Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter | April 2020

THE BEAT

We are living in unprecedented times and our normal way of life has changed dramatically in a matter of days. The enormity of the Coronavirus crisis has shocked us all and it will be critical over the next few months that we support one another and the global fight against this virus.

The way we operate and perform our duties has changed, as it has for all of you. We have all had to adjust and adapt to the stringent measures outlined by the Government and Public Health bodies. I have discussed the new legislation with the Chief Constable and I am confident that police officers will apply common sense and discretion when using the new powers.

All of the measures that have been put in place are so important to stop the spread of the virus and protect lives and I know all of you are doing everything you can to support the efforts of the NHS and all our frontline key workers.

This global health emergency will take many months to overcome. During that time, your families and livelihoods will be under immense strain. Policing resilience will also be tested on a scale never before seen. Now, more than ever, I am calling on our communities to come together to support one another and support the wider efforts to beat this virus. There is a very simple way to do that and that is to stay at home. These small steps really will save lives.

The Chief Constable is keeping me updated on the force's contingency plans for staff absence and I have every confidence any difficulties will be responded to robustly and effectively. I will continue to equip the Chief Constable and the force with whatever is needed to tackle the challenges we face. I will also work to ensure services for the most vulnerable in our communities including victims of crime remain accessible to those who need them.

With your support, we can help limit the impact of these pandemic on our communities, our NHS and other services and our lives. Until the tide turns in this crisis, please do take care of yourselves and your families and stay safe and heed the Government's instructions.

Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire
Police and Crime
Commissioner

New recruitment wave brings 150 extra officers

Nottinghamshire will welcome an influx of 150 extra officers over the next 12 months thanks to meeting ambitious national timescales to bolster the frontline.

The Force recruited 147 officers in the last financial year and is now in a position to push on with further reinforcements to protect local communities, bringing the total number to almost 300 by March 2021.

The last cohort of police officers recruited as part of my 2019-20 budget and the national uplift have now been officially sworn into post during a passing out parade. Many have already completed their initial training and are already bolstering the frontline, which is hugely beneficial given the current crisis.

The vast majority of new officers will be deployed in Neighbourhood Policing roles across Nottinghamshire and as part of the expansion of Operation Reacher while others will become dedicated Beat Officers, Knife Crime and Robbery Team officers or go to Public Protection, Crime Investigation, Cyber Crime and Fraud.

This is a massive achievement and puts Nottinghamshire firmly in front. Since the upsurge of national funding was announced, we have hit the ground running to ensure our communities benefit from these extra resources as soon as possible.

ELECTION UPDATE

Just a few short weeks ago we were building up to the May elections, including those for Police and Crime Commissioners.

On March 13, the Government announced that in light of the Coronavirus, all elections would be postponed for one year, until May 2021. In the circumstances I completely understand this, it was the right thing to do.

New £1million grant for surge on knife crime and violence

Nottinghamshire has been provisionally allocated an extra £1million from the Home Office to tackle violence and knife crime.

The force is one of 18 nationally to be earmarked additional funds from a £35m pot to support operational police work to combat knife violence. The full sum allocated to the force is £1,003,730.

It comes on top of the funding already provided to Nottinghamshire to fund the launch of its Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) last year, which amounted to £880k, and a further £880k which it secured to continue the VRU's work for the coming 12 months.

Every penny counts and this funding will support the huge efforts already underway to stop people carrying knives and putting their own lives, and the lives of others, in danger.

Nation tunes in to triage team

Television viewers got an inside view of Nottinghamshire's mental health street triage team when camera crews followed the team as part of a documentary.

The team, which sees police working together with specially-trained mental health professionals for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, responds to police incidents where members of the public are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Their activities featured in an episode of Channel 4's 'Losing It: Our Mental Health Emergency' which explored the complex decision-making surrounding patients living with mental health conditions.

The episode, which screened on February 11, featured Pc Richard Boam from Nottinghamshire Police and Linda Pert, a community mental health nurse and gave an insight into the reality of their work.

Since its launch in 2014, the team has dealt with more than 20,000 incidents and has ensured that not a single person has been detained in police custody since February 2019.

Nottinghamshire delivers 'consistently high' performance

Nottinghamshire Police is outperforming other forces of a similar size when it comes to fighting crime, according to new data.

In the recent 2018/19 PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) report, Diverging Under Pressure, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) highlights how many forces are failing to investigate high volume crimes such as burglary and theft which is impacting on people's trust of the police in some areas of the country.

In Nottinghamshire, however, the charging volume remains consistently high both per officer and nationally, bucking the national trend. The average for forces of a similar size and crime type to Nottingham is 8.13 per cent while Nottinghamshire's average is 11.67 per cent – which is improving year on year.

Our performance has remained consistently high despite the unfair funding formula and austerity pressures. The influx of new police officers from this year's budget and the national uplift and planned recruitment will ensure we continue to meet the needs of residents and robustly respond to crime to bring further results.

Nottinghamshire's 'Divas' support global equality campaign

Talented musicians and singers from across Nottinghamshire joined together for a live concert in celebration of International Women's Day.

The 'Divas of the World' concert, which was held at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall, celebrated women's power and strength and showcased the iconic anthems of female superstars including Shirley Bassy, Diana Ross and Beyoncé in a spectacle of pop, rock, soul and jazz.

It also brought together the city's 50-strong contemporary Limelight Orchestra with a wealth of local talent including singers Emily Makis and Betsey Bircumshaw, the Nottingham Women's Centre Choir and the Nottingham Girls' High School Choir.

It was a fantastic evening and I was pleased to offer my support to the event, which raised funds for the Nottingham Women's Centre to continue its vital work.

INTERFAITH EVENT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Faith leaders from across Nottinghamshire joined us for the first of a series of positive community discussion events focusing on crime and policing.

The Interfaith Community Listening Event, which was attended by Chief Constable Craig Guildford, was held at the New Art Exchange in Nottingham and invited faith leaders and community organisations to join us to discuss any issues impacting on their communities.

The aim of the event was to give attendees a platform to voice their opinions and concerns and help us to identify positive solutions. Faith groups and community leaders contribute so much to the wellbeing of our diverse communities and I am absolutely committed to strengthening these interfaith relations at all levels, as well as supporting their work and ensuring their voice is heard.

I'm very grateful to those faith and community organisations who have worked with my office to organise this important event and hope it will be the first of many.

New-look policing services visited

Prior to lockdown, my team and I dropped in on some of the exciting new facilities available in Nottinghamshire to connect people with police and other services.

Among the stops was the new customer service centre in West Bridgford where I met Insp Craig Berry, PCSO Jane Barker and Rushcliffe Borough Council Leader Simon Robinson JP.

The centre acts as a multiservice hub connecting residents to a range of key council services including Nottinghamshire Police through an indoor and outdoor phone and computer terminal.

In the coming weeks, local policing teams will be relocating to West Bridgford Fire Station to improve efficiency and reduce costs. It follows the closure of the largely vacant West Bridgford Police Station and will maximise opportunities to work in partnership as well as improving efficiency.

I also visited Hucknall to tour around the new tri-base facility accommodating officers from Nottinghamshire Police, the Fire & Rescue Service and the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS).

Based in the ambulance station on Annesley Road in Hucknall, the shared facility ensures police officers including neighbourhood teams, response teams and CID officers, can remain in the heart of the community while also making it easier for them to work in collaboration with their blue light colleagues.

Community group share £400,000 to fight crime

A new wave of community projects are underway following the allocation of more than £400,000 worth of funding.

We've chosen 24 organisations to benefit from my Community Safety Fund in 2020-21 which amounts to £249,417 in total while a further 13 organisations have secured a share of £152,598 from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Fund to reduce serious violence and knife crime.

Organisations celebrated their success during a special presentation at Nottingham School of Boxing, hosted by Marcellus Baz BEM who founded the club and a project we help fund called Switch Up which works with communities affected by crime and violence providing mentorship, education and counselling to young people.

A wide range of projects secured funding this year including initiatives which promote greater community cohesion and cross-cultural integration, tackle hate crime and cybercrime and those which reduce exploitation.

The full list of recipients is available on my website: **www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk**

Mentoring in custody

A new mentoring project is underway to help young people in custody turn their lives around and break free from gangs and violence.

The U Turn scheme has been funded by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for the next 21 months and will support people aged 18 to 26 to make a fresh start.

Delivered by The Inspire & Achieve Foundation, a Nottinghamshire charity, the project sees two full-time mentors operating out of both Nottingham's Bridewell and Mansfield's custody suites, supporting young adults who have been arrested, helping them overcome their barriers, and putting them on the path to a new life.

The mentors, who have experienced the problems facing the young adults, encourage participants to take part in positive diversionary activities such as going to the gym , attending training courses and seeking help with housing and substance abuse.

Since launching in January, the scheme already supports 15 young adults including a gang member who progressed into formal education within two weeks of the intervention starting showing the promise of this scheme.

POST NOTE

Obviously, much of this newsletter was written before the national lockdown began, hence it has stories from across the county and the city. Now, most of the office is working from home with a handful of people coming in on a rota basis to undertake tasks that cannot be undertaken from home. I am grateful to them.

We are currently looking at how our services can be delivered with the restrictions in place and we are updating all our public facing information channels as we go. If you need to get in touch with me or the office, please continue to use these contact details.

EASTER MESSAGE

A big 'thank you' for everything you are doing to help tackle this crisis to all our police officers, staff and volunteers and most particularly our partners. We're in this together and we're going to come through this together.

Paddy.

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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