



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire



MONTHLY UPDATE

The latest news from the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

December 2017

As we head towards the end of the year and the festive season, it is traditionally a time to reflect on the year past, take stock of achievements and plan for the year to come. Recently, I have had the chance to think back a little further in time, thanks to the 160th anniversary celebrations of Warwickshire Police. It's often said that - despite being one of the smallest forces in the country - here in Warwickshire we punch above our weight. I believe this to be as true today as it has been over the life of Warwickshire Police - and as one of the oldest county police forces in continuous operation, that's something to be proud of.

Fundamentally, a police force is only strong because of the quality of its people. Just how exceptional our people are was reinforced at the celebration event, when Chief Constable Martin Jelley commended a range of outstanding individuals for their actions over the past year. Bravery, perseverance, dedication and compassion were the hallmarks of all of the good work highlighted, too numerous to mention here but I'd urge you to [visit the force website for full details](#) of all those commended.

It was also with great pleasure that I was able to announce the inaugural winner of my Award for Excellence in Policing and Community Safety as PC Martin Rone-Clarke, Warwickshire Police's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer. Martin has been a key figure working with my office and partners to help launch the new county-wide protocol which seeks to ensure a co-ordinated response to the rise in unauthorised encampments in Warwickshire.

This year he has interacted personally with the occupants of 122 unauthorised encampments, which collectively have had more than 1,100 caravans. In identifying the best way to deal with encampments effectively, lawfully and in a fair way to both the settled and travelling communities, he has helped break down many of the traditional communications barriers that can exist.

I have seen for myself Martin's exceptional skills at diffusing the tensions that can exist when an unauthorised encampment takes place. He is equally at ease talking to a packed community hall of local residents as he is members of the travelling community.

He is a very deserving winner but overall I was very pleased with the depth and quality of

all of the nominations I received, which came from within policing and also from partner organisations and the public. In total we had 14 strong candidates for the award, ranging from individuals working in local communities to teams investigating some of the most difficult cases and complex areas of crime. It made the task of choosing a winner very difficult but I will be ensuring that all of those nominated do receive appropriate recognition for their outstanding work in due course.



Looking to the future, 2018 will see a number of new milestones, as Warwickshire Police continues on its programme of modernisation with the continued roll out of the new technology I have funded and the opening of our new control centre in Warwick, both exciting developments which will help officers and police staff in keeping communities safe. There remain considerable challenges ahead for policing, both nationally, regionally and locally, not least in terms of rising levels of crime and the increased threats from terrorism and cyber-related offences. All of these challenges are having to be met at a time when there are considerable pressures on police finances and I have continued to lobby for fair funding for Warwickshire Police (including to the Home Secretary last week, as detailed below).

While there was no specific news for policing in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget, details of the national police funding settlement will be released later this month, which will enable me to begin consultation on next year's budget for policing locally, including the amount you contribute through your council tax. I'll be making clear the pressures on police resources as part of this and will update you in a special edition of this newsletter once all the details are known, so watch this space.

In the meantime, it just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and safe festive period and an enjoyable New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Secombe'.

Philip Secombe TD
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Home Secretary hears about domestic abuse services



Warwickshire Police Chief Constable Martin Jelley joins me in welcoming Home Secretary Amber Rudd to the Leamington Justice Centre.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd visited Warwickshire Police at the end of November to talk to officers and staff about the force's approach to tackling domestic violence and abuse.

I joined Chief Constable Martin Jelley and Deputy Chief Constable Karen Manners in welcoming the Home Secretary to the Justice Centre in Leamington, where she met with key operational officers and staff, as well as a representatives from a range of partners engaged in supporting victims and tackling domestic abuse.

She was particularly keen to meet with frontline officers to hear about their work, and speak with a number of victims who were willing to come forward to share their experiences. The visit came as the Government is set to being consultation on a draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill to protect and support victims, recognise the life-long impact these crimes have on children, and ensure agencies respond effectively.

I think it was very useful for the Home Secretary to see how we address domestic violence and abuse in Warwickshire. We work closely with partners to identify people at risk, address the situation and provide support, always with our focus on the victim. The meeting was very positive, and we all agreed that victims of all crimes, but particularly domestic violence, are now much more comfortable coming forward to report and talk about their experiences.

I also took the opportunity once again to raise the issues of police funding and the need to ensure that Warwickshire Police receives its fair share when the Government announces its overall settlement for policing later this month.

Emergency Services Collaboration Board launches

A new joint advisory board looking at how emergency services can work more closely together in Warwickshire has held its first meeting this week at Warwick Shire Hall.

The Warwickshire Blue Light Collaboration Joint Advisory Board has been established to look at opportunities to enhance blue light services and collaboration both within and outside the county, including the contribution they make to other areas like health and social care.

Comprising senior representatives from Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, Warwickshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire (OPCC), the board will enable an opportunity for joint discussions on an informal basis in order to promote better understanding of the opportunities for collaboration which may be available.

While police and fire collaboration will be the initial focus for the board, it is hoped that it will expand in future to encompass opportunities to work more closely with the regional ambulance service. All blue light emergency services have a statutory duty to collaborate and to keep collaboration opportunities under review by the provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

The board is purely advisory and any areas identified for further collaboration will need to be further developed and agreed in the normal way by the respective executive bodies for each organisation before any moves to implement them are made.

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Rob Tromans, who is leading on emergency services collaboration for the OPCC, said: "It is vitally important that all emergency services continue to work closely together to deliver an enhanced, effective and efficient service for the public. While Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe has ruled out seeking to take on fire governance locally at this time, by creating this Joint Advisory Group to examine blue light collaboration, collectively we can seek to build upon the existing good examples of joint working.

"Warwickshire has always had a very strong track record when it comes to partnership working and seeking out innovative ways of keeping the public safe and I hope this group will provide the catalyst for even more of that same good work."



Members of the Warwickshire Blue Light Collaboration Joint Advisory Board ahead of the first meeting at Warwick Shire Hall. From left: Councillor Peter Butlin, Warwickshire County Council's Deputy Leader (Finance and Property); Andy Hickmott, Chief Fire Officer for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service; Rob Tromans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; Martin Jelley, Chief Constable for Warwickshire Police; Councillor Howard Roberts, Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety, Warwickshire County Council and David Carter, Joint Managing Director – Resources for Warwickshire County Council.

Visit to PCC-funded RoSA charity in Rugby

In November I paid a visit to a charity which helps support people who have been affected by rape, sexual abuse or sexual violence at its premises in Rugby. RoSA (Rape or Sexual Abuse Support) is an independent charity offering free confidential support throughout Warwickshire to women, men, young people and children from age 5 onwards. Support is also offered to family members, partners and carers.

The charity receives some of its core funding from my Grants Scheme alongside additional finance to provide a children's and young people's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor and counselling services for young people and victims of child sexual exploitation in Warwickshire.

Find out more about the charity and my impressions from the visit by watching the video below.



PCC Visit to RoSA, Rugby - click the image above to play

Strong turnout for rural crime event in Fillongley

A bumper turnout of more than 100 people attended the fifth Warwickshire Rural Crime Project evening event to support farmers, horse owners, rural businesses and residents of rural properties in the north of the county.



Last week's event at Fillongley Social Club was the latest in a series across the area each year. The event saw a variety of stands available for people to chat to representatives from a range of organisations, including local police officers, the National Farmers Union, Trading Standards, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Hub and Warwickshire Horse Watch. There was also a large range of crime prevention equipment for people to see and ask advice on.

I fund the Rural Crime Project to support communities with expert crime prevention advice, assist businesses, farms and agricultural premises to boost their security and work with partners to address issues such as wildlife crime and fly tipping.

I have seen for myself the real difference this is making to help protect our rural communities from crime and I'm delighted to see such a strong turnout to this latest event. I get great feedback about the Rural Crime Co-ordinators, who I know work tirelessly with local communities, police and our many partners to ensure that our rural residents and businesses have the best advice and protection available.

Grants scheme opens to new bids for funding

Projects which help people stay safe and recover from their problems are being invited to bid for a slice of funding as the first phase of my 2018/19 Commissioner's Grants Scheme opens for applications.

I am making £490,000 available to support projects which help tp:-

Commissioner's Grant Scheme
2018/19

Apply now!

- address sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation;
- deliver positive and diversionary activities for young people to help steer them away from crime and anti-social behaviour;
- or provide intervention services for perpetrators of domestic abuse.

An additional small grants fund is available for projects helping support his vision of delivering a safer, more secure Warwickshire.

Grants are available to both established and new service providers from the community, voluntary, third sector and statutory organisations for initiatives either at a county-wide level or targeted at one or more of the local authority areas within Warwickshire.

A second phase of the grant fund will open in the New Year to address projects providing drugs and alcohol services in the criminal justice arena. Alongside other funding already allocated for other projects tackling community safety priorities, it will take the total amount awarded through the Commissioner's Grant Scheme in 2018/19 to around £1.5 million.

Find out more and how to apply at www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/grant-scheme

The month ahead

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

- 8 Dec:** Giving a talk to Nuneaton Air Cadets
- 11 Dec:** Attending Lord Lieutenant's Christmas Carol Service, Stratford
- 12 Dec:** Place Partnership annual general meeting, Worcester
- 13 Dec:** Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, Warwick
- 13 Dec:** Alliance Governance Group, Hindlip
- 14 Dec:** Visit to meet WOW programme members, Leamington
- 14 Dec:** Speaking at Rugby Town Guides annual dinner
- 14 Dec:** Attending West Midlands OPCC summit on harm and reducing crime, Birmingham
- 16 Dec:** Alliance PCCs/Chief Officers meeting
- 19 Dec:** Budget consultation meeting with Warwick District Council
- 20 Dec:** Budget consultation meeting with Stratford-on-Avon District Council



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](#).