



Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

IN THIS ISSUE



Combating Burglary and Anti-Social Behaviour
See page 2



Tackling Knife Crime and Serious Violence
See page 3



Better policing for rural communities.
See page 4



Improved Neighbourhood Policing

We all deserve to live safely and in peace. Neighbourhood Policing is the backbone of British policing, and I am proud to have delivered on my Police and Crime Plan pledges to strengthen and protect it.

You told me how important it was that local officers remain visible and accessible in your communities. In response, I promised to keep neighbourhood officers in their communities for a minimum of two years. The latest data reveals 74% of constables and over 60% of sergeants have remained in neighbourhood policing posts for at least two years.

I promised to improve the training of officers and staff. Leicestershire Police now has the nationally recognised Team Academy and Digital Academy delivering face-to-face and digital learning 24/7 to help the workforce develop and learn new skills.

In other delivered commitments, I supported the Chief Constable as the revised Neighbourhood Policing Strategy was introduced, designed to meet the desires and needs of the public. I also commissioned a large-scale public survey to better understand the public's views and expectations on policing. The findings are now helping to shape the way in which policing is provided.

Delivering on my Plans

Looking back at the promises I made on taking up this role, I am pleased to see that so much has been achieved.

- ✓ More officers
- ✓ More CCTV
- ✓ Less Crime
- ✓ Less ASB
- ✓ Tackle Rural Crime
- ✓ Reduce Serious violence
- ✓ Improve Neighbourhood Policing
- ✓ Boost communication



Combatting Burglary and Anti-Social Behaviour

I have continued to tackle the problems that cause our communities fear and erode quality of life, as I promised in my Police and Crime Plan.

Recent figures obtained by my office show that high-visibility policing, extra CCTV and the roll-out of free home security upgrades have all helped to reduce burglary rates by 6.8% (compared to the previous 12 months) across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This work has been boosted thanks to the additional

funding I secured from the Safer Streets fund.

It is essential that local policing teams keep the public, parish councils and local councillors informed and I have pushed hard for improvements. That is why new guidelines for beat teams will see them working more proactively with communities to protect properties and reduce risk.

In other success, anti-social behaviour (ASB) offences across the force area have

seen a 11.5% reduction between April and December 2023 compared to the previous year.

My office recently secured a further £1,473,113 to tackle ASB and serious violence across the force area. The concerns raised by residents during my ongoing community visits and public meetings will be fed to the project team to help identify ASB 'hotspot' areas as we prepare to roll out extra enforcement patrols.

Success in tackling Knife Crime and Serious Violence

Latest figures show serious violence offences have fallen 12.1% while violence against the person offences have seen a 6.1% decrease across the force area compared to the previous 12 months. Undoubtedly offering youngsters an alternative path to a criminal career at key moments in their lives can help to steer them away from trouble.

That is why I have worked relentlessly with the help of partner organisations to protect and prevent young people from being drawn into serious violence and knife crime.

I have worked alongside the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) and Leicestershire Police, to ensure that people at risk of a life of crime receive the help and rehabilitation services they need to change their behaviour.

This has included working directly with young people

when they land in police custody, hospital A&E or on the streets when they should be in school. I have also commissioned awareness campaigns to warn of the dangers of carrying a knife.

This includes delivering activity in schools, police custody, on the streets and in A&E, working with young people directly and within target groups, and funding awareness projects and campaigns to reduce knife-carrying.

We have identified hotspots for violence using crime data. Police activity is now targeted at those places and people that cause the most trouble. Using problem-solving tactics underlying factors such as a lack of CCTV or poor street lighting are being rectified.

Last year, through the VRN I introduced a new strategy to tackle serious violence across the force area. Over the next five years I will work



with the VRN, the police, local authorities and others to cut the serious violence that blights our communities.

I have always said that prevention is better than cure and I'm proud that Leicestershire's VRN is now recognised as a best practice provider, excelling at delivering sustainable early intervention programmes.

SECRET CAMERAS TACKLE FLY TIPPING

Fly tipping blights our communities and rural areas. I promised to act. So I was fascinated to visit the scene of one of my most successful supported projects.

I turned up and saw – precisely nothing.

Confused, I was told that camouflaged cameras were in situ. Their very success was because no-one could see them. It would be irresponsible to say where I was, or what they look like, but what a good idea!





Better policing for rural communities

Making our communities safer is the reason I became PCC and I have taken robust action to listen and deliver the improvements our rural communities have asked for.

Latest figures obtained by my Office show that Rural Crime is down by more than 10% in past 12 months and there is now increased confidence among the public to report rural offences.

This work has been boosted by the introduction of a dedicated rural crime team and easier, more convenient ways for the rural community to report crime. In addition, a new app has been created to support all frontline officers with information on the powers and legislation available to tackle rural crime.

At a meeting of rural organisations such as the NFU, farmers and business

owners, the feedback for the improvements was hugely positive.

My Volunteers on Horseback scheme, which I introduced last year, provides valuable help. The scheme involves 20 volunteers working with the Rural Crime Team to support their work.

I have also funded a new Neighbourhood Watch Development Manager to revitalise NHW across the entire force area. In addition, my Parish Council engagement programme, delivered with the help of my Deputy Rani Mahal, continues to prove both popular and useful. Localised intelligence and areas of concern are now being used to good effect.

Rural policing is different. That's why I have supported investment into specialist equipment such as 4x4 vehicles for rural areas. In other progress, I have funded a training package to help all staff within the call handling team recognise rural, wildlife and heritage crime.

Restoring trust and confidence, with old-fashioned values in today's world.



Around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

When I became PCC I promised to visit every corner of the City and two counties. And I have. Many times over. I have made literally 100s if not 1000s of visits to parishes, towns, projects, businesses, community groups and individuals. I have listened to what people have to say, and I have acted.



Blaby – visiting Cosby Village



Charnwood – visiting Bradgate Park



Hinckley and Bosworth - On patrol in Hinckley Town Centre with the Beat Officers



Oadby and Wigston - Visiting shops in Oadby



Harborough - with PC James Monohan talking enforcement action on e-bikes



Leicester - serving Siva to the congregation at Guru Ravi Dass Gurdwara



Melton – visiting Waltham on the Wolds



Rutland - with the Rural Policing Team



North West Leicestershire – A453 near Kegworth & Castle Donington hearing about speeding car cruisers

Making the night-time economy safe

People should be confident of enjoying a good night out in safety. That's why I have provided funding to ensure night-time economy staff and the 'Street Doctors' initiative have the equipment and training to save lives in an emergency.

I have also funded metal detectors to help remove dangerous weapons from the streets, additional CCTV, town centre radios and online bystander training to help bar and door staff safely intervene in the presence of risk.

The award-winning campaign, You're Right, That's Wrong (YRTW) to target misogynistic behaviour against women is directly linked to my Police and Crime Plan priority. More than 19,000 visits were made to the campaign's dedicated



website - www.thatswrong.co.uk

I have also supported a powerful new behaviour change campaign called "Walk Away" which aims to promote the positive actions the public can take to avoid

confrontation and prevent unnecessary deaths and injuries by assault. "Walk Away" made such an impact in the first few weeks that it was adopted by forces around the UK in a bid to reduce violence over the 2023 festive season.

Tackling Hate Crime effectively

I'm pleased to read that latest figures show that reports of Hate Crime offences have dropped by more than 18% compared to the same period a year ago. There is no place for bias or prejudice of any kind in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

As part of my ongoing commitment to tackling and more importantly preventing hate crime effectively, I have announced the launch of a new independent panel to scrutinise the investigation of hate crime incidents.

The panel will help to identify ways to improve the investigation of hate crime incidents. It will also work to enhance support for victims throughout the criminal justice process.



Tough plan to boost the safety of women and girls

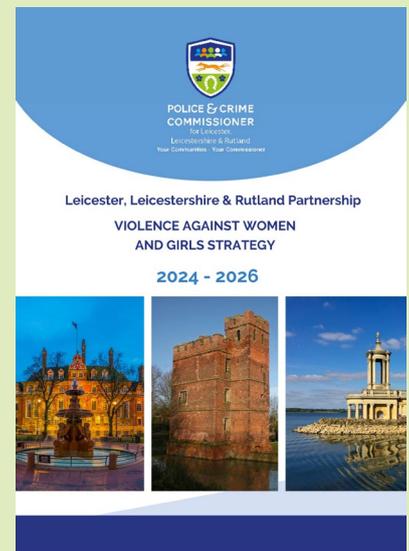
I have agreed, with partners, a new joint action plan to safeguard women and girls.

Too often, violence against women and girls will go unpunished because victims are too scared to come forward – this has to change. Justice must be secured for the thousands of women across our area who are forced to endure the harm brought by these offences for the rest of their lives.

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Partnership's Violence Against Women

and Girls Strategy 2024-2026, represents partnership working at its best.

Prevention is the golden thread running throughout this strategy, in line with my Police and Crime Plan priority. We will work hard to address the attitudes and behaviour that can underpin these unacceptable crimes. Intervention will be targeted as early as possible to prevent and respond to crimes such as rape, sexual assault, stalking, domestic abuse, honour-based violence and other gender-based violence.



Parish Council Programme

There are 189 Parish Councils across Leicestershire and Rutland and every single one must have a voice. That's why Deputy PCC Rani Mahal continues to offer parish councils the opportunity to attend individual 'surgeries'.

There is a rolling programme of locations in districts across the two counties. Parish Councils are invited to attend

surgeries in their specific areas to enable localised themes to be identified.

The issues identified include speeding, police visibility and ASB. The views provided at these surgeries are helping to collate common crime issues and concerns which are being communicated to Leicestershire Police and partner agencies.



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

Please note we are unable to take details of crimes or incidents.

If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency, or dial 101 if it is a non-emergency.

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



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