



# KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE: TACKLING VIOLENCE



The Conservative Group of Police and Crime Commissioners  
MARCH 2019

## Introduction

Police and Crime Commissioners have a key role to play in the prevention of crime and keeping our communities safe. As the voice of victims and the vulnerable within Policing and the Criminal Justice System, we are providing the leadership required to bring the public sector together with charities, families, young people and others to try to keep violence off of our streets.



And as champions for the needs of residents, businesses and others, we not only ensure that these issues are priorities that we hold our Chief Constables to account for, but engage with providers with real experience to educate and divert people away from a life of crime and violence.

Policing has been through tough circumstances – which do include reduced budgets and fewer Officers and Staff.

But with the flexibility given by the Home Office to Police and Crime Commissioners, as the custodians of Police budgets and precept decision makers, we are starting to see recruitment happen again. PCCs are making the case to our electorates for greater support from council tax towards Policing and some Forces are, as a result, able to start recruiting again. From Kent in the south to Cumbria in the north.

As you will see from the examples below, we are actively promoting schemes such as mentoring, diversionary activities, educational talks, training for professionals and holding other agencies to account. All of these projects are making a difference and highlight the benefits of having elected Police and Crime Commissioners to identify problems, listen to our communities and engage with providers.

There is more still to do – but we are an important part of finding the solution.

### **Matthew Scott**

Secretary

Conservative Group of Police and Crime Commissioners

5 March 2019

## PCC Commissioned Projects

On Monday 4 March, Conservative PCCs were asked to submit one example of a project that they are working on locally to help tackle violence, gangs, county lines or knife crime. Here's what they came back with:

In 2017, Lorne Green launched a three year program in **Norfolk** whereby they offer an annual weekend course for vulnerable young people on the dangers and consequences of knife crime, offered by competent medical professionals.

**Kent** PCC Matthew Scott is funding engagement with young people across the county on the dangers of gang activity, knives and violent crime through talks in schools and mentoring, and in partnership with the Home Office, is funding St Giles Trust to work with young people who have or could be caught up with county lines to extract them from a possible life of criminality and exploitation.



In **Essex**, PCC Group Leader Roger Hirst (above) has commissioned interventions at a "teachable moment" when young people present at hospital Emergency Departments.

**Cumbria's** Peter McCall has partnered with a team from the Prison Service who do hard hitting and highly effective school sessions on knives and knife crime consequences. Also, he's funded a range of activities including a car maintenance club and boxing and reintroduced cadets to give young people focus, values and self-development.



Alison Hernandez, PCC for **Devon and Cornwall**, (above) is working in partnership to spend funding awarded by Home Office of £528,569 to deploy the Youth Exploitation Tracker Assessment (YETA) across South Devon, then expand throughout Devon to allow for the identification of those already, and those at significant risk of engaging in violence and gang activity, triggering tailored rapid intervention; and the early identification of adverse childhood experiences at transition to secondary education, first time entrants and children at the edge of care to prevent escalation into violence.

In **Lincolnshire**, there has been increased focus on removing weapons from the streets, which has seen 48% increase in arrests for this offence. PCC Marc Jones has supported targeted work in schools by Just Enough on knife crime, and a new project to start in 2019 for over 17 NEETS via Lisa Lashes School of Music to positively engage with those vulnerable to criminal exploitation. Will be extended to reducing reoffending and diversion at pre court stage if this is successful.

In **Bedfordshire**, Kathryn Holloway has worked with former gang members who are running a youth club for 11 to 13 years and a recording studio for 13 to 25 years. She's also working with a drama company to produce a hard hitting performance for young people in local schools.

In **Thames Valley**, PCC Anthony Stansfeld has a large schools programme and youth teams.

**Staffordshire** Commissioner Matthew Ellis brought all agencies together with the Youth Commission he established to combat the growth of knife possession and use. They also established a protocol between hospitals in Staffordshire and police around provision of intelligence.

On Monday, **Hampshire** saw the first ACE Training Trainers Course - funded from the grant win from the Early Youth Intervention Fund supported by Michael Lane. This will see 138 professionals trained to be trauma informed and Adverse Childhood Experience aware and 9 Trusted Adult Workers working with 5 to 17 year olds.



In **North Yorkshire**, Julia Mulligan (above, with Katy Bourne) funds Wake Up Call, which is a pilot project county wide. It's a four week course for young people at risk of disengagement and school exclusion. She also works with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles to provide targeted diversionary activities.

David Lloyd is working with St Giles Trust to provide SOS workers across the county to identify high risk young people and young adults engaged in serious violence and organised crime. He is also funding extra Police Officers, who will work in local schools in **Hertfordshire**.

**Cambridgeshire's** Jason Ablewhite has supported a number of knife amnesties and is working with third sector providers on prevention and disruption projects.



John Campion commissions work in **West Mercia's** primary and secondary schools focusing of vulnerability, making sure young people are aware of exploitation. Their work is mainly focused on county lines and Child Sexual Exploitation.

In **Sussex**, PCC Katy Bourne (left) has been funding the Crawley Kicks Project since 2014. It brings together young people, often from rival parts of the town, to play in Friday night football tournaments. Sessions aim to reduce or prevent anti-social behaviour and knife crime amongst young people, both male and female. Collaborating with Sussex Police, Youth Organisations and other local agencies, they have developed educational materials alongside these sessions to promote their #knifefree project with workshops aimed at educating on others aspects such as Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Awareness. They have also developed an Anti-Knife Cup Competition and a strong emphasis is placed on peer mentoring, with coaches to support.

**Surrey** PCC David Munro is funding a number of initiatives to educate young people about perils of carrying knives, including £30k to a Youth Fund which carries out training and awareness in schools, 'Junior Citizens' days where schools send their pupils on half-day safety awareness programmes and a 'Get Connected' toolkit distributed to many schools warning about county lines.

**Northamptonshire** PFCC Stephen Mold is working on early intervention to divert young people from being victims or offenders. This includes working with schools and social care departments to prevent risky behaviours becoming criminal behaviours.

**Warwickshire**'s PCC Philip Seccombe works with a number of charities who offer mentors to ex-offenders and support for families and children to reduce reoffending; and also young people identified as being high risk or vulnerable.

**Suffolk** Positive Futures is commissioned by Tim Passmore and offers young people a positive alternative to crime and violence, giving them positive role models and the chance to get qualifications, rather than get caught up in gangs, crime and violence.

Angus Macpherson MBE has worked with community groups in **Wiltshire** to fund a youth worker and training, and a Youth Cafe to give them a safe place for young people to meet their peers.



## The Conservative Group of Police and Crime Commissioners are:

Roger Hirst, Essex (Leader)

Matthew Scott, Kent (Secretary)

Katy Bourne, Sussex

Peter McCall, Cumbria

Alison Hernandez, Devon and Cornwall

David Lloyd, Hertfordshire

Kathryn Holloway, Bedfordshire

Jason Ablewhite, Cambridgeshire

Julia Mulligan, North Yorkshire

Matthew Ellis, Staffordshire

Marc Jones, Lincolnshire

Lorne Green, Norfolk

Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire

John Campion, West Mercia

Tim Passmore, Suffolk

Angus Macpherson MBE, Wiltshire

Anthony Stansfeld, Thames Valley

David Munro, Surrey

Michael Lane, Hampshire

Philip Seccombe, Warwickshire



## What does the PCC do?

- Sets the Police's priorities
- Holds the Chief Constable to account
- Decides the Budget and Council tax
- Commissions services for victims
- Runs a custody visiting scheme
- Works with councils and others to prevent crime
- Influences the national policing agenda
- Ensures collaboration between Bluelight Services and others
- In four counties, is the Commissioner for the Fire and Rescue Service

**Next PCC Election:** Thursday 7 May, 2020