



December 2016

Message from the Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read this my latest newsletter.

December has been a very busy month for both myself and my office, filled with good news and ground breaking achievements for Bedfordshire and its vibrant communities, all following my plan of offering practical, achievable and affordable solutions to Bedfordshire's policing challenges.

Earlier this month Bedfordshire Police was awarded a "good rating" from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). The report assessed the force's 'legitimacy' - the way it treats is staff, officers and most importantly, the public. As you can imagine, I'm delighted that the force has been recognised as good in terms its legitimacy, and not only that but the inspectors singled out the work I have been doing to increase visible community policing and to meet with local communities throughout the county alongside senior officers to explain what is being delivered in terms of new officers and, less visibly, via undercover detective work in their local areas."



Following my election as PCC in May 2016, I made it my mission to offer more visible policing to the county and I'm happy to inform you that we are unveiling our sixth policing hub to the communities in Houghton Regis with a new team consisting of 5 new Police Constables, 5 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 5 Anti-Social Behaviour PCSOs.

We have also created a new Rural Crime Unit which will have one Inspector, one Sergeant, four PCs and 10 PCSOs offering resources and policing to rural communities in our county. This offers a fair deal on policing whether you live in a town or the country, and the new Rural Crime Unit will help to deliver just that, making a real difference within our existing budget.

In my Police & Crime Plan I outlined my commitment to putting victims and their needs front and centre. This couldn't be more apparent at our Victims Day which we held in Marston Moretaine this month where we were able to get an in-depth understanding of our victim's wants and needs, and improving services offered to them in the years ahead. At the event I consulted with a range of stakeholders and victims of crime to co-design and co-develop a future service.

This latest newsletter also includes some of the press statements sent out from my office outlining some of the work the OPCC and I have recently achieved.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. I do hope you have had a pleasant and enjoyable festive period, and would like to wish you a very happy and safe New Year, and look forward to working with you in 2017.

PCC and Beds Police hold county's first Rural Crime Conference

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway joined officers to launch the county's new Rural Crime Unit in a country crime conference which is a first for the county.

The Conference announced the creation of the Rural Crime Unit, overseen by Supt. Greg Horsford and led by Insp. Tracey Day. The unit will have a Sergeant and 4 dedicated Police Constables and have additional backing from 10 Police and Community Support Officers.

"The really important thing is that those who come to work on the Rural Crime Unit have a genuine interest in, and knowledge of, the countryside," said Commissioner Holloway. "For example, Insp. Day is a very keen horsewoman and knows a lot of the farmers and hay, straw and feed suppliers in North Bedfordshire. She has in-depth knowledge of matters such as when hunting is and is not illegal and the law surrounding hunt saboteurs. This means that the Inspector and her team can make a real impact," said Commissioner Holloway.

She added: "My Police and Crime Plan called for a fair deal on policing whether you live in the town or the country and the new Rural Crime Unit will help to deliver just that, making a real difference within our existing budget."

Insp. Day explained that she has developed a definition of rural crime for the Force and that such crimes happen because of remote locations in the countryside or the nature of the business at the premises and include the theft of red diesel, horse tack and equipment and agricultural plant. She explained that national requirements for the recording of crime meant that, previously, such issues had not been distinguished as official "crimes" by the Force and that she was arranging accurate recording of such events moving forward.



The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner ensured that everyone attending from parish councils, the National Farmers Union, the Countryside Landowners Association and rural town councils, was supplied with a named police contact for every parish together with full contact details by phone and online.

Jim McKeane of the National Farmers Union thanked the Commissioner and police team on behalf of farmers and those who live in rural Bedfordshire for the positive action being taken to protect the country population and businesses.

The 142 parish councils had been asked to supply details of the three top priorities in terms of crime and policing in their area, which were reported back as being speeding, visible policing and anti-social behaviour.

John Loughlin of the Force's Traffic Management Unit explained why traffic calming measures such as speed humps are the preferred option to help cut speeding in the countryside. "The fact is that traffic calming measures are in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, whereas a police officer will only be enforcing speeding at a particular place for a limited time," he said.

Supt. Greg Horsford, explained the Force's new policy on illegal traveller encampments, which has been constructed with the three unitary local authorities across the county, Bedford and Luton Borough Councils and Central Bedfordshire Council. The audience welcomed the announcement that the police intend to act from now on, at an early stage, to move on such encampments when they occupy recreational sites and open spaces intended for leisure and deprive locals of their use.

Given the seasonal workers involved in agriculture and those working in rural factories, a presentation to alert the audience to the crime of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery was given by Justine Currell of Unseen UK, the national helpline to tackle the subject, based in Biggleswade. The Unseen UK helpline is 08000 121 700.

PCC helps bring about planned change in law

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway, has called for a change in the law on a Late Night Levy on pubs and clubs after local councils and business bodies in the county rejected one based on the law as it stands.

"I do understand their position as the law has been something of a blunt instrument. To charge a Late Night Levy on those who sell alcohol has to be applied across an entire borough rather than just in the area where the pubbing and clubbing culture exists. I promised I would investigate a Late Night Levy in my Police and Crime Plan, and prior to my election as PCC. I have kept that promise but I also said it must be fair and I agree that if it draws in tiny village pubs too - rather than just the large high street franchises and nightclubs, that does not look like fairness," said Commissioner Holloway.

However, the PCC pointed to the large draw on police resources that pubs and clubs create, especially at this time of year, and the need to find a solution to the cost of the extra policing required as a result. "If you go down Bedford High Street on any Friday or Saturday night after midnight until five in the morning when the last pubs and clubs turn out, you will see for yourself the extra policing that's unavoidable to keep hundreds of revellers safe, especially now over Christmas and the New Year.

"Multiple officers will be policing the street and at least two sets of officers manning Night Time Economy Vans to deliver a fast response. I regularly visit them unannounced and am entirely certain of the need for them to be present given the crowds of people, often very much the worse for drink, who need to be monitored to prevent disorder. Only football clubs create this sort of additional demand on policing and they pay for the privilege which is why I have taken action to bring about a change in the law to apply it in future only in areas where pubs and clubs dominate the neighbourhood. I'm delighted that it now looks as though the law will change," she added.

Commissioner Holloway raised the issue of "geo-fencing" pubbing and clubbing areas, and applying the Late Night Levy only to establishments selling alcohol in these areas, with Lord Gordon Wasserman - who acts as a key HM Government point of liaison with PCCs. The

Commissioner continued: "I'm now advised that the amendment has been accepted and this change is now part of the new Police and Crime Bill, due to pass into law in 2017. This is a far fairer position. The issue then is whether the Levy is worth the costs of collection by the councils. I have, as a result, also asked for them to supply me with suggestions of ways to work together to better control the fall-out from the late night economy and contribute to the cost of policing in town centres."

A consultation exercise between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and local authorities and business groups took place between 26 October 2016 and 30 November 2016. The trend of responses from councils was that they could not support a Late Night Levy with the law as it now stands. Bedford Improvement District's CEO Christina Rowe was not in favour as she felt insufficient funds would be produced to improve town centre policing and the Luton BID pointed to work they are already doing, after discussions with the Commissioner and Deputy Chief Constable, to pay for two Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the town until Christmas.

The Commissioner negotiated with the Luton BID business organisation to fund the two PCSOs in a pilot up to Christmas which she will ask them to consider continuing in the New Year. In Bedford, the Bedford BID organised an event with the PCC to introduce its members to the possibility of releasing staff to become Special Constables. "I have had fantastic support from the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in both towns and now want to explore what can be done to introduce more permanent support in 2017," said the Commissioner.

In Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis the town councils already fund additional policing patrols specifically for their areas.

The PCC has also backed the Chief Constable in a new measure to delegate powers to council wardens in Luton Borough Council's area to replace police in enforcing parking issues to release officers to other frontline duties in the town. Similar schemes are now being developed with both Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Council.

"I will continue to explore every possible way the Force can be supported by councils and its other partners to strengthen late night and town centre policing and am supporting those policing plans which are now in place to prevent disorder over what I hope are, for everyone, truly fantastic Christmas and happy and safe New Year celebrations," concluded Commissioner Holloway.

PCC launches sixth new policing hub for county in Houghton Regis

Commissioner Holloway was joined by Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Mike Colbourne to announce the team consisting of 5 new Police Constables, 5 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 5 Anti-Social Behaviour PCSOs and confirmed this is a brand new initiative for Houghton Regis.

"The number one priority in my Police and Crime Plan is more visible local policing and I've supported the Force in rolling this out through new Community Hub teams of officers in Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Bedford, Biggleswade and Dunstable so far. It's now Houghton Regis' turn which is



very good news indeed for the town. This team is in addition to the usual 999 response officers and will take officers and PCSOs deployed in Houghton Regis from zero to 15," the Commissioner told a packed audience at the Community Centre in Bedford Square.

DCC Colbourne confirmed that Bedfordshire Police had removed its Community Policing capacity to meet budget cuts four years ago. "But now we're bringing it back and re-populating policing in the community in towns like Houghton Regis and, as we move ahead, we intend to build community policing throughout the county through on-going recruitment in 2017 and beyond," he said.

The audience also heard from Insp. Annita Clarke who explained the work done since October, working with Central Bedfordshire Council and other partners in the town. She said the project she runs is targeting anti-social behaviour in Houghton Regis, especially in the Bedford Square area.

"We're working together with the council and partners like Groundworks, the fantastic youth group here, to try to tackle the problems around Bedford Square together. We have had officers here talking to groups of youths and disbanding them and stopping problems with fireworks. Some have been "base jumping" on the canopies above the shops which, as a mother, frightens me to death so we're working with the property owner to see if we can design a way to stop this. We've really been getting results since we started targeting this area at the beginning of October."

Insp. Clarke reported that since the project began, there had been a reduction in the total number of ASB incidents in the Bedford Square area. There were 29 incidents reported to the Police in October, this number fell to 18 incidents in November and 5 reported incidents so far in December.

There was also a reduction to the number of General ASB incidents reported over the three month period. In October there were 22 which again dropped to 9 in November and 4 reported incidents so far in December.

The audience also heard from Sgt. Louise Bates who described the Force's Op Meteor initiative to target nuisance moped and quad bikers and motorcycles. Sgt. Bates described a recent Action Day which resulted in the seizure of £10,000 in cash, two handguns and "a huge quantity of drugs." Some 35 bikes were also crushed.

The audience also heard a presentation from Wayne Humberstone, head of the Force Control Room explaining when 101 number should be used and when 999 is the best option.

"A lot of people still don't know about 101, which was a national initiative, not one introduced by Bedfordshire Police. Any life-threatening matter or any serious crime in progress, such as discovering your house has been burgled, the door's open and there's noise which suggests someone could still be inside is a case for 999. For any other crime it's 101," he explained.

Martin Darlow, CEO of Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust's Bobby Van scheme also explained the security surveys and home security improvements such as door chains and window locks which can be provided entirely free of charge to elderly and vulnerable people.

Bedfordshire PCC welcomes first "good" rating from police watchdog

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner - Kathryn Holloway has welcomed a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), rating the Force - she has held to account since taking up the PCC role on May 12, as "good."

The report assessed Bedfordshire Police's 'legitimacy' - the way it treats the public and its own officers and members of staff, and has been released in the wake of a series of HMIC reports rating the Force as requiring improvement.

Commenting on the report – Commissioner Holloway said: "As you can imagine I am delighted that the HMIC inspection team considers that Bedfordshire Police can be ranked as good in terms of its legitimacy. Not only that but the inspectors singled out the work I have been doing to increase visible community policing and to meet with local communities throughout the county alongside senior officers to explain what is being delivered in terms of new officers and, less visibly, via undercover detective work in their local areas."

"The report referred to the first of these public meetings in Leighton Buzzard. This has been followed by others in Luton, Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, and another due to be held today in Houghton Regis, promoting these 'community policing hubs' of new officers and supervisors," added the Commissioner.

The Houghton Regis public meeting on policing is being held this evening (Tuesday 13 December from 6pm), is specifically aimed at informing local residents of the policing plans in Bedfordshire. This evening will be attended by PCC Holloway, and Deputy Chief Constable Mike Colbourne. Subjects planned for discussion at the event will include the introduction of a new community hub and additional police officers in the area.

HMIC also focused on the independent scrutiny of officers' Body Worn Video by members of the public. This has been introduced by Bedfordshire Police to help build confidence in the Force, particularly in communities which have not had strong links with police. The PCC has involved herself on the panels for the first time as the county's Commissioner.

Kathryn Holloway continued: "The Inspectors singled out the independent scrutiny which the Force has introduced over both Stop and Search and use of Body Worn Video to give confidence to communities who have not always traditionally trusted police. I have made sure that, as Commissioner, I sit on this review panel, which did not happen before I took over the role of PCC in May."

Commissioner Holloway also pointed to the concerns HMIC expressed over higher levels of sickness among officers and staff, and of those on light and restricted duties, than in some other Forces and pointed to the work her office and the Chief Constable - Jon Boutcher, are doing to address this and support staff back to work.

"My Police and Crime Plan stressed the critical importance of supporting officers and staff back to full duties with investment in occupational health support. In the past week a new Occupational Health unit has opened at what was Sandy Police Station to help officers and staff from both Bedfordshire and its close working partner Cambridgeshire, and I'm determined this should be about more than offering fresh paint and carpets," said Commissioner Holloway.

"I am working shoulder to shoulder with the Chief Constable to address this issue and look at the investment and help needed to establish the exact services which are most needed and how best to provide them," she said.

The report also called on Bedfordshire Police and its partners across the three- force working alliance with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire to strengthen the effectiveness of the shared backroom Professional Standards Department, which investigates allegations of poor behaviour and corruption.

The Commissioner has tasked her new Chief of Staff - Mark Cooper – who previously was a director of HMIC and has recently been responsible for its requirements of the 43 Forces of England and Wales around legitimacy, with personally supporting the Force in making such improvements.

The PCC concluded: "This is a critical piece of work and should further drive home the culture and ethics the Chief Constable and I both expect to be reflected at all times by those who work for Bedfordshire Police."

Commissioner Holloway also pointed to the work the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is involved in with the Force, via a new Culture Board established by the Chief Constable, to examine the behaviour and speech of officers to establish consistently high standards.

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PCC campaign to combat violence against women and pledges further support for leading Bedfordshire centre

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Kathryn Holloway helped launch 16 days of action against domestic violence at one of the county's leading support centres, which is funded by her office – and promised even more support.



The PCC joined staff at the Luton All Women's Centre, together with clients who receive their help, on their open day to coincide with the start of the White Ribbon Campaign UK - part of a global movement to put a stop to male violence against women and girls, which runs until 10 December - Human Rights Day.

"This is my first visit to Luton All Women's Centre since committing to its funding, and it could not be more appropriate than for me to be here today. I'm absolutely blown away by the attitude of the staff and the quality of the building, which is a genuinely feminine and peaceful space offering women a real escape from their problems and practical assistance to tackle them," said Commissioner Holloway.

"Women are drawn here through word of mouth. The Centre has an incredible reputation for helping victims of Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage, Honour-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation. It gives women the gift of language, computer skills and even twice-weekly sewing classes and craft lessons for an escape from the all too real traumas of their daily lives," she said.

"It is not over-stating to say that I feel absolutely privileged to be associated with this wonderful place and the hope it offers, not only on a day like this, but every single day of the year."

The Commissioner made tackling domestic violence her number one priority after coming into her role on 12 May 2016. She funds the Luton All Women's Centre with £16,887 for counselling services, £36,451 for support regarding Domestic Violence and £22,132 for a service specifically assisting in cases of Forced Marriage and Honour-based violence.

Commissioner Holloway told the audience she hopes to do more in partnership with the centre adding: "This fantastic facility is offering support further and further afield in Bedfordshire as demand doesn't stop and start at the Luton boundary. I have asked the management team to look ahead to try to source appropriate transport to bring more women here from further north in the county, from Bedford and central Bedfordshire and, in the south, from towns like Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding villages as it doesn't make sense to duplicate or dilute what they do so brilliantly here, and it is a far better solution to bring women who desperately need this support to the centre instead."

The PCC has committed her team at Bedfordshire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to explore all grant possibilities, even before her own next tranche of Ministry of Justice funding is released in 2017, to try to extend the service through transport, at the earliest opportunity.

The Commissioner concluded: "There is the most enormous need for this support. When I have sat in the Control Room out of 20-25 life threatening emergencies coming through at any one time, around 15-18 of them feature Domestic Violence which is wholly unacceptable in the 21st century with supposedly higher levels of education and awareness.

"Across Bedfordshire, from both country villages and town centres, the Police Force Control Room monitors calls from desperate women every day which peak when they get home from dropping children off in the morning, at lunchtimes, when they return from school pick-up in the afternoons, and which climb steadily during the evening into the early hours, especially at weekends. It's a horrific pattern. I want to do everything within my power and that of Bedfordshire Police to change."

Bedfordshire OPCC works with partners to put victims at the core

Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has moved closer to putting the victim at the centre of the way it works after holding an event to understand the wants and needs of the victim and improving services of the future.

Hosting the Victims Day was Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) - Kathryn Holloway, who invited a range of stakeholders and victims of crime to consult on the co-design and co-development of a future integrated service.

Commissioner Holloway told the conference: "This day was my chance to show our partners delivering victims' services throughout Bedfordshire that it is not a sound-bite, when my Police and Crime Plan talks about putting victims at the centre of everything we do in policing and giving them a voice, but a very strongly held personal belief.

"I need to work together with our partners to make sure there are not gaps or duplications in victims' support and I want to save the time and money both they and my office are currently spending in grants' commissioning every single year.

"That is why I aim to co-commission and allocate funds alongside the former probation service - the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) on a three year cycle, starting next year. Partners told me they really welcome the greater sustainability this will bring - knowing they have three years' secure funding not just one - and should help enormously in the recruitment and retention of staff.

"Together, the charities and local authorities of Bedfordshire working shoulder to shoulder with me and my office can make a huge difference and I aim to make this county a centre of excellence for victims' services."

The Victims Day - held at the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine, was attended by over 60 representatives from a variety of services across Bedfordshire, when their views were listened to, with feedback from the event being collated and analysed in order to share experience and knowledge.

Bethan West, Director of Victim Services and Commissioning for the OPCC said: "The Victims Day was very successful and was a great example of how we can and should work together.

"The aim of this event was primarily to engage with partners and stakeholders to build on strengths that already exist. The day demonstrated how we should communicate to provide

the best possible services for victims in Bedfordshire and co-develop a future service putting victims at the centre of the way we work, and breaking the cycle for them and their families.”

In early 2017 the OPCC plans to repeat the process with victims of crime; consulting with victims of all ages, from all backgrounds across the county. The OPCC will also obtain views from those (for whatever reason) who do not wish to report crime. It will also work with service partners to understand fully their views and aspirations of and what they would like to see incorporated in future services.

Ms West continued: “We look forward to holding future events for young people, victims themselves and those who are often hidden from services, due to their lifestyle choices, to hear the real needs of victims in Bedfordshire.

“We must strive to ensure victims of crime across the county are supported and given the best chance to recover and move forward.”

In 2015 UK Police and Crime Commissioners became responsible for the local commissioning of victim services which are based on the following elements:

- Emotional and practical support services for victims of crime particularly for victims of the most serious crime, persistently targeted victims, and vulnerable or intimidated victims, to help them cope, recover and where possible move from the harm they have experienced.
- Emotional and practical support services for family members
- Emotional and practical support services for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence
- Building the capacity and capability of providers, including Restorative Justice Services, from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprises sector.