



Hello everyone,

First, I would like to announce that my office has won further funding of £880,000 from the Home Office for the third consecutive year for Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) following its outstanding success in helping to drive down Serious Youth Violence in the county by almost 9% to March 2020 - and falling. Over the past year, the VERU, under the passionate and focussed day to day delivery led by Kimberley Lamb, has continued to build on this strong foundation, with its diversionary community and school-based schemes acting as the ideal counterpart to enforcement through Bedfordshire Police's specialist Op Boson team, targeting gang, gun and knife crime countywide.

Together they have helped the Chief Constable and I to achieve what would have been almost unimaginable when I arrived as Bedfordshire's PCC in May 2016, when this force area was fifth in the country for firearms crimes.

In 2020, not a single fatal shot was fired and, between the beginning of August 2020 and January 2021, not a single shot was fired at all across the whole of Bedfordshire.

The dramatic fall in victims and plateauing of knife crime admissions to Bedfordshire's two A&E Departments show conclusively that gang violence and exploitation have continued to fall over the past year in Bedfordshire and the partnership behind the VERU has played a massive part in this by working directly with young people at risk and their parents, including in schools and their own homes, in addition to the Pupil Referral Units - since we must all recognise that exclusion from schools is too often a catalyst for a descent into a life of crime and violence.

In addition, in February, I allocated £1,383,948 to 33 organisations who will run projects and programmes across Bedfordshire providing vital support to victims across the county and improvements to community safety, offender rehabilitation and mental health services for those in crisis who would otherwise contact police.

I am delighted with the quality of the projects which pitched for my funding this year, who have proved they can work in a Covid secure way, and who are almost all funded from multiple sources and working with other partners - to get public money flowing cohesively across these services.

However, I have not exhausted the Commissioner's Fund.

As I trust you may know, I will be voluntarily stepping down from my position as PCC in May after five years as Bedfordshire's PCC. As a result, I have set aside £300,000 for the next Commissioner to give them the ability to fund services in 2021-22 to support the objectives of their own Police and Crime Plan.

Last month, I also won the unanimous cross-party support of the county's Police and Crime Panel for my proposal to provide 153 new Police Constables and protect vital police jobs (including those of PCSOs in Community Policing) over the next financial year, in a tax rise of less than 30p per week.

I have been able to keep my promise to deliver more officers to Bedfordshire Police than in recruitment for over a decade, with a rise in new posts in every one of the five years while I have been the Commissioner and, while I genuinely would have preferred not to issue any rise at all to the council tax precept that pays for 38% of all our policing in Bedfordshire during a period of such economic uncertainty, there really was no choice, while every community tells me that having more visible policing is what is key to them

February also marked the first anniversary of the new Sexual Assaults Referral Centre (SARC) I introduced to better support victims of serious sexual crimes from across the county. Appropriately, this anniversary fell during Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week (that ran from 1 to 7 February 2021).

It was a personal ambition to move services to support the victims of sexual crimes out of a hospital to a setting in which they could not only be confident of continued excellent care from the staff but where their overall recovery could genuinely begin. We opened the new centre in February last year, just before the pandemic, but I trust that this extensively refurbished, thoughtfully decorated and fully equipped facility - in a tranquil, rural setting - can offer victim support for many years beyond this emergency as well as operating in a Covid secure way right now.

It was one of the proudest moments of my life when it was finished - having secured the building, designed the interior and equipped it with all contents from each item of furniture to the meals for service users and replacement clothes for men, women, children and babies. I wanted it to be a cohesive whole, not only to support victims but also to be a soothing working environment for the exceptional staff who help them and deal daily with some of the most traumatic incidents possible.

I will continue to write to you each month until the election at the beginning of May and, rest assured, I will also continue to battle for Bedfordshire, for its communities and victims of crime until shutting the door of the OPCC behind me.

Yours,

Kathryn



Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire



News from the Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner



[PCC shares pathways to support victims during LGBTQ+ History Month - 18/02/2021](#)

Bedfordshire's PCC, Kathryn Holloway, is marking LGBTQ+ History Month by sharing opportunities for support within the county.

The PCC's victim support service Signpost can offer those who have experienced crime - including hate crime as a result of their gender or sexuality - access to trained Victim Care Coordinators to help provide support from specialists working in the specific area of LGBTQ+ related crime, as Galop's Hate Crime Report (2016) revealed that eight in 10 of their respondents had experienced anti LGBTQ+ hate crime and hate speech online in the last five years across the UK.



[Emergency Support Bags made available for those fleeing Domestic Abuse by PCC as part of £14k funding package – 16/02/2021](#)

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, Kathryn Holloway, has announced that the charity she governs - The Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust (BPPT) - which works to enhance community safety in the county, has been awarded over £14,000 by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to help support individuals fleeing Domestic Abuse.

The MoJ awarded the charity £14,370 in response to the national rise in cases of Domestic Abuse. The fund will be used to create Emergency Support Bags which will provide help for those in need of support after fleeing violence, which will include sim cards to make calls, clothing, food vouchers and a wifi-enabled tablet to access 24hr support from partners.



[PCC invests over £1.3 million to help support victims of crime and improve community safety -](#)

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has allocated over £1.3 million to organisations providing vital projects supporting victims across the county to improve community safety, offender rehabilitation and mental health services for those in crisis who would otherwise contact police.

The Commissioner awarded £1,383,948 to 33 organisations who will run projects and programmes across Bedfordshire. The PCC has also set aside £300,000 for the next PCC to give them the ability to fund services that would support the objectives of their future Police and Crime Plan, following the next PCC election in May.



[Bedfordshire PCC wins funding for third year in a row for pioneering unit driving down violent crime and exploitation of children and young people as fatal gunshots halt and county sees five month hiatus in gun use by gangs - 09/02/2021](#)

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has won funding of £880,000 for the third consecutive year for Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU)

following its outstanding success in helping to drive down Serious Youth Violence in the county by almost 9% to March 2020, the halting of firearms deaths in the county last year and of gun use by gangs from August to the beginning of January.

“From the beginning of August 2020 to January, Bedfordshire Police has had no reports of firearms use directly attributed to the county’s gangs or Organised Crime Groups. No fatal shot was fired for the whole of last year in a county which has been plagued by gang related use of guns. The dramatic fall in victims and plateauing of knife crime admissions to Bedfordshire’s Hospitals show conclusively that gang violence and exploitation have continued to fall over the past year in Bedfordshire and the specialist VERU has played a massive part in this,” said the PCC.



[PCC marks first anniversary of new centre transforming support for victims of sexual crimes in Bedfordshire - 04/02/2021](#)

Bedfordshire’s PCC, Kathryn Holloway, is marking progress on the first anniversary of the specialist centre she introduced to better support victims of serious sexual assault from across the county during Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week (that runs from 1st to 7th February)

The Sexual Assaults Referral Centre (SARC) moved from a hospital setting to a comfortable and supportive environment in central Bedfordshire in February 2020 after the PCC opened negotiations for the long term lease with the landlord and personally oversaw the entire refurbishment and decoration of the new facility, supported by the partners who work within the SARC.



[PCC wins cross party support for 30p tax rise to deliver 153 new Constables and keep police jobs to protect victims - 03/02/2021](#)

Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, last night won the unanimous support, across politics, of the county’s Police and Crime Panel for her proposal to provide 153 new PCs and protect “vital” police jobs over the next financial year in a tax rise of less than 30p per week.

The PCC had apologised to the public for having to ask for any more funds at a time of economic uncertainty due to the pandemic but pointed to the need to deliver on her promise to increase officer numbers each year in one of the most financially vulnerable forces in the country and to protect essential police officer and staff jobs.



[PCC drives new assessment of victims' needs across Bedfordshire - 01/02/2021](#)

Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has today (1 February) launched a crucial survey that will inform the Victims Needs Analysis she is driving forward to ensure those who provide victim services in this county fully understand the experiences of those who have lived through a crime and how best they themselves consider they can be supported to move forward.



Social Media

Kathryn Holloway Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Published by Zoe-Jade Fraser · February 8 at 2:42 PM ·



Bedfordshire Police
February 6 at 12:00 PM ·
We are supporting the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
The force remains committed to supporting the survivors, and fi... [See More](#)

Kathryn Holloway Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Published by Kathryn Holloway · February 1 at 5:28 PM ·

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire (OPCC) is conducting a survey for people who may describe themselves as having been the victim of a crime or have been affected by criminal activity or behaviour. The survey is open to anyone, no matter what the crime was, how long ago it took place or the impact upon the individual.
The responses will help us to recognise the different ways that crime can impact individuals and communities. It will offer gui... [See More](#)

Survey for those who have been affected by crime in Bedfordshire

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire (OPCC) are conducting a survey for people who may describe themselves as being the victim of a crime or have been subjected to criminal activity or behaviour. The survey is anonymous and open to anyone no matter what the crime was, how long ago it took place or the impact it had.

The responses will help to recognise the different ways that crime can impact individuals and communities. It will offer guidance on how support services can help people to cope and recover and which processes in the criminal justice system are useful to victims or need focus.

The estimated completion time is 17 minutes. The survey will ask you multiple choice and free text answer questions relating to the following areas:

- Introduction details about you
- The crime, Police service and restorative justice process
- The impact the crime had on you
- Victim support services and how they can help
- Communication and support during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Victims' rights

SURVEYMONKEY.CO.UK
Survey for those who have been affected by crime
If you have been affected by crime in Bedfordshire, please complete this survey to help us unde...

Bedfordshire PCC
@BedsPCC

Three years of funding in a row to support young people of Bedfordshire. Well done to all @BedsVeru this work is already seeing big results

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Feb 10
bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2021-02-bedfor...

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@BedsPCC

The PCC has expressed her gratitude to councillors across the county for sharing their local knowledge and experiences on crime and policing in their area after her annual meeting with them had to be called off due to the pandemic.
bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2021-01-pcc-th...

You Retweeted

MarySeacole @MarySeacoleHA · Feb 16
Child Sexual violence knows no boundaries. Occurs in every country across all parts of society. Are you a young person & want to speak to someone but prefers to text, try our 1-2-1 chat service.
Follow this link: maryseacole121chat.co.uk
@BedsVeru @Luton_YOS @BedsPCC



Kathryn Holloway Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Published by Kathryn Holloway · February 16 at 2:27 PM ·

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, Kathryn Holloway, has announced that the charity she governs - The Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust (BPPT) - which works to enhance community safety in the county, has been awarded over £14,000 by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to help support individuals fleeing Domestic Abuse.
<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2021-02-emergency-support-bags-made-available-for-those-fleeing-domestic-abuse-by-pcc-as-part-of-14k-fu...> [See More](#)



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PCC Kathryn Holloway, last night won the unanimous support, across politics, of the county's Police and Crime Panel for her proposal to provide 153 new PCs and protect "vital" police jobs over the next financial year in a tax rise of less than 30p per week
bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/2021-02-pcc-wi...

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