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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear All,

As many of you will be aware, there are strict rules which govern all elected public servants in the run-up to the General Election period called Purdah.

As PCC I am also governed by these rules, which means what I can tell you about is "business as usual" but not any brand new activity, which is deeply frustrating as there is much to tell.

For this reason, I will be holding an event to mark the end of my first year in this role on 15 June 2017, to detail what has been delivered during this period.

This Newsletter, therefore, will be a round-up of Bedfordshire Police's key activity during the past month.

All Best Regards,

Kathryn

Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC Blue Light Collaboration

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway - delivered her promise by officially launching the collaboration between Bedfordshire's Police and Fire and Rescue Service.



The PCC stated in her Police and Crime Plan that she would explore every possible opportunity of working jointly with the Fire and Rescue Service and that she was determined to look at prospects of partnerships enabling officers to spend more time in communities and increase visibility in local areas.

As part of the increased collaboration between the two organisations, front line teams of police officers and PCSOs will co-locate with fire officers based in the Bedford Community Fire Station, and at the Fire Station in Ampthill. Read more [here](#)...

Meetings at Farley Hill and Hockwell Ring Community Centres

Burglars and would-be offenders have been warned by Bedfordshire's Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) - Kathryn Holloway - that the Force is closing the net on them.

Following a spike in offences in Luton, Bedfordshire Police's Operation Fidelity team is working hard to identify key offending patterns and gather evidence to bring those responsible to justice which has already resulted in a spate of arrests. The Force has increased patrols in hotspot areas in and around the town, and continues to act swiftly on intelligence received about criminal activity.



Speaking at a public meeting held at Farley Community Centre, Luton (5 April), the PCC announced: "Domestic burglaries are taken very seriously by Bedfordshire Police. Every burglary is horrific for the victims and I won't ignore that in anyway, but I need to reassure people that break-ins are far less common than feared. Read more [here](#)...

Sergeant Louise Bates addresses the Home Secretary

The Force was given the opportunity for one officer to ask a question of the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, at the annual Police Federation Conference which was held at the Birmingham International Convention Centre. The theme of the conference was Protecting the Protectors and Sergeant Louise Bates was chosen to represent Bedfordshire Police.



Her question was:

"A number of my colleagues have been assaulted while on duty protecting the public, for some this has resulted in ongoing mental health illnesses such as PTSD, resulting in them being away from the workplace. Consequently those officers left still have to meet the demand with dwindling numbers. In part this has to do with the chronic underfunding of Bedfordshire Police. How will you pledge to support officers who are injured on duty and to also

review the funding our county receives?"

The Force currently has a budget of £102 million, but it is estimated that an additional £10 million per year is needed to recruit a further 300 more officers.

In response to the Sergeant's question, Amber Rudd said, ***"I think mental health issues are incredibly important and you will see that the Prime Minister has stepped up wanting to have new legislation to support people with mental health issues.***

"Steve has been vocal in making sure there is support for officers who have had to deal with difficult situations that has resulted in mental health difficulties."

If you would like to hear the answer in full please click [here](#) to be directed to the Police Federation website.

24 Hours in Police Custody nominated for a BAFTA

The fly-on-the wall documentary series 24 Hours in Police Custody which follows Bedfordshire Police was nominated for a BAFTA award. The force took the unprecedented step of allowing total access to film cameras as part of its commitment to openness and transparency

The Channel 4 series, produced by Garden Productions, was nominated for the prestigious awards in its Factual Series category.



Unfortunately, it missed out on winning the award, but speaking of the nomination Commissioner Holloway said: *"I am deeply disappointed the show didn't receive a BAFTA. The advantage that 24 hours brings to Bedfordshire Police is that the public can see and hear for themselves how our officers genuinely speak and behave."*

Filming for the next series with Bedfordshire Police has just finished and will air this month (June). The programme documents the incredible work carried out by officers and staff across a range of investigations and incidents.

One Year On & Boost The Frontline

On 15 June, the Commissioner is holding an event at the University of Bedfordshire to review the progress that has been made towards delivering the Police and Crime Plan and its objectives.



releasing as many officers as possible to the frontline.

The event will also feature the launch of Project Boost the Frontline which has looked closely at how the Force can raise and maintain the morale of officers and staff. The aim is to retain valued employees as well as achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness across policing in the county,

During the event, Commissioner Holloway will be speaking along with senior police officers, OPCC staff and representatives from local partnerships who have been closely involved in this collaborative working.

Working together with Bedfordshire Police

Operation Sceptre: Police clamp down on knife crime

Last month the force carried out a week of planned activity to support Operation Sceptre, an operation aiming to reduce knife crime by targeting the people who carry and use knives, as well as those involved in the supply and importation of weapons.



The week came at a time when, nationally, police are experiencing an upward trend in both knife crime and possession offences.

On each day of the week, officers and Special Constables were deployed to patrol Bury Park, High Town, Lewsey Farm, North Barnfield, Marsh Farm and Luton Town Centre. They received some excellent feedback from the public who were pleased to see them out and about, and during the Bury Park patrol officers were given a considerable amount of intelligence from local residents about drug supply in the area which has been passed to intelligence officers.

During the week, the Crime Reduction Team also visited a number of retailers across the county who sell knives, and were given advice around selling knives to underage people. In terms of visibility and public reassurance, the week was incredibly successful, as our presence was really well received by our local communities.

We are continuing to work with our partners to educate people about the risks of carrying knives and we hope to continue to support weeks of action like this throughout the year to demonstrate to the public that tackling knife crime remains a priority for the Force.

OPCC social media highlights

Dates for the diary

Twitter



Kathryn Holloway
@KHollowayPCC

Follow

Amphill's Mayor says she's 'really thrilled' I kept my word & based Police with Fire in the town



View more highlights on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

General Election -

Thursday 8 June

One Year On & Boost The Frontline -

Thursday 15 June

Useful information

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

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