



Councillor Newsletter

July 2018

Welcome

Welcome to July's Councillor e-newsletter to keep you informed of news and developments on policing and crime and the work of my office.

I am delighted to have launched Victims First last month (see article below), improving support and access to support for victims of crime. The impact of crime on victims can last a lifetime if the right support isn't provided and I believe the creation of Victims First will assist many people in getting the support they need to help them move forward with their life.

Over the past two months there has been a large influx of travellers into to the Thames Valley. Some are from the UK, many are from the Republic of Ireland. Considerable disruption has been caused at expense to the public, councils and the police. The law is weak in this area and does need tightening up to the same standard as in the Republic of Ireland where this problem does not arise.



Through the Police and Crime Panel it has been possible to get a protocol signed across all 18 Councils and the police to ensure that there is standardisation of response to unauthorised encampments, but it is still difficult to respond in the way most residents would wish. This is a matter for MPs and parliament to change current legislation.



New service launches to support victims of crime in the Thames Valley



A new service, Victims First has been launched across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, providing free emotional and therapeutic support to all victims and witnesses of crime, as well as family members of victims if they require it.

The service, managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner allows for one front door for all victims in the Thames Valley who require support and is available regardless of the crime, whether it has been reported to the police or not and when or where it took place

Victims First can provide support to any victim of crime including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, harassment, cyber-crime, fraud, theft, burglary and exploitation.

Victims will have access to a range of services depending on their needs, including:

- Telephone support
- Face to face support
- Advocacy, including, help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services
- Support through the criminal justice system
- Therapeutic counselling

For more information, visit the Victims First website at www.victims-first.org.uk

You can contact Victims First by calling 0300 1234 148 or make an online referral through the Victims First website.

There is also lots of information about crime, crime prevention and support on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/victimsfirstTV/



£100,000 available to community and voluntary groups

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, Francis Habgood, have opened a new grant round of the Police Property Act Fund.

The Fund is created from money recovered by the police and the proceeds from the sale of items that cannot be returned to identified owners, including seizures from criminals.

Applications are invited from local voluntary and community groups who can contribute towards two of the PCC's strategic objectives in his Police and Crime Plan priorities, which are:

- Reducing Re-Offending

- Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism

Some examples of projects that may be considered include those that aim to reduce exploitation of young people through gang membership, reduce or prevent violent crime, rehabilitate offenders or prevent exploitation by organised criminals.

The closing date for this round of applications is 12pm Tuesday 17th July 2018

More information and the application form can be found at:

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/police-property-act-fund/>

A play launched to educate children about healthy online relationships



Children across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire will learn from the performance of a special play highlighting what does and doesn't constitute a healthy online relationship.

The play has been funded by a £51,000 cyber crime grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There will be over 120 performances across the Thames Valley to primary school pupils aged between 9 and 11. Children will go away from the play with a better understanding of what constitutes a healthy relationship and issues such as online sexual exploitation, cyber bullying and pressure to conform with peer groups online.

You can visit our [website](#) for more information.



Police and Crime Commissioner FGM funding is delivering projects across the Thames Valley

It has been eight months since the Police and Crime Commissioner's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) grant was awarded to organisations across the Thames Valley to increase awareness and prevention of FGM and work is ongoing across the area.

The £120,000 funding was awarded in October 2017 to six organisations across the Thames Valley for projects between 6 months and 2 years in length.

Examples of the work delivered with the funding so far include:

- Training sessions delivered by Oxford Against Cutting to teachers and year 2 pupils at schools across the Thames Valley to increase understanding and awareness of FGM.
- Workshops aimed at both men and women from affected communities to promote discussion about FGM delivered by the Rose Centre, Reading.
- Midwife and client sessions delivered by Slough Refugee Support, headed up by a Somali speaking midwife with course materials available in the Somali language.
- An Advice Hub for professionals is being developed as part of the Rose Centre in Reading where professionals can access advice online or by phone.

Other organisations which received funding were Refugee Resource, Somali Outreach Project and MK Dons. Further information is available on our [website](#).

YOUR INFORMATION

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will use your information to send you newsletter updates on policing and crime and the work of the PCC.

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