

KEEPING COUNCILLORS INFORMED



Thank you for opening the latest edition of my councillor newsletter,

which is a round up of the latest activity my office is involved in.

You'll be aware of the disappointing decision to cancel our planned road safety conference, and in this issue, you'll find a link to a questionnaire asking your views on how we collectively deliver a safer road strategy for our residents.

In this edition, you'll also find out about how money from the Serious Violence Duty has been spent to support young people in Wiltshire and Swindon, the important work of our volunteers and how the Government spending review will affect policing in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc

SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

Over the past year, my office has worked with our partners and commissioned services to drive meaningful change for young people across Wiltshire and Swindon through initiatives funded by the Serious Violence Duty.

More than 1,000 young people have benefited from projects including mentoring, detached youth work, diversionary activities, skills workshops, and media campaigns.

While overall crime rates here remain below national and regional averages, serious violence continues to have devastating effects.

That's why my office has brought together key partners from police, local councils, health services, youth justice, and others – to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of violence.

A total of £210,000 has been invested directly into our communities, supporting projects that provide safe spaces, employment training, creative outlets, and trusted adult relationships.

We're already seeing positive results – identifying those most at risk, diverting them from harm, and improving their opportunities.

Reducing serious violence remains one of the top priorities in my Police and Crime Plan, and this collaborative approach is creating safer futures for all.

Read more here: [Communities positively impacted by projects delivered to reduce serious violence](#)



Government spending review

The recent Government Spending Review included a welcome increase in national police funding, but it still falls short of covering the full financial pressures facing policing here in Wiltshire.

We're managing rising wages, pension costs, and growing demand - expenses that national funding alone doesn't fully address. The funding rise also assumes I will continue to increase the policing precept to its maximum, but there's no clear guidance on future flexibility.

Our communities expect visible, engaged, and neighbourhood-focused policing. Despite financial constraints, my priority - and that of Wiltshire Police - is to protect and enhance local policing.

Even with a 5.2% precept rise, equivalent to £14 per year for a Band D property, and the government uplift, we still need to find £6.8 million in savings this year.

We're focused on efficiency, only modernising the police estate where necessary, and reviewing procurement to keep resources focused on frontline policing.

I will continue to push the Government for a fair funding model that reflects the real costs of policing rural forces like Wiltshire, so we can deliver the service our residents deserve.

Click here to read my full statement: [Wiltshire PCC statement on local policing impact of government's comprehensive spending review](#)



THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, I joined a volunteer appreciation event during National Volunteers' Week to recognise the key role our volunteers play in supporting my office and Wiltshire Police. Their work remains essential to making Wiltshire safer.

Volunteers serve in roles like Community Scrutiny Panel Members, Independent Custody Visitors, and Animal Welfare Visitors, collectively contributing over 750 hours annually. This includes attending meetings, visiting custody suites, reviewing police practices, and checking on the welfare of police dogs.

Their time and efforts help improve transparency, accountability, and trust in policing.

The event was an important opportunity to acknowledge their ongoing commitment and the valuable support they provide in delivering the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan.

To find out more about volunteering opportunities within my office, follow this link: [Volunteer](#)



Reclassifying Cannabis as a Class A drug

I fully support recent calls from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset, David Sidwick, to reclassify Cannabis as a Class A drug.

Cannabis isn't harmless and it fuels a range of criminal activity we see daily in Wiltshire.

From anti-social behaviour and theft to modern slavery and human trafficking, it acts as both a gateway drug and a funding stream for organised crime groups.

In the south-west, we have set up Operation Scorpion to tackle county lines and recent results including one which involved the seizure of over 100kg of cannabis, show the scale of the issue and its ties to violence and exploitation.

The idea that drug crime is just an urban issue is dangerously outdated. County lines operations are active in our rural communities, and we must respond with clear, national policy.

Operation Scorpion has proven the value of regional cooperation, but I believe we need tougher classification, education, and treatment to properly tackle this threat.



Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Commission

Recently, I met with members of the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Commission to discuss how we can better engage with young people and understand what drives crime and vulnerability in our communities.

Run by Participation People on behalf of my office, the Youth Commission

plays a vital role in making sure young voices are heard by both the OPCC and Wiltshire Police.

Their plans to run workshops in schools and survey their peers are exactly the kind of grassroots insight we need.

It was great to have honest conversations with them, and I'm looking forward to seeing the survey results.

Their feedback will be invaluable as we work towards delivering a police service that truly meets the needs of all our communities.



A spotlight on... Road Safety

As you will know from the invitations you received to our planned conference, road safety is an issue which is high on the agenda with our residents and something which is regularly, and passionately, brought to my attention whenever I attend area board and parish council meetings.

Keeping the roads in Wiltshire and Swindon safe is a responsibility shared by local authorities, the police and my office, which is why it was disappointing to see such a small take up for our Road Safety Conference, that has led to its postponement.

The event would have given new councillors the opportunity to understand how our different organisations work in partnership and would have given established councillors an opportunity to ask questions about the ongoing work to make our roads safer.

My office is now looking at alternative ways to share this information, and I would appreciate your feedback by filling in this questionnaire, which has also been emailed to you: Road Safety Event Online Survey

As one of the key issues consistently raised with me by residents across Wiltshire and Swindon, it was made a top priority in my previous Police and

Crime Plan and continues to hold that status in my latest Plan for 2025–29.

I believe there needs to be a cohesive and comprehensive strategy towards road safety—one that is led by central government but allows local councils and road safety partnerships the flexibility to determine the most effective ways to protect their communities. National direction, supported by strong local delivery is essential if we are to bring about meaningful and sustained change.

When I first took on this role in 2021, just 156 drivers in Wiltshire and Swindon were referred to speed awareness courses by our Speed Enforcement Officers. A further 36 received fines and penalty points, with no drivers being sent to court.

Fast forward to 2024, and the picture has changed dramatically. 9,785 drivers attended speed awareness courses, 1,248 received fines and penalty points and 121 cases ended up in court. Across the county, by better targeting our resources, the issuance of speed enforcement sanctions has increased tenfold since my original Police and Crime Plan.

This reflects a clear and measurable improvement in how we identify speeding offences and, more importantly, how we educate and deter drivers to prevent reoffending.

From the outset, I made it a priority to ensure that our Community Speedwatch Teams are properly supported and integrated into a wider enforcement and education strategy.

We have 85 active Community Speedwatch Teams operating across



Wiltshire and Swindon.

Their reports, combined with data from Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), directly inform where our Community Speed Enforcement Officers (CSEOs) are deployed.

At time of writing, our CSEOs have carried out 657 enforcement sessions across the county. A detailed breakdown of these figures can be found here: Road Safety

This level of activity has only been possible through investment. We have tripled the number of CSEOs from one to three, appointed two dedicated Road Safety Officers (RSOs), and acquired new mobile, state-of-the-art speed enforcement cameras to enhance the team's capability.

We are now using data more strategically than ever before, led by an experienced Road Safety Delivery Manager who ensures effective collaboration across the agencies involved in keeping our roads safe.

Many town and parish councils have already invested in SIDs to protect their communities, and many more are looking to follow suit.

It is now vital for us to continue to combine our efforts and resources in a coordinated fashion in order to make the necessary improvements to make the road network in Wiltshire and Swindon for road users and pedestrians alike.

