



**AVON &
SOMERSET**
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018 / ISSUE 13

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welcome

to the winter edition of my newsletter!

As always at this time of year, there will be people working hard day and night over the Christmas period to ensure our safety and protection. On behalf of all the local communities of Avon and Somerset, I want to say how incredibly grateful we are to all those keeping us safe over the winter and for the sacrifices they make for us.

Help us recognise those hard-working policing men, women and young people who go above and beyond to make our communities a safer place, especially at this time of year, by nominating your policing heroes for our 2019 Be Proud Awards.

Every year we see examples of dedication, passion, enthusiasm and bravery from all aspects of the Constabulary including volunteers; and to be able to reward those people is a real honour. I urge you to nominate those individuals who make a difference, keep our communities strong and keep us safe.

The closing date for nominations is 27th January 2019 and I always look forward to reading your nominations. Visit: www.beproudawards.com

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Sue Mountstevens

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS

Your Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

SHUTTING THE GATE ON RURAL CRIME TOGETHER

As part of the national day of action to tackle rural crime, officers from Avon and Somerset visited farms and rural communities in the region to offer crime prevention advice, mark equipment and discuss membership of the Farm Watch, Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch schemes. **Sue said:**

“Rural Crime Day of Action was a great opportunity to offer advice and reassurance to our farming communities. Rural crime has a significant impact on the livelihoods of our farmers and this is not acceptable. The day of action built on the invaluable work already undertaken by the police to shut the gate on rural crime.”



The Rural Crime Forum also helps combat rural crime. The Forum meets three times a year and brings together a wide range of representatives including police, National Farmers' Union (NFU), Country Landowners Association, Young Farmers, the Gamekeepers Association and many more to share rural crime concerns and discuss topics such as fly-tipping and wellbeing in the rural community.

Robert Killen, who chairs the Rural Crime Forum, said:

“The Forum is an innovative and independent group that allows us to discuss matters that affect the rural community. I look forward to welcoming James Small, a farmer and NFU representative, as our next chair.”

TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Knife crime continues to blight our communities. Reports show an increase of more than 50% between 2016/17 and 2017/18 and targeting the supply of drugs and associated knife crime is a priority. We must continue to dismantle the recruitment of vulnerable people into 'County Lines' drug gangs.

However, we cannot do this alone. In line with the national agenda set out in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy, our approach will include greater emphasis on partnership working to share intelligence. Last month we welcomed Nick Hurd, Minister for Policing and Fire, to Bristol for the Home Office's strategy engagement event. Workshops were held between the police and key partners to build a clearer picture of how knife crime is affecting our communities and how best to tackle it.

As part of the Home Office's latest initiative to tackle serious violence, Sedgemoor has been selected as one of five national pilot projects to combat the threat of serious and organised crime, which costs the UK £37bn each year.

Working with Avon and Somerset Police, the new project will aim to tackle the impact of County Lines, rural crime, modern slavery, child exploitation and fraud. The new Sedgemoor Serious Organised Crime Community Co-ordinator, Amy Hurst, said:

“ This is an exciting and challenging project that we hope will change people's lives for the better in the Sedgemoor area. By highlighting threats, we hope to disrupt serious and organised crime and support young vulnerable victims who might be coaxed into crime.”



We want
to raise the
policing part
of your
council tax



to focus on
TACKLING
serious violence

Serious and organised crime costs the UK

£37bn EACH YEAR

More than
1000
Knives

have been
surrendered since
Operation Sceptre
began



In a positive step forward to combat knife crime, more than 1000 knives have been surrendered since Operation Sceptre began in the area in 2016. Alongside weapon sweeps, education and disruption techniques, the operation encourages people who might be carrying a knife to surrender them and there are four permanent knife bins at:

- Patchway Custody Centre
- The Bridewell Police Station
- Bridgewater Police Station
- Keynsham Custody Centre

“ By carrying a knife, you are putting yourself in much greater danger and are more likely to become involved in a violent situation. It's crucial we educate our young people about the dangers of knife crime and work together to combat serious violence in our communities.”

Sue Mountstevens

RECOGNISING LOCAL HEROES

We love celebrating the work of extraordinary individuals and this autumn we recognised the unsung heroes who went above and beyond to make this year's St Paul's Carnival happen.

"I am delighted that we were able to recognise the silent stars and volunteers who served their communities to make the 50th St Paul's Carnival the best yet and a celebration of the city's culture, diversity, creativity and unity."

Sue Mountstevens

All year round, the PCC Pride Awards recognise the silent stars who achieve great things for their communities. Nominations are now open for the next PCC Pride Awards – head to our website to nominate someone special.



WE WANT YOU TO #TELLUSWHATYOUSEE

SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Physical appearance



Isolation



Poor living conditions



Few or no personal effects



Restricted freedom of movement



Unusual travel times



Reluctant to seek help



Modern slavery is happening right now. Unauthorised local car washes, nail bars, takeaways, restaurants and brothels are some of the places we are finding victims and this is just the tip of the iceberg. In the past two years, we've seen an increase in the number of intelligence reports of modern slavery at these places, but reports of criminal exploitation and domestic servitude are minimal and are lesser known to the public as modern slavery.

Intelligence plays a huge role in our fight to tackle crime, which is why Avon and Somerset Police want you to **#TellUsWhatYouSee** and help protect some of society's most vulnerable people. Sue said:

"Modern slavery is happening right now and occurs in plain sight, in everyday situations. Use your voice to speak up for those who can't and report your suspicion if you believe someone's at risk."

Know how to report
You can report suspected modern slavery to:



Police via 101 or online
Modern slavery helpline on 0800 121 700

#TellUsWhatYouSee

5%

Increase in intelligence reporting between 2016 to 2017

3272 *i*
Pieces of intelligence

93

Active on-going investigations linked to potential modern slavery within South West Force area as of October

Since 2016, forces in South West have made

541

referrals through National Referral Mechanism

SPOTLIGHT: COMMISSIONER'S COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

WHAT IS CCAF?

No one knows their local community's needs as well as the residents. Voluntary organisations and community groups who offer local people the opportunity to learn skills, take part in activities and other engagement opportunities linked to the PCC's priorities are invited to apply for CCAF to receive grants of up to £3,000.

WHERE DOES CCAF COME FROM?

Any money earned as a result of, or in connection, with an offence can be recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. There are two ways that the proceeds of crime can be reclaimed; firstly, anyone convicted of a crime can be ordered to pay after the court calculates how much they have to hand over and secondly the police can seize over £1,000 in cash on the spot if they have reason to believe someone might have earned it through illegal activity. Some of this confiscated cash goes back into the community and used to fund local projects including skate parks, community centres and connecting the creative arts and the care sector.



Thanks to the hard work of the Complex Crime Unit, there was a momentous court result for 339 vulnerable victims who were conned out of nearly £7 million. The perpetrator has now been jailed for seven and a half years and given a confiscation order of £1.9 million. Assets including a £136,000 Mercedes Gullwing sports car have been seized and nearly £2 million pounds will be distributed amongst the victims.

TRANSFORMING OUR ESTATE

We remain committed to moving from oversized, under-utilised and costly old police stations to more appropriate buildings that release vital budget and maintain local accessibility as well as co-locating with partners where possible. **The latest changes include:**

TRINITY ROAD POLICE STATION, BRISTOL

The plan remains to explore a new, much smaller and improved station on the site and to work with a developer to ensure there are social value benefits throughout the whole process, from construction to operation, for the Constabulary, local community and economy.

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

We've just moved into the new police station at Deane House, co-locating with Taunton Deane Council.

YEOVIL POLICE STATION

Following extensive work over the past four years, we have decided to redevelop the current police station site on Horsey Lane. This is the most efficient option for operational policing and local people. The new station will open in 2020, benefiting from the latest technology and an open plan way of working.



SOUTHMEAD POLICE STATION

Work on the police station at Southmead Hospital continues and we hope to move in next spring.



GET THE LATEST NEWS:

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



HAVE YOUR SAY:

Would you pay an additional £1 a month from April 2019 towards policing and to help tackle serious violence?

Share your views and complete our online survey on our website or call 01278 646188 for a hard copy.



EARLY INTERVENTION YOUTH FUND:

Great news! Thanks to the Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund, we're going to be working alongside Barnardo's and Learning Partnership West to divert children and young people away from violent crime across the region.



ANNUAL REPORT:

Read the Annual Report to find out more about the progress the PCC has made over the last year, the financial challenges the Constabulary faces and the changing demand for policing services. You can read it on our website.



NEW YEAR, NEW RESOLUTIONS

If you're making resolutions for 2019, why not consider becoming a volunteer? Within the PCC's office, there are a number of schemes that rely on the invaluable input of volunteers to offer impartial and independent views such as the *Independent Custody Visitors*, *Independent Residents Panel*, *Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel* and the *Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel*. There are also plenty of ways you can help support policing efforts such as becoming a Special Constable, a police cadet or by joining neighbourhood watch.

"I would like to say thank you to all our volunteers for their continued commitment and dedication, and look forward to welcoming new volunteers who want to make our communities safer and stronger."

Sue Mountstevens



To find out more about volunteering opportunities please visit our website: avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk



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.



PUT YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Ever wanted to ask Avon and Somerset Chief Constable a question about policing?

Join Sue and Andy for one of their regular 30-minute Facebook Live session as they answer local people's police questions.

Next FB Live session: January 15 - 2pm



Submit your questions by visiting our website or by calling **01278 646188**



KEY DATES



Public drop-in - Easton Community Centre
13.30 - 15.30



PCC & Police Public Forum - Nailsea School
19.00 - 21.00



Bristol Community Day



Council tax survey closes



Mendip Community Day



PCC Pride Awards



Last chance to nominate your policing hero
beproudawards.com



Visit to Felix Road Adventure Playground



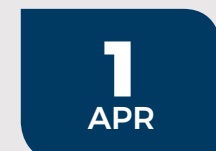
Police and Crime Panel



Sedgemoor Community Day



East Bristol Public Forum



South Gloucestershire Community Day



AVON & SOMERSET
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