



Matthew Scott Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

Newsletter
August 2018

Annual Policing Survey: Tell the PCC how safe you feel where you live

One of the key roles of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to set the policing priorities for Kent by consulting with residents.

So Matthew Scott would like to hear from you about what matters to you in your local area, where Kent Police can improve and what priorities Kent Police should be focusing on.

[Please do so by completing his short survey here.](#)

Almost 1,000 people have so far completed the two-minute survey telling the PCC how safe they feel in Kent-but we want more!

Matthew said: 'My Annual Policing Survey is a key way in which I get to hear what you think about your police force. I want to know what you think Kent Police does well and what it could do better.'



Matthew Scott with officers and PCSOs in Gravesend

'I'm responsible for ensuring Kent Police provides an effective and efficient service so I'm asking you, plain and simple, to rate how safe you feel in your community and also what to extent you think you get value for money.'

'I've had a tremendous response from those I've met at big public events this summer but

I want as many people as possible to take the opportunity to have their say.'

'Based on the results of last year's survey, I took the decision to put more money into recruiting up to 200 more police officers, and more staff for the Force Control Room so your views really do make a difference.'

News in Brief

- The latest episode of the **Police and Crime Podcast** is here. Just Matthew this time, talking about local issues such as 101, the Violence Reduction Challenge and rural crime, national issues such as Police pay and the independent review of the mental health act, and the European issue. Episode 8 of Matthew's blog is ready to listen to: [here](#)

Matthew Scott's Police and Crime Podcast



- Local councillors have told the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott how much they value Kent Police being increasingly accessible to residents right across the county. The PCC Matthew Scott and Assistant Chief Constable Jo Shiner sat down with 17 parish council representatives. Together, they **listened to councillors' views and answered their questions about local policing.**

One of the main topics for discussion was visible policing and the importance of communities being able to engage with Kent Police – one of the key priorities Mr Scott has tasked the Chief Constable with delivering.

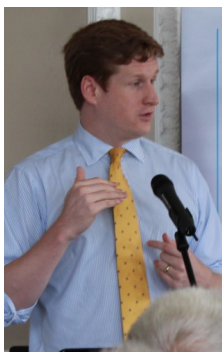
Matthew said: 'It is vitally important that Kent Police delivers an efficient and accessible service. I have been pleased to hear that the waiting time for 101 calls to be answered has vastly improved, and that a higher proportion of callers are getting through to speak to the Force Control Room. It was also pleasing to hear from the councillors that more and more of their local police officers and PCSOs are taking the time to engage with them personally.'

- As well as a [Twitter feed](#), The Office of the Kent and Police and Crime Commissioner now has a Facebook page. [Like and Follow us here.](#)

Groups invited to bid for a share for £100,000

Do you have an idea or project which could support Matthew's priorities?

The PCC, having reviewed all funding at the mid-year point, has released a further £100,000 from his commis-



sioning budget for selected organisations to apply for up to £10,000 each to help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods.

The Safer In Kent Fund, worth

£100,000 in total, is open for bids until Tuesday 11 September.

To complete the application form, and to read the terms of funding and eligibility criteria, please click [here](#).

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Violence Reduction Challenge is making positive progress

Charities, community leaders and the emergency services have vowed to work closer together to cut violent crime in Kent.

Representatives of around 20 organisations met in Kings Hill on 17 August at the invitation of the PCC as part of Matthew's [Violence Reduction Challenge](#). They agreed in principle to focus their joint efforts on tackling gangs using county lines to deal drugs.

Matthew said afterwards: 'There are 55 different types of violent crimes encompassing everything from malicious communications and violence without injury to serious sexual offences and murder; but there was a clear consensus that we should direct our attention towards those people causing the most serious violence towards the most vulnerable victims.'

Councillor Adrian Gulvin

from Medway Council told the meeting: 'I feel the gangs and drugs issue is key, because their tentacles reach far and wide. It encompasses so many other aspects [of violent crime] that we can get a big bang for our buck.'

The panel also discussed external factors which can, in some cases, make a vulnerable young person more likely to turn to crime – such as having witnessed violence in the home or on social media.

Kent Police Deputy Chief Constable Tony Blaker welcomed the enthusiasm from all partners to work together.

He said: 'We can't arrest our way out of this problem. We need to address some of these wider issues which is not something the police can do alone.'

The next advisory panel meeting is on 19 October.

Matthew's engagements



Matthew Scott visits the Safer Home Store at Bluewater

Matthew has been busy meeting members of the public throughout this Summer at a large variety of engagements.

Over the past few months the PCC has been talking to residents about his annual policing survey, Kent Police recruitment and what matters most to the Kent public. He visited Bluewater Safer Home shop, Chatham Docks

Shopping Centre, Detling Hill during the County Open Day, a street stall with CrimeStoppers to raise awareness about County Lines, amongst many others to listen to your views.



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.