



July 2016

Message from the Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway

Last week, I was pleased to be at the launch of the Mental Health Triage scheme, which will help those with mental health problems get the care they need rather than ending up in police custody.

Overseen by the Bedfordshire Police Mental Health lead, Chief Insp. Jaki Whittred, and jointly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in Bedford and Luton, a police officer, paramedic and mental health nurse all now share a car to attend cases every day between 3pm and 1am which would often have been dealt with by police alone in the past, in a bid to help those with mental health issues on a pathway to more appropriate care.



Research from mental health charity Mind shows that one in four of us will experience a mental health crisis at some point. In the Street Triage's first week, the team attended 35 incidents which shows the demand we are facing and how important this pilot scheme is.

The Force has already received glowing feedback from a grateful member of the public for attending an incident where a lady with Alzheimer's had locked herself into her home. The level of demand is shown clearly by data from 2013-14 which shows Bedfordshire Police attended 3,700 incidents related to Mental Health.

The idea behind the scheme is that the patient receives the best care possible; the paramedic checks their medical condition and makes sure they do not need to go to Accident and Emergency, the mental health nurse has access to medical records (which police previously could not see) to assess their condition and medication and the police officer can access any history of violence to inform the others. In the event that the patient

does need to be sectioned for admission to hospital for Mental Health care, the police officer also has the necessary legal powers.

This scheme is outstanding as, previously, police officers with no medical training had to make the call over sectioning and around half the cases they took to hospital were released. Now the expert help of a mental health nurse is available and the team can also check the overall health of the person. Clearly custody and the courts are not the appropriate place for someone with mental health needs to end up and the scheme also frees up officers, from a policing viewpoint, to get on with the 999 response duties they are there for.

If you wish to contact me about this newsletter or anything else, please email policeandcrime.commissioner@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk. You can also follow us on twitter [@BedsPCC](https://twitter.com/BedsPCC) or Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/bedspcc.

PCC and Deputy Chief Constable launch rural crime strategy

Last month, the PCC and Deputy Chief Constable Mark Collins launched the county's new plan for rural policing.

The new country strategy is based on crime figures recording 101 rural crimes, nearly half of which involved businesses and stables as well as farm buildings, over six months from September 2015 to March 2016. It also builds on a report from the National Rural Crime Survey estimating the true cost of crime in the country as a whole as over £800 million a year, with farmers and young families the most frequent victims.



The new Rural Crime Strategy for Bedfordshire includes the following:-

- The appointment of a dedicated Rural Crime Liaison Officer to work with farmers and link to Parish Councils and key community groups and events
- A Rural Crime Intelligence Network of contacts provided by the National Farmers Union across the entire county, as promised by the new Police and Crime Commissioner as part of her Police and Crime Plan for Bedfordshire and in the run-up to the May 5 election.
- Country crime prevention advice including new methods of monitoring vehicles as they enter approach roads to farms and a national scheme to record registration details of large agricultural vehicles and plant.

- Rural crime mapping to identify the nature of country crimes and direct police action
- Daily online scrutiny of email crime intelligence from rural communities on the account rural.liaison@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
- Regular crime reports to the key contacts provided in the farming community.
- Visits to repeat victims of crime
- Visiting saturation policing of rural communities using teams of Special Constables to target problems such as fly-tipping
- Extending Rural Specials, focussing on existing volunteers engaged in schemes such as Streetwatch and Speedwatch, to up-skill and gain full policing powers plus recruitment of older Specials wanting to work in their own communities.
- Recruiting rural residents into the Beds Alert service to provide a wider link-up to Bedfordshire Police to pass on details of crime and receive messages on police progress, of particular benefit in areas without access to local newspapers

The Commissioner and Deputy Chief Constable, returned to Scald End Farm, north of Bedford, to launch the new country deal, after attending a Rural Fire and Crime event at the farm on March 21 where the input of members of the National Farmers' Union formed the basis of the new direction in rural policing.

Emergency services sign new agreement around forced entry

After negotiations involving the PCC, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service and the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) are set to sign an official "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) around forced entry into properties.

The MoU means fire will immediately start assisting ambulance colleagues when forced entry to a property is needed during a medical emergency – freeing police to get on with other vital work.

The signing was marked with a meeting at Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Headquarters in Kempston on 25 July, attended by Bedfordshire Police Superintendent Mark Upex, PCC Kathryn Holloway, Bedfordshire Fire's Head of Operations Ian Evans and Lewis Andrews from the Ambulance service.



“I am absolutely delighted that, after some years of talking about the many great opportunities for joint-working, both Fire and Police are going to take action together where appropriate,” said Mrs Holloway.

“The Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service is particularly well placed to help to gain entry in medical emergencies where lives may well be saved and where, in the past, the police were called. This is a success for the public and for collaboration and releases police officers to 999 response duty on the frontline. I very much look forward to more initiatives, working with the Fire and Rescue Service in the very near future.”

This new agreement comes following a team effort between fire and police to prevent arson by jointly encouraging the public to report fly-tipping to their local authorities before it is set on fire and fire fighters co-responding with paramedics in Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade.

New policing plans for Leighton Buzzard announced

Recruiting more police officers, sharing the fire station and a new enquiry office are among new plans for policing in Leighton Buzzard, announced at a public meeting in the town on June 30.



The PCC was joined by Deputy Chief Constable Mark Collins and Superintendent Sharn Basra, where they unveiled new police recruitment plans and details of a Community Policing Hub in the town, as well as briefing the audience on current work in Leighton Buzzard including a highly successful undercover policing operation targeting habitual criminals.

“I have always said that we need a new approach to policing our third largest town in the county and that’s exactly what Bedfordshire Police will be unveiling, making a genuine additional deployment in terms of more visible Community Policing and confirming a long-term commitment to a police presence in Leighton Buzzard,” said Commissioner Holloway.

“The Force will also be reporting on its current operations including some highly successful police work which has been taking place undercover but producing dramatic results over the past couple of months.

“Almost from day one of my campaign to become Police and Crime Commissioner, I was hearing from Leighton Buzzard residents who were increasingly concerned about the level of policing in the town,” said Mrs Holloway.

“I am delighted to have worked with Bedfordshire Police to secure a new crime deal for Leighton Buzzard, which includes the recruitment of an additional eight officers, on top of three cohorts being recruited this year which are specifically intended for Community Policing across the county, to help boost the town’s policing presence still further.”

The Commissioner has been involved in advanced negotiations with Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to sign a collaboration deal which will allow for police in Leighton Buzzard to share the premises of the fire service on Lake Street. This venue is more central than the old building on Hockliffe Road, closer to the High Street and nightlife venues, and will allow for closer working with the fire service.

These new developments are planned to take place following the decision by Central Bedfordshire Council to purchase Leighton Buzzard Police Station, whose future has been the subject of speculation for more than a decade, with the Police and Crime Panel reporting in 2013 that only 20% of the building was being used by police.

Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan for Bedfordshire

Following the launch of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan, she is now asking for members of the public to feedback their thoughts on the policing priorities going forward.

If you haven’t yet had the chance to read the plan, you can find it on [the PCC’s website](#).

We are asking Bedfordshire residents to complete a short survey reflecting on the Plan and the priorities it sets out.

Please fill in the survey on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PCC-PCP1>



Upcoming events

Bedfordshire Police Family Fun Day – 3 September 11am-4pm, Police HQ Kempston

Parish Councils Forum – 10 September (Further details TBC; all Parish Councils will receive invitations).