



Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire



MONTHLY UPDATE

The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

September 2017

While the past month has seen many of us enjoying our annual summer holidays (myself included), the work being undertaken to deliver on the objectives of my police and crime plan has continued apace, with further progress being made on a number of fronts.

Among these has been the finalisation of my protocol to deal with unauthorised traveller encampments in the county. The work to put in place a more co-ordinated response has been well-received and I am grateful for the constructive feedback given by partners which has enabled the finalised version to be put together.

The protocol has now been circulated to the relevant partners for their formal adoption and signing. I'm pleased to report that it has already been adopted by Warwick District Council, with the other partners due to progress through their executive decision making bodies in the coming weeks.

With a number of recent traveller encampments continuing to cause concern for residents in different parts of the county, I am keen that the protocol is adopted by all as soon as possible. In the meantime, my office is continuing to chair the operational working group to ensure that all that can be done is being done.

Elsewhere, we have also been busy planning for a major event later this month, when we will be gathering together partners from across the county for a special conference to look at tackling vulnerability and the links that can often be established to serious and organised crime. Gathering the right information at the right time is critical to combating these crimes and making sure everyone knows what to look out for, who they should contact and when is a critical part of the equation. It should be a really productive day and I'll have a full update in next month's newsletter.

Philip Secombe TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Emergency Services Collaboration in Warwickshire

Since I took up the chairmanship of the national Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group at the beginning of 2017, the landscape of collaboration has been rapidly changing.

Four Police and Crime Commissioners are actively consulting on local proposals for governance of their fire services, all closing in September: Cambridgeshire; Staffordshire; West Mercia; and North Yorkshire. Essex, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire have also recently finished public consultations. While the results are still being tallied up, I understand from my colleagues that in most areas, the majority of the responses so far have been positive. Last month Roger Hirst, the PCC for Essex, became the first to receive the go ahead and he will become the country's first Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner later this year.



In addition to the activity in the police and fire landscape, I have been busy working with partners across the sector asking where the opportunities are in Emergency Services Collaboration more broadly; involving the whole spectrum of partners working to keep our communities safe.

With three sector wide meetings already under our belt for the year, the group is gearing up to pursue a number of objectives, including:

- The development of a national repository for collaboration information to be collated and shared, building on the progress already made by our National Overview published in 2016.
- Identification of an evaluation method that will demonstrate the value of collaboration projects
- Producing guidance on the new duty to collaborate.

So what does this mean for us here in Warwickshire? To start with, we have a proud history upon which to build of working with partners to deliver improved and more efficient services for the public. As an example, Warwickshire Police

and West Mercia Police have led the way nationally on police force collaboration through their strategic alliance, with a number of other forces now opting for similar close working relationships. Likewise, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has a county council governance model, with its staff and services closely integrated with Warwickshire County Council.

After discussions with key local stakeholders to understand how this is working and what the right model for fire governance is locally, I have concluded that continuing with the current arrangements is the best fit for Warwickshire at this time. I am therefore not seeking to take on fire governance at this stage.

There remains, however, a legal duty on the emergency services to collaborate and my office is continuing work to explore the other opportunities that may exist to develop closer ties across all of the emergency services and other relevant agencies. The first fruits of those efforts have resulted in the drafting of terms of reference for a Blue Light Emergency Services Joint Advisory Board, which were discussed and agreed by the County Council's Cabinet this week.

The idea is that the board will provide an opportunity for discussions between blue light representatives on an informal basis, in order to promote better understanding of the opportunities for collaboration which may be available. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Rob Tromans will be leading on emergency services collaboration locally and I'll have an update on the work of the board once the date of its first meeting has been established.

Use of force figures published by Warwickshire Police

This week has seen Warwickshire Police publish figures on the use of force by its officers for the first time. The figures (see the infographic below) cover tactics such as officers taking hold of someone's arm, using handcuffs, deploying a police dog and using a baton, irritant spray, Taser or firearm.

Police officers respond to thousands of incidents each day and, as the figures show, the vast majority (99%) are resolved without requiring these techniques or any form of conflict.

How and when police use force is rightly a subject of public concern, so I welcome the publishing of this data. The public needs reassurance that when force is used by the police, it is done so appropriately and lawfully, with its use open to scrutiny.

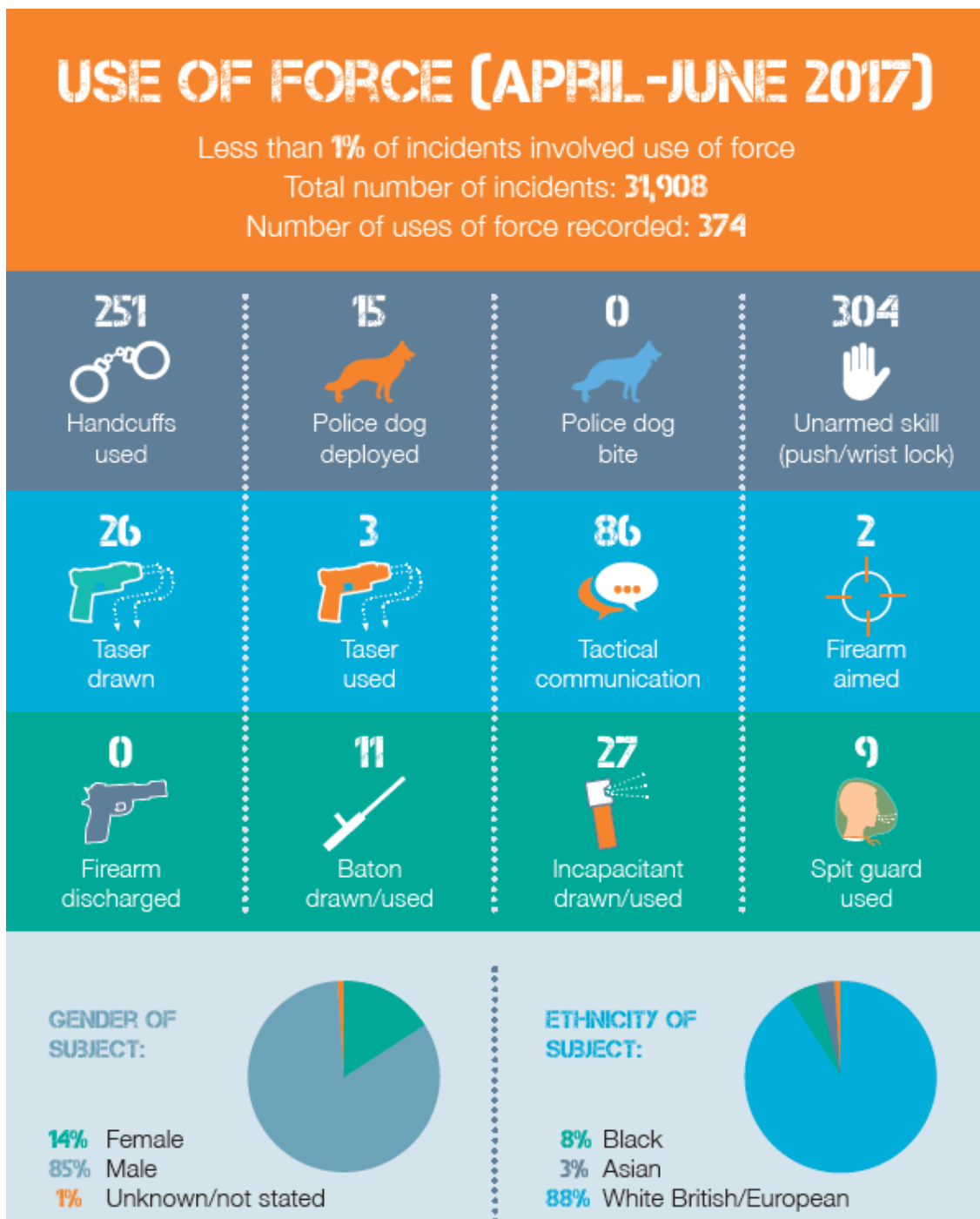
The most recorded use of force tactic in Warwickshire between April and June this year was unarmed skills - which includes actions such as taking physical hold of someone and holding someone on the ground. The second most used was handcuffing, while tactical communication (quite simply talking to a suspect - for example issuing orders such as asking them to move or stop/change their actions)

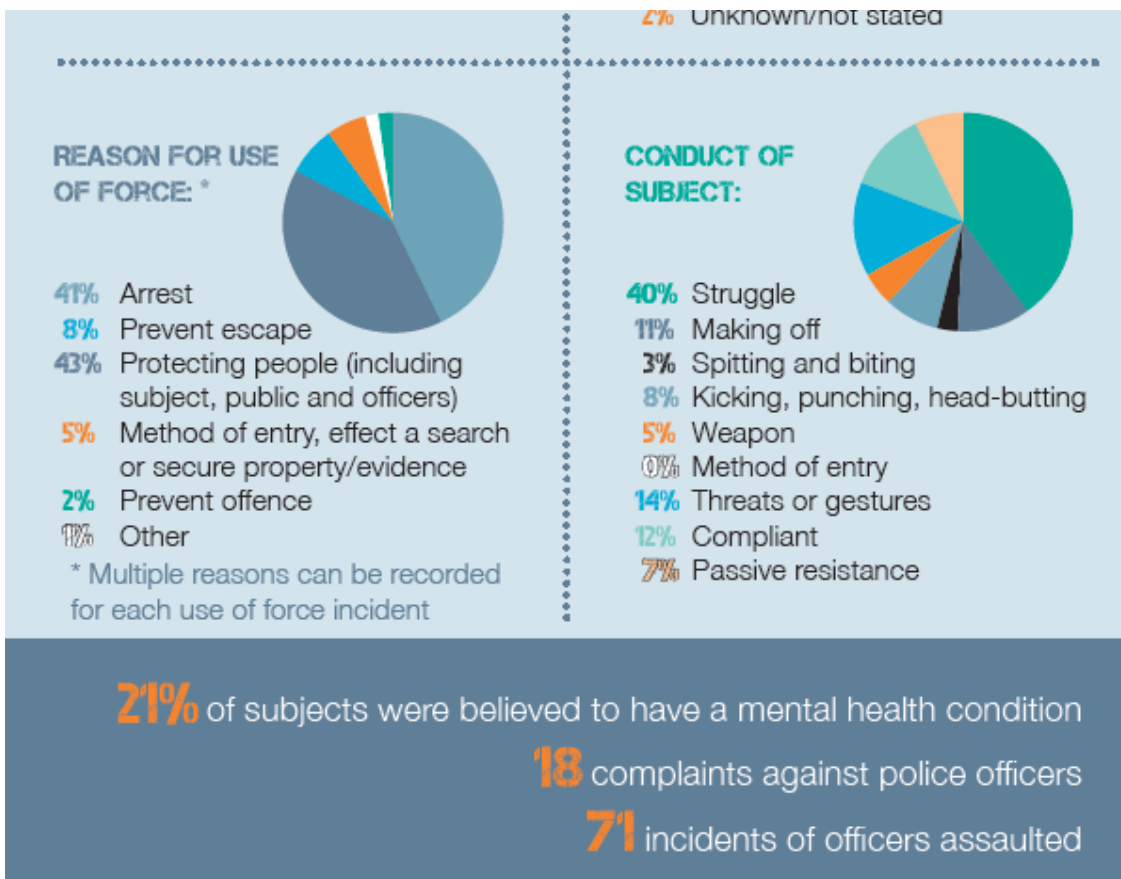
also accounts for a significant proportion of the records.

It should also be highlighted that when use of force actions are taken, each officer attending the incident completes a record of their actions. Therefore, there may be more than one record linked to the same incident. Equally, multiple incidents involving the same person will be recorded separately.

By publishing use of force data on a regular basis, the public and I will have the information we need to hold the force to account, which can only be a good thing in the interests of full transparency. Equally, it will also serve to highlight the often difficult and sometimes dangerous situations that police officers face as they protect the public from harm.

For full details of the data and explanations of each of the categories, visit www.warwickshire.police.uk/useofforce.





Seeing paw-powered policing in action

Over the past month both myself and Deputy PCC Rob Tromans have been visiting a variety of police stations and police bases around the county to meet staff and gain an overview of their work. Among these have included visits to Leek Wootton, where we recently met with the police dog handlers to get their feedback.

Always among the most popular elements of policing with the public, our police dogs and their handlers do an amazing and vital job helping to track criminals, search for drugs and other items, as well as assisting with the location of missing people, among many other duties. It was good to meet with them and hear for ourselves some of the challenges of operational policing.

The force's canine contingent operates across the policing alliance area and if you want to keep up with the latest news on their exploits, you can follow them on Twitter: [@K999Cops](https://twitter.com/K999Cops).

In Pictures: The OPCC Team at the Wolf Run

Huge congratulations for the team from my office which took part in the Autumn Wolf Run at Offchurch last weekend, raising around £2,000 for The Dogs Trust.

Something of an annual fixture on the office social calendar, the Wolf Run is a 10km run through the countryside, where competitors must make it over, under and through a range of different obstacles, some of which would not look too out of place on an Army assault course...

I wasn't able to attend as it unfortunately clashed dates with the Passing Out Parade for the Warwickshire Police Cadets, but I understand a good time was had by everyone and all traces of mud had been scrubbed away by Monday morning!

If you wish to sponsor their efforts you still can - visit the [Virgin Money Giving](#) page to donate.





The month ahead

Here are some of the key events in my diary for the month ahead:

10 Sept: Warwickshire Police Cadets swearing in ceremony, Leek Wootton

11 Sept: Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board

12 Sept: Kenilworth Community Forum

13 Sept: Meeting with NFU Mutual to discuss rural crime

14 Sept: Southam Community Forum

15 Sept: Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny meeting

19 Sept: Vulnerability and Serious Organised Crime awareness event, Rugby

25 Sept: Meeting members of Nuneaton Mosque

29 Sept: Attending the Nepalese Community of Nuneaton's Festive Dashain event.



In addition, I have a weekly meeting with the Chief Constable to hold the force to account and discuss any arising issues. You can find details of these meetings [here](#).

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The next newsletter will be published on Friday 6 October