

Newsletter



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Keeping an eye on Langham and Whissendine



Speeding and parking issues are rarely far from the topic of conversation during my community visits, and it was no different on my recent patchwalk of Whissendine and Langham.

I joined PC Jake Spruce who serves as the beat officer for these two communities and 23 neighbouring villages. I was pleased no major issues were reported but like many of our communities across Rutland and beyond, residents in both areas are getting fed up with inconsiderate parking and speeding motorists.

PC Spruce told me he often goes out with a handheld speed gun on his Rutland beat in response to these

concerns and speeding is now one of the beat priorities in these areas alongside vehicle crime and rural crime. We also talked about parking issues on Oakham Road, Whissendine, and at school drop off and pick up times in Langham.

I can happily report that overall crime in Rutland fell by 8% in the 12 months to January 3, 2025. Violent offences and public disorder offences have seen the biggest decreases at -12.7% and -26.5% respectively. Additionally, the positive outcome rate for overall crime has also risen by 3.5% and at +26.3% for drug offences which remains a concern for the public.

Healing trauma in the aftermath of domestic abuse



Helping people to recover from trauma is critical for building safer and more prosperous communities.

Over the past 12 months, I've contributed funding worth £5,400 towards training sourced by Rutland County Council to create a team of six family help workers to support children and families impacted by domestic abuse in the county.

The training is called Healing Together and practitioners have been trained in one of four programmes which are being delivered one-to-one or in small groups of children and parents. These cover trauma support for children and

young people; parents and carers; supporting children and young people with angry feelings and supporting children and young people experiencing ongoing stress and anxiety.

So far, almost 30 people have benefitted from the intervention, and I'm really pleased with the positive feedback received. Children say the course is fun and that they understand their feelings more. They also say their relationships have improved and would share what they've learned with their friends so they too can understand how to manage angry feelings. Parents, meanwhile, have reported having better relationships as a family with less arguing and increased confidence as parents.

Protecting Rutland

Rutland is the smallest county in England, but with much to offer – "multum in parvo" as the county motto has it.

When I became PCC, Rutland was the only county in England without a police station open to the public. That was soon put right. Sadly, my suggestion that the Leicestershire Police should be renamed "Leicestershire and Rutland Police" did not gain permission from the central government.



Now the new national government has launched a reorganisation of local government which seems rigged so that Rutland will be abolished as a council. After a thousand years, this would be a real shame. I have always recognised the unique status

and character of Rutland. As a bare minimum the ceremonial aspects of county status should be retained, and I will continue to recognise the county in my role as PCC – and will urge others to do the same in theirs.

Protecting our communities from ASB and serious violence

I'm pleased to report far-reaching success in our efforts to root out ASB and serious violence from our communities.

Our dedicated 'hotspots' enforcement team has carried out thousands of hours of extra patrols in 'hotspot' locations over the past 12 months to tackle long-standing problems. Serious violence has fallen 8.4% and ASB by 15.2% in these targeted areas, which proves how valuable this approach is. This is why

I recently lobbied the Government for more financial support for the scheme.

My recent budget will further protect the strong, visible policing residents deserve. This has been possible by a small annual increase of 27p per week in the amount of council tax paid towards policing for a Band D property and I am grateful for the public's support.



Fight for fair funding

We've worked extremely hard over the past few years to keep the force on a financially secure footing, but funding has become an urgent issue.

I recently met Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson to highlight our plight and explain how this year's funding settlement leaves us with a further gap due to the impact of rising inflation, National Insurance increases not being fully covered, underfunded pay awards and new legislation such as the ban on XL Bully dogs, which leads to unforeseen and unbudgeted costs.

As a result, this year's budget setting process was challenging to say the least and I am grateful for the continued support of the public to pay more towards policing.

The budget for 2025-26 has been set at £254.65m. This will protect the frontline services which are so valuable to the public and strengthen performance in key areas such as crime prevention; call handling and other ways in which the public contact the Force; and digital technology. As the Government assumed, it was essential to increase the council tax precept by £14 for a Band D property, to achieve a balanced budget.

I feel strongly that the people of our city and two counties deserve more, and I will continue to challenge at the highest level to secure the funding needed to police the area effectively.

New face in the team

My new Deputy PCC, Charlotte Chirico, has officially joined the team and is already proving an asset to our communities.

Born and bred in Melton, Leicester City fan Charlotte (also known as Charlie) will be supporting the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and has a wealth of legal experience to help enhance the support

we offer to victims of crime. Through years serving as a District Crown Prosecutor, Charlotte has an acute understanding of the barriers to justice many victims face and is keen to get to work on remedying the issues.

I have no doubt she will continue to strengthen the voice of victims and witnesses locally and bring value to all areas of my safety work.



Keeping young people safe with VR



We're unleashing the power of Virtual Reality (VR) as part of a new high-tech approach to keeping young people safe online.

In an ongoing effort to keep crime prevention relevant and fresh for our younger residents, I've invested in the production of a six-minute film to be viewed in 360 Virtual Reality (VR) which will be accompanied by a six-session educational programme to be delivered by teachers and youth leaders.

First Phone: Keeping Children Safe Online will be available to schools free of charge across the city and two counties throughout 2025 and follows a successful pilot.

The use of VR as an educational tool is evolving and I'm delighted to have funded its application locally.

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 nonemergency.

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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