



Hello everyone,

First of all, let's hope 2021 is an improvement on 2020 and that you yourselves have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Thank you to every one of you for all your hard work and dedication helping Bedfordshire Police and the public over the course of last year - one of the most challenging we have all ever faced.

It's difficult to see many positives from the COVID-19 pandemic but one is undoubtedly the way its forged police, Fire and Rescue service, the Ambulance service as well as Health services and local councils into unprecedented partnership and mutual understanding which is why the response to the Christmas day flooding was so outstanding.

Many of you tell me that they still don't fully understand the role of the PCC and OPCC so, although 2020 was a very tough year, it seems a good moment to look back on some of the remarkable things we achieved at an unprecedented time for which I have to say a huge thankyou to my own team for all their work and support for the force, victims of crime and communities:

- * A third Special Grant was won for Bedfordshire Police of £2.9 million pounds to tackle gun, gang and knife crime
- * Two bids were won from the Home Office as part of its Safer Streets Campaign, amounting to £882,150. In addition, residents and businesses will see an investment of an extra £30,000 to upgrade cctv throughout Bedford borough on top of £434,000 for the Midland Road area in Bedford as well as £448,150 for High Town in Luton
- * The OPCC won additional funding for charities within Bedfordshire from the Ministry of Justice totalling £325,00, to allow them to continue to operate during the pandemic
- * We created a £46,000 fund and sourced hotel and rented accommodation for those fleeing Domestic Abuse, even though most of hospitality shut down during lockdown
- * We set up by a PPE supply logistics system to track the use and re-ordering of this vital equipment for police officers and staff after providing aprons, gel and masks at the very outset of the pandemic, while the police supply chain got established

*My office set up a parcel distribution service through the Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust to deliver 3,000 parcels to our most vulnerable residents ahead of any local government scheme

*We worked with Age UK to send 5,000 letters out to the elderly to advise over fraud prevention and to inform visiting medical professionals

* We set up online gang and CSE diversion activities on Youtube delivered by diverse young mentors under the banner The James Campbell Collective and delivered weekday sessions throughout lockdown and the school holidays offering schemes from boxing and keep fit to chess with just under 5,000 view

* The care proceedings programme I help fund supporting families through addiction crises achieved a high success rate in its first year with 68.5% parents achieving and sustaining abstinence from illegal substances or alcohol. The Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) programme supported 19 parents, with 31 children between them, who were in care proceedings which may have led to their removal from home, through intense rehabilitation plans and regular reviews by its presiding judge, giving families a far greater chance of staying together

* £7,000 pounds worth of funding was issued to the national charity Crimestoppers to run campaigns across Bedfordshire to encourage entirely anonymous reporting of concerns over Domestic Violence and County Lines drug running

* £169,000 was allocated to help services supporting Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence victims in Bedfordshire as cases rose during pandemic

* More than £30,000 was invested to divert young people from violence and exploitation. Outdoor gym equipment, youth clubs and outreach programmes are among the projects awarded funding and the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit itself was re-funded after the bid from my office to the tune of £880,000

* Signpost - the victim support service I introduced, worked with 1,427 victims during the lockdown alone (23 March to 30 September 2020)

* Direction, the service which my team and I created with Youturn Futures to turn around the life chances of those exiting through the doors of HMP Bedford and elsewhere in the Criminal Justice system received its 400th referral to the service after just a year of operation

* Signpost's partnership with The Counselling Foundation resulted in over 100 individuals across Bedfordshire being supported in just five months

* My team secured a further major grant of almost £140,000 for services supporting victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence to deal with an increase in demand during the pandemic

* We held a virtual conference for partners - inviting organisations from across the county to focus on the year ahead and working more closely together to build a safer Bedfordshire which was attended by more than 60 representatives

* I finally succeeded in finding and designing our new Sexual Assault Referral Centre and this facility brings me great pride in the way it supports victims of sexual assault in a more appropriate setting and provides new working spaces for those who deliver such dedicated and specialist support

And as for the future, I will continue to redesign and refurbish as much of the outdated workspace as possible at Bedfordshire Police (as an alternative to a new HQ) before I leave in May as a well-deserved investment in the health, wellbeing and morale of the officers and staff who help to protect you.

I will also be submitting two new Special Grants bids on behalf of Bedfordshire Police to target Organised Crime Groups and Serious Violence across the county for approximately £7m collectively before I go and hope to hear the outcomes in May.

It's been a pleasure to work with you so far. I will leave behind an OPCC team who work tirelessly on your behalf too. So let's hope 2021 turns out to be another great year working shoulder to shoulder with you, our partners, to take this force further onwards and upwards alongside our equality dedicated chief officer and management teams at Bedfordshire Police.

Wishing you all the very best in 2021.

Yours,

Kathryn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Holloway', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire



News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



[Public service leaders urge Bedfordshire residents to keep preventing the spread of coronavirus 02/12/20](#)

Public service leaders from across Bedfordshire have urged people to continue playing their part in halting the spread of coronavirus as the county moves into more local restrictions.

From today (Wednesday) Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton will move into tier two restrictions, having spent the past month in the national lockdown.

[PCC holds virtual Partners' Conference to encourage more effective joint working for a brighter and safer Bedfordshire – 04/12/20](#)

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, held a virtual conference for partners - inviting organisations from across the county to focus on the year ahead and working more closely together to build a brighter and safer Bedfordshire for all.

The event, which took place this week (Tuesday 1 December), was attended by over 63 representatives working for Bedfordshire's public services, charities and organisations supporting victims, together with those from local authorities and community members. There was an opportunity for organisations to present on work they had completed this year or projects they are currently working on, which allowed 18 presentations to be made in total for partners to gain a greater understanding of the work of their colleagues.

[PCC thanks volunteers for their dedication and hard work ahead of International Volunteer Day – 05/12/20](#)

This Saturday (5th December), we are celebrating International Volunteer Day. As an organisation, we depend so much on the generosity of your time, dedication and hard work.

It has been an incredibly challenging year, adapting the way we live and work whilst trying to run essential services to protect our communities and support victims of crime and those who are vulnerable.

[PCC funded programme supporting families through addiction crises achieves high success rate in its first year despite Covid-19 – 08/12/20](#)

The Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) programme which was the first to be funded by a Police and Crime Commissioner, when Kathryn Holloway gave it her backing in Bedfordshire, has so far supported 19 parents, with 31 children between them, who were in care proceedings which may have led to their removal from home, through intense rehabilitation plans and regular reviews by its presiding judge, giving families a greater chance of staying together.

Family Drug and Alcohol Courts require a parent with addiction to agree to a formal rehabilitation plan and work very regularly with the Family Court Judge and an FDAC team of specialists over a 26-week period, to address their behaviour and build better relationships with both their children and themselves.

PCC provides vital funding for charity supporting children harmed by crime as demand surges – 15/12/20

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has provided an additional £56k to the charity, Embrace Child Victims of Crime (Embrace CVOC), which provides specialist counselling, therapy and practical support to children whose lives have been devastated by crime and has kicked off its Christmas gift appeal.

This year, the charity has seen an increase of 108% in the number of families it is supporting in Bedfordshire as a result of rise in Domestic Abuse. This year, 400 children and families have benefited from practical and emotional support, as well as specialist therapy and counselling.

PCC funds Midland Road Safer Streets centre in Bedford to help vulnerable residents, provide a police base and build a safer neighbourhood – 17/12/20

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has funded a community centre in Bedford which will offer a dedicated space for police and partners to support local victims of crime and help to reduce the risk of residents becoming victims as part of the Safer Streets programme for which her office has won funding from the Home Office.

The newly improved community centre, on Prebend Street in Bedford, which has been run by the charity SMART CJS since 2016, was officially reopened today (Thursday 17 December) following further investment from the Commissioner of £16,040.

PCC commends Bedfordshire Police for outstanding resilience and dedication after distributing 6 million pounds to support the county through this year's pandemic – 21/12/20

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has commended the outstanding work of Bedfordshire Police and partners in the face of an unprecedented year in her Christmas message to the force as she marked £6m of funding those working with her office to support communities and victims of crime.

The £6m has included funding from the Special Grant from the Home Office, funding from the Ministry of Justice, Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) and the Home Office's Safer Streets Campaign.

PCC thanks residents for taking part in her annual survey – 29/12/210

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has thanked residents who responded to her fourth annual survey, which asked the people of Bedfordshire to have their say on policing and crime in their area.

The responses from the survey, which was launched in October, showed that 65% of people supported the Commissioner's pledge to return to more visible policing. Burglary and anti-social behaviour were issues residents felt most concerned by within their communities, with drug dealing and county lines also frequently mentioned.

Social Media Highlights

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Dec 4

This week, the PCC held a virtual conference for partners - inviting organisations from across the county to focus on the year ahead and working more closely together to build a brighter and safer Bedfordshire for all - bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2020-12-pcc-ho...



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Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Dec 3

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, anywhere. If you or someone you know is in need of support, please call 0808 2000 247 for free and confidential advice. Always call 999 in an emergency [#16DaysOfAction](https://twitter.com/16DaysOfAction) [#DomesticAbuse](https://twitter.com/DomesticAbuse)



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Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Dec 4

Ahead of [#InternationalVolunteerDay](https://twitter.com/InternationalVolunteerDay) the PCC has expressed her thanks in a letter to volunteers. [#ThankYou](https://twitter.com/ThankYou) [#Volunteers](https://twitter.com/Volunteers)



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Dates for the diary

Bedfordshire Youth Council – Every month there is a new theme. **For January the focus is on the OPCC Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.** Looking at what our volunteers do and the rights you have when detained by the police. To find out more and look at previous themes, please visit [@bedsyouthcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bedsyouthcouncil) on Instagram.

100 Conversations

The PCC would like to invite members of the community, in particular those from the African Caribbean community, for a one to one conversation regarding their experience with and thoughts on discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Please sign up [here](#) where a range of dates are available.

Police and Crime Plan

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