

# Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



## November 2023

- New Panel set up in Beds to report on custody processes
- PCC backs A&E navigators scheme in Bedfordshire hospitals
- Combatting Rural Crime Event 2023 - **there are still spaces available!**
- Just Drop It Knife Campaign
- PCC's office achieves prestigious national award for custody visiting
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## New Panel set up in Beds to report on custody processes

Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) welcomed a new Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (ICDSP) to the Beds Police Custody Suite for the first time. The panel, made up of local people from across the policing area, represent local communities in conversations with police officers and staff actively involved in detention and custody environments.

The aim of the Panel is to independently assess and report on detention and custody processes such as challenging disproportionality in police custody, notably on grounds of race and/or protected characteristics.

[You can read more about the ICDSP here.](#)

The panel is in its pilot phase and as such is looking to recruit members of the public that would like to join. If you or a member of your family has had direct experience of custody and you would like to make a difference, please get in touch by emailing [PCC@beds.police.uk](mailto:PCC@beds.police.uk) and put ICDSP in the subject header.

[For further information and the application form visit the ICDSP web page.](#)





# PCC backs A&E navigators scheme in Bedfordshire hospitals

Specialist youth workers are to be embedded into hospital A&Es across Bedfordshire to offer support to patients involved in or at risk of violence and exploitation.

The Bedfordshire A&E navigators programme will work with young people aged 12 to 25 who are primarily patients at both the Bedford and Luton & Dunstable hospitals.

The service will be focused on patients who come into A&E with injuries linked to violence and exploitation, including self harm and assault injuries.

They will be offered specialist support to move away from criminal exploitation, gangs and county lines related activity and to positively engage with other local services.

Some 1,800 young people aged 10 to 24 came to A&Es in Bedfordshire between April 2016 and March 2021 with assault related injuries.

[Read more about the A&E navigators scheme on our website.](#)



## Combatting Rural Crime Event 2023

We want to make full use of the farming community's network and local knowledge, as well as promoting better coordination, planning and information sharing. The overall aim of the event will be to plan a coordinated strategy for the upcoming year, with commitments from each group as to specific actions they will be taking.

To book on click on one of the links below:

[Scald End Farm tickets](#) - Date: Tuesday 12th December 2023,  
Time: 09:45am-13:00, Venue: Scald End Farm in Thurleigh,  
MK44 2DP

[Luton Hoo tickets](#) - Date: Thursday 14th December 2023,  
Time: 09:45am-13:00, Venue: Luton Hoo, Hotel, Golf & Spa, The  
Mansion House, Luton, Beds, LU1 3TQ





## Just Drop It Knife Campaign

We're encouraging everyone to share and support the pledge. It's time that together, we take a stand against knife crime.

*It's time to Think Twice. Think Life. And Just Drop It.*

The PCC said "I say this with no reservations; anyone who carries a knife or bladed article in Bedfordshire must be prepared to face the consequences.

"While we do everything we can to prevent knife crime, the force Bedfordshire Police have my full backing in imposing a zero tolerance approach to knife related incidents, and Bedfordshire VERU have my support in carrying the message of this campaign to every resident in Bedfordshire."

To find out more about Bedfordshire Police are doing to tackle knife crime, visit  
<https://www.beds.police.uk/.../new-knife-crime-campaign.../>  
<https://bedsveru.org/just-drop-it/>

You can support the campaign by sharing content on social media and pledging to support our goal to tackle knife crime in Bedfordshire.

**We will do all we can to provide accessible activities and opportunities for young people, to ensure they are able to achieve their greatest potential. We will put young people and their voices at the heart of what we do, doing everything we can to ensure they are supported and feel safe.**

**And above all, we will challenge any attitude or behaviour that suggests violence, carrying a knife or using a weapon is okay.**

**It's time that together,  
we take a stand against knife crime.**

**It's time to THINK TWICE, THINK LIFE**

**and**

**JUST DROP IT**  
**THINK TWICE. THINK LIFE.**



# PCC's office achieves prestigious national award for custody visiting

In a country-first Bedfordshire OPCC have advanced from being code compliant to platinum for their Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme.

Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) achieved the award at the inaugural Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) Quality Assurance awards. They were presented with platinum status at a ceremony in Birmingham on Wednesday 29 November 2023.



Platinum status means Bedfordshire's ICV scheme provides an outstanding standard of custody visiting and volunteer management. To achieve this, there were more than 25 criteria covering key areas such as holding the force to account and requiring evidence to support each assessment. ICVA assessed each submission in order to obtain platinum award. [Read more about the platinum ICV award.](#)

# Call for public questions to leaders of Bedfordshire's criminal justice system

Communities across Bedfordshire are being encouraged to put their questions to senior leaders in the likes of local policing, the courts and probation services.

Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye is encouraging residents and partner organisations across the county to ask questions about the local criminal justice system at their annual general meeting next month.

The AGM, a first of its kind in Bedfordshire, on Tuesday 19 December will hear answers from members of the county's Criminal Justice Board to questions that have been submitted in advance.

To submit a question you can email [pcc@beds.police.uk](mailto:pcc@beds.police.uk) using 'CJB AGM questions' as the subject, or [write to the Office of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.](#)

Questions should be submitted no later than Friday 15 December 2023 at 5pm.

[Read more on the Criminal Justice Board.](#)



**BEDFORDSHIRE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD**

Criminal Justice System: working together for the public





# Spotlight on the Chrysalis Centre

A multi-million-pound project to reduce domestic abuse has been secured after the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, in collaboration with Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, were successful in being awarded £2m by the Home Office to develop an enterprise to run over the next two years.

Following this successful joint bid, the funding has been used to create the new Chrysalis Centre. The Chrysalis Centre operates as an intervention hub and will work with domestic abuse perpetrators to prevent or break the cycle of their behaviour. This offending type can include spousal/partner abuse, as well as abuse against children and parents.

The Chrysalis Centre has been developed to work directly with individuals and enhance their motivation in accessing a range of available behavioural change interventions, as well as support for compounding issues such as substance abuse or poor mental health. The Chrysalis Centre ensures that a trauma informed, person centric approach is at the heart of this work.

The project is largely funded from a £39m Home Office scheme which will see 50 projects rolled out nationally over the next two years, supporting initiatives to stop abusers from repeatedly targeting victims and terrorising vulnerable people.

Many domestic abusers are repeat offenders with 83% of male offenders repeating their offences within a six-month period. This makes intervening to stop their pattern of behaviour paramount to protect victims.

The Chrysalis Centre is live and would like to welcome referrals from your teams. If you work with an individual or family, where there is either evidence of, or a concern relating to, domestic abuse and they are a resident of Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire, please consider a referral into our centre.

To make a referral, or to find out more information, please contact [enquiries@chrysaliscentre.net](mailto:enquiries@chrysaliscentre.net)

If you need any resources to display in your locations you can download them at [Resources – Chrysalis Centre](#).

**The Chrysalis Centre accept referrals from anyone who resides in Hertfordshire or Bedfordshire and who displays coercive and controlling behaviours. They work with all risk levels. If you wish to refer someone or yourself to the Chrysalis Centre, please complete a referral form.**



# Is it time to change?

– We can help you:

**Recognise, acknowledge and change abusive, coercive, and controlling behaviours**

- **Learn** what healthy relationships look like and how best to achieve it
- **Respond** to your emotions without causing harm or distress to others
- Know how to **communicate** effectively respecting another's emotional and physical boundaries
- **Understand** the impact of harmful relationships on children
- **Develop** positive habits and improve your mental health

...but you need to  
take the first step!



**Scan this QR code for more  
Information or to self-refer**

You will work with a professional to understand your thoughts, feelings, and behaviours in a safe, non judgemental and supportive space. We will support you every step of the way.



chrysalis  
centre

[www.chrysaliscentre.net](http://www.chrysaliscentre.net)

Inspiring change,  
transforming lives,  
delivering safer  
communities



# Take a read of what our office has been up to throughout November!



The PCC held his recorded one-to-one meeting with the Chief Constable on 20 November. [You can watch the accountability meeting here.](#)



The office reiterated the importance of Restorative Justice during the Restorative Justice week 19th-25th November. Restorative Justice is a unique process which gives those harmed by crime/conflict a voice and allows them to decide what they need and how the harm can be repaired.



Our Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), Ian Dalgarno paid his respects at a Flag-Lowering Ceremony at Bedfordshire Police HQ to mark World Day of Remembrance.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Ian Dalgarno was honoured to meet 1st Sundon Guides as part of Parliament Week



The PCC and other colleagues in the office attended the Knife Crime summit. The event had a huge turn out from partners and health colleagues across the county. The aim of the event is to cut knife crime and keep young people safe.



The PCC joined Speed Watch groups on their training of new volunteers in Shillington.



The PCC and Deputy PCC Ian Dalgarno attended the National Farmers Union (NFU) Annual General Meeting. The PCC and DPCC provided an update on the investment being made into Beds Wildlife & Rural Crime Team.

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



## Restorative Justice BEDFORDSHIRE

**“Meeting my victim was a big eye opener to the harm I’ve caused. Having a face-to-face and hearing it was extremely hard but most probably the best thing I’ve done to help myself with rehabilitating myself”**







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



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