



ANNUAL REPORT

2012 - 2013



Introduction

I am required by law to publish an Annual Report after the end of the financial year in March. Although I only took office at the end of November I intend to meet this requirement but the report covers only the first four months of my administration, so it will be very much an interim report.

I have been fortunate that I have taken over from a Police Authority which has served the people of Warwickshire well and provided good support and robust challenge to a high performing police force. The very positive figures on reducing crime that I discussed with the Chief Constable at the beginning of April for the 2012 – 2013 financial year cover a significant period before my election. My role now is to continue to support the police in Warwickshire and to hold the Chief Constable to account and strive to ensure that positive reductions in crime continue.

Clearly the period since my election has been a period where I have had to learn a great deal in a very short time, not least about a new and not well defined role, and to establish the support I need to carry out that role. I have been supported hugely by the appointment of Dr. Eric Wood as my Deputy. I have also been very grateful for the support of the staff in my office and the Chief Constable Andy Parker and his deputy, Neil Brunton and colleagues throughout the service and across the partner agencies, both voluntary and statutory.

I am also very appreciative of the many comments and views I have received from members of staff, volunteers, councillors and members of partnership organisations and members of the public I have met. They have helped me to develop my priorities which I have set out in the Police and Crime Plan I published at the end of May.

Ron Ball
Police and Crime Commissioner

The Strategic Alliance between Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police

I have given my full support to the continuation and development of the Strategic Alliance between Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police.

The Alliance has enabled both forces to face a difficult financial settlement by creating economies of scale and streamlining processes and procedures. It has allowed the development of effective and resilient enabling and protective services operating across both force areas while protecting local policing.

I think it right at this stage that each force within the Alliance retains its identity and its Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable as the new mould of policing is implemented and the new vision for the Alliance is developed.

The Police and Crime Plan

In April I published my Police and Crime Plan for the period 2013 – 2017

A copy of the plan can be seen at www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk under Information followed by Plans and Performance

I have set out in the Plan my five priorities:-

- To reduce crime and disorder
- To protect the public from harm
- To empower local communities to prevent crime and disorder
- To deliver an efficient and effective police service
- To respond to the Strategic Policing Requirement

The delivery of these priorities will be underpinned by six key principles:-

- Stronger local policing and effective and resilient protective services
- Valuing people and increasing public visibility
- Effective early intervention and prevention
- Good communication and engagement with the public
- Financial responsibility
- The promotion of equality and celebrating diversity

Next year in my Annual Report I will report on progress on delivering these priorities.

Budget

In line with my manifesto commitment I decided there should be no increase in 2013-14 in the precept, the level of council tax for policing.

I have agreed a net revenue budget for policing of £92 million and a Medium Term Financial Plan which incorporates challenging savings targets.

I have allocated resources from underspends in the budget for 2012-13 to pay for:-

- **The appointment of Community Safety Ambassadors**
- **Safeguarding Community Safety Grants**
- **The recruitment of a further 100 Special Constables over the next three years**

Partnership Working

Strong partnership working already exists between the police, local councils, including the County Council, voluntary groups and statutory agencies. I am committed to supporting and strengthening those partnerships.

I have maintained Community Safety Grants at the level of expenditure in 2012 – 13 for this financial year.

I have made a one-off grant for 2013-14 of £25,000 to Neighbourhood Watch to enhance the scope and impact of this organisation

I have invited bids for one-off time-limited projects and will shortly make an allocation of resources of around £250,000

I am reviewing the support my Office gives to Community Safety Partnerships and voluntary organisations including Independent Custody Visitors, to support volunteering

Holding the Chief Constable to Account

An important part of my role is to hold the Chief Constable to account for the operation and the performance of the Police.

I have met the Chief Constable on an almost weekly basis to discuss areas of mutual concern and to be updated about operations and the performance of the Force.

Three of those meetings have been held in public where members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions and to listen to the discussions.

Those meetings have been held in different parts of the county, Warwick, Atherstone and Stratford.

At these meetings I have asked for more detailed reports on:-

- Professional Standards
- Cybercrime
- Safeguarding
- Hate Crime
- Rural Crime
- Business Crime

In April I received a very positive report on crime in Warwickshire which recorded a year on year 12% reduction in crime in 2012-13. A summary of the data on crime for the financial year 2012-13 is appended.

In my annual report in April 2014 I will include detailed figures on levels of crime.

I will monitor carefully the data in relation to reported crime in my meetings with the Chief Constable

National Role

I have supported the establishment of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. It is in my view essential for PCCs to have a forum to debate issues in relation to crime and policing, to share good practice and to influence government policy and police practice. APCC also is involved in the governance of some major areas of policing.

I have therefore been part of the steering groups which developed the constitution and protocols governing the APCC, have been elected Chair of the Independent Group of Commissioners and as a member of the APCC Board.

I am also a member of the Board of the newly created National Police Air Service.

While this represents a significant investment of time I believe that a strong voice for Warwickshire within the APCC will bring considerable benefits for policing in the County.

Engagement with the Public

A key part of my role is to listen to the views of the people of Warwickshire in particular victims of crime, about crime and policing in the county, and to represent their views to the Police and other agencies in the Criminal Justice System. I receive a great deal of correspondence and comment on Facebook and Twitter. In addition I am ensuring that on a regular basis I meet representatives of key organisation, local councils, MPs, representatives of young people and ethnic minority communities.

The relationship between Safer Neighbourhood Team and Local Community Forum is a very positive one and I want to ensure that I hear the concerns of local people and communities. By the end of June I, or my Deputy, will have attended more than half of all Local Community Forums.

I am appointing therefore, 30 'Community Safety Ambassadors' attached to each Local Community Forum and SNT to be my 'eyes and ears' in those communities.

I have developed an engagement strategy which will ensure regular and meaningful content with organisations and groups which can contribute to reducing crime.

I am working with a sub-group of the County Youth Forum to identify the priorities of young people for policing.

I am developing my website and social media in addition to more traditional meetings to ensure better communication with the public.

Regional and National Collaboration

I referred in the Police and Crime Plan to the threat posed by cross-border crime and have established strong working relationships beyond the Strategic Alliance with West Mercia and the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

I have signed a collaboration agreement with the three other forces in the West Midlands to tackle serious and organised crime.

Formal Decisions Taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner

November 2012 – March 2013

Formal decisions are published by the Commissioner on the website of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1. Decision making process
2. Scheme of Governance
3. Extension of Secondment Agreement for Chief Constable
4. Sale of Former Police Station; Wellesbourne
5. RIPA Collaboration
6. Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan
7. Appointment of Interim Chief Executive
8. Appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
9. Budget and Precept
10. Establishment of Audit Committee
11. Community Safety Grant Funding 2012-13
12. Treasury Management