Welcome to my late summer newsletter.

In this edition, you can find out about how mental health nurses I fund are supporting frontline police officers to help people in mental health crisis. The number of people supported in the last year is astonishing – it goes to show how vital this service has proved to be.

Sadly, hardly a day goes by when we don’t hear about knife crime on the news. There have been a number of very high profile incidents in which young people have been killed or seriously injured by others using knives as weapons. This is a challenging time for police forces across the country however, despite the incidents which occurred in Peterborough last week, we are not seeing the levels of knife crime which are happening elsewhere.

It was great to announce our successful £400,000 bid to the Home Office for funding to support young people from getting involved in knife crime. The money means we can help vulnerable young people, often targeted by gangs, to make positive life choices.

Knife crime is not something that can be tackled by policing alone – we all have a part to play in making sure our young people understand the dangers of carrying knives.

My proposal to build a new police station to service the south of the county is making progress. Thank you to all of you who took the time to take part in my survey. There will be further opportunity for feedback over the coming weeks and months.

I want to end by welcoming Home Secretary, Priti Patel’s proposal to increase officer numbers nationally by 20,000. This is great news for police forces all over the country and will help us tackle increased demand particularly as our population in Cambridgeshire continues to grow.

Don’t forget, if there is anything you would like to discuss with me, you can book a surgery appointment, see page 7 for more details.

News from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Jason Ablewhite
POLICE Commissioner Jason Ablewhite, has made further information available on his website in support of his proposal to build a new police station in Milton, Cambridge. The information formalises plans to build a new southern police station at the request of Chief Constable Nick Dean.

Following an early public survey on the proposal which ran from 10th June until 19th July, views from members of the public are now being considered in advance of a planning application.

The Commissioner said: “I am grateful to everyone who took the time to let me know their views. Whilst the majority of people taking part in the survey understand the operational need behind the plans, there has been a number of concerns put forward including increased traffic, noise pollution, greenbelt concerns, and public safety.”

Chief Constable Nick Dean added: “The business case formalises the operational need for a new police station in the south of the county to future proof our ability to police Cambridgeshire. This is given the level of growth anticipated in the surrounding areas and the changing nature of crime and demand on our services, while maintaining a police station presence in the city centre.”

Members of the public and stakeholders are invited to provide further views on the additional information which includes a Full Business Case and an Equality Impact Assessment here: https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-31st-july-2019/

“I have seen first-hand how the right support at the right time can transform a victim’s life,” said the Commissioner.

“The feedback from service users about the support they have received from staff, known as Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) has been amazing. This is why I have decided to ring fence money for a fully funded ISVA Service for both adults and children.”

Funding will also be made available for a Community Emotional Support Service.

You can read the Commissioning Intentions and Background Information on the Commissioner’s website here: https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/victims/consultation-supporting-survivors-of-sexual-violence/
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough get share of £22m to tackle serious violence

EARLY £400k of funding has been provided to support young people from getting involved in knife crime.

Following a successful partnership bid for Home Office funding with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Offending Service, the money worth £384,431 will fund a team of specialist workers to support young people with complex needs who are at significant risk of criminal exploitation and youth violence.

The Home Office has made up to £22 million available through its Early Intervention Youth Fund over 12 months to Police and Crime Commissioners across the country to prevent and tackle serious youth violence and child exploitation.

The Commissioner said: “Whilst our county is not seeing the level of violent crime witnessed in cities such as London, this money means we can get intensive services to support complex young people who are involved in exploitation and organised crime. They will benefit from working with a team of specialists. This means we can do so much more to make sure young people understand the risks involved and make the right choices for more positive futures.”


Welcoming new Independent Custody Visitors

AFTER a successful recruitment process, training has begun with new Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs).

ICVs are members of the local community who make unannounced visits to police custody where they check on the rights, entitlements and welfare of detainees as well as the conditions of custody. They provide public reassurance that custody is a safe place to be.

Praise for nurses providing officers with expert advice

MENTAL health nurses based in the Constabulary’s Force Control Room provided advice on nearly 9,000 incidents in a single year, ensuring people in crisis got the right service at the right time.

Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Integrated Mental Health Team (IMHT) nurses who are provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) offer frontline officers instant support in dealing with people in mental health crisis.

In 2018/19, the team were involved in 8,894 calls, up from 7,123 incidents in the previous 12 months. That’s an average increase of 147 additional calls per month.

Gareth Hughes, IMHT Team Lead, said: “We are seeing an increase in calls relating to mental health issues come through and can have between 20 to 30 jobs a day. Our role is quite versatile as there are occasions when we have talked to people in crisis and given support to the police whilst liaising with mental health teams in relation to police matters. We have supported police with missing persons and domestic abuse cases, as well as advising operations and giving clarity to officers over the Mental Health Act.”

The Commissioner added: “It was staggering to see over the last year the team dealt with 9,000 incidents. That is why I will continue to provide funding for this service to ensure we get the best outcomes for people in mental health crisis.”

The IMHT is part of the Clinical Commissioning Group’s (CCG) first response to mental health crisis care.

Young people’s projects celebrated by Commissioner

POLICE and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite welcomed community groups at a Youth and Community Fund celebration event at Police Headquarters in June to recognise the positive contribution they make in our county.

Over the last year, community groups from across the county have been awarded funding from the Commissioner’s Youth and Community Fund for projects involving or relating to young people.

Groups celebrated at the event included Wisbech Volunteer Police Cadets, who received funding for a teambuilding sailing trip. The Volunteer Police Cadet scheme teaches young people important citizenship skills, and inspires young people to participate positively in their county.

“I am thrilled to see how the young people at the event continue to engage with their communities,” said the Commissioner. “By taking part in positive social action, young people can benefit from increased confidence at the same time as reducing the risk of becoming involved in crime.”

The Commissioner continues to run his Youth and Community Fund, offering grants to groups working with young people to reduce their vulnerability to crime and improving engagement with their communities.

For more details visit: http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/money/grants/youth-fund
POLICE and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite writes...

Keeping communities safe and ensuring victims and witnesses of crime receive appropriate support are two of my top priorities.

In my Police and Crime Plan, I talk about making sure all victims, whether their crimes are reported to the police or not, are given the support they need in order to recover from their experience.

Everyone deals with the impact of crime differently, and has their own way of coping. This can vary enormously depending on the support people have around them and their personal circumstances. It is vital that victims and witnesses are treated with respect.

As your Commissioner, I have a statutory duty to ensure victims can access appropriate emotional and practical support at all stages of the Criminal Justice System process.

To that end, over the past two years, I have invested more than £2 million in victim support services for the county, funding specialist services and Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s victim support service, the Victim and Witness Hub.

Examples of the sort of specialist services include: home security for elderly victims of crime, Mental Health Pathfinders and countywide support for survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

Anyone finding themselves a victim of crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can access free and confidential support from the Victim and Witness Hub which I am pleased to see has been praised by inspectors in a recent national report. ‘The Poor Relation: The Police and CPS response to crimes against older people’, recently published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) highlighted the Hub as an example of good practice which ‘works well for victims’. One of six force areas to be inspected, the report also stressed the importance of the ‘end to end’ support provided by the service. The report goes on to praise Cambridgeshire Constabulary and suggests it raises the bar for more forces to learn from our joined up approach to working with victims and witnesses.

I was also pleased to see The Bobby Scheme, a charity providing support for older victims of burglary receiving praise in the report for its service. The charity provides crime prevention advice as well as practical support such as installing door locks and chains for the over 60s. The service has been running for more than 18 years and has helped more than 46,000 victims.

I am proud of what we have achieved in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, however there is always more that can be done.

You can read the report here: https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/crimes-against-older-people/

For details about the Victim and Witness Hub, go to: https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/

Tools to help you:

Citizen’s Advice Bureau’s new website launched

The Citizen’s Advice Bureau, a partner of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams (CAPASP), has launched a new advice service to help victims of online fraudsters.

Commenting on the new service, the Commissioner said: “Lots of agencies across our county have noticed increases in complaints from residents about the threat coming from scammers.

“We were determined to do all we could to help prevent people living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from falling foul to these unscrupulous schemes and as a result set up CAPASP seven months ago.”

CAPASP brings together more than 20 organisations including the police, local councils, Age UK, Citizens Advice and other community groups to raise awareness about scams and support victims of scams.

You can check out support provided by CAPASP here: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/capasp/

Get help with online scams through Scams Action

0300 330 3003

citizensadvice.org.uk/ScamsAction
Chief Constable, Nick Dean writes..

It has been an eventful first summer for me as Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire and I’ve been really impressed by the work of my officers and staff.

We have some challenges ahead and I want to continue to deliver a consistent, excellent service to the communities we serve. I hope this update will give you an idea of how we’re progressing.

Firstly, we’ve had some great court results following serious crimes.

In June and July, three cases saw men convicted of murder following crimes in Wisbech, Cambourne and St Neots. All three were told they would serve a minimum of 18 years behind bars. Additionally, a man who sexually assaulted a woman after dragging her into bushes in Cambridge was jailed for a decade.

Earlier in the spring, multiple arrests were made as part of a police operation in Cambridge responding to incidents involving knives, weapons or serious violence believed to be linked to organised crime. Officers made a total of 21 arrests as part Operation Dampen and brought 27 charges against others.

I remain committed to keeping a policing presence in the heart of Cambridge city if proposed plans to move Parkside Police Station go ahead.

Parkside Police Station was built in 1967 and is not fit for modern day policing so it is only right that we look to improve our infrastructure.

We have had many new additions to the force since my arrival, not least our new Deputy Chief Constable Jane Gyford, who joined us in May. Since November we have had 124 new recruits and I’m looking forward to our next ‘passing out’ ceremony in September.

Elsewhere, officers excelled themselves and were recognised at awards ceremonies, including our own annual awards where I was proud to congratulate winners in 13 categories.

More recently, I joined two of our officers, PCs Jess Farchica and Natalie Hines, at the Police Bravery Awards in London. Their brave actions in dealing with a violent man wanted for kidnap were impressive.

Finally, a mention for our Victim and Witness Support Hub, which has been praised by government inspectors in a report about the police and Crown Prosecution Service response to crime against older people. Victims and witnesses are at the heart of our service and we’re committed to supporting elderly victims of crime.
Getting in touch:

It’s important that the Commissioner and his team represent your views, so if you want to get in touch please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

You can write to us here:
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
PO Box 688
Huntingdon
PE29 9LA

Email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Or phone: 0300 333 3456

Commissioner surgeries:

The Commissioner offers regular one-to-one meetings across the county. Surgeries are held in the second week of every month, and are rotated around the county in order to provide a location suitable for everyone. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15 minute appointment.

Please email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk or phone 0300 333 3456 to make an appointment:

Upcoming 2019 surgeries:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th September</td>
<td>Thorpe Wood Police Station</td>
<td>10:00 - 12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th October</td>
<td>Ely Police Station</td>
<td>10:00 - 12:00</td>
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Opportunities:

We are currently recruiting for the following:

- **Communications and Engagement Officer**
  For details visit: [https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/vacancy/communications-and-engagement-officer/](https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/vacancy/communications-and-engagement-officer/)
  Application deadline is 12 September 2019

- **Legally Qualified Chairs (LQCs) for the Eastern Region**
  For details visit: [https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/vacancy/vacancies-for-legally-qualified-chairs-lqcs/](https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/vacancy/vacancies-for-legally-qualified-chairs-lqcs/)
  Application deadline is 8 September 2019

Are you online?

Are you on social media? Keep up to date with the Commissioner’s activities here:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

FIND OUT MORE BY CLICKING:

- [Cambridgeshire Police](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch](#)
- [SpeedWatch](#)
- [Police UK](#)
- [Countryside Watch](#)
- [E-Cops](#)
- [Crimestoppers UK](#)
- [Government Services](#)
- [Action Fraud](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Community Foundation](#)
- [ Victim Services](#)