



Welcome to the March edition

Now that spring is in the air, it is a good time for me to reflect on progress made since becoming Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2016.

I was pleased that, in the latest Effectiveness Report, HMIC recognised the good work and positive steps that the Constabulary's officers and staff and our partners are doing every day to make Cambridgeshire a safe place. There is always more work to be done, however, the Good rating should reassure the public that we are continuing to make good progress, particularly in the area of protecting those who are most vulnerable in our community.

I very much welcomed the change in the law regarding the use of mobile phones at the wheel at the beginning of the month. Far too many lives have been tragically affected by this unacceptable behaviour. In the first 11 months of last year, 960 drivers were caught using a mobile phone behind the wheel across the county. We need to make using a mobile whilst driving as socially unacceptable as drink or drug driving.

I welcomed Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove to officially open our new county-wide Sexual Assault Referral Centre, known as The Elms, on 8th March. The new centre will be of great comfort to victims and survivors of sexual violence to know there is a place where they can access support.

Finally, I was thrilled to see so many young people at my Youth Fund event on Wednesday 1st March. It is heart-warming to see how such a small amount of money can make such a significant difference both to the lives of the young people involved and their wider communities.



Jason Ablewhite, Police and Crime Commissioner



Penalty doubles for using a mobile phone whilst driving

From March 1st, the penalty for driving whilst using a mobile phone doubled to six points and a £200 fine. For drivers with less than two years' experience, that could mean a ban for one offence.

Jason Ablewhite joined the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Road Policing Unit in an HGV cab provided by Highways England to help catch offenders who may be driving larger vehicles. Jason said: "I would rather people lost their licences than innocent people their lives."



Using mobile phones when driving – the law

- It's illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device while driving, or riding a motorcycle
- The rules are the same if you've stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic
- You must stay in full control of your vehicle at all times – the police can stop you if they think you're not in control because you are distracted.
- You can only use your phone in a vehicle if you need to call 999 in an emergency and it's unsafe or impractical to stop
- You could get 6 points on your licence and a fine of £200
- Your case could also go to court and you could be disqualified from driving

[Find out more](#)



Cambridgeshire Constabulary rated Good by HMIC

An HMIC report on effectiveness, published on March 2nd, has rated the force as 'good'. The report assesses the effectiveness of forces as part of the police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme (PEEL).

Jason Ablewhite said: "Today's Good rating should reassure the public that we are continuing to make good progress, particularly in the area of protecting those who are most vulnerable in our community."

[Find out more](#)



Young people celebrate Youth Fund success

Young people from across the county gathered at Police Headquarters on 1st March to celebrate their achievements.

The groups were invited to meet the Commissioner as recipients of his Youth Fund which has seen £27,000 awarded over the past year. Jason Ablewhite said: "It is heart-warming to see how a small amount of money can make such a significant difference and lead to more young people benefitting from the charities."

[Find out more](#)



Victims' Commissioner launches new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove officially opened the county's new SARC, known as The Elms on Wednesday 8th March, with Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite. The state of the art centre provides a dedicated service to all victims of sexual assault, providing them with a safe place to receive medical aftercare, forensic examinations, support, and to anonymously report sexual assaults.

Baroness Newlove said: "It will be of great comfort to victims and survivors of sexual abuse to know there is a place where they can seek help."

[Find out more](#)



Empowering women to make a change

Women from across the county came together at Allia Future Business Centre in Peterborough, on Wednesday 8th March, to celebrate International Women's Day 2017.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Vicky Skeels said: "We heard some amazingly powerful stories of courage and action and all left pledging to #BeBoldforChange."

[Find out more](#)



Could you help fight Cybercrime?

Do you want to help raise awareness around the different types of cybercrime within your community group? Cambridgeshire Constabulary are seeking representatives from community groups and institutions who would like to become Community Cyber Ambassadors.

If you think you have the enthusiasm, and can offer the commitment (a minimum of two awareness events a year), then the next Cyber Ambassador Training sessions are on 31st March at Cambridgeshire Police Headquarters in Huntingdon. To register for the day, click on the link, To register for the day email: cyberprotectcambs@cambs.pnn.police.uk



South Cambs Police to broadcast #specialslive

On Wednesday 15th March, Chief Inspector James Sutherland will be broadcasting a live specials recruitment event from Cambourne.

The Special Constabulary is the volunteer police force that supports the work of Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

If joining the special constabulary is something you are interested in, follow the force's twitter account @cambscops. A link will be posted at 7pm and you can follow the live event by clicking on the link.

[Find out more](#)

Discover what you're **capable of...**



*Could you do something **Special?***

*Volunteer with the Special Constabulary and join
the exciting and rewarding world of policing*

*We will fit around your life and career and you
commit a minimum of just four hours a week*

Want to make a difference?

Visit our website for more details

Call: 101
Textphone: 18001 101
Visit: www.cambs.police.uk
Follow:      [CambsCops](#)
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#safercambs



USEFUL LINKS

- [Safer Peterborough Partnership](#)
- [Fenland Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Cambridge Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership](#)
- [East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership](#)

FORTHCOMING SURGERIES

The Police and Crime Commissioner offers regular one to one meetings across the county. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15 minute appointment. Please email: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk or phone 0300 333 3456 to make an appointment:

24th March, 10.00 am – 12 noon, Peterborough Town Hall

6th April, 10.00 am – 12 noon, Ely Police Station

10th May, 10.00 am – 12 noon, Police Headquarters, Huntingdon

Useful Links:



Getting in touch:

It's important for me and my team to represent your views so if you want to get in touch, please do. I am here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

You can write to me:

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

PO Box 688

Huntingdon

PE29 9LA

Email me: cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk, phone: 0300 333 3456

Follow me:



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