

Making a Difference

Annual Report 2018-19



Foreword



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read my Annual Report for 2018-19. I hope that you find it a useful and informative high-level recap of the work undertaken by me and my office over the last financial year.

I hope that this report gives a sense of the progress that has been made against my Police and Crime Plan priorities and my specific commitments and pledges that underpin them. This activity will continue across the remainder of my term as I continue to make a difference against each of the key strands identified.

Challenge

You do not have to look far to see evidence that these are difficult times for policing, as demand for policing services continues to outstrip our ability to supply it, due to budget pressures.

In fact, the demand for policing is rising at an unprecedented rate and crime and incidents across Dorset, like the rest of the country, have increased by nearly 10% over the last year – a rise that seems set to continue.

As elsewhere, the dynamics of crime over recent years have also shifted markedly and we are now experiencing higher levels of very harmful crime such as sexual assault, domestic assault, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, terrorism, serious organised crime and cybercrime, which pose a higher threat to the communities of Dorset. These require more specialised and time-consuming investigation in order to protect and safeguard victims, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Alliance and Merger

In October 2018 I shared with you the [rationale for the merger decision](#).

There are few absolutes, but occasionally, an approach is recommended that demonstrates significant benefits to the public above and beyond all other options. The proposal to merge Dorset Police and Devon & Cornwall Police was one such approach. I, alongside both the Chief Constables of Dorset and of Devon & Cornwall and a range of other national policing leaders, concluded that the creation of a new force would have given the best opportunity to not only continue to deliver services effectively, but to invest in the future and improve our local services to meet the expectation of our communities.

However, after a year of painstaking work, the PCC for Devon & Cornwall, decided that she did not support the submission of the merger business case to the Home Office. Both Chief Constables and I were disappointed by her decision. However, that did not mean the end of our alliance and we will continue to work closely together across many areas of policing.

Reasons to be optimistic

Despite the ongoing challenges, I believe there are many reasons to be optimistic.

The Chief Constable and I recognised the importance of doing things differently, and created a £1m Innovation Fund which will drive forward improvements, many of which have been identified by the frontline, rather than managers.

Despite only being in operation for a short period, the Chief Constable and I have already agreed to put extra officers into the rural and marine crime units, to provide additional cameras to improve road safety, to provide more help to homeless people, to introduce a 'bobby van' to help vulnerable and older people, and to put extra resources into tackling 'county lines' drug gangs.

However, one of the areas for which I am most proud, is the launch of a Cadet Scheme. Long overdue, this service has already been set up, and I look forward to seeing the benefits this will bring young people as it helps them play a more active role in their communities.

Thank you

I would like to place on record my continued respect, appreciation and gratitude for the efforts of all Dorset Police officers, staff and volunteers in keeping us safe. Many of them are regularly confronted by the most challenging of situations and their unwavering commitment and fortitude is admirable.

We all recognise that this could not be achieved without the support of the public, however, and therefore I thank you also for continuing to support your police service.

My team and I work in partnership with many organisations and individuals, and I thank them too for their efforts in keeping us safe. I would like to particularly mark the contribution of the outgoing Police and Crime Panel members for their scrutiny, challenge and support, which has been invaluable. Similarly, as we continue our close partnerships with the two new local authorities in Dorset, I would like to thank members and officers from the previous authorities for their contributions over the years.

Finally, thank you also to all of the staff within my office who support me in making a real difference to the public with professionalism, good humour and the minimum of fuss.



Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset

Protecting People at Risk of Harm



PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK
OF HARM

Vulnerability
Prevention
Early
Intervention

Mental Health
Drugs
Alcohol

National Issues
Local
Approaches

Police & Crime Plan:

“Protecting the public from harm is, and will always be, a core police duty. However, the demands placed on the police have shifted greatly in recent years and resources need to be effectively targeted on the basis of threat, risk and harm.”

Headlines & Progress:

- Acts Fast counselling Worked to help Dorset [Veterans](#)
- [Families for Children online safety](#) project
- [Longmead](#) Community Farm
- Commissioning Spend for this theme in 2018/19 = £616,000

Making a Difference:

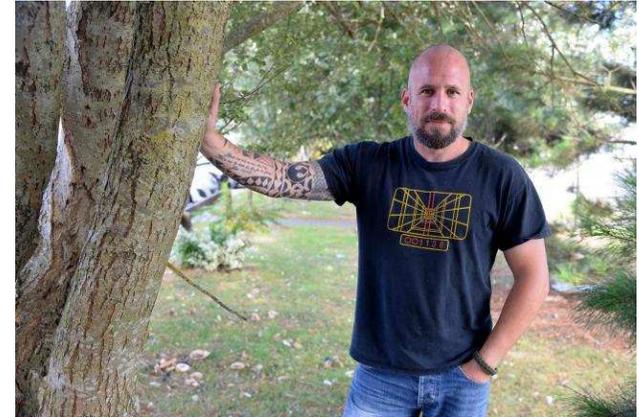
- People feeling safe in Dorset – 94%
- Increased public confidence in reporting hate crime, domestic abuse and serious sexual offences
- Police custody is no longer used as a place of safety for those suffering a mental ill health crisis

Focus On: Supporting our Veterans

Veterans are imprisoned at disproportionate rate to other groups. It is widely recognised that unresolved mental health issues play a large part in this unfortunate statistic.

My office does a lot of work behind the scenes with charities and other organisations who help veterans, through my Safer Dorset Fund – which provides small grants to projects aimed at making a positive difference to the county's communities.

These are just a few of examples of the work that I am supporting.



Read our guest blog from Andy Price about the work of the [Veterans' Hub](#)

Veterans Hub, Weymouth

I have provided funding to the hub to enable them to build a gym at their centre in Wyke Regis.

Alabare, Weymouth

This charity provides homes for veterans who would otherwise be forced to sleep rough. Their centre provides six beds and two dedicated support workers who link residents with support to deal with issues from depression to unemployment or family breakdown.

YMCA, BCP

My office has also been liaising with the YMCA, who will now be prioritising homeless veterans in their communal living hostels, covering Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The YMCA has brilliant staff who will be able to provide a package of support for homeless veterans.

Case Study: Longmead Community Farm



“We need to find innovative approaches to help people in crisis. The psychological benefits of spending time in the countryside are well known and Longmead does an excellent job of helping families tap into these benefits before more serious problems occur.”

Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner

“When families are in crisis they often spend their whole time arguing, but coming to the farm gives them the space to take a step back and talk to each other.”

Claire Crescent, Project Manager

Working with our Communities



WORKING WITH OUR
COMMUNITIES

Road Safety

Cyber-crime

Engagement

Problem
Solving

Police & Crime Plan:

“An essential part of my role involves acting as a link between the public and police service, and also as a facilitator in bringing local partners together to tackle shared priorities, issues and concerns. I will therefore continue to work with Dorset Police and other agencies... to keep our communities safe. I am particularly keen to engage with community members to help them... tackle the issues most affecting them.”

Headlines & Progress:

- Expanded road safety team; continued drink drive lobbying; funded Force drug-testing kits; support for [innovative campaigns](#) and [Community Speedwatch](#)
- [Rough sleepers workshop](#)
- [Consultation](#) and engagement activity
- Problem Solving [Forums](#)
- Research projects – [national rural crime survey](#); [national rural DA survey](#); Police Foundation public priorities research
- Commissioning Spend for this theme in 2018/19 = £194,000

Making a Difference:

- Between 2012 and 2018, total road casualties in Dorset have fallen by 30% making 2018 the safest year on record
- Over 9000 responses to PCC-led public consultations

Focus On: Road Safety

2018 saw the lowest number of people killed and seriously injured on Dorset's roads; the figure has shown a sustained fall since 2012.

I am proud to support the work of Community Speed Watch volunteers and I was on hand to congratulate them on having completed more than 1,000 Speed Watch sessions in 2018.

I fund the Dorset Road Safety Partnership which launched a major new campaign titled 'Choices for Humanity' in 2019. The campaign encourages road users to make better choices.

I have continued to lobby Government after the results of its public consultation into Dorset residents' views on the drink drive limit. The majority of people would like to see a lower threshold introduced – over 2,000 people shared their views in a survey, with 72% supportive of legislative change to bring the current limit into line with standards seen in Scotland and Europe.

That cyclist in lycra slows me down every day. Today I will _____.

Squeeze past, I'm more important

Be slightly late and enjoy the view.

Over the past 4 years, there have been 950 cyclists injured on Dorset roads.

The road is not a game.

#ChoicesForHumanity

DorsetRoadSafe.org.uk/Choices

noexcuse

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

- Is speeding an issue in your area?
- Do others in your community agree?
- Are you and others prepared to get involved?

Community Speed Watch could be the answer

For further details, visit www.dorset.police.uk/CS

Supported by:

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Case Study: Second Half - Rough Sleepers Project



“Rough sleeping is an incredibly complicated issue which requires support from a wide range of different organisations, and both of these projects are providing an important service in helping people get off the street – and more importantly, stay off the streets.”

Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner



“We know that a lot of the groups who regularly work helping rough sleepers are using the project now, and it’s making it much easier for these groups to work together.”

Alistair Doxat-Purser of BCARS

Supporting Victims, Witnesses & Reducing Reoffending



SUPPORTING VICTIMS,
WITNESSES & REDUCING
REOFFENDING

Victims &
Witnesses

Offender
Management

Rehabilitation

Restorative
Justice

Police & Crime Plan:

“Support for victims and witnesses of crime was a priority for me in my first term and remains just as important now. I am determined to work with the Chief Constable to provide a policing service that is valued by people in Dorset and in particular by victims of crime. This theme also looks at offending and steps that can be taken to break the cycle of reoffending and rehabilitate our most prolific and regular offenders.”

Headlines & Progress:

- ‘Footprints’ mentoring for female offenders
- [Restorative Dorset one year on](#)
- [Circles South West](#)
- Commissioning Spend for this theme in 2018/19 = £927,000

Making a Difference:

- Over 26,871 support cases created by Victim Support
- Over 30,006 contacts made by the Victims' Bureau
- 76.6% Victim satisfaction

Focus On: Victims Commissioner visits Dorset

The Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove, visited Dorset in 2018 to meet with victims of domestic abuse and hear first hand their experiences. She was also keen to see how victim services are being delivered across the county.

She met with me and the Chief Constable of Dorset Police, James Vaughan, and a number of domestic abuse practitioners to find out first hand what is happening at ground level. The Victims' Commissioner wanted to use their experiences and knowledge to provide feedback to the Government on the Domestic Abuse Bill Consultation.

Baroness Newlove said, "It's vital that the victim's voice is represented in the Consultation and I intend to do just that. I have been visiting Police & Crime Commissioners and Forces all over the country to find out about how they support victims of crime and, with the Consultation happening, my particular focus for my recent visits has been on the victims of domestic abuse. Too many victims are suffering in silence. We need to give them the confidence to come forward and report and then be sure that we are able to support them in re-building their lives".



Case Study: Dorset Restorative Justice



“By bringing together victims and offenders, the service explores a more sustainable solution to crime, empowering victims to share their experiences in a way that helps their own development. It also holds offenders to account, encouraging them both reflect on their behaviour and to look ahead to a life outside of crime.”

Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner

“This was a very valuable experience to me and I will remember it forever.”

Restorative Justice Client

Transforming for the Future



TRANSFORMING FOR THE
FUTURE

Funding &
Resources

Technology

Innovation &
Service
Improvement

Police & Crime Plan:

“This theme looks at my roles and responsibilities in ensuring that Dorset Police operates as efficiently and effectively as possible – both now and in the future. The main strands here are focused on: people; information and communication technology; innovation and improvement; and partnerships and collaboration.”

Headlines & Progress:

- [Body Worn Video](#) roll-out across Dorset Police
- [Council Tax Precept consultation](#) undertaken
- Health & Wellbeing Fund initiatives for Dorset Police
- Safer Dorset Fund - [Community Grant Scheme](#)
- Weymouth CCTV regeneration programme
- [Chief Constable recruitment](#)
- Commissioning Spend for this theme in 2018/19 = £85,000

Making a Difference:

- Every Police Officer in Dorset has Body Worn Video cameras on their uniform
- Women's Network launched
- Inspectorate rates Dorset Police 'GOOD' for Efficiency

Focus On: Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Custody Visiting (ICVs) are volunteers drawn from all walks of life, whose main role is to provide an independent check on the welfare of people who are detained in police custody. They do this by making random visits in pairs to police custody suites throughout the county and reporting their findings.

Custody Visitors are appointed and overseen by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and are totally independent of the police force. They carry out an important and highly valued role that helps to strengthen police accountability.

The custody visiting role is extremely important. Detainees are able to raise concerns about their detention with the custody visitor who can then raise the issue with officers to solve the problem.

In 2019, my office was awarded a prestigious gold national award for the quality of its ICV scheme.



Focus On: Scrutiny

Working on behalf of the public to ensure an efficient and effective policing in Dorset is a key part of my role. It is my job to appoint the Chief Constable of Dorset Police and to hold them to account for the delivery of policing services. In February I was delighted to appoint James Vaughan as Dorset's Chief Constable on a permanent basis and will work closely with him to support frontline policing locally but also to challenge where improvements can be made.

On particular issues of concern I raise a PCC Challenge with the Chief Constable to formally record issues requiring attention and seeking reassurance from the Force that these will be addressed. PCC Challenges have included issues such as police overtime, firearms licensing processes and the use of police bail and have proven to be an effective tool to place a spotlight on particular elements of police business and instigate change and improvements for the benefit of the public.



Focus On: Scrutiny

In my [blog on scrutiny](#), I said that “Scrutiny panels are a way in which ordinary members of the public get to look at the work of Dorset Police, have their say and help make a difference”.

We have four separate panels, each of which looks in depth at a different aspect of policing :-

- **Customer Service Improvement Scrutiny Panel**
- **Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel**
- **Use of Force Scrutiny Panel**
- **Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel**

One important function shared by all of these panels is they take a detailed look at a set of cases dealt with by Dorset Police which have been independently selected at random by my office. They are usually based around a particular theme and have taken place over the previous three months.

The cases are anonymised, so the panel members have no information about names, but they are given detailed information about how officers responded to particular scenarios.

They then discuss whether or not they think the officers collectively acted appropriately, whether they have any concerns or thoughts about how the situation could have been handled better. Feedback – both good and bad – is then passed on to chief officers based on these discussions, and this is used as a way of helping drive up standards across the Force.

Case Study: Body Worn Video



“I welcome the roll-out of BWV across the Force. It gives officers an increased ability to gather evidence and provide a factual record of what an officer has experienced.”

Martyn Underhill, Police & Crime Commissioner

“BWV will provide our officers and staff with vital technology. It is there to keep both the public and our officers safe.

“As well as bringing greater transparency to our policing activity, there are a number of operational benefits: the immediate capturing of vital evidence to support swift investigations and increased conviction rates, particularly in the case of domestic abuse.”

Claire Armes, Superintendent

Further Information and Accessibility

You can find out more about my work by visiting my website at:

www.dorset.pcc.police.uk

Use the links below for information on:

[Police & Crime Plan](#)

[Budget, Finance & Annual Accounts](#)

[Scrutiny](#)

[Community Engagement](#)

If you would like a translation of any part of this document, please email us at translation@dorset.pnn.police.uk

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