



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicestershire,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Newsletter

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

IN THIS ISSUE



Tackling crime at the roots **See page 2**



Rural crime down 7.7%
See page 2



Fight for fair funding
See page 3



New face in the team
See page 4



Preventing retail crime in Melton

Every week I get out and about in the Force area to meet people and talk to locals about what is concerning them in their area. I was recently in Melton to meet businesses impacted by crime and find out how new cameras are helping to protect their premises.

Joined by Sgt Daniel Foster and Deputy PCC Charlie Chirico, I visited Italia Café which recently suffered damage during a break-in resulting in costly repairs and a loss of earnings through forced closure. Crime not only hits businesses hard in the pocket but brings untold emotional anguish and we're working hard with owners to protect their livelihoods in every way we can. A common frustration with these crimes

is the time it takes between offence and arrest and Sgt Foster was able to explain the process of painstaking evidence-gathering.

We visited the Nail Salon too and received positive feedback about the police response to a recent break-in.

To step up efforts to prevent crime in this area, cameras funded through my office and Melton Community Safety Partnership were recently distributed to businesses in the area by the local policing team. Three arrests have already been made, which is an excellent result, and I'm pleased to see such effective policing and support for local businesses from the local team.

Tackling crime at the roots



'Prevention is better than cure' is fundamental to my approach and I'm really excited about the extra support we're about to deliver for people coping with alcohol and substance use.

I've provided £3.4k to substance use service Turning Point to provide an extra day of service provision at its Symington Building in Market Harborough. This means the organisation can now explore providing extra

group provision for people who binge drink but are not dependent on alcohol and others who use substances such as cocaine and cannabis (non-opiates). Some sessions will also provide help for those who are moving on from treatment into aftercare services.

These services will get underway soon and I'm looking forward to monitoring the results.

We need to get back to the original principles of policing and work harder to prevent crime happening in the first place. My new Police and Crime Plan has this approach at its heart, and I've made it clear that the journey to safer and more prosperous communities doesn't sit with the police alone but a whole range of partners and agencies working seamlessly together and holistically.

Rural crime down 7.7%



Latest year-to-date data shows that crime in rural areas of Leicestershire has fallen 7.7% over the past 12 months. This is encouraging news for all those involved in protecting our countryside from criminality, but it certainly doesn't mean we can take our foot off the pedal – there's much more to do.

I recently enjoyed a productive meeting with Dilwyn Harries, County Chairman of the NFU, and local farmers Michael Squires and Richard Morris, where we discussed the ongoing need for more resources to address rural criminality. Dilwyn expressed concerns that staffing levels in the Rural Policing Unit had dipped through sickness and

relocation of officers but both farmers had nothing but praise for the individual officers on the team and their efforts. They also believe the recent success in driving down rural crime is testament to the unit and its work which is really welcomed feedback.

We also discussed how farmers should report rural crime in the first instance, and I alerted them to the 101 non-urgent number or the website. Of course, in the event of a live incident, the only port of call is 999. Both are also keen for an NFU representative to sit on the community panel during the selection process for a new Chief Constable.

Protecting our communities from ASB and serious violence

I'm pleased to report far-reaching success in our efforts to root out ASB and serious violence from our communities.

Our dedicated 'hotspots' enforcement team has carried out thousands of hours of extra patrols in 'hotspot' locations over the past 12 months to tackle long-standing problems. Serious violence has fallen 8.4% and ASB by 15.2% in these targeted areas, which proves how valuable this approach is. This is why

I recently lobbied the Government for more financial support for the scheme.

My recent budget will further protect the strong, visible policing residents deserve. This has been possible by a small annual increase of 27p per week in the amount of council tax paid towards policing for a Band D property and I am grateful for the public's support.



Fight for fair funding

We've worked extremely hard over the past few years to keep the force on a financially secure footing, but funding has become an urgent issue.

I recently met Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson to highlight our plight and explain how this year's funding settlement leaves us with a further gap due to the impact of rising inflation, National Insurance increases not being fully covered, underfunded pay awards and new legislation such as the ban on XL Bully dogs, which leads to unforeseen and unbudgeted costs.

As a result, this year's budget setting process was challenging to say the least and I am grateful for the continued support of the public to pay more towards policing.

The budget for 2025-26 has been set at £254.65m. This will protect the frontline services which are so valuable to the public and strengthen performance in key areas such as crime prevention; call handling and other ways in which the public contact the Force; and digital technology. As the Government assumed, it was essential to increase the council tax precept by £14 for a Band D property, to achieve a balanced budget.

I feel strongly that the people of our city and two counties deserve more, and I will continue to challenge at the highest level to secure the funding needed to police the area effectively

New face in the team

My new Deputy PCC, Charlotte Chirico, has officially joined the team and is already proving an asset to our communities.

Born and bred in Melton, Leicester City fan Charlotte (also known as Charlie) will be supporting the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and has a wealth of legal experience to help enhance the support

we offer to victims of crime. Through years serving as a District Crown Prosecutor, Charlotte has an acute understanding of the barriers to justice many victims face and is keen to get to work on remedying the issues.

I have no doubt she will continue to strengthen the voice of victims and witnesses locally and bring value to all areas of my safety work.



Keeping young people safe with VR



We're unleashing the power of Virtual Reality (VR) as part of a new high-tech approach to keeping young people safe online.

In an ongoing effort to keep crime prevention relevant and fresh for our younger residents, I've invested in the production of a six-minute film to be viewed in 360 Virtual Reality (VR) which will be accompanied by a six-session educational programme to be delivered by teachers and youth leaders.

First Phone: Keeping Children Safe Online will be available to schools free of charge across the city and two counties throughout 2025 and follows a successful pilot.

The use of VR as an educational tool is evolving and I'm delighted to have funded its application locally.

Keep in touch

Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time using these contact details:

Email: opcc@leics.police.uk | **Telephone:** 0116 229 8980
Website: www.leics.pcc.police.uk

Please note we are unable to take details of crimes or incidents.

If you need to contact the police please either call 999 if it is an emergency, or dial 101 if it is a nonemergency.

You can also keep up to date with my day to day work via Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and my weekly blog.



@LeicsPCC



@LeicsPCC



@LeicestershireOPCC