

 **Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Making the money work

Hello everyone,

As I hope you are aware, I have been successful in winning a £4.571m emergency funding bid to make good the void which existed in the finances of Bedfordshire Police to meet the cost of fighting gang and knife crime, which would otherwise have meant I would have had to stop recruitment in its tracks. I have also won an extra £2.4m from Government this year in the Policing Settlement of December 2018, but with inflationary pressures including a national shortfall in pensions contributions, (which slightly exceeds the £2.4m), the trebling of vehicle insurance costs and the need to make good national pay settlements, anticipated at 2%, for our incredibly hard-working police officers and staff, the possibility of recruiting extra officers in this county has been placed in the hands of council tax payers, whatever you and I may consider the appropriateness of this.

As you are aware, policing resources are delivered on a countywide basis determined by the level of most serious threat, harm and risk. Nonetheless, supported by me - and although I cannot run an overspend on the budget like the NHS - this Force is walking towards communities, through the Community Hubs which service the entire county, rather than away from them, which is the trend in policing as a whole in England and Wales now more than 21,000 officers have been stripped out of the service at a time of unprecedented and rising demand.

I am currently unaware of any other PCC who will not invoke the full £24 precept rise that is available to me this coming year. Here it is required to back recruitment of 160 officers in this financial year (which is double the number required annually to make good losses through retirement and other losses.)

I do not simply rely on revenue from either the Government or precept;
the

Force has made £34.7m of savings since 2010 and is currently engaged in the process of Priority Based Budgeting to examine every officer and every item of expenditure across 20 departments by the end of January (and similar scrutiny of the other 20 following this) as some £11m further savings are needed over the next three years to balance the budget and continue recruitment, let alone extend it.

Naturally, the general public and wider media have woken up to the shortfall between what they expect policing to be able to provide and that which it has the capacity to deliver, not only in Bedfordshire but across all 43 force areas of England and Wales. The Policing Minister, Nick Hurd, has promised to rebalance Bedfordshire Police's position to make funding sustainable in the Spending Review of December 2020, long after both the local council and PCC elections. I have to rise above politics and ensure Bedfordshire Police delivers the best service of which it is capable and makes every possible efficiency ahead of service cuts. For clarity, policing will never deploy resources on the basis of political need and I would be powerless to make that request, even if I saw it as morally appropriate.

I will shortly bring the precept rise before the Police and Crime Panel. In the meantime I am asking the public and partners for their views to declare if they are prepared to pay just £2 extra a month for 160 officers to meet the shortfall that every community - and the Bedfordshire Police Frontline - so desperately need. Please make your own views known on <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/precept2019>

Yours Kathryn,



Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire





PCC marks record-breaking year for Bedfordshire Police and sets out her priorities for 2019

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has pointed to the achievements of officers, Special Constables and police staff in a record breaking year for the Force in 2018, as she set out her own priorities for the year ahead.



The PCC pointed to over 8,600 arrests and the recording of 55,700 crimes across 2018 by the Force which has just over 1,100 officers to serve a population of approximately 670,000 across the county.

Over 108,000 999 emergency calls and 287,000 101 calls for non life-threatening matters were taken. Bedfordshire Police dealt with 448 knife-related crimes and 102 incidents involving guns. Some 1,769

missing people were dealt with. Over 30 properties were closed as a result of Anti Social Behaviour by their occupants, as a result of the work of Community Hub officers.

“These are truly extraordinary figures for a force the size of Bedfordshire Police and reflect a huge achievement for every officer and member of staff. I hope that if any caller is unable to be visited by a police officer straight away, the public will take a moment to reflect on why each and every call has to be assessed for the degree of threat, harm and risk which the incident represents in order to determine whether an immediate response can be sent or not as Response officers will be dispatched to those incidents which are a genuine life-threatening matter as a priority.

“Bedfordshire Police is a very small force compared with the type of crime challenges which officers have to deal with day after day and around the clock but these figures don’t lie. This is the reality of the response which they are delivering, frankly against all the odds, and the public should both be proud of them and give them every possible support,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“This includes making sure that every call to 999 is a genuinely life-threatening emergency or a crime in progress, such as a burglary where the offender is in the property, as I’ve sat in the Force Control Room when someone has called up to complain about the quality of their take-away before!” said the PCC.

Bedfordshire Police’s Special Constables, who give their services for free but who are trained by the Force and hold exactly the same powers as regular warranted officers, also marked up an impressive record of 44,404 hours of duties.

“This is incredible for such a small force to have Specials who contribute this amount of time. We simply could not do without them. I would like to urge anyone who thinks they could spare 16 hours a month to join up. Bedfordshire Police will train you and, even if you don't feel that a full time police career lies in your future, imagine what this says to a future employer or university about your trustworthiness and character. You might even change your mind, in which case you have had the chance to try out the job first,” said Commissioner Holloway.

Details about regular recruitment or joining the Special Constabulary can be found on the Force's website: bedfordshire.police.uk

The PCC also set out her own priorities in 2019:-

- * The recruitment of 160 new officers in this financial year.
- * The creation of a new Sexual Assaults Referral Centre in a reassuring, non-medical, environment with separate facilities for adults, teenagers and children.
- * The launch of a one stop shop to help prevent the cycle of re-offending, with an online hub of services to direct ex-offenders and a call centre of specialists backed by dedicated advisors on benefits and employment in Jobcentres across the county.
- * Emphasis in the PCC's new Grants Commissioning process on projects to help prevent gang and knife crime and on early intervention, before the age of 10, to give children living in crime hotspots better life chances.

“Every community I speak to wants more police officers and the unique Special Grant of £4.571m I won before Christmas, when combined with the new Policing Settlement of £8m, means that Bedfordshire Police will not only be able to continue to recruit but that we can recruit 160 new Police Constables this financial year. We can also continue the battle against gang, gun and knife crime,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“It's also a priority for me to establish a new Sexual Assaults Referral Centre which is fit for the future and which provides dedicated areas for victims according to their own ages and needs as it's common sense to me that, for example, a 16-year-old is not going to feel comfortable and reassured in an area with toys for very young children around them at a time when they have been through a highly traumatic experience.

“I also want to coordinate response to those who have offended but who want to go straight by providing access to all the support services they may need to achieve this in a single place. This will consist of an online directory of those services with a translation facility as well as a team of call centre specialists plus help, that has now been agreed with my office, in every one of the county's Jobcentres. My staff, working with the Force and our partners such as the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, aim to launch this in the Spring.

“We've all been horrified by the level of serious youth violence throughout 2018 and, while the rise in Bedfordshire has been below the levels seen in the capital, given the emphasis placed on prevention by Bedfordshire Police and those organisations I've funded in communities, we need to do more and this is one key priority of my current grants process.

“I’ve also been influenced by the work of the University of Cardiff in providing proof to the Home Office and all PCCs of the life-long effects of what they call ACE experiences - Adverse Childhood Experiences - including domestic abuse, crime, drug and alcohol abuse and deprivation in the home of a child under 10 combined with their evidence that this can be mitigated by very early intervention to support those children. As a direct result, I’ve appointed a head of Early Intervention to work with projects coming to me through the grants process this year to help in this vital area,” said Commissioner Holloway.

The PCC’s grants process for 2019-20 is now open but the closing date for applications in January 11 2019. Details can be found on the website - bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk - in the Campaigns and Initiatives section.

“I favour applications where more than one organisation is funding the work to help victims or promote community safety as then we’re genuinely jointly invested and working together effectively but I’m also absolutely prepared to do as I did last year and work with groups from within communities who have never applied for a grant before in their lives but who have a fantastic idea or drive to make a difference such as the Right Time to Shine youth club and recording studio in Lewsey Farm in Luton and Channitta Lendore who works with young people to divert them away from gang violence, following the death of her brother Isaac,” said the PCC.

“Don’t hold back. Please contact my office if you need help and the directions are there on the website as well as the way to apply,” she said.



Less than one week left to apply for Bedfordshire PCC's Grant Fund

With less than one week left to apply, organisations which run projects preventing offending, protecting communities and supporting victims of crime to cope, recover and move forward are being urged to submit their application for the PCC’s Grant Fund now.

Bedfordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, launched the 2019/20 Grant Fund application process at the beginning of December, and the window of opportunity is due to close on Friday 11 January. The PCC’s Grant Fund of approximately £1.6m 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’m particularly interested in projects from within communities themselves rather than all the ‘usual suspects’ to tackle gang, gun and knife crime and in the principle of early intervention with very young children to help them become more resilient and go on to play a full part in society if faced with all the adverse early experiences including living in households where there is domestic abuse, drug and alcohol addiction and poverty where their development is neglected,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“My office will help with advice if people have never applied for a grant like this before and the grant can be for any sum from £50 to £50,000 if the idea and evidence are good enough.

“Where established organisations are concerned, I will fund projects where I am not the only one making the investment since properly joined up working means more than one organisation putting its hands in its pockets and developing a service together,” said the PCC.

Last year, the Commissioner funded an enhanced new service for all victims of crime in Bedfordshire, called Signpost. The free and confidential service is a one-stop-shop for all the information a victim of crime needs to know. Signpost consists of a call centre of specialist Victim Care Coordinators, available on freephone 0800 0282 887, running six days a week (Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday 9am – 5pm). Signpost also has an online directory of all support services for those affected by different crimes (and a section telling them what will happen next if they report these crimes to the police) at signpostforbedfordshire.com.

Signpost contacts victims of a crime within 24 hours where officers believe they may benefit from extra support and aims to give first class support and care to both victims and those also affected by crime, such as partners, children or parents. It also provides access to Restorative Justice, which brings those harmed by crime and those responsible for the harm together, often face to face in a safe environment, enabling those affected by a particular incident to express their views of what the crime meant to them and to find a more positive way forward. The new service provided help to more victims than were said to have been assisted by its predecessor over the whole of the last year, in just two months from its launch on 1 April 2018.

“I’m absolutely delighted by the success of the Signpost service which has quite literally transformed the services for victims in Bedfordshire. This coming year I intend to repeat this model - of an online directory of all services and a one-stop-shop of specialist advisors to work with offenders this time, to try to give genuine assistance to those emerging from prison to avoid setting them up for failure on release. This service will be called Direction and we aim to launch in the Spring,” said Commissioner Holloway.

The PCC has commissioned multiple organisations supporting victims of Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation and other crimes against women and children such as Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage. In 2018-19, Commissioner Holloway also funded organisations such as the Anne Frank Trust to work in schools across the county to combat prejudice and prevent Hate Crime through the story of Anne Frank and established Bedfordshire’s first dedicated counselling service to help male victims of sexual and domestic abuse.

The Commissioning Fund is now open and details can be found in the Campaigns and Initiatives section of the OPCC website, www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk under **Funding Opportunities**. Applications close on Friday 11 January 2019 at 5pm. If you have any questions, please contact the OPCC on **01234 842064** or email **PCC-Commissioning@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk**.



PCC launches consultation on change to precept to boost the frontline

As you may be aware I have consistently informed those in the highest position in our Government and the public in Bedfordshire that the level of funding and, therefore, police officers we have in Bedfordshire Police are far too low for the level and type of demand we face in protecting the public. The Chief Constable is operating with approximately 380 less officers than he needs. To address this balance, I am consulting with you to understand whether or not you would be prepared to contribute an extra £2 per month through your Council Tax to increase the number of officers the Chief Constable would have to police Bedfordshire and create further capacity in his ability to protect the public of Bedfordshire. I intend to fund recruitment of 160 officers in 2019/20 with these funds.

I would like to invite you to share your opinion on this decision by completing a short survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/precept2019>.

The results will be collated and presented to the Police and Crime Panel on Tuesday 5 February 2019 which is the authoritative body which holds me to account.

I appreciate your time and consideration regarding this issue and look forward to receiving your response. Please share this with your constituents, colleagues and fellow residents of Bedfordshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Holloway".

Kathryn Holloway
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire



Social Media Highlights



Kathryn Holloway @KHollowayPCC · Jan 1

We agree we've never seen a quieter High Street in Bedford on New Year's Eve - but know saying the 'Q' word to a police officer is like saying "Macbeth" to an actor...let's hope it stays that way. Happy New Year and roll on 2019 onwards & upwards @bedspolice



6 5 43

You Retweeted



Bedfordshire Police @bedspolice · Jan 7

Interested in becoming a police officer? We're accepting applications from Friday, and we're holding two information evenings for people who would like to find out more! If you'd like to come, please register your interest by emailing r.recruitment@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk



4 14 20

Bedfordshire PCC @BedsPCC · 19h

The PCC will be holding her next public meeting in #HoughtonRegis on Monday 14 January. For more information and to register your attendance, please click on the following link - ow.ly/Omk830ndR58 #MeetYourPCC #HaveYourSay #BedsHour



Dates for the diary

PCC's 2019/2020 Grant Fund closes for applications – Friday 11 January 2019

Houghton Regis Public Meeting – Monday 14 January 6:30pm – 8:30pm. For more information and to register your attendance please visit - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bedfordshire-police-and-crime-commissioner-kathryn-holloway-public-meeting-houghton-regis-tickets-54288356937>

Police and Crime Panel – Tuesday 5 February 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

Police and Crime Plan

Keep in touch



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

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

BedsALERT
KEEPING YOU INFORMED

[Sign up](#) to our community messaging system and receive messages that matter to you.