



**Philip Seccombe**  
**Police and Crime**  
**Commissioner**  
**for Warwickshire**



## **MONTHLY UPDATE**

***The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner***

**November 2017**

You will all no doubt be aware of the incident in October which resulted in a man being charged with false imprisonment and possession of a sawn-off shotgun and a samurai sword in connection with an alleged siege at the bowling alley in Bermuda Park, Nuneaton. With the case now proceeding through the courts I am limited in what I can say about the incident itself, but it does however provide a very real illustration of the sometimes challenging nature of policing and the need to ensure that our police have the capability to deal with these kinds of dynamic situations on the rare occasions they arise in our county.

Its a testament to work that Warwickshire Police and their specialist firearms colleagues from across the region put into training for just these sorts of scenarios that the incident was resolved calmly, bravely and professionally by the officers on the ground, ensuring the safety of all concerned.

It has therefore been extremely gratifying to see the strong public support for our police and the wider emergency services in the aftermath. Overwhelmingly this was a great example of the emergency services working seamlessly together to ensure public safety. Praise has come from all quarters: many comments were received via social media, while our local MPs have been quick to offer their thanks.

This theme was repeated by no less that the Prime Minister Theresa May at Westminster. When responding to a question from North Warwickshire MP Craig Tracey, she said: "We were all concerned to hear of this incident as it was taking place and I am happy to join him and the honourable member for Nuneaton in commending the professionalism and bravery of Warwickshire Police in bringing this to a swift conclusion and also the ambulance service in ensuring there were no injuries."

I can only echo those comments and also add praise for the local community for the spirit in which they rallied round and looked after each other while the situation unfolded.

While these sorts of incidents are very rare, I hope you are all reassured about the capability of our police to deal with them efficiently and effectively. With the investments I am making in new technology to support the front line and the ongoing training to maintain and enhance skills, locally and regionally the priority of protecting people from harm remains very strong.

**Philip Secombe TD**  
**Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

## Launch of a new charter for victims and witnesses

This month has seen the launch of my new Victims and Witnesses Charter for Warwickshire. Unveiled during a visit to the county by Baroness Helen Newlove, the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, the charter sets out the standards and services communities should expect to receive from the police and criminal justice agencies in the county if they fall victim to or witness a crime.

It sets nine key expectations that the public should have when dealing with the police and other agencies, such as being kept up to date on their case, being able to make a statement to explain the impact a crime has had on them and receiving appropriate and tailored support before, during and after any court case.

The charter also seeks to give victims and witnesses a voice and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable and intimidated will be recognised and understood, with enhanced support put in place.

Often people are unaware of their rights they have or the responsibilities that the agencies they are dealing with must uphold, so by setting these out in a clear and straightforward way, the charter will provide a means for the public to hold myself, the police and the other justice partners to account to make sure these standards are being delivered.

Putting this charter in place was a key pledge I made during the election and my office has been working closely since then with Warwickshire Police and the other agencies involved in delivering justice to make it a reality.

By working together we can provide a better service for victims and witnesses and I will be monitoring closely how agencies perform in relation to the charter pledges as I am determined that it should help us all to make another genuine step forward.

[View the full charter here.](#)

**Victims and Witnesses Charter**  
Putting you at the heart of criminal justice

**“** As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I am committed to **putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system**. I also want to ensure that all victims and witnesses are treated with **digitality and respect**. Victims and witnesses of crime already have a number of entitlements under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2015 and the Witness Charter 2013.

Here in Warwickshire, it is my expectation that all organisations which have obligations to provide these entitlements to victims and witnesses will do so. I will challenge and hold to account organisations if they fail in these duties. **”**

**Philip Secombe**

**In particular I will strive to ensure that:**

- 1 A victim or witness can expect to be given useful, informative and timely **communication** about the progression of the crime investigation from Warwickshire Police. This will be tailored to the circumstances of each victim.
- 2 Victims of crime are offered appropriate support to help them **cope and recover** from any effects of the crime.
- 3 All victims of crime are given the opportunity to make a **victim personal statement or business impact statement** to allow them to explain the impact the crime has had on them to the court.
- 4 The needs of the **most vulnerable and intimidated** victims and witnesses will be recognised and understood. Warwickshire Police will enhance the support they provide accordingly.
- 5 Victims and witnesses will be offered appropriate **care and support** to be prepared to maximise the quality of their evidence in the Magistrates' and Crown Courts.
- 6 **Support for any victim or witness does not end at court**. It is my expectation that appropriate support is available for as long as is necessary to help the victim cope during the recovery process.
- 7 Victims of crime are offered **restorative justice** opportunities if that is their wish, through professionally-managed engagement with the offender.
- 8 When victims seek **financial compensation** from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, effective support is provided by agencies as necessary and appropriate.
- 9 **Victims and witnesses have a voice**. I will ensure that processes are in place in order to improve satisfaction, enable complaints to be made more effectively and learn lessons and make continuous improvements.

**Philip Secombe**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**  
for Warwickshire



**Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe launching the Victims and Witnesses Charter with Baroness Helen Newlove, Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**

While in Warwickshire, Baroness Newlove toured the Justice Centre in Leamington, meeting key partners involved with supporting victims and witnesses and also spoke with a number of county victims of crime to understand their experiences of the criminal justice service.

It was a great opportunity to showcase the good work that is already taking place here in the county and to talk to Baroness Newlove about other examples of best practice around the country which we can also learn from.

## **Operation Encompass will help safeguard children**



There was a fantastic turnout recently in Bedworth for a briefing event ahead of the launch of Operation Encompass, a new initiative which will enable schools, police and the local authority to enhance the support provided to children



affected by domestic violence and abuse at home.

Initially being piloted in Nuneaton & Bedworth from December, Operation Encompass will eventually be rolled out to the rest of the county. It ensures that when police attend a domestic abuse situation in which a child is present, that information can be passed the next morning to the safeguarding lead at the child's school, to ensure all welfare needs can be met and any required additional support provided.

Children can be especially traumatised by witnessing domestic abuse at home, so ensuring that schools have the right information at the right time to be able to offer support and understanding to pupils who find themselves in this situation is really important.

The scheme has been run successfully elsewhere in the country, so it's great to see it being trialled here in Warwickshire. It's another example of the partnership working that the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is encouraging to help ensure that the most vulnerable in the county are kept safe.

I look forward to the eventual expansion of Operation Encompass across the rest of the county, as I'm sure it will provide many positive benefits for children, parents and participating schools alike.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Rob Tromans (back row, second from right) joins police and partners at the Operation Encompass briefing in Bedworth.

## Hate crime awareness gets a musical boost

Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 14-21) saw a wide range of activity take place across the county to highlight the seriousness with which police and other agencies take this type of crime, encourage wider reporting and reinforce the message that, wherever and however it occurs, hate crime is never acceptable.

I joined partners at the Shire Hall in Warwick for the launch of the new Hate Crime Partnership website, [www.ReportHateNow.com](http://www.ReportHateNow.com), which aims to a one-stop portal for

information and advice on hate crime, enabling the reporting of incidents in Warwickshire.

The site has been developed in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, my office and EquIP, the Equality and Inclusion Partnership. It is hoped that by having a dedicated resource that provides an alternative method of reporting incidents, that the reporting of hate related incidents and crimes can be increased. The site also provides customised support for victims and witnesses which can help ensure that they get the help they need more effectively.

The launch was just one of a series of events across the county during Hate Crime Awareness Week, with a number of 'Cake Not Hate' themed drop in tea parties held at community locations in a bid to spread the message of what hate crime is and what can be done to combat it. I'm pictured left with Chief Constable Martin Jelley and Councillor Howard Roberts, Warwickshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Safety at the Shire Hall event.



To help get the message out to a wider and younger audience, the Hate Crime Partnership has also recorded a song, called Love Instead of Hate (Give it a Try). The single was inspired by lyrics written originally by Bedworth police officer Stephen Croshaw. The final version was adapted from the original by 'Let it Shine' singer song-writer Jordan Charles and features the vocals of Coventry-based 'The Voice' singer Letitia George.

Featured in the music video below are young people from Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College in Rugby.



[Click to play the video of Love Instead of Hate \(Give it a Try\)](#)

The song is available to download or play on all of the major online music store and streaming sites and I think is a really innovative way to get the message across. Everyone involved has given their time and great expertise totally free of

charge because they are committed to tackling hate crime.

**To find out more about what is being done to tackle hate crime in Warwickshire, visit [www.ReportHateNow.com](http://www.ReportHateNow.com).**

## **Drama drives home the message about CSE**

A hard-hitting child sexual exploitation drama (CSE) production was shown as part of a training event for professionals across Warwickshire, in an event match-funded with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police.

'Crashing' is a theatre performance exploring a number of themes raising awareness of child sexual exploitation, a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. It tells the story of 'Eddie' and raises awareness of the grooming process and sexual exploitation of boys and young men.

It will help adults who work, or come into contact with young people, by raising awareness of the warning signs and the experiences of children who have been sexually exploited.

Child Sexual Exploitation is happening in Warwickshire but is often hidden from view, so it is vitally important that professionals who work with or have contact with young people understand how to spot the signs and know what they should do to raise their concerns. In particular, there is sometimes a misconception that CSE only involves girls and young women but as the performance demonstrates very effectively, boys and young men are equally susceptible, so it's important to boost awareness and ensure all victims get the right level of help and support.



## **Picture Special: Youth Academy 2017**

Warwickshire Police's Youth Academy in mid-October was an unqualified success, with 165 young people from across Warwickshire attending a weekend-long training facility at Newbold Revel, to learn how to stay safe and to discover more about the police and other emergency services.

Key speakers led workshops designed to educate and better prepare young people on issues such as sexting, drugs, bullying as well as several other topics and themes that teenagers struggle with and that can make them vulnerable to harm.

I was pleased to address the students on the first day of the event and join them in seeing for myself the special demonstration by all of the emergency services of how



they deal with a road traffic collision. Here's a selection of pictures from what was a memorable weekend, taken by the Warwickshire Police Youth Engagement Team - follow them on Twitter [@WP\\_Youth\\_Engage](https://twitter.com/WP_Youth_Engage).



**Top:** The children crowd round the police helicopter, provided by the National Police Air Service. The image was captured by the Warwickshire Police drone, skilfully piloted by Shipston PCSO Andy Steventon.

**Middle left:** Philip is pictured at the emergency services collision scene display.

**Middle right:** Becky from the Bradbury Club delivers a presentation on the dangers of sexting.

**Bottom left:** Cyber Crime Advisors Sam Slemensek and Alex Gloster deliver a session on

staying safe online.

Bottom right: Fire officers demonstrate casualty extraction in the mock road traffic collision.

## The month ahead

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

Nov 9: Warwickshire Police 160th Anniversary and Awards Evening, Leamington

**Nov 10:** Alliance PCCs/Chief Officers meeting

**Nov 13:** Meeting with Independent Police Complaints Commission

**Nov 13:** Meeting with Matt Western MP

**Nov 14:** Visit to Grey's Mallory police base

**Nov 15:** Alliance Governance Group

**Nov 15:** Attending North Warwickshire Citizens' Academy graduation evening

**Nov 21:** Speaking at Tanworth-in-Arden Residents' Association

**Nov 22:** Meeting with Guido Ligouri, IPCC

**Nov 24:** Visit to Regional Organised Crime Unit, Birmingham

**Nov 30:** Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel meeting, Atherstone



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](#).