

Update from West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner

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**Hello and welcome to my latest newsletter...**

This edition includes: working with partners and investing in crime prevention; a call for vigilance to help protect our communities; some new four legged recruits; my continued commitment to victims; my support for West Mercia Police and multiple ways for you to get involved in policing.

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](mailto: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.



Twitter



Website

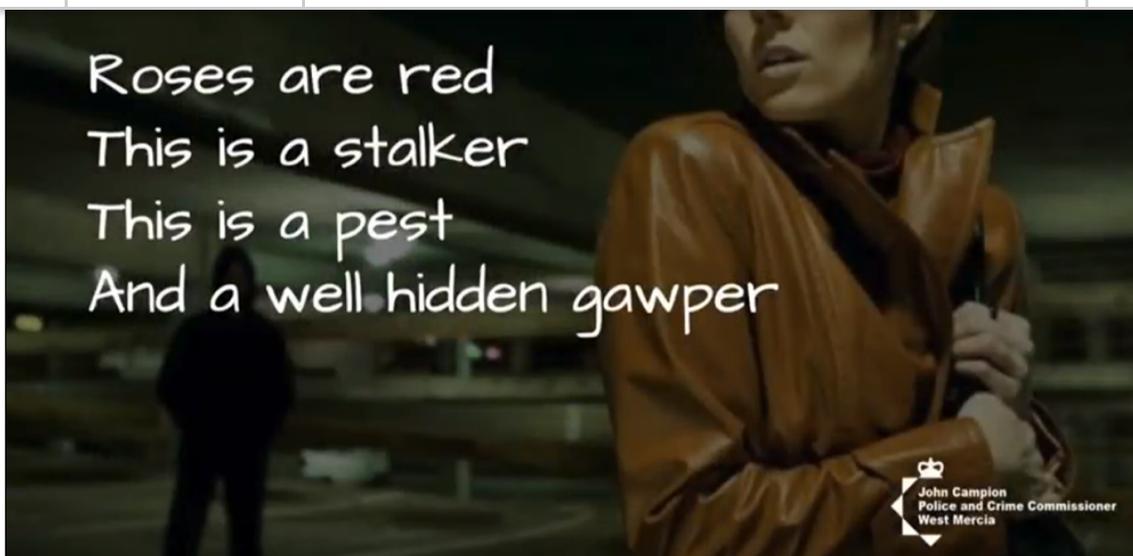


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Email

*I urged people to make respect their biggest gift on Valentine's Day...*



### As commissioner, protecting victims sits at the heart of my commitments

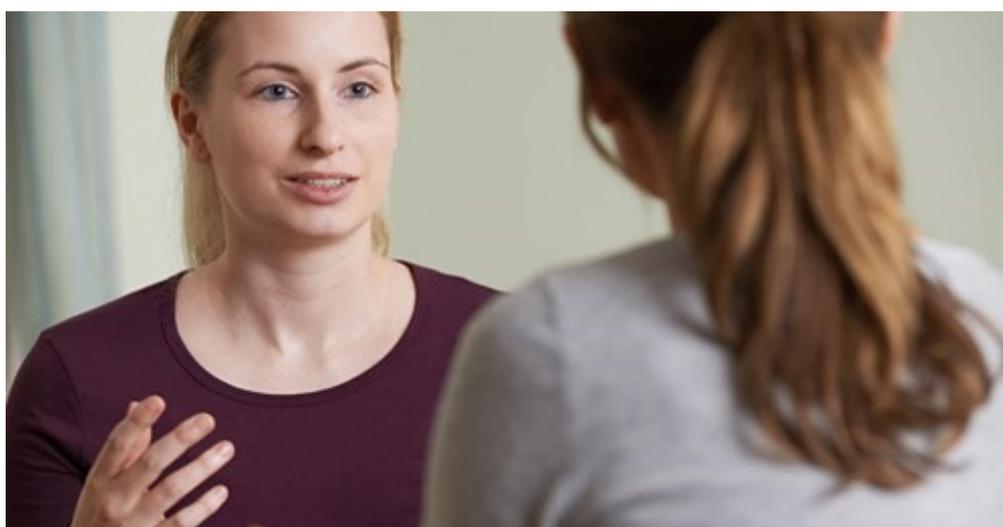
Stalking, checking your partners' phone, coercive control and romance fraud should never be tolerated, Valentine's Day or otherwise.

To reinforce this message, I released a series of short videos, which you can see on [YouTube »](#)

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## Vacancy...

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### VACANCY - Policy and Commissioning Intern

Want a role where you can make a real difference to over a million people? A role where you can help build safer communities? A role where you can influence important decisions at a local and national level?

My office is recruiting a Policy and Commissioning Intern, to support two teams for twelve months.

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

[Also find out what it's like to be an intern in my office, listen to my Safer West Mercia podcast »](#)

*I am proud to work with partners and invest in crime prevention...*



“As part of my commitment to building a safer West Mercia, I would like to work with councillors across the four local authorities to help prevent burglary.”



**I am proud to contribute funding to the We Don't Buy Crime (WDBC) initiative**

WDBC provides communities with forensic marking technology, Smartwater, to protect their property and valuables from burglary. This includes homes, farms and petrol stations.

[Watch the full breakdown of some impressive WDBC stats »](#)



**West Mercia has seen a significant reduction in residential burglaries**

As a result of investment into crime prevention initiatives, like We Don't Buy Crime, as well as COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, West Mercia has seen the number of residential burglaries fall.

[See the reduction across West Mercia on my Facebook page »](#)



**I am proud to work with partners to tackle the root causes of criminality**



**I proudly provide funding to organisations that support West Mercia's communities**

project, which has engaged with 185 children and young people susceptible to criminal exploitation.

[For more information, you can visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk »](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

alternative provision for vulnerable young people not succeeding in mainstream education.

[Head to www.longlandsfarm.org.uk and find out more about their work »](http://www.longlandsfarm.org.uk)

*It is vital to remain vigilant and protect our communities from harm...*



**Catalytic converter theft has risen recently**

There has been a recent increase in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles across West Mercia.

This is due to a rise in the value of the precious metals they contain.

[Latest update here »](#)



**Romance fraud isn't unique to Valentine's Day**

Romance fraud is a horrible crime that can leave victims devastated, both financially and emotionally.

Never share your personal information with someone you do not trust.

[More info: www.actionfraud.police.uk »](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)



**It is vital to work together to ensure children use technology safely**

I am proud to provide funding to Get Safe Online



**Fraudsters pretending to be police are targeting people in Shropshire**

If you receive a call from someone who is

their support for Safer Internet Day.

immediately.

[Head to www.saferinternet.org.uk for more »](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

[More information »](#)

## Latest news...



Three new recruits I am delighted to provide resources for...

Juno, Jabba and Simba are the latest recruits into West Mercia Police.

For more photos and snippets from their journeys to becoming licensed police dogs, head over to the force's social media pages [here »](#)



I commend the force in their approach to tackling serious and organised crime (SOC)

In the latest victory, two men have been jailed for a combined total of over 9 years for drug offences in Worcester, after West Mercia Police officers stopped their vehicle on the M5. [Story »](#)



I am proud to work with Telford & Wrekin



I continue to support the force in delivering

I am working with Telford & Wrekin Council to identify neighbourhoods of Telford & Wrekin that will benefit from a £1.5m investment.

In October, West Mercia Police supported Op Drive Insured to target uninsured motorists and remove them from the roads.

The money will go towards reducing crime, tackling anti-social behaviour & improving the quality of life for local people.

I commend their success as, within one week, officers issued 116 notices to drivers for having no insurance.

[More details on the two year project »](#)

[More stats »](#)



**Continuing to deliver on my Safer Roads commitment**

I have invested in a new Vehicle Activated Sign for the village of Culmington in Shropshire, which will help tackle speeding in the village.

[More on Facebook »](#)

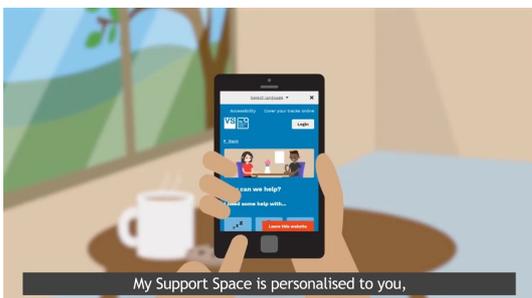


**I am proud of the investment I have made as Commissioner to focus on rural crime**

Wildlife crime is not only hugely damaging to our environment, but it can also impact local communities.

[See the latest success in tackling it »](#)

*Victims sit at the very heart of my commitment as PCC...*



**If you are a victim of crime, there are tools out there to help you**



**I reaffirm both my Safer Roads commitment, and my commitment to victims**

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designed by Victim Support to help you manage the impact that crime has had on you.

It's free, safe, secure and confidential, and you can choose how you want to be supported after crime.

[Sign up at www.mysupportspace.org.uk »](http://www.mysupportspace.org.uk)

husband was killed in a road crash, has urged victims to seek support.

I am proud to back the bereavement support, which provides local and specialised support for road crash victims.

[Details of the next support session »](#)



**Boloh**  
**The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic family Covid-19 Helpline**

Have you or your family been affected by the pandemic and need someone to talk to?

You can contact one of our specialist support advisors for free between Monday and Friday 10am – 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am – 3pm on

**0800 1512 605**

**Are you from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and been affected by the pandemic?**

If you need support, you can contact a Barnardo's specialist support advisor, or talk to them via webchat.

[More information and how to get in touch »](#)



**I welcome the government's promise of a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy**

Alongside local and national partners, I have proudly supported a campaign for a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy.

The government has now announced that it will add a perpetrator strategy to their domestic abuse bill, a significant victory!

[Read all about the latest announcement »](#)



**I am proud to secure over £240,000 to support domestic abuse and sexual violence services**

Many victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence will have undoubtedly faced a deeply traumatic experience.

Even more so during lockdown, when they find the bravery to seek support, they need to know it is there for them.

[Find out how the money will be allocated »](#)

*I will continue to support and speak up for West Mercia Police...*



**I welcome an additional £60 million for the police to enforce COVID-19 rules**

It is vital that the force have the appropriate resources to provide an effective public service.

I therefore welcome the Home Office announcement that police forces will receive £60 million to support the increased enforcement of COVID-19 rules.

[Read more »](#)



**I will continue to speak up for our police officers**

I have called for our officers to be prioritised for a COVID-19 vaccination.

One of the oldest principles in policing is that 'the police are the public & the public are the police'. Now is the time to back that principle with prioritisation in vaccination.

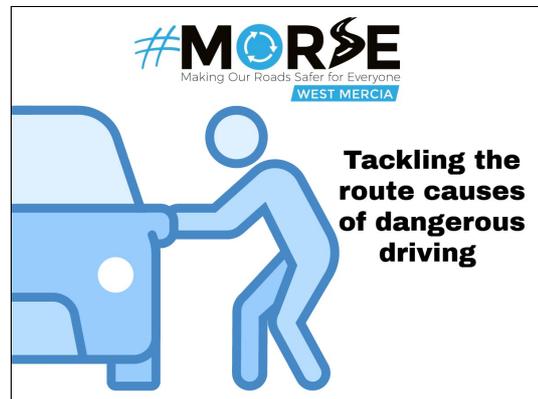
[Read my full statement »](#)

*Lastly, several ways for you to get involved in policing!*



**In my latest podcast, I spoke with Severn Arts, a charitable company from Worcestershire**

We discussed how taking part in arts activities can inspire people to turn their lives around, and how Severn Arts are providing services to help



**Too many people are killed or seriously injured on West Mercia's roads**

This Road Victim Month, myself and my partners are highlighting the MORSE scheme, which works to understand the root cause of dangerous

[Listen »](#)

[Take part in free online modules here »](#)



**West Mercia Police are looking to hear YOUR views**

Do you know what Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is and how it's used?

The force want to hear from you about your perception and understanding of ANPR usage across West Mercia, to help better engage with the public about how it is used.

[Survey »](#)



**Are you part of the LGBTQ+ community and interested in policing?**

As part of LGBT+ History Month, West Mercia Police are holding a Zoom event.

On 23 February, at 6pm, interested members of LGBTQ+ communities can find out more about how they can give their valuable input into policing.

[Details on how to join »](#)

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