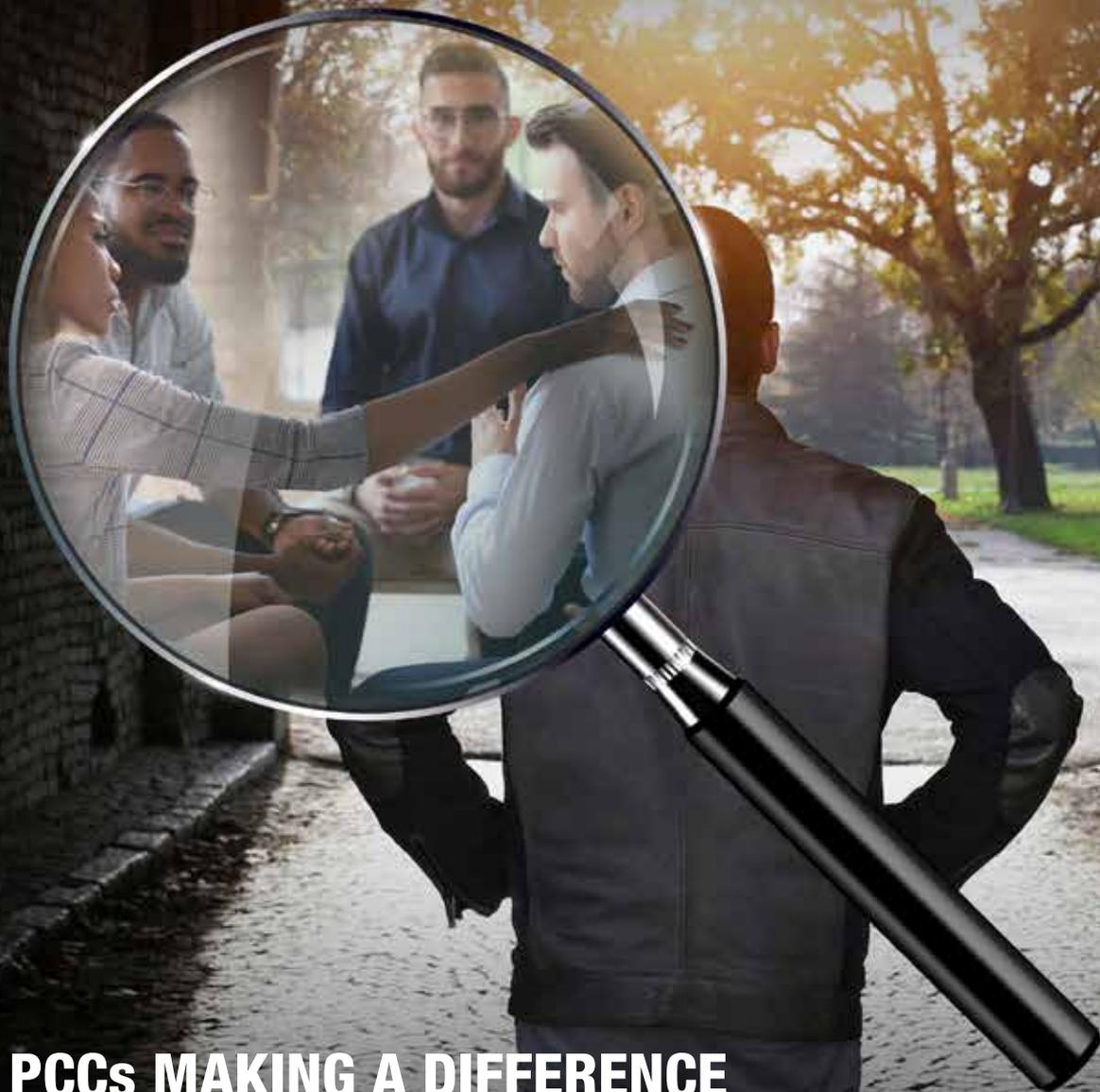




Association of  
Police and Crime  
Commissioners



**PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
**ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**  
**IN FOCUS**

Working with partners to break the cycle of reoffending by addressing underlying problems such as alcohol and drug dependency

# PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# ALCOHOL AND DRUGS IN FOCUS

**Foreword from APCC Alcohol and Substance Misuse Lead, Hardyal Dhindsa, Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Alcohol and Substance Misuse Lead, Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.**



‘Alcohol and Drugs In Focus’ demonstrates how Police and Crime Commissioners are working with partner organisations to prevent crime and to break the cycle of reoffending by addressing underlying problems such as alcohol and drug dependency.

The scale of the problems faced by communities was put into dramatic focus by the 2018 British Crime Survey, which reported that victims believed perpetrators to be under the influence of alcohol in 39% of violent incidents and under the influence of drugs in 21%.

From 2017 to 2019, in England and Wales, almost a third of homicide victims (31%) and almost a third of homicide suspects (31%) were found by police to have been under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence.

Much more needs to be done to prevent these crimes in the first place and to reduce the prevalence of re-offending which is often caused by substance misuse and dependency.

PCCs are making a real difference and leading the way by working with partner organisations to examine the underlying causes of crime and reoffending and provide credible and innovative alternative pathways to improve people's life chances and prevent crime within communities. By preventing crime from happening in the first place, PCCs can help ensure there are less victims and the public are kept safe.

Read on, to find out how 13 Police and Crime Commissioners are making a real difference. Examples of multi-agency projects - some of which are award-winning - include:

- post-release accommodation for ex-offenders in recovery from dependency;
- pioneering projects to reduce alcohol-related harm associated with the night-time economy;
- offering a range of evidence-based substance misuse treatment administered by specialists;
- support to cope with the effects of adverse childhood experiences, including recovery toolkits;
- funding targeted drug and alcohol treatment projects for groups who need tailored services, particularly vulnerable women and people with mental health and substance misuse problems.

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## **Foreword from Minister for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service: Kit Malthouse MP**

This report provides a very useful contribution to understanding what works, and I hope that forces up and down the country will read it with interest.

Alcohol-related crime in England and Wales is estimated to cost society around £11.4 billion per year. The equivalent cost of drugs is £20 billion per year. This is why local action to reduce the harms caused by substance misuse and to tackle the criminality behind the illicit drug trade is so important.

Our approach to tackling alcohol-related crime focuses on measures to reduce re-offending. We intend to expand alcohol abstinence monitoring for offenders who are not serving prison sentences. I am therefore pleased to see in this report a number of interventions that aim to divert low level offenders from the Criminal Justice System, working with them to tackle the issues that so often include substance misuse. Some of the early results which have been evaluated, such as those in County Durham, suggest that these initiatives have real potential to reduce re-offending. I am also pleased to see excellent examples of multi-agency working to reduce crime and improve safety, such as those in Nottinghamshire, and to tackle issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse on the streets of Derby.



The Government takes a balanced approach to tackling drug misuse, including: prevention to reduce demand for drugs, restricting supply; building recovery; and taking global action with partners to ensure the right controls are in place.

I am particularly keen that all law enforcement partners have a renewed focus on reducing drug supply. In supporting this aim, the Government commissioned Dame Carol Black to undertake a major review of drug demand and drug supply, providing the analysis and evidence base for further action. I will also hold a UK Drugs Summit on 27 February in Glasgow to bring together partners across the UK to consider additional steps we can take and to draw on the widest range of expert views across healthcare, prisons, homelessness and law enforcement among others in doing that.

Looking ahead, the Government announced a new Addictions Strategy would be developed in 2020, and that work is beginning to take shape, being led by the Department of Health with support from the Home Office and other partners across Government.

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**PCCs MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
**ALCOHOL AND  
DRUGS IN FOCUS**

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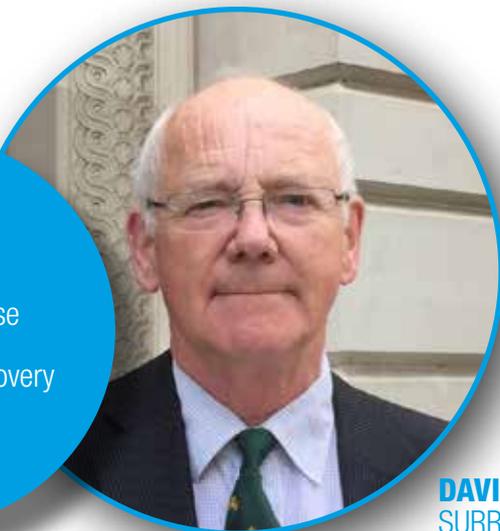
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**1 SURREY PCC**  
 Funding post-release accommodation for ex-offenders in recovery from addiction



**DAVID MUNRO,**  
 SURREY POLICE AND  
 CRIME COMMISSIONER

Approximately 50 individuals are released from Surrey prisons every month, but accessing accommodation presents an immediate barrier to life beyond offending.

Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro funded **The Forward Trust** to address this issue. Forward work **with over 900 offenders** across Surrey to **overcome substance misuse** and provide accommodation for those leaving prison.



**PCC David Munro said:** "Lack of stable accommodation is a driving factor in reoffending. Funding this project means more individuals have a foundation to build from - contributing to a safer Surrey."

Individuals assessed during the first year of the project are likely to have completed one of **Forward's intensive abstinence programmes in prison** - the first such programmes in the UK to be **accredited by the Ministry of Justice** for reducing offending.



**£6.3 MILLION**

FOR EVERY 100 PEOPLE COMPLETING FORWARD'S 'RAPT' PROGRAMMES AN ESTIMATED £6.3 MILLION IS SAVED THROUGH REDUCED CRIME AND SENTENCING



**LESS LIKELY TO RE-OFFEND THAN INDIVIDUALS WITH A SIMILAR OFFENDING PROFILE WHO DID NOT ENGAGE**

In October, the Justice Data Lab reviewed the impact of Forward's intensive programme at HMP Send. It found that women who completed the programme were **38% less likely to re-offend than individuals with a similar offending profile who did not engage**. There was also a significant reduction in the volume of offences committed.

# 1 SURREY PCC

Funding post-release accommodation for ex-offenders in recovery from addiction

CONTINUED

**Mike Trace, Forward's CEO said:** *"The Forward Trust works with hundreds of prisoners each year who will move back to Surrey on release. We know that whatever positive progress they make on rehabilitation programmes in prison, there is a high risk of things falling apart if they are homeless on release. This is why we work so hard to find people somewhere to live on their first night out - the **Vision Housing partnership** is a great example of this working in practice".*

The innovative project goes **beyond most models** by providing tailored support to clients to secure **private rented accommodation**. The project enables individuals to secure a real home - not just a room in shared accommodation, which is important to help them build independence and find work. Follow-on support helps people grow their confidence and rebuild relationships.

## Client experience:

*"I felt very supported by the Forward team from the outset. They communicated with me regularly and I had viewings to go to almost straight away. Any problems I had with travel or getting to viewings, Forward did whatever they could to support me. Within a short space of time I moved into a property. Without Forward, I would have been homeless.*

*The area I moved to is close to family so that has helped with that connection. I am happy and settled now, and have a stable roof over my head.*

*I know that Forward are always there if I need anything. I am hugely grateful for all their help and support."*

**OPCC Criminal Justice Policy and Commissioning Lead, Craig Jones said:** *"We're really proud to support such an innovative project - leading the way by providing ex-offenders with accommodation that is more suitable to their needs, with investment in all areas of their health and wellbeing linked to a reduced chance of offending."*

**UP TO 65%**  
reduction in reoffending supported by Forward's prison drug and alcohol services

**£250,000**  
contributed by the PCC to reduce reoffending in Surrey - £16,000 to The Forward Trust in 2019

**CONTACT: James Smith at [James.Smith2@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:James.Smith2@surrey.pnn.police.uk)**

## USEFUL LINKS:

- More information can be found at [www.forwardtrust.org.uk](http://www.forwardtrust.org.uk)

2

## NOTTS PCC

Introduces pioneering projects to reduce alcohol misuse in the City, particularly around the night time economy



**PADDY TIPPING,**  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE  
AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

A thriving nightlife is part of the appeal of any town or city, but it also presents its challenges - including alcohol-related crime. Managing this and associated issues is a top priority.

### Paddy Tipping, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, said:

*"Nottinghamshire needed to stay at the forefront of efforts to reduce alcohol-related harm. We had to think creatively and trial new approaches to reassure those who live, work and study here that their safety is our number one priority."*

*"I've fronted a number of pioneering projects, alongside our partners in justice, licensing, the retail industry, health and education. It is an ongoing journey, but the progress is evident."*



- Nottinghamshire's partnership with alcohol education charity **Drinkaware** has delivered high profile campaigns such as '**Stay with Your Pack**', alongside a major training programme of bar, club and door staff across Nottingham, equipping staff with the skills they need to intervene and protect vulnerable revellers and reduce their risk of harm.
- Specially trained '**Drinkaware Crew**' are now established in the Nottingham Trent University Student Union and a host of other venues, to encourage a positive social atmosphere, ensure people leave venues safely and provide support for customers who find themselves in distress. Last year, they launched the '**Okay to Ask**' campaign encouraging 18-24-year-olds to support their peers who are on the receiving end of sexual harassment by safely intervening and asking 'Are you OK?'
- Both universities in Nottingham contribute towards extra **community protection patrols** to keep the 60,000-student population safe and reduce antisocial behaviour.
- Nottinghamshire also works closely with Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID) who deliver the Best Bar None scheme across Nottingham. This year 116 venues were accredited; the first scheme to surpass 100 venues. Nottingham has maintained Purple Flag status for nine years in a row, a testament to successful partnership working between statutory agencies, the voluntary and community sector, trade organisations and businesses. In another first, venue security staff are sharing five body cams, providing incontrovertible evidence if necessary and, by their very presence, reducing the potential for problems.

# 2

## NOTTS PCC

Introduces pioneering projects to reduce alcohol misuse in the City, particularly around the night time economy

CONTINUED



**Paddy Tipping said:** *“Partnerships are key to our strategy. To engage partners, I hosted a unique **Alcohol Conference**, bringing together retailers, licenses, hospital staff, health workers and police to discuss the way forward. That was six years ago, and we have continued the team approach to solve problems jointly. We continue to work with the **Night-Time Economy Safety Group**, which brings together a host of agencies including licensing, planning, the universities and the Street Pastors scheme; and the Alcohol Pathways Group to link in with Public Health, hospitals and primary care.”*

**David Lucas, a consultant with Fraser Brown and winner of the Institute of Licensing’s Jeremy Allen Award 2019, said:** *“...It was clear that a concerted and co-ordinated effort was needed to improve things. Key stakeholders came together to address the various issues.*

*As a result, the reputation of the City Centre has been restored to the extent that it has seen a reduction in overall crime levels in the City Centre, students now reside in large numbers within the City Centre and the perception of Nottingham has improved.”*

**Beth Burrows, Street Pastors Manager, said:** *“Through the partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, Street Pastors has been equipped to assist those who are most vulnerable in the Night Time Economy by ensuring that people are cared for and helped home, making a big difference to the public’s experience of the city of Nottingham. We are so grateful for the continued partnership and really value the input of Nottinghamshire Police who provide a constant safety reassurance.”*

On the enforcement side, Nottingham City Council introduced **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)** prohibiting alcohol consumption across the City Centre. During 2017/18, 796 alcohol surrenders were carried out in the City Centre while 21 fixed penalty notices were issued for breaching the order.

It is also crucial to equip staff with the training and tools needed to save lives in an emergency. Venues have been equipped with **trauma kits** and staff trained to provide a first response to serious violence incidents.

Finally, the introduction of the **Late Night Levy** has helped the delivery of proactive work to address alcohol problems under the two rounds of the **Government’s Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAA) programme**.

**CONTACT:** **Helen Kane** at [helen.kane12910@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:helen.kane12910@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>
- Best Bar None: <https://bbnuk.com/>

**3**

**LINCOLNSHIRE PCC**

Combating persistent begging and substance misuse in Lincoln City Centre



**MARC JONES,**  
LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AND  
CRIME COMMISSIONER

Addressing alcohol and drugs misuse by funding **Lincolnshire's Intervention Team** to combat persistent begging and substance misuse in Lincoln City Centre.

In the summer of 2018 a spate of anti-social behaviour, public drug-taking and rough sleeping emerged, causing concern amongst residents and business owners in Lincoln City Centre.

PCC Marc Jones knew the solution would not be simply enforcement and he called a **summit of dozens of community leaders**, police officers, traders and charities to find a solution. After months of work, a partnership was formed, and a new **Lincoln Intervention Team** was launched.



**Marc Jones said:** "The Lincoln Intervention Team aimed to **significantly reduce** the incidence of **aggressive begging** and **substance misuse** on the streets of Lincoln - in turn improving the feeling of safety within the city.

"The staff were also tasked with addressing the deep-rooted issues that lead a person to engage in street anti-social behaviour, **focused around addiction and mental health support.**"

The team aims to build a rapport with the on-street community through daily outreach as well as providing support and assistance across a range of issues.

The project is supported with staff and funding from the Business Improvement Group, the PCC and the City of Lincoln Council. The project has received match funding from the National Lottery enabling the programme to continue for an extra year.

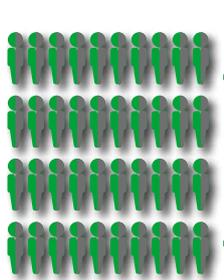


# 3 LINCOLNSHIRE PCC

Combating persistent begging and substance misuse in Lincoln City Centre

**CONTINUED**

**In the first year the team achieved the following milestones:**



Worked with **140 different individuals** and **logged more than 1,500 actions** on the case management system

**57 individuals** have received support for substance misuse and **12 have entered treatment**

**72 individuals** have received support for mental health-related issues and **30 have engaged in a support plan or entered treatment**

**Over the past year:**



A significant number of people are now accessing support. Some have said that without this support they would have died.

**Marc Jones said:** "It was clear from the outset that any short-term fix would not necessarily work and that is why working closely with other agencies was crucial in creating long-lasting solutions - "Some people on the streets need help, others refuse help and only respond to enforcement. There is no one-size-fits-all approach and a great deal of work has been done to create answers that will endure - "I am delighted with the Team's success - the positive results are visible in the local community."

**Comments:**

**Award judges:** "Our winner offers an outstanding project brief, mission and purpose. This is a tremendous activity, and every authority should have something like this; it is truly innovative. We were impressed by the approach of partnership working to tackle fundamental societal issues and getting to the root-cause of problems, rather than just acting on the symptoms once they become apparent."

**Manager of the Intervention Team:** "I feel really proud of what they work incredibly hard to achieve. Whilst some people will welcome support, the majority are disengaged with services and often have mistrust of services. It's the team's job to build rapport and to make a consistent offer of support which they do under some really tough circumstances."

**ASB Officer within the Intervention Team:** "Our work can be challenging due to the client group; however, it can also be rewarding. On a typical day we would do outreach within the city centre and try to engage with anyone who was either begging or who appeared to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance. The team would offer support for that person by offering mental health support or being referred to Addaction. The last resort is enforcement action. Throughout the enforcement process, the offer of support is always given."

**CONTACT:** Jon Grubb at [mjgrubb@btinternet.com](mailto:mjgrubb@btinternet.com)





**4** **DYFED-POWYS PCC**  
 Launched The Diversionary Scheme to divert low level offenders away from the Criminal Justice System



**DAFYDD LLYWELYN,**  
 DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Dyfed-Powys Police launched a new **multi-agency initiative** on 1st November 2019 which aims to **divert low level offenders** away from the Criminal Justice System and reduce reoffending in the force area.



**The Diversion Scheme**, funded by Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner, was the **first of its kind** to go live within Wales and will enable eligible offenders to get the support and guidance they need to keep out of the Criminal Justice System. Many of these offenders have significant underlying needs such as **substance misuse** or are struggling with financial debt and at risk of losing tenancies. This scheme provides them with a comprehensive assessment and puts in place a programme of support with direct access into agencies such as **Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service and Kaleidoscope**.

The PCC has worked closely with partners to implement the scheme and **Pobl Care and Support**, who have been awarded the contract, will be working alongside a wide variety of organisations to implement referral pathways into both generic and specialist service intervention.

**Initial findings from the pilot revealed:**



decrease in identified needs of offenders upon successful completion



of offenders choosing to continue their support strategies past completion, demonstrating their motivation to change



of offenders in the pilot scheme had not reoffended since being referred

**Dafydd Llywelyn said:** *“I’m pleased to see the new Diversionary Scheme come to fruition in the force. Critically, it gives people a second chance and aims to understand the reasons behind their offending. Evidence shows that this approach leads to reductions in reoffending. This obviously reduces the number of victims and that can only be a good thing.”*

# 4

## DYFED-POWYS PCC

Launched The Diversionary Scheme to divert low level offenders away from the Criminal Justice System

CONTINUED

**Annette Brenchley, Area Manager for Pobl Care & Support, commented:** *“It’s a privilege to deliver such a culture and game changing initiative. Having worked on the pilot project, we know the scheme reduces demands on other services, impacts positively on those who engage and makes our communities safer by reducing re-offending.”*

**Other good news stories from the scheme to date include:**

James had a serious dependency upon drugs and had hit a very low point when he was arrested. As part of his support package, he was referred to Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service (DDAS) who helped him to avoid relapse but also assured him of support available should a relapse occur. He said they *“have been a huge help by sorting myself out, I can’t thank them enough.”*

Chloe had a history of alcohol misuse which impacted on her behaviour, resulting in a number of arrests. Chloe was very embarrassed and wanted to change. Under the diversionary scheme she was helped to work on her drinking and provided with counselling. Chloe’s confidence and self-esteem improved, and she is now ready to look for employment, having been unemployed for two years.

The Diversionary Scheme is just one of a number of initiatives on which the PCC works closely with partner agencies. Dyfed Powys also has a number of Street Pastor schemes running in the Force area that provide essential support and advice during peak times in the night time economy, along with provision of mental health street triage and mobile substance misuse provision in geographical hotspots around the Force.



**CONTACT: Alison Perry at [alison.perry.opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alison.perry.opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk)**

### USEFUL LINKS:

- Follow the link to the video to hear PCC Llywelyn talk about the scheme and to listen to Maria’s story: <https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/newsroom/press-releases/diversionary-scheme-launched-in-dyfed-powys-police-force-area/>

**5**

**SUSSEX PCC**

Funding rehabilitation schemes and leading on ground-breaking research into domestic abuse reoffending



**KATY BOURNE OBE,**  
SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

In 2019, through her Safer in **Sussex Community Fund**, PCC Katy Bourne provided grants, equating to **£39,780**, to nine different organisations who work to reduce re-offending and address substance abuse.

These community projects help **adults and young people** who are battling with addiction and have had involvement with the Criminal Justice System. They range from diversionary activities to 1-1 recovery support and Mrs Bourne has also recently funded a project which helps ex-addicts to become entrepreneurs and give back to the community.



**Kennedy St CiC** was formed in Brighton by two ex-addicts in 2014. They have since gone on to help **hundreds of people to turn their lives around**. Their **Beyond Community Connection Project** provides a mix of recovery coaching and supporting self-employment.

**PCC Katy Bourne said:** *“People in active addiction often become disconnected from the consequences of their substance misuse; fuelled by desperation they can find themselves entrenched in criminality.*

*“These small local projects can help people in the way big organisations can’t, they act from the heart and they know the community better than anybody else.*

*“In order to cut crime we have to open our eyes to the wider problems affecting our society and a huge driver is substance misuse and addiction.”*

**Heather, who was arrested numerous times whilst under the influence of drugs and alcohol, is now on the road to recovery.** *“I was given the foundation blocks by Kennedy St to build a new way of life as well as simple solutions to my very complex life issues. I’ve found a new found freedom in recovery and I no longer feel like a burden on my family or community.”*

Mrs Bourne has also led the way in commissioning pioneering **research into reducing offending** of high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators, some of which have had more complex underlying issues including **substance misuse**.



# 5

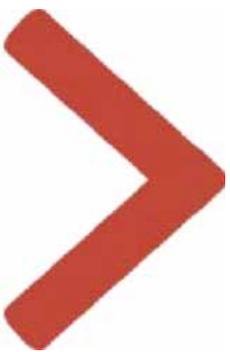
## SUSSEX PCC

Funding rehabilitation schemes and leading on ground-breaking research into domestic abuse reoffending

CONTINUED

She was first approached in 2016 by the Director of SafeLives and agreed to be one of the first PCCs to back a perpetrator scheme. Recognising the many benefits of conducting such research she invested a **total of £538,000** to roll out a three year pilot in West Sussex.

# DRIVE



In this time they supported 242 perpetrators and recorded:



Reduction in physical abuse



Reduction in sexual abuse



Reduction in harassment



Reduction in controlling behaviour

Those with other complex issues, including substance misuse, also had access to further specialist support.

**Mrs Bourne said:** “During its three year pilot period we have seen real results and I have become even more convinced of the benefits of this approach to both the public purse and most importantly, to victims and their families.

“**DRIVE** has given us a great starting point nationally to develop a cohesive approach to offenders. Meanwhile locally, I’ll be working with partners to continue addressing the complex root causes of perpetrator’s behaviour and hopefully reduce the number of victims across Sussex.”

**CONTACT:** **Natalie McFall** at [natalie.mcfall@sussex-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.mcfall@sussex-pcc.gov.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- More information on the Safer in Sussex Community Fund: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/apply-for-funding/>
- More on the DRIVE project research: <http://driveproject.org.uk/about/research-evaluation/>

**6**

**ACTING DURHAM PCVC**

Overseeing the award-winning Checkpoint deferred prosecution scheme



**STEVE WHITE,**  
ACTING DURHAM POLICE,  
CRIME AND VICTIMS'  
COMMISSIONER

**Checkpoint** attempts to **break the cycle of reoffending**, helping offenders change their lives by **addressing their underlying problems** such as alcohol and drug addiction at the earliest opportunity.



THE LATE **RON HOGG,**  
FORMER DURHAM POLICE, CRIME  
AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER

**Steve White is Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) for Durham.** Following the very sad passing of **PCVC Ron Hogg** in December, Steve has taken ownership of the Checkpoint programme which Ron conceived and nurtured.



**Steve said:** *"The innovative scheme really is **leading the way** in revolutionising how **low and medium-level offending is managed**. It is a classic example of the innovation which can be found in Durham, and the positive impact it can have when aiming to prevent people from becoming victims of crime by **addressing drugs and alcohol**, the main root causes behind why people reoffend. **The outcomes from Checkpoint are impressive and a tribute to Ron's hard work and dedication to reducing crime and reoffending**".*

Offenders who meet the agreed criteria follow an **intensive four-month contract** to identify and deal with the causes of offending. They **work with a Navigator** who introduces them to **intervention programmes**, aiming to change their attitudes, thinking and behaviour. If offenders do re-offend, or break the contract conditions, there will be quick and certain action to prosecute.

The reoffending rate for those who complete **Checkpoint** is **16% less** than those who were dealt with by other traditional Criminal Justice methods

The project addresses reoffending at an early stage, providing access to services such as housing, alcohol or drugs treatment. Ultimately, Checkpoint can improve people's life chances.

Since the start of the programme in 2015, just over **2,660 people** have completed the Checkpoint programme. Interim results of the **Cambridge University evaluation** show that the **reoffending rate** for those who complete Checkpoint is **16% less** than those who were dealt with by other traditional Criminal Justice methods, meaning that there have been hundreds of fewer victims of crime in County Durham and Darlington over that period.

# 6

## ACTING DURHAM PCVC

Overseeing the award-winning Checkpoint deferred prosecution scheme

CONTINUED



Checkpoint is now being **replicated across the country**, with 10 similar schemes already in operation, and the programme has been named **winner of the 2019 Goldstein Award** for problem-solving in policing. It is currently mainstream activity in Durham. The response from the offenders who have gone through Checkpoint has been positive.

**A client said:** *"My life was absolute chaos, looking back it is actually frightening what my life was like back then. I was drinking at least a litre of vodka a day and I was homeless. My children didn't want to know me and my mental health was at rock bottom.*

*"Checkpoint is absolutely brilliant. The Checkpoint navigators, Gary and Steph, were there when I was at my worst and Steph rang the hospital every single day when I was admitted to see how I was getting on. Instead of kicking me when I was down and charging me, I was supported instead.*

*"The biggest thing for me was the accommodation that Checkpoint found. I was really reluctant to go as it was all the way in Blyth, but what choice did I have? The manager at the supported living where I was placed wanted me to leave after a day as I was so disruptive. Gary and Steph spoke to the manager and tried their best to sway him. On my second night there I had an alcohol induced seizure and I was hospitalised for over a week. This was an absolute life saver as I did a full detox from alcohol and my withdrawal was managed. Steph rang me every day and spoke to the nurses and even persuaded the manager to let me go back when I was discharged. I went back and I have been there for 12 weeks now and I have **not touched a drop of alcohol**. I am even volunteering as a support worker and I support other tenants with alcohol related issues where we for example complete drink diaries together.*

*"I still have a long way to go, I have an amazing support worker now here where I live. I am so much **more confident and independent**."*

**CONTACT:** Sarah Harris at [PCVC.Media@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:PCVC.Media@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

### USEFUL LINKS:

- In 2019, the late Ron Hogg published his drug policy manifesto update document, which outlined other harm reduction initiatives which have been implemented in Durham:  
<https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Reports/UK-Drug-Policy-More-Harm-than-good-two-years-on.pdf>
- For updates on Checkpoint follow Twitter: [@checkpoint999](https://twitter.com/checkpoint999) and Facebook: **Checkpoint & Offender Management**

**7**

**NORTH WALES PCC**

Launched Checkpoint Cymru, a voluntary programme that tackles underlying causes of offending behaviour



**ARFON JONES,**  
NORTH WALES POLICE  
& CRIME COMMISSIONER

In December 2019, North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones launched the **first diversion scheme of its kind in Wales.** ‘Checkpoint’ was developed by Cambridge University and pioneered in Durham in 2015.



‘Checkpoint Cymru’ is a voluntary programme that **tackles underlying causes of offending behaviour** such as **mental health and substance misuse**. It aims to provide a credible alternative to prosecution, by **identifying and supporting relevant needs** and the ‘critical pathways’ out of crime, resulting in low and medium adult offenders being diverted away from the Criminal Justice System. In addition to supporting people around their underlying needs, Checkpoint has trained its team to deliver a comprehensive **ACEs Recovery Toolkit** course.

ACEs are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect and a range of household dysfunctions such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, parental discord or incarceration.

Living with ACEs results in individuals developing coping and lifestyle strategies based on poor parental attachment and the effects of trauma. **Checkpoint Cymru Navigators** will be delivering the Recovery Toolkit course supporting those affected and helping them to develop better coping skills.

In order to qualify for Checkpoint, individuals must have committed an offence potentially eligible for an out of court disposal. They must also complete an individually tailored ‘**contract to engage**’. Failure to complete this contract will result in formal court proceedings being invoked.

**The contract consists of several conditions:**

- a mandatory agreement not to reoffend for the duration of the contract;
- support and interventions around the subject’s critical pathways of need;
- making amends for the harm caused to victims by using Restorative approaches; and
- voluntary community work.

# 7 NORTH WALES PCC

Launched Checkpoint Cymru, a voluntary programme that tackles underlying causes of offending behaviour

**CONTINUED**



The contract allows individuals to move away from crime in order to improve their life chances and overall health and wellbeing. Completing Checkpoint results in an exit from the Criminal Justice System and no criminal record.

Checkpoint Cymru is a **multi-agency project** which improves awareness of and access to health-based services. Successful delivery relies on involving a wide range of local partners, which allows strategic level coordination and access to referral services.

The Checkpoint Cymru team includes nine Navigators, three per custody suite and a Manager leading the team. All team members have a **wealth of knowledge and skills** and bring real energy and diversity to the programme.



**Martin Blakebrough, Kaleidoscope** (a referral pathway for Checkpoint) **CEO, said:** *“Kaleidoscope is excited by the development of Checkpoint as a way of diverting people from the Criminal Justice System into constructive alternatives where people are given the **best chance to turn their lives around**. Checkpoint navigates people away from crime into positive futures. As a drug and alcohol service we recognise many people are at risk of being criminalised which will further add to their problems, Checkpoint will steer people to us ensuring they get the help they need without the stigma people would get without Checkpoint. We hope in North Wales we lead where other police areas will follow”.*

**Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones continued:** *“Checkpoint improves life chances because people avoid getting a criminal record, which could affect their future employment and education opportunities.*

*“It may even save lives by directing people away from criminality and substance abuse. And it could also save the public purse a lot of money because the cost of imprisoning someone is now £65,000 and then £40,000 for every year after that.*

*“Checkpoint is aimed at people who have committed lower level offences and rather than taking them to court we can intervene to direct them to appropriate services to address the underlying causes of their offending.*

*“I would stress this is not a soft option - but if the subject successfully completes the contract and does not reoffend, no further action will be taken against them.*

*“If they reoffend or fail to complete the contract, they will be prosecuted, and we will inform the courts of the circumstances of their failure to complete the contract.”*

**CONTACT: Anna Baker, Checkpoint Manager at [anna.baker@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anna.baker@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)**

8

**WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON PCC**

Commissions IMPACT, a community substance misuse service, available right across rural areas of Wiltshire



**ANGUS MACPHERSON,**  
WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon jointly commissions the **IMPACT Swindon and Wiltshire Active Recovery Service**, alongside Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council.



The **community substance misuse** service, delivered by **Turning Point**, gives anyone affected by drug and alcohol misuse the opportunity to receive a high level, consistent service, right across the rural communities of Wiltshire.

**Angus Macpherson said:** *“The misuse of drugs and alcohol in our communities has a radiating impact on families, the community, police and the Criminal Justice System.*

*“As a magistrate I saw the impact of drug and alcohol in the courts, and as PCC I continue to see the decline in the standards of behaviour that drug and alcohol misuse can bring.*

*“The deregulation of licensing laws in the early 2000s meant alcohol became more accessible, people are drinking more, and for those struggling with addiction, it’s more difficult to simply step away.*

*“Addiction can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or social or economic status, so it’s important that we have services that allow the best chance of recovery for those dealing with addictions.”*

The **IMPACT Swindon** and **Wiltshire Active Recovery Service** launched in 2018 recognises the links and crossover between addictions. It offers a range of **evidence-based treatment delivered by specialist workers**, including Opiate Substitute Therapy (OST), Community Detox, Psychosocial Groups, harm-reduction advice and interventions including needle exchange, BBV testing and treatment and digital support.

*“The service is delivered county-wide across two local authority areas. This is key as it gives a consistent model and approach, which is important for service users at a time when life can be uncertain or chaotic, allowing them to engage with the programme no matter where they are located.”*

**8** **WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON PCC**  
 Commissions IMPACT, a community substance misuse service, available right across rural areas of Wiltshire

**CONTINUED**



*"It is an outreach service where sessions are delivered in town-centre "hubs" and discreet community locations. This is a must in a rural county where location and transport can be perceived as a barrier to treatment. The use of technology, through an online information and advice service, also better supports service users in their recovery.*

*"Building on the service, next steps would see a proactive approach, engaging directly with those most in need of this service through outreach and street work."*

Positive feedback from **Public Health England** showed that the service had a 57% increase in numbers of alcohol only clients in treatment from April 2018 to March 2019, which places the project well within the top **10% in the country**, completely countering the general trend of declining numbers.



**Ben Judd, Turning Point Senior Operations Manager said:**  
*"The IMPACT project has now been in place for over 18 months, and I am delighted that in 2019 the service was **rated** as **"Outstanding"** by the Care Quality Commission.*

*"As well as supporting those with alcohol and drug misuse problems we work in partnership with partners to support those that are engaged in the Criminal Justice System, in part as a result of their substance misuse issues. This vital work includes supporting those sentenced by the courts to Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) or Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) and our team of dedicated Criminal Justice workers carry out a range of activities, from providing assessments to those in custody suites, to contributing to public protection forums such as MAPP, MARAC, to do all we can to reduce harm and keep individuals and the wider community safe."*

**CONTACT:** Commissioning Officer **Carolyn Deverall** at **Carolyn.Deverall@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk**

**USEFUL LINKS:**

- IMPACT Swindon & Wiltshire Recovery Service:  
<http://wellbeing.turning-point.co.uk/swindon-and-wiltshire/>

9

**CLEVELAND PCC**

Funded Heroin Assisted Treatment project, which provides support to Middlesbrough's most prolific heroin addicts



**BARRY COPPINGER,**  
CLEVELAND POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

*"I stopped a well-known offender in Middlesbrough recently. I've known him for 15 years and he's always wanted or a suspect. But this time he was neither. He told me he was taking part in Heroin Assisted Treatment, that the course was excellent and that it was working for him. He looked the best I had seen him in years. I couldn't believe the difference in him."*



These are the words of a Cleveland Police officer who wrote to Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger, astounded at the difference in one of his regular contacts, and they sum up exactly what **Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) is all about - changing lives.**

The programme, **funded by the OPCC and local public health and criminal justice partners**, sees a cohort of Middlesbrough's **most prolific heroin addicts prescribed diamorphine** (medical grade heroin) twice a day. The **12-month pilot scheme** is run from a medical practice in Middlesbrough which already provides specialist support to those suffering from substance misuse issues. It can treat **up to 15 people at a time** over the year and currently has eight willing participants who turn up each day, rain or shine.

**HAT clinical lead Daniel Ahmed said:** *"What has impressed me most about the participants on the scheme is their **determination** to turn up to every appointment and **make their treatment a success.** These are individuals who lead extremely chaotic lives, so their commitment has far exceeded our expectations.*

*"I'm proud to be involved in this pilot. With wraparound support from a range of partner services - in addition to the medical treatment - Middlesbrough's scheme is the **first of its kind in the country** and I'm delighted to see other areas following suit or exploring the treatment for their towns."*

It's early days but the programme is already seeing fantastic results. Participants are regularly tested to establish whether they continue to take street heroin. Over the course of the first eight weeks of treatment, there has been a clear downward trend in participants' use of street heroin. What this means for the participants, their families and the wider community should not be underestimated.

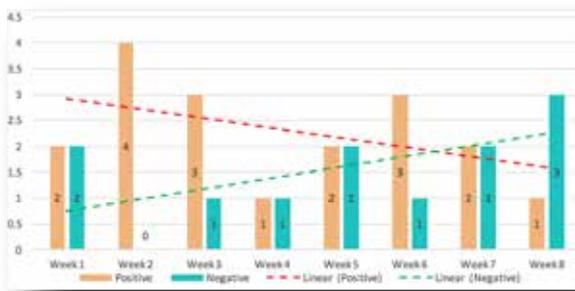
# 9 CLEVELAND PCC

Funded Heroin Assisted Treatment project, which provides support to Middlesbrough's most prolific heroin addicts

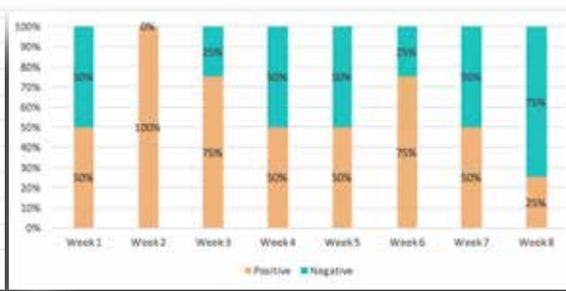
**CONTINUED**

**Barry Coppinger said:** "The participants are all drug users of many years. Their willingness to even join this scheme is to be applauded, but to see these early results emphasises how important the programme is. These people lived chaotic lives before joining HAT, often **homeless and committing acquisitive crime** to fund their habit. Now we hear from the clinic that **99% of all appointments** have been attended and that the clients are becoming stable enough to sit and chat in the waiting area while reading books and magazines. One participant just enjoyed his first Christmas at home with his family in five years.

**Total positive and negative tests by week number:**



**Positive and negative tests by percentage and week number:**



\* Two participants were not present for testing during Week 4

\* Two participants were not present for testing during Week 4

"Eventually I want to see Heroin Assisted Treatment rolled out nationally and seen, quite rightly, as a standard second-line medical treatment for people addicted to heroin. It was reassuring to see that the use of Heroin Assisted Treatment has been **supported by the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee** who have called for a **radical change in the UK's drug policy**.

"I'm delighted with the early signs we're seeing from our programme and we're already looking at rolling it out to Middlesbrough's neighbouring local authority areas, using funds seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Let's make drug dealers pay for the harm they've been doing to their victims and help eliminate this criminal behaviour from our streets."

**CONTACT: Hannah Smith at [hannah.smith@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hannah.smith@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)**

**USEFUL LINKS:**

- <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/News-and-Events/Heroin-Assisted-Treatment.aspx>
- [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/heroin-assisted-treatment\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/heroin-assisted-treatment_en)

**10**

**SUFFOLK PCC**

Funded the Green Light Trust project which is aimed at women recovering from drugs and alcohol abuse



**TIM PASSMORE,**  
SUFFOLK POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND APCC DEPUTY LEAD ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Misuse of alcohol and drugs has a significant, and sadly very negative impact, on our communities. Access to alcohol and use of illegal drugs put huge pressures on policing resources and in his role, as PCC for Suffolk, Tim Passmore commissions a variety of services to support those recovering from drug and alcohol misuse.



In this financial year, Tim has **allocated £89,311 to combat issues related to drug and alcohol misuse.**

**This included:**

- **Adfam National** (£18k) who provide support for families affected by substance misuse.
- **The Matthew Project** (£9.8k) who support veterans released from prison who have been addicted to drugs and alcohol.
- **Right Time Counselling** (£4.9k) who use psycho-dynamic interventions to help addicts change their behaviour which helps eliminate acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Tim Passmore said:** *“Since I became the PCC over seven years ago, I have had the chance to see at first hand the consequences of substance misuse and addiction which on occasions can have tragic consequences. It’s not only the individuals and families whose lives can be ruined but sometimes whole communities suffer the effects.”*

One particular project is aimed at **women recovering from drugs and alcohol abuse:** the **Green Light Trust project** received £9,470 towards their nature-based rehabilitation project. It is based in a woodland just outside Ipswich and the funding allocated is improving the lives of the women selected to take part in the well-being activities. The commitment of the Trust - many of whom are volunteers - is simply outstanding and Tim Passmore has no doubt Suffolk would be much worse off without their dedication and compassion.

The original target audience for the project was women in recovery from substance misuse, but this was extended to include **women coping with childhood sexual trauma and victims of domestic abuse.**

# 10

## SUFFOLK PCC

Funded the Green Light Trust project which is aimed at women recovering from drugs and alcohol abuse

CONTINUED

The funding was awarded to support 30 women in recovery from drug and/or alcohol misuse, to help sustain their recovery and improve their physical and mental health.

### The feedback we received showed:

- 20 women reported feeling more connected to their community.
- Four women progressed into volunteer roles in the project with a further eight women supported to access volunteer roles, or education placements beyond the project.

### The following was achieved in relation to the outcomes:

- Four courses were delivered engaging 39 women, all of whom were Suffolk residents.
- In one cohort of nine women, seven progressed into further training with Green Light Trust, one progressed into formal floristry training and one progressed into employment.

### Case study:

Melissa was a participant on the 'Women's Wellbeing' group; she has complex inter-dependent mental and physical health concerns, as well as barriers to learning.

Melissa is a survivor of rape; this led to a suicide attempt and alcohol dependency. Melissa has convictions for offences including criminal damage, theft, assault and being drunk in charge of a child. The convictions span from 1995 to 2013, and all were committed whilst under the influence of alcohol.

Throughout her time with the Trust, Melissa provided emotional support to her fellow participants on the course, several of whom had also experienced trauma. She also volunteered at a residential home for vulnerable women, and at 'Women Together', as an advocate for addiction recovery. Supporting others helped reinforce Melissa's ambition to pursue a career as a counsellor.

In June 2019, Melissa became a town pastor in Ipswich, supporting vulnerable people in our town centres at night and later that year Melissa embarked on a degree course.

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

### USEFUL LINKS:

- [Green Light Trust](#)
- [Adfam National](#)
- [The Matthew Project](#)
- [Right Time Counselling](#)



11

**DERBYSHIRE PCC**

Working with partners to address street drinking and homelessness with the Proactive Engagement & Enforcement Programme and 'Safe Space'



**HARDYAL DHINDSA,**  
DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND APCC LEAD ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Many towns and cities face pressure from street drinking and homelessness and wider issues of antisocial behaviour.

In 2016 the Commissioner was contacted by local businesses and partners raising concerns about the **level of drug and alcohol** use on the streets of Derby and its inextricable **connection to homelessness and begging**. His initial response was to call a meeting of partners including members of the business community, the local media, the City Council and police and stakeholders; this became known as the **'City Centre Summit'**. Meetings continue to this day, having had a remarkable impact on public safety.

**Hardyal Dhindsa said:** "I wanted to do things differently and have a measurable impact on the lives of these vulnerable people."

The vast majority of issues were caused by a hardcore, entrenched group of 20 homeless individuals. So, two sub-groups were formed to **assist these people**; one focusing on enforcement and using existing powers to clamp down on street drinking, begging and antisocial behaviour, and the other being led by representatives from the third sector and **Public Health** to look at **treatment and support options to rehabilitate** these individuals in the long term.

Eventually, the work of both these groups was brought together in June 2017 under a new name, **PEEP (Proactive Engagement & Enforcement Programme)**. The response and management of these individuals thus became a joint responsibility and information shared by all partners, with **Public Health** providing funding for a full-time PEEP coordinator to manage regular meetings and case load.

**Hardyal continued:** "One of the core priorities of the PEEP is to stop the revolving door of crime. However, the majority of those listed on the PEEP programme are averse to the traditional style of intervention for fear it will restrict or control their activities and behaviours. One of my priorities was to **jointly fund a new facility**, alongside our partners, which we called **'Safe Space'**. This new model provides an alternative source of help and support which maximises compliance. It was designed to protect the health and safety of individuals and staff and ensure basic human needs are provided without unnecessary boundaries or control."



# 11 DERBYSHIRE PCC

CONTINUED

Working with partners to address street drinking and homelessness with the Proactive Engagement & Enforcement Programme and 'Safe Space'

*"We have a responsibility to help vulnerable people, many of whom have had an adverse childhood or adulthood and increase their opportunities for recovery. Safe Space achieves that by delivering 24/7 provision of hot drinks/toast/toilet/shower/clothes and washing facilities, space to rest and recover and access medical/mental health support and access to external professional support."*

This new approach is delivering positive results. Since Safe Space was created, **the number of rough sleeping individuals has more than halved** from an average of 34 per month to 15 at present.

Recent figures up to the end of October 2019 show 34 individuals are accessing Safe Space each month (12 per day), while 88% of those offered an overnight place accept. The average number of new referrals per month is 13.5 and 62% of those frequenting Safe Space are open to drug and alcohol support services. Importantly, the service is also **reducing demand on bluelight services** with 75 fewer 999/emergency department attendance cases per month.



**Kerry Bass, PEEP & WAR Co-ordinator, Derby Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, said:** *"Proactive Engagement and Enforcement Programme (PEEP) coordinate support and enforcement activities to invoke behaviour change as a means of exiting individuals from their current circumstances and behaviours which are harmful to themselves, others and the wider community."*

*Over the years we have reduced the visibility of unwanted on-street activities and improved the public perception of Derby City Centre by decreasing the number of people engaged in such behaviours."*

**Safe Space is currently tracking 82 individuals and 82% of those accommodated are in long-term accommodation.** The project is still in its infancy and it will be some time before we can begin to see its impact longer-term.



**CONTACT: Joe Rhodes-Orwin at [Joe.Rhodes-Orwin.4731@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK](mailto:Joe.Rhodes-Orwin.4731@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK)**

**12**

**NORTHANTS PFCC**

Introducing a ground-breaking mental health treatment requirement for men in Northamptonshire



**STEPHEN MOLD,**  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

Stephen Mold, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, has brought together partners and **contributed £240,000** towards a **ground-breaking** community sentence for men with mental health and substance misuse issues who commit crime. This is one of the **first community sentences supporting men with a dual diagnosis anywhere in the country.**



**Stephen Mold said:** “The project offers a unique community sentence, **bringing partners together** to provide a holistic approach that **treats mental health and substance misuse issues together.** These issues are generally tackled separately, by different agencies.”

The partners involved had already piloted a successful scheme to deliver a community sentence for women with mental health issues. They could see the **system was failing men** with dual diagnosis, so the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner brought partners together to create a bespoke scheme to tackle reoffending in men.

The scheme identifies men with combined mental health and addiction issues and diverts them into one single programme to treat them holistically and ensure both problems are addressed.

Men who may be suitable for the programme are identified by their lawyer, the **Police Custody Liaison and Diversion Team** or the **Probation service.**

Around **64 men** have gone through the programme. While it is still early days, initial indications are positive, with a **significantly lower number of men breaching the terms of their sentence:**

- Only **1/12** men (**17** individuals) on this community sentence and treatment scheme have breached the programme compared with a national average breach rate for community sentences of **1/7.**

# 12

## NORTHANTS PFCC

Introducing a ground-breaking mental health treatment requirement for men in Northamptonshire

CONTINUED

PCCs Making a Difference



**ALCOHOL  
AND DRUGS  
IN FOCUS**

The scheme reduces time in prison. The low breach rate suggests it is **successfully tackling the underlying causes of offending behaviours**, with more men completing the sentence without reoffending.

### Participants shared their views:

“I needed reassurance that how I’m feeling is normal, as I thought I was the only one before.”

“I feel like I’ve got support that I’ve never had before. I feel like people care.”

### The partners:

- Office of Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
- S2S
- National Probation Service
- BeNCH CRC
- Northants County Council



**Kate Davies CBE, Director of Health and Justice, Armed Forces and Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) for NHS England & NHS Improvement said:** “Many of the people who have been sentenced to these orders have struggled to engage or receive support for health, social, trauma and abuse issues. There are significant issues with individuals presenting with dual diagnosis within the Criminal Justice System as there are few services that offer holistic support and treatment for drug and mental health issues”.

**Kate North, Deputy Director of the Probation Service in Northamptonshire, said:** “The development of the MHTR pathway has provided a robust community option for rehabilitation, which supports a reduction in likelihood of re-offending and risk of serious harm. The treatment builds resilience, reduces inappropriate coping strategies and prevents further victims in our community.”

**CONTACT: Deborah Denton at [Deborah.Denton@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.Denton@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk)**

**13**

**GWENT PCC**

Supporting the most vulnerable communities by funding Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service



**JEFF CUTHBERT,**  
GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**Preventing crime and supporting the most vulnerable** people in the community are two of the **key priorities** at the heart of the Gwent PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

Drugs and alcohol abuse are, more often than not, a contributing factor to both of these issues. Because of this, we are working with key partners to tackle this problem, helping to keep residents safe and support those in need.

**Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, Jeff Cuthbert, said:**

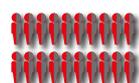
*"My office has **contributed funding** to the **Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS)** since 2014, investing more than £800,000 annually into the service. This high level of investment demonstrates how seriously we take the problem, and how committed we are to being part of the solution.*

*"The majority of the funding is used to support the **GDAS Integrated Recovery Intervention Service (IRIS)** which works with those either within, or at the point of entry to the Criminal Justice System.*

*"By addressing the drug and alcohol issues, and in many cases working with mental health professionals to examine their underlying causes, we are **offering people an alternative pathway in life and preventing crime within communities.**"*



**2018/19 in numbers:**



1,440 referrals to the service



614 referrals came from prisons



72% of all prison referrals attended initial appointments within the community (This is higher than many other regions)



101 interventions a month on average were made following referrals from Gwent Police custody suites



78 offenders engaged with on a voluntary basis



Caseloads peaked at 433 daily users of the service

In 2018/19 the service had a focus on tackling **county lines, homelessness and domestic violence** through **collaborative partnership work**.

**13**

**GWENT PCC**

Supporting the most vulnerable communities by funding Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service

**CONTINUED**

GDAS IRIS worked directly with Gwent Police and key partners to provide a **multi-agency response** to these issues, sitting within serious and organised crime strategy meetings, rough sleepers task groups, and attending warrants with the police to ensure that vulnerable people had their immediate needs met and were safeguarded from further exploitation.

**Assistant Chief Constable of Gwent Police, Jon Edwards, said:** *“The Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service is a great example of partnership working to support the most vulnerable people in our communities. This is an invaluable service, which aims to provide support, education and offer diversionary pathways alternative to the Criminal Justice System.”*



**Case study: Operation Pathway**

GDAS IRIS has worked closely with Gwent Police and partner agencies to provide specialist interventions for sex workers, particularly in the Pillgwenlly area of Newport.

GDAS staff input into monthly meetings and engage with sex workers directly, along with police and partner agencies, on monthly targeted operations.

The goal is to assist sex workers at the earliest opportunity, offering them access to sexual health and blood borne virus screenings, needle exchanges, harm reduction advice and other support in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

An average month sees GDAS engage and provide services to 12 sex workers. In addition, in 2018/19 three women were successfully supported to exit sex work completely and relocate to alternative areas.

**Barbara Walsh, lead for Operation Pathway, said:** *“GDAS has ensured that exploited sex workers have timely and effective access to support services to address substance issues, and have developed ways in which these services can be delivered on the street, directly targeting the most vulnerable.”*

**CONTACT:** **Chris Latham** at [christopher.latham@gwent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christopher.latham@gwent.pnn.police.uk)

**USEFUL LINKS:**

- Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service: [www.gdas.wales](http://www.gdas.wales)
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner - Police and Crime Plan: [www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/transparency/publications/police-and-crime-plan](http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/transparency/publications/police-and-crime-plan)

# CONTRIBUTORS



**DAVID MUNRO**  
Surrey PCC



**PADDY TIPPING**  
Nottinghamshire PCC



**MARC JONES**  
Lincolnshire PCC



**DAFYDD LLYWELYN**  
Dyfed-Powys PCC



**KATY BOURNE OBE**  
Sussex PCC



**STEVE WHITE**  
Acting PCVC for Durham



**ARFON JONES**  
North Wales PCC



**ANGUS MACPHERSON**  
Wiltshire and Swindon PCC



**BARRY COPPINGER**  
Cleveland PCC



**TIM PASSMORE**  
Suffolk PCC and APCC Deputy  
Lead on Alcohol and Substance



**HARDYAL DHINDSA**  
Derbyshire PCC and APCC  
Lead on Alcohol and Substance



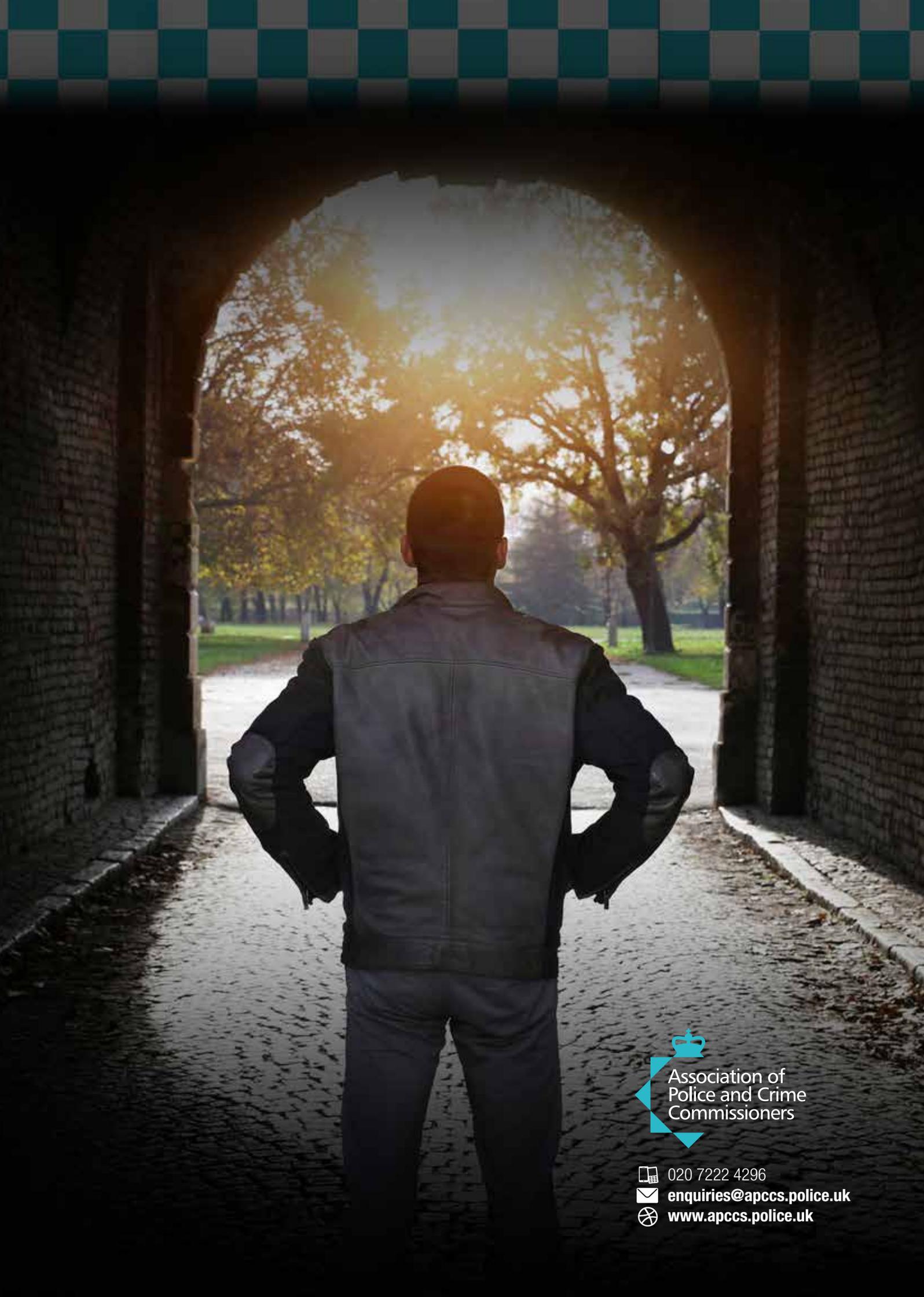
**STEPHEN MOLD**  
Northamptonshire PFCC



**JEFF CUTHBERT**  
Gwent PCC

Although this 'Alcohol and Drugs In Focus' features thirteen 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

 020 7222 4296

 [enquiries@apccs.police.uk](mailto:enquiries@apccs.police.uk)

 [www.apccs.police.uk](http://www.apccs.police.uk)