

 **Bedfordshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**

## *Making the money work*

Hello everyone,

Hopefully you will have heard the good news by now that Bedfordshire Police has been successful in winning a further £1m from Government to help us to deal with serious violence, on top of the £4.571m Special Grant that I won last December. Assistant Chief Constable, Jackie Sebire, has helped to influence this latest win by having a seat - and voice - at the table with the Home Secretary recently, through her lead of the Serious Violence portfolio nationally.

Behind closed doors, I have been driving home the message at the Home Office that the Special Grant recognised, in effect, that Bedfordshire Police does not have the resources to meet this complex issue as it would wish to, particularly concerning knife crime, and I will be pushing for another payment this financial year. I stressed our particular need as a force, given the circumstances of 16 September 2018, when one 16-year-old was found to have died of stab wounds in a residential area of Bedford and a 14-year-old received life changing injuries following a brawl in Luton in which 50 youths and men fought in the street using knives, machetes, knuckle dusters and, somewhat ironically, police batons. I intend shortly to deliver a roll call of the sentences which our officers and staff have achieved in relation to these and other incidents, to the Policing Minister and Home Secretary, to prove that their investment in our Force is paying off and producing results.

An important win for me this month in relation to knife crime has been securing the agreement of Mr David Kirkby, one of the two medical directors at Luton and Dunstable Emergency Department, that he will work with my team to address pupils in knife hotspot areas to detail his own, sadly considerable, experience in trying to save young lives, including working unsuccessfully to try to save the life of one victim of a stabbing on a Luton pavement last May.

I also saw one of the performances I have commissioned by Alter Ego in schools this month which I would urge you to try to see for yourselves, of a genuinely hard hitting and authentic drama based on county lines grooming of young people who have previously been unknown to police, including drugs and weapon carrying and entrapment. The pupils at the performance I visited, at Toddington's Middle School, had clearly never previously understood the issue and the actors held their rapt attention throughout and in a Q and A session at the end.

Finally, some of you will know that I have personally become involved to drive forward improvements in parts of our police estate which have been the most run down; Dunstable's enquiries office and rest area was so grim that I doubt anyone in the public sector

would have agreed to work there and the team got in touch with me last week to let me know how pleased they are with the transformation of that area. In response to a request from the FCR staff, the rest area at HQ is currently being revamped, following my redecoration of the HQ reception area and Signpost Hub in the old FCR. Work on the communal areas at Luton Police Station starts this coming month.

This is most certainly not a waste of money; it is an investment in our officers and staff and I am entirely clear that this is part of my duty of care to them. I work to the tightest possible budget (purchasing three sofas for the cost of one that was originally proposed for Kempston reception as just one tiny example).

Across the corporate world, where I worked for almost 20 years before becoming PCC, improving working conditions is seen as a hugely important factor in relation to morale and even the health of the workforce. We are no different at Bedfordshire Police. Unusually, not a single critic or commentator on social media has failed to understand this. I will take this keenly priced refurbishment as far and as quickly as I possibly can up to the end of my current term, to May 2020, as part of my promise to Bedfordshire Police's officers and staff in relation to looking after our people, as set out in my Police and Crime Plan, as I take this investment in them seriously.

Yours Kathryn



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



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



### **PCC completes '70% of Police and Crime Plan in less than 3 years' according to scrutiny panel**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has been found to have delivered more than 70 per cent of the pledges she made in her Police and Crime Plan for the county with more than a quarter of her term to go, by the all-party Police and Crime Panel who scrutinise her performance, which also includes independent members.

The comments came at the bi-monthly meeting of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel to hold PCC Holloway to account, held at Futures House, Marsh Farm, Luton on Tuesday (12 March).

"The panel felt a considerable amount of the pledges have already been achieved by the Police and Crime Commissioner and her office. Our scrutiny will be focused on the last remaining actions to ensure the full plan is delivered," said Paul Cain, the politically independent Chair of the Panel.

Among the key areas delivered, Kathryn Holloway was found by the panel to have robustly and continuously argued for increased Government funding for Bedfordshire Police – bringing in a unique grant of £4.571m in December 2018; she has overseen recruitment of 95 officers in her first year, 105 in the second and approved a budget to recruit 160 this year, including 60 new posts which will double the existing strength of PCs across the Community Hubs countywide; eight Hubs having been created according to the lead priority of her plan to return Community Policing to Bedfordshire.

Commissioner Holloway was also found to have delivered on her plans to transform services for victims of crime by creating the Signpost online directory of available services for the county – at [www.signpostforbedfordshire.com](http://www.signpostforbedfordshire.com) – and the call centre of specialist Victim Care Coordinators which provide assistance to victims (on Freephone 0800 0282 887 six days a week); a service which celebrates its first anniversary on 1 April. The PCC has also delivered on plans to demonstrate her duty of care for officers, including the introduction of a free monthly drop-in healthcare service and health screenings in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire.

"I am obviously completely delighted that the Panel, who include members from the ruling political parties of all three of the local authorities in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton, together with independent members, have recognised the

progress that has been made. This absolutely could not have been possible without the support of my exceptional Chief Constable, Jon Boucher, and his Executive Team nor without the outstanding officers and staff of Bedfordshire Police, who carry more individual caseloads than those in other forces, and race from task to task to serve the public here in a manner which is absolutely humbling," said PCC Holloway.

"But there is always more to do; I am promising to create a national gold standard Sexual Assaults Referral Centre (SARC) in a non-medical setting with a videolink so that rape victims and those who have been sexually abused can give evidence without the trauma of seeing their attacker in court and we have just found a fantastic location for that. We've been searching throughout my term for exactly the right building!

"On 2 April we are going to announce the first anniversary results for Signpost to prove the overwhelmingly positive response of victims, from their feedback, and then launch my new service – called Direction – which will also have a single online home

for all services for those who have been offenders but who now want to go straight. It, too, is going to be backed by a specialist call centre team of advisors to do all we possibly can to give them the tools and support services to do so to prevent that whole revolving door process back to prison creating a constant stream of victims.

"I also need to replace the temporary custody block at Kempston and to finalise the outline planning permission I have insisted on to get the best price for the former Greyfriars Police Station and show a further duty of care to our officers and staff by refurbishing some of the more tired and, frankly, depressing, areas of the estate, with some of the proceeds, at Luton Police Station, Dunstable and HQ," said Commissioner Holloway.

The Police and Crime Panel ruled to scrutinise the following areas over the final year of the Commissioner's term to May 2020:

- The number and deployment of the 60 new PCs and 100 replacement PCs recruited this financial year
- The delivery of the Sexual Assaults Referral Centre
- The delivery and progress of Direction
- Feedback on the performance of Signpost
- Progress with a permanent custody suite replacement at Kempston HQ and of the sale of Greyfriars station in Bedford

Cllr Ian Dalgarno Executive Member for Community Services at Central Bedfordshire Council and a member of the Police and Crime Panel overseeing the work of the Commissioner welcomed the news highlighting "The commissioner is to be congratulated on the delivery of 70 per cent of the Police and Crime Plan and on the recruitment of additional officers. Local Town and Parishes have been calling for an increased officer presence and the commissioner has listened to this feedback and is delivering for our communities."

OPCC Chief of Staff, Clare Kelly, also invited the Panel to scrutinise the PCC's public engagements in relation to her Police and Crime Plan stating: "I invited the panel to ensure scrutiny on the engagements and daily workings of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as the pledges that they wanted to focus upon. Because the people of Bedfordshire have the right to be informed of the

immense activity and consultation that is taking place to ensure a value for money service is being delivered on their behalf."

### Dates for the diary



**20<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year PCC Report  
Launch**

**24<sup>th</sup> May – Chief Constable Selection  
Process**



### Social Media Highlights

**PCC launches one stop shop for ex offenders to set them up to succeed not to fail on leaving prison.**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has launched a one stop shop service for ex-offenders to literally give them Direction to the services that can support them to change their lives, on leaving prison.

The new service - called Direction - is a countywide initiative to help support former offenders to help lead a life free from crime offering both a single online home of services including help with housing, accommodation, work and benefits, rebuilding family relationships, drug and alcohol dependency and building better health; it consists of a website listing quality support services across the county - at [directionforbedfordshire.co.uk](http://directionforbedfordshire.co.uk) - and a free and confidential call centre of specialist advisors, available on 0800 917 5579.

Direction has been set up with the help of former prisoners themselves, including those who have served lengthy 'life' terms, to advise on what support opportunities should be included.

"It's no good me sitting in my ivory tower as Police and Crime Commissioner, deciding what former prisoners want and need to be able to stay out of crime and how this should be expressed. I'm so grateful to former prisoners for their help in shaping the website - [directionforbedfordshire.co.uk](http://directionforbedfordshire.co.uk) - in terms of every word written and every service that has been included," said Commissioner Holloway.

“Our work with former offenders is vital to the success of the Direction service – they've been through the ‘revolving door’ to prison and now want to turn their backs on crime. They can only do this if meaningful help is provided – and every individual’s needs are different.

“The Freephone number will provide really valuable extra support for people who've previously been offenders, but now want to look to the future and a life outside crime. Not everyone has access to a computer or the internet, but it’s easier to make a free telephone call.

“Those answering the calls are specialists in their field but, crucially, they're not from either the police or probation services. Almost every ex-offender has more than one problem requiring support and this is an attempt to look at them as individuals and not statistics.”

Direction is backed by a pledge from Jobcentres to provide a representative in every one of 13 in Bedfordshire, and across the border in Hertfordshire, to see an ex-offender to advise on benefits and work opportunities on the same day as their first visit.

“If an ex-offender leaves prison without access to any income it’s setting them up to fail and return to crime as a survival mechanism. I want to set them up to succeed so I’m also indebted to the Department of Work and Pensions for arranging this with us,” said the PCC.

The call centre will be available from 9-5 on weekdays. The Commissioner has funded a full time co-ordinator for Direction to assist its call handlers, and the freephone line is run through the charity YouTurn Futures, which already has extensive experience of working with prolific ex-offenders who want to turn their lives around, for the OPCC and Bedfordshire Police.

Elvis Shaw is a former offender who now volunteers with Reactiv8, which works with prisoners at HMP Bedford both before and after release. He said: “Direction has everything under one umbrella including employability, housing, everything that somebody coming out of prison is going to need. It’s a great support and if you want to change, the help is there.”

Direction has been modelled on the successful Signpost service established by Commissioner Holloway in 2018 to support victims of crime, which also features an online directory of available services alongside a call centre team of specialists.

Bedfordshire-based criminal justice charity YouTurn Futures is working in partnership with the Commissioner to deliver the scheme. Following its launch, Director Stuart Smith said: “Direction is an innovative approach to reducing reoffending across Bedfordshire. It provides a central hub for statutory, voluntary and community agencies to work together for an ex-offender and deliver a joined up approach in tackling the drivers of offending behaviour in order to reduce reoffending and make Bedfordshire a safer place.”

Direction Hub Lead, Neill Waring, said of the launch: “We want to help former offenders to find the right professional knowledge and networks for them, and can also help concerned parents, partners or friends to find support for their loved ones.”

The Direction website hosts a directory of all the key agencies and organisations in Bedfordshire that offer support and advice for ex-offenders, their families and friends. The website can be accessed at: <https://directionforbedfordshire.co.uk/>.

The specialist call centre is available on 0800 917 5579, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm



### **OPCC invites nominations for awards ceremony to commemorate the women who make Bedfordshire Better Published**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire will be welcoming women from across the county for an afternoon celebration. The event will take place on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 and will be an awards ceremony, celebrating women throughout Bedfordshire who have or are making it a better county.

We are welcoming nominations for women in the following categories and would encourage those who feel they know someone worthy of the award to kindly complete and return the nomination form to: [pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk).

- **Voluntary Award**

An individual who has volunteered their time in the support of others.

#### **Young Persons Educational Award**

An individual or team that has worked with young people to educate/support them to ensure their safeguarding.

#### **Health Carers Award**

An individual who is dedicated to looking after those with health care needs.

#### **Offender Rehabilitation Services Award**

An individual or group who have assisted in the rehabilitation of an offender.

#### **Community Group Award**

A team from the community that has given a particular focus to safeguarding

#### **Blue Light Awards**

A team within the blue light arena that has particularly supported safeguarding.

#### **Victims Services Award**

An individual or team that has provided excellent service to victims.

### **Bedfordshire Police Officer or Staff Award**

An individual officer or Police staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for safeguarding.

### **Life Time Achievement Award**

An individual who has a long history of supporting people in the safeguarding arena.

### **Survivors Award**

An individual who has used personal experience to help others.

### **Woman of the Year Award**

Giving recognition to a woman who has inspired and influenced other women

Nomination Form for 'The women who make Bedfordshire better' Awards The closing date for nominations is Friday 2nd June 2019.

For more information or to enquire about sponsoring/ attending the event, please email [pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) or call the office on 01234 842208.

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