



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

Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

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Standing Up to Rural Crime

In my Police and Crime Plan, I committed to protecting our countryside and fighting rural crime.

Through my Community Action Fund, I funded two events to help tackle rural crime. Hosted by the National Gamekeepers Association, the events brought together gamekeepers, police and experts and had a clear focus. Stop crime before it happens in our rural communities.

The events provided real tools, cameras, trackers, property marking, poacher blocks and more. All designed to protect land and rural livelihoods.

These events made a difference.

People shared knowledge, they learned what works and they built stronger links with our Rural Policing Team officers.

The need is clear. Many have faced poaching in our rural communities. Others deal with illegal off-road driving. These acts harms farms and businesses, and damages rural ways of life.

Prevention is key. Simple steps can stop crime, and strong links between the community and police help enable fast action. I will keep supporting practical action like this. I will keep listening to our rural communities. Together, we can protect our countryside and keep it safe for all.

Prevention in Action

The first policing principle outlined by Sir Robert Peel nearly two hundred years ago was to prevent crime and disorder wherever possible. It remains true to this day that prevention is better than a cure. That's why prevention runs as a **golden thread** through my Police and Crime Plan.



National Recognition for Leicestershire Police Naloxone Carriage

The NatWest SE100 Awards which took place earlier this year, celebrate the UK's top social enterprises and impact leaders.

Turning Point, our locally commissioned drug treatment service, won the Public Sector Pioneer Award! Judges were impressed by the local partnership project between Turning Point, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police to equip officers with Naloxone, a simple, safe and effective antidote to opiate overdoses. The project was cited as an impressive example of an innovative service model with high impact, which could be replicated in other locations.

Andrew O'Mara, head of communications at Turning Point, said partnerships like the one with Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police took significant time and resources to cultivate. "It doesn't happen overnight. It's about understanding need".

Julie Bass, Chief Executive Officer at Turning Point, said "This recognition belongs to our Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland teams and to the partners who have shown what true collaboration looks like in practice. We need more local partnership-led innovations like this across health, social care and public services, because when we work together, we save lives."



Leicestershire Police officers receiving Naloxone training

Violence Reduction Network Positive Impact

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has welcomed new national findings which recognise the positive impact being made by Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across the country and reinforce the strength of the approach being delivered locally.

The latest national evaluation of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) year ending March 2025 highlights the positive impact of VRUs, explaining that they were set up to support "evidence-led and multi-agency approaches to violence prevention" and have developed into a more embedded whole-systems approach over time. The national findings can be backed up locally in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland



(LLR) data. This year's Strategic Needs Assessment shows that serious violence continues to decrease across LLR, with an 11% reduction in recorded offences in the last year.

For the VRN in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, these findings are a strong endorsement of the work already taking place across the area and reflect the progress being made through our local partnerships.



Prevention Through Connection

The Violence Reduction Network hosted its Prevention Through Connection Summit on 25 March, bringing together professionals and young people from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to address online harms affecting children and young people.

Speakers from policing, academia, youth work and specialist charities explored links between online behaviour and real-world harm, the importance of building resilience, and risks associated with

emerging technologies. A highlight was the Young People's Panel, where Peer Action Collective Leads shared honest reflections on navigating the digital world, reinforcing the importance of youth voice in shaping prevention strategies.

The Summit concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and continue work to keep young people safe online, leaving attendees informed, energised and united.

CRIME DOWN

Leicestershire Police Preventing Crime

Here in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, we are cutting crime by stopping it before it starts.

New figures show real progress. Crime in our area is now lower than the national average. Violence with injury is down. Overall, violence is down. Shop theft and drug crime are lower than across the country.

This is not by chance. It is from a clear focus on prevention. Leicestershire Police act early, deal with the causes and support people to change.

Knife crime is falling fast. Weapons offences have dropped by 30 percent. That means safer streets and fewer victims.

We also take strong action. Offenders are pursued, caught, and brought to justice. That deters others.

I thank our officers, police staff, our partners and our communities. This is a shared effort.

The work will not stop. We will keep the pressure on, prevent more crime, and keep you safe.

A New Map to Find Help Near You



I am making it easier to find support in your area.

My team have been working to create a new **Community Asset Map** for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. It will be free to use via my website.

This map brings everything together in one place. It shows support services, youth projects, clubs, places of worship and more. Over 900 services are already listed and the map is rapidly growing.

It is simple to use. You can search and filter to find what you need near you.

This is about people. It helps you find support you may not know about. It helps groups link up and work together. I hope it will help to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland too.

Soon, local groups will be able to add their own details. My team will check each update so the map stays reliable.

I want you to see what is on your doorstep. I want you to feel connected, and I want you to get the help you need.

Access the map [here](#)

Putting the Brakes on Car Cruising

Together with Leicestershire Police and North West Leicestershire District Council, we are taking action to tackle illegal car cruising.

I have funded new signs in Castle Donington and Kegworth through funding I provide to Community Safety Partnerships. They warn drivers about strict rules now in place as part of a Public Space Protections Order (PSPO). Break them and you can face a fine or court.

This problem has grown fast. Large meets bring noise, speeding vehicles and danger to other road users and pedestrians. At times up to 100 cars and hundreds of spectators gather. A man was badly injured in a crash linked to this behaviour. Residents are rightly fed up, and that is why we are tackling the issue directly.

Many drivers participating in these meets have come from outside the area. These signs will raise awareness of the PSPO and deter offenders from participating.

I have also funded a further 160 road



safety/ ASB warning signs across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The signs will support ongoing efforts to tackle car cruising and off-road bikes by Leicestershire Police. These signs stand as a warning to those engaging in this nuisance behaviour. Leicestershire Police WILL take action.

I will keep backing firm action to stop this behaviour. I will continue to stand with our communities, and make it clear that we will not tolerate dangerous driving on our streets.

A Fresh Start that is Changing Lives

Funding from my Commissioners Safety Fund is helping people break free from addiction and rebuild their lives.

The 'Make a Fresh Start' project run by Dear Albert HMP Leicester is delivering real change using just under £10,000 of PCC funding. It gives people support while in prison and when they leave. It is led by those with lived experience. That builds trust in the service, and drives results.

One person who struggled with addiction for nearly 50 years is now sober. That is life changing.

The programme offers weekly group and one to one sessions. It teaches people how to manage their recovery and supports them as they move back into the community.

More people are taking part in the project

than ever before. Many are staying in support after release. Some are now volunteering or indeed working in the service. That shows lasting recovery.

We are also seeing better behaviour in prison. People are rebuilding family ties, and they are avoiding crime.

This is why prevention is so important. It tackles the root cause, supports change, and cuts crime.

I am proud of everyone involved in the project. This work is giving people a real second chance.

DearAlbert

Engaging with Our Communities

Your Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners have been out and about across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, engaging with communities.



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews visiting BBC Radio Leicester.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Neetu Squire visiting Atlas Boxing Gym in Leicester.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Oliver Bryan joined Rural Policing officers and NFU Melton at Melton Mowbray Market for Operation Trailer Trace, a PCC-funded initiative supporting the prevention and detection of rural crime.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Oliver Bryan attending a Fatal4 operation in Melton.



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews joined PCSO Reid on a patch walk in Countesthorpe.



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews meeting police and partners in North West Leicestershire.



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews visiting a community group in Leicester.



Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews attending a community event in Leicester.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Neetu Squire and T/Deputy Chief Constable Michaela Kerr presenting a long service award at our Volunteers' Week thank you event.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Neetu Squire visiting a PCC-funded road safety project, delivered by Live Cancer Free in Leicester.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Oliver Bryan joined volunteers at the New Parks Men's Shed. The community group has been supported through PCC funding and our New Parks People Zone to support mens mental health.



Cutting Anti-Social Behaviour in Oakham

I have seen first hand how simple action can make a real difference.

During my Community Day visit to Oakham police station, I spoke with the local team about anti-social behaviour. The message was clear. It is falling.

This is not by chance, it is down to strong community work by the local team. PCSOs are working closely with young people. They are linking with youth groups and talking openly about the effects ASB can have. They explain the impact of poor behaviour on others. They also explain the impact on each young person's future.

That honest approach is working, it is building trust and will change behaviour,

preventing problems before they grow.

This is good policing. It is simple. It is effective. I am proud of the team in Oakham. They are showing what can be done when we work together to prevent crime.



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 X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn

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