



WHAT'S INSIDE

03

EMPOWERING HONOUR-BASED ABUSE VICTIMS TO COME FORWARD

05

POLICE CONSTABLE DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

04

FLYING START TO OP REMEDY

06

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME



welcome

to the autumn edition of my newsletter!

With the kids back to school and the leaves beginning to change colour, summer has come to an end. As the seasons change, we will continue to support your community and ensure everyone is safe and feeling safe.

Halloween and Bonfire Night are on the horizon and these celebrations are a great opportunity to come together, have fun and make memories. However, these events can be noisy and scary for some members of your community, so please continue to be respectful and considerate so these next few months can be enjoyed by all.

My door is always open and I encourage you to get in touch with any concerns or questions you might have.

Until next time,

Sue Mountstevens

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS

Your Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

HELPING WOMEN BREAK THE CYCLE OF CRIME

The Nelson Trust is offering a lifeline for women with multiple and complex needs or at risk of involvement with the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The charity's new women's centre in Bridgwater will offer holistic, trauma-informed support in a safe, women-only environment. Sue said:

"I was delighted to officially open the new women's centre, which I know will play an important role in the community and support women who most need it. The centre will offer women a place of safety and an opportunity for their voices to be heard."



Niki Gould, Head of Women's Community Services at The Nelson Trust, added:

"The women we work with are often experiencing multiple vulnerabilities, where mental health issues, poverty, abusive relationships and lack of support may lead women into criminal behaviour. It's about how to break that cycle."

The centre will also support women in the CJS through community sentences as an alternative to short prison sentences, allowing women to maintain custody of their children and remain in accommodation.

EMPOWERING HONOUR-BASED ABUSE VICTIMS TO COME FORWARD



United against Honour Based Abuse



Helpline: 0800 5 999 247
support@karmanirvana.org.uk


karmanirvana.org.uk

Honour-based abuse (HBA) is any practice used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/ or 'honour.' It is a violation of human rights and is a serious crime.

Examples of HBA include intimidation, rape, assault, abduction, domestic abuse, physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse, forced marriage – where you're not given a choice if you want to marry a person – and, sometimes, murder. Sue said:

“Often the victims of these crimes are the most isolated and marginalised in our community and we need to give them the confidence to speak out and get help.”

Survivors have said they are conditioned from a very young age to know what is 'acceptable' and what is 'not acceptable', and this includes how they look, how they dress and being too 'Western.' If they breach the codes of their honour, the family will retaliate with violence.

It's difficult to reach out to victims as they are incredibly isolated. There are many barriers to reporting including language differences, victims being chaperoned everywhere, being conditioned not to reach out and being told that speaking to the police is shameful.

Punita Bassi, HBA subject matter expert, said:

“Like other vulnerabilities, it's important to build confidence in the survivor so they come forward. We know like domestic abuse, that when a HBA survivor is at the point of leaving, the risk of abuse escalates.”

The Constabulary works with local charities like Next Link to ensure the police are better equipped to stop further suffering and ensure those responsible are stopped.

If you know someone is at risk of HBA, ensure they get the right information, advice and support to balance out the information the survivor might have been given by the perpetrator. Sue said:

“The Constabulary and I will continue to work closely with our partners to understand the true picture of HBA, and work with communities to signpost to local and national support services who can offer help and advice.”

If you or someone you know needs help, contact:

The Forced Marriage Unit on their 24/7 helpline: **0207 008 0151**

A support worker from Next Link: **0117 9250680**

National charity Karma Nirvana: **0800 599 9247**

If you would like to speak to the police, please call 999 or 101. You can also make contact online via the police's website.



FLYING START TO OP REMEDY

The operation to tackle knife crime, burglary and drugs has got off to a flying start.

Operation Remedy specifically focuses on tackling the issues that matter most to local people and was made possible thanks to an increase in the policing part of the council tax.

The initiative officially started in April and in the first three months there was a total of...

Various stolen items were seized and recovered including **£14,000 in cash, four cars, a £3,300 electric bike, a number of stolen credit and debit cards, jewellery, laptops and bicycles.** In a number of incidents, officers were able to return stolen goods to the original owners.

A large number of drugs have been seized with an estimated street value of **£432,520** including approximately **645 cannabis plants** and **1kg cocaine.**



Sue said:

"I know local people will be really pleased with the police's focus on tackling drugs, knife crime and burglary. There's still plenty of work to be done but I am pleased with the positive direction the Constabulary are taking."

A local person thanked Op Remedy officers for their help on locating a stolen motorbike. He said:

"The officers were extremely helpful and empathetic. They remained in close contact with us to locate the motorbike."

PCC PRIDE AWARDS

What are the PCC Pride Awards? We recognised the unsung heroes of Avon and Somerset at the latest PCC Pride Awards. The awards celebrate inspirational and selfless individuals who work hard to keep our communities safe and feeling safe.



PCSO Anita Perks was nominated for her work supporting a vulnerable woman in Eastville whose home had been taken over by drug dealers. Thanks to Anita, the woman is settled elsewhere and she now volunteers for a local charity. Anita said: "It is a pleasure to be nominated for the award. It is days like today that remind me why I joined the force."

Louise, who was supported by PCSO Perks, added: "Anita never gave up on me and I am extremely grateful for the support she has shown to me and my mother."



Nick Smith has been a karate instructor in Burnham-on-Sea for over 46 years. During this time, he has taught 100s of students about the importance of community, respect, discipline and achievement. Nick said: "It's great to receive recognition for my club and hopefully my karate classes have guided young people in the right direction."

How do I nominate someone for an award? To nominate the silent stars in your community for a PCC Pride Award, **visit our website.**

Q SPOTLIGHT: POLICE CONSTABLE DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Thinking about becoming a police officer for Avon and Somerset Constabulary? Find out more about the new Police Constable Degree Apprenticeships (PCDA) and the opportunity to pursue a varied role as part of the force while gaining a qualification at the same time.

What is the PCDA? Accredited by the College of Policing and launched this year, the three-year PCDA has been developed through a partnership between UWE Bristol and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Why has there been a move to PCDA? The new apprenticeship reflects the changing demand on police officers and the complex crimes they will face as part of their role. The programme equips new recruits with the skills they need with on-the-job training.

Will I just be sat in a classroom? No, apprentice officers spend three quarters of their time learning on the job and the rest studying or in the classroom. You will also learn about leadership, communication, legislation and cyber security.

What qualifications do I need to apply? Applicants need to have a minimum of one Level 3 qualification or equivalent OR relevant experience



including being a Special Constable for 18 months or being in a police staff post with operational experience for 18 months.

How do I apply? Keep an eye on our social media and website for information on when to apply.

UPDATING OUR ESTATES

We continue to move from oversized, under-utilised and expensive old police stations to more appropriate buildings alongside our partners where local people can access multiple services under one roof. **The latest changes include:**

SOUTHMEAD POLICE STATION



The new police station was officially opened by the PCC and the Chief Constable. The local community will be able to visit the enquiry office at Westgate House, a building within the Southmead Hospital site, between **10am – 6pm Monday to Friday**. The new station also houses the local Neighbourhood team.

SHEPTON MALLET POLICE STATION

Construction will soon be commencing at the new Shepton Mallett police station at the Haskins Retail Centre. The station will house an enquiry office open to the public and will be a base for the local Neighbourhood policing team and the patrol team for the Mendips. The police station will open to the public in spring 2020.

STREET POLICE STATION

Refurbishment of the Street police station commenced at the beginning of June 2019. It is anticipated that the new police station will be fully refurbished and open to the public in October 2019. The new police station will continue to have an enquiry office and house the local Neighbourhood team.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CRIME

Zoe Short, Resolve Senior Responsible Officer, tells us more about the Resolve programme and the work she is undertaking with partners to reduce reoffending across Avon and Somerset.



What is Resolve?

The programme brings together a wide range of key partners in Avon and Somerset to work together to address some of the causes of reoffending. Over the last year, the

focus on pathways, which helps lead people away from reoffending patterns, has developed new work with domestic abuse perpetrators, female offenders, complex needs individuals and offenders who are regularly recalled to custody.

What are you currently working on?

Moving forward, the executive board is seeking solutions to: effectively share information between key organisations; work with the right groups of offenders to try innovative ideas; work with local authorities to support and implement the homelessness reduction act across Avon and Somerset.

Who have you worked with on the programme?

The Resolve programme has worked with national and regional partners to create and embed the South West Regional Reducing Reoffending Partnership, the first of its kind outside London and Manchester. The future priorities of the Resolve board will support and be shaped by this Partnership.



Zoe said: "With so many changes imminent in the CJS, this programme will continue to strive to improve partnership working and for partners to support each other in making positive changes to the reoffending rates for Avon and Somerset."

NEWS IN BRIEF

GET THE LATEST NEWS

Don't forget to sign up to the PCC's e-newsletter to get the latest on how we're making Avon and Somerset a safer place.

Visit our website.



EXTRA FUNDING FROM HOME OFFICE

The PCC has been awarded £1.16m to introduce Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) to help tackle serious violence in our communities. For more information, **visit our website.**

ROAD SAFETY FUND

Want to help keep your roads safe? You can apply to the Road Safety Fund and receive up to £5,000 to go towards projects that improve road safety. For more information, **visit our website.**



POLICE BRAVERY AWARDS

Officers from Avon and Somerset who confronted a hammer-wielding man were honoured at a prestigious Police Bravery Awards. The four officers were highly commended for their bravery and professionalism.



FIND OUT WHERE SUE WILL BE

It's important that as your Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens is out and about, meeting with local people and listening to your views on policing.

 To find out where Sue will be, please visit the Events Calendar on our website.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON POLICING

You are invited to attend our next Police and Crime Commissioner and Police public forums on **24 September in Minehead** and **4 December in Kingswood**. Put your questions to the PCC and Chief Constable Andy Marsh, and hear from local neighbourhood policing teams.

For more information visit our website.



KEY DATES IN 2019

23

September
Bristol
Community
Day

24

September
Minehead
Public Forum

21

October
South Somerset
Community Day

05

November
St Paul's Learning
Centre Drop-in

13

November
Facebook
Live

18

November
Mendip
Community
Day

04

December
Kingswood
Public Forum

06

December
PCC
Pride Awards

10

December
Easton
Drop-in

16

December
Sedgemoor
Community
Day

To find out where PCC Sue Mountstevens will be please visit the Events Calendar on our website: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk



AVON & SOMERSET
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

01278 646188 | @aandsppc | aandsppc

pcc@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk | avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8JJ

contact me