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Naturally I am pleased for the vote of confidence so many have shown in me and my record over the past five years.  I’m already back to work delivering on the manifesto pledges I campaigned on, which build on the priorities identified in the current Police and Crime Plan.  Philip Seccombe speaking at the election count Over my first term I concentrated on maximising the number of police officers for the county and we are now at 1,040 officers. Over the course of the next year that will go up further to 1,100 officers, which I know is something the public and the force alike will be pleased to see.  I have also pledged to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the Criminal Justice system. We need to give them support, encourage them to report crime and to help them understand the court process. There is still plenty to do in this area and there are a lot of things we need to make easier for all involved.  That’s something I am committed to making progress on.  Finally, I pledged to have a value-for-money organisation with a balanced budget. It remains as vital as ever that policing is funded well but also delivers value for taxpayers and does not spend more than it receives. That was a key part of the budget I set for this year and I can now continue to deliver this in the years ahead as Warwickshire Police continues to transform and improve the service it delivers to the community.  Work on a new Police and Crime Plan is beginning and I will be consulting on its priorities over the summer.  **New Chief Constable nominated**  Top of my agenda for the first weeks of the new term has been the process to select a new Chief Constable. It's one of the most important decisions any PCC has to make, as it can shape the future of policing in the county for many years to come. It is therefore critical to secure the right person for the role who can continue the excellent work of our current Chief Constable, Martin Jelley QPM, who retires at the end of this month.  I am pleased to report that following an extensive recruitment process, I was able to shortlist and interview candidates for the role at the end of May. I was aided in this process by an appointment panel which included included Monica Fogarty (Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council), Kieran Amos (Chief Fire Officer), John Anderson (Chair of the Joint Audit and Standards Committee) and Chief Constable Stephen Watson of Greater Manchester Police. Two further stakeholder panels (one of community representatives and one of officers and staff from across the ranks and roles of Warwickshire Police) helped put the candidates through their paces across the two days of the interview.  Debbie TeddsThe outcome was unanimous support for the decision to nominate the force's current Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Debbie Tedds (pictured right) as the preferred candidate to head Warwickshire Police. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel next week but I am pleased to be able to put forward someone who is already well-known and widely respected throughout the county.  Debbie has demonstrated clear and strategic leadership abilities during the selection process and throughout her career, combined with a calm and friendly approach which will continue to be a great asset to Warwickshire.  Of course, our current Chief Constable Martin Jelley has been an outstanding leader, navigating the force successfully through a very challenging period in its history and firmly setting it on a sustainable path for success. He will be very much missed when he retires at the end of June and I wish him all the best for the future. However, I am very confident that, if the Police and Crime Panel are supportive of the conclusions from this selection process, in Debbie we will have absolutely the right person to continue the excellent progress that has been made. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Philip Seccombe TD Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Could you volunteer to help your community?** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Banner promoting the Special Constabulary online taster session on June 14.During Volunteer's Week (June 1-7) it seems appropriate to give thanks to the many civic-minded people who give their time to help improve communities across Warwickshire. The past year has been an extraordinary one thanks to the pandemic but one of few pleasing aspects that has arisen from it has been the noticeable upturn in community spirit.  In all aspects of community life, there is a willingness to get involved for the betterment of others, so I hope if nothing else, we can continue to build upon this further over the next 12 months.  Volunteers play an active part in helping support policing and keep communities safe, perhaps none more so than those of the Special Constabulary. Special Constables are men and women who give up their time to serve the community supporting and working alongside the regular police force. They have fully warranted powers, wear the same uniform and perform the same duties as their police officer colleagues.  While we now have record numbers of regular police officers in the county, I want to see Warwickshire Special Constabulary get a real boost too, with more volunteers available to help support frontline policing.  If you are interested in finding out more, there's an [**online 'taster session' being organised by Warwickshire Police on June 14**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-special-constabulary-online-taster-event-tickets-147815372759).  **Other ways to get involved**  Police custody cellsThere also a number of more hidden voluntary roles that I am also keen to promote, as both help to protect the welfare and rights of individuals who come into contact with the police.  The first is our Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, the value of which I know for myself, having put myself through a night in custody last year to help raise awareness of the work they do.  Custody visitors play a vital role in ensuring the welfare of people in police custody in Warwickshire. Working in pairs, they visit police stations unannounced, talking to detainees and custody staff, before compiling a report on any issues identified during the visit. The information is analysed and any areas for action are highlighted.  We have a number of vacancies on our panels which cover the custody blocks at the Leamington and Nuneaton Justice Centres, so we are keen to hear from people who are interested in joining.  Similarly, I am establishing a pilot Appropriate Adults scheme, beginning in October, to support vulnerable adults who come into contact with the police, helping safeguard their interests, rights, entitlements and welfare.   Appropriate adults are volunteers who can be requested to support a vulnerable person throughout some of the important stages they will go through during their stay in custody or during a voluntary interview with the police, including as witnesses or victims of crime. This can include when they first receive their rights and entitlements, when they are interviewed or if they are searched, tested for drugs or DNA samples obtained. It will also include if the person is charged with an offence.  The OPCC will be holding a special information evening on Microsoft Teams for people interested in volunteering as an Appropriate Adult. It takes place from 6pm to 7pm on Thursday 17 June. To register your interest in joining, please email  [**abby.simkin@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk**](mailto:abby.simkin@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk).  For more information and details of how to apply to volunteer as an Independent Custody Visitor or Appropriate Adult, visit the [**Jobs and Opportunities page**](https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/your-pcc/jobs-and-opportunities/) on the OPCC website. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Making a 'Meaningful Change' to homelessness in Stratford**  Philip holds a contactless payment point as partners point to a Meaningful Change banner Funding that I have provided to the Safer South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership is helping bring contactless technology to a scheme in Stratford-upon-Avon, which helps support homeless people and those at risk of homelessness in the area.  The new contactless giving points provided by 'Goodbox' will enable people to donate to a centralised fund as part of the [**Meaningful Change campaign**](https://meaningfulchange.org.uk/).   It is hoped the initiative will make it easier for people to donate money for those who are homeless, and enable organisations working with vulnerable people to use the funding to help make a meaningful change.  The initiative provides a simple and effective way to raise funds so organisations working with vulnerable individuals can support them to change their lives in a meaningful way.  Funding donated through the scheme is being managed by Stratford Town Trust and Fred Winter Centre.  All money raised will be distributed between local organisations, for local individuals, focussing financial support to help to positively change the lives of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Stratford-upon-Avon.  The contactless giving points are currently located at the Visitor Information Centre at Bridgeway and HR Coffee Bar on Windsor Street in the town centre, with organisers looking for more businesses to join the scheme.  [**Find out more at Stratford District Council's website.**](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/137543) | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Earlswood Lakes Public Space Protection Order** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Earlswood Lakes, showing the Windmill and Engine Pools | | Earslwood Lakes.  Picture by Oosoom. Used under [**CC BY-SA 3.0**](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | One topic that local residents have brought to my attention over the past few years has been issues of nuisance behaviour at Earlswood Lakes, on the Warwickshire/Solihull border.  A popular beauty spot for walking, fishing and sailing, it has also attracted unwanted attention for car cruising, drug taking and other forms of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity by a minority of visitors, many of them coming from outside of the county to gather.  My role as Police and Crime Commissioner is not one that involves operational policing, which means that I am not in a position to directly act on the issues that have been brought to my attention. However, I have endeavoured throughout my time as Commissioner to represent residents by engaging with Warwickshire Police and key partner organisations.  The nature and positioning of the lakes meant that many agencies have levels of responsibility for responding to the difficulties residents faced, including local authorities and the parish council, the Canal and River Trust and two local police forces, among others. I was keen to bring all the partners together to help draw up a plan of action to co-ordinate activities and improve communication on the action taken. Just over a year ago I facilitated a multi-agency case conference to achieve this and I'm pleased to report that concerted activity has taken place over the intervening months.  The multi-agency meetings have continued with the intention not only to discuss collective actions to challenge some of the issues experienced but also to consider realistic, long-term problem solving solutions to bring back to the community to consider.  CCTV monitored by Stratford-on-Avon District Council is one part of the response.  As part of the district council’s investment in upgrading its network, temporary Public Space CCTV has been installed on Malthouse Lane, with a permanent camera to be installed at the location in the next few months.  Proposals for further CCTV on Valley Road are currently being consulted upon – see the [**council’s website**](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/crime-nuisance/cctv-consultation-valley-road-earlswood.cfm) for further information.  Another significant recent outcome has been the work to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Earlswood Lakes, which came into force last month, having been agreed by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in April. The Order is in place for three years and applies to anyone using the public space and specifically tackles:   * Possessing or consuming psychoactive substance * Car Cruising (includes cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, quadbikes and mopeds) covering anti-social use of vehicles causing detriment to the community * Loitering, causing or perceived to be causing intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress to others * Alcohol consumption and associated anti-social behaviour   Anyone who fails to comply is committing an offence. Police officers will engage with suspects and may execute on the spot Fixed Penalty Charges of up to £100 for a breach of the Order.  A serious breach may result in a court summons where if convicted, offenders face prosecution and a maximum fine of £1,000. [**You can find more about the PSPO on the District Council's website.**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.stratford.gov.uk%2Fcrime-nuisance%2Fpublic-space-protection-order.cfm&data=04%7C01%7CSam.Slemensek%40stratford-dc.gov.uk%7C05dbd77fef814f880c1908d92743a2b0%7Cea0773dc0dec4c50a4c9bc26a247ed21%7C1%7C0%7C637583993709096186%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=qvs07o9P2RSUaTzSERqGnTxDNyC8kLWQWSjDFgQuWfY%3D&reserved=0)  I'm grateful to the hard work of everyone involved in addressing the various issues which have affected residents.  The aim has always been to continue to ensure that the Lakes remain available for people to enjoy, while also giving the appropriate powers to police and other agencies to deal quickly with those who spoil the peace and tranquillity of the area for locals. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Running efforts raise the profile of road safety**  Andy Cox and his supporting crew of runners in Warwickshire  Well done to road safety professionals from around the county who donned their running shoes and joined a special effort to raise money for road safety charity, RoadPeace.  Chris Lewis, my victims and road safety lead at the OPCC, Kate Castle from Warwickshire Road Safety Education Team and Fay Wileman, Warwickshire Road Safety Administrator, were among those joining the Warwickshire leg of an epic run being undertaken by Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Cox.  Andy, who is Head of Crime at Lincolnshire Police but also the national lead for fatal collision investigation, set off from the site of the first ever recorded road death near Crystal Palace in London on May 17, undertaking to run all the way to the National Memorial Arboretum in Arlewas, Staffordshire by May 23.  That's a total of more than 200 kilometres!  Chris, Kate and Fay joined Andy as he ran through the county on May 21, starting just outside Rugby at Kilsby, Northamptonshire and ending at Wibtoft. Despite rather wet conditions, the running crew had completed their leg by mid-afternoon.  The Warwickshire efforts raised £715 towards the total funding of [**more than £45,000**](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andycox200kmrun?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=andycox200kmrun&utm_campaign=pfp-tweet&utm_term=ac610de1bb804617995c6465c112463a) for RoadPeace, the national charity which provides vital support to families bereaved by road deaths. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **County Lines week of action nets results** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A week of action to target those involved in 'County Lines' drugs networks towards the end of May netted 35 arrests and the seizure of hundreds of wraps of drugs, £14,000 of cash and weapons including a machete.  County Lines activity involves a group from a large urban area travelling to smaller locations to sell drugs. They may challenge an existing group from the local area or another County Lines group in order to take over the local market which often causes an increase in violent incidents.   The groups travel between urban and county locations on a regular basis to collect drugs and deliver cash. They will often use local properties as a base for their activities; this is often acquired by force or coercion referred to as ‘cuckooing’.   It has become an increasing problem here in Warwickshire and police have been working hard locally, across the region and with other forces nationally to tackle the problem. This culminated in a week of targeted activity, between 17-21 May, with six warrants executed at locations including Nuneaton, Leamington and Warwick  As well as the arrests and seizures, a total of 11 vulnerable people were identified and are now being offered support.  Anyone with suspicions that a property is being used to sell drugs from, or that a young and/or vulnerable individual may be getting involved with county lines drug dealing is asked to contact their local police station or to ring 101. Alternatively, information can be provided anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Contacting the OPCC**  My office is continuing to operate as normal, with staff working mainly remotely.  You can continue to contact us as normal however by email at [**opcc@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk**](mailto:opcc@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk) or by phone at 01926 412322.  Wherever possible, please try to contact us by email in the first instance, but please note that due to our revised working arrangements, it may take us longer than usual to provide you with a reply. | | | | |
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