



Association of  
Police and Crime  
Commissioners



**PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

# SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN FOCUS

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) case studies highlighting where PCCs are making a difference in addressing serious violence within our communities

# PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# SERIOUS VIOLENCE

# IN FOCUS

**Foreword from Mark Burns-Williamson OBE, APCC Chair and Serious Violence Lead and West Yorkshire's PCC**

We are seeing a significant rise in serious violence, often gang-related, with children and young people the victims of gun and knife crime, resulting, on too many occasions, in the tragic loss of life. We are further witnessing the detrimental impact this has on our communities, particularly with the exploitation of young people, in many cases by organised criminal groups running 'County Lines'.



The Government published the Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018, making significant reference to the contribution required by PCCs in combatting this serious issue. PCCs are stepping up and making a difference. A key theme of the Strategy is early intervention and prevention, an area PCCs have long invested in, examples of which are highlighted in this publication.

Several cross-party PCCs, representing both urban and rural communities, are part of the APCC Serious Violence Working Group. The Working Group, which I chair, has been able to highlight key issues and make asks of Government. These have included: future sustained funding; a whole-system cross-Government approach; effectiveness of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and a duty to cooperate; addressing the reduction and lack of youth services; and the significant rise in school exclusions.

We are seeing progress in all these areas, for example: an increase in the Early Intervention Youth Fund from £11m to £22m; an announcement of a £200m Youth Endowment Fund; a consultation on a duty to cooperate (Public Health-led approach) including the role of CSPs, along with a review into school exclusions. Looking forward, we are all aware it will take time to see a significant reduction in serious violence. It will require focused action and initiatives, a whole-system approach and the continued commitment of PCCs, Community Safety Partners and their teams to make a difference.

In this publication you will find examples/case studies of how PCCs are making a real difference in tackling serious violence by working with partner organisations including around: one-to-one mentoring; youth diversion schemes and projects with schools, ex-offenders, Premier League football clubs, medical staff and CSPs, to get to the root of the problem and improve our communities and help our young people, who are, after all, the future.

## **Foreword from Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, Nick Hurd MP**

As a Government, we have been working closely with police forces across the country and continue to provide support to help them tackle the rise in serious violence. I welcome this publication which shows how the PCCs are working to improve their communities.

Our top priority is tackling serious violence and knife crime. Law enforcement plays a key role in this and my thanks go to all frontline police officers for all they are doing to protect us.

But the answer doesn't just lie in policing and together we are taking action on many fronts. That includes educating young people about the dangers of violent crime, and providing positive role models through community backing. I am pleased that PCCs are seeing progress from the increase in the Early Intervention Youth Fund; and that they welcome the announcement of the £200m Youth Endowment Fund.

Our Serious Violence Strategy sets out the importance of a multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence. The solutions must involve action from Government, education, health, social services, and communities themselves. Together we can have a real impact in tackling violent crime.





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# 1

## MERSEYSIDE PCC

Graded as outstanding by HMICFRS for its organised crime response

MERSEYSIDE POLICE IS ONE OF FOUR FORCES GRADED AS '**OUTSTANDING**' BY HMICFRS FOR IT'S ROBUST RESPONSE TO ORGANISED CRIME.

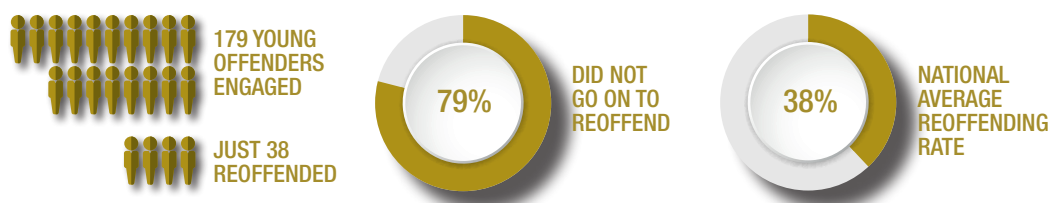
**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER JANE KENNEDY** RECOGNISES THAT A LARGE PART OF THE SERIOUS VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED IN MERSEYSIDE IS A PRODUCT OF ORGANISED CRIMINAL NETWORK ACTIVITY.

For Jane, the '**Pursue**' element of the **Force's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy** is important for the maintenance of public confidence, but both she and the Chief Constable are also committed to investing significant resources into the **prevention of organised criminal networks**, with the aim of breaking the cycle of young people being drawn into a life of serious crime.

*"The Chief Constable and I believe we must take a long-term approach. Collectively, we must act faster and try to reach those who are younger. By the time an individual is in their late teens, it is usually too late to prevent the individual either being seriously injured or killed, or committing an act of serious violence."*

Working with **Everton Football Club's** charitable arm, **Everton in the Community**, they have developed a successful model which offers young people an alternative to the street-gang culture that envelops them.

Aimed at young people aged 11 to 16, the **Merseyside Prevent Model** targets those with low self-esteem, a lack of confidence and low aspirations. Harnessing the pulling power of football, this project looks at those who infrequently attend school, live in a chaotic household or are on the edge of gang activity. It aims to reach them at the right time and in the right way, re-engaging them through education, community-based activities and vocational opportunities, offering them alternative opportunities to earn a living.



The results are encouraging; of 179 young offenders engaged, just 38 reoffended - meaning 79% did not go on to reoffend. This compares favourably with a national average of 38%.

As a result, in 2018 Merseyside and Cheshire was chosen by the Home Office as one of five areas to install a **Serious and Organised Crime Prevent Community Coordinator**. This role focuses on **working with partners** to develop these alternative pathways for young people. Work is concentrated in two geographical areas at the moment, one of which has been identified as an 'exporter' of criminality especially **county lines**, the other, the recipient.

# 1

## MERSEYSIDE PCC

Graded as outstanding by HMICFRS for its organised crime response

*"Here in Merseyside, we know the most vulnerable kids are those who are persistently absent from school, those who 'bunk off,' and who are being coerced or being groomed as they roam the streets. Offered money, phones, and acceptance, a sense of belonging that these young people often miss at school or at home and before they know it, these very young people are trapped."*

However, the Prevent work is effective. **By December last year, 324 pupils in those target areas had taken part in group sessions, with 132 youngsters identified as requiring one-to-one support. A further 626 have been identified.**

Its success to date was pivotal in helping the Commissioner secure a further **£700,000** from the **Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund** to expand the project, with match funding. In partnership with Everton in the Community, the LFC Foundation, the Princes Trust and well-respected local charity, the Shrewsbury House, the **Merseyside Youth Alliance project** will focus on targeting young people aged 8 to 19, in hotspot areas, who are most at risk.

Richard Kenyon, Everton in the Community CEO, said: *"We are really pleased to be combining our experience and expertise to help protect young people from exploitation."*

The Commissioner also funds **Catch 22** to deliver a **Pan Merseyside Child Exploitation Service** as part of her support service for victims of crime, **Victim Care Merseyside**. This was the first regional service in the country offering specialist support for young people under 18 affected by both criminal and sexual exploitation, including gangs and trafficking. Comprehensive screening and assessments are used to identify risk. Appropriate programmes of intervention and care are put in place, including one-to-one and group work.

**Young person:** *"Thanks for all of your help, I appreciate everything you have done to try and help me."*

**Parents:** *"Catch22 were the only service that supported her. All through the grooming and exploitation ... her social worker hasn't bothered with her but you have been there consistently."*

**CONTACT:** **Chloe Griffiths** at [chloe.n.griffiths@merseysidepcc.info](mailto:chloe.n.griffiths@merseysidepcc.info)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- Find out more about **Everton in the Community**
- Find out more about the **Merseyside Youth Alliance**
- For more information about the PCC's Victim Care Merseyside service, please **CLICK HERE**
- Or visit [www.VictimCareMerseyside.org](http://www.VictimCareMerseyside.org)



Everton in the Community

# 2

## BEDFORDSHIRE PCC

Bedfordshire Police Force received £4.6 million funding to fight organised crime and gang violence

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE RECEIVED A **£4.6 MILLION FUNDING BOOST TO FIGHT ORGANISED CRIME AND GANG VIOLENCE.**

HOME SECRETARY SAJID JAVID HAS APPROVED A **SPECIAL GRANT APPLICATION** FROM **BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, KATHRYN HOLLOWAY,** AND THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING HAS SUPPORTED BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE TO **DISRUPT GANG ACTIVITY** IN AND AROUND TOWNS IN THE FORCE AREA.

This gang activity includes high-harm crimes, such as gun violence, county lines drug operations, and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

*"I've fought all year to land the argument that the nature of the gang, gun and knife issues we face represents precisely that extraordinary challenge for Bedfordshire Police.*

*This money will cover the entire cost of **Op Boson**, the Force's specialist response to gang, gun and knife crime, which has placed an unprecedented strain on us over the past two years, together with the spend on this area calculated for this financial year."*

The PCC has also invested a large proportion of her **2019/20 commissioning fund** into **early intervention work** to ensure young people don't get drawn into a life of crime.

*"We know we can't arrest our way out of this situation, so the work we have undertaken with our community is of extremely high value to us.*

*We make the best use of our dedicated School Liaison Lead and Team which engages with 367 schools and other educational establishments."*

The Lead is briefed by an intelligence analyst on a daily basis, **identifying any serious youth violence incident or a knife crime** incident involving under 18s. This allows resources to be deployed to appropriate geographical areas.

When a young person is identified as being vulnerable to knife crime, a letter is sent home to their parent/guardian addressing our concerns and inviting them to attend a meeting with their child and a representative from the school to discuss this further.



# 2

## BEDFORDSHIRE PCC

Bedfordshire Police Force received £4.6 million funding to fight organised crime and gang violence

PCC Kathryn Holloway has funded work in this area, which has included training 2,000 pupils and the same number of teachers and frontline workers in relation to county lines drug dealing and knife-carrying.

She is funding theatre company Alter Ego to provide an exceptionally hard-hitting drama for all those pupils who are 11 or older across the county, with scripts written with former gang members and knife carriers. She will stage this drama for parents in theatres at both ends of the county this year to promote discussion within families.

Kathryn has also funded bereaved relatives affected by gang violence to lead education and training of young people and lead youth groups for young children in gang hotspots in Luton and Bedford.

Kathryn said: *"I have driven cooperation between the three unitary authorities in the county by engaging the Home Office's Violence and Vulnerability Team, which is politically neutral and led by a respected former detective, to draw together and map all known information regarding gang membership and knife-carrying from councils, police and youth offending services."*

*"This is now being used as the basis of a countywide strategy for all agencies to work together to deal with this issue and divert our young people away from this activity, which is stealing young lives."*

*"The reviews meant that no council or agency could continue to deny the scale of the issue on their own patch."*

Kathryn also plans to involve surgeons who have been quite literally at the cutting edge of knife crime to work with schools countywide and has delivered a popular and successful campaign for pupils to design a radio ad, warning of its dangers, for broadcast across local and regional media.



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# 3

## WEST MIDLANDS PCC

Established the Commission on Gangs and Violence

THE **WEST MIDLANDS** HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESPONDING TO SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE. FOLLOWING THE RISE AND SPREAD OF GANG-RELATED CRIME WITHIN BIRMINGHAM DURING 2015 AND EARLY 2016, THE PCC, **DAVID JAMIESON**, ESTABLISHED THE **COMMISSION ON GANGS AND VIOLENCE** AS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE VIOLENCE.

The Commission's work focused on working with communities to empower them to play their role in tackling violence. They reported back in December 2017.

The report has delivered a significant body of evidence and is representative of the main issues affecting local communities. There are 24 recommendations and the summary and full reports are **HERE**.

**David Jamieson pledged £2 million to respond to these growing issues and this is being used to deliver recommendations which include:**

- Community mediators to defuse violence between gangs
- Mentoring to help young people at risk of offending, and those already in the Criminal Justice system, make the right life choices
- A package of support to rehabilitate ex-offenders as they leave prison and re-enter their communities, with the aim of breaking the cycle of crime
- Focused work regarding school exclusions and off-rolling

Bishop Derek Webley, Chair of the Gangs and Violence Commission, said: *"After what appeared to be a sustained period of calm, a rise in the number of gang and knife-related incidents had altered that trend in a way that became quite disconcerting.*

*"On the back of that situation the Police and Crime Commissioner invited me to chair a Commission to address the issue.*

*"Tackling this problem isn't easy. There are no quick fixes.*

*"We know we need all the authorities, various bodies and communities to work together to solve the problem.*

*"I am sure that, by drawing on that collective wisdom, we can find a number of solutions going forward that will make our city and region a safer place to live, work and socialise in."*

In November 2018, the PCC was successful in securing **£1,831,000** from the **Home Office's Early Youth Intervention Fund**, working in partnership with our seven **Community Safety Partnerships** and **West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance**. As well as the original amount, he was also successful in getting a further **£230,000** in January 2019 for activities up to April.



# 3

## WEST MIDLANDS PCC

Established  
the Commission  
on Gangs and  
Violence

The work puts a focus on early prevention and intervention and young people. The main areas being addressed include:

- Targeted Interventions in local areas where there is a risk of young people becoming involved in violence, gangs and other criminality, focusing on those at risk of exclusion and those aged under 18 who have disengaged from education

**David Jamieson** has also led the way in a fresh approach to drug policy. Taking a public health approach and treating addicts as victims and those with a health problem rather than a criminal problem. The **drug strategy** has received cross party support and has received high praise internationally from law enforcement and other organisations.

**Policing Minister Nick Hurd MP** spoke in support of the PCC's drug strategy in Parliament last year. He said: *"The Government welcomes the focus the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner places on drugs in his report, which sets out a balanced approach to tackle the illicit drug trade, protect the most vulnerable and help those with a drug dependency to full recovery."*

**David Jamieson**, commenting on the fresh approach he has taken to tackle gangs, violence and drugs said: *"It is clear that simply trying to arrest our way out of these problems has not worked; that is why I have adopted a public health approach to tackle these issues."*

*"We are now working to understand the root causes of violent crime and are able to divert people away from criminal activity, rather than arresting them after they have committed a crime."*

*"Heroin and cocaine are costing the West Midlands £1.4bn. Collectively, our drugs policy is failing, despite excellent work being done by many."*

*"These issues are linked and we must work together to tackle these problems facing our communities."*

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### USEFUL LINKS:

- Find out more about the **PCC's Drug Strategy** [here](#)
- Find out more about the **Gangs and Violence Commission** [here](#)

# 4

## AVON AND SOMERSET PCC

Dealing with root causes of serious violence

*"VIOLENCE IS LIKE A DISEASE - IT BECOMES INFECTIOUS AND WILL SPREAD THROUGH A COMMUNITY LIKE A WILDFIRE. IT WILL PASS DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS UNLESS WE BREAK THE CYCLE AND DEAL WITH THE ROOT CAUSES."* **SUE MOUNTSTEVENS, AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

This was brought strikingly home to Sue Mountstevens by **Bristol Chief Inspector Gary Haskins** who shared the true and sad tale of arresting a young man in his teens who he had originally seen as a young child. Many years before he had knelt down to comfort the boy at his home during the arrest of his older brother and said to him, *"What do you want to be when you grow up?"* He replied, *"I want to join the Blood Gang"*.

*"If someone that young can only aspire to join the criminal role models around them then we truly have failed as a society,"* says Ms Mountstevens.

Sue believes we all have a collective responsibility to create a less violent society; she says the key to solving the issue is to work together: *"The antidote is to target our resources collectively; to provide better opportunities for our young people through early intervention and prevention in collaboration with our communities, voluntary and public sector partners."* She shared these views with **Policing and Fire Minister, Nick Hurd MP** in November 2018 as she jointly hosted the **Home Office Serious Violence Engagement Event** in Bristol.

For early intervention to work we need to offer our young people an alternative. They need inspiration. **In 2016, Avon and Somerset PCC gave local entrepreneur Clayton Planter a small one-off grant to run his first Street2Boardroom project.** Clayton saw his fair share of friends turning to the wrong side of the law to make money and he grew increasingly aware of the entrepreneurial spirit of those who had chosen another path. *"These guys are ambitious, they're sophisticated people managers, they're strategic planners and they're risk-takers - the only difference is that they're making their money outside the law,"* he says. *"I realised that if these guys could be given the confidence to develop a career within a corporate environment, they could really flourish - because many of them were business geniuses."*

**Street2Boardroom** initially started as an eight-week motivational course. Now **Street2Boardroom** is providing extra courses and working beyond Bristol. He's also supporting a new project by Avon and Somerset Constabulary, led by Chief Inspector Gary Haskins, called **"The Call In."** Launched in February 2019, it offers young people an alternative to prosecution; *"It's a way to avoid the Criminal Justice system by engaging with a host of partners and mentors who can provide opportunities, tailor-made for each individual, which can set them on a different path."*



Clayton Planter  
Street2Boardroom

# 4

## AVON AND SOMERSET PCC

Dealing with root causes of serious violence

*"Although this is just a pilot, my hope is that we will provide a blueprint for breaking the cycle of crime and prosecution, which sees so many young people's potential wasted,"* says **Chief Inspector Gary Haskins**.

In December, the Avon and Somerset PCC received **£495,000** from the **Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund** for **Barnardo's** to deliver a dedicated support service called **ROUTES** to children and young people at risk of being the victim or perpetrator of serious violent crime.

**Sinitta Watkins, Barnardo's Team Manager for ROUTES**, said: *"We need to work with community groups and partner agencies to ensure we are receiving referrals for those who are deemed most at risk. Young people with ambitions, hopes and dreams are having their childhoods stolen by serious violence and this needs to stop."*

Over the coming months, ROUTES will offer one-to-one intervention, targeted group work sessions and preventative group work sessions to victims and perpetrators across Avon and Somerset.

There is much more to do, according to Ms Mountstevens, who has already refreshed her Police and Crime Plan to include a greater emphasis on serious violence, including a collective effort to make a systematic change and reduce violence for good. In May, she will host a **Serious Violence Summit** with public and third-sector organisations across the area to develop a local response and strategy. She will also launch her **serious violence fund**, for match-funded applications from local partners to enable local coordination and delivery. Ms Mountstevens says; *"We owe this to every person who has lost their life to violence, to every grieving family and to every community traumatised by the blight of violence."*



Sinitta Watkins,  
Barnardos

**CONTACT:** **Rebecca Hehir** at [Rebecca.Hehir@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Hehir@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- <http://www.street2boardroom.com/>
- <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2018/Nov/Avon-and-Somerset-benefits-from-Home-Office's-Early-Intervention-Youth-Fund.aspx>



# 5

**MAYORS OFFICE  
FOR POLICING AND  
CRIME (MOPAC)**  
Innovative, public  
health approach to  
tackling violence

**IN LONDON, THE MAYOR IS DRIVING FORWARD WITH AN INNOVATIVE, PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO TACKLING VIOLENCE. DEPUTY MAYOR FOR POLICING AND CRIME, SOPHIE LINDEN, EXPLAINS MORE:**

Violence has been increasing in London and nationally since 2014, taking a tragic toll on individuals, families and communities across the city. Bringing it down has been the urgent priority for this Mayoralty and for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Huge investment from the Mayor, combined with a concerted collective effort from partner agencies and communities, has gone into strengthened efforts on enforcement, diversion and prevention. Through this partnership effort and sustained enforcement, we are beginning to see some early signs that violence in London is stabilising, although we are not complacent, and one attack is one too many.

However, we recognise that the roots of violent crime run deep and that efforts to tackle the immediate problem give no guarantees of long-term reductions. Over the last 15 years in London, we have seen violence peak, trough and peak again. It is clear that a different, much longer-term view is needed if we are to make a lasting change for the better.

A violent crime can happen in a matter of seconds, but they are years in the making. We believe that violence is preventable - and that to do so, public bodies, voluntary groups and communities must work more closely and take a public health approach - getting ahead of the problem, identifying and addressing the factors such as: poverty; mental health needs; drug and alcohol abuse; adverse childhood experiences; domestic abuse and social alienation that can increase an individual's risk of perpetrating or victimisation.

**Building on our Knife Crime Strategy, and to drive this work forward and ensure it has a lasting foundation, in September 2018 the Mayor announced plans to create a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for London. Based on the successes of the public health approach to tackling violence in Glasgow, the goals of the London VRU are to:**

1. Stabilise and reduce violence across London
2. Find the major causes of violence and co-ordinate action across London to tackle them at scale, delivering a long-term reduction in crime and associated harms
3. Involve communities in the work of the VRU and build their capacity to deliver the best long-term solutions to reduce violence.

We are currently in the mobilisation phase for the VRU, work steered by a **Partnership Reference Group** including representatives from City Hall, policing, health, education, probation, the Scottish VRU, Borough Councils, London Funders and from London's communities.

# 5

## MAYORS OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME (MOPAC)

Innovative, public  
health approach to  
tackling violence

The aim is to embed the public health approach across London, with local co-ordination of interventions alongside the local community and partners - including the Metropolitan Police, local authorities, youth services, health services, and criminal justice agencies.

These teams will be shaped by community issues, and resourced and empowered to commission services that respond to their local contexts. As well as local delivery, a small VRU team will also be based at City Hall to provide leadership across London and develop regional analysis and policy which will support local crime reduction projects. The **first Head of the VRU - Lib Peck** - has now been appointed and recruitment of a small staff team for the Unit will get underway shortly.

The Unit's work will involve gathering data from health, criminal justice and other public services. This data will be used to help identify the underlying risk factors that can lead to violence, diagnose the problem and then assist in the development and the delivery of plans and interventions - alongside communities - to tackle them.

By combining the public health approach with an **intensive immediate response to violence**, we are determined to drive down violence today, and sustain those reductions for years to come.

*"The Violence Reduction Unit is a significant move forward in approaching knife crime as a public health issue. The root causes of knife crime are complex and need solutions that extend beyond enforcement. We have seen how similar programmes have worked to great effect in Scotland. Bringing together experts from a range of disciplines, sharing information which helps to disrupt criminal activity and intervene earlier to reduce the likelihood of violence is an important step forward in the fight to end knife crime."* **Patrick Green, CEO of the Ben Kinsella Trust.**

**CONTACT:** [policing@london.gov.uk](mailto:policing@london.gov.uk)

# 6

## SUFFOLK PCC

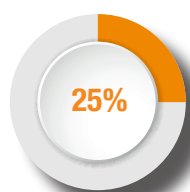
Multi-agency commitment to tackling serious violence

LAST YEAR IN SUFFOLK, PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS INVESTED IN RESEARCH INTO COUNTYWIDE PROBLEMS INVOLVING SAFEGUARDING RISKS TO YOUNG PEOPLE. THE STARK FINDINGS OF THIS RESEARCH, AND THE **TRAGIC DEATH OF AN IPSWICH TEENAGER**, PROVOKED A STRONG MULTI-AGENCY COMMITMENT TO TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE.

Yet, the year to **March 31 2018**, saw a **16% increase in recorded violence offences** and a **25% increase in reported incidents involving weapons** (knives, axes, blades, swords and machetes).



INCREASE IN RECORDED VIOLENCE OFFENCES



INCREASE IN REPORTED INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS

**Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore said:**

*"The '**County Lines**' supply of drugs, which I consider to be one the most serious threats to our county, combined with growing knife crime, has been described as a 'national emergency'. Suffolk's rural communities are feeling the horrendous impact of such crimes.*

*"Serious violence, such as knife crime, cannot be solved by any one organisation - we need to work together. The **power of collaboration in Suffolk is massive**; we are stronger together than as individual organisations.*

*"I remain totally committed to working with public-sector partners to ensure we pool resources to deliver our countywide strategic action plan utilising the expertise of multi-agency professionals in one team."*

In 2018, Suffolk Public Sector Leaders agreed a **Strategic Action Plan** backed by significant investment, which established a multi-agency team (including our **Police Youth Gangs Prevention Team**). The overall **investment** is around **£1m** over two years.

In November 2018, Suffolk was awarded **£57,000 from the Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund** to tackle serious violence through interventions with young offenders by developing a **Thinking Skills Programme**. The programme will deliver intensive small group and individual work with young people, aged 10-18, involved in offending through violence or gangs and known to **Suffolk Youth Justice Service**.

*"This locally-developed programme supports young people with the tools to better manage their responses to conflict and peer pressure and challenge their own behaviour. This will make a critical difference to the life chances and educational and employment opportunities of those young people involved in violence and gang activity.*

*In recent months, the number of county lines operating in Suffolk has reduced, but gang and youth violence continues to be a major concern."*

**£1,000,000**  
MULTI-AGENCY INVESTMENT  
INCLUDING POLICE YOUTH GANGS  
PREVENTION TEAM  
PLUS A FURTHER £57,000  
FROM HOME OFFICE EARLY  
INTERVENTION YOUTH FUND

# 6

## SUFFOLK PCC

Multi-agency commitment to tackling serious violence

Beyond working with partners at a county level and supporting tactical plans at a CSP level, a lot of positive work is being delivered through the **PCC's Crime and Disorder Funding**.

*"This year (2018-19), I have **commissioned services worth £433,000** for crime and disorder reduction and for diversionary activities for young people, opportunities and support for education and employment.*

*"A fantastic example is the funding to Ipswich Community Media, who were awarded **£19,980** to deliver a music/media project (in partnership with Out Loud Music) for hard to reach young offenders and those at risk in an area of Ipswich, which has seen increased gang issues."*

This project supported 52 young people, who were in (or at risk of entering) the Criminal Justice system, to gain music and radio skills and to engage in new activities to produce their own music. Feedback shows these young people are more active and confident to re-engage with their schools, colleges, the local community and others.



Ipswich Community Media

### OF THE 52 YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED:



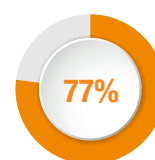
**HAD A YOUTH REHABILITATION ORDER**  
(32% a Rehabilitation Order, 25% were on Diversion programme, and 11% Youth Caution)



**OF THOSE IN THE YOUTH OFFENDING SYSTEM PROGRESSED INTO A POSITIVE ACTIVITY**



**OF THOSE IN THE YOUTH OFFENDING SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED A POSITIVE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS FEMALES AND/OR DRUG MISUSE**



**OF THOSE IN THE YOUTH OFFENDING SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED A REDUCTION IN THE GRAVITY OF THEIR OFFENDING AND/OR A REDUCTION IN THE FREQUENCY OF THEIR OFFENDING**

### Feedback about the service includes:

*"The Making Waves project offered young people who are often ostracised from mainstream education and youth activities a place to belong and a chance to express themselves in a safe and professional place.*

*"The project gives a sense of belonging to those at risk of being groomed into gangs or radicalised. The safe space created means young people from Nacton and other areas have accessed this provision and have broken down some of the false barriers of 'No go' postcode rivalries. This is especially true for those who are on the fringes but not involved in gangs."*

**CONTACT: Sandra Graffham at [sandra.graffham@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sandra.graffham@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)**



# 7

## SOUTH WALES PCC

Partnership-working, a key component of the innovative public health approach

REDUCING VIOLENCE HAS BEEN A KEY AIM FOR **SOUTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, RT HON ALUN MICHAEL** SINCE 2012, WITH PARTNERSHIP-WORKING A KEY COMPONENT OF THE INNOVATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH ADOPTED IN SOUTH WALES TO TACKLE RELATED ISSUES.

*"In Wales, our belief in the important role of public service, the fact that co-operation is a core value, and the impetus from the **Well-Being of Future Generations Act** is creating a very different environment to England. South Wales Police is an active champion of this way of working. The key is to **work together in a joined-up way** with all partners, to prevent problems developing, or to prevent them getting worse."*

**Violence Surveillance Reports:** part of an ongoing collaboration established in April 2014 between Public Health Wales, South Wales Police, regional Health Boards and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, involving the cross referencing of personalised data.

These quarterly reports support prevention of violence at the source by identifying and mapping communities, specifically police beats, which had the highest numbers of presentations to health care as a result of violence. This allows for targeted intervention to prevent violence in communities that are most at-risk, through quarterly multi-agency local action groups. Examples of the use of this information include:

- Implementation of a taxi marshal scheme to reduce the number of individuals on the streets potentially at risk of violence at the end of the night
- An increase in St John Ambulance provision throughout the Cwm Taf University Health Board area at peak times in the night-time economy, in order to reduce the burden of violence on emergency departments
- A Responsible Alcohol retail course, delivered to bar staff in Cardiff and Swansea, which targeted problematic venues but was available to all bar staff across the two cities.

*"Multi-agency data sharing and analysis, particularly with key partners such as Public Health Wales, is fundamental in identifying hidden harm to promote early intervention and prevention initiatives."*

**Drinkaware Crew** Introduced in September 2016, the Drinkaware Crew initiative was part of a response to a series of sexual assaults committed in Cardiff during the previous year's Freshers Fortnight.

Through collaboration between the Police & Crime Commissioner, Drinkaware and Students Unions across South Wales, the Crew help raise awareness of sexual harassment and support those who are vulnerable, usually through excessive drinking. Working in pairs, Crew members introduce themselves to customers, patrol high-risk areas such as toilets, and ensure customers leave the venue safely. In its first year, the Crew undertook 522 activities, liaising with St John Ambulance and street pastors, and with security staff, including in instances of suspected sexual harassment.

# 7

## SOUTH WALES PCC

Partnership-working, a key component of the innovative public health approach

**South Wales Police Deputy Chief Constable, Richard Lewis** said:

*"This partnership, between Drinkaware, universities and student unions, allows students to assist us in safeguarding students within the night economy. The scheme helps to ensure that those that become vulnerable are given the support that they need."*

### Early Intervention Youth Fund

A bid led by the South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner on behalf of the Dyfed Powys, Gwent and North Wales Police & Crime Commissioners and the four Chief Constables, has successfully been awarded a total of £1.2m over two years from the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund to help tackle the root causes of serious violence through early intervention and prevention, with children under the age of 18.

The bid again demonstrates the benefits of ongoing co-operation between the four Police and Crime Commissioners and the four Chief Constables to come up with innovative projects to tackle these very serious issues affecting young people in Wales.

**South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael** said:

*"The project will involve reducing drivers of serious violence among young people, their involvement in drug dealing, County Lines activity and the prevalence of carrying knives. It will help young people make informed decisions about crime and the consequences of crime on a young person's life and future prospects."*

*"We will achieve this through direct youth support intervention programmes, media campaigns as well as by diverting those at risk into sporting and peer support interventions."*



South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Rt Hon Alun Michael with the Drinkaware Crew

### CONTACT:

**Richard Watkins** at [richard.watkins@south-wales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.watkins@south-wales.pnn.police.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- Violence Surveillance reports - **Campaign Launch**
- **Drinkaware crew**
- **Local launch video**
- **For Cardiff promotional video**
- **Early Intervention Youth Fund**

# 8

## SUSSEX PCC

Secured £890,616 from the Early Intervention Youth Fund

**IN NOVEMBER 2018 SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER KATY BOURNE SECURED £890,616 FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S EARLY INTERVENTION YOUTH FUND.**

Following the national increase in serious crime, the **Home Office** developed their **Serious Violence Strategy**, which encourages young people to make positive choices instead of becoming involved in crime. This is an initiative that the Sussex PCC, Katy Bourne has been working in partnership to progress and will be implementing through her **Early Intervention Youth Programme, "REBOOT"** over the next year of funding.

Mrs Bourne comments: *"Too often young people from troublesome backgrounds fall into the 'wrong crowd' and focus too heavily on the negatives in their life with no positive distraction. This then makes them a prime vulnerable target for organised crime groups, who seek to coerce them into carrying out their criminal biddings."*

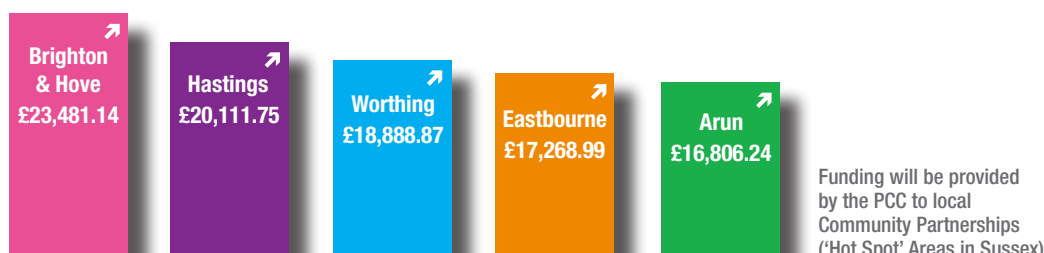
*"As the Sussex PCC, I was awarded £890,616 of Home Office funding, which will help the VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector, schools, health, statutory partners and the police engage positively with under 18's at risk of committing serious violence and those who have already come to the attention of the Police."*



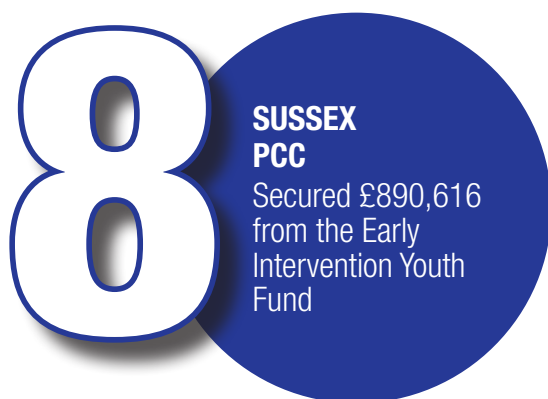
The **REBOOT programme** will offer a personalised, strengths-based, one-to-one support package for young people, who have been identified as being at risk of engaging in serious violence and gang behaviour. With the support of a personal coach, they will identify which pan-Sussex activities would be most beneficial in helping them overcome some of the issues they face.



Funding will also be delivered to **existing youth services** within five identified **'hot spot' areas in Sussex**. Funding will be provided by the PCC to the following local Community Partnerships:



A **training programme** will be offered to all frontline **police officers** and **staff** to ensure that they understand the early intervention element within the Serious Violence Strategy and the Partnership Team will ensure that REBOOT complements existing services across the county.



The Rt Hon. Amber Rudd, MP for Hastings and Rye said, *"This funding will give Sussex Police opportunities to reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities; whilst at the same time helping to turn around young lives, which may otherwise have been blighted by negative consequences."*

Assistant Chief Constable Nick May said: *"The PCC and partners have worked hard to secure the funding for this programme. This is a fantastic new opportunity to provide diversion and support for young people who are experiencing challenges in their life, which may lead to their involvement in criminality."*

Integral to the design of REBOOT is the pan-Sussex Early Intervention Protocol. This is an **agreement between Sussex Police, the Youth Offending Services and the NHS Partnership Trust** to provide a **referral pathway for young people** identifying early indicators of serious violence, allowing escalation through five stages. It is a non-criminal, supportive approach, but has an enforcement element at its final stage.

A pilot version of this Protocol was trialled in Hastings and is now being expanded under REBOOT.

During the trial, **69 children** were referred through the Protocol. **63 children** were referred into the first stage, with **73% of children not coming to notice again**. In total, **23 children** were referred into stage 2 (screening assessment) and **only 8 children** referred into the youth offending team clinic at the third stage. **0 children** were referred through to the final stage of the protocol (civil injunction), due to the support being provided in partnership.



During the Hastings pilot and following through to the REBOOT programme, **PCSOs will play an integral part in the initial intervention stage** and be a constant, alongside their personal coach, in the young people's lives as they develop through the programme. Many of the 100 PCSOs to be recruited as part of this year's rise in precept will become part of this programme.

This is a quote from a young girl who went through the Hastings pilot programme; *"I would like to thank a certain police officer, called Charlotte Williams - a huge thank-you for always having my back and being there for me even when I didn't want you to. I'm going to put the past behind me now and look into the future!"*

**CONTACT:** John Willett at [john.willett@sussex-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:john.willett@sussex-pcc.gov.uk)



# 9

## WEST YORKSHIRE PCC

Safer Communities Fund to support innovative schemes

**WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, MARK BURNS-WILLIAMSON** IS USING HIS SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND (SCF) TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE SCHEMES THAT TURN YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY FROM SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIME. THIS SEES MONEY RECOVERED UNDER THE **PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT** DIVERTED INTO KEEPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES SAFE.

*"Whilst our Police do a fantastic job in tackling serious violence, Police and Crime Commissioners also have a huge role to play in bringing community groups and organisations together to prevent such crimes from happening in the first place."*

**Street Doctors:** aiming to reach vulnerable, high-risk young people who have been, or are likely to be, exposed to violent crime; they strive to help young people link risky behaviours, like carrying knives, to real-life situations of violence and the very real consequences.

The medical students' charity has received **£4,570** from the SCF to instil a sense of social responsibility and change attitudes about violent crime, whilst also equipping young people with the First Aid skills to save a life.

**Kirklees Youth Intervention Team:** they have received **£4500** from the SCF to work with a partnership team, delivering on their vision of early intervention with 11 to 16 -year-olds at risk of: offending, becoming a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation, getting involved in antisocial behaviour and gangs, or of going missing.

To bring issues to life, they worked with charismatic ex-offender **Paul Hannaford**, whose story and experiences were shared with over 3700 students across schools in Huddersfield. He hopes to return this year, having received an overwhelmingly positive response.

### Students reported:

*"Big up, I've never taken in so much from one assembly before. All those times we done assemblies about drugs and the effects, I've never listened, but I took in everything that they taught us. Thank you."*

*"Big up, Paul - you've taught us something no teacher could."*

**Early Intervention Youth Fund:** with the aim of preventing serious violence, Police, Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams, Fire & Rescue Service and the Prison Service will lead delivery of a multi-agency programme of early intervention projects in West Yorkshire, having been awarded a total of **£1,121,395** from the national Early Intervention Youth Fund.

The successful bid was the result of hard work to collectively evidence the need for more interaction with younger generations through existing and established channels.

**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns Williamson** said:

*"Working closely with West Yorkshire Police, Community Safety Partnerships and a range of other partners, the money will enable us to deliver a programme of early intervention projects, with the aim of preventing serious violence in the county."*



# 9

## WEST YORKSHIRE PCC

Safer Communities  
Fund to support  
innovative schemes

*"This will include work to identify and target young people who are vulnerable to exploitation in or on its fringes. Similarly, it will target those linked to organised crime, street gangs and anti-social behaviour.*

*"It will also be put towards the employment of 'Key-workers', helping those children who are identified as the most likely to be involved in violent crime.*

*"I have seen first-hand just how this kind of activity can make a huge difference to people's lives and I am keen now to unlock the benefits, that this injection of funding brings, to complement ongoing work to tackle violent crime."*

**The Get Away 'N' Get Safe, 'GANGS' Prevention Programme** is just one example of the work being supported through the fund and aims to steer over **1500 primary school children** across West Yorkshire **away from crime**.

The idea came from **Probation Officer, James Riley**, who has specialised in gangs. Eleven schools across West Yorkshire have already benefited from the five-hour programme. **Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield** attended one of the Leeds schools to see the work being done. Mr Riley told her: *"The programme is all about changing a young person's thinking, getting them to be brave, confident and inspire them to follow their dreams.*

*"My experience of working with street gangs and organised crime groups made me realise that many of these individuals did not fully understand the lifestyle they had become involved in and many wished they could turn back the clock.*

*"It is a community initiative and I am determined to change the culture of young people believing it's wrong to speak to the Police. Grassing or snitching are words I am determined to change."*

**CONTACT:** **Andy Smith** at [andrew.smith@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.smith@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Communities Fund
- £210,000 from PCC's Safer Communities Fund to tackle violent crime across West Yorkshire
- Schools Tour Across Kirklees Educates Kids
- Commissioner Welcomes Funding Boost to tackle Violent Crime Across West Yorkshire
- Early Intervention Youth Fund Successful Bids
- Community Safety Projects Given Cash Injection by West Yorkshire PCC



PCCs Safer  
Communities  
Fund event

# 10

## KENT PCC

Diverting young people away from a life of drugs, exploitation and crime

**THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT, MATTHEW SCOTT, AWARDED A CHARITY £614,000 FROM HIS LOCAL COMMISSIONING BUDGET, SO VITAL WORK DIVERTING YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY FROM A LIFE OF DRUGS, EXPLOITATION AND CRIME COULD CONTINUE.**

Since 2017, caseworkers from **St Giles Trust** have been working with vulnerable children in Kent involved in **county lines** drug distribution networks.

One young person has said of their caseworker: *"I love her. She helps me a lot with my anger. She calms me down. She would be the first person I'd call when I'm in trouble. I'd probably be in jail if I didn't have her."*

The PCC's funding is enabling the work to continue for a further three years. The **Home Office** is also contributing **£202,000** towards the project in 2019/20.

**St Giles Trust CEO Rob Owen** said: *"We are delighted to be able to continue our work in Kent helping vulnerable children and adolescents leave the destruction and misery of county lines exploitation and keep young people safe."*

However, the decision to put more funding into the county lines project is just one outcome of a wider project looking at violent crime in Kent - the **PCC's Violence Reduction Challenge**.

Mr Scott explained: *"When residents hear about rising volumes of violent crime, they immediately think of knife crime, robbery and gang crime. In fact, there are 55 different offences which fall under the violent crime umbrella - including things like malicious communications and assault without injury. One of the first objectives of my Violence Reduction Challenge was to start a conversation about what violent crime is, so we could then look to identify what can be done about it."*

*"It was important to me that the end-result was not just a report gathering dust on a shelf. We're drawing up evidence-based recommendations which will contribute to making people safer in Kent."*

The Violence Reduction Challenge began with Mr Scott launching a call for evidence, inviting the public and partners to share their own experiences of violent crime. He then convened a core steering group made up of **Kent Police, the National Crime Agency, local councils**, and the other **emergency services**, to begin discussing the issues. They met for the first time in July 2018.

Running concurrently to these steering group meetings were larger advisory panels held in public across Kent and Medway.

The first of these saw around 20 organisations come together to give their own perspectives on violence in the county. Together, they agreed to focus efforts on those committing the most violence on the most vulnerable victims in Kent.



# 10

## KENT PCC

Diverting young people away from a life of drugs, exploitation and crime

**Kent Police Deputy Chief Constable Tony Blaker** welcomed the enthusiasm from partners to work together, saying: *"We can't arrest our way out of this problem. We need to address some of these wider issues which is not something the police can do alone."*

**Adrian Gulvin, from Medway Council**, said: *"I feel the gangs and drugs issue is key, because their tentacles reach far and wide. It encompasses so many other aspects [of violent crime]."*

In February 2019, the PCC then hosted a **larger summit in Maidstone**. More than 150 delegates from policing, other emergency services, community safety partnerships and victims' charities put forward their ideas on what could be done in the areas of:

- Prevention
- Education and engagement
- Enforcement
- Rehabilitation

It was at the summit that the **PCC and the Home Office announced the funding for St Giles Trust**.

**Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, Victoria Atkins MP** said: *"This funding will help the charity protect local children from this very real danger and educate them on how to stay safe."*

*Intervening early is at the core of our Serious Violence Strategy and it is vital that together, with police and charities, we have a coordinated approach to bring an end to violent crime."*

The PCC has also been tackling violent crime by investing in the recruitment of more Kent Police officers and by awarding money to groups like Crimestoppers and Restorative Justice services. However, his Violence Reduction Challenge is the first collaborative project of its kind to bring interested parties together to agree a joined-up, countywide response to violent crime.

**CONTACT:** **Keith Fairbank** at [pcc.media@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc.media@kent.pnn.police.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- Kent PCC Matthew Scott asks: 'What is your experience of violent crime?'
- Community safety leaders meet to discuss reducing violent crime
- Partners pledge to work together to tackle violent crime
- Diverting more young people from a life of drugs, exploitation and crime
- £800,000 investment in activity to tackle county lines in Kent
- Evaluation into the Kent County Lines Pilot Project





# 11

## HAMPSHIRE PCC

Dealing with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER MICHAEL LANE** RECOGNISES THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT **ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs)** CAN HAVE ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE IMPORTANCE THAT **INTERVENTION IS MADE EARLY** TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM OUT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

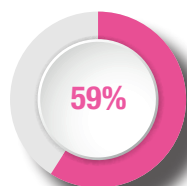
A **National Institute of Justice** study has indicated that **being abused or neglected as a child increased the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59%.**

In November 2018, Michael led a joint bid to the **Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund** to secure **£416,829**, which will provide better support for young people who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (or ACEs) and as a result may be at increased future risk of offending.

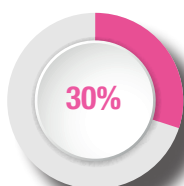
*"It is essential that professionals can identify the early signs and are specifically trained in being 'ACE aware and trauma informed' to ensure that the right support is available at the right time for young people and their families."*

Examples of **Adverse Childhood Experiences** include living with a parent in prison, or the impact of suicide. Some young people have family members experiencing mental health problems or misusing drugs and alcohol, some are carers of a parent with a debilitating medical condition, some have been abused or exploited. **Abuse and/or neglect also increased the likelihood of adult criminal behaviour by 28% and violent crime by 30%.**

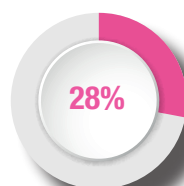
*"I am delighted to draw together partners to secure this important funding to deliver support in the local area. By coming together with colleagues at Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton councils, plus many community and voluntary organisations that work tirelessly to support vulnerable young people, we will be able to offer a more comprehensive, targeted and intuitive approach to helping young people deal with trauma."*



**BEING ABUSED OR NEGLECTED AS A CHILD INCREASED THE LIKELIHOOD OF ARREST AS A JUVENILE BY 59%**



**ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT ALSO INCREASED THE LIKELIHOOD OF ADULT VIOLENT CRIME BY 30%.**



**ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT ALSO INCREASED THE LIKELIHOOD OF ADULT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR BY 28%**

# 11

## HAMPSHIRE PCC

### Dealing with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The successful project will see **138 professionals trained to be trauma-informed and ACE aware**, and nine 'Trusted Adult Workers' will be recruited to mentor and support young people (aged 5-17 years) to deal with the trauma of their Adverse Childhood Experiences.

The **Trusted Adult Workers** will be positive role models for the young people and will help them to get the right support early on. Through this early intervention, the young people can learn coping strategies, build increased resilience, and have reduced vulnerability to exploitation.

**Fewer at-risk young people will become victims or perpetrators of crime**, which will help keep them, and all of us, safer.

**Rock Pool's Creative Director, Sue Penna**, said: *"We are delighted to be part of this partnership and know that the work that is being developed will make a real difference to people's lives."*

**CONTACT:** **Laura Cadd** at [laura.cadd@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laura.cadd@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

#### USEFUL LINKS:

- Find out more about the Home Office funding received
- Find out more about Rock Pool
- For more information contact [opcc.comms@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc.comms@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)



**SUE MOUNTSTEVENS**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Avon and Somerset



**KATHRYN HOLLOWAY**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Bedfordshire



**MATTHEW SCOTT**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Kent



**JANE KENNEDY**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Merseyside



**SOPHIE LINDEN**  
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime  
in London - MOPAC



**RT HON ALUN MICHAEL**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for South Wales



**TIM PASSMORE**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Suffolk



**KATHY BOURNE**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Sussex



**DAVID JAMIESON**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for West Midlands



**MARK BURNS-WILLIAMSON OBE**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for West Yorkshire



**MICHAEL LANE**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Hampshire

Although this 'Serious Violence In Focus' features eleven PCCs, all PCCs are making a real difference in their local communities. Other examples can be found via PCCs own websites which you can access here:

**[www.apccs.police.uk/  
find-your-pcc/](http://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/)**





Association of  
Police and Crime  
Commissioners



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