



JULY/AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Hello everyone,

I hope everyone's been having a great summer so far.

It's been another busy month in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – we've won a funding bid to support services for victims of sexual assault, given over £40,000 to local groups working with young people and held a public meeting for local people to air their views – and lots more!

You can read about all that and more in this month's newsletter – here's the latest news for you.

Best wishes,

Ann Barnes

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUT-OF-COURT PUNISHMENTS



The new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires Police & Crime Commissioners to consult on the possible out-of-court punishments for offenders of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Community Remedy gives victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour the chance to have a say in how offenders should be punished for their actions, resulting in swifter justice for the victim, and less burden being placed on the criminal justice system.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner would like to find out your views on what should be included in the Kent Community Remedy document prior to publication later this year, and said: 'The needs of victims are the golden thread running through the work of my office and my absolute personal focus.

'I want to make sure victims are supported and cared for throughout their experience with the police and feel that the appropriate and proportionate level of justice has been delivered.

'It is my aim whilst in office to make sure that victims of crime are much more in control and the community remedy is a way of doing that.

'To that end I want to hear from as many people as possible in Kent to find out whether the remedies we and other Commissioners are looking at are the ones that would work for victims. Or perhaps there are other resolutions that could work. If that is the case then please let us know.'

Please have your say by completing the survey [here](#).

Consultation closes on **31 August 2014**.

SUCCESSFUL BID FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT KENT'S SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE

The further development of a centre to help victims of rape and sexual assault in Kent has received a major cash boost.

It was announced on Thursday 3 July that the Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner had made a successful bid for funding for the centre from the Government's PCC Competed Fund.

The bulk of the £149,861 that has been awarded to Kent will enable the on-going development of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to enable victims of rape to be able to self-refer. Currently referrals can only be made after an allegation has been reported to a police officer.

Amongst the development plans to enable the centre to take self-referrals are a dedicated telephone line, a website and a post to promote access to the SARC by building links with those likely to come into contact with victims of sexual assault, for example health care professionals and staff in schools and colleges.

The multi-agency development team is working together to ensure that staff are in place to support the expected increase in those seeking help from the SARC once the centre opens fully for the ability to self-refer. There will also be a need to train and develop further accredited counsellors.

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes said: "I am delighted that our bid has been successful. We have worked tirelessly with partners, including NHS England, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Kent Police, Family Matters, East Kent Rape Line, public health



colleagues in Kent and Medway and the Crown Prosecution Service to make this centre a reality.

"This funding allows us to make the next step which is a vital one for those who have been through a horrendous ordeal but feel unable to report it to police. The centre provides both a place to capture forensic evidence but also access to services that are so important to the physical and psychological recovery from an assault."

Malcolm Gilbert, from Family Matters, said: "This is excellent news. It is to the Commissioner's credit that her efforts to create a SARC in Kent is now reaping further benefit and drawing down funds. There has been an immeasurable improvement in the support of victims of sexual crime and abuse in the county."

A third of the money bid for by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner from the Government Fund will be used to further support the work of the Kent and Medway Independent Domestic Violence Advocate service.

YOUTH GROUPS TO BENEFIT FROM CASH GRANTS



More than £40,000 has been given to 16 groups working with young people across Kent.

The successful groups range from those working with young people on the verge of becoming involved in serious crime to those struggling to cope with bereavement.

The organisations made successful bids to the Youth Diversion Fund set up by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner in April.

Groups were asked to show how they would do the following:

- Divert young people from crime or anti-social behaviour
- Look to positively address potential risk-taking behaviours
- Look to engage with vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups

In total 39 bids were received and each application was carefully scrutinised to ensure that it met the criteria including the proposed impact of the project on the local community.

Mrs Barnes explained: "I am very pleased at the quality of the responses we received, many of which exactly met what the fund was set up to support. I am very hopeful that during the next few months I can visit some of the projects that the fund is helping, to find out first-hand what is being achieved."

One of the recipients of funding is the Refocus Project – a small group of ex-offenders in North Kent who have turned their lives around and are now helping young people aged 11 to 19 on the verge of crime or exclusion to turn around negative behaviour.

Project Organiser Bali Rodgers explained: "With our skills and experience of having been there and done it ourselves, we can mentor and coach young people and provide alternate ways of managing, by exploring building their self-esteem to believe they can change their negative behaviour into positive."

To see the full list of recipients, click [here](#).

CODE OF ETHICS WELCOMED BY KENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The formal introduction of the Code of Ethics for police officers and staff has been welcomed by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.



**Kent
Police**

The College of Policing's Code sets out standards of behaviour for every police employee – whether they are a frontline officer or a member of staff – and will apply to more than 220,000 officers, police staff, contractors and volunteers.

The Code sets out policing principles and standards of behaviour; including accountability, fairness, conduct and integrity. It will also help guide decision-making by providing a framework to give support when facing complex ethical judgements, allowing individuals to account for their decisions and have confidence in them.

The Commissioner – and College of Policing Board member – Mrs Barnes, said: 'I fully back the Code of Ethics, which supports the high standards already expected by the Chief Constable and I.

'I know a lot of hard work has been done internally by Kent Police to make sure officers and staff have been consulted with and are aware of what it means for them.

'This is all about officers and staff being supported and empowered to make the best decisions, and be able to account for those decisions with pride.'

The introduction of the Code of Ethics comes at a time when a survey by the College of Policing found that members of the public have said they would not want to be in the position of police officers when faced with some of the decisions they have to make on a daily basis, often in challenging situations and in a split-second.

For more information about the Code of Ethics, visit the [Kent Police website](#) or [College of Policing website](#).

OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE TO JOIN 'OUTSTANDING' FORCE



Recruitment to join Kent Police as a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) is currently open.

The force is looking for outstanding individuals to help keep the county safe through the prevention and detection of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The Commissioner said: 'It's fantastic news that Kent Police is opening its doors again to bring in new blood to the organisation.

'To do this in the face of budget cuts shows how committed the force is to protecting front line officers and staff and delivering visible community policing to the people of Kent – I hear time again that local people want to see more 'bobbies on the beat' – and we are listening.

'I urge anyone in Kent who wants to play a part in keeping their community safe to consider applying to become a Police Community Support Officer. Kent Police is absolutely a first-class force to work for, and it's not just me who says so, as a report released today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) shows.'

The 'Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge' report into police forces' responses to budget cuts has found that Kent Police is responding well to the financial challenge of the public spending review and declared the force's long-term forward-planning to manage further funding reductions was 'outstanding'.

Speaking about the report's findings, Mrs Barnes said: 'This report is very good news for Kent. In very challenging times the force has met the majority the £50 million savings a year early.

'What is particularly impressive is that despite the considerable cuts to funding the force has been able to update the policing model to give district commanders direct control of their local police teams. These teams will be addressing those very local issues that members of the public tell me about when I am out meeting people across Kent.'

For more information, including eligibility criteria, and to apply, click [here](#).

SWANLEY LOCALS QUIZ COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members of the public came along to a meeting on Tuesday 29 July with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes and Kent Chief Constable, Alan Pughsley to have their policing questions answered.

Around 40 people attended the event held at The Alexandra Suite in Swanley, and local people had the chance to have their say about local policing.

Topics such as hate crime, police visibility, youth crime, road safety and crime in the rural community were discussed at the meeting.

The Police and Crime Commissioner set up the 'Meet the Commissioner and Chief Constable' events as one of her manifesto promises to be as open, transparent and accessible as possible.

Chief Inspector Tim Cook, the local police commander, was also on hand to talk about any particular issues in the Swanley district.

Mrs Barnes said: 'As Police and Crime Commissioner for the people of Kent I need to understand what's important for local people, and these events give me a fantastic opportunity to meet and talk to as many residents as possible.

'I would like to thank everyone who took the time to come along and take part. I'd also like to express my thanks to Swanley Town Council for providing the venue free of charge.'

Chief Constable of Kent Police, Alan Pughsley, said: 'I am delighted to have the opportunity, with the Commissioner, to come along and meet local residents in Swanley. Public meetings are a real opportunity for me to get feedback on any problems, and the issues that were raised on the night will be dealt with.'

For details of future 'Meet the Commissioner and Chief Constable' events, and to see the questions and answers from past sessions, click [here](#).

COMMISSIONER MEETS YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO LOCAL CHARITIES



Last month the Commissioner took part in a 'Dragon's Den' style event in Ashford, where teenagers were presenting Social Action Plans as part of their National Citizen Service programme.

They showed how they plan to support a range of Kent charities over the coming weeks, with projects including helping out with decorating, refurbishments and building gardens. Fundraising ideas to support the projects included raffles, sponsored walks, holding a market stall, and even live music events.

The programme was run by CXK – a charity based right here in Kent – whose work helps shape our young people into the best adults they can be, by providing them with the skills and confidence they need to progress and excel in education and employment.

Following the event, the Commissioner said: 'Young people are, sadly, often demonised in society and in the media, and seen as part of the problem rather than part of the solution. But the young people I met are truly inspirational – and committed to making a difference.'

'Although we had to pick three winning teams, the enthusiasm, passion and eagerness to help small charities displayed by all of the teams was inspiring to see. We were all young once, but I bet not many of us were as community-minded as this lot at that age!'



Book an appointment
at the PCC's Surgery
6 August in Chatham

Brook Theatre, Town Centre,
Chatham ME4 4SE

There's another chance to meet the Police and Crime Commissioner – this time in Chatham – at the next Surgery day.

The Surgery sessions provide members of the public with an opportunity to discuss policing issues or concerns with the Police and Crime Commissioner in a private and confidential environment at a one-to-one meeting.

The Surgery will be held on Wednesday 6th August at the Mayor's Parlour, Brook Theatre, Chatham, ME4 4SE.

The Commissioner said: 'I hold lots of public meetings all over the county, but sometimes people have cases or issues they want to talk to me about that aren't suitable for a public setting. If that sounds like you, the Surgery is the perfect opportunity to meet with me privately, so please do book a slot!'

There are still some appointments available, so to book an appointment, call 01622 677055 or email pcc.surgery@kent.pnn.police.uk.

DON'T FORGET! THE COMMISSIONER'S FUND IS STILL AVAILABLE



Earlier this year the Commissioner launched the 'Commissioner's Fund' that will give away £100,000 over the financial year – and there's still cash available!

The fund supports the hundreds of unique, community-led projects that can make a real difference to safety and crime prevention in our towns and villages.

Voluntary organisations and not-for-profit groups can apply for grants of up to £2,000 as long as they are able to demonstrate a positive impact on a community, meeting at least one of the below criteria:

- Prevent and reduce re-offending
 - Support victims of crime
- Empower local communities to work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Find out more information on how you can apply [here](#).