



**AVON &
SOMERSET**
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

NEWSLETTER

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welcome

to the summer edition of my newsletter!

Stronger communities are safer communities. Communities where we look out for one another, support each other and work together to ensure the places we live and work remain a hostile environment for crime to prosper. There are many ways we can do this, whether it's joining your neighbourhood watch group or just saying hello to a neighbour.

However, strong communities can only thrive if we continue to develop our relationships, working together as residents, local people and the police. Occasionally things will happen that will test the strength of these relationships, but I truly believe it's the way we respond in times of adversity that will ensure relationships stand the test of time.

A significant part of this is ensuring policing is representative of the communities it serves. That is why I continue to work closely with the Constabulary to improve recruitment, retention and progression of communities currently under-represented in policing. It's important we embrace diversity and encourage a culture where it can flourish.

Over the summer, my team and I will be out and about at local events in your area. More information can be found in this newsletter but make sure you stop by and say hello.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sue Mountstevens

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS

Your Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

POLICING MINISTER VISITS AVON & SOMERSET

Home Office Policing and Fire Minister, Nick Hurd MP, visited Avon and Somerset to find out more about Qlik Sense – software being used by the Constabulary to identify and predict offending patterns in order to understand demand and future demand of complex crime.

Hosted by Sue and Chief Constable Andy Marsh, the Minister spoke with local officers, received a Qlik demonstration and found out more about our Criminal Justice Transformation Project and our work on reducing reoffending. Sue said:

“ Qlik Sense has made a real difference in our area by helping to show the real time picture of pressures on requests for policing. To be able to receive live updates and a detailed understanding of the policing landscape is improving police responsiveness and investigate workloads. The data captured is also being analysed and used to get an early insight into risk and behaviours to help predict and prevent future crime trends.”



Andy Marsh, Sue Mountstevens & Nick Hurd

Following the visit, the MP tweeted:



WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER

Every day, Highways England work closely together with Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue and South Western Ambulance service to maintain safety and keep the strategic road network, including the M4, M5, M48, M32, M49 and major A roads, running smoothly.

Highways England Operations Manager Jeff Foreman said: "We have recently refreshed our closure protocol to ensure we can manage incidents more efficiently, mobilise resources and equipment quicker in the event of any major incidents and ensure any closures are minimised as much as possible."

During holiday periods, traffic volumes rise on the South West's roads and can lead to an increase in incidents, particularly along the major M4 and M5 routes. **Sue said**



Supt Andy Williams,
PCC Sue Mountstevens & Jeff Foreman

"In the event of a motorway collision, it's not always understood why the road is closed for a length of time or who is responsible for re-opening the road. That's why I am committed to working closely with partners to help road users understand the multi-agency response following a collision, with the aim of reducing the number of casualties on our roads."



ARE YOU #MOTORWAYREADY?



To help you prepare,
here are a few safety steps:



CHECK TYRES:

Prior to setting off on a long / significant journey, check your tyre pressure and the condition of your tyres, including the spare. Look out for cuts or wear and make sure the tyres have a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm, which is the legal limit.



CHECK WATER:

To ensure you have good visibility, always keep your screen wash topped up so you can clear debris or dirt off your windscreen.



CHECK FUEL:

Before setting out, check your fuel levels and make sure you have enough to get to your destination.



CHECK ENGINE OIL:

Use your dipstick to check oil before any long journey and top up if needed. Take your car back to the garage if you're topping up more than usual.



CHECK LIGHTS:

If your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights or brake lights are not functioning properly, you are putting yourself and your family at risk. In addition, light malfunctions can be a reason for your vehicle to fail its MoT.



TRAVEL AS LIGHT AS POSSIBLE

Do not exceed the recommended carrying capacity of your vehicle and ensure that luggage doesn't restrict visibility.



DO SOMETHING REWARDING TODAY

Police support volunteers undertake a variety of different roles and cover everything from helping with Community Speed watch initiatives, to being a restorative justice facilitator to making sure the fleet vehicles run smoothly and are gleaming.

There are volunteers who support policing across Avon and Somerset – people who give up their time to help keep our police service running smoothly. This year's National Volunteer's Week was the perfect opportunity to thank them for all they do.

For those volunteers who would like a role in uniform, you could also become a special constable. Special constables are volunteer police officers with the same powers as regular officers and spend a minimum of 16 hours a month or more supporting the police to tackle crime in their communities.

Sue said:

“Special constables, like all our volunteers, are a valued part of our police family and their achievements towards reducing crime and improving the quality of life for all the community never goes unnoticed.”



Data as at the end of March 2018



Volunteers come from all walks of life, with a range of skills and life experiences. If you are interested in volunteering visit avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk.

WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

More people than ever are breaking the silence and coming forward to get help, but we know there are many people who are living in abusive relationships that will never report it or get the support they need.

Each year there are over 1 million calls to police in England and Wales about domestic abuse and in the last 12 months, domestic abuse related crime has accounted for nearly 13% of all crimes in Avon and Somerset.

On average victims experience 50 incidents of abuse before getting effective help, and high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.3 years and medium risk victims for 3 years before finally escaping their abusers. That's too many, and too long. The aim is to make sure that anyone suffering

domestic abuse feels able to come forward and ask for help sooner rather than later. You don't have to speak to the police. We want people to be safe and there are many specialist and confidential groups and support organisations out there that can offer support and help.

By offering an insight into the role these people play in supporting those living with domestic abuse it is hoped this will help de-mystify the process and encourage more people to come forward.

“It takes a great amount of courage to find the confidence to tell someone if you're being abused, so sadly, many victims of this awful crime suffer in silence. What is important is that when victims of domestic abuse are ready to come forward and seek help, help is available and there is always someone to talk to.”

Sue Mountstevens

“I'm an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser and I'm here to support you through every stage of your journey...”

JANINE, NEXT LINK IDVA

#NoExcuse



Find out more about the support available at thisisnotanexcuse.org

SPOTLIGHT: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME

The annual economic cost of re-offending in the UK is estimated at £7-10 billion, while the adverse impact on victims, the public and communities cannot be quantified.

Building on existing partnership working we are committed to breaking the cycle of crime, safeguarding our communities and providing intervention at the right time. The Reducing Reoffending Programme will focus on ensuring that offenders are rehabilitated and prepared for release, leading to a reduction in reoffending rates, lower crime rates and most importantly, fewer victims.

Helen Carrington, our Reducing Reoffending Officer said:

“Offenders have increasingly complex needs and chaotic lifestyles, and require individual and intensive support to challenge and stop offending behaviour. In a world of shrinking resources and where demand is concentrating around the more complex individuals, only fully integrated services can achieve the outcomes we are committed to delivering.”



Reducing Reoffending In Avon and Somerset

Analysis from the local Community Rehabilitation Company shows that



60%

of people who are sentenced for fewer than 12 months go on to re-offend

As part of this work, the Ministry of Justice and PCC Sue Mountstevens have signed an agreement, which will see organisations such as Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company, the police, local authority and health commissioners work together on local solutions to address offending in Avon and Somerset.



Find out more about the **Reducing Reoffending Programme** on our website

DETECTING AND REDUCING RURAL CRIME

Rural crime affects the livelihoods of farmers, smallholders and rural businesses and presents some real challenges for the wider rural areas. Rural crime is typically associated with the countryside such as wildlife and heritage crime, farm equipment and animal thefts.

However, alongside this there have also been examples of fraud and other scams, with criminals deliberately targeting isolated, vulnerable people. In Somerset we have a large rural community and many people who work in farming and other rural industries.



JOIN OUR WATCH SCHEMES
AND HELP US TACKLE CRIME



“The dedicated rural crime team are working hard, taking on the criminals who prey on our rural communities.”

Sue Mountstevens

DID YOU KNOW?

The Constabulary now have a Rural Crime Facebook page dedicated to preventing, reducing and detecting rural related crime across the region.



If you have experienced rural crime, get in touch with the rural crime team by texting **07492 888109** or if you would like to remain anonymous, make a report online through Crimestoppers or by calling **0800 555111**.



For crime prevention information you can also join your local Farm Watch by emailing the team at **ruralcrimeteam@avonandsomerset.police.uk**.

VICTIM'S HELPING TO SHAPE FUTURE SUPPORT SERVICES

Over 600 victims of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Avon and Somerset have shared their views as part of a survey which will influence the future of victim support services.

Sue has a responsibility for awarding £1.3 million of support contracts for victims of crime and ASB and said:

“I remain committed to improving victim satisfaction and giving a greater voice to victims over the services they receive. It's important we take the time to reflect on the improvements made to services for victims so far, but to use this as an opportunity to ensure the services continue to meet the needs of our communities.”



For more information visit **avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk** and search 'Victim services'.



The current external contracts and grants will expire next year and the services which are being re-commissioned from April 1, 2019, are:

- An Emotional Support Service for adult victims of any crime or ASB
- A Vulnerable Adults Service for adult victims of any crime or ASB
- A Young Victims Service for victims of any crime or ASB up to the age of 18 (or 25 where there are additional needs)
- An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service
- A Restorative Justice Service for victims of any crime or ASB
- Contribution to local specialist provision for victims of Modern Slavery
- **NEW** - A small fund for providers to work together and support prevention and early intervention work

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel, who scrutinise and support the work of the PCC, have a new website. Visit **avonandsomersetpoliceandcrimepanel.org.uk** to find out more about your local councillors who make up the Panel and how they hold the PCC to account on your behalf.



TOUGH MUDDER

Sue and the OPCC team are raising money for the UK Police Memorial Fund - the memorial pays tribute to those who have given their life to keep us safe and gives families a place to go and honour the memory of their loved one. Their latest efforts saw them take on the 5k Tough Mudder challenge. If you are able to support the team with their venture visit **justgiving.com/fundraising/asopcc**.



NATIONAL FIRE REPORT

National guidance has been produced to help PCCs on the structural changes and implications of closer working with Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). Last year the Policing and Crime Act 2017 enabled PCCs to take on governance of their local fire and rescue service and provision for PCCs to be represented on their local FRAs. The report commissioned by Sue Mountstevens, offers advice on key structural issues, considerations on any implementation and guidance on creating a business case for Home Office approval.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A new report from Crest Advisory, being supported by Sue, states it is down to local leaders to deliver justice improvements. The report demonstrates the case for a shifting of authority and funds from central Government to a local level, while setting out some of the practical ways in which PCCs can drive improvements in the criminal justice service locally. Read the report on the **PCC website**.



Driving criminal justice devolution
Lessons for PCCs and Mayors

WHERE CAN I SPEAK TO SUE?

It's important that as your Police and Crime Commissioner, Sue Mountstevens, is out and about in the community meeting with local people and listening to your views on policing. Over the coming months, Sue will be travelling across Avon and Somerset - have a look to see when she will be in your area...



SIGN UP TO HEAR FROM US

Do you want to keep up-to-date with the work of PCC Sue Mountstevens and her team?

You can subscribe to update on news, blogs, job opportunities and events, as well as hear from Sue about when she's visiting your local community.



Visit avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk now and sign up to our mailing list where you can choose what you want to hear more about.

11
JULY

Bristol Public Surgery -
St Paul's Learning Centre
15.30 - 17.30

14
JULY

Bristol
Pride Festival

23
JULY

Ilminster Public
Surgery - Market House
14.00 - 16.00

24
JULY

South Gloucestershire
Public Surgery - Sainsbury's
Emersons Green
17.00 - 18.30

29
JULY

Islamic
Cultural Fayre

04
AUGUST

Hartcliffe & Withywood
Community Partnership
Funday

13
AUGUST

West Somerset
Community Day

17
AUGUST

Dunster Show

10
SEPT

Bath & North East
Somerset
Community Day

12
SEPT

Bristol Public Surgery -
Easton Community Centre
14.00 - 16.00

19
SEPT

Bridgwater PCC
Police Public Forum

11
OCT

South Gloucestershire
Community Day



WHAT'S COMING UP?

August 14th

Send us your
nominations ahead of our
next PCC Pride Award

September 1st

Apply to the Community
Action Fund by this
quarter's deadline

September 16th

See you at this year's
Emergency Services
Open Day

October 11th

Find us on Facebook
to watch Sue's next live
webchat with the Chief



**AVON &
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