



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

Welcome from the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Festus Akinbusoye



Hello and welcome to my first newsletter as your new Police and Crime Commissioner. I'm Festus Akinbusoye and I was elected on Thursday 6th May 2021.



I took the Oath a week later and this ceremony was livestreamed via the OPCC Facebook page, which is still available to watch [here](#)

Since starting, I have been busy meeting with volunteers, visiting local partners, members of the public and the staff and officers of [Bedfordshire Police](#). I dedicate my diary every Wednesday to community visits and this has proved to be very beneficial as partners, the public and officers have aided my research already for the development of the Police and Crime Plan that I will be launching in August.

Getting out and about

In my first week, I went out with the Rural Crime Team and saw first-hand what they're doing to tackle crime across the county. I also joined some of our officers on a ride along at night in Luton. This was amazing to see them in action helping to keep Bedfordshire safe.



I visited the Safer Streets Hub in Bedford and had a valuable catch up with [Dynamic Decisions](#), [Link to Change](#), [Change Ur Life](#) and the Safer Streets team. They shared their work with me on what they're doing to safeguard the residents in our community. They are doing lots to raise awareness of early intervention and I was blown away by their passion.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Detective Chief Superintendent Dee Perkins from Crime to hear about the work of the Domestic Abuse Investigation team and the focus on supporting vulnerable people.

Empower the people

A quote I live by is *'one of the best things decision-makers can do is to empower the people they are trying to support'*. Therefore, I gave my power over to young people from schools in Bedfordshire so they could choose where the funding goes to improve spaces for young people. Over £40,000 worth of bids were received and the young people worked carefully together and didn't disappoint!

Find the list of winning bids [here](#)

Talking of empowering people, I was pleased to meet with the Independent Advisory Group members to discuss how we can work together to represent the voice of the public to Bedfordshire Police, and they certainly empower our police service to hear and understand the public's perspectives.

Investing in Cyber Triage Vans

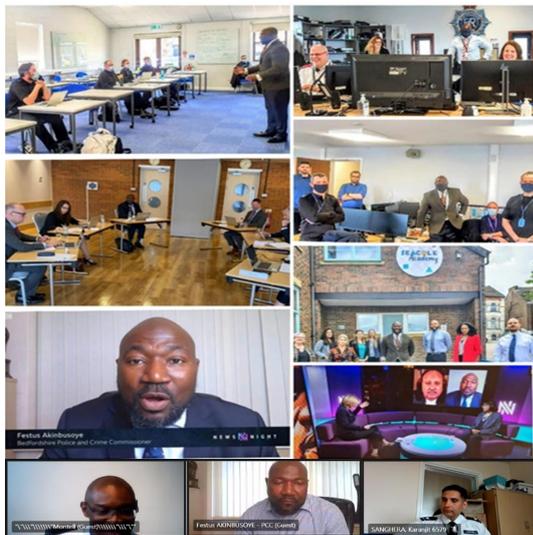
As a priority I want to keep people safe and to do this we need to equip our Officers with all the tools they need to do exactly that. This is why I am delighted to invest in another Cyber Triage Van for our Cyber Crime Team as part of their work to keep our communities safer. *(For more information, click [here](#))*

Holding Bedfordshire Police to account

During my second week, I chaired my first Strategic Board meeting and this was streamed live [here](#) keeping my pledge of transparency. The topics covered were:

- Police and crime plan
- Community problem solving
- Satisfaction of victims of crime
- Police data trends in Bedfordshire
- Clare's law and the local police approach to domestic abuse

I had great conversations with the Chief Executive Officers at Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to report back on what we're doing to keep residents safe as well as the Mayor of Bedford. My pledge to crush vehicles used for fly-tipping will be happening over the summer months, and my pledge to address the drug and alcohol related causes of crime in our county is also underway with a new trial to support people with drug and alcohol support as part of a conditional caution.



Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel

I met the on-duty mental health nurse and other police staff in the Force Control room, the heart of our police service. This joined up work between health care and policing has helped safeguard people at their most vulnerable. I remain committed to this approach. I also had the pleasure of taking part in the Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, where community members watch video interactions of how officers use this power. Feedback from the community goes directly to the Officers, and I can see how this is working for us.

That's it from me, I hope that's given you a good insight into what my first couple of weeks have looked like.

Through my future formal holding to account meetings I will raise issues put to me about the strategy of policing so if you would like to raise an area here please contact me:

PCC@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

My team have also put together a new website to support all the areas I want to be able to share with the public – check that out [here](#).

Stay Safe
Festus Akinbusoye

Chief Executive's Celebration

By Clare Kelly Chief Executive of the OPCC



This month, it was my pleasure to join Events and Engagements Officer Zoe-Jade Fraser at the virtual #BeYou Awards held by Bedfordshire Police. Zoe was up for an award in the category of Compassion. This is because she spent her time in the pandemic supporting volunteers, staff and officers with her kindness and energy. She arranged for



care packages to be delivered right across the Force and arranged for treat deliveries of chocolate and pizza for bank holiday working whilst the canteens and most public spaces were closed due to the pandemic. She also sourced care products for our friends and colleagues at the hospitals in Bedfordshire and care homes. She uses her skills as an event planner to ensure personal details are included and because of the messages of appreciation the office received I know what an impact she had.

I was also proud to find out that it was colleagues from Signpost who nominated Karen a supervisor from this supportive team, our very own victim service centre, for an award at the same event. Her skills in trauma informed practice have been highly valuable during the pandemic and her colleagues wanted her to know she was appreciated. Karen's work is essential to helping people cope and recover after devastating times.

My congratulations to both Zoe and Karen.

Press Releases – May 2021

[PCC keeps pledge of transparency by livestreaming his first formal meeting with the Bedfordshire Police Executive Team](#)

25 May 2021

The PCC ensured that part of the meeting was live streamed so that the public were able to watch the way in which questions are asked and how he performs his holding to account role.

The Strategic Board meeting is one of the main Governance Boards for holding Bedfordshire Police to account. Within the meeting, the Executive team give strategic updates on areas of policing, victim care and offender management.

[PCC meets Beds Police Cyber Hub team and invests in fourth Cyber Triage van](#)

25 May 2021

The Commissioner said "My priority is the safety of our residents and I am committed to equip our Officers with all the tools they need to do exactly that. This is why I am delighted to invest in another Cyber Triage Van for our Cyber Crime Team as part of their work to keep our communities safer".

New PCC commits to implement the New Victim Code

19 May 2021

Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye said “It is crucial that each individual is supported appropriately throughout the criminal justice system and beyond. The revised Victims’ Code must be accessible to all victims of crime, to ensure that they are aware of their entitlements.”



New Police and Crime Commissioner to invest £28,000 in improved spaces for young people

18 May 2021

Commissioner Akinbusoye said “One of the best things decision-makers can do is to empower the people they are trying to support. I offered the chance to our young people to make decisions on behalf of their generation and they did not disappoint. They worked together and showed decisiveness as they worked through carefully all the options we gave them.”



New Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye reveals early plans

14 May 2021

The Commissioner added “As I begin my engagements with both residents and businesses I will be opening up communication for full conversations across different platforms. Meeting you where I can, live streaming key events and sharing information on our new website.

www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk.”



New PCC supports Mental Health Awareness Week by providing victims with mindfulness tools

14 May 2021

The new PCC, Festus Akinbusoye visited the Victim Engagement team at Bedfordshire Police Headquarters this week to show his support and commitment to our victim services. The Commissioner said “I am impressed by the teams at Bedfordshire Police who go the extra mile to support those that they are working with. They protect and safeguard those that have sadly experienced crime in Bedfordshire and I am pleased to support them with this gesture.”



Bedfordshire PCC ELECTION RESULTS – FESTUS AKINBUSOYE ELECTED

7 May 2021

Festus Akinbusoye has been elected as Bedfordshire’s next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Festus will take up the role officially on Thursday 13 May 2021 after he takes the Oath to become the Commissioner.



Social Media – May 2021

Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire
Published by IG · 13 May at 23:11 · Bedford ·

Some pictures from the swearing-in ceremony today.



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 13 May at 23:28 ·

I was interviewed earlier today on BBC Look East as part of a feature item into the work of our brilliant Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU).

I spoke about the funding of the organisation, my priorities moving forward as PCC for Bedfordshire and the nature of challenges we face around serious youth violence.



1,159 People reached

186 Engagements

Boost Unavailable

Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
Published by IG · 19 May at 15:15 · Bedford ·

This morning, I met with some of the organisations supported by my office as part of the #SaferStreets fund provided by the Home Office. They provide youth clubs activities, support for victims of domestic abuse, and wraparound help for young vulnerable people.

Please know there is help out there, funded by your Police and Crime Commissioner, to support victims of crime and to safeguard our residents. Contact 08000282887 or visit www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/ for support. We are here for you.



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 21h · Bedford ·

Every Wednesday, my diary is fully dedicated to community visits with partners, businesses, schools and of course our staff and officers at Bedfordshire Police

I am so proud of our new recruits (some of whom I got to share a few words of encouragement with today during their training session), our community policing teams and the likes of [Mary Seacole Housing Association](#) who do a great job supporting and giving opportunities to some of the most vulnerable in our community... See more



Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 25 May at 15:48 · Bedford ·

It was my pleasure to meet our on-duty mental health nurse and other police staff in the control room today.

The Force Control Room is the heart of our police service. Did you know that in Bedfordshire Police, we have a #mentalhealth nurse, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to work alongside our officers to triage jobs where a member of the public might be having a mental health episode?

This joined up work between health care and policing has helped safeguard pe... See more



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
Published by Zoe-Jade Fraser · 24 May at 10:45 ·

Follow @BedsOPCC to watch the livestream today at 1:25pm!



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
Published by IG · 20 May at 00:22 · Instagram ·

This is a positive development.

Over the last year, I have spoken pet owners who have been targeted, assaulted and harassed as part of attempt to steal their pet. In some cases, sadly, these criminals succeeded, causing serious heartache and deep loss.

I urge all pet owners to take extra care in protecting their pets and to please report cases of pet theft to the police on 101.

<https://www.gov.uk/.../taskforce-launched-to-investigate...>



Festus Akinbusoye PCC
Published by Festus Akinbusoye · 21 May at 22:58 ·

'People are more likely to support that which they helped to design and build'

I am applying this approach in what I do as PCC...which is to give residents, young and old a stake in community safety matters. This will reap good dividends in future.

<https://www.bedfordtoday.co.uk/.../youth-spaces-in...>

Festus Akinbusoye PCC is at Bedfordshire.
Published by IG · 25 May at 08:11 · Bedford ·

I was on BBC Two's Newsnight last night to talk about the work we're doing to improve effectiveness and legitimacy of policing in #Bedfordshire.

We are investing in training and scrutiny of use of police powers for our police officers; and as PCC, I am committed to continued development of our team members.

