiding citizens is my top priority. Any action that can prevent the tragic loss of life and keep our communities safe must be welcomed.

When used appropriately and responsibly, stop and search is highly effective policing tool to help rid our streets of dangerous weapons. These tough measures will be welcomed by our communities, especially families with young children and teenagers who worry about violence. As Commissioner, I will continue to scrutinise the way in which stop and search is carried out to reassure the public that officers execute these powers with fairness and integrity at all times.



New powers to sack corrupt officers

I am pleased to see new rules to sack corrupt police officers quickly when they fall short of standards.

Public confidence has been rocked by recent national cases involving the disgusting actions of a small minority of officers. This is why I fully support changes to tackle corruption at the earliest opportunity.

The new rules will ensure all officers are appropriately vetted during their service and will mean officers who fail a re-vetting test while in post to be quickly sacked. In addition, a finding of gross misconduct will automatically now result in a police officer's dismissal unless exceptional circumstances apply.

We need a clear approach to weed out any officer not fit to serve so we can restore public confidence in policing. This will only happen with a vigorous disciplinary and vetting system that swiftly removes those who fail the public and bring their force into disrepute.



Ban on Nitrous Oxide

MPs have moved one step closer to imposing new laws to make the possession of laughing gas illegal.

Under the proposed law change, anyone found carrying nitrous oxide will face a prison sentence of up to two years or a hefty fine.

I am pleased MPs voted overwhelmingly to have the drug re-categorised as a class C drug. Nitrous oxide use is closely linked with ASB and has serious health implications, much of which is still being researched.

Banning illicit use of the drug is the only sensible solution.

Improved support for victims of crime

I am always looking for ways to improve the care we provide to victims of crime. Even though our current services are good, I want to make them even better!

This is why I have developed a new model of support offering help in the way victims have told us they want it.

The service, under the Victim First banner, will include a new telephone and triage service, ongoing trauma trained phone and face-to-face support and specialist help for young people aged under 18 and 19-24-year-olds.

The hunt is on for a provider who will deliver the £1.5m contract over the next three years. All being well, the service will launch from April next year.



Victim First

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

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

Please note we are unable to take details of crimes or incidents.

If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency, or dial 101 if it is a non-emergency.

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



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