



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



## MONTHLY UPDATE

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

**January 2019**

It's a slightly later and shorter update this month, as we have been focusing on preparing the budget for the forthcoming financial year and gathering your views on my proposals to increase the precept to recruit up to 100 new officers, PCSOs and crime investigators for Warwickshire Police.

The consultation finished last week and I am pleased to say that we've had a record number of responses, including more than 2,600 taking part in the online survey, bolstered by face-to-face consultations I've had with members of the business community and county elected officials.

The results show that 72% of those who took part were in favour of raising the precept by at least £2 per month (for an average Band 'D' Council Tax property), with nearly three quarters of these respondents indicating that they would actually support a raise greater than this. Just over 9% of all those surveyed indicated that they opposed an increase and the remainder supported a smaller level of increase than £2 per month. I also received more than 1,200 individual comments, which I have been carefully considering as they have come in.

One of the clear themes emerging from the consultation was a desire to have greater visibility of policing in our communities and that is something the plans put forward by the Chief Constable seek to address, as well as ensuring that we build in some extra resilience among the workforce to be able to meet the rising demands for police services.

I am due to present my budget proposals for consideration by the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel on Monday, so I will provide a full update on the final precept decision and exactly how the additional officers will be utilised once the budget for 2019/20 has been finalised in early February.

I am grateful for everyone who took part in the consultation - your views are vitally important for me to hear before I make these important decisions. I'm equally thankful to all those individuals, community groups, local councillors and partner organisations who helped to publicise the survey this year to ensure that I could hear from as broad a range of people across the county as possible.



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

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## **Good news as reported losses from cyber crime halve**



Philip meeting new Cyber Crime Advisors Joseph Patterson and Abbey Baker. Their work under the Cyber Safe Warwickshire banner is starting to pay dividends.

The total value of losses from cyber crime suffered by people in Warwickshire has dropped by more than half during 2018, new data from the national police fraud unit has shown.

In the six months from April to September last year, reported losses through cyber-related fraud fell by 51.8% compared with the preceding six months, according to the City of London Police's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). This means that

victims of cyber-enabled fraud in Warwickshire suffered losses totalling £132,064 (down from £274,113 previously.)

This compares with a national increase of reported losses of 24%.

At the same time, the reporting of cyber-crime has increased in Warwickshire by over 12% in the same period, compared with a national increase of just under 8%.

The NFIB's January report also reveals that, in Warwickshire, people aged 50-59 suffered the greatest from this type of offence.

These figures show there is still much work to do to keep people safe from crime in the increasingly online world in which we live but do reflect the really positive strides we have made in the county over the past few years, with the value of the losses victims are suffering now reducing.

Traditionally, our research has shown that cyber-crime has been under-reported, so increasing awareness has been a core part of the work I have funded to tackle criminal activity committed online. It's pleasing that the reporting of incidents has increased as a result. This provides the police and other relevant agencies with increased information they need to trace and take action against what are often highly-sophisticated criminal enterprises.

Here in Warwickshire, I fund the county's two Cyber Crime Advisors, Joseph Patterson and Abbey Baker, who work with residents and businesses to provide the latest advice and guidance on keeping safe and maintain the Cyber Safe Warwickshire website, which is a really useful resource on the latest threats, alongside information on the best ways to stay safe online and how you can report cyber crime.

Visit [www.cybersafewarwickshire.com](http://www.cybersafewarwickshire.com) or follow Joseph and Abbey on Twitter for the latest advice [@CyberSafeWarks](https://twitter.com/CyberSafeWarks).

You can report internet scams, fraud or virus attacks to Action Fraud online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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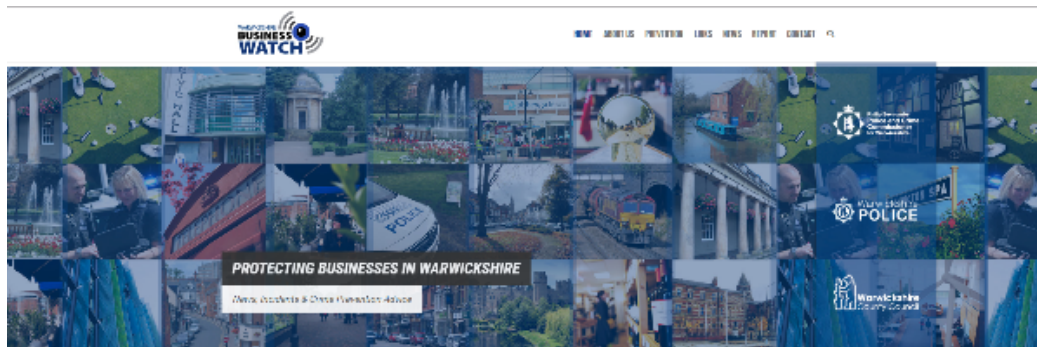
## **New look for Business Watch website**

The Warwickshire Business Watch website has been relaunched with a bright new look and feel, designed to make it even easier for businesses to access information and advice to enable them to protect themselves from crime.

Business Watch has been created in partnership between the Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team and Warwickshire Police with funding from myself. Administered by my Business Crime Advisor Bogdan Fironda, the revamped site contains many useful downloadable documents and links to

advice sheets for businesses.

A new Business Watch email newsletter will be launching shortly so keep an eye on the site at [www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk](http://www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk) for more details.



## Week of action targets 'County Lines' drug dealing

Serious and organised crime continues to blight our communities and my office is playing a guiding role in the fightback through its co-ordination of the county's Serious and Organised Crime Joint Action Group. This is a group which brings together police and other agencies together to discuss identified and emerging crime groups and co-ordinate action to bring those responsible to justice.

One key aspect of the work of the SOCJAG has been to tackle the so-called 'county lines' criminals, who operate predominately out of the big urban areas like Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and London and seek to flood rural counties like ours with drugs, often exploiting vulnerable individuals in the process. It is responsible for a significant proportion of the drug dealing in Warwickshire and requires co-ordinated action to tackle it effectively.

Earlier this week Warwickshire Police concluded a major operation to disrupt county lines drug crime, resulting in 18 arrests and more than £16,000 of class A drugs being recovered, as the infographic below demonstrates:

## County lines week of action 21-28 January 2019



The activity in Warwickshire, which was aimed at protecting the most vulnerable and pursuing criminals, was part of a national week of action targeting the problem.

Officers visited more than 130 vulnerable people in the county to check they were not being exploited by drug dealers and to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation.

They also seized more than £12,000 in cash, 13 phones, and a kitchen knife, as well as attending six crime prevention surgeries.

Warrants were executed in Rugby, Leamington, Warwick and Stratford. Proactive police work also led to several arrests by the Nuneaton Offender Management Unit.

[You can read more about the operation on the Warwickshire Police website.](#)





Thanks also go to Chris Langman from Stratford, who has created two fantastic 'easy read' documents to help raise awareness of the signs of people being exploited by county lines drug criminals.

Chris (pictured left with Detective Inspector Ruby Nailor) has learning disabilities himself and made the documents in his own time to support the force's week of action on county lines drug crime. They have been distributed to local schools to help people spot the signs that someone is being exploited or groomed by county lines drug dealers.

The easy read documents are the latest in a range Chris has produced for Warwickshire Police.

You can see the documents here:

 [Exploitation and grooming easy read \[166kb\]](#)

 [Signs of exploitation and grooming \[173kb\]](#)

## Diary dates

Here are some of the key events in my diary for the next few weeks:

Feb 4: Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel  
Feb 6: Attending Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Meeting  
Feb 8: Meeting with Jeremy Wright MP, Kenilworth



Feb 8: Rural Crime Meeting, Rowington Village Hall

Feb 13: Local Criminal Justice Board

Feb 13: Warwickshire Youth Parliament, Shirehall, Warwick

Feb 15: Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group meeting, London

Feb 18: Visit to the Harm Hub, Bedworth

Feb 27: Attending rural crime training event for police officers, North  
Warwickshire

In addition, I have a weekly meeting with the Chief Constable to hold the force  
to account and discuss any arising issues.