

North West Leicestershire NEWSLETTER



A message from Rupert Matthews

Welcome to the first PCC newsletter compiled for the North West Leicestershire district.

I believe that it is essential that we all work together to make life safer for all those who live, work or visit our area.

I thought that you might like to know what I've been up to and what that might mean for local residents.

I would also be grateful if you could share this email with your contacts and friends, encouraging them to do the same. Cheeky I know, but if you don't ask....

Rupert Matthews
Police & Crime Commissioner



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities – Your Commissioner

MAY 2022



Tackling the problems in North West Leicestershire

It is clear from local feedback that anti-social behaviour in one form or another is a particular concern in areas such as Coalville.

In the Castle Donington area it is speeding, vehicle related crime, particularly around the services, and drugs.

I have checked and can tell you that the police are responding, with more patrols, more enforcement and work with other agencies to educate people about the dangers of drug use.

To find out what is happening in the area try signing up to [Neighbourhood Link](#).

Local information tailored to your interests delivered to your inbox. I would be interested to hear what you think of it as a form of communication.



With Cath Ridgeway from the Community Safety Team at N W Leics District Council.

PEOPLE ZONES SET TO RELOCATE

People Zones is a good idea with huge potential for sustainable community change – if it is properly run and located in the right place. That's why I'm working in partnership with NW Leics District Council to set up a redefined People Zone.

Working closely with North West Leicestershire Council, we have identified new boundaries for this project. Thringstone and Whitwick will have a new People Zone, located where I believe it will make most impact.

This People Zone will take a co-ownership approach with the community. The key priorities will be set by community research due to take place later in the year. I expect that priorities will include issues such as domestic abuse, violence against women and Girls, mental health support and anti-social behaviour.

We are meeting regularly with the council and have formed a 'Priority Action Group' to discuss the formal launch later this year. I am intending for People Zones



to become much more dynamic and progressive about the way they improve life for those who live in the area [except the criminals, obviously].

Temporary Chief
Constable Robert Nixon
and Anne Cowan JP
attending the
Attestation for new
police officers at
Force HQ.



Going up!

I'm delighted to be able to announce a significant increase in officer numbers for Leicestershire Police.

The national 'uplift' programme of 20,000 additional police officers nationally will see police numbers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland rise – and rise significantly.

This operation has meant an additional 178 officers for Leicestershire Police by the end of year 2. However, we have recruited 329 officers by Dec 21. This is an additional 7% over our Op Uplift allocation based on year 2.



*Meeting one
of the cadets.*

Our recruitment has been brilliant over the last quarter, and investment in our force remains strong. As you can see via our publicly available quarterly officer recruitment statistics as part of operation uplift: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-december-2021>

As of December 2021, our current headcount is 2,327. That is an increase of 16% compared to our baseline at the beginning of Uplift.

I am proud that Leicestershire Police have delivered the proportionally largest increase in Police Officers over this period of the operation.

I enjoyed my visit to the Coalville Police Cadets.



Listening to North West Leicestershire

I have spent a fair bit of time in North West Leicestershire, both in person and on-screen. I've attended the full council

meeting of NW Leics DC and answered questions about knife crime, violence against women and girls, drugs and

other matters of concern in their area. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to find out what is happening direct from the horse's mouth – and those who represent them. Happy to return at any time – diary permitting.

In Coalville I joined PCSO Lynette Rose at a meeting of the Coalville Police Cadets. Great to see young people really enjoying this wonderful way to get some life experience.

Last year I decided to host a 'coffee-morning-cum-crime-survey' in Castle Donington. I was delighted to see lots of people turn out, telling me their concerns and how they felt things could be improved. Thankfully – see my comments earlier – these issues are being addressed.



In March, we held a pop-up street stall in Coalville that attracted quite a crowd.

Safer Streets in North West Leicestershire

Following a successful bid to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, my office has been spearheading a major safety project to prevent theft, burglary and robbery in Castle Donnington alongside Hinckley, Lutterworth and Melton Mowbray – all areas identified as high-risk crime hotspots by police. We secured £432k, all of which is being invested in making people and their property safer.

Communities are benefiting from the installation of new technology to detect and deter crime including new police automatic number plate

recognition (ANPR) cameras and additional CCTV as well as enhanced street lighting in two key streets, and additional radios to expand the radio link scheme in the Melton and Hinckley areas.

In addition, up to 1,900 households will be offered free security upgrades worth a total of £186k to help make their homes impenetrable to criminals, while funding will also be dedicated to removing graffiti in Hinckley and increasing engagement with residents.

I am confident that this will make a real difference to crime in the area, particularly theft.



Visit
<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Our-Work/Safer-Streets/Safer-Streets.aspx>
to read more about my Safer Streets campaign

With Cllr Andrew Woodman [left] and Robert Windsor of 24-7 Locks Ltd in Castle Donnington to launch our Safer Streets campaign.



Saddened by the death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole



Like so many others, I was shocked and extremely saddened to learn that our former Chief Constable, Simon Cole, had died. Simon was the epitome of a great Chief Constable whose commitment to public service was unswerving. We live in a safer place thanks to his leadership.

I know that the officers and staff, past and present, of Leicestershire Police are feeling his death keenly.

It was always clear to me that he was held in high regard and genuine affection at all levels. My thoughts and sympathies

are with his family, friends and colleagues. I sincerely hope that they are given the time and space to grieve in peace.

Following the announcement that Simon was to retire, I asked the Deputy Chief Constable, Rob Nixon, to become Acting Chief Constable during the recruitment process.

I have now started the search for the substantive post holder – it is a remarkably complex process, and I am firmly focussed on finding the right person to be the next Chief Constable for residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.



Commissioner's Advisory Group

Local people should be able to influence the way in which policing services are provided.

That is why I've launched a 'Commissioner's Advisory Group.' I have been recruiting members who will give me information about local issues,

events of which I should be aware, views on local campaigns and so on.

I want it to be truly representative of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which means I've been looking for people from all areas,

backgrounds and with differing experiences.

Everyone in the group will be independent, impartial and willing to express views, good and bad. Follow us on social media to hear what they have to say.

Helping to keep the area safe

All too often we hear people say, 'someone should DO something.' Well, I am. Projects to help keep North West Leicestershire safe are invited to apply for funding from my Commissioner's Safety Fund – the details are on my website.

There is £400,000 available over 2022-23. The Fund is open for applications from any community-based group, parish council, school or business (if the business can match-fund and supply their service free

of charge) and grants up to a maximum of £10,000 will be allocated per project.

Visit
<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Commissioning/Current-Funding-Available/Commissioners-Safety-Fund.aspx>
to read more about community safety grants

THE COMMISSIONER WILL BE VISITING YOUR AREA

I have begun holding a series of "Community Thursdays" when every Thursday I will be visiting a different area of our City and two Counties. You will be advised in advance when I will be in your area for a Community Thursday so that you may take part or send me your views on topical issues. I believe that it is essential that we work together to make the NW Leicestershire district an even safer place to live, work or visit.



Meeting villagers in Diseworth to hear their policing concerns

Live Safe – wherever you are

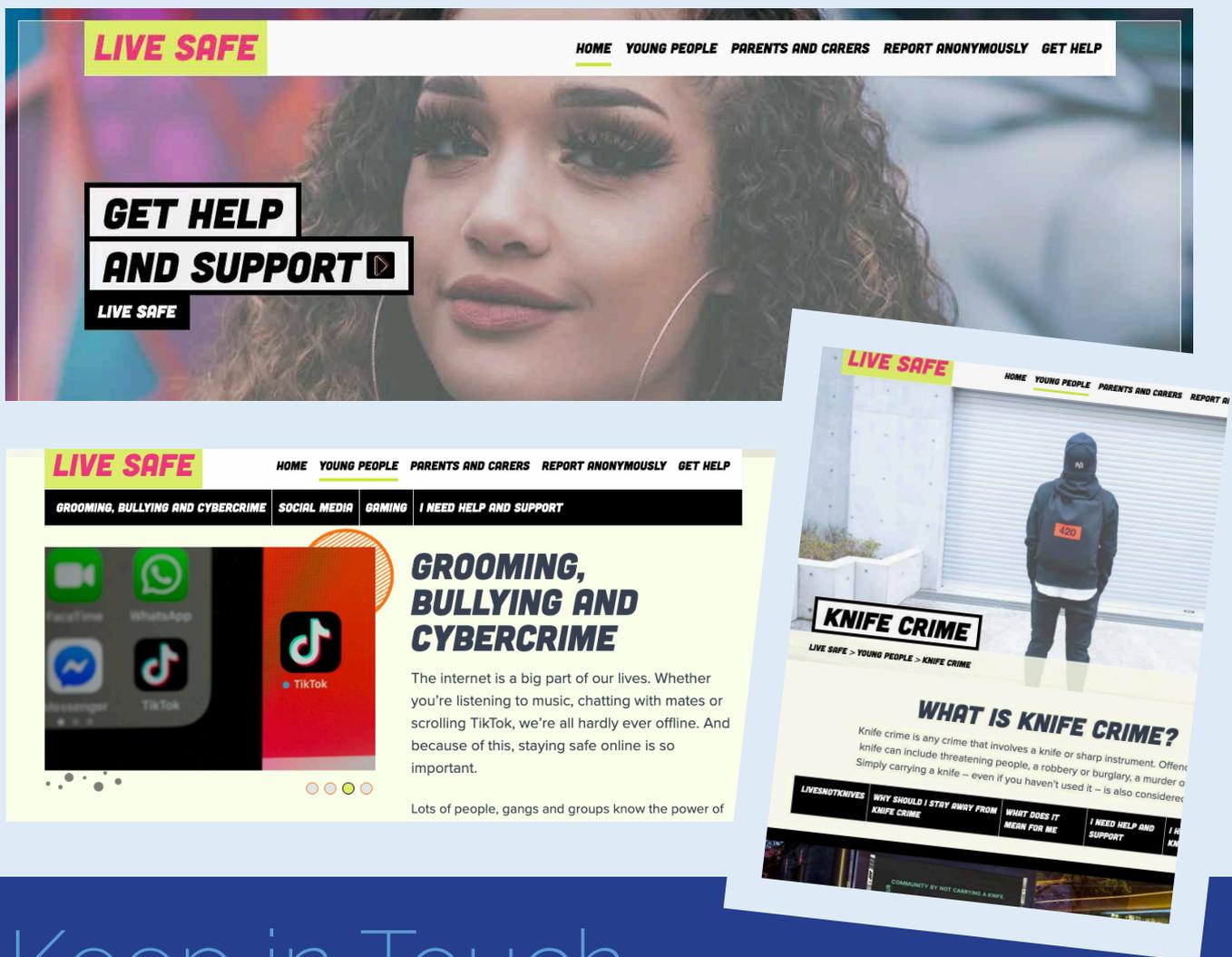
A new website www.livesafe.org.uk has been launched by the Violence Reduction Network, which I chair. It is a virtual space for local young people and their parents/carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and

Rutland to receive support and to explore issues relating to safety.

As 'everyone has a role to play,' the website aims to equip young people and parents with

factual information about key dangers facing young people such as grooming, gangs, child exploitation, and knife crime. It tells you how to get support and ways to anonymously report crimes and concerns.

It also includes information about the 'Make a Stand Against Violence' campaign, which teaches young people how to take action against violence and look out for their friends.



Keep in Touch

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time using these contact details:

- Email: opcc@leics.police.uk
- Telephone: 0116 229 8980
- Website: www.leics.pcc.police.uk
- Facebook: LeicsPCC
- Twitter: @LeicsPCC

You can also keep up to date with my day-to-day work via Twitter, Facebook and my weekly blog.