

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

18th June 2015

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 5th March 2015. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

WHO CARES FOR THE HOMELESS (PART 2)

Posted: Wednesday 25th February 2015

Monday 16 February

At area boards across the county I often meet Mike Franklin who is Partnership and Community Engagement Manager for Wiltshire at Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Mike came to see me about Community Messaging and how the fire service could join the scheme. This is a very timely approach as we have just finished the roll-out across Swindon and the county. In addition to the fire service I look forward to other partner agencies signing up, but we are not going to rush things, it is better to build slowly and learn from our experiences. I gather there are now about 5,000 members of the scheme, and we will shortly be transferring Horse Watch and Farm Watch to the scheme. If you would like to sign up, you can get more information [here](#).

In order that I can drive a pool car I have to take a Force driving test. Well, I took the test this morning ... and passed. I have lost a couple of categories from my licence which seems to be more to do with my age and legislation than my illness last year. But, to be frank, I don't want to drive a bus or lorry, so that's ok ...

In the afternoon the Chief Executive and I went to the Headquarters of [Avon and Somerset Constabulary](#) for a meeting about our proposed strategic alliance. Progress continues at a reasonable pace. I suppose the priority at present is about defining how the alliance will work. I'm keen that no one spends time on aspects which my opposite number, Sue Mountstevens, or I do not wish to include in the arrangement.

Tuesday 17 February

In the morning I joined the judging panel for the [Pride of Swindon Awards](#). It's a privilege to be involved and you do find some heart warming stories within the nominations. We were looking to give six team awards and 12 individual awards. The presentations are to be made on March 19 at Steam in Swindon

Following the judging I met the manager and one of the trustees of [The Clivey & Twist](#), a charity which operates to support young people in the Pinehurst area of Swindon. They gave me a good briefing about what they are doing and the challenges ahead.

I then went to the Arc Theatre at Wiltshire College in Trowbridge where the charity Splitz Support Service was holding an open day. The theme was "Respectful and Healthy Relationships". The presentation included a performance by the Loudmouth drama group. It was a show for young people which explored the signs of an abusive relationship. I'm very pleased to have been able to sponsor the TeenzTalk conference, not least because it gave me time to consider the problems and challenges of delivery of Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) in our schools. I wonder if the members of the Youth Parliament could help me to do some work to find out exactly what is delivered in our schools and colleges?



Angus with the Splitz team

Back to the office for a performance briefing and an update on Horizon Victim and Witness Care which is due to be launched in March with funding by my office.

Wednesday 18 February

The day began with one of my regular meetings with the leaders of Swindon and Wiltshire councils. I was able to discuss the recent Swindon Advertiser article, [Officers are urged to police parking](#), with the leaders. The story said that Swindon Council intended to continue pressuring Wiltshire Police to give PCSOs the power to issue parking fines. Having done some research in the minutes of locality meetings, parking around schools (mentioned in the newspaper report) has not been identified as a priority by the public.

We have signed up to support the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) which I think all forces will support. This will give us the option to offer [speed awareness courses](#) in the county again.

Thursday 19 February

I spent the morning in Devizes Market with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. It was a chance to engage with the public and to promote Community Messaging. The weather was pretty bad and, because this is half term week, the market was quieter than normal. That said, I had a number of conversations with passers-by, including one person who came up to ask me to thank an officer for the way he dealt with his son during an interview. This was very pleasing. Some people seem quick to criticise and very slow to praise. .



Angus at Devizes market

The afternoon was spent in the office, before going out with the Filling Station for the evening. Operating from a car park in the centre of Swindon, the Filling Station supports the homeless with soup and hot dogs “to go” and a supply of tinned food, toiletries and clothes.

Just like this morning it was raining hard and the outreach workers pointed out a chap in a wheelchair who had come to their attention during the day. He had been to hospital but been discharged. I established that he was not from Swindon and was homeless. Calls to the two direct access hostels established that they were full. What to do? This man was a wheelchair user, about 60 years old, soaked from the rain and incontinent. The outreach workers had tried to get him a place, but had been unsuccessful. Could I help?

As you will have gathered, it was a filthy night and not one I would leave my dog out in, let alone a person. The last resort is the police control centre. I phoned and was advised to take him to Booth House, the Salvation Army’s homeless hostel, where I thought he would be met by someone from the borough council and assessed. Two hours later I heard from the outreach workers that there was no help for him and they had placed him undercover in a car park, with several blankets to keep the worst of the cold at bay, although he was soaked to the skin. Blog readers will know of a similar concern I had [a few weeks ago](#) about a homeless man having to kip down in a car park. But the chap in the wheelchair was even more vulnerable and the weather was worse and yet there was no provision, no intervention, no support available. I have a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board of Swindon, so perhaps taking this sad story to the next board meeting may prompt a positive outcome. We’ll see ...

Friday 20 February

Had a virtual meeting with the Head of Business and People Development via the computer before heading off to the cardiology department at Great Western Hospital to have my technology checked. All well, just a small setting to be changed next week, and one less pill each day.

In the evening I attended the annual meeting of Salisbury Conservative Association. The talk was dominated by the General Election, but there was support for the new policing model in Salisbury based in the city centre. Some concerns were expressed over the delay in providing custody for the south of the county, but generally good feedback.

LET'S THINK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Posted: Friday 6th March 2015

Monday 23 February

First meeting of the week was with the performance team and I was given an introduction to Quick View. This is the new tool which gives inspectors and sergeants an overview of crime in their area. It identifies activities which are abnormal as well as showing trends that have developed over time. Just like its predecessor program, it will take time to fully understand the data and this is something I will look at over coming weeks.

In the afternoon, I walked in to Devizes to authorise payments to be made by the Community Foundation before returning to Headquarters for a review of the risk register, which I maintain and which highlights the risks facing my office. It is reviewed by the Police and Crime Panel.

This was followed by a briefing about our green agenda in preparation for a meeting with Wiltshire Council tomorrow. Finally, a briefing from finance which looked at the budget for this year and future years.

Tuesday 24 February

There was a royal visit to the county today with the Duchess of Cornwall coming to Dents glove factory in Warminster. I'm pleased to have been invited along with my wife Sara Jane to greet Her Royal Highness on her arrival. Dents, one of the few companies making gloves in the UK, was founded in 1777.

Fairly recently it moved to new premises, which includes a well-stocked factory shop, museum and archive. The company has close links with the Worshipful Company of Glovers, www.thegloverscompany.org. Her Royal Highness presented an impressive number of service awards to employees, several having worked there for more than 50 years.

Later the Duchess went to Devizes to visit to Community First, but Sara Jane and I stayed to tour the museum. A display had been put together of (you guessed) gloves, including those of Queen Elizabeth the First and Lord Nelson. The display shows the development of gloves over the years and it was fascinating to be shown round by the archivist. Then back to reality with a meeting at County Hall to talk about energy usage, costs and use of renewable energy. A lot of the energy cost borne by Wiltshire Council is used in education so I plan to show off the initiatives that have been installed at Dauntsey's School where I am governor.



Angus and wife Sara Jane meeting the Duchess of Cornwall

In the afternoon, I received a text from one of the outreach workers who have been supporting the chap I encountered at the Filling Station last Thursday. This man was a wheelchair user, about 60 years old and homeless. When I met him he was soaked from the rain and incontinent. They took him from Swindon to Chippenham. I questioned why he was being moved away from Swindon. Apparently he has local connection in Wiltshire which he doesn't have in Swindon. He will be put into respite care and assessed over the next couple of days. This is good news and I hope to keep in touch with the case.

Wednesday 25 February

I had a quick trip to Great Western Hospital in the morning for a small adjustment to my heart pacemaker before driving to Devizes for a meeting with the Community Foundation to discuss the policies for grant giving and the needs of

Wiltshire. I refer readers to the report called 'Wiltshire Uncovered' which gives data about the needs in Wiltshire and will be used in assessing need, both by the charity but also by the councils.
(https://wiltshirecf.org.uk/sites/default/files/0210_WCF_MainReport_FINAL%20PDF%20SP.pdf)

Next week there is a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, so I spoke to the chairman and went through the agenda to make sure we are ready.

Thursday 26 February

I recorded an interview with BBC Wiltshire for the Sunday Wild about Wiltshire programme. They spoke to a victim of crime near Chippenham who expressed concerns regarding rural crime. Wiltshire is a rural county. Almost 94 per cent of the land is classified as green space, compared to 89 per cent in the South West and 87 per cent in England as a whole. We need to define what we mean by rural crime and we are currently creating a definition but all our officers need to be able to deal with thefts wherever they happen. We have officers who can deal with more specialist crimes, such as wildlife crime as they have had specialist training and they are there to support our neighbourhood officers.

Having done the interview I attended a governors meeting at Dauntsey's School. In the afternoon, I had a briefing on the commissioning of services for victims and a briefing from Superintendent Marion Deegan. Her portfolio area includes a variety of topics such as licensing, Community Speed Watch, crime prevention, specials, volunteers, cadets and mental health.

In fact, her portfolio covers an array of topics which I mention in my Police and Crime Plan, so she is able to give me a good update on their progress.

Cadets are an area which I will need to speak to the Chief about. I want to check that there are resources available for the scheme to grow into the new academic year.

Potentially Specials have a role to play. Scott Bateman has been successful in becoming the Strategic Special Superintendent. His role is to drive the strategic business of the Special Constabulary, working alongside the Superintendent for Crime Prevention, and to provide Special Constabulary support to identified force priorities.

Friday 27 February

Horizon Victim and Witness unit will be opened by the Chief, Baroness Newlove, the Victims Commissioner, and me on 24 March. Staff have been training hard for some weeks and are being put to the test through role play.

My office got involved and played victims which the new team had to engage with. I was Albert Satsuma, the victim of hate crime, the result of which was the burning of his shop at night. At 11am I received a call from the Horizon unit. I must admit they did very well, both in supporting me and informing me of the updates in my case.

In the evening, I was invited to Hardenhuish School in Chippenham by Keiren Mulvaney, who is a member of the Youth Parliament for North Wiltshire. Kieran and fellow students have been promoting awareness of mental health issues amongst young people.

To explain the event I quote his invitation: " Last summer I set up a campaign called 'Let's Think About It!'. I took it to a group called FIXERS who have helped me to expand my campaign; we have since made a brand new short film and gathered a group of over 20 committed and hardworking young people aged 14-17.

"Together we plan to launch our brand new campaign video and we would very much like you to be a part of that. The campaign looks to reduce the stigma that comes attached to mental health issues such as, depression, bipolar and self-harm/injury. One in four people will suffer from a mental health at a young age. It is imperative for it to become common knowledge that mental health is just as serious as regular health".



Angus with the students from Hardenhuish School

The evening was very informative and the young people did an excellent job. I hope they can find the funding to expand their campaign and I also hope that they can present to both Wiltshire and Swindon Health and Wellbeing Boards. They certainly deserve the opportunity. Here is their powerful video they produced <http://lets-think.org.uk/>

ILLEGAL RAVE COULD HAVE PUT REVELLERS AT RISK

Posted: Thursday 12th March 2015

Monday 2 March

Over the weekend an illegal rave was held in Swindon. It was interesting to me that some of those interviewed by the media thought that the use of the building was justified. There were comments like "it wasn't being used" or "it doesn't belong to anyone". I understand that the police were as concerned that the venue was at risk of being dangerously overcrowded therefore they had to stop people entering the building.

With revellers coming from all over the country, their disappointment at not getting in flared to violence. Four officers, two of whom were volunteer specials, were injured. The police in Wiltshire put a lot of work into enabling large events to be held safely and a great deal of planning goes into events such as the Summer Solstice. All to make events safe for those attending.

The plan, even with no warning of the event, was well executed and the situation contained. In the fullness of time I look forward to hearing the true cost to our community.

Monday, as regular readers are aware, is a briefing day. Today I had a briefing on Freedom of Information requests, the Police and Crime Panel meeting and performance. This was followed by the Commissioner's Monitoring Board in the afternoon. The agenda covered staff pay, the budget for next year, progress on the budget control for this year as well as procurement of health care and the forensic examination service.

I also received updates on the Strategic Alliance with Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Regional Programme Board, the progress on the custody review and our Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) provision in the county. Other business covered police integrity, the South west Police Procurement Department, my Commissioning Fund for next year and the Vehicle Recovery Scheme which is due for review. The senior management team also briefed me on the Swindon rave, which was timed well ahead of an interview with the press towards the end of the day

Tuesday 3 March

Working from home in the morning, using the same technology that our staff and officers are using all around the county, before catching a train to London where I'm attending the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Wiltshire Community Foundation. The reception, hosted by MP Robert Buckland, was on the terrace of the House of Commons and it was good to see so many people from Wiltshire. There were people who supported the Foundation and those who were supported by it.

We now have an endowment of around £18m and give grants of around £800,000 a year to support people in Wiltshire. The need was recently reviewed and can be read at https://wiltshirecf.org.uk/sites/default/files/0210_WCF_MainReport_FINAL%20PDF%20SP.pdf It was a very enjoyable evening. I met a lot of people and I think this demonstrates how successful the Community Foundation has been.

Wednesday 4 March

Back to Wiltshire and a meeting with Lady Gooch. She will be installed as High Sheriff of Wiltshire in a few weeks time and she came to see me about child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse in the county. I'm sure that this will be a theme which she will be able to support during her year of office.

In the afternoon, I attended an event in Trowbridge called "I am Wiltshire". This was arranged by Develop and was about promoting equality in our country whether that be about ethnicity, diversity or faith. There were a number of

recommendations within the Develop report and I hope we can take some forward through the constabulary or my office. It was a good conference and I took away a couple of thoughts concerning hate crime which I will pursue.

Thursday 5 March

Having briefed myself for a meeting with a complainant I was disappointed when the arranged hour passed before the office received a message to say that the person concerned was unable to keep the appointment.

I joined a project board meeting on the Systems Thinking Operational Policing (STOP) project. This is a new model for local policing which is being trialled in the west of the county. I'm impressed by the way in which the project is being monitored and how it is bringing much of the system thinking reviews to reality. I'm also pleased that the project is being run with a degree of control models which will enable success.

In the afternoon, I attended the Police and Crime Panel. This time it was held in Chippenham. A presentation was given introducing Horizon Victim and Witness Care unit which formally opens on 1 April. The standing agenda of my diary, performance and current issues and the Strategic Alliance were covered.

In the evening, I attended the Filling Station homeless charity. It was interesting to meet one of the Wiltshire Council housing Officers Monkton Park before the panel meeting. He has been involved with the person we picked up at the Filling Station last week. Outreach workers took him to Chippenham and he has been found accommodation by Wiltshire Council. At least he is housed at present.

Saturday 7 March

As regular readers of my blog know, I am governor of Dauntsey's School in West Lavington in my spare time. William Dauntsey was a West Lavington lad who, like Dick Whittington, made his fortune in London and became Master of the Mercers' Company. In his will of 1542 he made provision for the foundation and maintenance of a school at West Lavington, of which the Mercers' Company were to be trustees. The original school was near the church, but in the late 19th Century, following a dispute between some villagers and the company, a new school was built elsewhere in West Lavington. Each year the school remembers its founder and other benefactors who have supported it since. This year the guest preacher was the Very Reverend June Osborn, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral."

Salisbury Cathedral is in the news because of the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

Magna Carta is famous as a symbol of justice, fairness, and human rights. For centuries it has inspired and encouraged movements for freedom and constitutional government in Britain and around the world. But when it was issued by England's King John in June 1215 it was an attempt to prevent a civil war between the king and his powerful barons.

Magna Carta means simply 'great charter'. A charter is a legal document issued by the king or queen which guarantees certain rights. This charter has over 60 clauses, covering many areas of the nation's life, including the right to a fair trial. It is one of several copies written immediately after King John agreed peace terms with his barons at Runnymede, which were sent around the country as evidence of the king's decision.

Salisbury Cathedral's copy is one of four which survive from this original issue. Many people will be visiting the special exhibitions to mark the anniversary.

Because the Magna Carta helped to shape the system of justice which we live by today, I thought it would be interesting to end my blog this week with some short extracts from the historic charter:

Ordinary lawsuits shall not follow the royal court around, but shall be held in a fixed place. Inquests of novel disseisin, mort d'ancestor, and darrein presentment shall be taken only in their proper county court. We ourselves, or in our absence abroad our chief justice, will send two justices to each county four times a year, and these justices, with four knights of the county elected by the county itself, shall hold the assizes in the county court, on the day and in the place where the court meets. If any assizes cannot be taken on the day of the county court, as many knights and freeholders shall afterwards remain behind, of those who have attended the court, as will suffice for the administration of justice, having regard to the volume of business to be done. For a trivial offence, a free man shall be fined only in proportion to the degree of his offence, and for a serious offence correspondingly, but not so heavily as to deprive him of his livelihood. In the same way, a merchant shall be spared his merchandise, and a villein the implements of his husbandry, if they fall upon the mercy of a royal court. None of these fines shall be imposed except by the assessment on oath of reputable men of the neighbourhood. In future no official shall place a man on trial upon his own unsupported statement, without producing credible witnesses to the truth of it. + No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice. We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or other officials, only men that know the law of the realm and are minded to keep it well.

PUTTING ILL-GOTTEN GAINS TO GOOD USE.

Posted: Wednesday 25th March 2015

Monday 9 March

First meeting of the week was a briefing from the performance team and crime prevention. I then met the chief executive of Working Links, Phil Andrew. Working Links is an organisation which is going to run the Community Rehabilitation Company in Wiltshire. It already delivers rehabilitation and offender management services in other counties across England. I was impressed with its experience in reducing re-offending and it was good to meet Mr Andrew again. The proof will come in the next few months as we look for good outcomes from sentencing by the courts.

Tuesday 10 March

Today was an unusual day. There was very little planned in the diary so I used this time to my advantage and wrote last weeks blogs and caught up on reading and some correspondence.

However, I didn't have a full day off as in the evening I attended the High Sheriffs reception which was held at the National Self-Build and Renovation Centre, in Swindon. I had an opportunity to look around the centre and I would recommend it to anyone involved in housing renovation. It is a permanent exhibition by manufacturers showcasing some of the latest technology in renovation.

The real purpose of the evening was to share and publicise some of the work which [Developing Health and Independence](#) does in the community. Although the charity is based in Bath, it works quite a lot in our county and has provided support to a great number of people with all kinds of needs. Here is their website

Wednesday 11 March

This morning, I was at Amesbury Market meeting the public. It was a good opportunity to hear people's concerns about policing and crime matters in their area. I was also able to publicise Community Messaging. Most of the residents concerns in Amesbury were over parking. I signposted them to attend the local area board so the matter can be discussed with the council present.



Angus at Amesbury Market talking to the public

In the afternoon, I attended a Health and Wellbeing Board in Swindon. This was then followed by a meeting with the Labour Parliamentary candidates for Swindon.

Thursday 12 March

First thing this morning I had a phone conference with my opposite number in Avon and Somerset, Sue Mountstevens, before a meeting with Brian Warwick, the Wiltshire Council older people's champion.

I then had a meeting at the Community Foundation of the grants committee which I jointly chair with the High Sheriff. This committee gives grants arising from the Police Property Fund Act. The money is raised by:

- Cash seized from a suspect or surroundings as part of police operations and left unclaimed for more than 12 months or has no identifiable or traceable owner
- Assets seized as part of the same process and again if left unclaimed or are untraceable for more than 12 months they would be sold at auction
- Found items in special property stores in some of our police stations are auctioned off.

This year's grant of around £25,000 went to:

- C Change Empowerment
- West Lavington Youth Club
- Swindon Woman's Aid
- SPLASH
- Woodborough and District Social Club
- Volunteer Centre Swindon
- Clivey & Twist
- Community First Youth Action Wiltshire
- Salisbury Street Pastors

Then, back to the office for a briefing prior to the audit committee next week.

Friday 13 March

Today was a fairly clear day in the diary, with the notable exception of a lunch at the Mansion House in Bristol hosted by Wessex Army Reserves and Cadets. We were due to be joined by the Army Chief of Staff, but unfortunately he couldn't attend as he had to go to a service in St Pau's Cathedral in London to commemorate the Iraq war. So, lieutenant general Sir Christopher Deverell, chief of material land and quartermaster general, stepped up admirably and hosted. It reminded me that I was once a quartermaster sergeant in the cadet force.

I was at a table which included an old friend from Gloucestershire, Robert Bernays, so a chance to catch up and talk about Wiltshire and Gloucestershire relationships. One of his forebears was a Lord Mayor of Bristol so the Mansion House was once "home" to his family.

Saturday 14 March

No work duties today but I did have lunch at Salisbury Playhouse with the director of the Community Foundation and others, which was most enjoyable. I have to confess that I have never been to see a production Salisbury Playhouse, but it is something I will be putting right shortly.

Sunday 15 March

Mothering Sunday lunch was prepared against a background of steam as I tried to get the creases out of my morning suit ready for the rule of law service at Salisbury Cathedral. It is always a memorable occasion. This anniversary year is the anniversary of the Magna Carta so we heard a reading from the historic manuscript. I need to get a copy sometime and read it in detail, in the English translation of course

MY BLOGS WILL BE BACK AFTER THE ELECTION

Posted: Monday 30th March 2015

Monday 23 March

A full day of briefings and some meetings. After a performance briefing we had a joint audit committee meeting. This is outside the reporting cycle, and so you might think there would be no substantive business. But the committee probes the relationships between the Chief, myself and the auditors, both internal and external. They met the auditors in our absence, as well as having a presentation from the Chief Executive of my office on what his job entails. The committee needs a new member so will be advertising immediately after the General Election.

In the afternoon I attended the Strategic Improvement Board where Force performance is monitored. We live in a time of constant change and it is often difficult to attribute improvements in performance to one particular change. It seems the Force has now taken this to heart and is planning to pilot, in a scientific way, a new approach to delivering operational policing services. The idea is to remove unnecessary steps in processes. I am pleased to learn it will be an evidence-based approach.

The day finished with a session with my communications team at which we reviewed the events of the week and planned ahead.

Tuesday 24 March

My attempts to arrive at the Bear Hotel in Devizes at 7am were thwarted by an accident en route. It was all a bit rushed in the end, but I did enjoy breakfast and hearing the speaker at this regular Wessex Chambers of Commerce event.

Back to the office for an update on cyber crime and a meeting with a complainant, which I believe was satisfactory.



The main event of the day was the launch of Horizon Victim and Witness Care. The opening of this unit at Force HQ is a really important event in the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. I was disappointed that Baroness Newlove, the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, was unable to attend due to ill health, but her address was given very ably by her chief executive, Claire Wiggins (pictured above). You can read extracts of what I said [here](#). I wish all the staff, both old and new, the very best in this new enterprise in supporting victims and witnesses.

Wednesday 25 March

Travelled to Birmingham for an Association of Police and Crime Commissioners conference. Unfortunately Sir Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, was unable to be with us due to a family illness, so we heard from Dru Sharpling, who is Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for the Midlands, Wales and the South West. It certainly seems that the relationship between HMIC and PCCs is improving.

The other major subject of the day was Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). I am very pleased that my [joint application with the Avon and Somerset PCC](#) to the Home Office Innovation Fund has brought forward more than £1m which will be spent with the charity Barnardo's across our two areas to identify and support victims of CSE..

I returned to Swindon in the evening via Bristol for a dental check.

Thursday 26 March

A conference call with the leaders of Wiltshire and Swindon Borough councils before getting my blood checked at the surgery.

Then it was over to Devizes to meet Dru Sharpling (HMIC) again. She was very complimentary about the performance of the Force, whilst expressing concern over the rape figures, which we had spotted and brought to the inspector's attention. We were also complimented on our burglary figures, and there were questions about Taser usage, along the same lines as I had used to challenge the Force when they were published. It is a shame we will lose Dru Sharpling when she moves to a national inquiry role. She has given great support to the Constabulary and strong, but informed, challenge. I look forward to meeting her successor shortly.

The afternoon was taken up with a Health and Wellbeing Board at Trowbridge. I was pleased that the meeting agreed that we should speak more about wellbeing and I was able to share the news of our funding from the Home Office Innovation Fund for CSE. I also spoke about the Youth Parliament initiative about mental health and I'm pleased that they will be invited to attend a future meeting.

I have found that one of Wiltshire's own Innovation Fund bids has also been accepted by the Home Office. This was for the Single View of the Customer and Predictive Analysis.

Friday 27 March

I spent the morning in Calne market with one of the local PCSOs. It was a good opportunity for me to be able to listen to public concerns. I have to report that most people were very positive about policing in Calne and district, which I think reflects well on the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In the afternoon I held a Commissioner's Monitoring Board at Headquarters. This covered the south west health care commissioning board, funding for the National Police Co-Ordination Centre and a report on the National Police Aviation Service service to Wiltshire. I also had updates on the Strategic Alliance with Avon & Somerset Police and the sharing of buildings with Wiltshire Council. A positive end to the week

Saturday 28 March

My wife and I were pleased to attend the Trowbridge civic dinner and join the celebration of the civic year for the outgoing mayor. The event raised funds for Dorothy House hospice thanks to a well-supported auction. The civic awards also reflected the promotion of our county town through sympathetic developments, one at the former Ushers Brewery bottling site. Sara and I were with members of the Chamber of Commerce and had a very enjoyable evening.

On Monday (30 March) the Prime Minister visits the Queen formally to request the dissolution of Parliament and the general election campaign will start. That means we will then be in the pre-election purdah period. I will continue to write my blogs on my return from an Easter break, but I will not publish them until a new government has been formed.

A happy Easter to all readers.

NOW THE ELECTION IS OVER, THE BLOGS ARE BACK

Posted: Monday 11th May 2015

Dear readers, I suspended publication of my blogs for the duration of the pre-election period of purdah. But I continued to jot down notes and I am now able to share those with you.

Easter break

I had some time off during the Easter period although with remote working one never seems to be completely away from the office. Over Easter I spent a lot of time visiting various places in Wiltshire. There was one event that brought me back

into the office. This was the employment tribunal in regards to discrimination and harassment. You may have seen the case in the media recently.

I have read the judgment and have been fully briefed on the events that occurred. There is an important organisational issue here and an important issue for the individual concerned. I have asked what will be done for the officer in the light of the judgment and how the Force can ensure that lessons are learnt from this case.

There are also wider organisational implications from this case. I strongly believe that Wiltshire Police should be reflective of the diverse communities it serves. This means that we need more officers and staff working for the Force from black and minority ethnic groups. The outcome of this case is not likely to inspire new recruits from those communities to come forward - in that sense it is very damaging.

This judgment greatly concerns me and I know it also concerns the senior management of Wiltshire Police. An important part of my role is to hold Wiltshire Police to account. The Force will be reporting to me in detail and it will be high on my agenda at the next board meeting with the chief officers.

Saturday 11 April

Today, I attended the Mayor of Amesbury's Civic Service at St Mary and St Melor parish church. I like to attend these services which are a celebration of the civic year for some of the communities in Wiltshire. It was a good opportunity to meet the town council.

A couple of weeks ago, I spent the morning at the market in Amesbury. We were promoting Community Messaging and it was great to see that Amesbury is also now a location for the Safe Places scheme. From speaking to the local people it seems that the local Neighbourhood Policing Team is doing a good job in making the residents of Amesbury feel safe. Over the next week I will be looking at the nominations for the Neighbourhood Policing Awards 2015. The four awards are:

- Police Officer of the year
- Police Community Support Officer of the year
- Neighbourhood Policing Team of the year
- Volunteer of the year.

I'm sure that picking a winner for each award won't be the easiest of tasks but I am looking forward to reading the nominations. It will be good to see public appreciation of the work Wiltshire Police are doing locally reflected in the nominations from communities. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Friday 5 June.

Monday 13 April

A typical administrative day with an update on Force performance. In performance terms the Constabulary is doing very well and I am pleased to see the roll out of software called Quickview making a difference in building knowledge about crime in local areas. There are aspects of performance that need attention but I am pleased that the Constabulary has identified these and put actions in motion.

In the afternoon, I chaired the Commissioner's Monitoring Board. The agenda covered the South West Healthcare Commissioning Board, the national police co-ordination centre, national police aviation services as well as our Strategic alliance with Avon & Somerset Constabulary and our alliance with Wiltshire Council in respect of premises. I also had an update on the custody project for the south of the county and the further integration of policing with council colleagues in Salisbury.

The Wiltshire Council premises in Milford Street, Salisbury, will shortly be closing and customer-facing activity will be delivered from a re-modelled reception facility, with police and council, at Bourne Hill. The new facility will offer a more comfortable and modern environment for customers with improved access to services, providing a flexible and modern working environment for all customer-facing staff.

The last day for the premises at Milford Street will be on Friday 24 April and then all the services will be moved to Bourne Hill. The Bourne Hill desk will open from 08.30am on Monday 27 April.

In the evening, I attended a performance of 'Chelsea's Choice'. Wiltshire Council and the Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board have jointly commissioned AlterEgo Creative Solutions to provide live performances. The performances depict the issues relating to child sexual exploitation and will be performed in secondary schools and public venues. I have already seen this play and I am hopeful that, by end of the year, all year eight students across the county will have seen this powerful production.

Tuesday 14 April

In the morning, I attended Corsham market. It is a quiet market but I spoke to a few local residents and they were happy with their local policing team. In the afternoon, I visited The Repair Academy in Calne. This is run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and is one of my Innovation Fund projects. The academy received £58,000 from the fund. The company is a social enterprise that is dedicated to reducing waste, providing skills and training for young people and offering affordable goods to low-income households. Visit their website www.repairacademy.org It was interesting to see what work they do and the quality of the goods they produce.



Here is Angus with the Repair Academy team

The Innovation Fund recipients are now being evaluated independently by Wiltshire Community Foundation and a report will be given to me in due course.

Wednesday 15 April

Today, I attended a South West regional meeting of Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables in Bridgwater. At the meeting we discussed a wide range of regional projects including our own collaboration with Avon & Somerset. Amongst the topics covered was the regional organised crime unit and update on the tri-force review being undertaken. We also updated ourselves on our various applications to the Home Office Innovation Fund. Readers may remember that we were successful with two applications, one concerned with predicting crimes through analysis, the other concerning the training of a wide range of people to spot the signs of child sexual exploitation. In general, the meeting was extremely positive but we do have continuing issues to resolve around the three strategic partnerships with Avon & Somerset, Devon Cornwall and Dorset.

I read an interesting blog by the senior management about new technology. Two thousand new laptops will be rolled out across the Force. The benefits are that staff and officers can do more remote working. Officers can work anywhere with an internet connection therefore don't need to be travelling to and from a police station to work which saves time and is more productive.

Thursday 16 April

In the morning, I had a meeting with Superintendent Marion Deegan and Sergeant Mark Freeman. This is always a wide ranging update on issues; mental health, Community Speed Watch, Lorry Watch, relations with the ambulance service, Specials and other volunteers, cadets, CCTV in towns, working with Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Junior Good

Citizen and the emerging crime prevention strategy. Every one of those issues is important and I'm pleased to say this monthly review showed we are moving forward on all the subjects.

Then I had a meeting in Wroughton with a resident who has had trouble with anti-social behaviour (ASB) adjoining their property. I took the local community beat manager along with me. One of the issues that quickly became apparent concerned the complications around adjoining land and how it is maintained. Luckily we have resources in my office to sort out who the land belongs to. We can put in measures to relieve ASB. It is a matter that has been running for some time therefore it is necessary to resolve it so residents in this road can have peace.

In the evening, I attended the Filling Station Charity at which numbers attending were low this week. No idea why but it was hot and sunny, so that may have something to do with it.

Friday 17 April

In the morning, I had a monthly update with Zoe Durrant, who is Assistant Chief Officer Business and People Development, at which we discussed how we build a firm foundation for our collaboration with Avon & Somerset. It certainly seems to me that, unless the staff of both forces are on similar terms and conditions our strategic alliance will be based on sand. I think those charged with developing our strategic alliance are consulting with human resources so this doesn't form a stumbling block.

I then attended a trustee meeting at Wiltshire Community Foundation where I was pleased to support 12 applications from Wiltshire residents for personal support funding and vocational funding for amounts ranging from £375 - £1,000. These grants help people get the best out of their schooling and to move on to further training and education. Looking at applications received by the Community Foundation is an extremely humbling process. Some of the circumstances that people deal with in everyday especially around dyslexia and Asperger's syndrome cry out for charitable support and I am confident the money will make a real difference.

In the afternoon, I attended a meeting of those involved in Safe Places. My Police and Crime Plan I spoke of the need to encourage the extension of Safe Place schemes across the whole county. At the moment schemes are running in Salisbury, Swindon, Devizes, Calne, Malmesbury, Amesbury, Westbury, Trowbridge, Melksham, Ludgershall, Warminster and Tidworth.

I was pleased to read a press release recently about a fraudulent car dealer in Littleton Pannell, Wiltshire who had £270,000 confiscated from him by a court. It is always good to see these recoveries are being made and that people do not benefit from their crimes.

A WEEK OF MARKETS

Posted: Tuesday 12th May 2015

Monday 20 April

The applications for the new Wiltshire Police Chief Constable have now closed. I had time set aside with colleagues to shortlist the candidates, however this is now not required as we only received one application. I spoke to the two council representatives Wiltshire Council Leader, Jane Scott and Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council, Gavin Jones for their advice on progressing an appointment with only one candidate. On balance, following advice from my office, partners and other Police and Crime Commissioners who have been in a similar situation, I have decided that we proceed with a view to vigorously challenging the applicant about his competency to lead Wiltshire Police.

As always on a Monday, my morning was dominated by briefings with performance and finance. I then turned my attention to a speech I'm giving in mid May to the Rotary Club of Swindon Old Town.

This week is predominantly made up of market visits. I have three - Melksham tomorrow, Trowbridge on Wednesday and Chippenham on Friday.

Tuesday 21 April

I arrived at Melksham market bright and early. We had our stall set up outside the town hall and were joined by members of the Melksham Community Safety Group and a local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. It was good to catch up and discuss what they have planned for Melksham, as the launch of their Neighbourhood Plan is just around the corner.

Melksham is not the largest market but there was a steady stream of people who came to chat and knew their Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). It was good to see pleasant interactions between the local team and the public they serve. A few people who came to talk to me raised issues around speeding on the main roads in Melksham. My office has taken away these issues and made contact with Community Speed Watch and the local NPT so they can be looked into.

I then returned to the office as I had some general administrative activities to complete before dealing with a personal matter for the rest of the day.

Wednesday 22 April

This morning I had the second market of the week in Trowbridge. We were once again supported by the local NPT. It was pleasing to see lots of Safe Places stickers in shop windows around the town centre in Trowbridge. It looks like the scheme launched successfully.



Angus talking with a member of public at Trowbridge Market

After the market, I was back into the office for a weekly communications update before attending an appointment at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon for one of my regular checks. Afterwards, I drove down to Tidworth to the very fine Tidworth Garrison Theatre where the Wiltshire Public Service Board was meeting. The board was given an update on military re-basing in Wiltshire by Lieutenant Colonel Toby Bridge who is the deputy commander for the army in our region. The group also discussed the armed forces covenant and we heard about a report on the community covenant grant scheme which has concluded after four years.

We also heard from the Department for Work and Pensions about the roll out of universal credit that started in March and was informed that it will be rolled out to families in the coming months.

Finally, Assistant Chief Constable Kier Pritchard briefed myself and partners on the current CONTEST strategy, which is aimed at countering the threat from terrorists and domestic extremism. This board is a good example of organisations working together to tackle issues that affect our residents at whatever the threat level.

Thursday 23 April

An early morning as I was called to the BBC Wiltshire studios to talk about child sexual exploitation (CSE) and what is being done to tackle CSE in the county. I talked about touring theatre production Chelsea's Choice which has now been seen by a large number of year eight students across the county.

I then had a teleconference with Wiltshire Council Leader, Jane Scott and Leader of Swindon Borough Council, David Renard before chairing the judging panel for my Neighbourhood Policing Awards 2015. The panel consisted of Chief Constable Pat Geenty, Chief Executive of Wiltshire Council, Carlton Brand, High Sheriff, Lady Gooch and Swindon Borough Council Chief Executive, Gavin Jones. We had 35 nominations and we will be announcing the winners at an awards ceremony on Friday 5 June. The quality and quantity of applications are an improvement on last year. We have shortlisted the top three or four nominations for each award.

In the afternoon, I attended the Emergency Services Show cheque presentation which was based at Headquarters in Devizes. More than £30,000 has been donated to local good causes following the record-breaking success of the 2014 Emergency Services Show. I have been to the show twice as PCC and it is a fantastic, well organised, family fun day out. I am looking forward to attending this year's show on Sunday 13 September.

Before leaving Devizes for a meeting in Swindon, I spoke with my communications team in regards to the latest crime figures. My Swindon meeting was with Wiltshire Law Centre which offer a valuable service to the people of Wiltshire with legal advice on housing, welfare or debt.

In the evening, I drove the Filling Station charity van. The charity provides food, clothing and advice to the homeless in Swindon. I was pleased, that even there, I was able to deal with an issue one of the users had with the police and is a matter I will be taking up with the Chief Constable's office in the morning.

Friday 24 April

TGI Friday! Our week of engagement continues with Chippenham Market this morning. Also being launched in Chippenham was Safe Places in Emery Gate shopping centre. The scheme was piloted in Salisbury and Devizes and I provided funding to help roll it out across the county. There were a number of supporters at the launch and I was pleased to see that a number of businesses in Chippenham are enthusiastic towards this great scheme.



Angus talking at the Chippenham Safe Places launch

I also had a few telephone interviews while at the market about the latest crime statistics. You can read about the most recent figures [here](#).

My office, always considerate of my health, gave me a free Friday afternoon.

Sunday 25 April

I knew there was a reason for a free Friday afternoon given to me by my office. This was because I was invited to celebrate the Bengali New Year at Broadgreen Community Centre on Sunday. I am really pleased to support the Bengali community, and I enjoy celebrating different cultures and traditions with all the varied communities in Swindon and Wiltshire. It was a very enjoyable afternoon of music, dance and food. I was warmly welcomed by them and certainly will go back next year.

WE NEED TO BE VIGILANT ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Posted: Thursday 14th May 2015

Monday 27 April

Had an early morning visit to the chiropractor before chairing the Commissioner's Monitoring Board in Devizes. The board considered reports on computer support for the tri-force and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). I then heard updates in respect of Zephyr (the regional organised crime unit) and our progress on the strategic alliance with Avon and Somerset Constabulary. That was followed by some time to prepare for the Youth Parliament members who are visiting on Wednesday.

Tuesday 28 April

I attended a conference run by the Diocese of Salisbury at Sarum Academy. The conference was on human trafficking, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation. The day started by raising awareness of the international issues with a presentation by members of the charity tearfund. Then we heard from organisations that are working in Britain to tackle these major issues, in particular The Salvation Army.

After lunch we had a performance of Chelsea's Choice. You may recall I have seen this play about child sexual exploitation several times. The day finished with Wiltshire Police giving me an update on the issues facing residents of Wiltshire and Swindon, one of which was human trafficking.

You may be aware of a recent police operation around the Semmington travellers site where officers worked in partnership with Wiltshire Council, The Salvation Army, British Red Cross, NHS England and the UK Human Trafficking Centre. Eight Romanian men who had potentially been exploited were removed from the site. I encourage everyone to report any suspicious activity going on in their community as you never know what could be going on behind closed doors.

In the evening, I was joined by my wife Sarah-Jane and we visited Salisbury Playhouse to see Little Shop of Horrors. I have never been to the Playhouse before and I was very impressed by the quality of the performance and the production that was developed locally. We must go again.

Wednesday 29 April

This morning I had an introduction to the new Unison representative for Wiltshire Police and was updated by Unison on issues they are currently pursuing. I found this very useful because, although I don't have direction or control of the Constabulary operationally, I wanted the new representative to know that my door is always open. I then had a meeting with an organisation called My Community. It was interesting to hear what they could deliver for my office.

This was followed by my meeting with four members of the Youth Parliament. It was a great pleasure to host a meeting with them and I look forward to them coming back in the summer to work with my office to create a survey for schools to complete about Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE).

In partnership with the youth parliament we want to make sure that every pupil is taught the same PSHE topics. At the moment there isn't a set PHSE curriculum for every school. We want to gather information from every school in Wiltshire and evaluate the results to see what topics are being missed out or if there is a common curriculum. The aim will be to take this forward to the whole of the youth parliament.

Thursday 30 April

In the morning, I attended a governors meeting at Dauntsey's School and in the afternoon I attended the Wiltshire Magistrates Association where I spoke about domestic violence and updated them on the availability of video links in courts for victims and witnesses. It was a great opportunity to speak with old colleagues as I served as a magistrate for 20 years before this current role.

Friday 1 May

In the morning I attended a friend's funeral then I headed back to the office.

At lunchtime I had a meeting with staff in my office to discuss the revision of the Police and Crime Plan which will be brought to the Police and Crime Panel on 18 June.

In the afternoon, I had a meeting on mental health and autism. I am very pleased that SEQUOL, who I funded through my Innovation Fund, have been shortlisted for a national award at the National Learning Disabilities Awards Show. I will be watching for news of how they got on later this month.

Saturday 2 May

Up early this morning to be at Downton Cuckoo Fair for 8 am to set up my stand. This is one of the major events in the south of the county and I understand from one of the organisers it is one of the top ten things to do this bank holiday weekend.

The event was very busy with stalls, dancing and music. Our stall was next to a hog roast but with determination we resisted the smell and our growling stomachs until it was lunchtime.



Angus at Downton Cuckoo fair

My stall was also a Safe Place and we were put into action when a woman who had been searching for her son and husband for over an hour and couldn't find them approached us for some help. We took her to events control for an announcement to be put out and they were reunited.

Overall, Downton Cuckoo Fair was a pleasant day out and a nice change from being in the office. I was pleased that we were a successful Safe Place for the event and that we engaged with the public.

CHOOSING OUR NEW CHIEF

Posted: Friday 15th May 2015

Tuesday 5 May

This was a big day for the future of Wiltshire Police. First thing in the morning myself, Wiltshire Council Leader, Jane Scott, Chief Executive of Swindon Borough Council, Gavin Jones, Chief Executive of the Community Foundation, Rosemary Macdonald and an independent human resources specialist, Geoff Pears, interviewed Deputy Chief Constable. Mike Veale for the role of Chief Constable. The interview consisted of the candidate being given 45 minutes

to prepare a ten minute presentation around the Police and Crime Plan with the financial parameters which we will be working to in the future.

Then, after a short break, we went into the formal interview process which took around two hours. It was necessarily a long and vigorous process. At the end the panel was unanimous in recommending that I appoint Mike to be the new Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police. There will be a confirmation hearing by the Police and Crime Panel in a week's time to cement Mike's appointment.

I have every confidence that Mike Veale will make an excellent Chief Constable for Wiltshire. He understands Wiltshire and Swindon and has been at the heart of developing strong relationships with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council and with our colleagues in Avon and Somerset Constabulary. He is committed to my agenda of maintaining local policing.

In his interview, Mike demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles of British policing, with integrity, fairness and public service at the core.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the office on a variety of topics and preparing for the new announcement of the new Chief to the media tomorrow morning.



Angus with the newly appointed Chief Constable, Mike Veale

Wednesday 6 May

An extremely busy morning with media interviews that started at 8 am and finished around 10.30am.

Then I was pleased to welcome two staff members from the Home Office who will be liaising between their office, the Force and my office.

In the afternoon, I had a briefing in regards to the latest stop and search figures. One outstanding note in the figures is that, in line with the national trend, some 40 per cent of stop and search procedures are down on the previous year. Quite a lot is going on internally around the recording of stop and search. This is a matter the Force is inspected on and it has liaised with the [National Black Police Association](#) to make sure it plays a key role on the consultation of procedures for this.

This was followed by a briefing regarding the PEEL inspections. PEEL stands for the police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme which [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary \(HMIC\)](#) draws together evidence from its annual all-force inspections. I understand that HMIC will be visiting the Force towards the end of May.

Thursday 7 May

Election day has finally come. After casting my vote I had a monthly briefing from Superintendents Andrew Carr and Marion Deegan the incoming and outgoing leads on crime prevention. This is a wide brief and we talked about joint working with [Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service](#), Lorry Watch, mental health and many more. I am particularly looking forward to a presentation on CCTV in the county and the formal presentation on the Force's new crime prevention strategy in the near future.

Mid morning I travelled with the Chief Constable, Pat Geenty to the new Haywards Care Centre in Devizes. This care home is named after war veteran Reginald Hayward, who served in the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, and was awarded the Victoria Cross and two Military Crosses. Over the years the Wiltshire Regiment has been incorporated into what is now The Rifles Regiment of which Prince Philip is Colonel in Chief. Good to see His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. He is spritely and bright as ever. The Chief and I also enjoyed a tour of the centre.



Angus and Chief Constable, Pat Geenty at Haywards Care Centre meeting Prince Philip

Then I had a meeting with staff from the Community Foundation about a jazz lunch I am planning to hold in Swindon for them on 27 September.

Friday 9 May

In the morning, I had my regular meeting with Steve Cox, Head of Tri force Roads Policing Operations at which we discussed some of details in respect to the seven fatal collisions on the roads of Wiltshire this year. Every death is a tragedy but I am pleased that the numbers of incidents are lower than the same period last year. We also discussed the working of the tri-force arrangements with Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire. These partnerships will shortly be independently assessed.

After a fire drill and some networking in the car park while the building was evacuated, I had a meeting with Andrew Murray who has been appointed to the post of volunteer development officer. The aim of the meeting was to talk about his role and what he wants to achieve, but we also went through the updates to my Police and Crime Plan.

In the afternoon I had a meeting with the Police Federation representatives which was in part a routine catchup but also to talk about the appointment of the new Chief Constable and the recent employment tribunal result. Just like Unison I am pleased that the federation have come to visit and brief me on their concerns on a regular basis .

**Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon**