

## SAFER IN KENT

Matthew Scott

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner



# Plans for 200 more Officers

Matthew Scott has empowered the Chief Constable to embark upon Kent Police's most significant recruitment drive for a generation, after his 2018/19 funding proposal was approved.

Outlining his proposal to the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel at a meeting on 8 February, the Police and Crime Commissioner Mr Scott said: 'This will boost the frontline quite substantially. We'll be able to re-

cruit up to 200 new police officers next year with a commitment from the Chief Constable that a substantial number of those will go into supporting local policing. We'll also be increasing the number of officers dedicated to rural policing and also roads policing. We'll be recruiting more than 80 members of police staff, a substantial number of which will go into the Force Control Room to improve the performance of 999 calls and

101. This is the most significant recruitment drive for a generation - something really positive.'

The panel were pleased to see that this proposal received a substantial number of positive responses.

Of the people that completed the Annual Policing Survey, around 68% of people said they would be prepared to pay a little more towards policing if it was necessary.

Mr Scott stated: 'I think, with the challenges we face in the county, it is necessary and that's why I've made this proposal.'

### #SaferInKent: Boosting the Frontline

-  Up to 200 more Police Officers
-  Local Policing bolstered
-  Rural and roads Policing expanded
-  Investment in 101
-  Greater public protection
-  £1 more per month

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## 'PUTTING VICTIMS FIRST' CONFERENCE - 18th January 2018



On 18 January, the PCC hosted a [Putting Victims First conference](#) at Kent Police College.

'#SaferInKent' Police and Crime Plan, which he holds the Chief Constable to ac-

count for delivering. Speakers included the Victims' Commissioner Baroness Newlove, David Naylor of Victim Support and a number of local organisations including Rubicon Cares, Juvenile Justice International and Restorative

Solutions. At the event, the PCC announced a 10% boost in crime prevention schemes delivered by community safety partnerships, a new hate crime advocacy service and a review of mental health provision for victims of crime.



## Newsletter February 2018

### News in Brief

- Schoolchildren across Kent are being asked about their experiences of cyber-bullying, to help the Police and Crime Commissioner lobby for more to be done to help them. Since becoming the PCC in 2016 Matthew Scott has taken a keen interest in cyber-bullying. He has visited schools, spoken to pupils about their experiences and met with representatives from social media companies. To complete the Survey visit [www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations)



- Matthew has continued his regular programme of visits and engagements over the course of January, which has included speaking at the Mosque in Maidstone, University of the Third Age in Deal, and Maidstone's Afternoon Rotary Club, plus meeting the operators of Headcorn Aerodrome, the NHS Confederation and Kent Businesses. He has also appeared on LBC radio talking about crime statistics and on Sky News discussing Brexit.
- Kent farmers are having tools, machinery and fuel tanks marked with SmartWater to protect their property and deter thieves. Victim Support has used money it receives from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner to buy 200 SmartWater kits. Officers from Kent Police have been visiting rural areas across the county to mark up valuable items and erect signs warning would-be burglars to stay away.

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### Mental Health Conference

A prominent mental health campaigner who once threatened to jump from Waterloo Bridge has called on police officers to wear plain clothes when dealing with people in crisis.

Jonny Benjamin was speaking at a mental health conference hosted by Matthew Scott and Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Alan Baldwin on 31 January.

[Jonny Benjamin nearly ended his life in London in 2008](#) but was talked out of doing so by passing stranger Neil Laybourn. However, he recalled that the arrival of uniformed officers in a marked police car to detain him at the bridge did little to calm his disposition. Kent Police is now reviewing the way it responds to incidents of mental health crisis – but DCC Baldwin questioned whether the public should be calling for police

attendance at all when no crime has taken place. The National Police Chiefs' Council mental health lead Chief Constable Mark Collins warned that, as representatives of the State, police forces risked "over-policing and under-caring" when it came to dealing with vulnerable people suffering a mental health crisis. Other speakers at the Mental Health East Conference - attended by more than 100 delegates from across policing, fire, health and the criminal justice system – included Professor Tim Kendall, the NHS' National Clinical Director for Mental Health; and Zoe Billingham from Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Matthew Scott leads on mental health issues for the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. DCC Baldwin is the East of England policing region's lead on mental health. Together they co-chair a group which brings together partners from seven Mental Health Crisis Care Concordats in the East of England.



### Ashford Police Station is to be upgraded



Matthew Scott said: 'A number of options were then explored including moving to a rented building, re-locating or building a new station. I have agreed with

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, has agreed to release funds from his investment reserves to make significant improvements to Ashford Police Station.

Following extensive research into the future of the building and its facilities Mr Scott has approved a recommendation by the Chief Constable of Kent Alan Pughsley to retain and develop the Tufton Street premises.

A structural survey, carried out in early 2017, identified the external concrete cladding needed replacing at a significant cost and a decision on the future of the building needed to be made.

the Chief Constable that retaining and refurbishing our existing site is the best option when all financial and operational factors are considered.'

Chief Constable of Kent Alan Pughsley said: 'As a force we regularly review our estate to ensure it meets the changing demands of modern policing, that the buildings are cost effective and represent the best use of public money. 'Staying at Tufton Street is the most pragmatic option available to us and we now focus our attention on developing the premises so we can continue to offer a first class service to the people of Ashford and the rest of the county.'

## 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](http://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.*