



May I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy New Year and welcoming you to my first monthly newsletter which aims to keep you informed on the activity we are undertaking to make Cambridgeshire safer.

When I was elected as Cambridgeshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner, I pledged to become the voice of the people. During the past two years I have listened to the views of thousands of individuals and organisations in honour of this commitment, meeting local people and community volunteers who share my desire to create a better life.

I also set out 14 other pledges to the people of Cambridgeshire which all came from what people had expressed to me during my election campaign. We are continuing to deliver on these pledges but, as ever, we rely on local people to inform our decision-making and I welcome your views on what is important to you and your communities.

This newsletter is one of a number of ways in which I intend to communicate the progress being made to meet my pledges and the work being undertaken to improve quality of life.

In this month's issue, we highlight the launch of our Victims' Hub which will make a real difference to those struggling to cope with the consequences of crime. We also celebrate the work we are doing with young people through initiatives such as the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme, the Youth 'Take Over' Day and my Youth Grant Scheme.



Victims Hub

Helping victims recover from crime is a top priority of the Commissioner and significant work is underway to enhance the support services offered in the aftermath of an offence to aid this healing process. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has taken the lead nationally through the creation of a new police-led Victims' Hub which will help survivors of criminality to cope and recover from their experiences.

The new Hub, which launched in October, sees victims of crime assessed to determine the level of support they require before being offered appropriate help, including specialist services when necessary.

The move follows the transfer of funding from the Ministry of Justice to Police and Crime Commissioners in October and provides local accountability for victims' services.



The Victims' Hub, which is staffed by a team of victim care co-ordinators, aims to improve confidence and satisfaction among victims during their journey through the criminal justice process. Victim care co-ordinators will have local knowledge of services across the county and are best placed to identify any gaps and suggest new services needed for the future.

[Find out more here](#)

Volunteer Police Cadets

Young people can provide a very valuable contribution to community safety and this is something both the Force and the OPCC are very keen to exploit.

Sir Graham has spent time with the new volunteer police cadets at Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough where he gained a first-hand insight into how this scheme is motivating and inspiring young people to take greater responsibility for their local neighbourhoods.

The 33 young people he met, all aged between 14 and 16, are Cambridgeshire's first volunteer police cadets and will be meeting weekly to learn more about policing from a

team of volunteer police and academy cadet leaders.

The scheme, which is one of many crime prevention initiatives, is designed to strengthen relationships between young people and the police and provide positive role models for youngsters to aspire to as they develop.

The young people will take part in a nine-week induction programme before being issued with their full uniform ready for their attestation ceremony this month.

[Find out more here](#)

Local Plans to improve mental health support

Through their frontline work, police officers are regularly confronted with challenging circumstances involving individuals experiencing mental health distress. The needs and wellbeing of these vulnerable people are paramount in such a situation and through partnership working the Commissioner is taking important steps to safeguard their welfare and to ensure they receive the right care in the right place and by the most appropriately trained professional.

In November, the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office, together with a multitude of local agencies and criminal justice organisations, publicly signed a local joint declaration aimed at improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis through prevention, early intervention and information-sharing.

Working with partners such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England Local Area Teams and the Ambulance Service, the Commissioner is trailblazing innovative projects to enhance services and the care of vulnerable people suffering mental health issues.

A team of dedicated Community Psychiatric Nurses work alongside staff in the Victims' Hub to help victims of crime who appear to have significant mental health problems. Their presence within the Hub will ensure mental health issues are identified at an early stage and victims are supported to receive the right treatment through existing pathways.



[Find out more here](#)

Tackling Alcohol Related Crime

Alcohol-related crime remains top of the agenda in Cambridgeshire and the local efforts to address the problem are now helping national colleagues to improve their response.

Sir Graham has long been concerned about the impact of excessive consumption of alcohol and its impact on individuals and society. As part of a determination to drive forward improvement, Sir Graham has become a founder member of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's Alcohol Working Group. This select group of PCCs are determined to take action to combat problems caused by alcohol misuse and are working together on a strategy to reduce alcohol-related crime. The strategy aims to deliver greater enforcement, stronger partnership working and increase opportunities for preventative work to address unhealthy attitudes about alcohol and drinking. The role will involve national campaign work to drive forward changes to the legislative framework and increase awareness about responsible drinking to reduce harmful behaviour.

In November, the Commissioner marked Alcohol Awareness Week with the launch of the Morning After initiative. The awareness campaign was being spearheaded by Cambridgeshire Harm Reduction Group to urge motorists to think before driving the morning after a night out drinking – particularly those who take part in or drive their children to sports activities at weekends.

This activity was followed up by our annual drink driving campaign to tackle alcohol fuelled domestic abuse which tends to increase at this time of year.

Boxing Club Visit

The Commissioner's Youth Fund has been channelled into a variety of diversionary projects to give young people focus and direction. Sir Graham dropped in at Peterborough Boxing Club, one of the lucky recipients of this financial support, to see how the funding is helping local youths to transform their lives.

The club, which diverts young people at risk of offending into positive activity, received £1,500 in order to

purchase new equipment. During the visit, Sir Graham was able to meet more than 20 young people and their coaches as well as try out the sparring pads for size.



Youngsters aged between 10 and 18 attend twice-weekly training sessions at the York Road based club.

The sessions are run by serving police officers who liaise with partner agencies across the city to identify young people who could benefit from attending.

[Find out more here](#)

Youth 'Take Over' Day

Continuing with the youth theme, "Take Over Day" saw 12 young volunteer police cadets 'take over' responsibility for policing for a day as part of a national initiative.

The youngsters, aged between 14 and 16, were invited to become key decision makers for the day as they took to the helm of the Constabulary and the OPCC in support of the Children's Commissioner 'Take Over' Day 2014.

The initiative, led by the Children's Commissioner for England, is held annually to give young people a chance to experience the world of adult work and play a role in decision-making processes.

It's very important that public figures listen to what young people have to say, especially in policing as they can help senior officers to understand the motivating forces behind youth offending as well as offer viable solutions.

During 'Take Over' Day, the volunteer police cadets took part in a workshop to help the Force work through some of the recommendations from the All Party Parliamentary Review concerning young people, concentrating on stop and search tactics, engagement and marketing to young people and how young people can influence police training.

The event was mutually beneficial and both Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hopkins and Sir Graham very much enjoyed listening to what these young people had to say about safety and policing.



[Find out more here](#)

Government Inspectors Praise Force Performance



Cambridgeshire Constabulary is performing well against many of the markers set by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's to measure effectiveness in day-to-day policing.

The Inspectors look at how effective and efficient each police force in England and Wales is in cutting crime, providing value for money and delivering a service that is responsive to public need.

Overall, the report was very positive and highlighted the Force as being good at reducing crime, preventing offending and reducing antisocial behaviour, with neighbourhood policing teams having a strong identity and relationships with communities.

Strong partnership working was also highlighted as working well to tackle antisocial behaviour, deal with offenders and support victims.

HMIC Inspectors were impressed that the Constabulary is meeting funding challenges and is planning sensibly for the future, while providing an effective service to the public.

This report recognises all the hard work that Constabulary staff and officers invest into supporting victims of crime and the vulnerable. As always, Sir Graham and the Force are not complacent and there are areas where we can improve, as outlined by the HMIC. The Commissioner will continue to work with the Chief Constable to increase the effectiveness of policing in Cambridgeshire.

[Find out more here](#)

Safe Cycling



Road safety continues to be a concern among all Cambridgeshire communities and one that is frequently raised during meetings. A number of campaigns exist to reduce accident casualties in the county, including the Lights Instead of Tickets initiative, which Sir Graham was able to join in on.

The Campaign, which ran throughout October and November, was designed to increase cyclist safety and visibility. Officers targeted different parts of the city each night and stopped anyone who did not have lights. They were issued with a £50 fine which was waived if they present themselves to Parkside Police Station within seven working days with a set of cycle lights and a receipt. In total 304 tickets were issued most of which were made good with lights being bought. There were also 150 verbal warnings issued to cyclists.

With the darker nights upon us, the campaign provided a timely message of the importance of taking personal responsibility for road safety, including making sure cycles are fitted with appropriate lighting.

[Find out more here](#)

Sir Graham Bright's Personal Pledges – Police & Crime Plan 2013-2016

Voice of the People

My role is to be the voice of the people, not the police. Members of the public can speak to me face to face at my regular surgeries; I will be using their feedback to help me to continually support and challenge the provision of policing in Cambridgeshire. I will respond to your letters and emails and want you to share your experiences of policing with me.

Engagement Outreach Worker

An Engagement Outreach Worker, initially for Peterborough and Fenland and then for South of the County and Cambridge, will enable me to learn more about what the public need and want.

Call Handling

I want to see a better and faster response to all telephone calls, not just 999. The aim should be to answer every call in 30 seconds.

Local Policing

We must meet local needs. Different local communities face different local problems; rural crime for example is no less important than what happens in the towns and cities. Policing cannot be one size fits all. The police should focus on the individual needs of each community and see that the resources allocated are delivering positive outcomes.

Hold to Account

I intend to properly hold the police to account with genuine public partnership.

Increased Collaborative Working

I intend to improve efficiencies and make cost reductions by more co-operation with neighbouring forces over and above Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire Strategic Alliance.

Burglary

All burglaries should be investigated by the police within an appropriate time of the offence taking place. We need to catch burglars. I will be monitoring burglary detection rates

Taking a Preventative Approach

Prevention and early intervention is key with persistent offenders and troubled families.

Working in Partnership

I will also be keeping in touch with colleagues working for partnership agencies through formal and informal meetings.

Special Constables

I want to see their numbers increased and would like to personally encourage people to volunteer.

Working in Partnership

There is a need to champion local initiatives between the police, local councils, including the parishes, the voluntary sector and all those working to reduce crime and build safer communities. In particular I want to encourage more people to get involved with local Neighbourhood Watch groups. I will be supporting Neighbourhood Watch in 2013/14 with a grant to enable them to play an event more active part in improving community safety.

Drugs

I am supporting work with partners to tackle drug misuse and associated crime.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The effects of anti-social behaviour can be far more wide reaching than other offences. It can damage the quality of life of a whole community. It must be systematically tackled.

Visible Policing

I will give priority to frontline and as much visible policing as possible. Money saved through efficiencies should go to protect the frontline.

Young People

I am committed to supporting work with young people to divert them away from a life of crime.

Useful Links:



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Surgeries

Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner offers one to one appointments with members of the public. The surgeries are by appointment and take place at locations around the county and Peterborough. Please contact the Commissioner's Office to make an appointment

Wednesday 21st January 2015

1.30pm to 3.30pm
Peterborough Town Hall
Bridge Street, Peterborough

Tuesday 17th February 2015

2pm to 4pm
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Wednesday 15th April 2015

2pm to 4pm
Customer Service Centre
Pathfinder House
Huntingdon District Council
Huntingdon, PE29 3TN

Website - Hot Topic

Do you think the current drink drive alcohol limit should be reduced?

See our home page to take part

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:
@PCCCambs

You can write to me at:
Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner
South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

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