

THE BEAT

Listening to and learning from you



Well, it's been a busy, but exhilarating, first month as Commissioner.

To begin with, I have been meeting as many community groups, partners and residents as I can. Hearing what you have to say during this very busy time has been very important in helping me to reflect your needs

as much as possible in my Police and Crime Plan and within the available budget.

The month started with my swearing in as Commissioner which was a serious yet moving event. It was wonderful to see so many people and partners there to mark the start of this historic, new style of police governance and I feel hugely privileged to be here at the forefront.

One of my early actions was, as I promised, to seek a review of the decision to disband the mounted

police in our county. Your views are a vital part of this, so please tell me what you think.

My appointment of my Deputy, Chris Cutland, and the subsequent approval of her role by the Police and Crime Panel means that I have immediate access to her experiences of working with domestic violence and crimes against women, and also antisocial behaviour.

Well before the announcement of the police budget on 19 December, I wrote to Home Secretary Theresa May asking for a meeting to discuss the funding situation in Nottinghamshire which has been underfunded against the Government's yardstick for many years. Rectifying that underfunding would make all the difference to policing our county in the way you expect.



Provisional Grant Settlement

Just before Christmas we received the provisional Grant Settlement. The announcement confirmed the anticipated position for the coming year, following the Home Secretary's pledge to protect the funding for policing in 2013-14. This means that the total grant available for policing in the next financial year is £137.5M - a reduction of £3.5M on 2012-13.

This reduction is as a result of the comprehensive spending review announced in 2010 whereby, over a four year period, the overall grant is being cut by 20 per cent.

My view is that while the cuts were expected they are neither fair nor equitable in comparison with funds received in other counties. I'm still confident, however, that I will be able to balance my budget and fulfil my pledge of employing more police officers and PCSOs.

Planning for the Future

The budget is obviously a key element of my Police and Crime Plan – I have to be able to pay for what I want to do. We are currently consulting our partners and the public on the areas that I believe should have priority and I would like your views.

These areas are:

- **Protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people**
- **Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process**
- **Focus on those local areas that are most affected by crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Reduce the impact of substance misuse and alcohol on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour**
- **Reduce the threat from organised crime**
- **Prevention, early intervention and reduction in re-offending**
- **Spending your money wisely**



If you have any views on these, whether you agree with me or not, I would like to hear them. You can email your thoughts to karen.sleigh@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk or you can take part in our online survey at <https://www.research.net/s/nottspcc> Please can you respond by the end of January 2013.

A quick look at some of the work the team and I have been doing since my election...

RURAL CRIME FACT FINDING MISSION.

I attended a Rural Crime Summit at Newark Showground on 19 November to learn more about policing issues affecting rural areas of the county and how policing practices are carried out. I know people living in the countryside don't feel they get a fair share of police resources but I will be working with them and for local communities.

TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR. In order to make a difference, it's important for me to hear first hand what victims feel about their situations and how they were handled. That's why I arranged to meet five victims at a special meeting at County Hall. What they have told me will be invaluable as I look at how problems like these are tackled and how things can be done differently.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN CONSULTATIONS.

Meetings arranged with different groups have helped me take into account the different needs of our diverse communities across the county. A consultation meeting which my Deputy and I attended brought valuable views from women's organisations who told us what they felt should be included in the plan. Among my election pledges was the need to give extra priority and resources to domestic abuse and crimes against women.





WALKABOUTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. I am keen to talk with as many people who live and work in Nottinghamshire as possible, and taking to the streets has given me some great opportunities to get to know what you think. To that end I have arranged walkabouts in various parts of the county, including one with Chief Constable Chris Eyre in the city centre to see the Christmas rush. Another in north Notts on Friday 21 December - a fact-finding tour to Bassetlaw and Worksop including going out and about with the Neighbourhood Policing teams.



RESEARCH INTO BME POLICING EXPERIENCE.

As part of my pledge to give black and minority ethnic (BME) communities a stronger voice in policing and promote fairness, I have commissioned a major research project aimed at strengthening the force's relationship with them. The research will include examining a range of performance data including BME satisfaction rates, recruitment figures within Nottinghamshire Police and the force's stop and search statistics. National research indicates that Black Asian and people from minority ethnic groups are more likely to be disproportionately searched than white people.

I have already been seeking BME community views in my Police and Crime Plan consultations, and have made it clear that I want to ensure transparency in stop and search powers. It is also my aim to improve the recruitment and retention of officers from BME backgrounds. At one of these meetings, I was told that there needs to be better engagement between communities and the police.

FOOD BANK APPEAL. I was delighted to support the Central Police Station food collection campaign which brought in donations from officers, staff, members of the public and my own office staff. The appeal, due to end at 12noon on 20 December, was to help people struggling to put enough food on the table. Members of the police are often among the first to come across people affected by food shortages and, sadly, an unexpected bill or redundancy can lead to families going hungry. This was an excellent appeal during the season of goodwill.

Keeping in touch

Communication comes in all shapes and sizes these days, and I want to be sure that people in all our diverse communities are able to get in touch in a way that's easily accessible to them. Whether that's talking to face to face, tweeting on Twitter, logging on, emailing, or phoning, I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, the team and I are doing.

You can do all this via: My website:

www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk where you can see latest press releases, blogs and sign up for newsletters. You can follow me on my [@nottsPCC](https://twitter.com/nottsPCC) Twitter account or my personal one [@paddytipping](https://twitter.com/paddytipping) – and perhaps you might even retweet for us! You can write to me at: Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP or you can email me at nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk You can reach me by phone on 0115 9670999 ext 801 2005.

Finally, I wish everyone of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year that heralds a safe 2013 for all of us. As the New Year approaches, I'm looking forward to putting my energies and my enthusiasm to work along with that of our police and partners in helping to reduce crime and ensure a greater sense of safety and security across the county.

Very best wishes to you all,

Paddy Tipping

