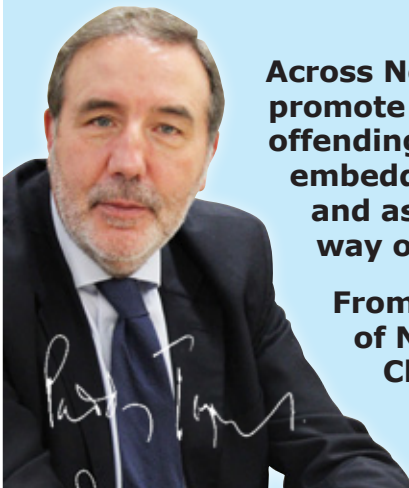


THE BEAT

It's been a challenging year, but from expanding Neighbourhood Watch throughout the county to launching our first Alcohol Strategy, we've achieved a lot.



Across Nottinghamshire, people are working together to promote positive social changes that will ultimately reduce offending. In this newsletter you'll see just how far we've embedded joint working into our crime prevention strategies and as we approach 2014 there is much to look forward to by way of progress.

From myself and everyone involved in protecting the public of Nottinghamshire, we wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas and a safe New Year. I thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Seeking YOUR views on our priorities and budget plans

We are one year into the four year Police and Crime Plan, and we have decided to consult the people of Nottinghamshire to ensure that both my plan and the budget to deliver it reflect their views and expectations.

Questions being asked include the rate of importance respondents give to the Police and Crime Plan's seven priorities; whether they would be prepared to continue their support by paying a little more towards policing; and where they feel further savings should be made.

Please take a few minutes to access the online survey, which will close at the end of January, click on this link: <http://goo.gl/3TvAAZ> or visit the website at www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting my office using the details at the end of this newsletter.

Neighbourhood Watch amalgamates spreading the 'people power' message

Volunteering is a theme close to my heart and I was delighted to be able to support one of the original police volunteering schemes this month in its plans to expand and increase membership.

We've set aside £21,000 from my Community Safety Partnership Fund to facilitate the amalgamation of the City of Nottingham Neighbourhood Watch Council and NottsWatch to form a county-wide Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch organisation.

The funding will help to fund the employment of an operations manager to oversee the work of volunteers across the county and to encourage more residents to launch their own scheme. Nottinghamshire will become a much safer place to live if everyone plays their part in making the county a hostile environment for criminals. Intelligence gathered by local people helps to improve police detection rates and ensures those who live within the neighbourhood feel safer and less threatened.

The new charitable organisation has ambitious plans for membership recruitment including working with housing associations to create new schemes in the areas most needed and engaging with young people and I very much look forward to hearing about the results next year.



Consultation launched over police station closure plans

The Force is continuing its work to examine areas of business where services can become more efficient and savings made as a means of navigating the current financial challenges. Part of this work has been to review the Force estate to identify opportunities for reducing expenditure. The outcome so far has been a proposal to close Mansfield Woodhouse Police Station to release significant capital and reduce operating costs by around £50,000 per year.

Nottinghamshire Police has endorsed the closure plans but the decision is yet to be finalised and as always I'm keen to gain the public's perspective before any action is taken. Listening to the public is my chief responsibility as Commissioner and in this context I've launched a consultation exercise which will run until December 31 inviting people to give feedback.

Like all the efficiency work which has taken place to date, these plans have been drawn up in the interests of local

taxpayers and making the best use of the limited funds available for the Force. We know that underused and empty buildings are placing a big strain on the Force's finances and people are always telling me they value bobbies' over buildings.

While all options are on the table, we need to be realistic and accept that tough choices need to be made to protect our capacity. Under the proposals, the current Safer Neighbourhood Team and CID would relocate to Mansfield Police Station – just two miles away – while a drop-in facility would be established in the centre of the community to enable officers to write statements, access Force systems and take rest breaks. This would maximise the time officers could spend out on patrol.

I would urge anyone who has an interest in these plans to take part in the consultation so we can explore every potential impact in detail.



Protecting vulnerable women from violence and exploitation

Over the past few weeks we've been on the road again visiting community organisations and voluntary bodies who've already benefitted from my Community Safety Partnership Fund. One such visit was carried out by my deputy, Chris Cutland, who met the volunteers working at the Jericho Road Project to see how the money is being invested to help support vulnerable sex workers in Nottingham.

The charity was recently awarded a grant worth £8,500 from my fund to expand the services it provides to women affected by the sex industry which includes an outreach service where volunteers meet with women working in the City's red light district to signpost them to other agencies which can help and a drop-in centre offering food, clothing, toiletries and the opportunity to get involved in craft activities. More recently the charity has developed a befriending service which aims to help these women make positive lifestyle choices and gain employment skills.

The hope is that by taking a more holistic approach to the problem, we can build self-esteem and confidence among these women and ultimately break the cycle of destruction.

Living Wage Accreditation

Social problems such as poverty and unemployment are often at the heart of offending patterns and it's important that we remain conscious of this and lead by example. It is for this reason that Nottinghamshire Police became the first police force in England and Wales last month to sign up to a national campaign calling for all workers to be paid an hourly rate that matches the cost of living. This simple accreditation means all employees of the force and my own staff will receive at least the Living Wage or higher and any contractors working indirectly for the organisation will also be asked to adopt the same policy.

The 'Living Wage' is an hourly rate set annually (outside London) which takes greater account of the cost of living and allows families to live above the poverty line. The new Living Wage was revealed in Nottingham last month and has risen from £7.45 to £7.65 per hour, which is significantly higher than the Minimum Wage, which is £6.31.

Committing to the Living Wage is purely voluntary but it sends out an important message that we care about our staff and their families and remain committed to promoting a culture of fairness in the wider society.



Male population urged to get behind domestic violence awareness campaign

Protecting vulnerable women – particularly those who have been a victim of domestic abuse – is a strong theme in my Police and Crime Plan so it was with pleasure I was able to support the White Ribbon Campaign last month. This very worthy initiative encourages men to take a greater level of responsibility for reducing violence against women by signing up to a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about men's violence against women.

As a man I am proud to support the White Ribbon Campaign and am delighted that Nottingham's Man Enough Campaign is still active and urge the male population to sign up and show their solidarity in the fight against domestic abuse. One in four women will experience domestic abuse at some stage of their lives and it's crucial that prevention work gains the support of men so we can have a real impact on the safety of women in future.

Calls for rethink over Probation plans

Police and Crime Commissioners across the country have been united in their fears over proposals to reform the Probation Service which could in our view pose risks to public safety. Together we have jointly written to the Justice Secretary Chris Grayling to outline our grave concerns over plans to outsource the bulk of probation's work and the speed at which the move is seemingly being pushed through.

Under the plans, Probation Trusts will be abolished - despite the strong relationships they have built with the police and other organisations within the voluntary and private sector. Instead, responsibility for the management of 200,000 offenders who have been released back into the community will fall to private companies.

Of course I'm in favour of innovation and efforts to cut crime but there needs to be more evidence that these changes will result in improvement. I sincerely hope Mr Grayling heeds our warning and considers alternative ways of lowering offending in the future.

Hate crime reporting service re-commissioned to help more victims come forward

Victims of hate crime in Nottinghamshire will find it easier to report offences thanks to a decision by Nottinghamshire Police and partners Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottingham City Homes to re-commission the Stop Hate UK 24-hour reporting line.

This service has operated throughout Nottinghamshire since November 2010, providing an independent and

confidential means of victims and witnesses reporting incidents of hate and accessing advice and support. I'm really pleased to support this highly valuable service which ensures that victims always have somewhere to turn, even out of office hours, and most importantly can do so anonymously. Hate crime is unacceptable and we need to expose those who are driven by hate and ignorance. The only way we are going to be able to address it is if more people come forward to report their experiences and to achieve this we need to ensure we are doing everything in our power to make them feel supported.



Tough new plans to reduce alcohol abuse unveiled

It's involved many months of work and numerous discussions but finally we've pulled together the county's first Alcohol Strategy which sets out a clear course of action for tackling alcohol abuse in Nottinghamshire in the future.

This strategy is the product of my first Alcohol Conference which took place in the summer and brought together a multitude of people involved in responding to alcohol abuse. As I mentioned before, partnership work is now thoroughly embedded in all aspects of my crime prevention work and nowhere is this more evident than in this document, which sets out how we will all jointly support each other to lessen the impact of alcohol addiction on the health service, public safety, individuals, families and local taxpayers – while also protecting the prosperity of the night-time economy.

.Part of our ambitious plans include increasing information-sharing between various agencies to sign post people to support quickly as well as tougher enforcement through expanding the number of proactive licensing visits to check compliance. The key theme is early intervention to stop a chain of events which could include a hospital admission, a crime being committed or a vulnerable person becoming a victim of crime.

This strategy has been heavily influenced by local opinion, gathered via our consultation survey between May and September. We know that alcohol use is a problem in many local neighbourhoods, regardless of whether they are sited close to pubs and clubs, and that there is widespread support for tougher controls on alcohol sales, marketing and promotion. As a result, we've agreed to trial fresh approaches which have found success elsewhere in the country to make it more difficult to drink to excess without it leading to severe and possibly criminal consequences.

I'm very excited that we're now in the implementation phase and I hope that at some time in the future I will have positive news about the results.

Police dog pensions secure future healthcare

From committing to Living Wage rates for Force employees through to protecting the future of retired police dogs, everyone who serves in the name of Nottinghamshire Police is respected and valued by the Force. The latter scheme is something I was only too keen to support last month in recognition of the sterling work undertaken by Nottinghamshire's retired police dogs over the years.

The Police Dog Pension Scheme will provide ongoing costs relating to medical injuries or illnesses arising from their hard work on the frontline for three years following their service. It's only right that these dogs are compensated for the long hours, tired legs and aches and pains of a life fighting crime and I'm sure everyone living in Nottinghamshire shares my appreciation of their commitment to making our county safer.



The Power of Restorative Justice

Earlier this month I hosted a conference, in partnership with a community interest company called 'No Offence', on Restorative Justice (RJ) which saw national and local figures sharing their views on best practice, with personal experiences provided by both victims and perpetrators.

Overall around 50 people attended and the feedback was more than positive.

I can see the benefits of RJ for everyone concerned and it certainly seems to reduce the number of first time offenders who go on to reoffend. It's not the sanction for all types of crime, but used effectively it is a powerful tool.

Restorative justice has the potential to make savings and improve outcomes if used properly. A win, win, win for victim, offender and society. The flexibility of how and where it can be used is a benefit, but there still lacks a clear strategy to



ensure restorative justice approaches are applied consistently. Hopefully, the day enabled us to make some progress and establish a way forward.

KEEP *ON* TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as 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, my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:

www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk.

You can follow me

@PaddyTipping and @NottsPCC
or Facebook PaddyTipping or NottsPCC.

You can write to me at:

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