

News from the PCC –April 2019

Hello everyone,

Last month I took you through the successful bids that originated from Bedfordshire Police in regard to my £1.6m Grant Fund. I wanted to highlight some of the other areas that were successful. I will be doing a focus item each month on these services but here is an overview of the initiatives I'm sure you'll welcome.

I am investing in offender management this year which I appreciate some members of the public or our partners may question. However I'm certain this is smart spending. If I can invest in supporting offenders in turning their lives around and away from criminality how many potential victims will never have to experience the pain of actually becoming a victim of crime? How many services would not be required to support people to cope and recover? How much police time could be saved so energies could go elsewhere?

I have partnered with the organisation YouTurn Futures to provide a new one stop shop for ex-offenders to access services and a wraparound support mechanism as they leave prison or leave behind a life of criminality. I launched this service, called Direction to our partners on April 2nd and in May I will be releasing the Freephone telephone number. A main contributor to supporting the individuals will be Reactive8 an organisation which works to change the mind set of offenders and past offenders and offers mentoring to keep the support going through the rehabilitation process.

I have also worked collaboratively with the three Local Authorities in Bedfordshire in providing the roles and funds required for a Family Drug and Alcohol Court.

Supporting young people is a strong theme in my funding decisions this year. The Princes Trust, Ormiston Families, Unseen, Mary Seacole, Luton Town FC Community Trust and Att10tive will work with you and I on a pan Bedfordshire level as we steer young people away from criminality with early intervention and support them in being aware of exploitation and how to get practical help if those situations arise. I have also funded some bespoke programmes to localities that have shown extra support is required. Khalsa Youth Football Academy, Right Time to Shine and the Somali youth groups in Luton named Ramda and Revive.

As part of the youth approach to my grants I have acquired the licence for 2000 workbooks for young people in Bedfordshire from the highly impressive Succeed Programme. This work is based on tackling Adverse Childhood



Experiences and I am inviting all those I have funded to a training session to learn how to use the supportive guide so they can practically offer this support to the young people of Bedfordshire that they will be working with. The Youth Offending Service will be continuing their triage work, working with young offenders as soon as we are in contact with them to offer measures to try and exit them from a life of criminality.

The counselling services available in Bedfordshire mean, on average, an eight month wait for victims of crime so I have procured Bedford Open Door to support high risk youth with counselling services and the Counselling Foundation will proceed to support medium and low risk youths and adults.

For domestic violence I highlighted to you last year that we are bringing in the outreach support so they can be even better aligned to our teams here but we will also be welcoming Embrace who as well as their normal supportive practices will be providing a Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor. The Change Plus portfolio will be educating offenders of Domestic Violence and the Luton All Women's Centre will be providing a pan Bedfordshire Harmful practices co-ordinator who will be the specialist resource for preventing honour-based violence (HBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM) and supporting those at risk.

Changing FACES will also be supporting the entire family unit if domestic violence, gang violence or CSE is found in a home. They will support young people in their exit from exploitation and work with other family members to prevent repetition

As Community Remedy is a force policy, I need to ensure the public are fully engaged in the process. I have acquired the services of the Anne Frank Trust to work with individuals on hate awareness courses as part of a Community Remedy solution, from those who fully understand how to confront prejudice.

You will know that our outstanding Chief Constable, Jon Boutcher, has announced that he is to leave the force at the end of June after serving for a far longer term than is typical for someone at this rank. It has been both a privilege and pleasure to work with him over the past three years. Mr Boutcher has been a Chief Constable who leads from the front; he has been decisive and highly visible within the force, leading by example. The Chief Constable has fought relentlessly for increased funding and the expansion of Bedfordshire Police's capabilities with Government and in the media. He has stood shoulder to shoulder with me to challenge both funding and the fairness of past inspections of the Force by HMICFRS and its former HMI.

As a truly effective strategist and manager, Mr Boutcher has built an extremely strong legacy in his effective and united senior executive and the wider management team at Bedfordshire Police. His insistence on the culture we require in the force, reinforced by both personal example and the annual Better4Bedfordshire events attended by every officer, means that all the values are now genuinely part of the DNA of Bedfordshire Police, moving forward. I want to reassure you that I will be seeking to recruit a Chief Constable judged against these priorities and Mr Boutcher's specific style of genuine leadership. Progress will go on.

What I and my office have been working on during March

- Setting out the plan to achieve the last 30% of my Police and Crime Plan



- Celebrating One year on of Signpost



- Launching to our partners the details of the Direction Unit
(We will follow this in May with the call centre arm of Direction officially opens)

