

# Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner

## NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2021



## Welcome from Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye

Hello everyone and welcome to the third edition of the newsletter since I was elected as Police and Crime commissioner. I have had a very busy and productive month and I'm really pleased to share an update with you, as we edge closer to the launch of the Police and Crime plan.

### Inviting the public to have their say

I launched the Public Consultation survey at the beginning of July where I invited the people of Bedfordshire to share their views on local concerns and issues. We had an amazing response and I wanted to say thank you to all of you that completed it. Your feedback is invaluable in helping my team and I shape the forthcoming Police and Crime Plan.

### Countdown is on...Police and Crime Plan launch

Once all of the feedback is gathered, I will be launching the Police and Crime Plan for 2021 – 2024 on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021. I'm looking forward to officially sharing the plan with colleagues, residents and partners. The main purpose of the Police and Crime Plan is to set policing priorities, hold the Chief Constable accountable for effective policing and ultimately keep the residents of Bedfordshire safe, which remains my main priority and focus.

I have been very passionate about getting this right, spending time with as many individuals and groups as I can to understand the challenges we face across Bedfordshire and doing my research before committing to a final plan. I wanted to thank each and every one of you that I have had the opportunity to speak directly with as the time spent speaking with you all in the last three months has proved of great value in aiding my research for the plan.



### 100 day report

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August, I will be launching my 100 Day Report, which will also highlight the new Police and Crime Plan. On reaching the end of my first 100 days, I have detailed the progress that the

Office of Police and Crime Commissioner has delivered against the pledges and priorities set out in my manifesto alongside the collaborative work with our partners. Again, I want to thank you all for your support in working together with my team and I hope you will agree lots has been achieved by working together building a shared vision.

### Violence Reduction meetings

A strong theme that has been apparent in the last three months has been addressing serious violence in Luton. One of my pledges was to tackle the causes of crimes and focus on early intervention. To show my commitment to this, I hosted three Violence Reduction meetings alongside the Leader of Luton Council, Hazel Simmons and Local Policing teams. We had great representation from partners, councillors and residents. Feedback from these events has further shaped the Police and Crime Plan including allocating £150,000 to early intervention programmes for young people. These events have proved so valuable that my team are now progressing similar ones throughout the county in the coming months. More [here](#).



### Summer of Fun and Focus

Following on from the above and in response to community meetings and feedback from residents and young people, this has resulted in the launch of our Summer of Fun and Focus, funded by the OPCC. The programme gives young people between the ages of 4 and 16 the opportunity to learn skills in focus, confidence and health by attending Boxing and Martial Arts Classes. Classes are available to book [here](#).

As always, if you have any feedback or suggestions you can email the office here [PCC@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PCC@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

Follow my team's social media accounts here to keep up-to-date with everything including our upcoming events.

Facebook - @BedsOPCC and @Fest4BedsPCC  
Instagram - @BedsOPCC and @fest4bedspcc  
Twitter - @bedsopcc and @Fest4BedsPCC

Stay Safe

Festus Akinbusoye





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## Chief Executive's Celebration

By Clare Kelly, Chief Executive of the OPCC



For July I would like to commend the efforts and skill of Gemma McCormack, who is our office's Executive Assistant. The Commissioner has been in place for three months now and the volume of important meetings, introductions and papers that the PCC needed to see in those crucial first few weeks has been handled by Gemma in a way that has meant the Commissioner has felt well briefed in all areas he needed to attend to.

Managing a very busy diary and a PCC who likes to be out at as many engagements as possible is no easy task and Gemma has ensured the Commissioner's wishes and that of the statutory business need of the office have been balanced. I thank Gemma for her support in this as does the Commissioner.

For July I would also like to award John Haggerwood from our Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust Charity. This month he met with our Lord Lieutenant, Helen Nellis and beautifully described the work that he and his colleague Emma do to support vulnerable members of our community. John has carried out this role for many years and brings both his practical skills of making people feel safe again in their homes with his personable skills of ensuring the individual is ok before he leaves a job. John on behalf of all the hundreds of people you help every year – thank you.



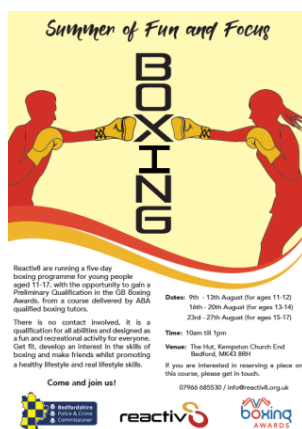
## Upcoming events



### [Free Intro to Boxing for Young People in The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray – Monday 9th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



### [Free Boxing programme for young people in Kempston, Beds \(11-12-year olds\) – w/c Monday 9th August 2021](#)

Reactiv8 are running a five-day boxing programme for young people aged 11-12, with the opportunity to gain a Preliminary Qualification in the GB Boxing Awards, from a course delivered by ABA qualified boxing tutors.



### [Free Intro to Boxing for Young People in Toddington Services & Social Club – Tuesday 10th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



### [Free Martial Arts for Young People at Village Green Pavilion, Houghton Regis – Thursday 12th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16 year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

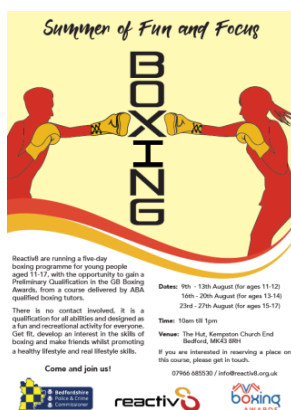
The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Intro to Boxing for Young People at Astral Park Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire – Friday 13th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [FREE Boxing programme for young people in Kempston, Beds \(13-14 years old\) – w/c Monday 16th August 2021](#)

Reactiv8 are running a five-day boxing programme for young people aged 13-14 years old, with the opportunity to gain a Preliminary Qualification in the GB Boxing Awards, from a course delivered by ABA qualified boxing tutors.



## [Free Boxing Sessions for Young People at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick – Monday 16th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Martial Arts for Young People at Bushmead Community Centre, Luton – Monday 16th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16-year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.







## [Free Intro to Boxing for Young People in Linslade, Bedfordshire – Tuesday 17th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Boxing Session for Young People in Queens Park Community Centre, Bedford – Tuesday 17th August 2021](#)

Boxing Saves Lives will be hosting three different introductions to Boxing sessions at Queens Park Community Centre.

Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Martial Arts for Young People at The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray – Tuesday 17th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16-year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break.



## [Free Intro to Martial Arts for Young People at Queens Park Community Centre – Wednesday 18th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16-year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Intro to Boxing for Young People in Downside Community Centre, Dunstable – Wednesday 18th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Martial Arts for Young People at Downside Community Centre, Dunstable – Thursday 19th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16-year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Boxing Sessions for Young People at Village Green Pavilion, Houghton Regis – Thursday 19th August 2021](#)

Introduction to boxing session for 11 to 16-year olds by local boxing professionals from Ringcraft Gym available as a mixed gender class.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Intro to Martial Arts for Young People at Toddington Social Club – Monday 23rd August 2021](#)

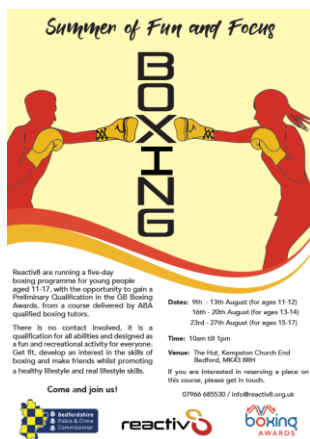
Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16 year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



## [Free Intro to Martial Arts for Young People at Orchard Community Centre, Biggleswade – Friday 20th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16 year olds by local



### [FREE Boxing programme for young people in Kempston, Beds \(15-17 years old\) – w/c Monday 23rd August 2021](#)

Reactiv8 are running a five-day boxing programme for young people aged 15-17, with the opportunity to gain a Preliminary Qualification in the GB Boxing Awards, from a course delivered by ABA qualified boxing tutors.



### [Free Intro to Martial Arts for Young People at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick – Tuesday 24th August 2021](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16-year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.



### [Free Martial Arts for Young People at Clapham Village Hall, Bedford](#)

Introduction to Martial Arts session for 4 to 16 year olds by local Martial Art professionals from Sendo-Ryu Martial Arts Association.

The session will last 1 hour 30 minutes including a short break. Parents/carers are welcome to drop their young person off just before the start time.





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## Press releases – July 2021



### [The Code of Practice for Victims \(Victims' Code\) Individual rights information – Right 5 of 12](#)

1<sup>st</sup> July 2021


Right 5, to be provided with information about compensation.



### [Force awarded more than £7 million to fight violence, exploitation and organised crime](#)

5<sup>th</sup> July 2021


Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye said: “The key thing is this investment is being seen at all levels of a comprehensive response to tackling violence, exploitation and organised crime”.



### [The OPCC checks in on residents in Bedford after successful Safer Streets project](#)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2021


The Safer Street team revisited 107 houses and completed a review on how the households felt since the initiative was launched.



### [The Code of Practice for Victims \(Victims' Code\) Individual Rights information – Right 6 of 12](#)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2021


Right 6, to be provided with information about the investigation and prosecution.



### [Bedfordshire PCC announces paid Internship Scheme](#)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

The scheme aims to provide an opportunity for young people to join the OPCC Internship Programme where they will gain experience and professional development.



### [The Code of Practice for Victims \(Victims' Code\) Individual rights information – Right 7 of 12](#)

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021




Right 7, to make a Victim Personal Statement.

#### [PCC hosts three events in Luton with local leader to discuss serious violence with local residents](#)

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021


Local Communities were invited to the events to discuss serious violence with the Commissioner and Leader for Luton Council, Hazel Simmons. Discussions focused on how work can be done together as a community to prevent violence.



#### [Boxing and Martial Arts on the cards for youngsters in Bedfordshire.](#)

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021


The 'Summer of Fun and Focus' is fully funded by the OPCC and aims to give young people between the ages of 4 and 16 the opportunity to learn skills in focus, confidence and health by attending Boxing and Martial Arts classes ran by local businesses in communities.



#### [The force mark UK's first ASB Awareness Week](#)

19th July 2021


We are working with a number of different partners including, Luton Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and housing associations to tackle anti-social behaviour across the county.



#### [The Code of Practice for Victims \(Victims' Code\) Individual rights information – Right 8 of 12](#)

22nd July 2021


Right 8, to be given information about the trial, trial process and your role as a witness.



#### [There's still time to have your say – PCC launches public consultation for Police and Crime Plan](#)

27th July 2021

The Commissioner said "For me, it is vital that I consult with members of the public to get their view and input into the Police and Crime Plan. Your input into this is invaluable in helping to shape the plan."



[The Code of Practice for Victims \(Victims' Code\) Individual rights information – Right 9 of 12](#)

Right 9, To be given information about the outcome of the case and any appeals.

[PCC praised by Bedfordshire school for hosting SEN students on work experience](#)

Lee Nelson, Work Experience Co-ordinator from Woodlands Secondary School said “The students had the most positive and enlivening experience imaginable. It was CV enhancing, but most of all it was life-enhancing.



# Social Media – July 2021

**Festus Akinbusoye PCC**  
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 30 July at 17:50 ·

We will be hosting our new set of interns from each of the three local authorities in Bedfordshire shortly. Community safety is not just about the police, it is also about providing opportunities, raising aspirations and supporting it.

I have the best team any Police and Crime Commissioner could have asked for in helping to get these plans off the ground and with our partners.

<https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/crime/beds-pcc-praised-by-school-for-hosting-sen-students-on-work-experience> See more



LUTONTODAY.CO.UK  
**Beds PCC praised by school for hosting SEN students on work experience**

**Festus Akinbusoye PCC**  
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 30 July at 15:07 ·

As a PCC, I attend lots of meetings. This and future ones like it, is right up there in importance to me. Meet our new graduating class of Bedfordshire Police officers. Wise words from Assistant Chief Constable Sham Basra on professionalism, standards & enjoying the job. Huge honour to be part of ceremony.

I am super proud each one of these men and women as well as their superb trainers.



31,062 People reached  
2,613 Engagements  
+51.8x higher Distribution score  
[Boost post](#)

49 14 comments 30 shares

**Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Downing Street.**  
Published by IG · 29 July at 17:46 · London ·

It was a true pleasure to join several of my colleagues today at @10downingstreet for a briefing with @borisjohnsonuk @pritipatel & @kitmalhouse. The PM stressed his total focus on beating crime, preventing harm and supporting our police. I support this plan. There's much to do 🇬🇧



[Reach more people with this post](#)  
Promote your Page by boosting this post so more people can see it: "It was a true pleasu..."

2,030 People reached  
502 Engagements  
[Boost post](#)

111 16 comments 3 shares

**Festus Akinbusoye PCC**  
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 28 July at 18:25 ·

This week, the Government announced the Beat Crime Plan. It aligns very well with what I pledged during my election campaign and what I hope will go in my Police and Crime Plan.

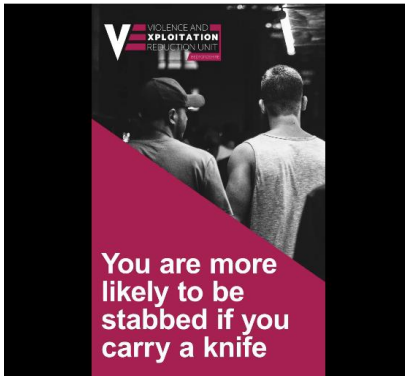
The focus on early intervention with funding for specialist services in schools such as mental health, speech therapy, family support etc is a massive intervention by Central Government. The added funding in Violence Reduction Units is a welcome announcement too as is the support for those comin... See more



**Festus Akinbusoye PCC**  
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 25 July at 00:14 ·

PLEASE SHARE:  
We are working hard to get the message across to families and our residents about the realities of knife crime. Preventing a serious violent crime is far better than dealing with the aftermath.

There is help out there- if you are concerned. Please see below 🙏



**Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.**  
Published by IG · 22 July at 12:58 · Bedford ·

DCC Trevor Rodenhurst and I popped in on our brilliant new team members during their training this afternoon. They'll be working in our force control room. It was a pleasure to field questions and thank them for joining @bedspolice What a remarkable team of trainers also 🙏



**festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.**  
Published by IG · 21 July at 15:41 · Bedford ·

I joined our Community Policing Team in Bedford today for a school visit and foot patrol in Queens Park. The primary school children loved seeing 'PD Chase' and our fantastic @bedspoliceuk CPT & Community Cohesion officers.

A positive & early police engagement. with young people helps to build trust and confidence in the police. It also promotes good decision making. Excellent day. 🙏



Well, I'm just at the school now in Queens Park

1,777 People reached  
243 Engagements  
[Boost post](#)

**Festus Akinbusoye PCC**  
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 16 July at 15:18 ·

Thanks to our cohesion team & local Community Policing Team for organising my visit to the Masjid on Westbourne Road, Bedford ahead of #Eid next week. I also accompanied Cllr. Masood to a known crime hotspot in Queens Park by the allotment.

Already followed up on plan with local team.



854 People reached  
26 Engagements  
[Boost post](#)