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SAFER IN KENT

Matthew Scott

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

Kent Police launches hunt for 200 more police officers

The biggest recruitment campaign in Kent Police's history is to be launched to find hundreds of new officers.

On Monday 19 March, the Chief Constable of Kent Alan Pughsley and the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott announced a recruitment drive which will see an uplift in the number of officers keeping the county safe.



In February, Mr Scott gained approval to increase the 2018/19 council tax precept, meaning a Band D household will pay an extra £1 a month. This will fund an extra 200 Kent officers to support local policing and in excess of 80 police staff.

These will be in addition to the planned recruitment of 240 officers proposed over the coming year to maintain the force's existing numbers. Kent Police's **More Than The Badge** campaign will be running for the next year and applicants should visit [the force website](#) for more details. If successful, recruits will be placed on a training programme which will include physical fitness, legal training, and tutoring with local policing teams.



Mr Scott said:

'The message I have heard loud and clear from the people of Kent is they are willing to pay a little more in council tax to boost the frontline; and the Chief Constable has assured me a significant number of these new recruits will go into local policing, rural policing and roads policing teams.'

'Equally important are all the other roles within the Kent Police family

which are vital in making us Safer in Kent. 'From call handlers to cybercrime investigators, Kent Police is More Than the Badge.

'I encourage anyone who is passionate about their community and protecting vulnerable people to take a look at the jobs section of the Kent Police website because there is bound to be a role which suits your skills.'

Newsletter
March / April 2018

News in Brief

Force-wide visits

Matthew Scott is grateful to all the Kent Police officers and staff who took the time to speak with him and answer questions during his "all out" programme of visits across the county last week. He spent time in all parts of the force listening and learning about daily business and issues he could help with. He is planning on writing a fuller blog on this soon.



PCC Police and Crime Podcast

The first episode of Matthew's podcast is the audio of his Facebook Live Question and Answer session, which followed his Kent Performance and Delivery meeting with the Chief Constable. He talks about antisocial behaviour, stalking and harassment, fraud investigations, PCSOs, his budget and roads Policing: <http://matthewscott.org.uk/podcast/episode-1-performance-and-delivery>



Matthew Scott's [cyber bullying survey](#) is still available to complete online for young people to let him know their views on the problem. If you work with young people or have young family members, please help spread this link widely. We've had over 6,000 responses already. <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/listening-to-you/public-consultations/>

Help and support available for Armed Forces veterans in custody



Kent Police is working with SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity to identify serving personnel, veterans and their families in custody.

on their behalf. They will then be able to gain access to practical, emotional and financial advice

Individuals can then refer themselves to the charity or a Kent Police officer or staff member can make the referral

through SSAFA, which it is hoped will lessen their chances of coming into contact with the police again in the future. Mr Scott said:

'I am committed to supporting schemes which make people safer and reduce reoffending, so when I met with SSAFA last year and heard about the efforts to renew the Veterans in the Crimi-

nal Justice System project I was keen for Kent to become more involved.

'Signposting those small number of ex-services personnel who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System to the support that is available to them from SSAFA will hopefully prevent them from being of interest to police again.'



The way we hold personal information is changing. Please send an email to the Have Your Say Kent email to say you want to receive these newsletters:

haveyoursay@pcc.kent.pnn.police.uk



PCC's Mental Health and Policing Fund open



cafes in **Maldstone** and **Tonbridge**, **Talk it Out in Deal**, and a project in **Thanet** which uses sport to build confidence and leadership skills among young people suffering with poor mental health.

Mr Scott added:

'I am delighted to announce that my Mental Health and Policing Fund is now open for bids again. I hope to support even more innovative projects in 2018/19.'

The maximum grant available this year is £20,000. The deadline for applications was 27 March 2018.

For more information please look on our website:

<https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/commissioning/funds/mental-health-and-policing-fund/>

One of the PCC's priorities is making sure people with mental health issues who come into contact with the police have access to the right support. This includes victims, witnesses and offenders. They could be in crisis or a missing person or needing to access support in the community.

Around a third of all of Kent Police's time is spent dealing with mental health issues, and the PCC created the Mental Health and Policing Fund to address this trend by supporting relevant schemes and projects.

In total, Mr Scott awarded almost £200,000 from his Mental Health and Policing Fund to schemes right across Kent in 2017/18. As well as **Folkestone** and **District Mind**, the fund supported the **Safe Haven Bus** in **Medway**, crisis



International Women's Day: PCC commends Kent Police on breaking the glass ceiling

On **International Women's Day**, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott has commended the force on how far it has come in breaking the glass ceiling.

Kent Police Chief Constable Alan Pughley told Mr Scott's Performance and Delivery Board this week:

'It's been really good to see the change in demographic within the organisation in recent years.

'Nine years ago when I joined Kent Police, we had 12 Chief Superintendents and all of them were male. That caused me some concern but we've done a huge amount of work over the last few years in changing the culture so that the very best people – men and women – feel empowered and trusted and supported so that they can, if they so wish, put themselves into the promotion processes.

'Today we've got 11 Chief Superintendents and, of those, six are female. That's just one element of us not just talking the talk but showing that it really is happening.

'Throughout the organisation people are feeling confident enough and strong enough to go for promotion. I'll never

promote a woman just because she's a woman, but I will promote them for being the best person for the job.'

Mr Scott, who uses his Performance and Delivery Board to hold the Chief Constable to account in public, said: 'It's good to see more women coming through the organisation and being promoted, and properly supported to do so. I know that's the case from the Chief Officer team downwards, with role models like Assistant Chief Constable Jo Shiner, six really good Chief Superintendents and others all the way down the organisation.'

According to [workforce data published by the Home Office](#), 896 of Kent's 3,259 officers were women as at March 2017, which represents 27.4%. That figure is up from 24.9% in 2010. In addition, more than half of the force's then 289 PCSOs, and 63% of civilian police staff members were women.



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.