

Monthly update from Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

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



## MONTHLY UPDATE

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

July 2019

The past few weeks have certainly seen plenty of change across Government, with a new Prime Minister in Boris Johnson and a radically changed cabinet, including the key postings for policing of Home Secretary (Priti Patel) and Policing Minister (Kit Malthouse). One of the Prime Minister's early policy announcements has been to make good on his campaign commitment to recruit 20,000 more police officers nationally. While we obviously await detail of how this will be achieved in practice, this is clearly good news.

In most national formulae, Warwickshire receives around one percent of the total award, which if applied to this latest recruitment drive could mean up to 200 extra officers here in Warwickshire. This would be extremely beneficial, not least that if taken alongside the investments I have made in new officers over the past two years (more on which below), it would take the total headcount in the county beyond policing levels last seen in 2010. Warwickshire currently has among the lowest number of police officer per head of population in the country, so this is something I will strongly be arguing can be corrected through this recruitment drive.

It's also really positive to hear the new Home Secretary say that there is to be a "new relationship between the government and the police working even more closely together to protect the public". I look forward to working with the new Home Secretary and Policing Minister in order to deliver a safer and more secure Warwickshire.

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

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### Warwickshire officer is bravest of the brave

The National Police Bravery Awards are always an enjoyable and inspirational evening which I attend with the Chief Constable to support our force nominees and their families in what is a prestigious celebration of the courageous acts that take place every day in policing.

This year's event was even more rewarding as it was Warwickshire officer PC Andrew Dear who took the overall trophy. Andrew was first on the scene of a serious car accident near Atherstone and went to help the most injured person, who was trapped between the roof of the overturned car and the road. The car was ripped in half, with the top half of the

man's body ejected though the sunroof and he was trapped with a severe head injury. The wreckage of the car was leaking fuel and there was a real risk of a major fire or explosion.

Without a second's thought for his own safety, Andrew scrambled into a 10-inch gap under the roof of the car, so that an airway could be maintained and to take some of the weight of the car on his back. The casualty was drifting in and out of consciousness and bleeding badly, so Andrew constantly talked to and reassured him. There was a real risk of the fuel catching fire, but Andrew stayed with the casualty, which allowed a paramedic to secure an IV line and stem the bleeding. Andrew placed himself in a dangerous and life-threatening situation, refusing to leave the man and helping to save his life.



I am delighted that Andrew's actions have been recognised as being the bravest of the brave. It's typical of the modesty I see in many police officers that, despite this accolade, Andrew does not think he did anything different to what another officer in the same circumstances would have done that night. This award demonstrates that that is not the case and his actions have been recognised at the highest level nationally as something very special indeed.

I know that everyone across Warwickshire will be delighted by this news and grateful to have officers of the calibre of PC Dear working in our communities to keep us all safe. This is in the finest traditions of Warwickshire Police and I am sure our residents will be very pleased, like me, to see him rewarded in this way.

## Million pound boost given to community safety



2019 PCC Grant Recipients

Projects to keep communities safe, deter re-offending and divert young people away from anti-social behaviour are among the schemes in Warwickshire being given a £1 million boost by my annual grants scheme.

This is the third year that I have made funding available to county organisations and I have been delighted to award grants to a number of new projects alongside others which are receiving repeat awards.

In total I have awarded £1,035,913 in grants or smaller donations. I was pleased to host the recipients at the end of last month at a special celebratory event this week

in Wolston, where they were able to showcase their work.

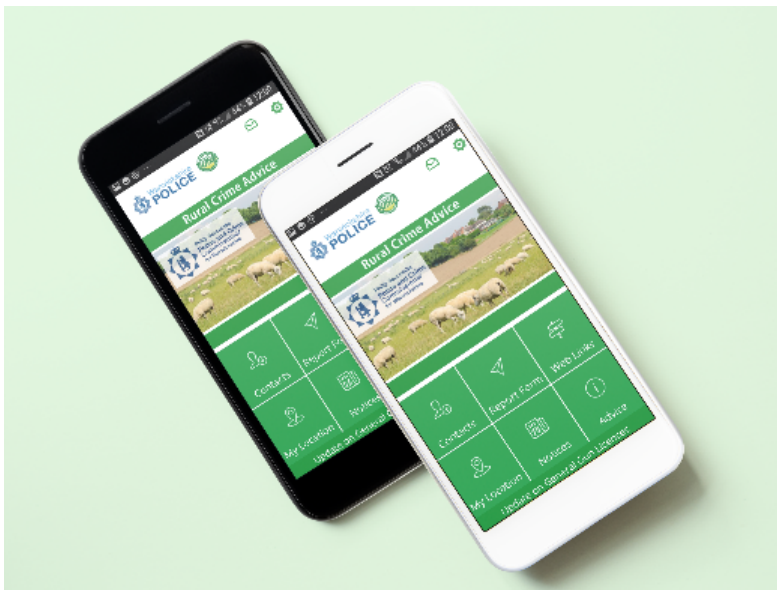
Many of the projects help to tackle some of the underlying factors which can make people vulnerable to crime or bring them to police attention, such as substance misuse or mental health problems. Others are intended to help victims cope and recover from the effects of crime or to provide support to offenders and their families to enable them to move away from a life of crime.

Together they will work alongside the other commissioned services I fund and compliment the work of the police and other partners across the county to help deliver a safer, more secure Warwickshire.

You can see the full list of grants and donations at: [www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/commissioners-grants/](http://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/commissioners-grants/)

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## New Rural Crime App for officers launched



A unique new smartphone app has been launched to help support officers and staff engaging with and responding to rural crime incidents, all funded as part of my Rural Crime Initiative.

Warwickshire Police is believed to be the first force in the country to develop a Rural Crime Advice app.

The app provides easy access to advice and guidance on a wide range of information relating to livestock, wildlife crime, fishing, agricultural vehicles and plant, firearms, dangerous dogs, poisons and heritage crime.

As well as contact details for key organisations, partners and internal force departments, it also has a report function for sending information directly to the Rural Crime Team.

The app is a great tool for assisting officers and staff in policing rural areas and supporting them when dealing with rural and wildlife crime.

By equipping our officers and staff with quick and easy access to all the information they may need when dealing with a rural crime incident, officers deal with incidents faster and more effectively, leading to greater protection for our rural communities. This should in turn act as a further deterrent to would-be thieves in our rural communities.

## Record numbers of new officers join Warwickshire

More good news this month as a record intake of new officers is helping meet my target of recruiting 150 extra by the end of the year. As well as 20 student police officers who will be embarking on the first days of their training with the force, three experienced police constables and two detective constables have arrived from other forces into Warwickshire Police. They will be joined by six recruits on the Police Now programme, which sees outstanding graduates take part in a two-year national programme, working as police constables in Safer Neighbourhood Teams to help transform communities.

The officers will be assigned to roles across Warwickshire, with the student police officers being on patrol across the county.

I promised the public that I would invest the money raised through Council Tax increases directly into front line policing. These extra officers are continuing proof that I am delivering the extra boots on the ground that policing needs and the public wants to see.

Every part of Warwickshire should see a welcome boost as the new officers complete their training and go on patrol across the county or begin their work to solve problems in local communities. This latest intake is really encouraging and shows that Warwickshire Police is attracting a strong mix of people who want to serve the local community, including officers who want to relocate here and enjoy the benefits of our beautiful county.

More new recruits will be starting their training over the next few months, in a year that has already broken records for the largest cohort of student officers undertaking training in the force's long history.

### Diary dates

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

**Aug 9:** Visit to the Domestic Abuse Counselling Service, Bedworth

**Aug 10:** Leamington Fire Station Open Day

**Aug 17:** Warwickshire Pride, Leamington Spa

