



Next year will be my last as Police and Crime Commissioner as I will not be putting myself forward as a candidate for the May 2016 elections. It has been an enormous honour and privilege for me to serve the people of Cambridgeshire. I have relished the opportunity and I am proud of the many accomplishments achieved to deliver positive change to the Constabulary.

At this time of year we are planning our budgets for 2016/17, a process that is more difficult than usual as we await the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

In Cambridgeshire, we are in a strong position to face future financial challenges. Our priority remains to maintain front line policing and find savings from other areas of the business. Through careful planning over the last three years and by taking bold decisions, we are in a strong financial position with plans in place to meet the significant challenges ahead.

A recent report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) endorsed this position, rating Cambridgeshire as "Good" and stating that the Constabulary was "well prepared to face its future financial challenges". It also said the Force has "a good track record in reducing its costs while maintaining its police officer numbers". The Chief Constable and I recognise that we need to do even better in some areas if we are to maintain our high standards and improve further. This is particularly true if we are to meet our commitment to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities including those suffering from violent crime such as domestic abuse and sexual violence. These issues will be at the forefront of my agenda in the coming weeks to ensure we have the right capacity and capability in place to protect the public.

Finally, recent events in Paris remind us how important it is for the police and the public to remain vigilant in combating extremism. Our thoughts and our prayers go to the victims and families of last week's attacks.

Sir Graham Bright
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner



New flexible appointments system trialled in Peterborough

Police officers in Peterborough are providing the public with a range of contact options through the trial of a new appointments system that offers the option of an appointment at a police station, by telephone or by Skype. This allows the public to select an option that suits them best while also reducing the amount of time officers spent travelling, allowing them to spend more time on patrol.

Victims of crime who call 101 to report a crime are currently given the option of booking an appointment for an officer to visit their home. Under the new initiative, however, they will be able to request an appointment with an officer at Thorpe Wood police station or speak to an officer via the telephone or the video calling application, Skype.

Each case will be treated individually and officers will still carry out home visits as usual for more serious crimes, burglaries and the most vulnerable.

Area Commander for Peterborough, Supt Melanie Dales said: "We understand people have busy lives and this service will provide flexibility, with appointments from 8am to 10pm seven days a week."

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright added: "This is one of the many examples of the Constabulary using technology to offer additional engagement options to the public."

Knife amnesty removes weapons from Peterborough's streets

Around 50 knives were permanently removed from the streets of Peterborough during a month-long amnesty.

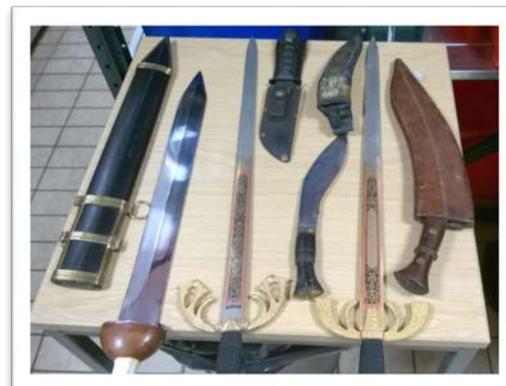
The operation was launched in response to an increase in robberies involving a knife in Peterborough and amnesty bins were placed at Thorpe Wood Police Station, Bridge Street Police Station and Bayard Place in Broadway throughout October.

All of the knives handed into police will be donated to the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry which is running a 'Surrender a Knife – Save a Life' campaign which aims to raise awareness of the devastating impact of knife crime.

Between September 1 last year and September 1 this year, there were 41 robberies in the city involving a knife or bladed instrument. For the same period in 2013/14, there were 20.

Detective Inspector Tim Nasta said: "The figure for robberies involving a knife in Peterborough is low but rising and this amnesty can only help our efforts to drive it down.

"We will also continue our work in schools to warn of the dangers and repeat the message that it's just not worth carrying a knife because it could ruin your life."



Cyclists put on right track

Night-time cyclists were given safety advice by Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright when he joined officers for a special awareness operation.

Sir Graham worked alongside PCSOs Owen Neesam and Mike Stribling in Cambridge on Wednesday, October 28 as part of Operation Lights Instead of Tickets (LIT) – a campaign aimed at persuading cyclists to ensure their bikes are fitted with the correct lighting for night-time cycling.



The night-time checks were carried out on Mill Road and East Road and saw cyclists issued with £30 fines for not having their lights fitted. Under the scheme, the penalty will be

waived if they produce a receipt for bike lights within seven days at Parkside police station.

During the checks, the team uncovered a variety of safety failures including lights not working, lights that had not been turned on and cyclists with no lighting at all.

One suspected stolen bike was also recovered during the operation and a number of cyclists were issued with tickets for running red lights.

Sir Graham has made it clear the operation is designed to save lives and reduce casualties on the county's roads – not persecute cyclists. The scheme offers cyclists a second chance if they take the necessary steps to protect themselves and other road users by lighting up.

[Find out more here](#)

Domestic abuse month

A month-long awareness campaign got underway in Cambridgeshire this month to highlight the signs of domestic abuse and to encourage victims to report their experiences to police.

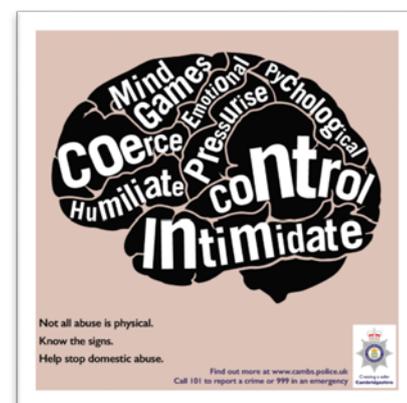
Figures for the county show an increase in domestic violence as more people feel confident at reporting violence and the police are more robust about recording all instances reported.

The Force is determined to further increase confidence among victims and highlights a series of domestic violence themes throughout the campaign including 'Know the Signs' which aims to raise awareness on the physical and non-physical signs of abuse among the public.

Other themes include 'Break the Cycle' of domestic abuse and 'Take the First Step' towards receiving help and support.

The final week of the campaign focusses on Clare's Law – the recently introduced Home Office disclosure scheme enabling women and third parties to receive information about the abusive past of a partner.

Detective Inspector Chris O'Brien said: "We are aware that abuse often takes place behind closed doors. I want the campaign to get people talking about domestic abuse. Often, family or friends do not feel it is their place to intervene; talk to people about their relationships or report abuse to authorities."



[Find out more here](#)

Human trafficking under the spotlight

The county's first-ever Human Trafficking summit has taken place with policing experts and human rights campaigners from across the UK gathering in Cambridgeshire to discuss future action.

The event was jointly hosted by Cambridgeshire Constabulary, South Cambridgeshire's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, alongside anti-slavery campaign charity Unchosen.

The event, held at South Cambridgeshire District Council's offices in Cambourne, screened a series of graphic films based on real-life case studies of victims of human trafficking within the UK which were produced by Unchosen as part of its work increasing awareness of modern day slavery.

The emotive films encourage people to report possible incidents of slavery to the police and allude to some of the signs that members of the public can look out for in their areas.



Sir Graham said the conference demonstrated how committed agencies were in raising awareness of the complex issue and increasing protection for vulnerable victims.

[Find out more here](#)

Council adds its name to Mental Health Concordat

South Cambridgeshire District Council has put pen to paper on a local declaration setting out how they will work together with partners to support people experiencing mental health crisis.

The Council has joined the pledge to ensure that no matter what agency an individual approaches, they will be kept safe and receive the support they need. It has also committed to improved information sharing and partnership working, prevention and early detection as part of signing up to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Declaration.



The document was officially signed by the council's Chairman at a Working Together for Mental Wellbeing Leaders Event, organised by the South Cambridgeshire Local Health Partnership and attended by local councillors.

Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Graham Bright, said: "All agencies have a part to play to ensure those in mental health crisis receive the right care at the right time and from the right person. It's great news to see South Cambridgeshire District Council pledging their support for this aspiration through the signing of the declaration."

International Restorative Justice Week

A series of events are being held this month to raise awareness of Restorative Justice and its power to aid the recovery process for victims of crime.

The events are being organised to coincide with National Restorative Justice Week which runs from 15-22 November.

Among the activities planned is an awareness day in Peterborough giving members of the public an opportunity to discuss restorative justice with trained facilitators. A training course will also be delivered for representatives from Cambridge University Colleges where volunteers can share their experiences. There will also be a partnership meeting to help shape the Restorative Justice Hub's delivery plan for the next year, including input from a victim of crime who has accessed the services. HMP Peterborough will also discuss their vision to become a Restorative Prison during the meeting.

Restorative Justice provides victims of crime with the opportunity to meet or communicate with an offender in a controlled environment to help them cope and move on from their experiences. The Force's Restorative Justice Hub has now been live for eight months and has empowered a number of victims to have greater control over their recovery process.

If you would like more information about Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire please contact the Victims' Hub on 0800 781 6818 or email restorativejustice@cambs.pnn.police.uk or visit <http://www.cambs.police.uk/victims/rj/>

Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme success

Volunteer Police Cadets from five forces descended on the county for the region's first ever Senior Cadet Leadership training course.

The three-day residential training programme was developed by the Metropolitan Police for cadets aged 16-17 who are ready to take on a leadership role such as head cadet or section leader.

Cambridgeshire is the first to host the training scheme in the eastern region after successfully applying for funding from the National Volunteer Police Cadet Team.

A total of 20 Volunteer Police Cadets from Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Essex attended the programme, held at Waterbeach Cadet Training Centre.

Also this month, Cambridgeshire's first-ever Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme celebrated its first anniversary – with a birthday cake and a certificate presentation to all its cadets.

The Peterborough Volunteer Police Cadet Unit launched at the town's Thomas Deacon Academy on November 4 2014 as part of a long-term strategy by Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner Sir Graham Bright to increase opportunities for young people to play a proactive role in their communities and divert disadvantaged youngsters away from crime.

So far, the scheme has trained 30 enthusiastic cadets for duty who together have completed more than 500 volunteering hours in the past six months alone. Activities have included supporting community events, delivering crime prevention advice and role-playing for trainee police officers.

The initiative has been so successful that two further units have since launched in Wisbech and Soham.

A fourth scheme is due to launch in Cambourne in January. In preparation for the new unit, Sir Graham is appealing for enthusiastic self-starters to put themselves forward for Volunteer Police Cadet Leader roles.

The new recruits will support the delivery of the Volunteer Police Cadet programme and help to inspire young people to realise their full potential.

Anyone who is interested is urged to contact Hannah Watson, Volunteer Co-ordinator, at hannah.watson@cams.pnn.police.uk, telephone: 01954 713911 or download an application form at: <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/volunteer-schemes/volunteer-police-cadets-scheme/want-police-cadet-scheme-volunteer/>



Road policing officers drive home safety message

Police officers across Cambridgeshire will be carrying out checks over the next few weeks as part of the force's annual Christmas drink drive campaign. Road policing officers are asking motorists: "Where will you end up tonight?" in a bid to drive home the message that driving while under the influence of alcohol could result in them waking up in a "police cell, hospital bed or body bag".

Between mid-November and the New Year, officers from the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Road Policing Unit (BCH RPU) will be out in force targeting those under the influence of alcohol behind the wheel. Current figures for the period January to October show 770 motorists were arrested for drinking and driving in the county – an average of 77 arrests per month.

RPU Inspector, Phil Bloor, said: "Over the past 50 years the number of road casualties caused by drink driving has fallen dramatically, however we are still seeing far too many. By drinking and driving you risk your life, those of your passengers and others on the road."

Calling **0800 032 0845**, which is available 24/7, allows people to supply the force with information to help reduce the number of drink drivers on the county's roads.



[Find out more here](#)

Useful Links:

Cambridgeshire Police

www.cambs.police.uk

**Cambridgeshire
Neighbourhood Watch**

www.cambsnhw.org.uk

**Peterborough
Neighbourhood Watch**

www.peterboroughnhw.co.uk

Police UK

www.police.uk

**Cambridgeshire
Countryside
Watch**

www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk

**e-cops Cambridgeshire
Constabulary**

www.ecops.org.uk

Crimestoppers UK

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

**Government Services
Website**

www.gov.uk

**National Fraud and Cyber
Crime Reporting Centre**

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Speedwatch

www.cambridgeshirespeedwatch.org/

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Surgeries / Contact Points

Details about local surgeries, Police Contact Points and other events where Sir Graham Bright or his representatives will be present are regularly updated and listed on the Cambridgeshire PCC website. Click the link below for details:

[Find out more here](#)

Community Safety Partnerships

- [Safer Peterborough Partnership](#)
- [Fenland Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Cambridge Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership](#)
- [East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership](#)

MAKING CONTACT:

I know that it is important that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, my team and I are doing. I am here to represent the public ensuring the voice of the people is heard and that the police are accountable to the public.

I pledged to be the voice of the people. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:
www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk

You can follow me:



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