

contactyourpcc@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk - 01622 677055 - @PCCKent

OPCC, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone ME15 9BZ

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Mental Health Awareness Week



The recipients of the PCC's Mental Health and Policing Fund 18/19 have been awarded.

In all, almost £100,000 has been awarded to eight community groups across the county. The full list of recipients - providing support services in Swanley, Gravesend, Medway, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Deal, Dover and Folkestone – is available [on the OPCC website](#).

In addition, the PCC's Mental Health and Policing Fund is continuing to support out-of-hours crisis cafes in Maidstone and Tonbridge, the Safe Haven Bus in Medway, and the longstanding project whereby mental health counsellors from the mental health charity Mind provide support within Kent Police's Force Control Room.

Matthew is pleased to announce that he has been asked to lead the Polic-

ing element of the next phase of the independent Mental Health Act review being conducted by Professor Sir Simon Wessley and his team. Matthew stated: 'This is a tremendous honour and opportunity to solve some of the real issues that Policing and the wider health service faces. Issues such as crisis calls, mental health assessment delays, disparities for BAME communities, the use of Police cells and prisoners access to services will all be up for discussion, as well as Police powers.'

Matthew's focus will continue to be on making sure that those who experience crisis get the best support from all those with whom they come in to contact, and that we do even more to help vulnerable people get the right support from the right person at the right time. Behind every process is a person. No matter what we think of the system, we should always remember the individual.

Matthew visited local Mosques in April and May

Matthew visited local grounds of hate and stat- Mosques in April and May ed that we need to stand together against such Kent Police recruitment, hatred. Matthew liaised amongst other topics. with Kent Police and contacted all Mosques that were targeted; moreover he visited the Mosque in Canterbury to show his support and to reinforce his aim to work together for a fairer, safer and communities on the more tolerant society.



Newsletter
May 2018

News in Brief

PCC Police and Crime Podcast

Episodes 1-6 are available, where he talks about: police effectiveness and demand, roads policing, social media use by Kent Police, and Mental Health awareness week to name but a few.

<http://matthewscott.org.uk/podcast/episode-6>



Almost £500,000 awarded to charities to support vulnerable victims of crime

Thirteen organisations in Kent have received money from Mathew Scott as part of his pledge to enhance services for victims of crime and abuse. While Kent Police is responsible for investigating crime in the county and bringing offenders to justice, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) ensures all victims receive whatever help and support they need to recover and eventually move on with their lives.



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Two years in office, two to go

Matthew's [Police and Crime Plan](#), which reflects residents' priorities, has ensured that every community receives the same level of focus. He made it a goal for the Force to become more accessible, so they have introduced online crime reporting for those who do not always need to call. As the voice of victims within the criminal justice system, he has used his powers to commission services to provide more help to those in need and enable victims to hold offenders to account directly. His drive for greater value for taxpayers' money has enabled Kent Police to keep all 300 of its PCSO posts, maintaining an important link with all our towns and villages, and increase officer numbers. Using funding from his office, he is providing alternative places for people to go to seek extra help with their mental health and



reduce the demand on policing. He is also investing in technology to make it easier for police to do their jobs and provide a better service to residents.

Kent Police is also performing better, as a result of the Chief Constable changing the way the force operates. In every area they have been inspected in, in both Matthew's first and second years in office, they were judged as "good" or "outstanding" in every area. When a problem with the accuracy of the crime recording was discovered, action was taken promptly to turn it around, and if Kent Police were inspected again today, Matthew has been assured that accuracy would be considered "good".

There are some challenges that the PCC is working on together with Kent Police and others. Issues of violent crime and gangs spreading out into our county from London is one example of a big challenge we face. He is setting up a Violence Reduction Challenge, which will include the public sector, charities, victims groups and others to better understand the problem. Kent Police will continue to use stop and search powers and they have had some successes recently tackling offenders, but this is an issue that is wider than just policing so we all need to do better together.

Council tax funds investment in additional 999 and 101 call-handlers



for people who can multi-task, make decisions under pressure, remain calm and demonstrate resilience, all while providing a first class service to the public.

[The biggest recruitment drive in Kent Police's history](#) is continuing with extra staff now being taken on to support the force control room.

Successful applicants will undergo eight weeks of training, and when qualified will be at the heart of Kent Police's daily operations.

Additional staff are being recruited as part of a new 'beyond the badge' campaign and will work as call handlers and dispatchers responding to both emergency 999 and non-emergency 101 calls, and deploying officers to incidents.

The recruitment of extra control room staff builds on the 'More than the badge' campaign launched in March 2018 for 200 new police officers during the coming year.

The force control room operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and staff within it play a key role in the frontline response for members of the public.

The increase in police officers and police staff has been made possible after Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott increased the 2018/19 council tax precept, meaning a Band D household will pay an extra £1 a month.

Kent Police is looking

What is a Police and Crime Commissioner?

Matthew Scott was elected Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2016.

His role is to set policing priorities for the county, by consulting with the public and putting together a Police and Crime Plan.

He then holds the Chief Constable of Kent Police to account for the delivery of that plan. He sets the council tax precept for policing, is responsible for the overall policing budget, and com-

missions services for victims of crime and funds community safety projects.

Mr Scott also serves as the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' portfolio holder for Performance, and also as the portfolio holder for Mental Health.

He lives in Swanley with his wife and young daughter, is a fan of cricket and football, enjoys real ale and is a keen musician who has played in cover bands across the South East.

[Get in touch](#)

To raise an issue with Mr Scott or to invite him to a meeting or event please visit the OPCC website: www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us

Please note that the PCC cannot interfere in operational policing or demand that the Chief Constable changes how he uses his policing resources. Equally, his office (the OPCC) cannot provide updates on how a crime is being investigated.