



IN THIS ISSUE



News from the Police and Crime Commissioner
Jason Ablewhite

Welcome to my Winter Newsletter.

I cannot believe that Christmas is just around the corner and we are only days away from 2019. And what a busy year it has been for policing.

I want to start by thanking officers, staff and volunteers for their hard work over the past 12 months. Their constant professionalism and willingness to go beyond the call of duty constantly impresses me.

This edition focuses on what we are doing to support victims and witnesses of crime. You can find out how you could become a volunteer to help victims of crime recover from their experience. There's also information about the Victim Services website: an online, one-stop-shop of available support for victims and witnesses of crime to help them cope and recover.

Last month, we heard that Cambridgeshire has been chosen as one of only five areas in the country to receive government

funding for support services for sexual violence directly. The significance of this is that we can now decide locally how best to support those affected by these traumatic crimes.

I saw for myself the pain and suffering that rips apart too many families when I attended an annual service in November to remember those killed on our county's roads. That is why we have once again launched our annual month-long drink and drug drive campaign to target those people who risk their own and others' lives while driving under the influence.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Do enjoy the festivities, it is a great time of year to catch up with friends and family but if you are planning on a few drinks then make sure you book a taxi or see if one of your party is happy to be the designated driver.



Launching a new partnership to tackle scammers, see page 2



Supporting a new survivor led Service User Group to enhance support services for survivors of sexual abuse, see page 2



Find out how to influence policing in your county – details on page 5

OUT & ABOUT



People killed on roads remembered at annual service

The Commissioner joined dignitaries at a special service to remember all those people killed on Cambridgeshire roads.

The service, held at Great St. Mary's Church in Cambridge on November 18, was organised by the Road Victims Trust, a registered charity offering a range of free support services to residents of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire affected by the grief and trauma of a death or life-changing injuries resulting from road collisions. For more information visit www.rvtrust.org.uk/



Awards for compassion and bravery

Ordinary people, police officers and police staff received awards for exceptional acts of bravery, compassion and selflessness at a special ceremony in November. The Chief Constable's Commendations and Long Service Ceremony at Cambridgeshire Constabulary's headquarters in Hinchingsbrooke recognised those who had gone above and beyond.



Commissioner welcomes new cadets

The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed the latest group of volunteer police cadets from Meadowgate Academy in Wisbech into the policing community earlier this month.

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is the nationally recognised police uniformed youth group throughout the UK.

Latest news from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Support for crime victims

Victims and witnesses of crime across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire can find out what support is available to them on the Victim Services website, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The website provides victims and witnesses with clear and simple information about available support and how to access it, as well as providing a service directory.

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite said: "If you become a victim of crime or witness a crime, the last thing you need is to be in the dark about who to turn to for support. Taking the first step and asking for help, whether you report the crime to the police or not is a very important stage in your recovery.

"The website lists all of the specialist support services available to help you cope and recover. It also helps reassure any victims who have already accessed support, but want a resource to refer back to. Importantly, accessing the website helps put you in charge of what you want to happen next."

You can visit Victim Services website here: www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk.

Could you help victims of crime?

If you are over 18 and enjoy talking to people, have basic IT skills and think you could help victims of crime – we need you!

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Victim and Witness Hub is looking for volunteers throughout Fenland (March, Wisbech, Chatteris and surrounding villages), East Cambs (Ely), South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire to join their team in helping victims of crime to cope and recover from their ordeal.

The Hub provides support services for all victims and witnesses of crime from when they first report a crime through the criminal justice process and beyond. Volunteers work with the Victim and Witness Hub Coordinators to deliver emotional and practical support.

Volunteers need to commit at least four hours a week and training will begin early next year. Applications can be from people with or without previous experience of supporting victims and people with language skills are always welcome. Full training and support will be provided.

For more information please email: kimberley.morris@cambs.pnn.police.uk or visit the Victim and Witness Hub website at www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk

Support services for rape survivors secured

Services to support survivors of rape and sexual assault in Cambridgeshire have been secured thanks to a Government announcement.

Last month, the Ministry of Justice announced that the Police and Crime Commissioner was one of five nationally to be given full commissioning powers to decide locally how funding is spent to provide support to sexual violence survivors in this area.

More than 1,700 sexual offences were recorded by police in Cambridgeshire last year.

Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite said: "I am proud that the hard work carried out in the county to develop a fully integrated model of support services for victims of crime, including survivors of sexual violence, has been recognised nationally.

"Being approved as a test site for local devolution of funding will allow us to continue to commission services which meet the needs of local survivors."



Sexual assault survivors can help shape future support services

Survivors of sexual assault who have received support from The Elms, the county's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) are being encouraged to join a new group to help develop future services.

The Elms opened in Hinchingsbrooke near Huntingdon two years ago and has supported 565 people so far. To mark its second anniversary a new service user group is being set up to give anyone who has used the centre a chance to feedback about their experiences.



Peterborough survivor and volunteer, Emily Watson said: "Knowing that there is a safe place where people who have experienced sexual violence can go to receive support prompted me to contact the SARC and offer my help so that others don't find themselves in the situation I went through. It is only by sharing our views that we can ensure no one has to go through such devastating crimes alone."

Support is available 24/7 to anyone who has experienced sexual violence and/or abuse by calling 0800 193 5434.

More information about The Elms is available online at www.theelmsarc.org. The website includes an option to hide the webpage from your browser history to enable survivors to view it without fear.

Tough action against scammers

A new crackdown on scammers has been launched across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership includes Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite, Cambridgeshire, County Council and Peterborough City Council. It aims to make the county scam-free.

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite said: "Scams are becoming a part of our everyday lives but they shouldn't be as they are fraud and fraud is crime. Being a victim of this crime can have a devastating impact. These crimes often target those people in our communities that are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including poverty, isolation, frailty, or disability and this new partnership aims to look at how we can work together to make it harder for these criminals to continue to operate in our area."

According to Action Fraud, more than half (53%) of people aged 65 and over have been targeted by scams and criminals. The Annual Fraud Indicator estimates that scams cost the UK between £5 billion to £10 billion each year.



To report a fraud, or suspected fraud, and share information to help stop others from becoming victims, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Working together to keep communities safe

Representatives from the police, fire, health, councils and probation services came together earlier this month to discuss how they could work together to better meet the growing demand for their services.

The Community Safety Partnerships Delivery Group development session brought together senior leaders from the six community safety partnerships in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to look at how they can better prioritise protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, said: "We all know that if we are to make a real difference to our communities and make them safer for all we need to work together and maybe do things differently."

THIS MONTH'S TOP TIPS

Keeping your homes safe this Christmas

Reports of burglary increase over the festive season when gifts provide too much of a temptation for thieves.

However, you can reduce the risk of your home becoming a target for unwanted visitors this Christmas.

1. **Keep your valuables out of sight** – close your curtains at nights and don't leave presents that can be seen through your windows. Don't advertise to thieves that you have expensive electrical items such as new TVs, by leaving packaging out by your bins. Break down boxes if you can and only put them out on bin collection day.

2. **Locks** - lock doors, windows, side gates and outbuildings every time you leave your house, even if you're just outside. Store high value items, such as jewellery and passports, in a properly secured safe or bank vault.

3. **Keep door keys out of sight and away from letterboxes.**

4. **Get home security** - install a visible burglar alarm, have good outdoor lighting or motion sensor security lights or install a driveway alarm. Plant spiky plants in vulnerable areas.

5. **Don't make it obvious that you're not home** - When you go away ask a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your home, join your local Neighbourhood Watch, leave radios or lights on, or on a timer, to make your home appear occupied. Avoid posting holiday plans or movements on social media and cancel milk or newspaper deliveries before you go away.

A secure home will reduce the chance of you getting burgled. But, if you get home and notice signs of a break-in, you can report a burglary to Cambridgeshire Constabulary online or by calling 101.

If you believe the intruder is still inside your home, you should call 999.

News from the CONSTABULARY

Cambridgeshire police launch December crackdown on drink drivers

Designated drivers are being offered free drinks in venues across the county as part of the 'I'm DES' scheme.

The initiative is led by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership (CPRSP), to reduce the number of road traffic collisions caused by drink driving over the festive period.

To participate in the scheme, you just need to let staff in participating venues know that you are the designated driver and ask for an 'I'm DES' wristband from a member of bar staff.

Sgt Ian Manley of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Herfordshire Road Policing Unit (RPU) said: "We are all aware of the risk we pose by getting behind the wheel after a drink, yet some still choose to gamble with their lives and those of others.

"Even a small amount of alcohol can affect your driving ability. We advise if you're drinking, even one drink, that you arrange another way of getting home."

To support the campaign against drink and drug driving, officers will be hosting engagement events across the county funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner through his Casualty Reduction Fund to highlight the effects of drinking during the day and driving the morning after a drink.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said: "Alcohol is one of the top five contributors to fatal road traffic collisions however in spite of all the warnings, people continue to put lives at risk. "Des" is a great way to ensure that everyone gets home safely after a good night out. This is a fantastic initiative and I would like to thank all those venues taking part."



Venues offering I'M DES FREE soft drink scheme over the Christmas period

Cambridge:

- Ta Bouche, Market Passage, Cambridge
- The Fez Club, Market Passage, Cambridge
- The Empress, Thoday Street, Cambridge
- The Anchor, Silver Street, Cambridge
- Hidden Rooms, Jesus Lane, Cambridge
- Revolution, Downing Street,
- The Lounge, St Ives
- Axe and Compass, Hemingford Abbots
- The Greystones, The Green, Sawtry
- The Bell Inn, Green End Road, Sawtry
- The Duchess, High Street, Fenstanton
- Floods Tavern, St Ives

Fenland:

- The Angel Inn, Alexandra Road, Wisbech
- The Kings Head, Old Market, Wisbech
- The Three Tuns, Norwich Road, Wisbech



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

Report drink and drug drivers to confidential hotline

People are being asked to report motorists who drive under the influence of drink or drugs to the 24-hour confidential reporting line.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary launched its annual month-long Christmas drink and drug drive campaign on 1 December to target those who drive under the influence.

The campaign, which runs until 1 January, is also warning motorists to be aware of driving the morning after a night of drinking, as they may still be over the limit.

Jon Morris, Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Casualty Reduction Officer, said: "Some may be reading this and have concerns about someone they know who may be drink or drug driving, or notice someone who regularly drives their vehicle home from the pub despite having several drinks.

Alcohol or drugs will always affect your driving for the worse and although it may give a feeling of overconfidence, the truth is your reactions are slower and you are a danger on the roads."

The penalties for drug driving are the same as those for drink driving. If convicted, motorists could lose their licence, be fined up to £5,000 and even face a prison sentence.

People can report drivers who are under the influence of drink or drugs to the confidential hotline on 0800 032 0845 or online at www.cambs.police.uk/report/Vehicles.

Peterborough:

- Argo Lounge, Bridge Street, Peterborough
- The Solstice, Northminster Road, Peterborough
- Puzzles, Bridge Street, Peterborough

Spotlight on: BUSINESS CRIME

Business crime can have a significant impact on the economic well-being of an area but we cannot just treat the symptoms we have to get to the root of the cause. The Commissioner writes...

Whether you're an individual whose phone has been stolen on the train, a major High Street retailer being regularly targeted by shoplifters, or a small business which has had a van stolen from your premises - theft is theft and these are all crimes that should be reported to the police.

But the impact of crimes against business can often be underestimated by wider society who often believe that companies can afford to take a hit.

I hear it all the time on the streets 'it's a victimless crime.' But that couldn't be further from the truth. Business crime can have wider ramifications on the community as a whole as ultimately it could lead to companies closing and loss of jobs if the impact is severe enough and an unwillingness to invest or open businesses in an area where crime is viewed as a problem.

I continue to work very closely with the small business community including meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses and running talks with the Chambers of Commerce to give businesses a forum to raise their issues and concerns and also highlight measures that can be taken to improve businesses security.

I would stress to companies how important it is they report any crimes to the police. It is only then that Cambridgeshire Constabulary as a force can assess the true scale of the issue and investigating officers can start to build up intelligence to help them catch the offenders.

The majority of shoplifting crimes are reported some time after the incident. At a time when demand for our services has never been higher, we have to prioritise every call for service alongside the crimes and incidents ongoing at that time.

Shoplifting is one business crime that is not just a problem locally but nationally too. The Constabulary takes all forms of theft seriously and are working hard to get to the heart of the issue. Local policing teams target repeat offenders, many of whom are drug or alcohol dependent, and work with partners to provide them with pathways away from crime.

Stores are provided with crime prevention advice and encouraged to install CCTV.

For more information on how to keep your business secure both inside and out visit <https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Crime-advice-for-businesses>

CAMBAC tackles Cambridge city centre crime

Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) is a non-profit making organisation set up by Cambridge City Centre Management as a direct response to concerns from city centre businesses.

It was set up in August 2007 with approximately 100 members which has almost doubled in the past decade.

Members are both from the day and night-time economies.

It is a non-profit making organisation that works closely in partnership with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, City Centre Management, Cambridge City Council City Rangers and CCTV.

The majority of members are linked via radios to Police, CCTV, City Rangers and City Centre Management all with the same goal.

Members also get free access to DISC (Database and Intranet for Safer Communities) to report crime and receive messages from the police and if they report incidents to CAMBAC the organisation will issue Exclusion Notices (Civil Banning Orders) on persistent offenders.

For more information visit www.cambac.co.uk



Report a business crime

Report a non-emergency business crime online, such as theft or damage, for your business or the company you work for.

www.cambs.police.uk/businesscrime

Is it an emergency?

Remember, if someone is in danger and you need immediate support please call 999 now.



101 | www.cambs.police.uk | #safercambs

"I hear it all the time on the streets 'it's a victimless crime.' But that couldn't be further from the truth. Business crime can have wider ramifications on the community as a whole as ultimately it could lead to companies closing and loss of jobs"



www.cambac.co.uk

Getting in touch:

It's important that the Commissioner and his team represent your views, so if you want to get in touch please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

You can write to us here:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough PO Box 688
Huntingdon
PE29 9LA

Email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Or phone: **0300 333 3456**



Have your say on policing in Cambridge and Peterborough

Chief Constable, Nick Dean and Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite are continuing to hold a series of public meetings across the county in January offering members of the public an opportunity to shape the future of policing.

Local officers will also attend the meetings to talk about the challenges of local policing. For more information about how to book your place, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-chance-to-influence-policing-in-the-county-tickets-53179622683>

Meetings are as follows:

- Police HQ, Huntingdon - 9th January, 7-9pm
- Peterborough Town Hall - January 14th, 7-9pm
- Cambridge Wesley Methodist Church - 21st January, 7-9pm
- Swavesey Village College - 24th January 7-9pm

Getting in touch:

The Commissioner offers regular one-to-one meetings across the county. Surgeries are held in the second week of every month, and are rotated around the county in order to provide a location suitable for everyone. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15 minute appointment.

Please email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk or phone 0300 333 3456 to make an appointment:

Upcoming 2018 surgery dates

January 18th	Cambourne Police Station	09:00-11:00
February 21st	Wisbech Police Station	09:00-11:00
March 15th	Peterborough Town Hall	10:00-12:00

Are you online?

Are you on social media? Keep up to date with the Commissioner's activities by following us on:



- CambsPCC



- PCCCambs



- pcccambs

FIND OUT MORE BY CLICKING:

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE](#)

[CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH](#)

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