

on the RECORD



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money work*

February 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

As you will see from this newsletter, this has been a busy time for myself and Bedfordshire Police. I have been battling for the whole of my time in this role, since May 2016, to fully evidence the Force's shortfall in funding and officers compared with other forces facing similarly serious and complex crime challenges.

In December 2017 the Policing Settlement was announced. While there was no individual settlement for any of the 43 forces of England and Wales, I have learned that I played a genuine part in the settlement that was offered to Policing as a whole - the ability of PCCs to raise council tax by a maximum of £1 a month for Band D properties to help fund improvements. As you will see from this newsletter, I intend to increase the frontline of our Force in each of the two years left in my term and lay a foundation for a 10% increase over the next four years as a whole. I am also meeting the Policing and Security Ministers this month to further progress my argument over specific assistance for the Force from the Counter Terror and Special Grants in the settlement as a whole.

My Grant Fund closes on February 19 2017. If you have an innovative idea to increase support for victims or improve community safety, I want to hear from you, even if you have never applied for a grant previously. Please see the website in the Campaigns and Initiatives section under Funding Opportunities for details; www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk

The new Lime Street enquiries office has opened in the centre of Bedford, as promised in my Police and Crime Plan. Many of you are partners who connect with public audiences across this county, including those interacting with police in Bedford. I would be most grateful if you could help me and the Force to spread the word concerning this new office, right in the centre of the town, in a pedestrian area, directly off the High Street.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to almost 200 members of the community in Shefford and a staggering 3,000 individuals online who took part in my recent public meeting in the town and to the Mayor of Shefford, Paul Mackin, and his team for making this happen. I do all I can to reach out to every single one of our communities - a tough call in a county of 644,000 residents. My team will now explore live-streaming of key OPCC events so that I can reach as many as possible to spread the word of what I, the Chief Constable, OPCC and Force are

doing to try to improve policing in this county to maximum effect within the practical constraints upon us.

Yours,

Kathryn



Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC pledges up to 130 new cops for a pound a month on council tax

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway has promised to recruit an extra 110-130 officers a year during her term as a result of a £12 per year rise in council tax in the county.

The Policing Settlement of December 2017 gave PCCs the right for the first time to raise the police share of council tax - the precept - by a pound a month for Band D homes without having to hold a referendum. This will apply for at least the next two years.



"I'm absolutely clear that if the burden for paying for policing has been shifted from Central Government to the local council taxpayer this year and next that it must pay for improvements which are both visible and welcome to the public. I am planning to recruit between 110 and 130 new officers per year for each of the next two years of my term as a result to boost Bedfordshire's notoriously overstretched frontline," said Commissioner Holloway.

"The intention is for the Force to raise the number of officers overall by 10% over the next four years, taking those who retire or leave into consideration too. I'm entirely certain that I have the backing of the public in this as in every single public meeting, from Shefford to central Luton, the community concerned has called for more police to strengthen Bedfordshire Police's response to crime.

“This increase will come on top of virtually 10% extra officers who have been being introduced into Bedfordshire since I came into the role as Police and Crime Commissioner. There were just over a thousand when I arrived and I plan that there will be 1,224 as a result of the flexibility given to me with regard to council tax,” she said.

The Police and Crime Panel who hold the PCC to account voted to back her rise in council tax at a pound a month for Band D homes in 2018-19 and gave an informal indication through the Chair, politically independent member Paul Cain, that they would be likely to back her next year in raising the same sum to allow the Commissioner to proceed with further recruitment.

The Panel met at Luton Town Hall to reach their decision (Tuesday February 6 2018) by a majority, with two abstentions. Read more [here](#).

Bedfordshire PCC launches new online support service for victims

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway has today launched a new website giving victims access to all support services in the county.



The website, called Signpost (www.signpostforbedfordshire.com), was promised in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

Commissioner Holloway said: “This website does exactly what is says on the tin. It is called Signpost for a reason and features a signpost on the homepage, so we can direct victims of multiple different crime types to the

help and support they need and deserve, as easily as possible.

“It also allows me to meet my legal duty to provide help and support for victims of crime who, for whatever reason, do not want to report crime to police.

“It is important to me that the service also explains to victims how to report the crimes they have experienced and explains what will happen next to help give them confidence to report crimes to police, to bring them real justice.”

Signpost lists all key support services for victims, with contact details for a range of different crimes ranging from rape and child sexual exploitation, to hate crime.

Those voluntary organisations which are already funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner are included,

along with others whose services are quality assured by the Bedfordshire Victims'



Partnership.

The website, which has been at consultation over the last few months, was shown to partners and organisations across Bedfordshire today (Tuesday 9 January) as part of a Partnership Day ran by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

At the event it was also unveiled a centre of excellence enhancing the practical and emotional support services available to all victims of crime is being created at Bedfordshire Police. Read more [here](#).

PCC recognised with national award for openness and transparency

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has been awarded the CoPaCC Transparency Quality Mark by the PCCs' watchdog for the way in which she provides public access to information about what she does.

The annual award was presented by CoPaCC, the national organisation which reviews PCCs and best practise both in their offices and policing as a whole.

"I'm absolutely delighted to receive this important award which recognises all the work that goes on in my office and in public to try to let people know what my team and I are up to and why," said Commissioner Holloway.



"There are a huge range of legal requirements when it comes to the information which is posted and I have a very small team indeed compared with the offices of other PCCs, of just a dozen including part-timers and admin assistants, to handle all the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, including distributing and overseeing over £1 million worth of grants to help support victims and increase community safety," said the PCC.

Bernard Rix, head of CoPaCC, commented, "Although this is a national scheme, as a resident of Bedfordshire myself I'm delighted to be able to present this award to Bedfordshire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. PCCs are public figures and are, rightly, publicly accountable. Transparency is a topic that both the Home Affairs Select Committee and Committee for Standards in Public Life have commented on. This award is a reflection that the Bedfordshire OPCC meets the standards that they require." Read more [here](#).

PCC launches Grant Fund to help victims, prevent crime and build community safety in Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has today (Wednesday 3 January 2018) launched her Grant Fund for 2018/19 and is inviting applications for her to help pay for projects which prevent offending, protect communities and support

victims of crime to cope, recover and move forward.

The PCC's Grant Fund is created by combining a grant from the Ministry of Justice and funding from the Bedfordshire Police Force budget which produces a flexible and accessible grant opportunity aimed at promoting innovative and collaborative working across Bedfordshire.

"I particularly want to spread the news of my commissioning fund as widely as possible so that those who have never applied to me before for funding get an equal opportunity to do so whether they are single individuals with a brilliant idea, voluntary groups or established partners. Applications are also invited from within Bedfordshire Police for innovative ideas to help victims, stop crime and protect our communities," said Commissioner Holloway.

"I am asking this year for every single organisation or person who applies to me for cash help to demonstrate how their project both reduces demand on Bedfordshire Police and builds confidence in the Force.

"I am particularly interested this year in projects which help to reduce knife crime and gang involvement. I am extremely interested too in projects which help to give a better start to young children to help avoid a future life of crime. I continue to wish to help to protect those at risk of Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation and also victims of largely hidden crimes, like hate crime and forced marriage," added the Commissioner. Read more [here](#).

PCC draws huge crowd in hall and online at Shefford meeting

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, last night (Thursday 11 January) addressed the residents of Shefford to discuss policing issues within their town.



Around 171 residents took the time to attend the meeting at the Shefford Town Memorial Association Hall, filling the hall to capacity. It was the first public meeting where the Commissioner has been live streamed, which enabled over a thousand further residents to watch online and submit their questions.

"I was delighted to go to Shefford with the Deputy Chief Constable Garry (sic) Forsyth and the inspector for the area, Insp. Nick Masters, to give the people of the town the facts over recent highly successful police action to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Shefford.

"Naturally we could not go into details over the arrests made in November and December as we want individuals to process through the criminal justice system and, if found guilty, face the full weight of the law for their actions.

“Suffice to say that there is a very full police presence in Shefford, more extensive CCTV coverage regarding which I have to thank Central Bedfordshire Council for their assistance and, as Insp. Masters told the audience, we know who the potential troublemakers are and they cannot evade the consequences if they offend again,” added the Commissioner.

Attending the meeting alongside the Commissioner was Deputy Chief Constable Garry Forsyth, who spoke to the residents about the priorities for the Force at a strategic level and the importance of long term problem solving as a preventative measure.

“It was a great opportunity to meet the residents of Shefford and explain our current position as a Force to those in the hall, but also to the many that watched live online. The Force has worked extremely hard to deal with the issues experienced in Shefford, but I strongly believe that our continued focus should be on sustainable, preventative, problem solving measures that enable us to work with partners and communities ensuring issues are dealt with before they escalate to more serious offending and criminality,” said DCC Forsyth. Read more [here](#).

PCC launches consultation on change to precept to boost the frontline

Since 2010 the Government has continuously reduced the amount of national funding for Bedfordshire Police and to date, as your Police and Crime Commissioner, despite a successful on-going recruitment campaign which has helped to hold service levels against a picture of ever-increasing demand, I have been given no facility, until now, to uplift the total number of resources available to respond to victims of crime and protect the people of Bedfordshire.

As a result, the force now has 140 less officers than it did in 2010.

When we take into account the demand, complexity and the landscape of policing (which is significantly different to 2010), I am sure you will understand why I have taken the decision to raise Council Tax by £1 per month for the next 24 months, which will cost the total of £24 pounds per Band D household in Bedfordshire to increase the number of police officers by at least 100, taking us some way towards what this county requires.

Please see below the table of costing per household:

	2017/18	2018/19	Increase
	£	£	£
A	110.73	118.73	8.00
B	129.18	138.51	9.33
C	147.64	158.30	10.66
D	166.09	178.09	12.00
E	203.00	217.67	14.67

F	239.91	257.24	17.33
G	276.82	296.82	20.00
H	332.18	356.18	24.00

Read more [here](#). ****Please note that the consultation has now closed.****

PCC funds workshops to reduce slavery, gang, gun and knife crime across Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has organised and paid for a series of cutting-edge Home Office events with senior leaders and practitioners across the county in an effort to develop a joint response to the issues of violence and vulnerability, including modern day slavery and gangs.

The workshops, led by Home Office expert Mick McNally, allowed those working to prevent violence and exploitation of vulnerable children and adults to work closely together to discuss and understand what needs to be achieved across Bedfordshire.

"Bedfordshire is facing some truly alarming emerging issues across the county as a whole which I am working with our partners to help the Force get on top of. Key to this approach is that we cannot simply pay for individual schemes and come up with stand-alone policies to tackle these issues," said the Commissioner.

"I am absolutely delighted to have been able to have introduced expertise from the Home Office to those working in Bedfordshire to try to make a real difference in uncovering modern day slavery, diverting young people from entering gangs in the first place and understanding and disrupting gang crime and violence," added Commissioner Holloway. Read more [here](#).

Working together with Bedfordshire Police

PCC opens new central Bedford police enquiries office in time for the peak festive season of demand

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has opened the latest and most high profile police station in the Force in Bedford as a "shopfront for policing in the town" immediately ahead of the key Christmas and New Year festivities.

"I promised, in my Police and Crime Plan, that I would put police in the most visible locations possible where they could do most good. This Enquiries Office will allow the people of Bedford we access to officers to report crime and call for help during the key hours for shopping and working in the town centre and will be a base



after hours for those policing the pubbing and clubbing businesses in the immediate area,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“The need for an Enquiries Office in the very centre of town, in Lime Street, was obvious even before it opened and on the first official day of operation (Monday 18 December 2017) when people were calling in to report crime, including a theft, shoplifting and a hate crime on Monday morning alone,” she said. Read more [here](#).

OPCC social media highlights

Dates for the diary

Twitter

You Retweeted

Kathryn Holloway @KHollowayPCC · Feb 6
Police & Crime Panel just approved council tax rise of £12 to raise just under £3m. I'm using it to recruit 110-130 extra officers this year
8 4 23

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Feb 5
There's only 2 weeks left to apply to the OPCC Grant Fund for 2018/19. If you have a project which can help prevent offending, protect communities and support victims of crime to cope, recover and move forward then please apply! - ow.ly/cSbj30hyAP9 #BedsHour
2 1

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Jan 11
PCC launches new online support service for victims - signpostforbedfordshire.com - at the OPCC Partners Day. #SignpostforBedfordshire ow.ly/YRcB30hcmk



Supporting those affected by crime in Bedfordshire
If you, a partner, friend, relative or colleague who has been the most to Support Bedfordshire is the way for you to find the help that meets your specific needs.

Commissioning Fund Closing Date
– Monday 19 February 2018 at 5pm.

Police and Crime Panel -
Tuesday 3 April 2018

Useful information

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

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