

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



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"Putting people at the heart of policing"

In the News - May 2023

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- Upcoming - PCC's Multi-Faith Networking Event
- PCC asks for local residents' view on road safety in Bedfordshire
- Commissioning Spotlight
- Round-up of what the PCC has been up to in May

PCC continues to put Bedfordshire Police on the map

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Festus Akinbusoye has continued to put Bedfordshire Police on the global map following visits with French, Chilean and Nigerian officials to discuss policing

In April, the PCC was joined by Bedfordshire Police's stop and search lead, Superintendent Ian Taylor, to meet with civil officers from the Cour des Comptes (Court of Auditors) and Deputy Home Affairs attaché at the French Embassy in London.

The representatives were tasked by French authorities to review and study how police powers such as stop and search are scrutinised in Bedfordshire. The discussions covered use of force, the county's stop and search scrutiny panel and work being completed by the PCC to address race disparity and improve legitimacy.

Later on 3 May, the University of Bedfordshire and Mr Akinbusoye welcomed Departmental Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Services from Nigeria, including senior police and security staff, having received the request from the Nigerian High Commission, and support of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

The planned visit took place as part of a study mission into the latest innovations in policing, security and public service management. Over the course of a week the officials embarked on a short tour of the United Kingdom and selected Bedfordshire as a key location to learn and identify best practice.





Bedfordshire PCC's Multi-Faith Networking Event 2023

Bedfordshire PCC Festus Akinbusoye is inviting you to join his Multi-Faith Networking Event

 **Tues 20 June 2023**
6:30pm - 8:30pm

 **Rufus Centre, Flitwick Beds, MK45 1AH**

 **via eventbrite**
or PCC@beds.police.uk



Upcoming Events - Multi-Faith Networking Event

Festus Akinbusoye, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire will be hosting the Multi-Faith Networking Event 2023 on the evening of Tuesday 20 June 2023 at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1AH, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

The event provides a space for all faiths to come together and network whilst hearing from the PCC with the opportunity to ask questions.

Entry is free, however **tickets must be reserved to attend the event.**



Reserve your **FREE** space by [clicking here](#) or email PCC@beds.police.uk

PCC asks for local residents' view on road safety in Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire residents are being consulted on road safety in a new public survey launched by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Festus Akinbusoye



The new survey was launched at the start of May as part of the PCC's latest efforts to bring together a multi-agency and transparent approach to community safety concerns.

The survey aims to understand the concerns of the local community and gain the public's perspective on what the force should prioritise when considering road safety.

Commissioned by Bedfordshire's Road Safety Partnership which consists of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire Police, Bedford Borough Council, Luton Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and National Highways, the data gathered will be analysed by road safety research consultancy firm Agilysis.

Mr Akinbusoye said: "As a public service, it's imperative that we give residents the opportunity to have their say on our how Bedfordshire Police deals matters that concern them most.

"Even more important is that the community are confident that their views are not only heard, but acted upon by myself and the Chief Constable.

"This latest survey is just one of the ways I'm working to tackle the causes of crime while ensuring transparent and open communication, as outlined in my Police and Crime Plan.

"I invite residents of Bedfordshire to have their say by completing the survey."

The survey closed on 11 June and a report analysing the data in the survey will be published in due course.



Commissioner's Update on Commissioned Partners

Living
Your
Life



Project: Multi Crime Counselling Pilot

Who are they?

Living Your Life provide a unique and affirmative service in Bedfordshire for people who have been affected by trauma. By trauma, they mean anything that you have experienced that you found traumatic. People can also often benefit from personal development workshops such as those focusing on self-esteem, and coaching.

What is the project about?

To provide therapeutic support options for victims of any crime type except for sexual violence and domestic abuse. Referrals available via Bedfordshire Victim Care Services.



Delivery from April 2023 to March 2024

Value of funding

£ 44,900

Round up of some of the Commissioners activities in May



Joined two Community Police Officers as they opened one of the weapons amnesty bins in Bedfordshire. Last year, more than 4,100 weapons were handed into the force's 11 weapons bins located across the county – marking the highest number on record.



Welcomed His Majesty's Inspector Roy Wilsher to Bedfordshire Police Headquarters to discuss force performance and share thoughts on areas of improvement. This was following the most recent release of HMICFRS assessment which rated the force as 'Good' at tackling organised crime.



Continued his 'Coffee with the Commissioner' this afternoon with Councillor Janice Green and Councillor Ted Pilbeam of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council. A very good catch-up to update them on force activities, and listen to concerns on local safety issues.



Congratulated the latest cohort of 19 new Force Control Room staff in Bedfordshire Police who graduated after seven intense weeks of training. The PCC also visited the Force Control Room and Crime Bureau teams, ably supported by Phil Eaton from the OPCC.



Welcomed a delegation of Departmental Permanent Secretaries, Directors and Heads of Services from the Nigerian Civil Service to Bedfordshire. It is always a pleasure to showcase and share the best of what we do in Bedfordshire with partners, given the incredible work that so many put in.



DID YOU KNOW?



Nationally



Independent Custody Visitors undertook more than 6,500 visits (an average of 18 visits per day over the year)

Independent Custody Visitors interacted with over 21,000 detainees (an average of 58 people visited, observed or spoken to a day for the year) and provided some form of alternative monitoring for an additional 7,200 people in custody

Independent Custody Visitors spent more than 13,000 hours monitoring detainee dignity and safety

Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye and his office would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers!



Volunteering and other opportunities

There are a number of volunteering opportunities at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.

Independent Custody Visiting

Independent Custody Visitors are members of the local community who, working in pairs, call at Police Custody Suites unannounced at any time. With agreement, the visitors can speak to detainees about their treatment or conditions, and take up any issues of concern with custody staff.

Scrutiny Panel - Stop and Search and Use of Force

The Scrutiny Panel review Stop and Search and Use of Force data, outcomes and also reviews body worn footage recorded to scrutinise use of the power. Panel members attend quarterly meetings which are usually held online via Microsoft Teams on an evening.

Please view our website under the 'volunteering' section or email PCC@beds.police.uk to find out more.

You can also keep up to date with the PCC and his offices day to day work via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



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If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency

or dial 101 if it is a nonemergency

