



# **South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter October 2017**

Over the next few weeks I shall be out and about across the county getting people's views on policing now that the police are bringing back neighbourhood policing.

This will not be quite as we knew it in the past because the money just isn't there to put back all the officers lost due to the cuts in government grant since 2010.

I shall also be consulting individuals and groups about how much they are prepared to pay by way of council tax for policing. I need to do that as we start the process of setting the budget for next year and determining the precept. The worrying thing for all of us who have to determine council tax – local authorities as well as police and crime commissioners and Fire and Rescue authorities – is that in South Yorkshire so many of our properties are in the lower council tax bands – A and B.

In other words, much of South Yorkshire is not well off and we have to bear that in mind when we make our determinations for the coming financial year. In order to help me understand what the policing issues are.

I am always happy to come and meet with groups of all kinds, and have been doing so.

These groups have included farmers' meetings (see below) in the Doncaster district, a

church group in Thorpe Hesley, and two Probus Groups in Wickersley and Rotherham. If you would like me at a group you belong to, let my office know.



### **Visit to the Police Dogs**

The Commissioner visited the police dogs at their kennels and training centre in Sheffield, where a new litter is currently being cared for.

He spoke to Harry Morton who has looked after the dogs for many years, about the training programmes.

Dr Billings said: "The dogs are invaluable for the force. They can be trained to search for missing people, for sniffing out drugs or cash or explosives, and for pursuing suspects.

"The puppies look cute, but I wouldn't want to see an adult dog coming towards me if I were carrying a weapon or trying to run away.

The dogs unit trains animals and their handlers from several forces and not just

South Yorkshire, and supplies dogs through its breeding programme.

The dogs unit always needs volunteers – for puppy walking or general help around the kennels. If you are interested, let us know.

**SHEIKH DR MOHAMMED ISMAEL APPOINTED DEPUTY LORD LIETENANT**

We are very pleased that a member of our Independent Ethics Panel, Sheikh Dr Mohammad Ismail, has been made Deputy Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire.

This is a signal honour for Mohammad and a recognition of all the work he has done over the years not just for the Muslim community, but for community cohesion and interfaith understanding in the wider community of South Yorkshire.

Dr Ismail is an imam and scholar who works as chaplain to the University of Sheffield.



**COMMISSIONER ASKS FOR PUBLIC'S HELP ON CYBER CRIME**

We are still looking to gather the public's perception and awareness of cyber crime. Please complete this short survey - <https://goo.gl/WkRR8X>



### **NATIONAL FARMERS UNION DISCUSS ISSUES WITH SOUTH YORKSHIRE PCC**

The Commissioner met members of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) at the Darrington Golf Club to discuss the police response to rural crime. The event was hosted by Adam Bedford, North East Regional Director of the NFU. Farmers came from the Barnsley and Doncaster districts.

Sergeant Mark Gregory also spoke about what South Yorkshire Police are doing pro-actively. The meeting was anxious to impress on the Commissioner that rural crime was any crime that impacted on the lives and businesses of people who live in farming and rural communities. In turn the Commissioner appealed to the farming community to work with the police – which they agreed to do.



#### **CHISLET COMMUNITY CENTRE RECEIVES A VISIT FROM PCC**

Dr Billings spent the morning of Tuesday, 3 October at the Chislett Centre in Kimberworth, Rotherham.

He went along to the centre to hear from staff and volunteers about how they engage with the community in Kimberworth Park.

The centre provides a welcome place for people of all ages to come along and enjoy a number of activities which include the well equipped gymnasium, café facility and group sessions.

The Commissioner was impressed by the easy relationships between the different generations that were facilitated by the café. He had no doubt that the Centre contributed to increasing the general sense of well-being in the community and to reducing anti-social behaviour.



#### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE SUPPORT FOR SAMMY'S LAW**

Dr Alan Billings and Chief Constable Stephen Watson are pledging their support to Sammy's Law.

Sammy Woodhouse – who was a victim of CSE herself - is lobbying the Government to have the criminal history of victims and survivors of CSE expunged. She explained that girls were manipulated or threatened into committing offences when very young, but these criminal records were now preventing them moving on positively with their lives even though their abusers were now exposed and in gaol. It was often a barrier to their getting jobs and prevented them from travelling to some countries – such as Australia and the USA..



### **NEW FIRE AND POLICE STATION IN MALTBY GOES LIVE**

South Yorkshire's only joint fire and police station has gone operational for the first time.

Firefighters have started attending 999 calls from the station in Maltby, Rotherham after work to modify the existing police station on Byford Road to accommodate fire service vehicles and staff was completed last month. The old fire station on Maltby High Street has now closed.

The Commissioner said: "This is a good example of what can be done to make both services more efficient and effective without compromising standards while saving money. The Police and fire collaboration Board, which I chair, will be considering other proposals for more joint working in the coming months."

### **INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL PRAISES FORCE'S APPROACH TO SCRUTINY**

South Yorkshire Police has been praised for its approach to outside scrutiny and willingness to be self critical, in the latest Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Independent Ethics Panel. The Chair of the Panel, Andrew Lockley (pictured) is a very experienced Sheffield-based lawyer, who works both locally and nationally.

The report has been welcomed by both the South Yorkshire Police and Crime

Commissioner and the Chief Constable at a recent meeting of the Public Accountability Board. South Yorkshire is one of only three police force areas that has an independent ethics panel.



**NEW FUNDING TO IMPROVE HOME SECURITY IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

The Yorkshire Housing Home Improvement Agency (HIA) based in Sheffield has secured a grant of £4,970. The funding will help improve home security for some of most vulnerable people living in South Yorkshire.

The monies are from the South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner 'Community Grant Scheme'. It will help local people make their homes become safer and feel more secure.



**STATEMENT FROM DR ALAN BILLINGS ON POLICE AND PRISON OFFICERS PAY INCREASE**

"I am pleased that police and prison officers in South Yorkshire will receive pay increases.

"But the government's announcement that police officers are to receive a pay rise of 1% plus a 'bonus' of 1% has stings in the tail.

"First, the pay rises are wiped out by the increase in the cost of living that was announced on the same day. Then it is not clear whether the bonus applies next year or whether it was a 'one-off'. Also, it does nothing to address the pay of police staff which has been capped for a number of years. And finally, the government is not giving any money to pay the officers, so we shall have to find it from South Yorkshire Police reserves."



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