



Hello and welcome to this Community Policing Team report.

Over the last month Wiltshire Police has been running a survey, collecting feedback about the Community Policing Team model. We thank you all for your help in generating this important information, which will help us to ensure that we are providing the high quality of service that the people of Wiltshire and Swindon deserve and expect.

Police use of Taser and Body Worn Video Cameras

Wiltshire Police currently has 160 Tasers and is offering instruction to officers who successfully apply for additional training in an effort to help maintain public and officer safety by making a greater number of the existing devices able to be deployed at any one time.

Tasers are used by trained Police Officers in a number of ways, many of which involve no direct physical force to be used on a person.

They can be drawn from the holster, aimed at the subject, have the 'red dot' pointed at the subject with the laser sight or activated so that an electric current is 'arced' at the front of the device, all of which can resolve incidents.

Home Office figures released last week showed a drop in the number of times Tasers were discharged nationally.

Chief Constable Mike Veale said: **"The use of Taser has been widely debated and I have carefully considered the options.**

"I feel that by giving officers the option to carry Taser we are giving them the choice to use the tools available to us at this time to keep both keep the public and themselves safe.

"However, let me make it clear that I see the rollout of Tasers as a preventative measure not an aggressive tool.

"I also want to make it clear that it is not a tool to default to at the earliest opportunity; it needs to be used with precision, wisdom, proportionality and measure.

"I want to have the right resources in the right place at the right time with the right skills and accreditation to deal with the threat, risk and harm faced within communities.

"We have, geographically, a very large force with a huge degree of rurality which often leaves officers and staff working single crewed and on occasions feeling vulnerable to the dangers they may be facing.

"This decision is something which I hope will give our colleagues more confidence and courage to remain on the front foot so that we are able to protect our communities.

“We constantly assess the current risk and threat in the county and I believe that it is the right time to increase the training in Taser and in turn, increase our capacity.

“Although Wiltshire is one of the safest counties in the country, we still face a rise in violent crime and the threat of terrorism remains very real throughout the UK.

“Taser can be used effectively as a deterrent or as a way of ending a violent situation where someone is at risk of harm.”

In addition to increasing Taser capability, Wiltshire Police is rolling out body-worn cameras to front line officers and staff. Many of you may have already seen a number of our officers sporting the new body worn video cameras.

Mr. Veale said: **“This new investment in body-worn video cameras will help us transform the way we work, allowing our officers and staff to do their jobs serving the communities of Wiltshire and Swindon with greater confidence and security.**

“Our police officers and staff put themselves into volatile and dangerous situations every day and these cameras should not only act as a deterrent to those who may wish to cause them harm, but can also be used as valuable evidence when officers and staff are subjected to violence and abuse.

“It should also give the public greater confidence in our professionalism and, on the rare occasions where our service does not live up to our high standards, allow us to take action and learn from any errors or mistakes.

“These cameras are as much about the officer behind the camera as the person in front of it. They will help ensure Wiltshire Police continues to provide the high standards of service that both the Force and the people they serve expect.”

Thank you for your continued support to Wiltshire Police.

Please follow us on:

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice/>

Or sign up to Community Messaging <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

COMMUNITY MESSAGING

Working with our local communities, we have been developing ways to reach out to all our communities and keep everyone up to date with the latest information that matters to you in your area.

Through feedback and working with our local communities, we have developed the use of <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/> and are now sending out daily updates around crimes that matter to you in your area. This is enabling us to reach as much of our community as possible, as quickly as possible and impart any new crime prevention advice or information about incidents that may affect you in your community that we feel you need to know about.

We have received some very positive feedback around this and encourage you to speak to all members of your community and encourage them to sign up to Wiltshire Messaging. It is free and a very good way of keeping all our communities connected.

<https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/>

CONTROL STRATEGY

Below is our control strategy for your reference. This focuses on where how we conduct our operational Policing based on the Police & Crime Plan. We will continue to align our resources with the threat/harm/risks presented in line with the control strategy.

- Domestic abuse / Cyber Crime / High risk offenders / High risk victims



feedback@wiltshire.police.uk

CURRENT SECTOR SERIES/ Exceptions

Crime Exceptions are where the volume of crime exceeds the levels we would expect over a specified period. This is based on evaluation of data, over like to like periods historically.

We recorded 289 crimes for the whole of the Trowbridge area over the month of April. This is slightly above the average we would expect for this time of year, though it is a decrease from the number of crimes recorded in March (313). The only crime Exception for all Trowbridge areas combined was an unusually high rate of Vehicle Crime, 27 reports compared to the average of . This is largely due to a spate of offences overnight on the 19th in the Westbury Road area. Nonetheless, the rate of Vehicle Crime has also decreased compared with March, which is indicative of the positive work we are doing in investigating offences, and the positive steps members of the public are taking to keep their property and vehicles secure.

The crime rate for Trowbridge Town Centre of the month of April was exceptionally low. We recorded 73 crimes, with the expectation for this month being around 87. This is also a sharp decrease compared with March, when we recorded 95 crimes. There is no single type of offence that has contributed to this decrease, in fact there were no Crime Exceptions for the month of April. We recorded slight decreases across the board, which contributed to the overall reduction in our crime rate. Of note, we had noticeable decreases in Shoplifting, Violent Crime, and Public Order Offences.

OTHER INFORMATION

EVENTS... Don't forget that a toolkit is available from Wiltshire Council which gives fantastic guidance and advice for organizing most types of events, including topics ranging from traffic management to toilets, and gives contact details for which agencies and departments need to be contacted when applying for various licences or road closures.

It can be found at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/public-events-toolkit.pdf>

In essence, all organisers must be responsible for identifying any risks and putting in measures to remove or reduce them.

SPRING IS HERE... As the warmer weather starts to appear it is tempting to throw open the windows and leave doors ajar to allow for the fresh air to flow through, BUT, this is often an open invitation to opportunistic burglars. Please do be mindful about keeping windows closed, many modern windows allow you to lock them whilst slightly ajar and I would urge you to do this if you have the capability to do so. Even if you are only in the back garden having out the washing or mowing the lawn, please ensure that your front door remains locked. Don't give these opportunists any excuse to try their luck at your property.

VEHICLE CRIME... I cannot urge people enough to keep their valuables with them or to simply not take them out when walking through our beautiful countryside. Thieves are frequenting car parks and side roads all over the County and looking out for unattended vehicles. They are notoriously difficult to catch because of the speed they work at and the distance they travel. If you leave your valuables in your car, hidden in a foot well or under a coat they will see it. And we have had recent reports of car boots being broken into and handbags having been taken. This indicates to me that the thieves have watched the owners secure their valuables before heading off on what should be an enjoyable walk. Please strongly consider taking your valuables with you on your walk, or leaving

them at home. Police will do all they can, but prevention is often the most successful way to reduce these thefts from occurring.

For a detailed breakdown of the crime in your area visit...

<https://www.police.uk/wiltshire/>

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