

## 1) Chief Executive

I am delighted that Damon Taylor is now in post having joined the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner on Monday 01 November 2021.

## 2) Launch of Police & Crime Plan 2021-24

I was pleased to officially launch my Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24, setting out my priorities for policing, crime and community safety in the county for my current term of office.

The Plan sets out the strategic direction for Cheshire Constabulary and how I, in my role of Police & Crime Commissioner, will hold the Chief Constable to account in delivering on the public's priorities.

The six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire outlined in the Plan are:

- Prevent and tackle crime
- Make Cheshire's roads safer
- Deliver justice for victims of crime
- Protect vulnerable and at-risk people
- Improve public confidence in policing
- Modernise our police service

I reiterate that my Plan highlights my commitment to increasing Cheshire's police officer numbers to the highest level in modern times - 2,345 officers. This will ensure police visibility across the county and reassure communities as a result.

A personal thank you again to Panel members for their comments during the consultation process and, more specifically, in relation to my draft Plan presented at the Panel meeting in September.

## 3) Autumn Consultation

I officially launched my Autumn Consultation on Monday 08 November 2021, with the survey delivered to every household across Cheshire. I welcome the views of all residents across Cheshire and would request that Panel members encourage their local communities to engage with the consultation, either online via my website or by completing the survey and returning to my office via freepost.

Panel members will hopefully be aware that the consultation also includes questions in relation to the police precept, and the possibilities for next year's budget, dependent on the level of increase to the precept.

As of today (Friday 26 November), a total of **16,361** responses have been received.

Online survey	1,917
Freepost	14,444

## 4) Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Funding

Further to my update at the Panel meeting in September 2021 in relation to securing £538,100 from the Government's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund (round 2) and a further £30,000 from the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Critical Support fund (providing services to help children and young people who have suffered or witnessed domestic abuse), I am delighted to inform Panel members that I have been awarded an extension of £309,000 to round one of the Government's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund, focusing on the whole family approach.

## 5) Safety of Women at Night (SWaN)

In addition, I am delighted to inform Panel members that I have been awarded £300,000 from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Fund. This was one of only 22 successful bids nationally and the funds allocated to Cheshire were the joint highest in the Country. The money will enable the Constabulary to invest in technology which will help provide reassurance to people in Cheshire after a night out, or when walking on the streets after dark, particularly in relation to violence against women and girls.

The money will be spent on technology which will enhance the capabilities of the Constabulary's Force Control Centre, and aims to reduce fear of sexual offending, improve the confidence that women and girls have in the police and justice system, and make Cheshire's night-time economy safer for everyone. It will also provide additional visible resources around the night time economy.

The technology will enable victims of crime, or those who find themselves feeling in vulnerable position, to be in live video contact with the Control Room. Enabling a live link to trained responders will ensure people can access instant help, enable Control Room operators to deploy appropriate resources, and in some circumstances it could be utilised to support the gathering of urgent evidence, thereby supporting a victim through the criminal justice process and potentially increasing the likelihood of a conviction and enhanced justice for victims.

## 6) Safer Streets Fund (Round Three)

In addition, I am delighted to inform Panel members that I have successfully secured £1.1 million from round three of the Government's Safer Streets Fund.

The third round of the Safer Streets Fund made £23.5 million available for Police & Crime Commissioners and local authorities to bid. I submitted two bids, supported by the Chief Constable, each worth £550,000. I am delighted that both bids were successful and the £1.1 million awarded, the joint-highest award in the country, will enhance the Constabulary's efforts to tackle violence against women and girls in the county and create enhanced safety for all communities across Cheshire.

Tackling violence against women and girls is a key part of my Police & Crime Plan. If these schemes are successful, then I want to roll out similar programmes across the county so every single person in Cheshire will benefit. The success of these bids, and our determination to do even more, I hope goes some way to reassuring women and girls of the work that Cheshire Constabulary continues to do to take their safety seriously.

**Primary Bid:** Will deliver a range of tactics around Warrington Town Centre (night time economy) but for the most part, the funds will deliver innovative educational inputs to every student in the 20 high schools across Warrington.

**Secondary Bid:** Will focus on the University of Chester campus sites (5) in three areas of the County and will seek to deliver educational inputs to students and staff to equip them to be safe and reduce fear whilst in the various night time economy areas across Cheshire.

For information:

Safer Streets One: £550,000 (Bewsey & Whitecross area of Warrington)

Safer Street Two: £432,000 (Chester City Centre) (match funding overall investment more than £500,000)

## **7) Youth Commission**

On Tuesday 16 November, Youth Commission members came together to present their findings to myself, the Constabulary and key stakeholders from across Cheshire at their 'Big Conversation' conference. Twenty-two young people presented their findings, shared personal accounts and made recommendations for future delivery. Commission members consulted with 2,400 other young people this year on the things which matter most to them in policing which ensured young people's voices can be heard and acted upon. The members will now work alongside my office and the Constabulary to produce an action plan for the year ahead.

## **8) Scrutiny of Chief Constable**

Since the last meeting of the Panel, I have chaired two Management Board meetings with the Chief Constable. All decisions made by the Board are published on my website, but the key decisions made included:

- Estates Strategy
- Environmental Strategy
- Fleet Strategy
- Restructuring of the Constabulary's Corporate Communications Department
- Wilmslow Police Station helpdesk consultation

As well as the Management Board meetings, I held a Scrutiny Board with the Chief Constable on Wednesday where I questioned the Chief Constable on a number of key performance areas. Whilst overall recorded crime remains fairly static, with some positive performance in relation to levels of anti-social behaviour; theft from the person; vehicle crime and burglary, there are some increases in the recording of some offences against the person, with a particular focus on violence against women and girls. I have had a good discussion with the Chief Constable about some of the initiatives that are being put in place to address these and welcome the moves to ensure that reporting of such offences as well as tracking down perpetrators are progressing well.

A particular issue for me has been the answering of non-emergency 101 calls, and after a blip in August, and a call for more resources to be utilised there, I am pleased to report that performance has improved significantly. I have also scrutinised attendance times for both Grade 1 and Grade 2 incidents and am pleased to report performance around the 85% mark for both categories.

I have also discussed with the Chief Constable the detection rates for crimes and we both accept that these need to improve. I am particularly interested in looking in more detail about how 'out of court disposals' are being used to produce a positive outcome which will better reflect the overall picture of the excellent work that the Force is doing to keep us all safe.

In terms of my plans to have in place 2,345 police officers in post by the end of March 2023, I am pleased to report that this is well on target, with 2,187 currently in post.

## **9) Christmas Card Competition**

I appreciate we're in late November but given the next Panel meeting is not until early February, I would like to wish all Panel members a Merry Christmas. In addition, I would like to thank all children who entered my Christmas Card Competition and congratulate the four winners (one from each local authority area), with their designs being used for my official Christmas Cards this year.