

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



June 2023



- PCC has launched his second annual report
- PCC closes Volunteers Week with thanks to 'respected' Bedfordshire scrutiny panel
- PCC welcomes new chair for county's stop and search scrutiny panel
- Bedfordshire PCC hosts second multi-faith conference
- PCC secures £6 million government backing to combat drugs, violence, exploitation and organised crime in Bedfordshire
- Safer Streets Residents Competition

PCC has launched his second annual report

The PCC has launched his second annual report following Police and Crime Panel which was held on 6 June 2023. The 2022-23 report follows the force exceeding its three-year officer recruitment target and receiving an 'outstanding' rating for its offender management programme in a recent report published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – the first in the country to receive this rating.

The report highlights the Commissioners work to date under each of the seven priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Festus Akinbusoye said: "I am extremely pleased to be publishing our latest report and even more pleased with the outcome of our progress review."

Read more on the press release of the PCC's launch of his second annual report [here](#).



Annual Report 2022-23

Read the annual report for 2022-23 [here](#)



PCC closes Volunteers Week with thanks to 'respected' Bedfordshire scrutiny panel

Bedfordshire's Police and crime Commissioner (PCC) has issued his thanks to the county's stop and search scrutiny panel as it continues to receive international recognition for its effective approach. PCC Festus Akinbusoye specifically thanked Bedfordshire's respected stop and search scrutiny panel for their work to improve policing in the county.

Read more [here](#).

THANK YOU!

PCC welcomes new chair for county's stop and search scrutiny panel

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Festus Akinbusoye has welcomed the new chair for the county's independent panel which scrutinises how police powers are used.

Phil Dickson-Earle was recently appointed as the new chair of Bedfordshire's respected independent stop and search scrutiny panel, following a stringent recruitment process by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCC Festus Akinbusoye said: "I am incredibly pleased to welcome Phil as the new chair of our renowned scrutiny panel and trust that he will continue the vital and impactful work being done in this space alongside deputy chair Renée. Read more [here](#).



Bedfordshire PCC hosts second multi-faith conference

More than 100 people attended the second conference to bring people from different faiths together organised by Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Bedfordshire Police's Deputy Chief Constable Dan Vajzovic was among the attendees at Tuesday's (20 June) event at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick, alongside local faith groups, school leaders and councillors. Aimed at community leaders, the event sort to engage with faith groups and provide a space for people to forge new relationships, while hearing from Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Festus Akinbusoye and senior police officers.

"I am pleased to have delivered a second successful conference, bringing together a number of prominent community members that showcase the vast diversity of Bedfordshire's residents," said Mr Akinbusoye. Read more [here](#).



PCC secures £6 million government backing to combat drugs, violence, exploitation and organised crime in Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire Police is set to receive millions of pounds of extra funding to combat drugs, violence, exploitation and organised crime. The £6.3 million funding awarded by the Home Office will directly support operations specifically set-up to tackle this multi-faceted and interlinked criminal activity in Bedfordshire.

The force's Boson and Costello teams have dedicated officers and staff leading the fight against gangs and organised crime, in recognition of the need to effectively tackle the significant threat posed by these issues in the county. Read more [here](#).

Bedfordshire Police have released a new video outlining some of the successes both Boson and Costello have achieved since they were established in 2018 and 2020 respectively.



WATCH NOW

Watch the video [here](#)



Safer Streets Residents Competition

“ENOUGH” Be part of the change, make a difference and help end Public Sexual Harassment



As part of the Bedfordshire Safer Streets initiative, we are running a competition for residents across Bedfordshire to create digital art, a short animation and/or a short film to help to raise awareness about Public Sexual Harassment. Entries must look to raise awareness about Public Sexual Harassment, so that we can help to raise a generation who are equipped to challenge harassment, to empathise with those who experience it; and who never become perpetrators of this everyday violence.

Should you require any further information, please email

saferstreets.bedfordshire@beds.police.uk

CLOSING DATE: 30th September 2023

Further information including competition entry guidelines can be found [here](#).



Office of the
Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Round up of some of the Commissioners activities in June



Thanked volunteers during volunteers week to all who make public safety and the criminal justice system that much better.



Visited Wixams Retirement Village this afternoon to talk with residents about my work as PCC with young people in Bedfordshire. We also spoke about efforts to tackle ASB, organised crime gangs and speeding on A6, how to raise police awareness of #dementia



Joined Bedfordshire Police Officers at 4am on several arrest warrants. Fantastic intel work to arrest suspected organised crime group leaders, and dismantle cannabis factories.



Spoke with Year 10 students at Castle Newnham School in Bedford. We spoke of the importance of education, hard work and never giving up. Our young people are aspirational, and need encouragement.



Visited one of our local farms. We spoke about rural policing, the improved performance of Bedfordshire Police Rural Crime team on hare coursing, and concerns about protecting the countryside from growing developments.

Follow **@BedsOPCC** to find out more on what activities the PCC and his office are doing day-to-day!





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



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