

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



October 2023

- Joint statement from Bedfordshire Police, Local Authorities, Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) and PCC – Luton must come together to tackle knife violence
- Town and parish councillors have their say on policing in Bedfordshire
- PCC secures £1m to improve safety in Bedfordshire
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Joint statement from Bedfordshire Police, Local Authorities, Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) and PCC – Luton must come together to tackle knife violence

Police, schools, council and community and faith groups in Luton have come together to express their deep shock and sadness at the tragic events at the beginning of October.

They all send their thoughts and prayers to the family of the young man who has died and all those whose lives have been affected.

The local community is understandably distressed, angry and anxious following these senseless acts of violence that are sadly taking place across the country.

It is reassuring that the police have acted quickly and made a series of arrests following this weekend's events and they do not believe there is any further threat to the public arising from these incidents.

However it's unacceptable that it happened in the first place and we must all double down in our efforts to eradicate this senseless violence in our communities.

Key partners are currently looking at organising events within the town to enable everyone to work together to deal with this threat and put a stop to this senseless violence that is ruining too many lives. Details will be published as soon as they are confirmed.

[Read more of the joint statement on tackling knife violence in Luton on our website.](#)

Town and parish councillors have their say on policing in Bedfordshire

On 11 October 2023 we held our Annual Town and Parish Council Conference.

The Annual Parish Council Conference gives the OPCC and Bedfordshire Police the opportunity to thank the Councillors for the invaluable work they do to support Community Policing.

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), Ian Dalgarno opened the event by thanking town and parish councillors for having their say on the county's police service.

The key themes covered were Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), speeding and bikes, rural crime and visible policing.

The meeting also heard from Chief Superintendent Jaki Whittred, the force's head of local policing and Superintendent Hob Hoque, who leads community policing.

Mr Dalgarno has now pledged to raise all these issues with the force's Chief Constable following the event.

The DPCC said "Spending time with our local councillors is vital to getting localised information for our policing teams.

"They are the eyes and ears of the community and can feed back to us about how policing is doing on the ground. Their passion and want to get things right means we can work together on how's best to tackle these issues".



PCC secures £1m to improve safety in Bedfordshire

Around £1 million will be invested into projects in Bedfordshire to tackle neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye has secured the funding from the fifth round of the Safer Streets project. The Home Office awarded Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) £42m nationally, through the Safer Streets Fund. The project is also hoping to build on the successes of previous rounds, whilst also incorporating learnings and feedback.

The scheme will run for an 18-month period between October 2023 and March 2025. Projects set to be funded include a targeted schools education programme that improves understanding of ASB and the impact it has, investment in local schemes like Neighbourhood Watch and interventions for young people about VAWG.

Mr Akinbusoye, who is also the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' joint national prevention lead, said: "I am delighted that police and crime commissioners have secured a further £42m of Safer Streets funding to complement their existing work targeting ASB, VAWG and neighbourhood crimes.

"The APCC has been instrumental in the delivery of this opportunity, gathering the views of PCCs and sharing them with the Home Office to inform how best to spend this funding.

"Prevention lies at the heart of our [Police and Crime Plan](#). We are working with different groups and organisations here in Bedfordshire to reduce victims and increase feelings of safety in our communities. This new injection of funding will enable PCCs to build on these achievements and apply their local knowledge to deliver projects where they are most needed."

Chief Superintendent Jackie Whittred, from Bedfordshire Police, said: "The Safer Streets scheme gives us the tools to run major prevention and early intervention projects around key crime types which concern our communities.

"From working with young people in schools and colleges through to targeted patrols in key areas affected by these crimes – this funding will help us provide visible reassurance and make long term change. We are fully supportive of this work and will work tirelessly alongside our partners to ensure Safer Streets continues to deliver a big impact across Bedfordshire."

If you'd like to know more about national Safer Streets funding visit [APCC – The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners](#) (apccs.police.uk).





New OPCC funding opportunities 2023/24

Cameras, Tickets and Collisions, Road Safety Fund

We are pleased to announce our Cameras, Tickets and Collisions, Road Safety Fund 2023/24 is now open. The Cameras, Tickets and Collisions fund is committed to funding charities and organisations with educational activities and initiatives to reduce the risk of harm on our roads.

We already work in partnership with the Roads Victims Trust (RVT), who support victims of road traffic incidents and the Bedfordshire Police Bike Safe initiative.

To build upon this, the Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are offering the opportunity to award 10 funding allocations up to the cost of £5,000 each for the provision of a project/service/activity to deliver in the three local authority areas.

The application deadline for all opportunities is 12 noon on Monday 20th November 2023.

[Find out more about the Cameras, Tickets and Collisions, Road Safety Fund on our website here.](#)

Community Safety Fund

We are pleased to announce that new funding opportunities for 2023/24 are now live. We are providing an opportunity to award eight funding allocations up to the cost of £5,000 each for the provision of a project/service/activity to deliver in the three local authority areas.

These services will aim to improve community engagement, reduce crime/reduce recidivism or criminality and/or support victims with a focus on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and neurodiversity requirements.

The application deadline for all opportunities is 12 noon on Monday 20th November 2023.

[Find out more about the Community Safety Fund on our website here.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Take a read of what our office have been up to throughout October!



The PCC and Chief Constable Trevor Rodenhurst had a one-to-one meeting and a recorded part of the meeting is available for the public



The OPCC hosted a successful Annual Parish Conference. The conference gives the OPCC and Bedfordshire Police the opportunity to thank the councillors for the invaluable work they do to support community policing.



The OPCC recruited three new Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) volunteers who were inducted. ICVs attend police stations to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed.



The PCC spoke to new pupils at the Marston Vale School at their assembly. He spoke with them about the importance of getting a good education and making good choices.



The OPCC attended the Independent Custody Visiting Eastern Regional Conference in Essex.



The OPCC are planning the Annual General Meeting for the Criminal Justice Board, this will be recorded and available for the public afterwards. There will also be an opportunity to submit questions in advance. Watch this space!



The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Manager from our office attended the Tri-Force Independent Dog Welfare Scheme training session for volunteers conducted by Dogs Trust.

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

