



The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter - April 2021



Spring is most certainly with us now and as we embrace the season focused on growth it is important that we in policing reach out to those who have been affected by crime to ensure they know about the practical resources available to them so they can cope with the impact and in their own time and their own way, recover.

For Bedfordshire; this is Signpost, who can be contacted on 08082 000 247. Please note you do not need to report a crime to police to receive support from Signpost

With the vaccine being rolled out, you may see some of our posters in the vaccine centres. We are focusing on Domestic Abuse, Fraud support and Mental Health messages.

This is not ok.

I will make it up to you tonight

I had too much to drink.
It won't happen again

I just love you too much, I can't lose you. I don't want you wearing that outfit again.

Where are you?

I didn't mean to hurt you, you made me do it.

You do not deserve this.

It is not your fault.

You are not alone.

Domestic Abuse can happen to anyone, at any age.

**It can be physical or mental abuse.
It can be controlling.**

Please call **0808 2000 247** for advice and support. We can help to get you through this, your way, when you're ready.

In an emergency, always call 999. If you are afraid to speak or cannot speak, call 999 from a mobile, await operator instructions and press 5,5.



If home isn't safe, we're here to help.



**If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Abuse,
call 0808 2000 247 for advice and support.**

In an emergency, always call 999.
If you are afraid to speak or cannot speak,
call 999 from a mobile, await operator instructions then 5, 5.



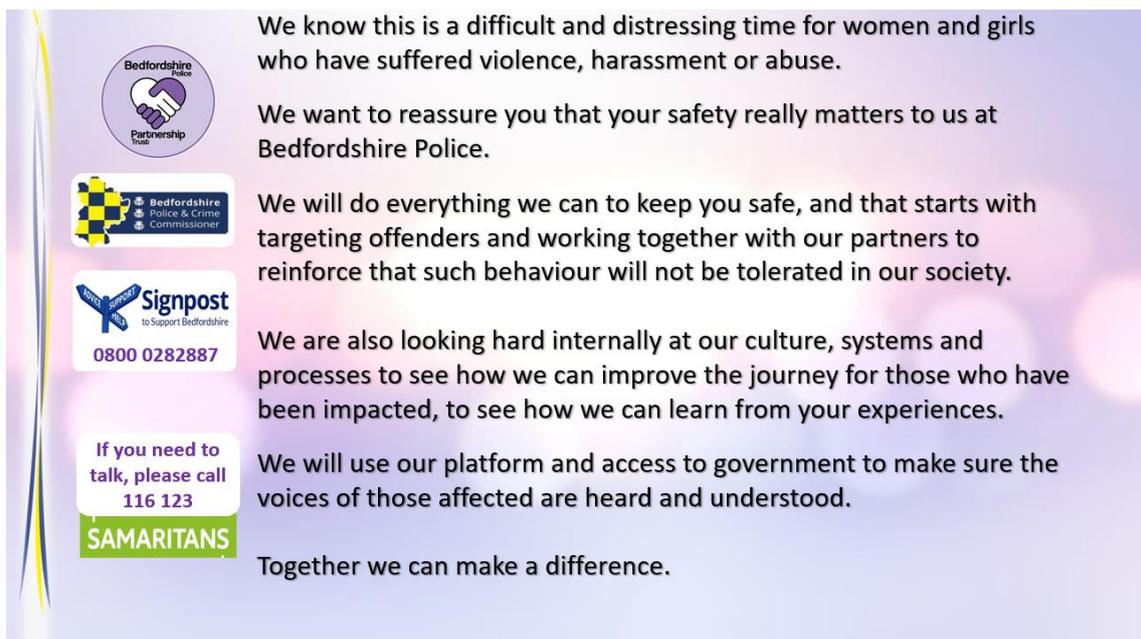
Womens Network

The International Women's Day 2021 theme this year was #ChoosetoChallenge. Bedfordshire's Women's Network marked the day on 8 March by inviting personnel from across the Force to share what they choose to challenge and hosted a fantastic guest speaker. Lt Col Chris Murray, a serving Army Intelligence Corps Officer, who spoke about the challenges she has faced in her military and sporting career and how at the age of 44 she has just been selected for an elite athletes' programme. Chris delivered a presentation about her challenges, how she has learnt from setbacks, and then spent time answering our questions.



The network will continue the theme of choose to challenge over the coming months. They will be conducting some 'spotlight on' interviews of women across the Force, enabling them to share their experiences of the challenges they have faced in their careers and how they have learnt from them. We will also be running some confidence building workshops based on the hugely successful google initiative #IamRemarkable – dates to follow in the next newsletter. If you would like to get involved in the network please get in touch (WomensNetwork@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk), all are welcome!

The OPCC has worked with our Independent Advisory Group and Bedfordshire Police to form a statement about the national conversation about male violence.



 We know this is a difficult and distressing time for women and girls who have suffered violence, harassment or abuse.

 We want to reassure you that your safety really matters to us at Bedfordshire Police.

 We will do everything we can to keep you safe, and that starts with targeting offenders and working together with our partners to reinforce that such behaviour will not be tolerated in our society.

 We are also looking hard internally at our culture, systems and processes to see how we can improve the journey for those who have been impacted, to see how we can learn from your experiences.

 We will use our platform and access to government to make sure the voices of those affected are heard and understood.

Together we can make a difference.

The global pandemic has meant a restructure to our lives, but the unexplored beauty of this world is still out there. The pandemic cannot stop your dreams or hopes of what you want to do with your life. The unexplored means different things to different people, it may well be a place you wish to visit, a new skill you plan to acquire or a life event that is soon approaching. In order to embrace this we need to ensure we are looking after ourselves and seeking support when needed. The OPCC was pleased to support the week of action that the Wellbeing team in Force delivered in March both financially and with supporting the ethos behind it but urge all residents across Bedfordshire to take time for their own wellbeing and to reach out to services for support, so that we can all be prepared for the road map ahead.



If you need support...

The uncertainty of the unexplored can be both exhilarating and cause trepidation. You may be looking forward to seeing family again or you may be nervous about a routine before the pandemic coming back. You do not have to go through this uncertainty alone.

There are incredibly supportive networks available for you and you are welcome to access their services here:

	<p>Samaritans 24/7 helpline – call: 116 123 Send an email – email: jo@samaritans.org Or download the Samaritans Self-help App: https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/self-help/</p>
	<p>NHS England Find your local NHS urgent mental health helpline: https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline</p>
	<p>SHOUT A 24/7, free and confidential mental health support <u>text</u> helpline. Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 https://giveusashout.org/</p>



Being a parent or carer has seen individuals have to take on many different roles this past year. Day job, teacher, advisor, hairdresser or barber, we appreciate this has been a huge undertaking and that the children of Bedfordshire have experienced something none of us saw coming in its totality. An important area to focus on as we move forward is the support towards our young people in our community. We need to ensure they feel supported, listened to and have their needs met appropriately. The OPCC have funded organisations that will be working directly with young people in 2021 and 2022.

<p>Bruno's Brazilian Soccer School CIC</p>	<p>bsantos.bs855@gmail.com</p> <p>Want to learn to play football the Brazilian way? Contact Bruno's Brazilian Soccer School, where you will learn to play with freedom and flair.</p> <p>At Brazilian Soccer School we have three main purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First to play with confidence and no fear to express yourself on the pitch. - Second is social development, we want kids to come out of their shells and make new friends and new experiences. - Finally, just to have fun and enjoy yourselves.
<p>Embrace – KIDVA Service</p>	<p>kayleigh@embracecvoc.org.uk</p> <p>Kayleigh runs the KIDVA project in Bedfordshire, supporting young people who have been affected by domestic abuse.</p> <p>Kayleigh is also a qualified youth worker and has a wealth of experience writing and delivering specialist intervention programmes for young people.</p>
<p>Families First Bedfordshire (a trading name of the Early Childhood Partnership)</p>	<p>admin@familiesfirstbedfordshire.org.uk or call 01234 341 977</p> <p>Families First Bedfordshire offer Therapeutic Services for Young People including Play Therapy.</p> <p>Play Therapy uses a variety of play and creative arts techniques to alleviate chronic, mild and moderate psychological and emotional conditions in children that are causing behavioural problems and/or are preventing children from realising their potential.</p> <p>The Play Therapist works integratively using a wide range of play and creative arts techniques, mostly responding to the child's wishes. The</p>

	<p>Play Therapist forms a short to medium term (minimum 12 weeks) therapeutic relationship and often works systemically taking into account and perhaps dealing with the social environment of the clients (peers, siblings, family, school etc).</p> <p>Play therapy is particularly effective with children who cannot, or do not want to talk about their problems.</p>
<p>Luton Town Community Trust</p>	<p>community@lutontown.co.uk or call 01582 561 622</p> <p>On International Day of Families, Luton Town FC Community Trust is partnering with EFL Trust and Ferrero to launch the 'Joy of Moving Home School Festival', a full afternoon of home school activities and games to get children and their families moving and having fun.</p> <p>To read more, click here: https://www.lutontowncommunity.co.uk/joy-of-moving</p>
<p>Marsh Farm Futures</p>	<p>Futures Young Voice is a group of young people aged between 14 -17 years who formed to represent young people of Area North. They want to try and address issues and concerns of other young people and consult with them to find out how they can best help. They actively lead on projects in the area with support from Marsh Farm Futures, other agencies and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>For more information contact Cathy McShane on 01582 512 555.</p>
<p>OK2B - LGBT Youth Project</p>	<p>info@tokko.co.uk or call 01582 544 990</p> <p>OK2B is a support group run for the LGBT Youth from across the area where there is currently no existing provision. Through our pilot study young people, schools, youth and education providers have engaged and requested further support mechanisms. This runs on youth need frequency basis and also has the capacity to support young people on an individual basis.</p> <p>Young people are also offered a 1-2-1 mentoring with an experienced youth worker to be able to openly discuss and get personal advice and guidance. Don't hesitate to reach out (see contact information) if you feel you'd benefit from mentoring.</p> <p>The project is based at TOKKO, giving the young people activities and projects to take part in as well as a support service. We have formulated, produced and delivered a concentrated and targeted, on-going programme of awareness on the consequences towards homophobia, trans-phobia and bi-phobia for young people.</p> <p>https://tokko.co.uk/projects/ok2b-lgbt-project/</p>

We know many of you have benefited from our four-legged friends as we took our daily exercise over the past year. In policing, dogs are working animals but just the same as all our beloved pets they are part of the family too. The rise in dog thefts is highly concerning, the link to organised crime and the miserable endings of these loyal creatures is one the OPCC and Police family are highly concerned about.



Police tactics will certainly be deployed where there is a good trail of evidence to follow, however there is more we can do.

The OPCC is backing the petition to 'Make dog theft a specific criminal offence'. If you would also like to sign the petition, click here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/560216>.

The OPCC have also supported the Dog Watch schemes across the County with £5,000 towards the Community Watch team. If you would like to find out more about the Dog Watch scheme, [click here](#).



PCC Elections 2021



A message from our Chief Executive on the 2021 PCC Elections:

“Like all of you, we understand the importance of safety as we continue to experience the Covid-19 pandemic. The government have decided that they will continue safely with an election and

so my office and I are also preparing for this but in a safe and appropriate way.

On May 6th, your voice is being called upon to vote for your new Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Our Local Authorities are working hard to ensure the voting process will be as safe as possible for you.

My office and I cannot comment on any of the candidates that have put their names forward for this important position in our community, but after taking counsel from community peers, I have decided to create and share content about the election through online channels.

The purpose of this is to offer information to the community so they can access what they need to make their decision about how they will use their voice on May 6th.”

The 'Inquisitive Lens' vlogs will be focussed around the four main areas within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:



We work in **partnership** with organisations locally and nationally to both deliver our commissioning duties and enhance partnership working across Victim Care, Criminal Justice and Reducing Re-offending with service users always at the heart of design.



Through community engagement we ensure the **voice of the public** is appropriately considered in both design and delivery of the police service across our county, promoting and enabling positive interactions that work towards gaining trust and confidence.



We ensure compliance with our **transparency** duties and support the PCC in delivering their **statutory duties** in line with the Code of Ethics, as well as the **delivery** of their Police and Crime Plan.



We hold Bedfordshire Police to account in delivering an efficient and effective policing service, whilst **ensuring policing standards** are met.

If you would like to watch the Chief Executive, Clare Kelly's 'Inquisitive Lens' vlog, [click here](#).

Press Releases - March 2021



[OPCC share plans for change after listening to those who have experienced crime in Bedfordshire](#)

Published 26/03/2021

Victims of crime and those affected by crimes impacts are a fundamental focus within policing and for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Every OPCC must be a champion for victims as per their statutory obligations.



[PCC launches fifth and final year report as she wins £2.1m more for Bedfordshire Police and submits a further £1.8m in Safer Streets bids to the Home Office](#)

Published 18/03/2021

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has produced a report to mark the end of her five year term as a further £2.1m Special Grant has been won to help her force fight Organised Crime Groups and £1.8m more is being requested from the Home Office in Safer Street bids countywide.



[Virtual Community Event for 'Safer Streets'](#)

Published 17/03/2021

The Safer Streets project in the Midland Road area has seen a major upgrade to the CCTV system, home safety equipment and advice offered to residents, and home visits carried out by Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue and other local organisations, as part of this Home Office funded project.



[Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner supports NO MORE WEEK as new laws are added to support those affected by domestic abuse](#)

Published 10/03/2021

This week sees the eighth annual NO MORE Week. NO MORE Week is an annual, international opportunity to come together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, inspiring individuals, organisations, and communities to make change.



[PCC wins more than 2 million to fund Bedfordshire Polices biggest ever crackdown on organised crime gangs.](#)

Published 05/03/2021

Bedfordshire's PCC, Kathryn Holloway, has succeeded in her latest bid to gain bespoke funding from the Home Office - winning over £2m in her latest Special Grant for police to target the criminal masterminds behind Organised Crime Groups across the county.

The funding will allow Bedfordshire Police to focus on Organised Crime Groups after new leads emerged as a result of the National Crime Agency's Operation Venetic, which managed to crack the encryption of the network EncroChat, used by such groups to manage their criminal trade in drugs, weapons and people.



[Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust launch new branding for a new focus](#)

Published 05/03/2021

The Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust (BPPT) was launched as a Registered Charity on 16th September 1997 with help from a grant from the national lottery, with the key aim to engage with partners from the business community in Bedfordshire, to enhance Community Safety across the county.

With a legacy of over 20 years operation, this vision has proved to be vital for so many. In its early years, the BPPT operated a Driver Awareness Program and a Grant Program. However, in 1999, the flagship of the Trust was launched, in the form of the Bobby Van Scheme. The Bobby Scheme and Grant Programme are still at the heart of the Charity's work today.

