



**Enhancing support for victims**



**PCC on the road**



**Forces agree strategic alliance**



**Best on the Beat competition is back!**

## WELCOME



The election of a Conservative government has brought with it some certainty to the future of PCCs – but the rest of the policing landscape looks considerably more uncertain.

Along with more responsibility for PCCs, the Home Secretary has announced there will be further urgent and radical reform to the police service. What that looks like remains to be seen.

What there can be no doubt about is that further savings will be imposed. We'll be forced to ask some fundamental questions about what the police should and shouldn't be doing for our communities. These tough conversations won't be easy but they will be essential as we try to find the savings we'll need to make.

I'm determined to work hard to make sure our police service is as strong as it can be for our communities. As well as managing the savings, my priority for the coming months will be to focus on the accessibility, visibility and civility of your police service. If you have a view about any of these three areas I'd love to hear from you.

*Sue Mountstevens*

**Sue Mountstevens**  
Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

## Road safety becomes new priority for Police and Crime Commissioner

Four priorities were set by Sue Mountstevens in 2012, soon after being elected as the PCC. The plan has been refreshed for 2015-17 and the introduction of road safety as an additional priority recognises the importance of the issue to local communities.

Sue said: "Road safety is something which is regularly raised with me when I go out and meet with people and in the mail I receive. It's an issue which means different things to different people; for some it is drivers speeding near their homes and schools, for others it is people using mobile phones and sometimes it can be the potential for conflict between different road users. What is clear to me is that people want to feel safe on and near our roads and I believe it's right that we should be clearly saying that this is a priority for us.

"While a greater focus on road safety will bring further benefits to our communities, we should acknowledge the work that is already taking place to help keep our roads safe. The police are well supported by local residents with Community SpeedWatch schemes, a free Road Smart education course for drivers was launched last year and has had an excellent start and static speed cameras are now back on and supporting mobile speed vans and motorbikes. We need to build on this momentum so that all road users are safe and feel safe."

Including road safety as a priority reflects the results of a regular crime survey carried out in Avon and Somerset and which ask people what the priorities for Avon and Somerset Police should be - around four in ten people provided a response related to road safety.



**We need to build on this momentum so that all road users are safe and feel safe."**

To deliver the priority, Sue Mountstevens will hold the Acting Chief Constable to account on the delivery of four key objectives; supporting practical and evidence-led partnership approaches to road safety initiatives, supporting the development of Community SpeedWatch and road safety volunteers, ensuring high-quality road safety investigations and improving visible policing on our roads.

The Police and Crime Plan sets out Sue Mountstevens' aims, objectives and priorities in support of her role securing an efficient, effective, and accountable police service and one which is responsive to local needs.

PCC Sue Mountstevens' five priorities are:

- Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour
- Tackling domestic and sexual abuse
- Preventing and reducing burglary
- Improving road safety for all road users
- Putting victims first

# Policing budget for 2015/16 agreed

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel gave its overwhelming support to PCC Sue Mountstevens' budget plans for 2015/16 when it met in February.

At a meeting in February, Sue presented her plans to the Panel and they agreed to her proposals for a budget of around £268m for policing across Avon and Somerset next year. The policing precept, the part of the council tax which pays for policing, will increase by 1.99% - this will add £3.41 to an annual Band D council tax bill.

An increase in the policing precept will be accompanied by savings of just over £13m which have to be found next year. The decision to increase the precept was made following a consultation which showed that residents on average supported an increase in council tax precept up to 2.4%.

**We know from asking people that residents are willing to pay a small amount more for policing...**

Speaking after meeting with the Police and Crime Panel, Sue said: "We continue to have to find significant savings and asking residents to pay a little more will help us reduce the impact of that and protect frontline services. We know from asking people that residents are willing to pay a small amount more for policing and this increase works out at around 6.5p each week on an average bill. It's a small amount but will make a big difference in helping keep people safe and feeling safe.

"Despite the approval of my budget we still anticipate further future financial challenges. By 2018/19 an additional £40m in savings will need to be found and we'll have to look for more creative ways to do what we do now but with fewer resources. Increasing the policing precept today is a step towards bridging that gap."



## A word from Marc

“Over the last year the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been working hard to put in place local support services for victims of crime following a change in policy by the Ministry of Justice to provide funding to Police and Crime Commissioners to commission their own services.

Direction from Sue was clear from the start – she wanted to take a fresh look at victim services, simplify the process and maximise the opportunity to design services to meet local need. Crucially, she was clear that victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB) should be entitled to the same support as victims of crime (even though we weren't getting funding for this). At the same time, the Ministry of Justice stated that support services commissioned by PCCs should help victims to both 'cope' and 'recover' (more on that later). With this steer the team set about working to put these services in place.

In February 2014, having looked at the existing service provision, listened to the views of victims and undertaken a needs assessment we set out our commissioning intentions. This marked the start of an important four month period for the commissioning team – consultation with partners and stakeholders. A key principle of this project is that we simply don't hold enough funding to be able to commission all support services for victims. This meant consultation with providers, partners and key groups such as Community Safety Partnerships was crucial to make best use of



our limited resources and align with existing provision. This feedback was invaluable and shaped our final commissioning plan.

Once we knew what services we wanted, we started the procurement process. We wanted to make our process accessible to the Voluntary and Community Sector so we procured the services in different ways, depending on the value. After engaging with the market we received a number of impressive submissions for the evaluation panels to consider. These panels included police staff and officers as well as partner agencies which meant that we were able to consider the proposals from a variety of viewpoints. Following this process we awarded the grants and contracts in December 2014.

We have a great range of providers on board, all of whom are excited to be part of this new way of working and started delivering their services in April.

However, the work for us hasn't and won't stop – as mentioned earlier, a key part of this is how we measure the impact that services have had on helping victims cope with what's happened to them, and start to recover. As commissioners we are focussed on these victim outcomes and are working through how to monitor that across our services. ”

**Marc Hole**  
Head of Commissioning  
and Partnerships

# Enhancing support for victims

Victims of crime and anti-social behaviour are benefitting from enhanced help and support thanks to newly commissioned services which were launched in April.

In October 2014, the Ministry of Justice transferred responsibility for commissioning local victim services in Avon and Somerset to PCC Sue Mountstevens. To prepare for this, the PCC's commissioning team began consulting with victims, partners and service providers to explore what services people wanted and identify gaps in current provision. A commissioning plan was developed and organisations were able to bid to provide the services. The successful providers have been selected and began delivering services in April 2015.

The newly commissioned services are:

## Lighthouse

### - provided by Avon and Somerset Police

As part of the Integrated Victims Strategy, Sue Mountstevens has commissioned Avon and Somerset Constabulary to develop and implement 'Lighthouse' Integrated Victim and Witness Care teams. These teams have brought together victim contact roles in the Police service, co-located with partners, to provide a more coordinated end-to-end care for victims of crime and ASB.

'Lighthouse' guides victims through their journey from first point of contact with the police, through the investigation and on to the end of the criminal justice process.



## Adults Advocacy Service

### - provided by The Care Forum

This advocacy service will ensure that vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour are listened to, given a voice in the criminal justice system and given emotional or practical support. This will help them feel empowered, increase their understanding of, and confidence in, the criminal justice system, by keeping them informed and making sure they are safe and feel safe.

This advocacy service will be provided by The Care Forum working with AVoice, SEAP and Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI).



## Young Persons' Advocacy Service

### - provided by North Somerset Youth Offending Service

This advocacy service will provide support for young people up to the ages of 18 and those between 18-25 where additional needs are identified. Through the provision of emotional and practical support the service will help young victims re-integrate and lead more fulfilled lives, where they feel secure and supported in their home and community.



Sue said:

"We've used this opportunity to speak to victims in our area, as well as organisations who work with victims, to find out what people in our communities need. We've started from scratch to review what's right for our communities in 2015 and come up with a fresh approach, rather than simply continuing with what already existed. I'm really excited about the new services and am confident that they will help those people who unfortunately experience crime and anti-social behaviour."

## Independent Sexual Violence Advisors

### - provided by SafeLink

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provide an essential service to victims of sexual violence and help them cope with, and start to recover from, their experience. The advisors can help victims get to a place of safety, help them access specialist services, talk to employers, and support and guide them through the criminal justice process. The independent service is available to men, women and children regardless of whether or not they report it to the police.



## Emotional Support Service

### - provided by Victim Support

The Service will offer support according to individual need – including both support in person and over the phone. The support could include listening and providing advice, facilitating emergency grants or signposting victims to more specialist support services. The support will be available to all victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, irrespective of whether they have reported the incident to the police.



## Modern Slavery Support Service

### - provided by Unseen UK

During the commissioning process it was clear that there are gaps in the provision of support for victims of modern slavery – particularly around initial engagement with victims before they can access other available support, and after that support has ended. This is a one-year pilot to further explore how best these needs can be met in Avon and Somerset.







### THE BRISTOL IDEAL

An initiative funded and launched by the PCC back in 2014. The aim is to work with children and young people at school, preventing domestic abuse in later years, by setting out a whole-school approach to tackling all forms of abuse. One year on from its launch the PCC has written to local authorities advocating the roll out of the project across Avon and Somerset.



### HORSE WATCH LAUNCH

PCC Sue Mountstevens supported the launch of Horse Watch across Avon and Somerset. A successful scheme has already been running in North Somerset since 2006 and has now been extended force wide. Around 1300 people have now signed up to the scheme to receive crime prevention advice. There is also a Facebook page for members and non-members to stay informed about events and other Horse Watch activity.



### UNDERCOVER SCRUTINY PANEL

A national undercover scrutiny panel made up of representatives from inside and outside of policing, including PCC Sue Mountstevens has been set up to provide additional scrutiny to undercover policing arrangements. The College of Policing has set up the national panel and it is expected that the panel will complete their review of undercover work by January 2016.

## PCC's Pride Awards

Silent stars from across Avon and Somerset have been presented with Pride Awards in recognition of the contribution they've made to their local community at the PCC's latest awards ceremony.



Nominations come from members of the public and this time award recipients included police officers who rescued a woman who fell into a harbour, a volunteer from Victim Support and someone who has started a playgroup for children in Bridgwater.

Sue said: "Across Avon and Somerset we have some extraordinary people doing extraordinary things for their communities and they do so without any expectation of reward or recognition.

"All of these people have helped make their communities stronger and touched individual lives. To them all I say thank you, well done and keep up the good work."

Nominations for Pride Awards are open all year with award ceremonies held every three months. If you know someone you think deserves a PCC Pride Award then you can nominate them online.

## Commissioner's Community Action Fund

The Commissioner's Community Action Fund will give a further £200,000 to local community groups and voluntary organisations across Avon and Somerset for 2015/16.

The announcement comes as around £50,000 is issued to a further 16 local projects which were successful in their applications, during the latest allocation of the Fund.

Sue said: "I'm continually delighted to hear from residents and local people, about how the support from the Fund is really helping to make a difference in their local communities across Avon and Somerset.

"I am also pleased to announce a further £200,000 donation to the Trust for 2015/16. I hope this further funding will continue benefitting the everyday lives of local people across Avon and Somerset. I look forward to another year of community days and visits to the various projects, community groups and voluntary organisations."

**Community and voluntary organisations are invited to apply for up to £5,000 from the fund and applications are welcomed throughout the year.** For more information about the Fund or to apply visit the PCC's website.



# Neighbouring forces agree Strategic Alliance to hit savings targets

Decisions have been made which will see specialist police resources and support functions in the Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire forces being shared under a new strategic alliance, or 'collaboration', as both forces seek to secure significant savings over the next five years.

The two forces already collaborate on Brunel, a shared Major Crime Investigation Team, and Special Branch. Building on these successful foundations, the forces expect a wider collaboration will deliver a more efficient and cost effective police service for local communities.

Over the past four years each of the forces has had to find substantial savings and, although this has not been easy, these have been achieved. We anticipate that further significant savings will have to be found by 2018/19 and hope that by collaborating where we can, the impact on the delivery of frontline services will be lessened.

Discussions between the Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables about

a strategic alliance began in December 2014. These discussions are still at an early stage but it has been agreed that specialist police resources, protective services as well as corporate services will be included in the alliance. It has been agreed that both forces will retain their Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables, and that neighbourhood and response policing will continue to be delivered and overseen locally.

Sue said: "We're very optimistic about finding ways of working more closely together in the future. We have a good track record with existing collaborations and there are clear benefits for both forces in pursuing further opportunities."



"Police budgets are in a very challenging state and in the coming years this collaboration will help find the savings that both forces need to make."

## PCC on the road

Sue Mountstevens will be taking to the road this summer visiting communities across Avon and Somerset and speaking to local people to gather their views on local policing.

Consultation is one of the PCC's duties and visiting local people at a time and location convenient for this is just one element of a vast programme of engagement activities to ensure the residents of Avon and Somerset have the opportunity to get involved influence local policing.



As well as speaking with local people, the PCC and members of her team will be aiming to raise awareness of different areas of business in relation to the PCC's role and promoting the PCC's priorities.

Throughout the summer you can expect to find Sue, or members of her team, at:

- **The Royal Bath and West Show** – Wednesday 27th May
- **Weston Air Show** – Saturday 20th June
- **Bristol Harbour Festival** – Saturday 11th July
- **Dunster Country Fair** – Wednesday 29th July
- **Taunton Flower Show** – Saturday 8th August

Sue said: "Going to events is just one of the ways that I get to meet members of the communities I represent and for them to tell me what is important to them. Everybody who makes up Avon and Somerset will have a view on local policing and it is only by gathering that feedback can I make sure local people's policing needs are met."

## Your Tweets



**michele hurst**

@leadershipasp2 - Apr 11

@AandSPCC I had the pleasure of training some of our volunteers who help A&S to ensure we treat people fairly in custody. Great people!



**Lifeskills**

@BristolLS - Apr 10

Lovely to have had a visit from PCC @SuMountstevens - learning all about the amazing work we do @BristolLS



**Bath YFC**

@Bath YFC - Mar 12

Lovely to have had a visit from PCC @SuMountstevens our @AandSPCC for grants & for taking time to visit @BathYFC & find out more about our youth work.



# KEY DATES

## JUNE

- 9th Bridgwater and Taunton Deaf Club
- 10th Police and Crime Panel AGM
- 11th Bristol Specials and Police Volunteers Reward and Recognition Event
- 18/ Long Service Good Conduct Awards
- 19th
- 23rd Norton St Philip Traffic Action Group
- 25th PCC's Annual Meeting

## JULY

- 1st Community Day
- 7th Strategic Independent Advisory Group (IAG)
- 8th Safeguarding Board Conference 2015
- 14th South Gloucestershire IAG
- 15th APCC General Meeting
- 16th Business Crime Forum
- 21st Soroptomists Weston-super-Mare visit
- 29th North Somerset IAG

## AUGUST

- 13th PCC/Acting Chief Constable Area Day
- 17th Somerset West IAG
- 19th PCC Pride Awards
- 25th North Taunton One Team and Pride in Priorswood Community Day
- 27th Birbeck Probus Club

## SEPTEMBER

- 16th South West Regional PCCs meeting
- 17th Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board
- 17th Bristol PCC Police Public Forum
- 22nd PCC/Acting Chief Constable Bath and North East Somerset Area Day
- 22nd Frampton Cottrell WI visit
- 24th Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

To find out when PCC Sue Mountstevens will be in your area please visit the Events Calendar on our website

[www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

## 'Best on the Beat' competition is back!

Local communities from Thornbury to Yeovil, Williton to Wells and all those in between are being asked once again by PCC Sue Mountstevens and Acting Chief Constable John Long for their help in searching out the best in local policing.

If you have a neighbourhood team making a difference where you live, or a police officer, member or staff or volunteer has changed your life for the better, we want to hear from you and now is your chance to nominate them for a Neighbourhood Policing Award.

Sue said: "When I speak to residents and local people I hear many stories of how officers, staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond their duty or how a team has really made a difference. I hope that these people and the wider communities of Avon and Somerset take the time to nominate their local policing teams and tell us why they mean so much to them."

To nominate for this year's awards visit [www.neighbourhoodpolicingawards.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodpolicingawards.co.uk) – the closing date for nominations is August 4, 2015. Hard copy nomination forms are also available in police stations.

After this date an independent panel will select winners across the policing areas



and an awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 26, 2015 at Cadbury House Hotel where an overall force winner for each category will be announced.

The awards would not be possible without the support of local organisations. Sponsorship opportunities are available for 2015 and if your organisation is interested in supporting this event please visit the Neighbourhood Policing Awards website.

Bristol Post

Rolls-Royce

Western Daily Press

NOMURA

Sponsored by



Medlock Charitable Trust



Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner  
Valley Road, Portishead  
Bristol BS20 8JJ

[avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk](http://avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

Call 01275 816377



AANDSPCC  
SUE MOUNTSTEVENS



@AANDSPCC  
@SUMOUNTSTEVENS

You can also email the PCC at [pcc@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)