

NENE BEAT

ISSUE 4: AUTUMN 2021



**PD SOCKS STRIKES
A POSE FOR NEW
CHARITY CALENDAR**



Contents



On the cover

Dog Section launches 2022 charity calendar, page 3

- First modern slavery conviction..... 4
- Focus on anti-social behaviour..... 4
- Force quarterly stats..... 6-7
- Chief's annual report..... 8
- Victim satisfaction survey results..... 9
- Keep the burglars out..... 10
- Meet PD Rosie..... 11
- Have your say on local priorities..... 11
- ANPR cameras reap rewards..... 12
- Spot the signs of romance fraud..... 13
- Keeping an eye on our roads..... 13

Contact us

You can report a crime, a road traffic incident, say thanks or make a complaint online at www.northants.police.uk

Always call 999 in an emergency and where a crime is in progress or someone is in danger.

Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries.

If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use our textphone service 18000.

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Chief's welcome

Welcome once again to our latest edition of Nene Beat which, as ever, is packed with news about so many of the great things going on across Northamptonshire Police.

Just a couple of weeks ago I began a fourth year as Chief Constable and was delighted to publish my latest annual report setting out what we have achieved in the past 12 months on our journey to becoming an outstanding Force, as well as looking ahead to the year to come. I strongly urge you to take a look at the report and see for yourselves all the fantastic work being done by our officers and staff.

You will also see our performance figures for the first quarter to June, the first set since I launched our Matters of Priority, the four crime types – serious and organised crime, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and knife crime – which we will be giving the most focus to in the months ahead.

Performance figures are crucial to our own understanding of how the Force is working and I'm especially pleased that we are now reporting the highest victim satisfaction figures

for five years with exceptionally high ratings for victims of domestic abuse and burglary. This is tremendous progress, but we are not letting up as we strive to deliver the best possible service to victims of all crime.

Over the past couple of months we have been pushing our own dynamic campaign on modern slavery and human trafficking so it was especially pleasing to see our first conviction, at the start of August, of four members of a serious organised crime gang, jailed for a total of 39 years for their part in a modern slavery ring linked to drug dealing.

And please do look out for our feature on Police Dog Rosie – our new digital media detection dog – who has been trained to sniff out SIM cards from mobile phones. The breadth of things which our canine crimefighters can do these days is truly staggering and we are lucky to have them on our side.

You'll find lots of stories to sniff out in this Nene Beat.

Enjoy!

Chief Constable Nick Adderley

Night time operation

The Force has launched a new operation to prevent sexual offending in our town centres, which coincided with the easing of Government Covid-19 restrictions and the re-opening of the county's nightclubs.

Operation Kayak is the name given to the policing activity which involves non-uniformed officers carrying out patrols in hotspot areas of our towns, sending a strong message to potential offenders: Predatory behaviour will not be tolerated in Northamptonshire.

Officers on Operation Kayak patrols will seek to identify those displaying predatory or suspicious behaviour like loitering, leering, sexual harassment and inappropriate touching and when they see it, they will act quickly by engaging with the individual, which may involve a simple conversation or an arrest if

any offences have been committed.

Non-uniformed officers will not enter venues but will instead work alongside door staff and venue management. Any concerns will be raised to officers who will respond quickly and robustly.

Detective Superintendent Paul Rymarz, the Force's Head of Crime said: "We're committed to ensuring our streets are safe and Operation Kayak is intended to help do this by making the county a hostile place for those intent on committing sexual offences."

The operation is a joint one and we are working alongside CCTV operators, Community Safety Partnerships, door staff, fast food outlets and others working in the night-time economy to spread the message that offenders are unwelcome in our towns.

Get your paws on the Dog Section's charity calendar

Calling all fans of our fabulous Dog Section! The 2022 calendar featuring some of our favourite four-legged colleagues will be on sale from this autumn.

Each month will feature one of our police dogs in action, showcasing the huge variety of work they do, alongside their specialist handlers, to fight crime and protect people in Northamptonshire.

Priced at £10 each plus £1.50 postage and packing, all profits from the sale of the calendar will be donated to the Thin Blue Paw Foundation, which supports those dogs who dedicate most of their lives to policing, including our own former PDs Nala and Harper.

The money raised from the sale of the calendars will help the national charity to continue to provide vital financial support for both veterinary and rehabilitation treatment for serving and retired police dogs across the UK.



Keep an eye on our website for more details on when the calendar becomes available and how to get your paws on one of the limited copies.



There is no place for hate

We are teaming up with our partners to champion diversity and tolerance to mark National Hate Crime Awareness Week (October 9-16).

Along with fellow members of the 'Safer Northants' partnerships, we will be making it clear that there is no place for hate in Northamptonshire, with anyone affected by hate crime urged to report it.

Hate crime is any criminal offence or incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, whether a witness, friend or family member, as being motivated by prejudice or hate.

This could be because of a person's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Other reasons could include individual characteristics such as an alternative lifestyle, culture or physical appearance.

It doesn't always include physical violence. Someone using offensive language towards you or harassing you because of who you are, or who they think you are, is also a crime. The same goes for someone posting abusive or offensive messages about you online.

The theme of this year's national campaign is there is no place for hate, which will be echoed across the county to raise awareness of hate crime, explain what it is and how it is being tackled, as well as encourage people to report it.

Hate crime will not be tolerated and anyone subjected to a hate crime is strongly encouraged to report it at www.northants.police.uk/hatecrime so our officers can investigate the incident.

It's probably nothing but...

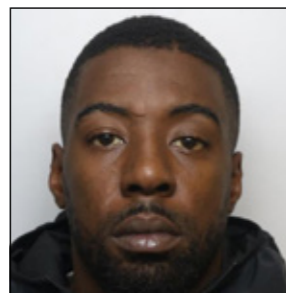
Our campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery continues, with the help of funding from the office of Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The strapline "It's probably nothing, but..." aims to encourage people into reporting any signs they witness – however insignificant they seem.

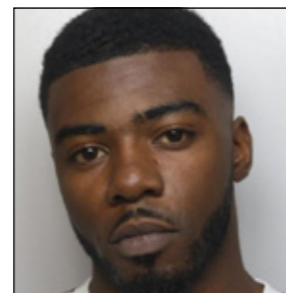
The information provided could be the missing piece of the jigsaw which enables officers to take swift action to safeguard victims – who often include children – and bring offenders to justice.

Although you may not see it, we know modern slavery happens in our county and often goes unnoticed in our local communities. It might be your local hand car wash, a nail bar or even your village takeaway, all hidden in plain sight.

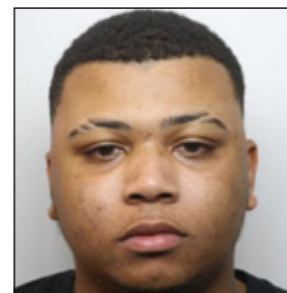
Victims are often terrified of their exploiters and unable to raise the alarm and signal for help so even if you are unsure, be on the safe side and remember you could have the missing piece of information which results in victims being safeguarded from what is an horrendous fate.



Micah Thomas



Marlie Ashby



Twvarni Riviere

Landmark modern slavery conviction

A total of 39 years in prison was the outcome of the county's first modern slavery sentencing linked to drug dealing.

Micah Thomas, 32, Marlie Ashby, 27, Twvarni Riviere, 20, and Jahmani Mitchell, 19, were found guilty of drugs and modern slavery offences in May and sentenced at Northampton Crown Court in August.

The men stood trial following a two-year investigation by the Force's Serious and Organised Crime Team (SOCT), which focused on the head of the gang Thomas, and his drugs network, operating in Wellingborough's Kiln Way and Queensway areas during 2019 and 2020.

The gang made significant profits operating the network, sourcing multiple kilos of heroin and crack cocaine and using associates and vulnerable children to supply to local drug dealers.

SOCT Detective Inspector Nick Cobley, who led the investigation said: "This result once again shows our intent and ability to tackle serious and organised crime.

"For years, this particular crime group have had such a negative impact on neighbourhoods across Wellingborough and wider areas. Their persistent criminality and associated violence have placed many people in fear and placed significant demands on policing and other public services.

"I am particularly pleased with the sentences regarding the modern

slavery offences. These are the first sentences of their type secured by the Force and will help highlight the despicable lengths criminal groups will go to.

"On this occasion, children were exploited, intimidated and threatened. They were forced to sell drugs and placed at significant risk in doing so. This is simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

"Children should always feel safe and be protected from the physical and psychological traumas which serious crime can cause and we will continue to pursue those cowardly criminals who use children."

Thomas, of Wellingborough, was sentenced to 12 years for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine and three years for modern slavery offences.

Ashby, of Wollaston, was sentenced to 10 years for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine and two years for modern slavery offences.

Riviere, of Wellingborough, was sentenced to six years for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine and one year for modern slavery offences.

Mitchell, of Wellingborough, was sentenced to four and a half years for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

A fifth man, Ben Loasby, aged 24, of Birchfield Road, Wellingborough, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine, was sentenced to two years, suspended for two years.



Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has a huge impact on people's quality of life, which is why it is one of four matters of priority named by the Force for 2021/22, alongside serious and organised crime, domestic abuse and knife crime.

The priorities were identified in part due to the actual threat and risk they pose, but also because the public have told us that overall, these are the areas they most want us to tackle.

As well as negatively affecting people's lives, ASB can be a breeding ground for future offenders and organised criminality, so resolving ASB often results in wider benefits for both communities and individuals.

Work underway by the Force includes the identification of ASB hotspot areas for each local policing area, with targeted action plans created with partners to ensure solutions are specific and joined up.

Area Commander of the West Local Policing Area, Superintendent Kev Mulligan said: "This is key to our aim of stopping incidents escalating or repeating themselves, helping those who suffer because of ASB and also addressing the behaviour of those responsible for it."

Working with partners is vital for

resolving ASB effectively, especially as not all ASB issues are police matters. The Force now provides guidance and information to anyone reporting non-police matters.

Kev added: "The impact of all kinds of ASB can be really serious, which is why we're working hard to encourage people to report it, and explain how we use those reports to build a picture of what is happening, so we, and partners, can take effective action to tackle it.

"If what you're reporting isn't something the police would deal with, we will tell you who you need to contact, such as reporting noise or fly tipping to your local authority."

In July, the Force took part in the first national anti-social behaviour awareness week, and community work over the summer has also included a partnership day of action in Northampton to tackle ASB issues relating to the use of e-scooters.

Kev added: "Everyone has the right to live safely and in peace, so if you're affected by ASB in any form, we are here to help. Non-emergency reports can be made by calling 101 or going online, and in an emergency, you should always call 999."



The Force made 331 domestic abuse related arrests between June 11 and July 11, partly attributable to a high-profile campaign we ran, to coincide with the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship.

Throughout the Euros, messages were published which encouraged reporting and signposted victims to help and support. These ran alongside strong messages aimed at perpetrators, warning them that if they committed domestic abuse offences, officers would leave no stone unturned to locate and arrest them.

The Euros may have ended but tackling domestic abuse continues to be a matter of priority for the Force.

Detective Inspector Mark Hopkinson, from our Domestic Abuse Team said: "My officers will continue to work tirelessly to track down and arrest anybody responsible for this heinous crime which has such devastating consequences for victims, children and often the wider family too.

"We know many incidents go unreported. Nobody should have to live in fear, and I urge victims to come forward. We work closely with statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure anyone who suffers domestic abuse gets the help they need.

"I urge anyone suffering from domestic abuse to call us on 101 or, in an emergency, always call 999."

For more information and advice on domestic abuse, please [click here](#).

Matters of Priority April-June 2021



Domestic abuse

- Recorded 4,417 incidents of domestic abuse including harassment, assault and injury offences
- Domestic abuse has increased 7.8 per cent in the last 12 months
- Two in five victims have reported more than one incident of abuse to us in the last year
- Arrests were made in one in three of these situations to support an investigation



Knife crime

- Recorded 170 most serious knife enabled offences (four per cent increase in the last 12 months)
- Seized or recovered 282 weapons off our streets
- Made arrests in 169 knife related offences
- One in four knife crimes involved someone under the age of 18 (109)



Serious and organised crime

- Dealt with 138 reports of drug trafficking or drugs supply offences in the county (18 per cent reduction in the last 12 months)
- Safeguarded 41 people from slavery or trafficking
- Seized 271 firearms across the county including shotguns and pistols (13 per cent increase in the last year)
- Investigated 197 frauds against vulnerable people in our county



Anti-social behaviour

- Received 3,941 reports of anti-social behaviour (not Covid-19 related) - 43 every day (13.2 per cent reduction in the last 12 months)
- Of these, we attended 33 per cent in person and dealt with a further eight per cent on the phone offering advice
- One in 20 callers of anti-social behaviour had reported at least one other incident to us in the last year but accounted for one in 10 incidents in the same period

Demand on our services rise as Covid-19 restrictions ease

The new policing year started in April, and it's fair to say that it has been a very busy first three months of 2021/22, with the demand on our services continuing to increase.

With more people taking up the offer of the Covid-19 vaccine, and the pressure on our NHS services starting to ease, the lockdown restrictions continued to be lifted as a result.

This meant pubs and restaurants were able to re-open their doors, sporting venues could welcome back fans, albeit at a reduced capacity, and some travel restrictions eased, giving all of us the chance to meet up with friends and family once more.

However, throughout April and June our officers and staff have continued dealing with a wide variety of emergencies, crimes and incidents, and these pages provide a snapshot to give you an idea of what these have included.

As you'll see, in total, staff in our call

centre took 79,805 calls - that's 867 a day - comprising 31,318 emergency and 48,487 non-emergency calls. We recorded 15,525 crimes, made 2,783 arrests and dealt with 1,010 missing people reports.

Our call handlers are highly trained to make sure each request is dealt with in the most appropriate way, from sending response officers to an emergency to giving advice to members of the public or signposting them to another agency for help.

Emergency incidents obviously need to be prioritised in terms of response times but there are many crimes and incidents which require investigation and specialist attention - these are dealt with by dedicated teams of officers and staff.

We work with other agencies and charities to help people find the appropriate support they may need during several incident types such as domestic abuse - and between April and June, we recorded

4,417 domestic abuse incidents including harassment, assault and injury offences.

You can also see lots of information about what these teams have dealt between April and June, including serious and organised crime, knife crime and anti-social behaviour, which along with domestic abuse, are a matter of priority for the Force.

It's not just officers and staff who make up Northamptonshire Police - we're lucky to have some fantastic volunteers. In fact, our special constables contributed nearly 12,920 hours in the three months, this equates to 25 additional officers each week, which is an incredible support.

We hope this regular update gives you some insight into what your police service has been doing - the issues and crimes which happen and are reported to us by members of the public and some background into our facts and figures.

Between April and June, the Force...

Handled 79,805 calls (867 a day) of which 31,318 were emergency 999 calls and 48,487 were non-emergency 101 calls



Recorded 471 hate incidents, most being racial in nature



Made 2,783 arrests

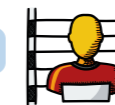


Dealt with 1,010 missing from home reports where 62 per cent of people went missing multiple times



Conducted 767 stop searches with 26 per cent resulting in arrest or action taken; and used force against a subject 1,843 times (40 per cent involved handcuffs where the person came freely)

Resolved 13.2 per cent of crimes



Recorded 4,304 anti-social behaviour incidents with one in three attended in person and a further eight per cent dealt with over the phone



Recorded 43,969 incidents (489 a day) and attended 50.7 per cent of these (22,292)

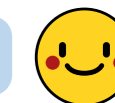


Recorded 19,152 incidents where someone's safety or welfare was at risk

Recorded 15,525 crimes including 7,024 violence offences, 412 residential burglaries and 1,517 criminal damage offences



77 per cent of victims surveyed were satisfied with overall service



Key statistics

Our volunteer special constables contributed 12,920 hours in this period, equivalent to 25 additional officers each week

Magistrates and crown court performance continues to improve with both exceeding an 80 per cent conviction rate this quarter

The average time to arrive at an emergency 999 incident in urban areas was 11 minutes 44 seconds and in rural areas 14 minutes 53 seconds - both below the national targets

Recorded 412 residential burglaries with one in five being attempts. More offences are being detected - 11 per cent of home invasions in this period

10 per cent of crimes have a suspect or offender who is under the age of 18

Mental health concerns were a factor in 2,785 incidents (six per cent of all incidents)

59 per cent of neighbourhood officers and PCSOs' time was spent visible in communities



Chief Constable's
Annual Report
2020/21



Chief's annual report praises resilience of the Force during a challenging year for policing

Chief Constable Nick Adderley published his third annual report in August which focused on the Force's performance in the past 12 months and looked ahead to his fourth year in charge.

The Chief acknowledged in his report just how challenging policing has been during the past 12 months as the public endured the frustration and uncertainty of lockdown restrictions put in place to combat Covid-19.

He praised the resilience of our officers and staff, and said he was incredibly proud of how they had responded and worked alongside partner agencies to deliver effective engagement and enforcement.

He points out how there has been real significant progress across several key areas, improvements duly recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

It was the Inspectorate's highly critical report of early 2019 which set the Force, led by the Chief Constable, on its current path to drive up performance and quality of service.

The Chief said: "The challenge for Northamptonshire Police has been significant, however through sheer grit and determination at every

level, the quality of our service has improved, and we are now delivering in line with what the public want and expect."

The report highlighted several high-profile operations which have led to the arrest and conviction of serious offenders for crimes ranging from attempted murder to child sex abuse and domestic violence.

In May, the Chief launched his Matters of Priority, setting out the four crime types which the Force is giving special focus to in the year ahead – serious and organised crime, domestic abuse, knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, he said his focus would continue to be on improving performance and to invest further in the prevention agenda which aims to reduce demand and free up officers, so policing is even more visible and proactive.

He added: "We are in a much-improved position today, but we are ambitious, and we have more work to do to be the excellent policing service I know my officers and staff want to achieve as much as I do."

To read the report in full, [click here](#).

Among the performance highlights identified in the report are:

Higher levels of proactive policing which have led to 10,000 additional crimes being identified

Satisfaction levels at their highest for more than four years with rates among victims of domestic abuse and burglary now standing at record levels

Significant and hugely successful efforts to raise awareness among officers around vulnerability and the protection and safeguarding of children in particular

A review of neighbourhood policing which is putting beat officers back in the heart of communities, increasing visibility and raising public confidence

A Force with more officers than ever before and on target to have almost 1,500 by 2022/23 and – increasingly – a more diverse workforce, better reflecting the wider Northamptonshire community

The move to a new base in Wellingborough shared with the Fire Service and the Office for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, saving money which is being re-invested in the frontline

Investment in ANPR cameras to deter criminals from our roads and a new Skoda Octavia VRS interceptor fleet to reduce crime, deaths and serious injuries on the county's road network

Victims are satisfied with overall police experience

Our latest survey data shows that victim satisfaction is at the highest level in more than four years.

We routinely survey victims of crime to ask them to rate their experience from their initial contact with officers and staff to the conclusion of any investigation.

Latest statistics, from surveys completed in 2020/21, show victims of crime tended to be most satisfied with the way we treat them, ease of contact and the actions taken.

A total of 77 per cent of people surveyed were satisfied with their overall experience with Northamptonshire Police, the highest figure recorded since 2017.

Chief Constable Nick Adderley said: "We don't underestimate the impact an incident can have on the lives of victims, witnesses and their families and the needs of victims of crime are at the heart of what we do.

"Of note, 89 per cent of victims of domestic abuse were satisfied with the service we provided, which I hope demonstrates our commitment to supporting victims and helping them to stay safe.

"Importantly, 91 per cent of domestic abuse victims said they would feel confident contacting the police again and 94 per cent would recommend contacting the police to others, while

81 per cent felt safer as a result of contacting us and 88 per cent felt the police care about them.

"Our biggest rise in satisfaction has been with burglary victims, with an increase from 76 per cent to 81 per cent in the last year.

"In 2019 we launched Op Crooked – a team of officers who are dedicated to tackling burglary and in that time the number of home invasions in the county has reduced by 45 per cent.

"We have also seen a large number of prolific offenders convicted of offences in the last 12 months, and I hope this has helped to offer reassurance to victims."

People who reported incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) were the least satisfied with the service they received, something the Force intends to improve on over the next 12 months.

The Chief continued: "In May, I announced ASB will be a matter of priority for the Force and as a result I expect to see the number of people who are satisfied with our service improve.

"We always strive to provide the best service possible and although it is good to see our highest ever overall level of victim satisfaction in four years, we know we can do better."

The statistics for the last 12 months show:

- **77.4 per cent** of victims were satisfied with their overall experience with Northamptonshire Police
- **86.3 per cent** were satisfied with ease of contact
- **85.8 per cent** were satisfied with the treatment they received
- **68.9 per cent** were satisfied with the actions taken
- **53.2 per cent** were satisfied with being kept informed



You hold the key to your security



Did you know that 25% of burglaries in Northamptonshire happen because burglars get in through an unlocked door or window?

Operation Crooked is Northamptonshire Police's campaign to tackle residential burglaries.

In the past two years we have reduced burglaries across the county by 47%.

But burglaries are still happening and we need your help.

"Let me be clear that the only thing that causes burglaries is burglars and our officers are doing everything they can to put these people behind bars, evidenced by the 47% reduction we have seen in the past two years. In an ideal world, having to consider crime prevention tools to stop your home from being broken into wouldn't be necessary but the reality is that there are shameless people out there who will look to burgle your house and steal items that you have worked hard to buy. However, research shows that burglars generally don't like to work too hard to get into someone's property, preferring to look for places they believe are an easy target. If I can give one piece of advice it would be not to give them an easy opportunity – an unlocked door or window for example"

Detective Superintendent Paul Rymarz

Tips to prevent your home from being burgled

- Always close and lock windows and doors when leaving the property - even a small open window could entice a burglar
- Use window limiters to allow air in instead of keeping windows fully open, even when you're at home
- Keep car and house keys out of sight and away from windows and doors
- If you're in the garden, make sure windows and doors at the front of the property are secure
- Do not leave valuables on display through windows
- Ensure that any side entrance is secure, locked and not easy to climb over, even when someone is at home
- Keep bins away from windows when they're not being used as they can be used as a climbing aid for burglars
- Going on holiday? Make arrangements to make sure the house appears occupied whilst it's unoccupied. Put lights on a timer or ask a neighbour to come and pick up mail and draw curtains. Don't advertise being on holiday on social media

CCTV and doorbell footage often helps our detectives identify burglars. Sign up to Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Alert to register your property as having CCTV which could help us to detect crime in your area.

Top tips to help keep burglars out as the dark nights draw in

As the nights draw in and winter approaches, detectives from Operation Crooked are warning the public that burglars love it when the clocks go back, and to encourage them to make their homes as hard a target as possible to hit.

With many people looking forward to the extra hour in bed on Sunday, October 31, burglars are looking forward to the cover of darkness winter brings, as this helps them to commit their crimes.

Detective Sergeant Terry Rush from our Burglary Team said: "Darkness really is a burglar's best friend and every year we see a spike in the number of burglaries committed during the winter months.

"Most burglars look for a soft target – homes without lights on which look unoccupied or homes which look insecure and easy to break into.

"By leaving a light on while you're out, especially using a timer, you really will reduce your chances of being burgled.

"Similarly, we'd advise people to always keep their windows and doors locked and to not leave valuable items in view of anyone who may be looking for easy-pickings. Please don't leave keys within easy reach either.

"We also recognise the huge benefits technology now has in terms of home security with things such as alarms, video doorbells

and other remote monitored security cameras really helping us out in terms of investigating and preventing burglaries.

"Operation Crooked aims to make Northamptonshire a hostile environment for burglars and we hope that the public follow our advice and help us to make sure that there are no easy pickings for burglars in this county."

If you notice any suspicious activity in your area, please call the police on 101. For more advice on what you can do to protect your home this winter, please visit: www.northants.police.uk/crimeprevention

Remember the clocks go back one hour on Sunday, October 31.

Have your say on policing in your local community



Neighbourhood policing teams across the county are urging you to share your views about policing in your community and to highlight any concerns you have about crime or anti-social behaviour.

Our local priorities survey helps identify the issues that matter most where you live or work. In the survey, we ask you to tell us about any crime or anti-social behaviour which is causing concern in your neighbourhood, and if there is anything specific you would like us to focus on.

You'll also be able to tell us how safe you feel when out and about and whether you think the police are doing a good job at tackling local crime and disorder.

Priority focus

At a county level, we have four **Matters of Priority** that Northamptonshire Police is putting a special focus on over the coming months – serious and organised crime, domestic abuse, knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

Local priorities are also set by our neighbourhood teams for each policing area. These are agreed every three months based on local crime statistics, information from

Staying in touch

To keep up to date with what action neighbourhood officers are taking to deal with local issues, you can sign up to Neighbourhood Alert, follow your local officers on social media (simply search for your local policing team on Facebook and Twitter), look out for posters and updates in local newsletters, catch up with officers at community surgeries or meetings, or have



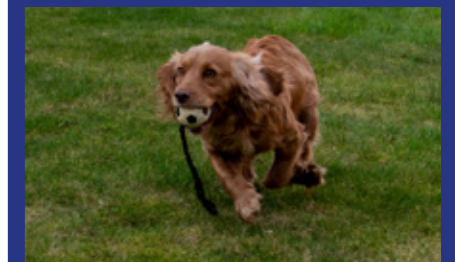
partner agencies and feedback from the community.

The survey is a useful way to get this feedback and everyone who lives and works in the county is invited to complete it every few months to help us better understand what the issues are for local people.

Your feedback is really important – please click on the link below to **share your views** with us.

a chat when you see them out on patrol.

Look out for officers patrolling in one of our new Skoda Octavias, marked up with a dedicated Neighbourhood Team livery to make them more recognisable in the local community. While our two new 'beat buses' – which we'll be using for regular surgeries and visits – will be coming to a location near you soon!



Cyber crime-fighting canine

We welcomed our newest four-legged recruit to the Force in the summer with PD Rosie joining the Dog Section as our first licenced digital media detection dog.

Rosie's super-sensitive nose can uncover a range of data storage devices which may have been missed during even the most meticulous fingertip searches, including mobile phones, laptops, USB memory sticks and SIM cards.

After successfully completing her intensive six-week training course in July, the two-year-old Cocker Spaniel has already been called into action with handler, PC Steve Thorpe.

Her first operational assignment was working alongside her human colleagues from the Public Protection Team and she has since completed successful searches with our Road Crime Team.

Steve said: "Rosie is following in the paw-steps of her older sibling, Socks, who has been one of our specialist cash, drugs and firearms search dogs since November 2019.

"I was hugely impressed with Rosie during her training and since qualifying, she has hit the ground running and is doing her best to catch up with the number of fantastic results Socks has already achieved!"

Rosie is one of 30 digital media detection dogs in the UK and has been funded nationally as a result of recognition of the specialist skills required to tackle the increase in digital crime.

To keep track of Rosie's progress or for all the news from our awesome Dog Section, you can follow the team @NorthantsDogs on Twitter.

Additional cameras provide a ring of steel around the county

The doubling of Northamptonshire's ANPR network has resulted in more than 300 arrests, serious criminals thwarted, and a clear message that this county is a hostile place for criminals.

ANPR - Automatic Number Plate Recognition - reads the registration of passing vehicles and checks them across several databases, raising the alert if they are stolen or linked to crime.

In December last year, Chief Constable Nick Adderley and Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold, announced the installation of 150 new camera sites increasing coverage across the county and its borders.

The £1.3 million investment has achieved significant results in the first eight months with 340 arrests, 627 vehicle seizures, 310 intelligence-led searches, and 1,026 offences identified.

Chief Constable Nick Adderley said: "In the eight months since we began installing these new cameras - ANPR, and the team which sits behind it, have proven their worth several times over.

These results included:

Intelligence led to a taxi being stopped in Northampton and Class A drugs with an estimated street value of £6,000 seized and £1,300 in cash. Two men were arrested

A property was burgled, and several firearms, items of jewellery and cash stolen. A vehicle believed to have been involved was added to ANPR systems which was subsequently stopped, and an arrest made

A vehicle linked to multiple thefts of purses from elderly victims in Lincolnshire activated a camera entering Northamptonshire. Officers responded to the ANPR hit and stopped it in Northampton. Three men were arrested

Following reports of an altercation in Northampton, officers found a male with multiple stab wounds. Quick actions by officers identified a vehicle and its registration was added to ANPR. It was subsequently stopped by armed officers and an arrest was made

An ANPR officer identified a vehicle containing a missing 15-year-old girl at risk of child sexual exploitation. It was stopped and she was found to be in company of a man in his 60s. He was arrested for child abduction



"Without their capability, many of the arrests we have made here simply would not have happened and others would have taken hours and hours of time and resource, not to mention lengthy and anxious waits for the victims.

"Increasing our ANPR capability has not only enabled us to put a ring of steel around the county to prevent and detect crime, but it also enables us to better protect vulnerable people. I look forward to more good results."

FALL FOR THE PERSON, NOT THE PROFILE.



Fraudsters pull on victims' heart strings

People in Northamptonshire lost £1.1 million to romance fraud last year with an average loss of £11,500 per victim.

Romance fraud, or dating fraud, occurs when someone thinks they've met the perfect partner online, but they're using a fake profile to form a relationship with them.

They gain their trust over several weeks or months and have them believe they're in a loving and caring relationship. However, the criminal's end goal is only ever to get their money or personal information.

Fraudsters spend a lot of time, months in many cases, to build up a relationship and get the victim to trust them. More than half of victims

are aged between 40 and 60 with a wide variety of dating websites and apps targeted.

Already in 2021, figures show a 20 per cent increase on last year, and we are aware this is just the tip of the iceberg as many victims do not report the crime due to embarrassment.

PC Neil Mackenzie of our Economic Crime Team said: "Fraudsters often purport to be a professional person such as a doctor, or in the military overseas.

"Once they're confident that you have enough sympathy and desire for them, they'll tell you about a problem they're experiencing and ask you to help by sending money.

"For example, they've arranged to

visit but need money to pay for travel or visa costs, they've paid for a plane ticket which is then stolen, or they need to pay for medical treatment for a family member. Once you send them money, they will keep coming back.

"The financial loss is difficult to overcome however it's the emotional impact on victims which can be devastating as they end up loving the person who has scammed them. We want to do all we can to raise awareness of this heartless crime."

For more information on tell-tale signs that your online date may be a fraudster or details on how to prevent romance fraud, click [here](#).

Extra pairs of eyes helping to keep our roads safer

Since the introduction of Operation Snap in 2019, there are now thousands of additional eyes helping us keep the county's road network safer.

This has enabled us to act against driving offences we otherwise wouldn't see.

Between January and June this year, the Operation Snap team has received 404 video submissions from 313 individual witnesses. This has resulted in 183 Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP) letters being sent to registered vehicle owners.

Driving without due care and attention is the most common offence detected with 108 registered owners sent NIP letters as a result of dash-cam footage submitted.

Other offences ranged from driving

dangerously and drivers not being in proper control of a vehicle to ignoring traffic lights and failure to comply with traffic signs.

Reporting driving offences is quite simple. Upload your video via the Operation Snap portal on the Force website and complete the online form, which creates a witness statement.

Trained police staff then triage the footage to check it falls within the scheme's remit and contains clear views of the offending vehicle's number plate. If it meets the criteria, police officers then examine the video and if a driving offence is identified, start legal proceedings.

The most common reason for a rejected submission is insufficient evidence to support a prosecution,

or a video hasn't been submitted within 14 days of the offence being committed.

Northamptonshire Police's Safer Roads Operations Manager, Matthew O'Connell, said: "We're urging people to provide the footage as soon after the incident as possible to allow us the maximum time to review and investigate any offences.

"It's also important to remember we examine footage for evidence of offences by all parties, so please don't break the law in order to report someone else, or you could find yourself in trouble as well."

For more information about Operation Snap or to submit video footage, click [here](#).



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