

Update from West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner

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News and updates from your Police and Crime Commissioner

Hello and welcome to my latest newsletter...

This edition includes: a better deal for domestic abuse victims as Government makes changes to the Domestic Abuse Bill; advice about Covid-19 vaccination scams; my investment to help offenders to manage their anger and the launch of 'Drive' in Herefordshire.

Due to the new COVID-19 government guidelines, my office is mainly working from home and, whilst we are able to take phone calls to our usual OPCC number, I would encourage you to contact us by emailing opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or by using our social pages 'westmerciapcc' on Facebook and Twitter. Any members of the public needing to call the office can do so between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday - Friday. Please stay safe and look out for each other.



I have welcomed long-awaited changes to the Domestic Abuse Bill

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I welcome the Government's move to provide even greater protection for victims and harsher sentencing for perpetrators, through changes to the Domestic Abuse Bill.

Domestic abuse constitutes a quarter of all crimes in West Mercia, and over the last five years I have campaigned for harsher sentencing for perpetrators, and this milestone gives greater assurance for victims that more can be done to protect them through the justice system.

Domestic abuse is an insidious and highly damaging crime, that affects not only the victim, but children, families and society as a whole. More people need to understand the extent of the problem and the fact domestic abuse can manifest itself in many different ways. I remain resolute in my commitment eradicate domestic abuse in all its forms.

You can see more about the changes on the [GOV.UK website](#)

Vacancies...

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VACANCIES - PA to the Head of Estates, Facilities Co-ordinator and Estates Technician

These are a fantastic opportunities for experienced and dedicated staff to join the new Estates Team of the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner West Mercia Police.

[You can find out more, and how to apply, here »](#)

I am proud to provide funding to make our communities feel safe..



BE SAFE, BE SEEN.

£1,799...

...To provide road users who are using the roads in the dark with high-visibility items

STAT OF THE WEEK

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

I have provided funding to road users to make sure they feel safe on our roads in the dark



£10,240

STAT OF THE WEEK

CCTV upgrade in Market Drayton

My investment has seen more than a dozen high quality cameras installed in the town centre of Market Drayton.

I recognise that CCTV is an extremely valuable resource. Not only can the presence of a camera

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motor vehicle when wearing high-visibility clothing.

A big 'thank you' to one of our local businesses!



I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Chase Distillery in Herefordshire for donating supplies of more hand sanitiser to keep frontline officers and all staff safe and clean.

Latest news...

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WE NEED TO STOP ASKING “WHY DOESN’T SHE LEAVE?” AND START ASKING “WHY DOESN’T HE STOP?”*

Herefordshire to benefit from domestic abuse programme

Putting victims and survivors first is something I will continue to strive for, which is why extending Drive into another part of West Mercia to tackle domestic abuse is so important. There needs to be this shift in focus towards those that are committing the abuse. If we're ever going to reduce the number, and severity, of domestic abuse incidences then we need to target the source and get to the root problem.

[Read more](#)



New blue light hub moves closer for Redditch

A new, fit-for-purpose, joint police and fire station at the heart of the community in Redditch has moved a step closer.

Police officer numbers in Redditch continue to increase, but the current police station is not fit for purpose and hasn't been for some time. A partnership with HWFRS enables improvements for vital emergency services, maintains the visible police presence local people want, supports the local economy, and achieves best value for local taxpayers. It is an innovative, forward-thinking approach and I am pleased to be delivering these improvements for the community in Redditch



PCC Survey highlights West Mercia residents have confidence in the police

- 86% tended to agree or strongly agreed they have confidence with West Mercia Police – up 1% on last quarter
- 70% tended to agree or strongly agreed that West Mercia Police understands issues in their community – down 2% on last quarter
- 75% said crime and anti-social behaviour was **not** a very big, or quite a big problem in their area – up 3% on last quarter

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quarter

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I have strengthened my commitment to equality in policing

Confidence in policing is vital, as people should be able to look to their police force for trust and help when they need it. Dis-proportionality can naturally have an adverse impact on communities, and that isn't something I want to see across West Mercia. I want to make sure that the communities' attitudes of inclusion and embracing diverse cultures are reflected in the force.

[Read more>>](#)

I have invested in a scheme to tackle aggression in offenders

The cycle of violent crime has a significant impact on victims and our wider communities. Through the investment in this joint initiative I am committed to breaking this cycle. It provides yet another avenue for police and courts to help offenders to rehabilitate, ultimately reducing crime and preventing long term impacts

[Read more>>](#)

The Safer West Mercia Podcast

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In my latest podcast I speak to Sue Coleman, Chief Executive of West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA) about male victims of domestic abuse.

Around 15% of all domestic abuse victims are male, although society still struggles to accept the fact that men can also be victims. This perception, as well as society's views of masculinity can sadly prevent men from seeking help when they are a victim, keeping them in abusive relationships for far longer than they need to be.

The podcast features an interview with a male victim who was subjected to significant harm from his partner, and sought out support from WMWA and received support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor; highly trained support workers who specialise in working with victims of domestic abuse who are assessed as being at high risk of harm.

My podcast series can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Alexa and Google Podcasts. Or you can listen online [on my website](#).

For awareness...

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I'm highlighting the signs of people smuggling, and the signs to look out for

Signs to spot at service stations/lay-bys:

- People emerging from a lorry suddenly or as if in a rush not to be seen
- Hearing banging from the inside of a lorry
- A group of people heading towards, or going inside of, the back of a lorry

You can report any signs to [Crime Stoppers UK](#)

vaccination scam

You may have read that fraudsters are taking advantage of the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme. Typically, people are receiving emails, text messages or phone calls with offers to 'jump the queue' in return for payment or confidential details.

There is no charge for the COVID-19 vaccination, and the NHS is adhering rigidly to the government's order or priority list, so any such messages you receive are fraudulent.

For full information on protecting yourself against COVID-19 vaccination scams, visit www.getsafeonline.org/vaccinationscams
And please, pass on our advice to anyone you think may be caught out.

#vaccinationscams



Please be vigilant and always think twice

If anyone arrives unannounced on your doorstep telling you they've come to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, say 'no thanks', avoid confrontation, close the door and call the police

[Get Safe Online](#) gives more information on vaccine scams

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