



**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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Funding Increase to Bolster Services

My responsibility as Police and Crime Commissioner is to secure effective, efficient policing for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, commission victim services and support the prevention of crime. But it's also to protect local residents from unnecessary financial pressure. This year, I fought hard to keep the policing precept as low as possible, recognising the strain many households are under. Despite significant operational demands across policing, I believed it would not be right to automatically impose the maximum increase permitted by government.

When I initially proposed an £11 rise, my priority was clear: to avoid placing extra burdens on families while still increasing the policing budget overall. In fact, the budget for policing

was set to rise by £13.5m, not fall, a point I emphasised strongly. I also made savings within my own office, cutting its budget by 3% to redirect money straight to crime prevention, victim services and frontline policing instead of back office growth.

However, the Police and Crime Panel took a different view. They argued that residents were willing to pay more to support the force and ultimately pushed for a higher £15 increase.

My approach remains unchanged: every pound taken from the public must deliver real value, protect frontline services and keep our communities safe, without asking taxpayers for more than is absolutely necessary.

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.



Teen Crime-Busters Get Ready for Action

A team of local young people has signed up to help tackle crime and improve safety across Leicester, and they're already getting stuck in.

These twelve teenagers are the first group of local "PAC (Peer Action Collective) Leads", part of a new project giving young residents a real voice in making their communities safer. More than 500 young people will join them over the next two years, all helping to spot problems early and steer their friends away from trouble before it starts

To kick things off, the group were invited behind the scenes at Police Headquarters for a hands on day with officers.

They saw how police respond to emergencies, keep our streets safe and deal with real life incidents, the sort of insight that shows exactly what's at stake when crime hits a neighbourhood.

Lead by LLRs very own Violence Reduction Network, part of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, officers thanked them for stepping up and made one thing clear: young people are crucial in stopping violence and antisocial behaviour before it reaches our streets.

These new Leads are now ready to start their work, helping make our city safer, stronger and better for everyone who lives here.

School Safety Push to Support Kids to Stay Out of Trouble

Kids across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are getting a major boost in staying safe, thanks to a new online teaching tool now rolling out in classrooms. 'Pol Ed' is a simple, straight talking digital platform packed with ready made lessons that help young people understand real world risks, the law, and how to stay out of trouble.

And here's the good news: every school gets it for free. Funding means teachers can log on and start using it straight away, no costly extras, no fuss.

Pol Ed sits alongside the assemblies and workshops already delivered by specialist police teams, giving young people clear, practical advice that actually sticks. It's all about preventing crime early, cutting



anti-social behaviour and helping children make safer choices before problems start.

And it's already working. 143 schools are signed up, delivering 842 lessons to more than 28,000 pupils since September. That's thousands of young people learning how to stay safe, make smart decisions and steer clear of danger.

This is prevention in action, and it's helping keep our children, and our communities, safer.



A Bold Mission to Keep Young People Safe

Knife crime ruins lives, and families across our towns and villages want it stopped long before it reaches their doorstep. That's why I'm backing a new push to spot danger early and keep young people safe, by supporting the new Young Futures Programme.

This new early help scheme is bringing the right people together to step in before trouble starts. The focus is simple: find the youngsters most at risk through prevention panels and give them support fast, so they don't get dragged into violence, exploitation or carrying knives.

Local experts and young people themselves have helped shape how the system works, making sure it's practical, down to earth and actually does what families need. Their insights are helping us build safer routes for children who might otherwise slip through the net.

This is about protecting the young people who need it most, and making every street in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer for the rest of us.



Fighting Addiction with Dumbbells

Addiction wrecks lives, and substance abuse drives crime, but a Leicester project is showing that the right support can pull people back from the brink. The Recovery Gym in Spinney Hill is giving men and women a fresh start, using fitness, structure and real world support to help them turn their lives around.

Thanks to £10,000 from my Commissioner's Safety Fund, the gym offers training sessions run by qualified

coaches who know how to build strength, confidence and self belief. And for many, it's the first place they've felt truly accepted. One man battling addiction for over 30 years said the gym finally gave him the tools to control his emotions and rebuild family life.

Women are getting help too, with a weekly support group giving them space to talk openly and get the practical help they need.

And the results? Fewer relapses, calmer minds and people walking away from old habits instead of back into them. This isn't theory, its real change happening in our community.

When local groups get the backing they need, they deliver. This project is helping people stay clean, stay focused and stay out of trouble.

A proper win for Leicester.



Sharper CCTV to Keep Rutland Safe

Rutland is getting a safety boost as key CCTV cameras on our high streets are upgraded to modern, clearer, faster responding units. Some older cameras were past their best, so this funding is being used to replace worn out kit and keep watch where it counts.

Good cameras that still work aren't being binned. They're being moved to other spots

where equipment has failed, keeping full coverage without wasting a penny.

The result? A tougher, more reliable CCTV network that helps police catch trouble early and keep residents safe. This is targeted investment that delivers real value for local people, protecting shops, streets and communities across Rutland.

Stopping Knife Crime Before it Starts



Knife crime is creeping into our communities, and parents want it stopped before it gets anywhere near their children. That's why I backed Street Whyze, a no nonsense schools project giving young people the blunt truth about the dangers of carrying a knife.

These hard hitting sessions cut through the myths fast. They show exactly how one stupid decision can ruin a life, yours or someone else's. With £3,000 from my office, Street Whyze delivered tailored assemblies across North West Leicestershire, reaching pupils in several local schools and speaking directly to the teenagers who needed it most.

The project was launched after real concerns that some students had started carrying knives. A few incidents had already happened, a wake up call no community wants. These talks make it clear: carrying a knife isn't protection, it's a gamble with your future.

This work is simple and it's effective. Straight talk. Real stories. Lessons that stick. And it helps keep our streets, and our children, safer.

Steering Young Men Away From Crime

Sport can change lives, and Leicester's Gloves Up project is proving it. Fifty boys aged 11–17 are swapping the pull of the streets for boxing and martial arts sessions at Cuba Martial Arts in St Matthews.

I invested £10,000 because this is real crime prevention. Three times a week, trained coaches mix tough training with straight talking guidance, helping these lads stay clear of gangs, violence and anti social behaviour. Many of the coaches have lived the same struggles, they know exactly how to keep boys on the right path.

And it's working. Crime and nuisance in the area have fallen. The boys are more confident, more focused and walking away from trouble instead of into it. One 13 year old once fascinated by crime now shows discipline and respect at school and home.

Gloves Up is giving young men the strength, support and role models they need to build safer, better futures, and it's making our communities stronger too.



Keeping Young People Safe and Off the Streets

Young people across Blaby are getting vital support to keep them away from trouble, thanks to new street outreach sessions funded with over £9,000 from my office. Every Wednesday evening, trained youth workers hit local anti social behaviour hotspots to engage 10 to 18 year olds at risk of drifting into crime.

This new project replaces the Streetvibe sessions, ensuring that young people still have somewhere safe to go and someone to talk to. The focus is simple: give teens a

trusted adult, a safe space and something positive to do, before bad choices take hold.

The outreach work is flexible and driven by what the community actually needs. Police and local partners back it fully, recognising how important early intervention is in stopping problems before they land on residents' doorsteps.

This is crime prevention in action, helping keep our streets calmer, our young people safer and our communities stronger.



Supporting Retailers to Fight Back



Rutland's shopkeepers have had enough, and I supporting them to fight back. Tackling shoplifting is one of my priorities and a new crime busting project is stepping in to protect local businesses and the staff.

I've put £5,270 into a plan that gives retailers real muscle against thieves. The scheme brings in DISC, a tough national crime sharing system already used by hundreds of shops across Leicestershire. It lets businesses swap instant alerts, spot known offenders and warn each other before trouble walks through the door.

And it doesn't stop there. The local retail radio network is being switched back on, giving shops a fast, live link so they can warn nearby stores when offenders move between them.

This is simple, targeted, common sense policing support: helping staff feel safer, cutting theft and giving Rutland's business community the tools to fight back.

Rutland's retailers deserve streets where they can work without fear, and this plan helps make that happen.

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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