



## The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter - May 2021

On 6 May the election in Bedfordshire will take place to appoint a new Police and Crime Commissioner. The individual will come into office officially on 14 May and a new Police and Crime Plan will be designed in consultation with partners and the public.

The winning candidate will be supported by the current office who are politically independent. Their role is to ensure the delivery of the statutory duties of a Commissioner and to ensure the views of the local community are heard and responded to. However, even in the interim period between the outgoing and incoming PCC, the office does not stop and we have been continuing our work, with a few new opportunities to share.

### Road Safety Fund 2021/2022 (Deadline May 6<sup>th</sup>)

Road safety is an integral part of community safety which is in turn a matter of significant importance to the people who live in, work in and visit Bedfordshire. Which is why a fund of money is available for community groups and relevant partners to bid into in order to try and reduce the number of people harmed on our roads.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is now encouraging applications from projects and organisations which aim to make the county's roads safer and help with any of the following objectives set:



- To reduce the number of young drivers, passengers, riders and pedestrians killed or seriously injured in Bedfordshire
- To reduce the social impact of road casualties, at an individual, family and community level
- To reduce the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on Bedfordshire's roads whilst increasing the levels of cycling and cycle stages undertaken.
- To reduce the number of pedestrians killed or seriously injured on Bedfordshire's roads.
- To reduce the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Bedfordshire's roads.
- To reduce the number of older people (aged 60 or over) killed or seriously injured on Bedfordshire's roads.
- To help build up the confidence of those drivers who have been prevented from driving during the pandemic.

For more information on this fund, please click:

<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/general.php?id=331>

## Youth Space's Fund for local communities (7<sup>th</sup> May deadline)

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with the Violence Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU), are running a bidding process to that seeks to improve shared community environments for young people in Bedfordshire.

The OPCC has a fund available of £28,000.00 to support projects throughout Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton that Town and Parish Councils can bid into. Community groups are welcome to bid but need the support of their local Parish or Town.

Applications of no more than £5k per bid are welcomed before the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Bidders are encouraged to match fund where possible.



The decision making on winning bids will be made by young people themselves with the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

For more information on this fund, please click:

<https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/general.php?id=306>

The Office continues with our statutory duties surrounding:



Partnership working for efficiencies and quality improvements across victim care, offender management and the Criminal Justice System



Working with the public to understand local issues and represent them to Bedfordshire Police



Ensure Bedfordshire Police and our own office is transparent with their duties



Ensuring policing standards are met through formal scrutiny

Your Bedfordshire team are one of the smallest OPCCs in the Country in terms of size yet has achieved considerable wins for Bedfordshire. They have delivered over £16 million pounds worth of services to the people of Bedfordshire over the past five years.

The office has in recent years added to its responsibilities by bringing victim services in house through the creation and then management of Signpost, the service that supports people who have experienced crime. They have also taken on the lead for the charity that supports elderly and vulnerable community members with crime prevention; The Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust.

The connection of both these teams has already seen positive results for our community where people can get practical and quick assistance for issues affecting their lives because of crime.

## Information for the 6 May Vote

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner cannot publish any materials from any candidate in the election. However, we have been observing the campaigns in order to best support the winning candidate when the public select them. We have also seen questions from the public around the actual role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and would like to offer the following information to help answer those questions.

The legislative definition of a Police and Crime Commissioner:

- To be an advocate for the voice of the public
- To hold the Police to account formally
- To support the service to cut crime
- To deliver an effective and efficient Police service
- To set the strategic direction through the Police and Crime Plan
- To set the overall budget, not getting into specific monetary area per department or area geography
- To appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable
- To commission victim services
- To work with partners in order to build confidence and trust with the public
- To ensure that community policing needs are met by advocating and communicating local priorities in balance with the policing need
- Unified approach to reducing crime with partners at a local and national level
- To ensure the office reviews the appeals on complaints that are concluded by Professional Standards



For more information please visit <https://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/area/bedfordshire>

- ❖ Thank you to Gareth from Focus on Flitwick for inviting Chief Executive - Clare Kelly to speak about the PCC Elections and answer questions on the role of the office and the PCC. To hear the full interview, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/gareth.mackey/videos/3998003090259162/>
- ❖ Our Chief Executive, Clare Kelly, was invited back to Pamtego radio by host Lady Munya to discuss the upcoming PCC elections. When asked what skill set is most important for a PCC? Clare answered... "The skill of listening, actually hearing what someone is saying and moving to action to solve problems. Being able to see the bigger picture or solution is key for this role." To hear the full interview, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/Pamtego/videos/914900992628297/>

# The Roles within the OPCC

The **Chief Executive** supports the PCC to

- Set the strategic direction through the Police and Crime Plan (completing the process on behalf of the PCC)
- Appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable (completing the process on behalf of the PCC)
- Hold the Police to account, making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

Chief Executive supported by the work of the stop and search scrutiny panel show the transparency of how the Force are responding to audits, reviews and recommendations. Supported by the Transparency Manager.

**Chief Financial Officer** reporting to the Chief Executive will support the PCC to

- Set the budget

**Delivery Manager** working with the Chief Executive will ensure the PCC can

- Deliver an effective and efficient police service
- Support police reform – i.e. Policing Vision 2025 (soon to be 2030)
- Progress emergency services collaboration and Fire devolution

**Project Managers** and **Victim Care Lead** working to the Delivery Manager/Chief Exec will support

- The process of cutting crime
- Unified approach to reducing crime with partners at a local and national level
- Ensure that community policing needs are met

**Transparency Manager** working to the Chief Executive will deliver

- The dip sampling of Police complaints to ensure transparency
- Review/Appeals process (New Complaints Reform 2020 – Legislation change Feb 2020)
- Manage Risk (Strategic Risk Register, through BRM and JAC)

**Commissioning Officer/ Criminal Justice Project Manager/Engagement Officer** working to the Chief Executive will

- Commission victim services
- Work with partners to build confidence and trust with the public
- Criminal Justice devolution
- Devolution of Victim and Witness services

**Events & Community/Partner Engagement Officer** and the **Communications Officer** will actively listen to the

- Voice of the public (Surveys / Media Releases / Public Events)

## Celebrating our partners

### Commissioned Service – Direction for Bedfordshire

The OPCC would like to thank partner organisations for adapting their provision to support not only to their existing service users, many of whom have seen needs increased as a result of the pandemic, but also to cater for a surge of new clients whose circumstances have also dramatically changed. Bedfordshire as a whole should be proud of the work they have delivered.

As with all challenges, opportunities also present themselves and Direction for Bedfordshire has seen positives that have arisen from these unprecedented times.

Direction for Bedfordshire is delivered by a local charity, YouTurn Futures, with the support and funding of the Bedfordshire OPCC.

Direction for Bedfordshire was created under a two-strand vision; firstly, to connect individuals who engage with/are at risk of criminality with services that can help them get back on track; secondly, to promote better partnership working in Bedfordshire and connect services with each other.

This month sees Direction for Bedfordshire's second anniversary. Since their launch in April 2019, Direction have received over 600 referrals and are now receiving roughly 1000 website views a month.



Director of YouTurn Futures, Stuart Smith, said "In the two years since the service was launched it has developed from a telephone service providing signposting advice for those wanting to move away from crime to a comprehensive advisory and support service delivering drop in sessions across Bedfordshire, helping all who are marginalised and vulnerable and also providing assistance to professionals who need help in managing clients with complex needs.

"The need for the Direction for Bedfordshire Service is demonstrated by the increasing demand for its services with nearly 8000 website hits and 500 referrals in the last year.

"With the support of the OPCC, YouTurn will be developing the service further over the next year, offering drop in centres across a wider range of venues, ensuring Direction for Bedfordshire is accessible to all in need."

COVID-19 understandably has limited Directions face-to-face engagement with both partners and service users, and one solution to this was to virtually connect with various partners across the county. By using Zoom, Direction have been hosting two forums a month to cover the North and South areas of Bedfordshire since April 2020. Since then, Direction have received a wide range of interest with 20+ different services and organisations attending across the two forums.

In the last month, Direction have linked in with multiple organisations including 'PoetsIN'. who are an award-winning creative mental health charity. PoetsINhelp adults, children and young people struggling with their mental health, using the power of words via online and in-person creative writing

workshops and online communities. They provide a community, tools and education to empower the self-management of symptoms, and also create open discussion to reduce the stigma surrounding mental ill-health.

Direction also reached out to '2Makeit' who have adapted their prison based music programmes for the pandemic and have produced an innovative 'Songbird Project' - prisoners can write lyrics from within their cells, they then send their lyrics to 2Makeit where their in-house musician puts music to the lyrics and they will produce a CD for the prisoner and their family.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the services Direction for Bedfordshire provide, please do get in contact with them:

PHONE: 0800 917 5579

WEBSITE: <https://directionforbedfordshire.co.uk/>

EMAIL: [info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk](mailto:info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk)

TWITTER: @Direction4Beds

FACEBOOK: @direction4beds

## Dog Watch Scheme

We know many of you have benefited from our four-legged friends as we took our daily exercise over the past year. In policing, dogs are working animals but just the same as all our beloved pets they are part of the family too. The rise in dog thefts is highly concerning, the link to organised crime and the miserable endings of these loyal creatures is one the OPCC and Police family are highly concerned about.

Police tactics will certainly be deployed where there is a good trail of evidence to follow, however there is more we can do.



The OPCC is backing the petition to 'Make dog theft a specific criminal offence'. If you would also like to sign the petition, click here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/560216>.

The OPCC have also supported the Dog Watch schemes across the County with £5,000 towards the Community Watch team. If you would like to find out more about the Dog Watch scheme, [click here](#).

## Press Releases – April 2021



### [The OPCC supports National Crime Victims' Rights Week with enhanced training on the new Victims Code](#)

Published 22/04/2021

National Crime Victims' Rights Week takes place between 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> April. The week is dedicated to the learning around victimisation, and the effect that this can have on individuals, families, friends and the community. It promotes laws, policies, and programs to help and support victims of crime.

This year's theme is "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." which emphasises the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime.



### [Youth Spaces Fund opens for local communities](#)

Published 19/04/2021

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with the Violence Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU), have launched a new fund for Bedfordshire. The Youth Space's Fund 2021/2022, which seeks to improve shared community environments for young people in Bedfordshire.

The OPCC has a fund available of £28,000.00 to support projects throughout Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton that Town and Parish Councils can bid into.

The funding can be used by Town and Parish councils for a wide range of projects that would improve locations for young people with the ambition of deterring them from unsafe spaces or by investing in areas where young people can socialise in safety.



### [OPCC fund to purchase specialist telephones for the community to crack down on scammers.](#)

Published 13/04/2021

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has teamed up with Age UK by funding the purchase of specialist telephones which prevent scam callers from connecting to potentially vulnerable individuals and in turn, preventing fraudsters from deceiving older people out of money via telephone

scams.

The OPCC has provided Age UK with £20,000 to purchase the specialist devices which have an inbuilt scam calling blocker. These devices prevent known incoming scam numbers from being able to connect to the client's home telephone number.



### [The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner gets ready for a new PCC](#)

Published 08/04/2021

The Police and Crime Commissioner's role is certainly an extensive one, they are supported by a small team whose role is to ensure the delivery of the statutory duties of a Commissioner, their office and to ensure the views of the local community are heard and responded to.

Your Bedfordshire team are one of the smallest OPCCs in the Country in terms of size yet has achieved considerable wins for Bedfordshire. They have delivered over £16 million pounds worth of services to the people of Bedfordshire over the past five years. The team focuses on five key areas, these are; representing the voice of the public, working with partners to ensure services for victims, offender management strategy and the commissioning and delivery of early intervention programmes. They also work with Bedfordshire Police to ensure they are delivering an effective and transparent service.



### [Road Safety fund 2021/22 - is now open](#)

Published 06/04/2021

Road safety is an integral part of community safety which is in turn a matter of significant importance to the people who live in, work in and visit Bedfordshire. Which is why a fund of money will be available for community groups and relevant partners to bid into in order to try and reduce the number of people harmed on our roads.

The partners that make up the Bedfordshire Road Safety Partnership are all committed to improving road safety and to this opportunity. Road casualties devastate families and communities. Collisions also cost the national economy an estimated £16.3 billion a year and add pressure on the NHS and emergency services.



# Social Media – April 2021

You Retweeted

**Susan Lousada DL** @susanlousada · Apr 6  
 Chief Constable Garry Forsyth received an award on behalf of The Bedfordshire Constabulary @bedspolice. This award recognises the role the police have played in keeping us all safe during this pandemic. My special thanks to all the Officers, Staff, Specials and Volunteers.



Bedfordshire Police and 4 others

7 13 68

You Retweeted

**QP Community Organisation** @QPCOBEDFORD · Apr 4  
 We are delighted to announce the Installation of the New High Sheriff of Bedfordshire 2021-2022.  
 07th April 2021 at 4pm, Eric Mashih, Chair of @QPCOBEDFORD  
 Live broadcast on the following link:

[youtu.be/RXjTAbUbXPA](https://youtu.be/RXjTAbUbXPA)



You and 9 others

6 14 32

You Retweeted

**Sustrans** @sustrans · Apr 1  
 Join thousands of families across the country in #walking, #wheeling, #cycling and #scooting to school between 19-30 of this month for the #BigPedal! And help win your school some amazing prizes. Find out more: [sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/proje...](https://sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/proje...)



51 52

You Retweeted

**YoungMinds** @YoungMindsUK · Apr 1  
 An expert shares their tips for coping with stress this #StressAwarenessMonth



What is Stress Awareness Month and how can I reduce my stress?  
 April is Stress Awareness Month.  
[metro.co.uk](https://metro.co.uk)

1 67 82

**Bedfordshire OPCC** @BedsOPCC

Fancy pushing your fitness this half term? See if you can work your way through James Campbell's work out videos!



Fitness with James Campbell - How to Train  
[youtube.com](https://youtube.com)

1:30 PM · Apr 1, 2021 · Hootsuite Inc.

**Bedfordshire OPCC** @BedsOPCC · Apr 7

The OPCC is currently recruiting Independent Custody Visitors (ICV). If you are interested in becoming an ICV or would like more information, please see our website: [bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/independent-cu...](https://bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/independent-cu...)



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**Bedfordshire OPCC** @BedsOPCC · Apr 8

Your Bedfordshire team are one of the smallest OPCCs in the Country in terms of size yet has achieved considerable wins for Bedfordshire. They have delivered over £16 million pounds worth of services to the people of Bedfordshire over the past five years!  
[ow.ly/74HK50EjAaT](https://ow.ly/74HK50EjAaT)



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