

PCCNEWS

ISSUE 2 - AUTUMN 2014 EDITION

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION IN POLICING & CRIME



We had a fantastic attendance at our 'My Life, My Choice' youth conference which was opened by PCC Martyn Underhill and the Deputy Chief Constable, James Vaughan. Find out more and check out photos from the event inside.

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PCC's Blog - Reflections on the role
- What does the OPCC do?
- Summer engagement programme success
- How the OPCC supports you

WELCOME

We've had a fantastic summer meeting many thousands of residents, visitors and police officers across the county.

Our Community Remedy consultation attracted well over 1,000 responses and is now being developed by Dorset Police to offer an alternative to the court system. The mental health street triage team we have funded is working hard to support those in crisis and assist with around 15 incidents per shift.

I am happy to report that, since my last newsletter, Dorset Police is making steady progress with call waiting times to 101 and most recent figures show average waiting times have reduced by 17%.

We've seen a lot of national press recently on the issues faced by PCC's in other counties and I wanted to explain how we are different in Dorset. My team and I don't cost more than the police authority that we replaced, but we deliver a lot more, particularly in securing extra funding and strengthening the voice of residents in setting policing priorities.

This newsletter will highlight some of the things my team and I have been doing over the past three months and explain in a bit more detail the breadth of our work, our summer engagement and youth conference, as well as a reflective blog on the PCC role.



**MARTYN
UNDERHILL**

Dorset Police
& Crime
Commissioner

PCC'S BLOG

Two years ago we could not have said the public in Dorset had a strong voice or were actively involved in shaping policing policy. Now, I believe they are and that must continue. We have made direct contact with thousands of people through face-to-face and digital engagement.

I am really proud of the small team that supports me in this important elected executive role, and what they have achieved. Earlier this year, we won a national CoPaCC award for Engagement and have also been commended in the CoPaCC 'PCC's and Innovation Awards'. We are constantly developing and finding new ways to engage and involve.

When I became Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner in November 2012, I vowed to make the journey better for victims and I am delighted to report that Dorset OPCC has secured over £2 million in additional funding so far this year over and above the core policing budget. We are now at the forefront of helping victims to cope and recover and in the championing of innovative ways to reduce demand on the police, and crime in our communities.

I am also passionately committed to improving mental health care provision in Dorset and across the country. Since my election, I have campaigned for those in mental health crisis to get the right care, at the right time and in the right place. I became Chair of the Mental Health PCC Working Party to drive this agenda forward and we launched the Mental Health Concordat in February. I funded a mental health street triage project in Dorset which has received repeated national recognition from the Home Secretary.

I believe that PCCs and their offices are making a real difference to policing locally, in improving accountability, visibility and driving change. It is important for people in Dorset to be given a consistent voice on policing and crime.



NEWS

LOBBYING LAW CHANGE

In the past few months, the PCC has campaigned on various issues including the Taxi Deregulation Bill, which is currently going through Parliament.

After concerted PCC and LGA lobbying, controversial plans to change who is allowed to drive private hire vehicles in Dorset have been dropped. Government ministers decided to abandon plans to allow people who don't hold a private hire vehicle license to drive one when it's off duty, after concerns were raised over passenger safety. PCC's joined widespread opposition from across the country to parts of the Deregulation Bill, saying that it could put passengers at risk of assault.



"THIS IS A HUGE VICTORY FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I AM DELIGHTED THAT AFTER CONCERTED PCC LOBBYING, THE GOVERNMENT HAS LISTENED TO OUR CONCERNS AND HAS BACKED DOWN ON CLAUSE 10 OF THE DEREGULATION BILL. IT HAS BEEN A PRIORITY OF MINE TO CAMPAIGN ON THIS ISSUE AS I COULD NOT BACK A BILL THAT WOULD HAVE LED TO AN INCREASE IN ROGUE TAXI DRIVERS, THEREFORE PUTTING PASSENGERS' SAFETY AT RISK, BOTH HERE IN DORSET AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY."

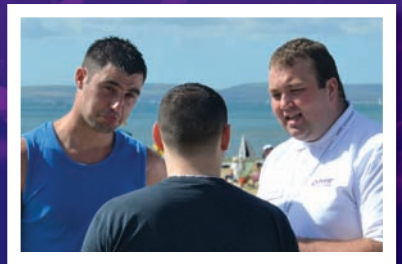
MARTYN UNDERHILL Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner



SUMMER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME



This summer we attended the Bournemouth Family Fun Festival, the Bournemouth Air Show and the Dorset County Show, meeting many thousands of residents and visitors.



NEWS

SAVING FRONT COUNTERS

In September 2014, Dorset Police announced that counter service provision would be reduced from 15 to nine locations, with four full time enquiry offices remaining in Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth and Bridport.

Initial proposals by Dorset Police in October 2013 were to close 12 out of the 15 front counter services. Following intervention by the PCC, a further extensive public consultation exercise was undertaken to ensure that the public had the opportunity to shape these proposals and make their own suggestions with regard to future service provision.

This clearly had a significant impact on the final decisions that were taken and announced recently.

Blandford, Gillingham and Sherborne will alternate opening two days each per week, with Swanage and Winfrith operating a 'sign

posting' facility whereby staff help members of the public with their enquiries by directing them to relevant services.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THIS TIME LAST YEAR DORSET POLICE ANNOUNCED THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE 12 OUT OF THE 15 FRONT OFFICE COUNTERS. AS A RESULT OF MY INTERVENTION RESPONDING TO PUBLIC CONCERN, A YEAR-LONG CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE WHICH LED TO REVISED PLANS BEING PUT IN PLACE. I KNOW THAT LOSING SIX FRONT OFFICE COUNTERS IS SIX TOO MANY, BUT WE HAVE TO MEET OUR CUTS SOMEWHERE WHEN WE ARE LOSING 20% OF OUR BUDGET. I BELIEVE THIS ALTERNATIVE PROVISION MEETS THE BALANCE OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY."

MARTYN UNDERHILL Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner

CONFERENCE

OVER 100 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND OUR YOUTH CONFERENCE

Over 100 secondary school pupils from across Dorset took part in a conference to discuss policing and safety. Hosted by the PCC, the 'My Life, My Choice' conference was opened by Martyn Underhill and Deputy Chief Constable, James Vaughan.

Young people took part in five workshops spanning cyber-bullying, safe relationships, mental health, the law and young people, legal highs and recreational drugs. The sessions were led by the Dorset Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Shadows. Former drug and alcohol users from Vita Nova were there to talk about their first-hand experience of addiction.

After the conference one young person said: "I found the whole event really useful. It's important to realise that whatever life throws at you, you can always pick yourself up and move on. I've learnt how to spot the signs of mental trouble, alcoholism and drug abuse and it's great to know the police are behind young people."

Alongside the Dorset OPCC, there were also stalls from 17 other organisations giving people advice on topics such as drugs, online safety and healthy living.



"THE EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. IT WAS AN EXCITING AND IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN AND RESPOND TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORK WITH THEM TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO SOME OF THE ISSUES THEY FACE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS DORSET."

MARTYN UNDERHILL

Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner



THE OFFICE

WHAT DOES THE OPCC DO?

The PCC has two statutory officers; Chief Executive and Treasurer along with a small team of officers who are known as the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC). They support the PCC in delivery of his statutory duties to residents in Dorset.

The graphic below gives you an idea of the breadth of work the team delivers. The work covers the four key areas of Partnerships & Resources, Programme & Project Delivery, Executive Support & Governance and Communications & Engagement.

PROGRAMME & PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM UPDATE:

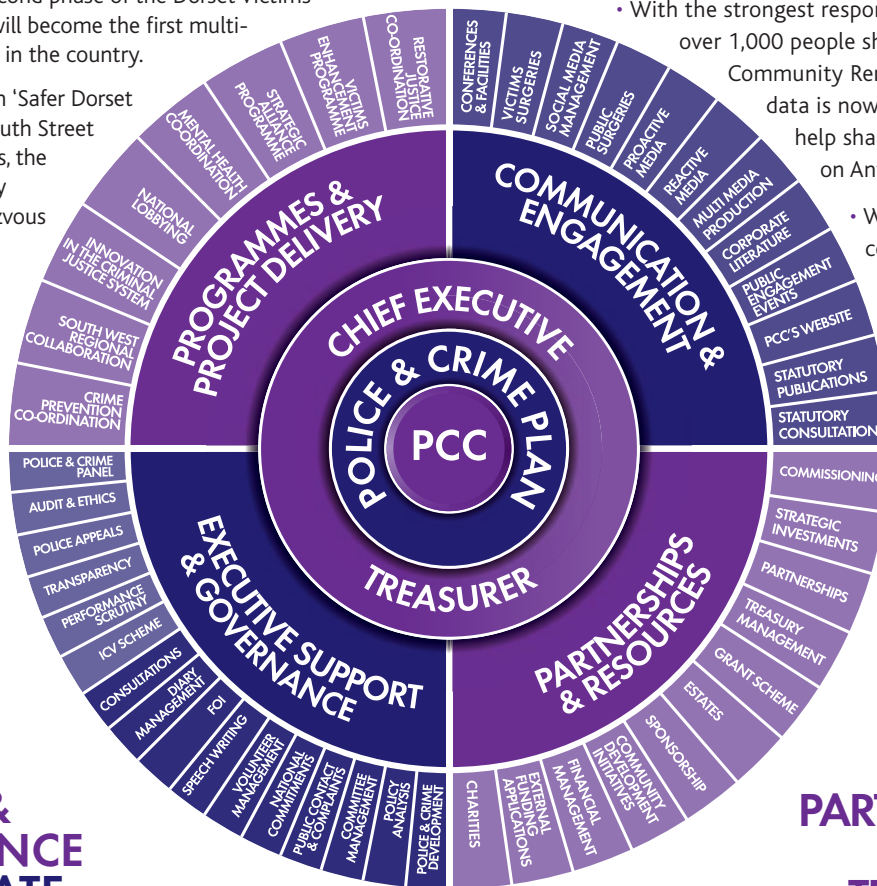
- We made history this summer by becoming the first OPCC to commission a local service for victims. This new contract with Victim Support will include a 24 hour helpline and will provide additional support to victims of anti-social behaviour and business crime.
- We are entering the second phase of the Dorset Victims Bureau project which will become the first multi-agency victims' service in the country.
- We have awarded seven 'Safer Dorset Fund' grants to Weymouth Street Pastors, Routes to Roots, the Horse course, Read Easy Blandford, SLAP, Rendezvous and Dorset Relate.
- We are expanding our Restorative Justice programme to Weymouth and Poole in 2015. Research shows that Restorative Justice is associated with high levels of victim satisfaction and can also help reduce re-offending.

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE TEAM UPDATE:

- We are leading the way in ensuring independent oversight of care in custody with our Dorset Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) volunteers. Martyn was elected as the national Chair of the ICV Association at their Annual General Meeting in October 2014.
- We facilitate the public access to the PCC. In October, we answered 745 direct telephone calls and responded to over 1,000 emails.
- The PCC is holding Dorset Police to account over many issues, including 101 and counter service provision. We received many calls and emails relating to 101 over the summer and, following the PCC's intervention, performance is steadily improving and public concern seems to have reduced.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE:

- The PCC and the OPCC have spoken to hundreds of residents and visitors to get their views on policing and crime over the last few months, at major summer events and at PCC Community Days in Weymouth and Poole.
- With the strongest response in the South West, over 1,000 people shared their views in our Community Remedy consultation. That data is now being evaluated and will help shape future policing policy on Anti-Social Behaviour.
- We have had a busy conference season with hundreds attending our Youth, Domestic Abuse and Business Crime events. Each event saw high profile speakers, a range of workshops and lively debate on topical issues.



PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCES TEAM UPDATE:

- As a team we have secured over £2 million of additional funding. As a result, the PCC has introduced new initiatives, such as recruiting a mental health coordinator and a multi-agency project is underway to enhance mental health provision within the criminal justice system.
- We are funding Freedom Courses for victims of domestic abuse, including for the first time ever a course for male victims which starts in January.
- A victim identification worker has now joined the Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) in order to identify young people who are risk of child sexual exploitation.

DORSET PCC

HOW ARE WE SUPPORTING YOU?



WE HAVE... secured an extra £2.1m in funding so far this year over and above the core policing budget.



WE HAVE... responded to approximately 9,000 direct phone calls to the main OPCC office number from members of the public.



WE HAVE... surveyed over 2,700 victims of crime, to understand their experience.



WE HAVE... spoken with several thousand residents, visitors and victims of crime during our engagement programme.



WE HAVE... enhanced services in support of victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, mental health, drugs & alcohol and young people.



WE HAVE... engaged many thousands of people through our website, which has had 144,200 page views from just under 26,000 people who visited the site twice on average.



WE HAVE... 2,300 Twitter followers and 233 Facebook fans with our posts often reaching many hundreds of people in Dorset, through followers sharing & retweeting our content.



WE HAVE... consulted with residents on bespoke issues such as the policing element of the council tax, new anti-social behaviour legislation and business crime.



WE RESPOND... to over 12,000 direct contact emails and letters per year.



WE HAVE... consulted with over 3,500 people from across Dorset, to help inform the Police & Crime Plan priorities.



WE HOST... 25 public forums and surgeries per year across Dorset.



WE HAVE... been recognised nationally for our efforts, being named as the winner of the 2014 CoPaCC Awards for PCC's public engagement.

"I AM DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE DORSET OPCC AS THE WINNER OF THE 2014 COPACC AWARDS FOR PCC'S PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT. IT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW PCC'S CAN ENGAGE WITH THE PUBLIC."

BERNARD RIX

Chief Executive of CoPaCC

IF A CRIME IS IN PROGRESS OR IF THERE IS DANGER TO LIFE CALL 999

FOR ANY OTHER POLICING ISSUE CALL 101 AT ANY TIME



CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

CONTACTING US

We are always looking to hear from residents about their experience with policing in Dorset and what their priorities are. Please get in touch via the details below.



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