



Hello everyone,

This has been an outstanding month for me and Bedfordshire Police as I have been successful for the third year running in securing a Policing Special Grant. In this case it is for a further £2.9m on top of the £3m and £4.571m of previous years. These wins have meant me persuading the Home Office to alter the conditions for such grants to create a unique funding opportunity for Bedfordshire Police: the rules had meant hitherto that only events outside business as usual in policing which took place on a single day - such as a terror attack - could qualify. I pointed to the costs of fighting gun, gang and knife crime in this county over the past three years which could not conceivably be considered business as usual for a force with less than 1300 officers and the level of central funding and council tax precept available to me as Police and Crime Commissioner - and I have tenaciously pursued this argument and provided incontrovertible evidence of need.

For the past two years to date, against all the odds and the naysayers and even advice to forces from the police watchdog and Home Office saying that Special Grants were not going to be available, I have proved that it is absolutely possible to win extra investment in policing if you prove what more the Home Office gets for more investment. The Home Office has accepted my argument that the costs of dealing with the most serious criminals and the violence meted out to control their crime empires, particularly around drugs, as well as weapon supply, is unprecedented for Bedfordshire Police and is also not 'business as usual' for a police force funded as ours is.

The Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse, had visited me and the Chief Constable at Police Headquarters (on Wednesday 12 August) only three days before writing to me with news that he was approving the grant which will again cover the costs of the specialist OP Boson team which has been doubled through the Special Grants to fight gang, gun and knife crime in the north and centre of the county, not simply in the south, as previously. The Minister had a chance to meet with Boson team members and those from the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit which Bedfordshire Police leads to help celebrate the truly outstanding results of their recent operations against Organised Crime Groups countywide including very significant drug and weapons seizures, even during lockdown.

Figures show that from February to July this year, the Boson team executed 43 warrants and made 108 arrests. In this time the team also seized two guns, six imitation firearms, almost four kilograms of Class A and Class B drugs and around

£67,800 in cash. The Boson team is also heavily involved in prevention work with partners. In June and July alone, more than 200 young people were referred to multi-agency panels co-chaired by Boson members and those working in youth offending, to develop solutions to stop especially vulnerable young people getting involved in criminal activities and helping them break the cycle of gang exploitation.

Further proof to Kit of what 'more' he gets for 'more' investment in the case of Op Boson is almost 500 years of prison terms in just two years, which, when this enforcement has been put together with diversion from gangs and community projects through Bedfordshire's Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU), has meant that Serious Youth Violence in this county has fallen by a fraction below 9% in the year March 2019-20; meaning 200 more young people who are still alive and living without life-changing injuries. The Minister assured me that both he and the Home Office understand that this is what success looks like.

This is a huge success for the force and absolutely a success that the Minister has had a share in as he has provided me with two £880,000 grants to create and run the diversionary work of the VERU too. It is clearly essential that Boson too continues at its current level of outstanding achievement.

The Minister made his own assessment of your police force entirely clear when he left, writing that Bedfordshire Police is now "a force on the front foot".

By happy coincidence, Kit had arrived on the day when Bedfordshire Police received a highly prestigious Management Consultancies Association (MCA) award for our work with consultants PwC in a process called Priority Based Budgeting to examine every officer, member of staff and item of expenditure in an exercise to identify all possible further savings and to create a line-drawing exercise, proving with absolute precision to the Home Office what services can be afforded on our current level of funding and those which would have to be lost if it falls in real terms.

It is, of course, absolutely essential for me to be able to prove to Government that money is not wasted and that a police force understands its business, demand and expenditure and that is just what we have been able to demonstrate both through this award and the conclusions of the completely independent policing consultancy, Crest Advisory, that looked at our demand against current police numbers here in Bedfordshire.

The Special Grant proves that the Minister has accepted our arguments that Bedfordshire Police does not have the resources to meet every one of its serious crime challenges without extra help and I certainly hope that this is also recognised in the Spending Review for all of policing where this force is concerned, when the Treasury responds to his bid for extra funding for the police service, in the late autumn.

But there needs to be caution in terms of expectations here: there has not been time for Government to revisit the funding formula for all police forces, since the Spending Review for all of Government departments was announced in July. This would be

necessary to rebalance funds to forces like ours that are in the most exposed position. Bedfordshire Police and I have been working all year, including with respected third party consultants, to submit our case - so we are not accused of marking our own homework. We now just need to make funding like that of the Special Grants sustainable year on year into the future, long after I have left this role.

In other news, I am tremendously proud of all the fantastic contributors I have had working on my programme to provide activities for young people during lockdown and the school holidays under the umbrella of The James Campbell Collective from May to September. In just four months, they have produced 350 videos which have been uploaded to YouTube and have gained 54 subscribers with nearly 5,000 views. The channel will no longer be uploading new content, but there are multiple videos for partners to access free of charge, of course, from professional personal fitness trainer and body builder James (20), Luton Town Football Club's training sessions, boxing for exercise, cooking and baking on a budget plus chess tutorials and dance. For anyone wishing to access the sessions please visit - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBBGBdJgnvMHd25wW7aqVUQ>

Finally, one of the most important things I have learnt from my time as PCC is the importance of working with our partners. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all of those across Bedfordshire who have been proactive in joint working, but who have really stepped up in response to the pandemic. Without your help and support, my office and Bedfordshire Police would not have achieved all that we have to keep the public safe and protect victims of crime. I hope you stay safe and well and continue to spread word of the need to observe restrictions to prevent further spikes in Covid-19 infections of the type we have sadly seen across the country and, as I write, in the smaller towns across North Bedfordshire.

This month (on 9 September), we mark Emergency Services Day - a much deserved official celebration to show support for our 999 responders past and present. I hope you can take the time to join me in thanking all of our emergency service workers for all they do, especially during such very challenging times.

Yours with kind regards

Kathryn



**Kathryn Holloway**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire**



## News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



### **PCC breaks the ground for new custody suite at headquarters - 04/08/2020**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has officially broken the ground for works to begin on a new multi-million pound custody suite for Bedfordshire Police at its Kempston headquarters.

The works are to include a new 22-cell custody block, additional office accommodation and extra parking and the new custody block is set to be built within two years. The project marks the first major new building the force has undertaken since 2005.



### **PCC marks International Youth Day by giving young people a voice across Bedfordshire – 12/08/20**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has marked International Youth Day by involving young people across the county to have their say on policing.

The Bedfordshire Youth Council (BYC), which is overseen by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), aims to ensure that young people are heard, understood and responded to on policing and community safety matters.

With International Youth Day falling on 12 August 2020, Bedfordshire Youth Council, is launching the first of many monthly subject areas, calling on young people to contribute. The first topic, chosen by local youth network At10tive is understanding what information police need to share when stopping and searching individuals and the respectful manner in which such searches need to be conducted.



### **PCC and Chief Constable welcome Policing Minister on his first official visit to Bedfordshire Police – 13/08/20**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, and Chief Constable, Garry Forsyth, welcomed Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse, to Police Headquarters today (Wednesday 12 August) to meet with front line officers and celebrate outstanding results of operations against gang, gun and knife crime and drug and weapons seizures on the day the force received a major award for its effective approach to efficiency and savings.

On the Minister's first visit to Bedfordshire Police Headquarters, Mr Malthouse met first with Commissioner Holloway and Chief Constable Garry Forsyth to hear them outline the outcome of his investment into Operation Boson - the specialist unit targeting gang, gun and knife crime which was doubled after the PCC received Special Grants of £4.514m and £3m respectively from the Home Office in the past two years.



### **PCC wins third Special Grant for Bedfordshire Police of £2.9m 'against the odds' – 18/08/20**

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has won a third consecutive Special Policing Grant for Bedfordshire Police to cover the cost of its outstanding unit focussing on fighting gang, gun and knife crime, after persuading the Home

Office and Policing Minister of the need to back Bedfordshire once more.

The grant will total £2.9m and will be paid to Bedfordshire Police to cover the cost of its exceptionally high performing specialist Boson unit targeting Serious Organised Crime groups and others involved in Serious Violence, in 2020-21. This latest grant to the PCC comes just days after the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse, visited Bedfordshire Police HQ to meet with her and Chief Constable, Garry Forsyth, and to see for himself the drugs, weapons and cash seizures achieved by the Boson team and colleagues in the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit so far this year.



### **PCC recognises critical support given by local charity during National Road Victim Month – 21/08/20**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has recognised the vital support the Road Victims Trust (RVT) has provided to those bereaved or traumatised as a result of accidents on the road, during National Road Victim Month.

The Road Victims Trust, a local charity based in Kempston, Bedford, provides support for anyone bereaved or affected by fatal or serious road collisions in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Despite suggestions that there has been markedly less traffic on the roads due to the nationwide lockdown, the charity has received similar levels of referrals as last year so far in 2020.



### **PCC launches one of Bedfordshire Police's largest ever recruitment drives to find 156 new officers - 26/08/20**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has launched one of the largest searches for new Police Constables ever staged by the force as she looks to fill 156 new officer posts this year.

Bedfordshire Police is currently running a recruitment process for Police Constables following the announcement of a national uplift from the Government, with funds for 36 new officers in 2020-21. This has been further boosted with another 20 new officer posts promised by the PCC and funded by an increase in the police share of council tax. Bedfordshire Police is looking for new officers to boost its front line and also replace those leaving and retiring, which amount to approximately 100 officers each year, meaning there are 156 positions to fill in total, making it one of Bedfordshire Police's biggest every recruitment drives.



### **PCC thanks activity leaders of The James Campbell Collective as her lockdown and holiday service for young people hits nearly 5,000 views – 02/09/20**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, said "a huge thank you" to the organisations who have posted daily activities for young people for her on YouTube throughout lockdown and the school holidays, as The James Campbell Collective reached close to 5,000 views.

The James Campbell Collective was first launched by the PCC in May (Monday 4) and was aimed at 10 to 25-year-olds, with daily sessions being either streamed or uploaded each day from Monday to Friday. The service was coordinated and introduced by professional personal fitness trainer and body builder James and included Luton Town Football Club training sessions, boxing for exercise, cooking and baking on a budget, chess tutorials and dance. In four months, contributors have produced 350 videos and the channel has received 4,965 views.



The James Campbell  
Collective

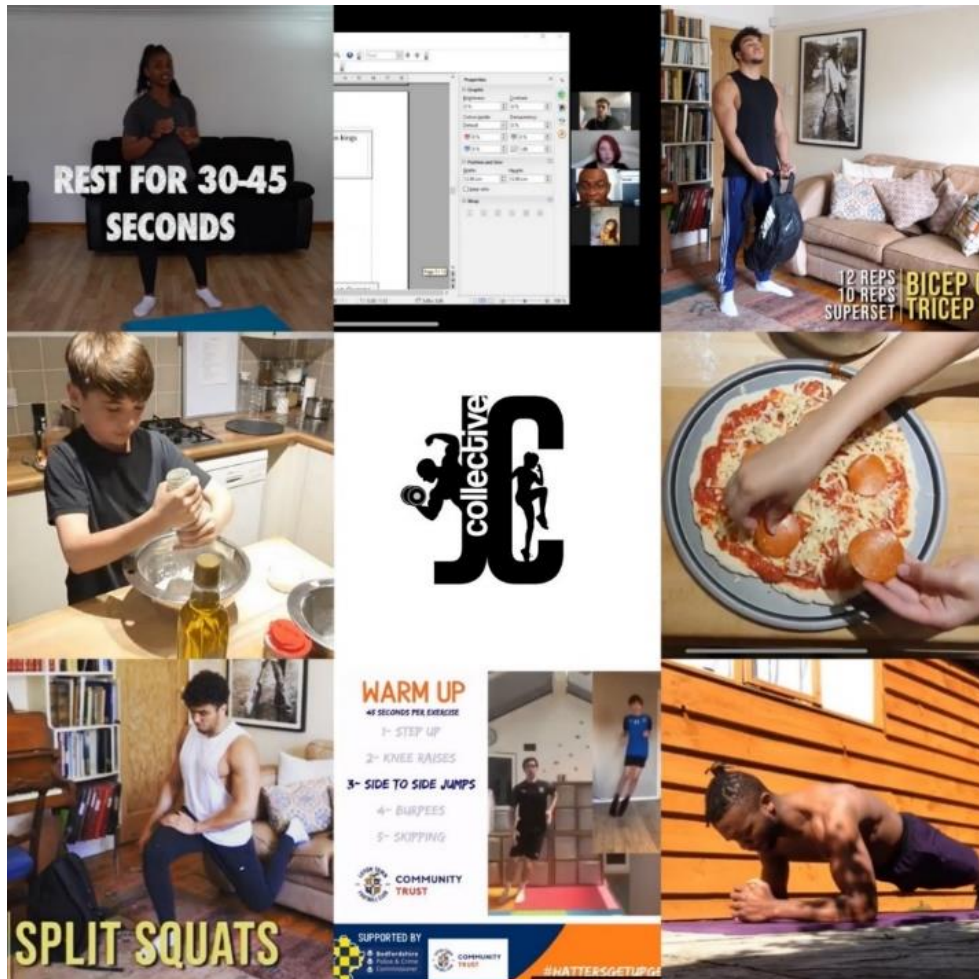


In 4 months...

4,965 views

54 Subscribers

350 videos uploaded



The project has now come to an end, but you can check it out on YouTube by searching The James Campbell Collective or click [here](#).

## Social Media Highlights

- Kathryn Holloway** @KHollowayPCC · Aug 18  
A massive Thankyou too to Duncan Young, Dave Cestaro and Phil Wells @bedspolice for the metaphorical ammunition you gave me to win the £2.9m Special Grant to continue the battle against gun, gang and knife crime.
- Kathryn Holloway** @KHollowayPCC · Aug 18  
Op Boson teams north & south @bedspolice seized 2 guns, 6 replica weapons, almost 4kg of drugs & approx £68,000 in cash from Feb-July plus the work with the NCA and the ERSOU regional unit - almost 500 years of jail terms gained in 2 years. @kitmalthouse Thankyou for listening
- Kathryn Holloway** @KHollowayPCC · Aug 18  
The £2.9m grant follows those to me for £4.571m and £3m all covering the cost of doubling the @bedspolice response to Serious Violence: Operation Boson this is for you. You know who you are - after two years of outstanding performance as @kitmalthouse saw for himself last week.
- Kathryn Holloway** @KHollowayPCC · Aug 18  
I'm absolutely delighted to announce that - despite the naysayers and warnings that it was impossible - I've won a third consecutive Special Grant of £2.9m for @bedspolice after proving to the Home Office what more they've gained from more investment in a force on the front foot.

**Kathryn Holloway** @KHollowayPCC · Aug 12  
Our absolute pleasure.

**Kit Malthouse MP #StayAlertSaveLives** @kitmalthouse · Aug 12  
An intensive day of briefings with @bedspolice yesterday. Drugs, gangs, guns, public order and meeting some smart new recruits - a force on the front foot - Thank you @KHollowayPCC @CCGarryForsyth and your teams.



**Bedfordshire PCC** @BedsPCC · Aug 4  
The PCC has officially broken the ground for work to begin on a new multi-million pound 22-cell custody suite for @bedspolice at Kempston HQ. The works set to be built within 2 years, marks the first major new building the force has undertaken since 2005 - [ow.ly/33Da30r2D9i](https://www.ow.ly/33Da30r2D9i)



## Dates for the diary

The PCC would like to invite members of the community, in particular those from the Afro Caribbean community, for a one to one conversation regarding their experience with and thoughts on discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Please contact us on [pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) for more information or sign up directly on Eventbrite where a range of dates are available.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/100-conversations-tickets-111127659822>

## Police and Crime Plan

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