



Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Tackling the scourge of knives

Driving down knife crime and violence is a priority not just for the police but for a whole range of agencies across the force area.

These partners came together for an event marking Operation Sceptre – a week-long national campaign held at different times throughout the year to tackle knife crime.

The event was held at the Clock Tower in Leicester City Centre and drew representatives from youth services, Leicester Community Safety Partnership, Leicestershire Police, Turning Point, LiveSafe and many more. Alongside

raising awareness of the joint work underway to divert young people from serious violence, members of the public were invited to talk to attendees about any concerns.

Serious violence and knife crime tears families and communities apart. We know these issues aren't going to disappear overnight. This is why we have put our minds and resources together to deal with the complex and multi-layered issues that drive some young people down the wrong path where they can be harmed or harm others.

Building safe and prosperous communities

Young people at risk of being drawn into serious violence have been benefitting from free sessions to uplift their skills and boost their mental and physical health thanks to funding from my Safety Fund.

During 2023-24, I supported a range of prevention and early intervention projects to protect young people aged under 25 from involvement in violence in high-harm communities.

The Braunstone Foundation secured more than £19k for 'The Grove Community Hub' in West Leicester and has since delivered 125 sessions while engaging more than 200 young people from all backgrounds. The organisation also delivered Sports Leadership and Dance Leadership Level 2 qualifications over the summer, providing 12 young people with the opportunity to further their qualifications and volunteer at their Summer Holiday Scheme.



Unveiling my plan for the future

Since my re-election I've spent a huge amount of time speaking to residents and businesses to understand the issues that matter most to our communities. These insights are now the foundation of my new Police and Crime Plan.

Building safer and more prosperous communities will drive everything I do over the next four years, and I look forward to working with the force, residents and our many



partners in the delivery of my ambitions.

Almost 3,000 residents and more than 1,100 key partners responded to my online survey to ensure my Plan represents the needs of those who live and work in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Six key priority areas will steer this work forward:

- Violence and Vulnerability
- Road Safety
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Neighbourhood Crime
- Business Crime
- Rural Crime.

For the full Plan visit:
<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Police-and-Crime-Plan>

Vital support for victims of crime



Thousands of people – many of them young – have been referred to a support service I fund to aid the recovery of those impacted by crime.

My Victim First service accepted 8,143 referrals in the six-month period from April with rising numbers of young victims reaching out for help.

The service was redesigned earlier this year and now offers a raft of new features including telephone and triage support and specialist help for people aged under 18 and between 19-24.

Thankfully the force area escaped the disorder seen in other areas in the summer, however Victim First was on-hand regardless, providing drop-in sessions at community venues for anyone affected.

You can self-refer to Victim First by visiting: <https://victimfirst.org> or alternatively call 0800 953 9595.

Dogged detective work recognised

Violence in all its forms is taken seriously across the force and officers relentlessly pursue those who threaten or cause harm.

I recently met Detective Sergeant Nik Sirel to discuss the success of an operation targeting crimes of violence against women and girls (VAWG) which resulted in 11 arrests. This followed detailed investigations by detectives into offences of assault, harassment and domestic abuse and involved the identification of suspects, the provision of safeguarding support to victims and extensive enquiries.

VAWG remains a key priority in my new Police and Crime Plan, and I am determined to increase confidence and trust in the services we provide to encourage more victims to report these crimes. The success of this operation demonstrates that officers take these offences seriously and are working tirelessly to protect other women and men from becoming future victims. I would like to thank staff and officers involved for their tenacity and dedication.





Securing a fairer deal

Like other PCCs, I have vociferously complained to the Government about the necessity of rethinking its funding formula to stop forces like Leicestershire being left out in the cold when it comes to resources.

As one of the most underfunded forces in the country, Leicestershire is facing significant financial pressure because of an unfair and outdated system, exacerbated by the introduction of underfunded legislation including the ban on XL bullies that has cost our force hundreds of thousands of pounds.

I have written to Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson to fight our cause and await her response. Read the letter here: <https://leics.pcc.police.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2024/Funding-Review-Letter.aspx>

Innovation in the spotlight



I recently attended the annual policing summit in London which drew together PCCs and senior officers from across the country to discuss the future of law enforcement in England and Wales.

Delegates heard from the new Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and Shadow Home

Secretary Chris Philp and were invited to network with companies offering a range of innovative products, services and technology. I'll be looking into how useful these could be. In all, an interesting couple of days and a great opportunity to pick up new ideas.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy time with your family and friends over the festive period. Please stay safe and enjoy a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year.

Rupert.



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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