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SAFER IN KENT Matthew Scott

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner



Newsletter
June/July 2018

News in Brief

Mr Scott produces a regular **Police and Crime Podcast** where he talks about his work and that of his office. His most recent episode covers issues such as police effectiveness and demand, roads policing, social media use by Kent Police, and Mental Health awareness week to name but a few. Episodes 1 to 7 are available to download now at <http://matthewscott.org.uk/podcast/>

Matthew Scott's Police and Crime Podcast



Mr Scott recently unveiled the new name for the Kent Police College sports hall: **The Paul Brandon Suite**. The centre has been named after the outgoing Deputy Chief Constable Paul Brandon (pictured below with the PCC) because of his dedication to health, fitness and wellbeing.



Have you been a victim of a violent crime? Tell the PCC your experiences to help us improve

The Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott is asking you - the people of Kent - to tell him your real-life experiences of violent crime.

The month-long call for evidence forms a key part of Mr Scott's Violence Reduction Challenge, a year-long study in which the PCC is working with victims, residents, charities, statutory bodies and others to learn about people's experiences of violent crime in the county, its causes and how it can be tackled.

Mr Scott said: 'I am bringing together a wide group of people and organisations from different sectors so we can put together a collective response to the issues that we face. But first, I want to hear from victims and residents so we know exactly what those issues are.'

'While crime has fallen since 2010, there are statistical trends which tell us that numbers of some violent crimes have risen in recent years, though many of those additional 'violent crimes' relate to incidents in which no-one was physically injured. This national definition



of what constitutes a "violent crime" can be confusing at times.

'In any case, it is wrong to only look at statistics. Behind every crime there is a real victim with their own unique experience and story to tell. I want to hear from as many of them as possible so the Violence Reduction Challenge can look properly at all 55 types of "violent crime" so we can consider what practical steps we can take as a county to tackle them.'

To submit evidence, please visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/VRC by the deadline of Wednesday, July 18.

After that, the responses will be reviewed and discussed by senior community safety officials.

Funding for new road safety initiatives welcomed



Mr Scott has welcomed the [Government's announcement of extra money to make the UK's](#)

[roads safer.](#)

The Department for Transport revealed money from its Safer Roads Fund is being given to Kent County Council to improve the A252 and A290 in the east of the county. That follows the Prime Minister calling on com-

panies last week to develop new breathalyser equipment for police forces to use on our roads; and announcing a partnership between police forces and the RAC Foundation to trial an innovative approach to road collision investigations.

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PCC Matthew Scott continues his roadshow of street stalls across Kent

Mr Scott, your elected PCC, has been busy getting out and about speaking to members of the public about local policing issues and police recruitment. Victim Support and Kent Police recruitment have also been present to discuss support and how to apply for Kent Police.

The PCC has been at the Kent Police Open Days in **Maidstone**, the Kent County Show at **Detling**, **Ashford** International railway station, a Mosque and visited the University of Kent.

He also recently held street stalls in Tesco and Morrisons in **Larkfield** and did a walk about in **East Malling** with a local

councillor to discuss local issues.

Matthew also spoke to members of the public at Folkestone Sainsburys, talked on Academy FM in **Folkestone** and De Bradlei Wharf shopping Centre in **Dover**, along with many visits to charities and campaigns he has recently funded.



Backing for Government's review of police pursuit laws

Mr Scott has welcomed the Home Office's consultation to give the police greater confidence to pursue suspects.

He has previously expressed concern that drivers do not have sufficient backing in legal terms should an incident occur during a pursuit. Officers can find themselves subject to lengthy scrutiny and uncertainty while the Crown Prosecution Service and potentially the Independent Office of Police Conduct reviews the circumstances of the incident.

The Government is therefore consulting on a separate legal test for police drivers that would require:

- an officer to drive to the standard of a careful and competent police driver of a similar level of training and skill;
- that the driving tactics employed, including any exemptions from road traffic legislation, such as speed limits, or contact

with a suspect vehicle, are authorised appropriately and are both necessary and proportionate.

Following the Policing Minister Nick Hurd's announcement, Mr Scott said: 'I fully endorse this new consultation that I hope will solve this absurd situation once and for all. Our highly-trained response drivers should not have their careers put on hold, or face legal action, just for doing their job of pursuing alleged criminals.'

'I am pleased Ministers are speaking out against the myth that drivers cannot pursue suspects not wearing a helmet. It is not right that police officers can be held accountable for a suspect's dangerous driving. The law should be changed to reflect that a suspect is responsible for their own decisions.'



What is a Police and Crime Commissioner?

Matthew Scott was elected Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2016.

His role is to set policing priorities for the county, by consulting with the public and putting together a Police and Crime Plan.

He then holds the Chief Constable of Kent Police to account for the delivery of that plan. He sets the council tax precept for policing, is responsible for the overall policing budget, and com-

missions services for victims of crime and funds community safety projects.

Mr Scott also serves as the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' portfolio holder for Performance, and also as the portfolio holder for Mental Health.

He lives in Swanley with his wife and young daughter, is a fan of cricket and football, enjoys real ale and is a keen musician who has played in cover bands across the South East.

Get in touch

To raise an issue with Mr Scott or to invite him to a meeting or event please visit the OPCC website: www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us

Please note that the PCC cannot interfere in operational policing or demand that the Chief Constable changes how he uses his policing resources. Equally, his office (the OPCC) cannot provide updates on how a crime is being investigated.