



A message from our commissioner:

Partnership working has become embedded across Derbyshire and we are seeing just how much added value this brings. The co-operation that exists between the Force and its external partners is already delivering favourable outcomes, particularly in the way we respond to complex community and social problems. With the funding situation as bleak as ever, these relationships will become even more vital if we are to continue to negotiate the ongoing criminal threat and I am very grateful for this continued support.

Alan Charles - Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire



Priority Based Budget Review

In preparation for the Force's next budget in January, the Chief Constable and I have been considering the outcomes of the recently-completed Priority Based Budget Review and its likely impact on the way policing services are designed in the future.

This review has priority-scrutinised every area of the organisation in anticipation of the next round of budget cuts and the likely savings required over the next five years.

The Force and I remain totally committed to delivering value for money to local taxpayers but there is a shared acceptance that we cannot realistically sustain service levels – and officer strength - in the face of the Government's continuous reductions to our budget. The shape of the Force will undoubtedly need to change and we will need to embrace

different models of policing which will allow us to spread our resources more widely. This will inevitably lead to a reduction of police officers and staff and changes to roles, mostly through voluntary redundancy and recruitment freezes. However, this will mean fewer people are employed with a consequential impact on the individuals involved and the local economy.

Similarly, the number of police buildings will reduce as a result of changes to the way local policing is delivered, with a heavier reliance on modern technology which increases the time officers spend out in the community.

The proposals that rise out of the review will be closely examined by my team and the Chief Constable when I discuss the budget in January and consider a five-year financial plan.



Youth Summit

Last month, professionals from a wide range of children's services gathered to attend my first Youth Summit.

This event was organised as part of my commitment to increase the involvement of younger people in policing – to help shape my decision-making - and follows the Youth Survey and youth engagement work we have been running over the past few months.

The Summit gave me an opportunity to present the findings of my Youth Survey to the many partners across the county who are responsible for tackling crime and disorder. Attendees included head teachers from secondary schools, top police officers, council leaders, voluntary sector workers, the heads of the Youth Offending Service and Community Safety and members of my own Office.

Since April, 3500 young people aged 11-14 have aired their views on policing and crime to provide one of the biggest opinion-gathering exercises the county has seen. The feedback will play a key role in influencing how we respond to young people's fears and concerns in the future.

Other key topics covered included pre-court work and the benefits of reducing first-time entrants into the criminal justice system, cyber safety and child sexual exploitation. The summit followed a high profile youth conference in June attended by over 130 young people.



Child Sex Exploitation

One of the most important issues arising out of the Youth Survey was the differing priorities young people held in comparison to those from wider age groups.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) was more than twice as likely to be mentioned as a priority to 16-24-year-olds within the Youth Survey compared to the Over to You questionnaire which is for all age-groups.

It is clearly my duty to young people in Derbyshire to consider very carefully what they have told us and devise a strategy for ensuring this crime is dealt with robustly and that resources are channelled into crime prevention.

Last month I asked the Force for assurances on behalf of the public that allegations of CSE have been properly investigated across the county, following the publication of the Rotherham Report. The Constabulary confirmed that in 2008 a full review was undertaken of known or possible historical CSE cases which included a check against Crown Prosecution Service decisions not to take any action. I've been reassured that the Constabulary is confident the appropriate actions were taken.



Despite this robust approach, we are not complacent and I would urge any individuals who may not have felt confident enough to report such abuse to come forward now to receive the help they need:

**IF YOU
SEE
something
say
something**

CHELSEA'S CHOICE



One of the key aims of my Police and Crime Plan is to safeguard vulnerable children. The results of the recent Youth Survey highlight the increasing prominence of Child Sexual Exploitation in young people's fear of crime and the need for innovative approaches to prevent this type of offending. With this in mind, I have co-commissioned with local authority partners an educational play which will tour almost every secondary school in the county as part of an awareness campaign about CSE, social media and a growing concern regarding sexting, which is made more prevalent with the advent of smartphones.

From November 3 Chelsea's Choice, performed by the Alter Ego Theatre Company, will be touring secondary schools across Derbyshire. The play raises awareness about what constitutes a healthy relationship and gives a powerful example of how a young person may enter a 'grooming' process, highlighting the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation. It is also aimed at promoting safe internet use and helping young people to identify risky situations both in reality and on-line.



Cyber Crime

With the threat of becoming a victim to online crime increasing, we have been working very hard to promote awareness of the risks and the simple security measures people can take when using the internet.

Our Stamp Out Fraud initiative, being run in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council, is designed to bring attention to the latest frauds and scams operating in the county as well as highlighting recent convictions. Members of the public are also able to report a fraud or scam directly to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre.

It is clear that to tackle the increasing threat this criminality brings, we need to look to technical experts, not necessarily police officers, to help increase detections. Currently, only a small percentage of victims report their experiences to the police which means the true scale of cybercrime is unknown. This is something we need to address by increasing awareness.



Victims Services

Following the transfer of responsibility for victims' services to PCCs, I have asked the independent charity Victim Support to spearhead a fresh approach in Derbyshire which will ultimately ensure victims and witnesses of crime receive an enhanced and more localised service.

The contract will run for the next 18 months and will enable victims of crime to go directly to the new service or be referred by police to the charity's local victim care officers based in the new Derbyshire team office. This is a change from the current service, where the charity's victim care unit in Leicester responds to all crime victims in the East Midlands. Specialist caseworkers, meanwhile, will provide an enhanced level of service to crime victims who require more in-depth support.

Derbyshire is one of just seven areas to launch the new arrangements this month, well in advance of the deadline set for 1 April 2015.

Victims of domestic violence and sexual violence will continue to be supported by local specialist organisations in the county, which I commission.

Community Remedy

Following the recent countywide survey on Community Remedy, we have now formally adopted a package of out of court disposals which will be available to officers and criminal justice workers when responding to some low-level offending situations.

The engagement project was launched in May to help myself and our public protection partners identify suitable situations which warranted the use of a Community

Remedy approach rather than court action. Research has shown this style of disposal can help to rehabilitate an offender and aid the victim in their recovery.

Members of the public were asked to highlight their top three preferred community remedies. These options - reparative work to damage caused, payment for damage to property and rehabilitation approaches such as anger management or alcohol treatment - have been included on the final Community Remedy document. There are also ten further options on the document which include face to face apology, apology in writing, Acceptable Behaviour Contract, Parenting Contract, structured diversionary activities and tenancy enforcement.

The Community Remedy scheme came into effect on 20 October 2014.



I am shortly to launch a new responsible drinking campaign called Safe Night Out which is designed to address alcohol-related violence and give people confidence that they can and will enjoy a safe and enjoyable night in the City and County.

The initiative has been born out of the work arising from the Alcohol Summit last year and is just one of a number of preventative approaches we are adopting to help reduce alcohol-fuelled crime. Other measures include a training scheme called Intoxicated which provides licensees and their staff with practical training on how to refuse to serve someone who has had too much to drink and the implementation of an approach known as the Cardiff model in Derby and Chesterfield which promotes increased information sharing between police and hospital emergency departments. Alcohol-related crime in the City has been lower this year and the Cardiff model is thought to have played a role in this.

Since my alcohol summit last year, we have seen promising progress that a cohesive approach with partners to tackling the problem is delivering results with the multi-agency approach to tackling problematic premises proving successful. In the County during 2013-14, eight premises had their licences revoked, three premises faced temporary closure for offering alcohol to under 18s on two or more occasions in a three month period, four premises were prosecuted and 28 Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

HATE CRIME Awareness Week

The launch of Derbyshire's new-look victims' service earlier this month provided a timely reminder of the difficulties police and support workers face in reaching those victims who are not confident enough to come forward.

We know that hate crime is one area where the vast majority of victims remain invisible to the system through fear and lack of confidence in police and this is something we will work very hard to address.

Events such as National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which was held from October 11 to 18, draw attention to the problem and send out a clear message to victims that they should report their experiences to police. I hope that the victims' service work that we are undertaking locally will encourage more survivors to seek the help and support they need to move on. This is one type of crime in which we want reports to increase.

School parking problems

A new school term is underway and already illegal parking is being reported in some areas of the county – despite previous warnings.

Now that the nights are drawing in and the clocks are about to go back, it's even more important parents heed safety advice and park appropriately. School parking continues to be one of the most talked-about issues in the county and I have received correspondence from disability groups about the difficulties posed by cars parked on pavements, particularly for guide dogs.

As a reminder to anyone considering parking dangerously when collecting their children from school, civil enforcement officers have the power to issue motorists with a fixed penalty for illegal parking and police can also physically remove unattended vehicles if they block school gates, driveways or pedestrian paths – even for a few minutes. The measures can and will be enforced in circumstances when parents persistently flout the law.

A good rule of thumb is – if you do have to park on the pavement, leave a double buggy width.



Living Wage Accreditation

It's been confirmed that my office has received Living Wage Accreditation status. This means that all employees of the OPCC and those employed by any external contractor Derbyshire Constabulary, use are to be paid an hourly rate that matches the cost of living.

The Living Wage Foundation was launched by campaign group London Citizens in 2001 and encourages employers to sign up to a pledge to provide workers with a salary which ensures their family can live above the poverty line. The 'Living Wage' itself is an hourly rate which is set annually by the Greater London Authority which takes greater account of the cost of living.

Employers have a social duty to protect the welfare of their staff and we are very happy to demonstrate this commitment through this accreditation.



Sexting Campaign

Following publicity over the criminal consequences of 'sexting', I am in the process of writing to schools across Derbyshire to highlight my serious concerns over this behaviour and urging them to issue appropriate guidance to pupils prior to the Christmas break.

School children who send explicit pictures of themselves via text or social media run the risk of ending up in court. I hope that parents will support us by explaining to their children how serious sharing such photos can be.

It's worth remembering that any image sexted – or indeed texted – doesn't get deleted in the cyber world. Once it's out there, it stays out there whether you want it to or not.



I recently joined local officers on patrol in Matlock as part of an operation targeting boy racers – and found myself involved in the action when a caravan being towed by a 67-year-old man drove past with smoke billowing out from a wheel. Thankfully PC Dave Naylor was able to assist before the wheel burst into flames.

The purpose of my visit was to review the eight-week operation targeting boy racers in Matlock, Matlock Bath and Wirksworth. The enforcement measures appeared to be very effective with a number of drivers reprimanded or advised about their anti-social driving.

Contact me

Do you have something
to say about achieving
a safer Derbyshire?
I want to hear it!



YOU CAN:

Go to my website:
www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk

Email me at:
pccoffice@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Call me on:
0300 122 6000

Write to me at:
The Office of the Police and Crime
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