Nottinghamshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

THE BEAT

We all know through our own experience and communities that the economic climate is pretty tough.

I've never pretended that dealing with the funding cuts to the policing budget would be easy and difficult decisions have had to be made. What's more, there is more to be done but our determination to respond to our communities has never wavered and we are doing everything possible to protect the public, our frontline and our financial future. Progress often emerges out of adversity and the positive steps we take now will create a much more sustainable police force in the future.



HMIC Valuing the Police Programme

The Force and I have been working closely together to develop a new policing model for Nottinghamshire which places prevention of crime at its heart. This is not only logical working practice, but it is an imperative in order to meet future demand on policing. Now this new model must be implemented speedily and we are currently talking to officers and staff about the new arrangements. Discussions with partners are taking place too.

Prior to the finalisation of this new model, HMIC carried out an inspection that reviewed the current financial position of all Forces and their preparations to meet future funding difficulties. Although the findings of the Nottinghamshire report were fair at the time they were written, the inspection took place before we had agreed our action plan and we are now much further ahead in our preparations to safeguard our financial future.

While we have a balanced budget this year, and I'm confident that this will be the case next year, many of the savings for future years are dependent on a redesign of the workforce, further collaboration with other forces and changes to its operating model.

However, HMIC was concerned the Force had not yet made decisions confirming any new way of operating and said any further delay in decision-making or implementation would have an impact on the Force's ability to meet its savings targets in the future. Those difficult decisions have now been made.

We very strongly reject the notion that we've been slow to implement change. The decisions we make now will have a lasting impact on the people of Nottinghamshire, particularly victims of crime, and we've been reluctant to rush any strategy that hasn't been given due consideration. Our determination has been to protect and preserve frontline policing.

We've risen to the challenges outlined and are progressing robust plans that will enhance services for local people.

"Over the past three years, savings of £42 million have been made and this year the budget is being reduced by £12.7 million."

Let me be clear – it is tough out there, but HMIC is fully aware of our position and has publicly acknowledged the progress that has been made since the inspection.

Police station and front counter organisation



While it is true that our funding position has forced difficult decisions upon us, they are nonetheless the right choices and in the overall interests of the Force and the public. This is very much the case with our police station and front counter review, which has looked at footfall figures to decide how and where we could be better meeting the public's needs.

Following public consultation, we are now moving ahead with our plans to relocate some police stations and reduce some less-used front counter services. Such decisions have been made for economic reasons, but the fact that these services were underused mean it's also common sense, while helping us to protect frontline policing.

The changes will mean selling Arnold and Carlton Police Stations (saving £180,000 per year) and creating a new multi-services hub at the old Home Brewery building in Arnold, in partnership with Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. A new community police station has been proposed for Carlton while officers and staff from Sneinton will relocate to St Ann's Police Station.

In addition, a community police station for officers will be set up in Sneinton before the current Police Station is closed. Similarly, in the Meadows, officers and staff will relocate to Riverside and a community police station facility will be established ahead of the closure of the existing station itself.

Despite a widely publicised consultation, only a relatively small number of responses were received, nearly all relating to the proposals affecting Carlton Police Station. To address the concerns raised, I've postponed the closure and kept open its front counter until a suitable alternative is found, which is likely to be a shared facility with partners.

Of course, there has been concern about these plans. My determination has been to protect neighbourhood policing. Closures help us to achieve that. They are tough decisions, but the right ones.

National crime statistics published

Recently, the national crime figures were released. For the first time for more than a decade, recorded crime did not fall. Nottinghamshire recorded a 1% increase in all recorded crime between April 2013 and March 2014. The data, released by the Office for National Statistics, also showed burglary, violent crime and sexual offences have also risen.





But there was more positive news with offences of criminal damage, vehicle crime and drugs falling. And Force figures show that a concerted campaign to help cyclists protect their bikes has proven a success, with bike thefts reducing.

Latest figures show bicycle theft was down 7.6% between April and June – a reduction of 45 offences. This follows the 'Swap a lock' campaign which allows the public to swap their bike locks for a high-standard version. Overall crime fell slightly from 17,951 to 17,941, domestic burglary fell 17.9% (194 offences), shoplifting was down 4.7% (98 offences) and theft from the person offences reduced by 40.7% (180 offences).

Crime in Nottinghamshire remains at historically low levels. Dedicated, targeted operations are making a real difference and we will continue to work together with our partners to deliver further success.

Victims' services placed top of the agenda

A host of agencies responsible for delivering victims' services gathered together for Nottinghamshire's first Victims of Crime Conference last month.

The event provided an opportunity to share with our colleagues the findings of our recent research into the views of victims of crime in the county and to collectively map out how we can improve services in the future. Stakeholders were also briefed on the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and my draft Victims' Strategy, which has been guided by the valuable feedback we've received from victims.

In the autumn, I will be responsible for commissioning and funding both practical and emotional support services for victims which includes community remedy solutions. Before this happens, it's imperative we build strong relationships with our colleagues who are equally as keen to deliver swifter justice and appropriate support to victims. This first conference has instigated the start of what I hope will be a very long and fruitful relationship.





Funding granted to help assist victims

Young women who suffer at the hands of a violent partner in Nottinghamshire are to receive more help to recover thanks to successful bids for grant funding.

A total of £228,175 has been awarded from the Government's PCC Competed Fund following applications by my colleague, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Chris Cutland.

The funding will be used to develop a new programme for young women affected by violence, with the continued roll-out of teen projects to help vulnerable young women. It will also enable the expansion of the Freedom programme, supported by subsequent therapeutic group work. The Freedom programme empowers women to understand the domestic abuse that they have experienced.

Although the funding is for one year only, it will enable us to bring forward plans for new work, allow other work to be expanded and reduce some of the pressure on our budget for other victims.

Stay safe this summer





With the start of the school holidays and the hot weather it's easy to forget that open windows, property such as mowers or bicycles left outside and unsecured garden sheds provide a welcome invitation for the opportunistic criminal. Please, take a few sensible precautions to prevent you from becoming a victim of crime.

Also the hot weather seems to drive an increase in noise-related anti-social behaviour as people enjoy themselves outside. It's important that we show some consideration for our neighbours – no-one wants to stop anyone enjoying themselves, it's just that one person's party can be another person's pain.

I know that many youngsters feel there is not enough to do in the holidays, something which is often cited as the reason for anti-social behaviour. However, there are many projects around aiming to keep young people interested, occupied and out of trouble – indeed we've helped a few of them - and targeted patrols will be out and about at key times.

So, have a wonderful summer. My team and I will be out and about at a number of local events over the coming weeks asking what your views are about policing. Do come and talk to us, we value your opinion.

Amongst other events you can find us at:

- The Riverside Festival, Nottingham – **2 August**
- Caribbean Carnival, Nottingham – **17 August**
- Emergency Services Day, Newstead Abbey, - **31 August**

We are also keen to hear your thoughts on the type of penalty offenders of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour should receive. If you are not likely to see us at an event this summer, the survey is also available on the website: **http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Consultations-and-Surveys/Community-Remedy.aspx** I would be grateful for your views.

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:
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU

E-mail me at:
nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone me on:
0115 844 5998