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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

As you will see from the items in this newsletter, my office and the Force have been working to produce a properly evidenced argument for the Policing Minister to support Bedfordshire Police's case over the absolute need for increased funding and extra officers to improve policing in this county. The evidence suggests 300 officers are required for the frontline and 80 more detectives for specialist units to help keep the public safe and serve victims as I wish.

Demand has surged for police service here since the Manchester and Westminster attacks, with 999 calls up 11% and the need for an immediate response by 24%. I have been prepared to stand up and speak publicly about the need to help me and the Chief Constable deal with this effectively. Some speculate that a merger with our surrounding forces might be appropriate. This is incorrect since their council taxpayers are entirely unwilling to see the policing they pay for disappear into our county. There is no getting away from the fact that an uplift in funding is required. We will learn the outcome on November 22 in the Chancellor's Spending Review.

I would also like to welcome Justine Currell as my volunteer deputy, giving her valuable time free of charge, to help me particularly to make Bedfordshire and the East of England (whose 7 force Regional Organised Crime Unit, I lead in governance) to become the leader in dealing effectively with Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery which is a genuine issue as Toddington Service Station is the first required stop for lorry drivers after Dover and given the operations Bedfordshire Police has had to engage in to deliver individuals being used as slave labourers from those who were exploiting them.

Yours,

Kathryn

Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

PCC sends 'most important document Bedfordshire Police has ever sent to Government' in bid to secure Force's future in November Spending Review

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway has submitted an analysis of the gap between resources and unprecedented demand on her Force this year to the Policing Minister, Nick Hurd, ahead of next month's Spending Review which she believes may settle the future of Bedfordshire Police.

As a result, Commissioner Holloway called the Bedfordshire Police Demand and Finance Report 2017 "arguably the most important document which the Force has ever sent to Government."

"It certainly is among the most detailed ever to be sent to a Policing Minister from the Force as it absolutely clearly provides evidence for the £10 million Bedfordshire Police now needs each year to meet a level of demand for its services that has never been seen before," said the Commissioner.



"Even though I've supported the Chief Constable, Jon Boutcher, in recruiting 96 new Police Constables in the financial year to April 1 and 100 more this year, the Force still needs 300 frontline officers - at a cost of £8 million - and 80 detectives to meet the demand for investigations - costing a further £2 million. I've called on the Minister to treat Bedfordshire Police as a special case for scrutiny given its unique situation as he considers funding reports from all the 43 police forces of England and Wales ahead of next month's Spending Review. The Chancellor will announce the policing settlement as we move ahead into 2018/19 and I firmly believe that if this shortfall is not met, Bedfordshire Police's future is unsustainable," she said.

The Commissioner says the extra investment is necessary since both the Policing Minister Nick Hurd - in an address to all PCCs - and, last week, the head of MI5, have confirmed the demand in policing which has built over the last year represents not just a 'spike' but a 'sustained surge'. For Bedfordshire Police and its residents this has meant:-

- * an 11% increase in 999 calls this year
- * a 16% increase in 101 calls
- * a 24% increase in calls requiring an immediate response by officers (in the 12 month period from May 2016 - May 2017)

In common with the rest of England and Wales, crime levels have also risen in Bedfordshire with a 12.2% increase in overall recorded crime in the county between April and August 2017.

"Bedfordshire Police is a force achieving miracles on its over-stretched budget, which is one of the lowest in all of British policing despite very high levels of Serious Organised Crime demand and that caused by gangs and criminals seeking to operate drug trafficking along so-called county lines out of London, our near neighbour. While it's true to say all of policing is reporting a surge in demand, Bedfordshire is different because it not only guards the back door to the capital, and UK plc, but started way behind other forces because of its historically low funding which no government of any political shade has ever tackled properly. It is fair to say its future is on the line," said the PCC. Read more [here](#).

PCC corrects Home Office over 'misunderstanding' of the Bedfordshire Police budget at critical point when funding is being decided

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has pointed to "a fundamental misunderstanding of the Force's financial position" by the Home Office at the critical time when police force budgets are to be settled in next month's Spending Review.

The Home Office had released statements to news services which claimed Bedfordshire Police holds £13.2m in its "reserves" and pointed to increased funding of police in our county of £1.8m, which the Commissioner confirmed was more than wiped out by the costs of standing still.

Commissioner Holloway stated that Bedfordshire Police, in fact, has just £3m in general reserves which can be used for any emergency and any purpose. For example, these can be used to help fund the extra £650,000 which has to be found by the Force for the recent one-off (unconsolidated) pay award to police officers, announced by Government, on top of the 1% already budgeted for.

"The remainder are so-called 'earmarked' reserves - which are held for specific purposes, including medium term financial planning and funds which, as PCC, I'm required to keep in law for insurance, maintenance of police buildings and one-off costs. For example, the Soham murder inquiry - a one-off event - reputedly cost over £7m to police. In the public sector, the minimum amount generally considered prudent to hold as a general reserve is 3% of income - which is virtually identical to what I am reserving, in Bedfordshire Police terms," said Commissioner Holloway.

"I am genuinely hugely concerned, at such a critical time (when the police funding settlement for 2018/19 is due to be announced just next month in the Chancellor's Spending Review) that the Home Office still does not appear to fully understand our finances and I am writing to the Policing Minister immediately to set the record straight.

"As far as any extra money is concerned, Bedfordshire Police has had to make savings of £11.1m in the three financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18. While the Home Office say our overall funding has increased from £99.6m to £101.4m, an increase of £1.8m, this does not take account the fact that our stand-still costs have increased well above that level," added the PCC. Read more [here](#).

PCC welcomes volunteer deputy to help turn county into centre of excellence over policing of human trafficking

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has appointed a recognised national authority on human trafficking as her Deputy.



Justine Currell, who heads up the charity Unseen UK and runs the national anti-slavery helpline from Biggleswade, has agreed to help the PCC on two to three days per month on a voluntary, unsalaried, basis.

Justine has more than 28 years' experience as a non-political civil servant at the Home Office and formerly headed up its unit dealing with Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.

"So little is known about Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery that every police force in the

country has to report every case they uncover to the Home Office, but we know it's a problem in this county; we have an international airport that brings in passengers on cheap flights from Eastern Europe, often lured here by the offer of plum jobs which don't exist, and Toddington is the first tachograph stop required for lorry drivers after Dover. Bedfordshire Police has also carried out a number of very high profile raids on traveller sites where individuals were believed to be living as human slaves.

"In 2017 that is simply unacceptable and I need a deputy who can bring specialist knowledge to policing and help the Chief Constable and I create a centre of excellence in the county, and region, in this area," said the PCC.

"But this is not the only advantage to Justine's appointment; she has worked very extensively in the Home Office and can help me take the facts about Bedfordshire's funding position directly to civil servants, just as I have been doing where the Home Secretary, Policing and Security Ministers are concerned for the last 17 months.

"I was delighted when Justine said she would accept the post on a voluntary basis as, right now, I do not feel I can justify the salary of a Deputy given Bedfordshire's budget constraints, even though the workload clearly provides such justification as almost every other PCC in the country has a Deputy on a salary," said the Commissioner. Read more [here](#).

PCC meets new Prison Governor to promise support to turn around the lives of prisoners at the end of their sentences

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has welcomed Helen Clayton-Hoar to her post as the new Governor of HMP Bedford with an offer to work together to better prepare prisoners for release.

The Commissioner visited Governor Clayton-Hoar at the 200-year-old prison in the centre of Bedford (Thursday 28 September) to meet the Governor and see how they can best use their services and funds together to ensure more successful resettlement and rehabilitation for prisoners.



"I was particularly keen to make sure that the new Governor and her staff are fully aware that I have a scheme to fund rent deposits for those leaving prison as we both agree that a stable home is the foundation of a life away from crime.

"I also wanted to explore how I might support the Governor by arranging training for prisoners in key building skills as this county is one of the fastest expanding areas for house building in the country and the demand for bricklayers, plasterers, roofers, electricians and plumbers is outstripping supply. If a prisoner is to "go straight" for life they need to have a means of properly supporting themselves and their families and local companies are far more likely to extend an offer of work if the individual has the very skills they most need," said the Commissioner. Read more [here](#).

PCC hopes to steer young drivers in the right direction with Road Safety Event

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has been working alongside her office to improve road safety awareness amongst drivers aged 17 to 25.



With 117 road collisions involving young drivers last year in Bedfordshire, and car accidents being one of the biggest causes of death for young people, road safety has been made a priority this autumn by the PCC who joined new students as part of the University of Bedfordshire's Freshers' Week to highlight the issue of safe driving and hand out free breathalysers.

"It appalls me that one of the greatest threats to life for under 25s is not illness, but death in an accident on the roads. My office has got together with the University of Bedfordshire, sixth form colleges and schools to offer young drivers a real insight into how they can be safer on Bedfordshire's roads," said Commissioner Holloway.

"If speaking to students at the University and at the Road Safety Event saves one life or prevents one crash, it will have been entirely worthwhile," added the PCC.

The Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been working with young drivers by carrying out a short survey to find out their driving habits, experiences as both a passenger and driver and to gain an insight as to how road safety can be improved.

If you are aged between 17 and 25 please take 5 minutes to complete our [Young Drivers Road Safety Survey](#).

The data from the survey will help inform and shape a one day road safety event for young drivers on 22 November 2017. Taking part during National Road Safety Week 'Speed Down – Save Lives' (an initiative from road safety charity Brake), students from across Bedfordshire will be invited to be part of a day which will outline the dangers to drivers, and include helpful talks and demonstrations from Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and The Road Victims Trust, as well as local and national partners who are dedicated to improving road safety. Read more [here](#).

Working together with Bedfordshire Police

PCC calls on Bedfordshire to stamp out hate crime

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has pledged her support to Hate Crime Awareness Week and called on those living in Bedfordshire to join the Force in raising awareness.

The national week, led by the charity Stop Hate UK, falls shortly after the PCC backed calls for hate crime online abuse to be treated more seriously. During the week, the OPCC and Force will be taking boards that illustrate unity against hate crime around the county for people to sign.

“I am only too pleased to sign up to Bedfordshire Police’s campaign in which the people of Bedfordshire put their names to state clearly that there is no place for it in this county. It can be devastating to be picked on because of your faith, race, gender, sexuality or as a result of a disability,” said Commissioner Holloway.



“As PCC, I encounter examples almost daily of our communities living in a tolerant and harmonious way, together. Unfortunately, there is a small minority whose prejudice and bigotry are voiced through abuse which amounts to hate crime.

“Bedfordshire Police has zero tolerance of such behaviour, which is why it has a dedicated sergeant to lead around the whole subject of hate crime,” added the PCC.

Reports of hate crime to Bedfordshire Police, between January and September, have risen by 28.10% compared to that of 2016; a rise that Commissioner Holloway feels is in direct response to the terror attacks this year.

“Thankfully, at this month’s Strategic Board, the figures show hate crime coming down. Three months ago in the wake of the London and Manchester attacks, there were 89 reports in July. Over the past month there have been 66, but every one of these is unacceptable to me,” said the Commissioner.

The Force has a dedicated hate crime team, led by Sergeant James Hart, which works with local charities and organisations to raise awareness and educate people to better understand the impact it can have on victims.



“National Hate Crime Awareness Week has never been so important. It’s been a very difficult year with communities across the UK experiencing prejudice and discrimination. These offences have ranged from verbal abuse to people being physically attacked. The victims of these offences are being targeted for their beliefs or being different or perceived to be different,” said Sergeant James Hart.

“Hate crime is under reported and we need to ensure victims and communities across

Bedfordshire feel empowered to report such crimes. These cases are abhorrent and have absolutely no place in our society.

“Bedfordshire Police has prioritised hate crime for many years and Hate Crime Awareness Week provides us with a platform to educate the public on how we can help and increase awareness across our communities. We have organised events across the week and have designed wrist bands and promotional banners to be used across the county. These resources will give members of the public an opportunity to be part of the week and write a message of support which we hope to be used as part of our social media campaign.

“We need to increase confidence and National Hate Crime Awareness is a big part of this process. Bedfordshire Police takes a zero tolerance approach to Hate Crime and I hope by increasing awareness victims feel comfortable coming forward,” added Sgt Hart. Read more [here](#).

OPCC social media highlights

Dates for the diary

Twitter

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Oct 18
PCC calls on #Bedfordshire to stamp out hate crime- "There's no place for it in this county" ow.ly/eemj30fXlwQ #NHCAW #WeStandTogether



12 4 7

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · Oct 24
PCC sends "most important document Bedfordshire Police has ever sent to Government" in bid to secure Force's future- ow.ly/pcSY30g5tL3



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

Young Drivers Road Safety Event -
22nd November 2017
0900 – 1600

Restorative Justice Awareness Week -
19th – 26th November 2017

Useful information

[Police and Crime Plan](#)

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