

NENE BEAT

ISSUE 5: WINTER 2021

CARRYING
A KNIFE
MEANS
I'M IN
CONTROL

OVER MY
HEAD



#KNOWTHEFACTS



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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

I'd like to welcome you all to our latest edition of Nene Beat, highlighting the great work going on across Northamptonshire Police.

Inside, we send our good luck wishes to Sergeant Dave Cayton whose story we feature as he awaits the National Police Bravery Awards later this month. Dave was nominated after he was shot three times in the face while trying to deal with an incident in Desborough last year.

We continue our focus on our matters of priority, with a particular spotlight on serious organised crime and the success of Operation Serpent, which resulted in sentences totalling more than 120 years for criminals actively involved in drug-dealing and modern slavery in Kettering.

And we report on the success of our knife crime campaign - which followed in the wake of two fatal stabbings in the county during the summer - which is now educating young people about the dangers of carrying knives and has resulted in the recovery of more than 100 lethal weapons in the first month alone.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the challenges facing policing following the sentencing of the police officer who brutally murdered Sarah Everard. Never have I been more determined to ensure we have our own ship in order and

that we work relentlessly to maintain the trust and confidence of the communities we serve, targeting those who perpetrate violence against women and girls.

So many of you have told me how much more visible our officers are today than when I took over as your Chief Constable just over three years ago. Our frontline officers now spend almost 60 per cent of their time outside stations, with PCSOs close to 65 per cent. This equates to almost 4,500 hours a month when officers are out and about compared with the turn of the year.

And thanks to the investment of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, our officers can work on their laptops in cars ensuring we maintain response times to the most serious incidents. A remarkable turnaround.

Finally, one more encouraging note: We are on track to reach our recruitment target of 1,504 officers by March 2023. This is almost 300 more officers than Northamptonshire had less than a decade ago, with every one of them doing their bit to fight crime and protect people.

We remain upbeat, but none of it could happen without the support you give to my officers and staff on a daily basis. Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Constable Nick Adderley

Remembering fallen colleagues

On Armistice Day, Northamptonshire Police paused to remember those who have fallen on behalf of their country at a ceremony held at Force headquarters.

Officers and staff marked November 11, with a parade and remembrance service at Wootton Hall, led by Sergeant Sam Dobbs, Chair of the Northamptonshire Police Federation.

Sgt Dobbs gave a powerful and inclusive service honouring the sacrifices and services made by the fallen. His readings included passages from many different faiths illustrating the diversity of the Force and the sacrifice made by people from different ethnicities and countries.

Chief Constable Nick Adderley read the names of Northamptonshire Police officers who lost their lives in the pursuit of peace. Each person



was remembered and honoured with the placing of a wooden cross or candle.

The Chief was joined by representatives of the Force's staff networks and associations as he led the congregation in the placing of the wreaths and paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of police staff members who have lost their lives in the last 12 months.

Flowers and candles were laid as tokens of remembrance, before Sgt Dobbs read the following reading:

"May our colleagues and loved ones lay in peace knowing the love, respect and affection in which they were held, and holding those who mourn them in the embrace of a Force family which cares and will always hold them in its thoughts and remembrance."

Targeted campaign tackles knife crime

Knife crime is a matter of priority for the Force, and in October we launched a new countywide campaign to prevent and tackle this type of offending.

On October 1, we lit up buildings in some of our towns to shine a light on the common misconceptions around carrying knives and signal the start of our targeted, planned policing activity.

The campaign involves police officers, staff and volunteers from across the Force including our neighbourhood and response teams, CID, the Road Crime Team, Public Protection, Special Constabulary and Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadets.

Activities have included community events, school talks, patrols of hotspot areas, weapon sweeps, use of the knife arch and knife amnesty events, as well as the execution of warrants.

Superintendent Adam Ward, who



is leading the Force's campaign, said: "This campaign provides an opportunity for us all to work together to reduce the risk and harm - and loss of lives - of knife crime which is a matter of priority for us.

"Our activities continue the work we've been carrying out with our partner agencies, to not only tackle knife-related offending but also to ensure the next generation understands the risks of carrying a knife through engagement,

education, prevention and enforcement.

"It's important to remember that most of us do not carry knives and will probably never be affected by knife crime - which is why we must dispel the myths around carrying a knife to help prevent anyone picking one up in the first place.

"Education and prevention are key, and we've continued our hard work to raise awareness of knife crime. However, we will also continue to take robust action against those who break the law as we proactively tackle this type of offending."

Find out more about how we are preventing and tackling knife crime **here**. Or if you have any information or concerns about knife crime in your community, you can report non-emergency crime to 101, visit www.northants.police.uk/RO or call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**. In an emergency always call **999**.

Please report suspicions to Crimestoppers

Officers working within the Force's Intelligence Bureau are encouraging members of the public to report suspicious vehicles to Crimestoppers.

The Force's ANPR network has more than doubled in recent years and we would like to use this resource as much as possible by asking you to get in touch with details of suspicious vehicles which you feel officers need to look out for.

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

More than 150 new cameras have been installed in the past couple of years, increasing coverage across rural areas and major towns as well as on the county borders.

Field Intelligence Sergeant Tom Griffin said: "Our ANPR network has more than doubled in Northamptonshire in recent years, giving us a huge capability in tackling criminals who would look to use the roads to carry out their crimes.

"However, whilst we of course collect intelligence on suspicious vehicles ourselves, we would also ask the community to be our eyes on the ground and report anything out of place that they see to either ourselves or to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**.

"You can do this completely anonymously as we don't need to know who you are, just what you know. If you think any vehicles you see are connected to drug dealing, organised crime, anti-social behaviour or any other offences, please do get in contact."

Data and information collected by ANPR cameras is only used in the prevention and detection of crime and in some cases, to safeguard vulnerable adults.



Sergeant nominated for a national award

A Northamptonshire Police sergeant who was shot in the face three times has been named among this year's nominations for the National Police Bravery Awards.

In November 2020, PS Dave Cayton was deployed to an incident in Desborough, to reports of a man having a mental health crisis. On his own, with back-up from colleagues still some distance away, he established the man was in the house.

PS Cayton made his way inside to ensure the man couldn't injure anyone however, as he began to walk up the stairs, the man appeared holding a BB-type weapon and shot him three times in the face.

Despite the pain he was experiencing, PS Cayton tried to disarm the man, who by this point had also pulled out a knife, by deploying his Taser. Eventually, the man backed down and he was arrested.

It was at this moment that other officers arrived at the scene and PS Cayton was rushed to hospital.

The 40-year-old man was subsequently charged with wounding with intent and being in possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

In May this year, at Northampton Crown Court, the man was convicted, found to be a dangerous offender and handed an extended sentence of 11 years in prison.

Since the incident, PS Cayton has thankfully recovered from his physical injuries but the scars on his face remain to this day.

On Thursday, December 9, PS Cayton will join colleagues from across the UK, at a special awards ceremony in London, which will honour officers from across England and Wales who have performed outstanding acts of bravery while on or off duty.

Focus on vehicle nuisance to address anti-social behaviour

Preventing and addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and helping those affected by it is a matter of priority for Northamptonshire Police, and work to tackle vehicle-based ASB is about to take centre stage.

Different types of ASB affect our communities, but reports of vehicle nuisance are universal across the county - from the dangerous use of off-road motorbikes to noisy 'boy racers'.

While the Force will continue to tackle all forms of ASB it is responsible for addressing, officers are now putting extra emphasis on detecting and preventing vehicle nuisance, to keep everyone in our communities safer both on and off the roads.

Superintendent Kev Mulligan said: "Vehicle nuisance is something seen right across the UK, but we're determined to take action against it here in Northamptonshire to improve residents' quality of life.

"Issues like loud vehicles or the fear of vehicles being used dangerously in shared spaces will not be tolerated, because everyone has a right to feel safe where they live.

"We have a range of powers, both

We're making
anti-social
behaviour
a matter
of priority



under civil and criminal legislation, that we can use to make sure anyone using a car, motorbike, e-scooter, or any other type of vehicle inappropriately is stopped quickly and wherever possible, prevented from repeating the behaviour."

One thing the Force is really keen to stress to residents is the need to keep on reporting incidents of ASB to the police - every report made helps to build a picture of the issue so the right resources can be brought to bear on solving it, including working with relevant partner agencies.

Kev said: "Our communities are our eyes and ears in tackling ASB, and it is so important that people keep picking up the phone or reporting

online to tell us what is happening and where.

"I know it must feel frustrating to make a report then not see a police presence, but trust me that every report is used to help us understand what is taking place and where, so we can make plans to most effectively tackle the issue, whether through increased patrols, the use of civil legislation, issuing penalty notices or making arrests."

Report non-emergency crime, including ASB, by calling 101 or online at www.northants.police.uk/RO. In an emergency, always call 999.

Please do not be tempted to waste your money this Christmas by buying someone an e-scooter

With the festive season fast approaching, we're encouraging people not to buy e-scooters as Christmas presents as they are not currently allowed to be ridden on public roads.

The popularity of e-scooters has grown substantially in recent years with people able to hire them in towns and cities across the world, including Northamptonshire courtesy of the company Voi.

However, privately owned vehicles are currently not allowed to be

ridden on public roads, which means they cannot be used to commute to workplaces, travel into town or even to ride outside your house if you do not own the land.

This is not always made clear at the point of purchase by the companies selling these scooters, and it is often only mentioned in the small print which people may neglect to read.

Therefore, we're issuing this warning early because we know many people and parents will be looking to buy e-scooters as Christmas presents,

and we don't want anyone to waste their money buying something they will not be able to use.

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are subject to all the same legal requirements as other motor vehicles.

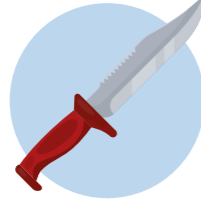
If you are caught riding a privately-owned e-scooter on a public road, you could get a £300 fixed-penalty notice and, if you have one, six points on your driving licence. The scooter you are riding could also be seized.

Matters of Priority July–September 2021



Domestic abuse

- Recorded 4,441 incidents of domestic abuse including harassment, assault and injury offences
- Domestic abuse reports have fallen 0.7 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 143 most serious knife enabled offences (1.7 per cent increase in the last 12 months)
- Seized or recovered 265 weapons off our streets
- Made arrests in 155 knife related offences
- One in four knife crimes involved someone under the age of 18 (91 offences)
- Conducted 134 stop searches for bladed articles with one in 10 finding a weapon



Serious and organised crime

- Dealt with 129 reports of drug trafficking or drugs supply offences in the county (22 per cent reduction in the last 12 months)
- Safeguarded 36 people from slavery or trafficking
- Seized 260 firearms across the county including shotguns and pistols (six per cent increase in the last year)
- Recorded and investigated 172 frauds against vulnerable people in our county



Anti-social behaviour

- Received 4,208 reports of anti-social behaviour (not Covid-19 related) - 46 every day (16 per cent reduction in the last 12 months)
- Of these, we attended 30 per cent in person and dealt with a further seven per cent on the phone offering advice
- One in 20 calls about anti-social behaviour came from someone who had reported at least one other incident to us in the last year

Force received 880 calls a day as demand rose this summer

The summer was certainly a challenge for everyone across the county as the remaining Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in England, signalling the end of what had been an unprecedented 16 months.

However, as a sense of normality returned to our lives, the demand on our policing service also continued to rise with our officers and staff dealing with a wide variety of emergencies, crimes and incidents.

The facts and figures on these pages will hopefully provide you with a snapshot of the different types of incidents the Force has dealt with across the county between July and September 2021.

As you'll see, in total, staff in our call centre took 80,953 calls – that's 880 a day – comprising 32,463 emergency and 48,491 non-emergency calls. We recorded 15,448 crimes, made 2,818 arrests and dealt with 1,069 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.

We work with various agencies and charities to help the most vulnerable members of our communities get the appropriate support they may need, and this summer we spent 8,231 hours assisting people with mental health concerns.

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.

Between July and September, we recorded 4,441 domestic abuse incidents, which along with serious and organised crime, knife crime and anti-social behaviour, is a matter of priority for the Force.

We have also investigated 172 frauds against our most vulnerable,

removed more than 500 firearms and other weapons from our streets, safeguarded 36 people from slavery and trafficking and dealt with, on average, 46 incidents of anti-social behaviour each day.

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 12,575 hours in the three months, this equates to 24 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 and some background into our figures.

Don't forget you can report non-emergency crimes and incidents online here. This is a simple form to fill in and really helps our call centre to deal with emergency incidents more effectively.

Key statistics

Our volunteer special constables contributed 12,575 hours in this period, equivalent to 24 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 12 minutes 21 seconds and in rural areas 15 minutes 28 seconds – both below the national targets

Recorded 777 offences of rape or sexual abuse. One in five occurred more than 12 months prior to reporting. One in three were domestic in nature. Two in five were against a child when they took place in the past

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

Spent 8,231 hours dealing with incidents involving vulnerable people with mental health concerns

Recorded 484 residential burglaries with one in four being attempts

Between July and September, the Force:

Handled 80,953 calls (880 a day) of which 32,463 were emergency 999 calls and 48,491 were non-emergency 101 calls



Recorded 483 hate incidents, most being racial in nature



Made 2,818 arrests



Dealt with 1,069 missing from home reports (714 individuals) with two in three under the age of 18



Conducted 778 stop searches with 26.6 per cent resulting in arrest or action taken; and used force against a subject 2,049 times (40 per cent involved handcuffs where the person came freely)

Resolved 14.3 per cent of crimes



Recorded 4,250 anti-social behaviour incidents with 30 per cent attended in person and a further seven per cent dealt with over the phone



Recorded 46,484 incidents (505 a day) and attended 44.7 per cent of these (20,778)



Recorded 18,910 incidents where someone's safety or welfare was at risk

Recorded 15,448 crimes including 6,811 violence offences, 484 residential burglaries and 217 possession of weapons offences



74 per cent of victims surveyed were satisfied with overall service



Online shopping tips to help you enjoy a #FraudFreeXmas

The festive shopping period is well underway and our fraud investigators are keen to prevent people from wishing online criminals a merry Christmas by losing precious cash to bogus sellers.

So far this year, more than 900 people in Northamptonshire have reported losses averaging £577 as a result of online shopping fraud.

With fraudsters out to make as much money as possible over the festive period, officers are warning people to be extra vigilant.

Fraud Prevent Officer PC Neil MacKenzie knows only too well how relentless online criminals can be, and the impact their crimes can have on those who fall victim to their scams.

He said: "Fraudsters will stop at nothing, they give absolutely no thought as to whether you and your family are left without presents at Christmas time.



"More and more people are taking advantage of the ease and convenience of online shopping and it's a great way to compare prices, find bargains and save money. But there are specific risks related to buying products and services online.

"In the first 10 months of this year, we've seen 930 county residents lose money to online criminals, and with Christmas shopping and the seasonal

sales in full swing, we'd like to share some advice to help people avoid the fraudsters.

"No-one wants to pay for a criminal's Christmas so whether you're after festive items or everyday bargains, please take a look at our handy guide below to help make your online shopping experience safer and more secure all year round."

Online Shopping Safety Guide

- ✓ Avoid clicking on sponsored links or adverts in search results
- ✓ Check the web address carefully to ensure you visit the genuine website
- ✓ Do not rely entirely on product or online store reviews as these could be faked
- ✓ Avoid social media posts offering vouchers, coupons and discounts unless verified
- ✓ Use a different strong password for each account
- ✓ A great way of making a strong password is by combining three random words
- ✓ Never share account passwords with anyone no matter who they claim to be
- ✓ Consider using a reputable password manager if you use multiple accounts
- ✓ Minimise the personal information you supply when setting up a store account
- ✓ Use a credit card or trusted payment provider when making an online purchase
- ✓ Never accept requests to pay by bank transfer, vouchers or PayPal Friends & Family
- ✓ Always remember to sign out of your online shopping accounts
- ✓ Close old or dormant online accounts that you no longer use

For further advice, visit www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/shopping-online-securely. Report fraud and cybercrime to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Neighbourhood beat buses hit the road to visit communities across the county

Local policing teams have been out and about in their new beat buses, which took to the roads for the first time in September.

The dedicated neighbourhood vehicles are being used for surgeries and community visits across the county, with one vehicle allocated to each of the North and West Local Policing Areas (LPAs).

Local Policing Commander, Chief Superintendent Ash Tuckley, believes the vehicles are helping officers to get closer to their local communities.

He said: "The two new beat buses are a great addition to the neighbourhood policing toolkit.

"They provide a mobile office enabling officers to spend more time in different areas across their beat, increasing visibility and giving the public greater access to policing services.

"The vehicles are smaller than our previous mobile police stations, making them more versatile in terms of where they can go, yet they're big enough to be a visible focal point and also provide indoor space where people can sit and chat to officers in private if they prefer.

"It's important we balance between



spending time in those communities where we know there are specific issues, while also getting out to more remote areas that don't have a police station nearby, to provide a visible presence and the opportunity to meet local officers.

"We want to give everyone the chance to get to know their local policing team. The public are our eyes and ears in the fight against crime - you know what's going on in your neighbourhood and the information you give us about what the issues are and who might be involved is invaluable."

As well as getting out and about in the community, it's important our neighbourhood officers are accessible in other ways too.

For those of you who are active on social media, you can follow your local team on Twitter and Facebook, and if you'd like email updates about what's going on in your local area, our free messaging service **Neighbourhood Alert** is open to everyone.

You can also contact your local neighbourhood team directly by email if you have any questions or concerns, and don't forget to share your views on local issues by completing our **local priorities survey**.

For full details about who your local officers are and how to contact them, visit northants.police.uk and click on the **Neighbourhood Policing Teams** tile on the home page.

New town centre partnership launched

Businesses in Northampton town centre are being given the name and contact details of an officer who will be their point of contact for the Force.

In a bid to enhance relationships, members of the Northampton Neighbourhood Policing Team will provide their contact details to those shopkeepers who want to sign up to the scheme.

Inspector Andy Blaize, who came up with the initiative, said: "I attended a meeting with local shop keepers and members of the Northampton BID who told me they wanted better lines of communication with us.

"As a result, we are rolling out a new initiative where a nominated police officer or PCSO will be the main point of contact for those town centre shops which want to sign up to the scheme.

"These links will enable shopkeepers to have someone they can speak to about any specific issues as well as ask any crime prevention advice."

The Force has spent much of 2021 refocussing on neighbourhood policing, and this initiative is one element of the work that's taking place in the town centre.

Northampton Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Beth Curlett

will take over from Insp Blaize on this initiative.

She said: "We have a dedicated team of officers who are keen to work with local businesses and I hope this commitment to local policing in the town centre will make a difference to not only our shops but also visitors.

"Although this initiative provides shops with the contact details of their local officers, it doesn't replace the need to call 999 if a crime is in progress or 101 if one has taken place."

To find out more about this initiative, click [here](#).

CIRV team welcomes top boxer

Super-lightweight boxing champion Chantelle Cameron recently paid a visit to a Northamptonshire Police project working to reduce gang violence and help those involved in gangs to live a life free of crime.

In November, Chantelle popped in to learn more about CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) from the officers working with young people across the county to help them better their lives.

Sergeant Dina Sunderland, who leads CIRV, said: "It was great for our team to meet Chantelle and explain more about what we do.

"She was very supportive of our aims and we hope we can work with her in the future to help guide more young people away from a life of crime."

CIRV is a multi-agency programme which was set up in February 2019. Find out more about the project's fantastic work [here](#).



CIRV officer PC Junior Anderson and Chantelle Cameron

Seven arrested as part of national week of action

Those involved in the exploitation of others to sell drugs were targeted as part of a recent nationally coordinated County Lines Intensification Week.

The Force took part in a range of activities in October, designed to disrupt and bring to justice those involved in county lines drug dealing, as well as safeguarding vulnerable people.

County lines is the name given to the illegal activity of gangs and organised criminal networks which transport and sell drugs from larger cities and towns into smaller areas using dedicated phone lines, often exploiting children and vulnerable adults to move, store and deal the drugs.

During the week, the Force carried

out enforcement activities and executed five warrants across Northampton, which resulted in the seizure of Class A drugs, weapons and cash, and the safeguarding of vulnerable people.

Further operational activities included proactive patrols and weapon sweeps, with officers also carrying out educational sessions with students, and conducting visits to people at risk of cuckooing, where a vulnerable person's home is taken over by others who use it to store, take or sell drugs.

During the week of action, a total of seven arrests were made across the county for drugs and weapon offences.

Detective Superintendent Lee McBride, Northamptonshire

Police's lead for tackling serious and organised crime, said: "We're committed to targeting this kind of organised crime and County Lines Intensification Week gives us a great opportunity to really shine a light on what we do.

"Our work throughout the week was rewarding and wide-ranging, from targeting the criminals running these gangs to helping those exploited by them, as well as educating young people about how to spot and avoid getting caught up in county lines activity."

If you're concerned that someone may be involved in county lines, report online, call us on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Operation Serpent disconnects county lines drug dealing gang

Protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities is a matter of priority for the Force, and this autumn we saw the successful conclusion of one of the UK's largest investigations into county lines drug dealing and child exploitation.

Operation Serpent first began in 2017, when we launched an investigation against the Kay Line group which, at the time, posed the highest risk of any gang in the county.

Four years on, the determination, hard work and commitment of all those involved secured the convictions of 19 people and more than 124 years of jail time handed out at Birmingham Crown Court.

The operation aimed to target an organised crime group suspected of actively recruiting and grooming children in Northamptonshire to facilitate Class A drug dealing, which culminated in a three-day intelligence-led operation.

In June 2019, more than 250 officers

executed simultaneous warrants targeting multiple addresses in Kettering and north-west London, which led to a significant number of arrests.

Subsequent searches of the addresses resulted in the seizure of £5,000 in cash as well as Class A and B drugs, knives and a corrosive substance. In total more than £80,000 in Class A drugs were seized and £10,000 in cash.

Detective Inspector Alan Rooney, who led the operation, said: "This operation was meticulously planned over the course of 18 months and because of the subsequent painstaking investigation, 19 individuals are now behind bars where they belong.

"This group was a highly organised, London-based gang, which had formed a network of drug dealers and associates in Kettering which they were using to target and recruit young people to supply drugs on their behalf

while holding them in servitude.

"Drug dealers often falsely portray their lifestyle to be one of glamour and honour – something for others to be envious of. However, there is absolutely no honour in this.

"It is the lifestyle of low-lives, ones so low that they take advantage of vulnerable children, consistently putting them at risk while they sit safely in their homes, counting the cash.

"So, if you're so shameless and contemptible to use children in this way, we will come for you and take you down as we have done here."

If you are worried about a child you know being recruited by a drug-dealing gang, please reach out to CIRV – a multi-agency gang intervention programme designed to reduce violence and to help those involved live a life free of crime.

Visit **CIRV - Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (cirv-nsd.org.uk)** for more information.

New furry volunteers take on important support role



The wellbeing of our officers, staff and wider force family is very important to us and so we were delighted to welcome our first wellbeing and trauma support dog to Northamptonshire Police.

Following the warm welcome received by Buster since his arrival in October, a further eight dogs have joined the one-year-old Llasa Apso to support the wellbeing of their human colleagues in the workplace.

The latest four-legged recruits include spaniels, labradors, terriers and a chow chow and, along with their owners, they've been busy visiting our officers and staff to introduce themselves and the support they can offer.

Before the dogs could be formally inducted into their role as wellbeing and trauma support dogs, they were assessed by one of our experienced dog handlers to ensure they had the right temperament and nature for the role.

One of the first missions for our new superstars was to drop into the Force Control Room and provide a few moments of calm and light relief (in exchange for a treat or two) to our fantastic call handlers.

Sergeant Sharan Wildman, who has led the programme for introducing wellbeing dogs to the Force, said: "There is plenty of evidence proving

the physical benefits of having a dog, however emerging research clearly shows the many ways in which dogs can provide support with mental health, by creating a sense of calm, improving daily emotional and psychological stresses, and helping people to deal with the impact of a traumatic event.

"Police officers and staff do a demanding and sometimes dangerous job, and in many roles are frequently exposed to trauma. Whether it's call handlers responding to stressful or upsetting calls, or officers investigating serious or traumatic incidents, the dogs' role will be to provide a few minutes of relief for those in need across the workplace."

The Oscar Kilo Wellbeing and Trauma Support Dogs service aims to make suitable dogs available to all forces which wish to introduce them as part of their wellbeing provision.

The service currently operates in 30 of the UK's 43 police forces in England, Wales and Scotland, while our colleagues from Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service have also adopted the scheme.

Further details about the role of wellbeing dogs in the workplace can be found via the Oscar Kilo [website](#).



October was Black History Month, and the Force celebrated the contributions of black officers and staff in a series of videos.

As part of the campaign, we asked why our colleagues felt the month held significance and who inspired them, before sharing their interviews on social media.

One of the officers involved in the project was PC Junior Anderson, who said: "The more that people get to hear about things, the better it's going to be. They will then look at people of colour differently, because they know they have made a difference in history."

In another video, Chief Inspector Rachael Handford spoke about someone who inspires her. Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in the US in the 1800s and escaped, later making 13 rescue missions to save hundreds of others.

Chief Inspector Handford explained what made Harriet so inspirational. She said: "That strength, determination, tenacity as a woman, we should celebrate that - she was so selfless."

We also spoke with the Walker family who are paving the way for how people from minority communities can make a real difference whether working for, or with, the police.

Morcea Walker MBE is the mother of three children who all work for the police service.

She said: "People feel sorry for me, they say the police is 'not the best place for Black people to work, there's too much prejudice'. If I challenge those thoughts, I am told that I do not understand because I do not have those experiences. If only that was true!"

You can read the full story on our [website](#) or watch the videos on our Facebook or Twitter pages.