



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Harnessing the Power of Sport to Prevent Crime

More young people across Leicester have taken up new sports and other creative pursuits as part of the funding I provide to make our city safe.

Highfields Community Association was one of several organisations to benefit from funding from my Commissioner's Safety Fund in 2023-24, receiving almost £20k for its Young Futures Project. Since April last year, 123 youngsters aged between 12 and 24 have registered for the free sports sessions and other activities including music production, video creation, therapeutic arts and multimedia workshops to deter involvement in violence.

Other support offered includes one-to-one mentoring support, help with exam revision and CV drafting, and termly tournaments and events such as open mic nights to showcase the young people's talents and get them involved in planning activities.

A total of 83 sessions have been held since April last year and the general feedback from locals is that anti-social behaviour (ASB) is reducing which is positive news. Alongside learning new skills and developing new friendships, the project has helped promote awareness and understanding among young people about the different cultures and faiths within Leicester.

Preventing Retail Crime



Retailers are continuing to shape and drive the solutions we take locally to tackle shoplifting and theft.

This month, I joined City Cllr Shital Adatia in visiting two jewellers on Belgrave Road to find out more about the high-tech measures they are taking to protect stock and prevent theft. These include new security systems such as CCTV and double doors that act as an 'airlock' to prevent burglary – upgrades that are increasingly necessary to deter offending.

First stop was Vishal Jogiya Jewellers where we discussed the rising price of gold globally and how this could potentially increase high-

value thefts in the area and the need for increased policing vigilance and visibility to protect and reassure retailers. Staff also raised criminal damage and robbery concerns.

Our next visit took us to Laxmi Jewellers with owners raising issues about stolen credit card use and difficulties reporting crime. I will follow up with local officers and highlight the vulnerability many retailers face in the current climate.

Local jewellers are keen to arrange a meeting to share their concerns and discuss the steps needed to protect their businesses and this is something I would be keen to attend.



New pod camera for Stoneygate

A new 'pod' security camera will soon be arriving in Stoneygate to help tackle anti-social behaviour and violence.

I've provided funding worth £6.5k to Leicester Community Safety Partnership towards the device following reports of increased ASB and violent crime in the Evington Road area.

Pod cameras are used to view and record potential crime in

areas with an increased risk. The camera, which will be installed shortly is one of a series of proactive measures being taken to help improve the safety of the community and to help deter crime and ASB.

We continue to work with residents and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team to address problems and will be monitoring data closely to assess the impact of this new

Protecting our Communities from ASB and Serious Violence

I'm pleased to report far-reaching success in our efforts to root out ASB and serious violence from our communities.

Our dedicated 'hotspots' enforcement team has carried out thousands of hours of extra patrols in 'hotspot' locations over the past 12 months to tackle long-standing problems. Serious violence has fallen 8.4% and ASB by 15.2% in these targeted areas, which proves how valuable this approach is. This is why

I recently lobbied the Government for more financial support for the scheme.

My recent budget will further protect the strong, visible policing residents deserve. This has been possible by a small annual increase of 27p per week in the amount of council tax paid towards policing for a Band D property and I am grateful for the public's support.



Fight for fair funding

We've worked extremely hard over the past few years to keep the force on a financially secure footing, but funding has become an urgent issue.

I recently met Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson to highlight our plight and explain how this year's funding settlement leaves us with a further gap due to the impact of rising inflation, National Insurance increases not being fully covered, underfunded pay awards and new legislation such as the ban on XL Bully dogs, which leads to unforeseen and unbudgeted costs.

As a result, this year's budget setting process was challenging to say the least and I am grateful for the continued support of the public to pay more towards policing.

The budget for 2025-26 has been set at £254.65m. This will protect the frontline services which are so valuable to the public and strengthen performance in key areas such as crime prevention; call handling and other ways in which the public contact the Force; and digital technology. As the Government assumed, it was essential to increase the council tax precept by £14 for a Band D property, to achieve a balanced budget.

I feel strongly that the people of our city and two counties deserve more, and I will continue to challenge at the highest level to secure the funding needed to police the area effectively.

New face in the team

My new Deputy PCC, Charlotte Chirico, has officially joined the team and is already proving an asset to our communities.

Born and bred in Melton, Leicester City fan Charlotte (also known as Charlie) will be supporting the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and has a wealth of legal experience to help enhance the support

we offer to victims of crime. Through years serving as a District Crown Prosecutor, Charlotte has an acute understanding of the barriers to justice many victims face and is keen to get to work on remedying the issues.

I have no doubt she will continue to strengthen the voice of victims and witnesses locally and bring value to all areas of my safety work.



Keeping young people safe with VR



We're unleashing the power of Virtual Reality (VR) as part of a new high-tech approach to keeping young people safe online.

In an ongoing effort to keep crime prevention relevant and fresh for our younger residents, I've invested in the production of a six-minute film to be viewed in 360 Virtual Reality (VR) which will be accompanied by a six-session educational programme to be delivered by teachers and youth leaders.

First Phone: Keeping Children Safe Online will be available to schools free of charge across the city and two counties throughout 2025 and follows a successful pilot.

The use of VR as an educational tool is evolving and I'm delighted to have funded its application locally.

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 nonemergency.

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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