



Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



Welcome from Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter. I have managed to meet many more of you on my weekly engagements since last month, and I look forward to this continuing next year. I want to say a big thank you for all that you do and Season's Greetings to you all. I know that this period can be even busier for your services, I hope you'll be able to spend time with loved ones.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

As you know, a huge focus of mine is prevention and early intervention. I have been proud to be raising awareness of what we are doing as a force to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) recently as part of the 16-day VAWG campaign. We are one of the beneficiaries of the Government's Safer Streets funding and we are working very closely partners and officers to make sure there is support there for victims when they need it. This means a persistent focus on perpetrators. Also, ensuring officers are held accountable whenever they abuse their powers. I look forward to working with many of you on this hugely important topic.

Don't forget, victims of domestic abuse (or any crime) can also contact [Signpost](#) for free and confidential support, whether the abuse has been reported to the police or not.

Knife crime

Kimberley Lamb, Head of Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) has recently visited Downing Street to take ideas directly to the prime minister as part of the Hope Collective, a partnership of youth organisations. I am committed to investing in more in early intervention-programmes as we further step-up our proactive, crime prevention work.

We have commissioned services in place which work directly with schools, young people, and vulnerable individuals. I am in the process of reviewing the bids for my Grant Fund for 2022/23 and I am confident that we have a huge amount of perpetrator-focused early intervention services so that we can continue to steer our youngsters away from criminal pathways and provide the help that is needed.

Safer Streets and the Street Watch scheme

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, working with the Local Authority recently spoke with members of 256 houses in the Manshead area of Dunstable, as part of the Safer Streets project in Bedfordshire. The Safer Streets project aims to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by investing in preventative approaches and increase the level of pride in the community. The door knocks were a



huge success and vital in helping to ensure our residents have a voice and are aware of the services available to them as part of the Safer Streets project. More [here](#)

If you'd like to get involved in protecting communities by helping to provide a visible presence, why not become a Street Watch volunteer. Email safer.streets@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk to apply. More about Street Watch [here](#)

Partnership Day

I recently hosted the virtual Partnership Day. Huge thanks to all that attended. Both commissioned and non-commissioned partners were invited to the four-hour session online. They had the opportunity to share updates with each other and the OPCC on their services and plans for the year ahead. More [here](#).

Signpost is changing its name

Our Victim Care Service, Signpost are going to be re-branded to 'Bedfordshire's Victim Care Services'. I know many of you will already be aware of this, for those that aren't – we are changing the name to make the service more accessible for victims by changing the name so that 'it does what it says on the tin'. Please may I ask for your support in helping my team to share the new collateral and it's also an opportunity to promote this amazing service. Look out for more information on this soon.

PCC's Grant Fund 2022/23

When speaking with many partners over the last couple of months, I reminded you to put your bids in for my grant fund, which are now closed. The bids are currently reviewed both internally by the OPCC and then externally through the format of panels. All winning bids will be informed of the outcome on December 16th.

Road Safety Fund

Bids are still open for the Road Safety fund. The fund is available for community groups and partners to bid into, to try and reduce the number of people harmed on our roads. My team are encouraging applications from projects and organisations which aim to make the county's roads safer. More [here](#).

Independent Custody Volunteers

My team are recruiting for Independent Custody Volunteers (ICVs) at either our Luton or Kempston Custody Suite. ICVs check on the treatment of detainees, anyone can apply, and full training will be given. More [here](#).

Finally, as we head into next year, we're starting to plan for next year's events. We're already working on plans for the 2022 Summer of Fun activities for young people. If any Local Authorities already have activities planned, please get in touch by emailing pccevents@beds.police.uk. As always, if you have any feedback or suggestions, you can email the office 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 @Fest4BedsPCC and @SignpostBedford

Season's Greetings and stay safe

Festus Akinbusoye



Press releases

[OPCC thank the Trustees of Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust ahead of Trustees Week](#)

3rd November 2021

While Trustees' Week is a time to celebrate the invaluable role that trustees undertake, it is also an opportunity for trustees to reflect on what it means to be part of the board which is responsible for implementing good governance in the organisation.

[Bullying is a disease we must stamp out says Bedfordshire PCC](#)

17th November 2021

"The reality is that bullying does not only occur in the school playground nor is it something we all 'grow out of. In fact, some of us cling on to our bullying tendencies as we would to dear life itself, ruining lives, homes and places of work in the process".

[PCC hosts event to help stamp out rural crime in Bedfordshire](#)

24th November 2021

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye, recently hosted a joint event with Chief Constable Garry Forsyth alongside the National Farmers Union (NFU) to discuss rural crime.

[Organisations across Bedfordshire joined forces in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour \(ASB\). - Bedfordshire PCC](#)

19th November 2021

In a pan-Bedfordshire conference held recently at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick, as well as streamed online, agencies came together putting the focus on victims.

[Safer Streets project team speak with over 200 households in Manshead in bid to help residents to feel safer in the community](#)

2nd December 2021

Antonina Belcheva, Safer Streets Project Manager at the OPCC said: "By working together in partnership, we are able to engage with the local community, listen to their concerns and complete a number of community surveys which we hope will ultimately help to improve the quality of life of the residents."

[Local organisations that support victims of crime 'blown away' during meeting hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner](#)

2nd December 2021

Both commissioned and not commissioned partners were invited to the four-hour session. They had the opportunity to speak with the Police and Crime Commissioner and to share updates with each other and the OPCC on their services and plans for the year ahead in a speed round.



Social Media – November 2021

Festus Akinbusoye PCC
 Published by Pccp Bedfordshire · November 26 at 12:43 PM ·
 Delivery and Beating Crime Meeting 25/11/2021.
<https://youtu.be/tzRmFyxaQIE>



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 30 at 1:52 PM · Bedford ·
 Thanks to the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre for a fascinating meeting discussing #CyberResilience and #CyberSecurity. #CyberCrime is probably the fastest growing and least reported crime at present, but impact on victims is immense.
 Find out more here: <https://t.co/9Nvg9oEe5f>



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 29 at 3:06 PM · Bedford ·
 It was a pleasure to host Susannah Hancock, Chief Executive Officer for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners today. Her visit to @bedspcc was very helpful. Very grateful for the support being provided to new Police and Crime Commissioners such as myself and colleagues in what is a huge undertaking.
 Every little helps. #Teamworkmakesthedreamwork



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 9 at 4:07 PM · Bedford ·
 During my walk-around @bedspoliceuk HQ today, I spoke with several of our awesome team members. This is Barbara. She has just applied to move from her current role to become a Detective. She will be absolutely brilliant. 🌟🌟🌟
 We are recruiting now
<https://t.co/wwxkAYCF8>



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 23 at 2:18 PM · Bedford ·
 It was a pleasure to host some of our young people, #schools and #carers this morning. The overwhelming majority of our YP are bright, ambitious and make good choices. They need our encouragement, support and guidance. Huge thanks to the parents, carers and #teachers out there.



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 17 at 11:07 AM · Bedford ·
 We're holding the #AntiSocialBehaviour conf in #Bedfordshire today. #ASB ruins lives, families & communities. We know it can link to other crimes, & sadly has led to #suicide of victims. This is a priority area for me as PCC and glad to be hosting conf. with @asbhelp @bedspoliceuk



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
 Published by Leanne Friel · November 25 at 4:08 PM ·
 #WhiteRibbonDay marks start of 16 days of targeted action by @bedspolice as part of ongoing effort to tackle the societal scourge of male violence against women and girls.
 A focus of mine as PCC is on perpetrators, preventing more victims & target re-offending. Change is possible.
 #WhiteRibbonDay ... See more



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · 22h · Bedford ·
 This morning, we commenced the commissioning of support services at @bedspolice. I've invited Community Safety Partnership leads from three local authorities, @bedspolice, probation, voluntary sector, education, YOS and @bedsveru to join me in this process. 2nd session next week.



Bullying is a disease we must stamp out says Bedfordshire PCC
 "It is clear to me that if we want to tackle the cases of serious violence in society today, we need to get to the root causes of these. In my view, bullying in the home, at school, in relationships and certainly in the workplace must be called out and stamped out."
 Read article here... See more



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 30 at 11:00 AM · Bedford ·
 HollyWdog was an absolute treat today during her visit to @bedspcc. As a Police Seeing Dog, it's no surprise she brings so much life and energy with her. Thank you PC Paul, Inspector @jenmccintyremsmith & @OscarKiloUK for the work you do in this important area. Holly is a great friend 🐾



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is in Luton.
 Published by Instagram · November 24 at 3:59 PM · Instagram ·
 This afternoon, I visited @diversefm building in #Luton to meet some of the YP there. Despite their lived experiences, they are proof of what can be achieved with support and opportunity. Our young people need more encouragement and lot less judgment.



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
 Published by Instagram · November 14 at 1:12 PM · Bedford ·
 For our everything, they gave their all. We will remember them.
 #RemembranceSunday #Bedford



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
 Published by Instagram · November 19 at 12:13 PM · Instagram ·
 Passionate discussion at #policeconf21 about disproportionality, use of force, stop and search culture in policing.
 Fantastic contributions from Chief Constable Andy Marsh (College of Policing), Pastor L @dwaynatics West Midlands Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe and George, Chairman, National Black Police Association on this absolutely crucial issue. The passion for change was felt. Really grateful for the insights.



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
 Published by Festus Akinbusoye · November 16 at 3:38 PM ·
 It was a pleasure to join Bedfordshire Police's dedicated Rural Crime Team, Chief Constable Forgyth, National Farmer's Union members and rural residents for our annual #RuralCrime conference.
 These engagements are crucial for improving performance and delivery of police services in rural areas. Without question, we must find a way to build on the positive and improve in areas.
 Very grateful for insights and action plans for next year. We will get there.

