



## **A warm welcome to my Summer newsletter.**

**As Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, I am pleased to present my summer newsletter which updates you on my latest news, in particular, what I have been doing to support communities throughout the coronavirus health emergency.**

I was appointed Acting Police and Crime Commissioner by the Police and Crime Panel in November last year, following the resignation of my predecessor, Jason Ablewhite.

As you know, Covid-19 brought many things to an abrupt stop including the planned Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections which were due to take place in May. New legislation brought in by the government has confirmed that the PCC elections will now take place in May 2021. I will therefore remain in office until then.

I want to reassure you all that I feel very privileged to serve for another 12 months and will continue to represent your views and concerns relating to policing until the elections next year.

At the time of writing, we are slowly emerging from lockdown and beginning to take tentative steps into what will be our new normal. I want to thank you all for sticking to government guidance, staying at home, helping to save lives and protecting our NHS.

My team, like many others across the country, has had to adapt quickly to ensure we continue to make sure your views are listened to whilst supporting and challenging the Chief Constable to deliver the best possible police service for our communities.

Throughout the pandemic, I have continued to work with partners, via regular virtual meetings and telephone calls, to help keep our communities safe, provide on-going support to the vulnerable and victims, and tackle offending.

I want to say how incredibly proud I am of all our police officers, staff and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to support communities throughout this crisis whilst continuing to undertake normal and every day policing work.

In this edition you can read about how funding has been diverted to help vital services operate during the lockdown as well as find out about the latest plans for a new police station to serve the south of the county.

Finally, I want to remind you that I hold regular surgeries which are now conducted by telephone (given social distancing requirements). Please contact me if there are any issues you would like to discuss – details of how to do this can be found on page 12.

*Ray Bisby*

*Acting Police and Crime Commissioner*



## SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITY TO HELP CHILDREN FLEEING DOMESTIC ABUSE DURING COVID-19

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Peterborough Women's Aid have received funding for equipment to support and entertain families fleeing domestic abuse during Covid-19.

The charity has been awarded just under £2,000 from the Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund to buy tablets and headphones along with writing and drawing materials so the children living within the refuge can continue to learn during lockdown.

For those experiencing domestic abuse, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures can be particularly distressing. It is important to remember that there are still support services out there that can be accessed.

**“ I am pleased that my Fund has been able to help Peterborough Women's Aid providing them with the practical tools to continue with this vital support. ”**

*Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby*

Many parents will agree that it can be a challenge entertaining children during lockdown, this is no different for those accessing services within the refuge and the tablets can also provide a source of entertainment. This can free up some space and time for mothers at this difficult time.

Those fleeing domestic abuse often must leave quickly and can only take what they can carry. Lockdown restrictions makes it incredibly difficult to access the necessary materials to stimulate and educate children should victims be unable to take them with them when they flee the family home.

For those who are living with domestic violence, know that you are not alone; help and support is available. A list of local services is available on the Cambridgeshire Victim Services website [www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk](http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk).



## Youth Fund used to celebrate community spirit during Covid- 19



**“ I am thrilled to see the Youth Superstars being rewarded for their efforts. They have dedicated much of their time to raising money and supporting those who are less fortunate than themselves and deserve all the praise they receive.”**

*Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby*

A new award scheme set up to celebrate the contribution of young people during the current health emergency has been launched in Huntingdonshire.

The scheme's first winner, 'Youth Superstar' Zoe Houston, aged 5 has been awarded a certificate for her fundraising efforts during Covid-19.

Set up by Huntingdonshire Community Group with funding from the Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund, the award scheme is being used to celebrate young people who have been supporting their community during Covid-19.

Youth Superstar winner, Zoe raised an impressive £1,440 for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital by reading some of her favourite books on the Facebook page, 'Zoe's Storytime'.

The Youth Superstar awards are open to anyone in Huntingdonshire under 16 years old who have dedicated their time to helping others. Family, teachers or sports and community clubs can all nominate a Youth Superstar via the Huntingdonshire Community Group official Facebook page or via email: [huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:huntingdonshirecommunitygroup@gmail.com)

Each month a winner and runner up are chosen by a judging panel which includes Councillor Steve McAdam, Mayor of Huntingdon and Chairman of Huntingdonshire Community Group, Leo Ayerakwa. The winner and runner up both receive a signed certificate and letter of congratulations from the Acting Commissioner with an annual awards ceremony held later in the year for the winners and their families to celebrate their achievements.

For more information about the Youth Superstar award nominees and winners, please visit the [Huntingdonshire Community Group Official Facebook page](#).



# Ministry of JUSTICE

## Cambridgeshire charities awarded additional funding to support vulnerable victims

Local charities supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse or sexual violence have received a funding boost from Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby.

The money, totalling £279,108, is being awarded to 12 organisations who provide individual or family support to local residents who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence before or during lockdown. It will be used to fund both technology to improve access to services and to provide additional capacity within charities to respond to demand for help as lockdown eases. It also enables practical resources to be bought to help people moving out of refuge into their own homes and individual issue play therapy toys so young victims can continue to receive specialist support.

The awards are part of a wider package of measures announced in May by the Government to provide extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Justice asked Police and Crime Commissioners to distribute their element of these funds in local areas through a local needs assessment which was promoted on the Commissioner's website last month. It was only open to charities already providing services in the county.

**“ I have been nothing short of impressed by the innovative ways many of our local services have adapted to ensure vulnerable people can access the emotional and practical support they need.**

**This additional funding not only reimburses small charities with the costs they have incurred but also enables them to continue to meet the needs of those people who need to use them. ”**

*Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby*

A full list of the 12 organisations that have received funding can be found on the [Commissioner's website](#).



## Cambs Youth Panel secure laptops for young people during lockdown

A panel of young people formed three years ago in East Cambridgeshire to forge stronger relationships within their communities has been working tirelessly throughout lockdown to secure laptops for young people to continue their studies.

To date the panel has raised and spent £30,000 on computing equipment for young people in Cambridgeshire and across England. They estimate that they will have distributed over 400 devices by the end of their latest round of deliveries.

Established in July 2016 with support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the youth panel meet on a monthly basis to advise the Constabulary, the Commissioner and City Council on a number of emerging issues for young people in the county.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Youth Panel had been fundraising to support an intended international exchange trip to Parkland, Florida to discuss the knife crime and street violence agenda.

However, given the insecurities around foreign travel during the pandemic the panel voted unanimously to use their funds to purchase laptops for young people who require them to continue their studies at home during lockdown.

The panel, with support of group trustees Phil Priestley and Inspector Paul Rogerson, have secured additional funding from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, the Catholic Church (Caritas), Big Lottery Fund and the Proceeds of Crime Act to add to their own crowdfunding.

**“ The panel have safely shipped computers and devices, not just across the county but to those in need from Essex to Yorkshire, this is a phenomenal achievement which has provided a lifeline to many. ”**

*Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby*

They have been able to provide devices for as little as £60 to families who are unable to afford the standard retail price and for free for those who are most in need.

While getting computers to young people is important for them to continue their studies, for Cambs Youth Panel it is about more than that. Young people, like many others, have been asked to stay at home under lockdown, without contact to many of their friends and family.

Without structure and without a sense of purpose that school and youth clubs provide the Youth Panel identified that young people are at an increased risk of deteriorating mental health and even self-harm.

Providing families with laptops affords young people with a channel of communication and a link to normalcy that protects them from neurosis or depression.

More information on Cambs Youth Panel can be found on their website: [cambsyouthpanel.co.uk](http://cambsyouthpanel.co.uk)



## NEWS from the CONSTABULARY

### Chief Constable Nick Dean writes...

A lot has happened since my last update in this newsletter - life has changed for all of us and certainly for policing.

It has brought huge challenges for everyone, including my officers and staff who have been on the frontline engaging with people and encouraging them to follow the national restrictions and guidelines. In addition, staff in support departments have worked hard covering many long hours in order to assist policing across the county.

I have been delighted with the way the vast majority of you have done your bit in a time of national crisis and a big thank you for that from me.

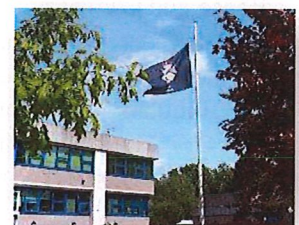
In a free society like our own it doesn't feel right to have our liberties curtailed but I think most people understand the urgency of the situation and that lives can be saved by changing their ways of life.

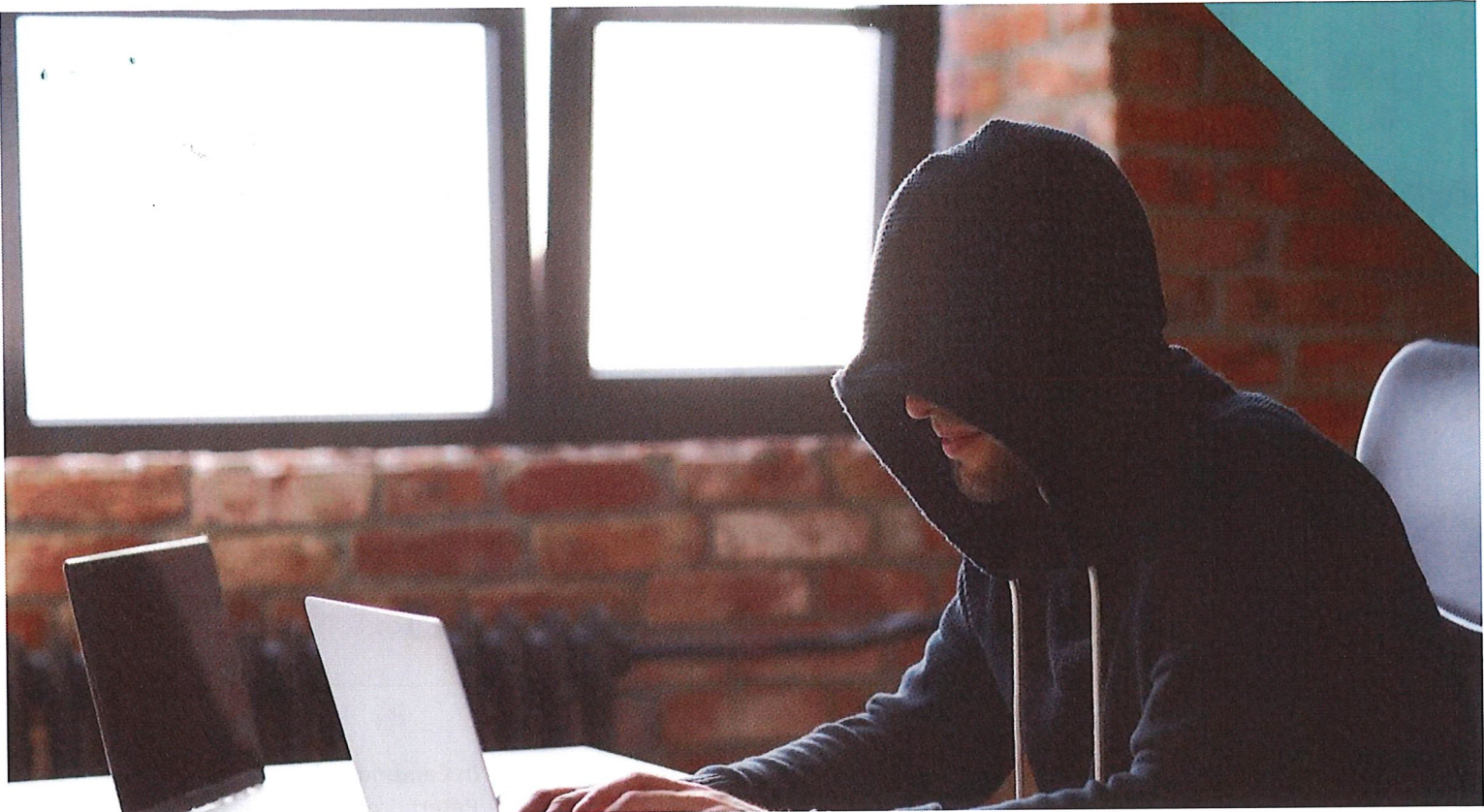
The number of fixed penalty notices issued in Cambridgeshire are a reflection of the excellent cooperation we have had from communities right across the county which is really encouraging and positive.

Despite the all-encompassing nature of the current crisis, I am pleased to say policing has continued and there have been some great results in recent months. Our campaign against drugs has continued with more than 100 people arrested for the production or supply of drugs over the eight weeks from March 23 and heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis with a street value of up to £5 million have been seized.

The work of our Rural Crime Action Team has also continued and it was great to see them carrying out eight warrants in 24 hours recently, seizing stolen goods, impounding thousands of pounds of drugs and even saved a dog in distress, taking it for treatments at a vet.

The world has changed but, in many ways, policing has not.





## TOP TIPS: STAMPING OUT COVID-19 SCAMMERS

MEMBERS of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) are warning people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be vigilant against scammers who are taking advantage of Covid-19.

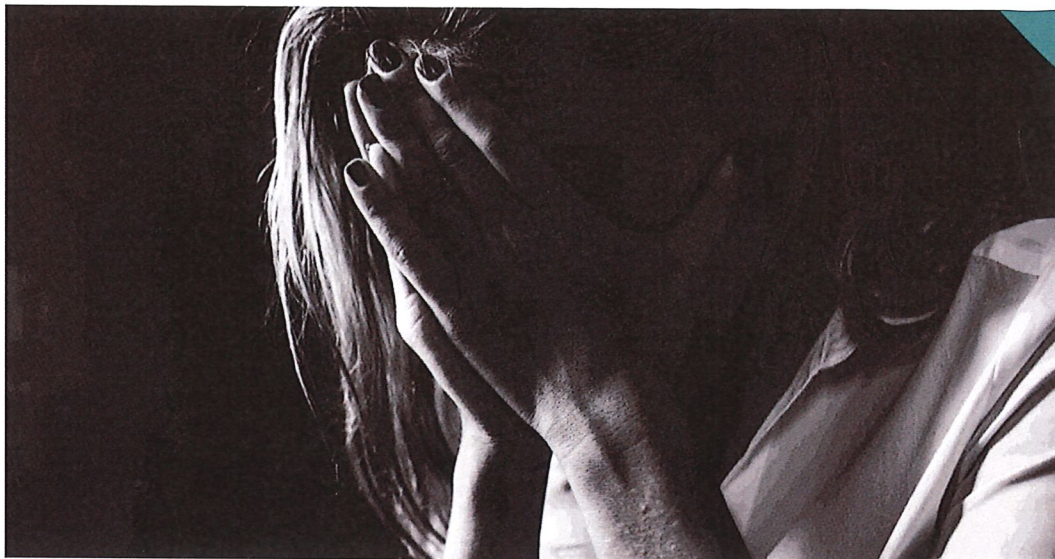
As Covid-19 spreads rapidly across the world, various reports have emerged about fraudsters seizing the opportunity to defraud.

CAPASP brings together over 20 local partners, groups and organisations who pool resources, initiatives and ideas to help people protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud and to support those who suffer the misfortune of becoming a victim.

Here are CAPASP's top 5 tips for how you can keep yourself and others safe from predatory Covid-19 fraudsters:

1. Don't assume that everyone is genuine. It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you;
2. Never give out personal information, such as banking details, over the telephone or online. Moreover, do not allow anyone to remotely access your computer or laptop – even if it is to check that your holiday or tax refund has been deposited in your bank;
3. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is;
4. Report any suspicious activity and share information to help stop others from becoming victims, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040;
5. Follow CAPASP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to be alerted as to the latest local scams, retweet and share their posts to spread the word and keep everyone within your community safe.

For more information on CAPASP and to find out what you can do to keep your community safe, visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/against-scams](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/against-scams)



## **Spotlight on:** **Modern Day Slavery during Covid-19**

As we emerge from lockdown it is important to remember that labour exploitation does not cease to exist during a global pandemic. Help and support is still available for victims of modern day slavery and as a community we should continue to report suspected cases.

In 2019, there were 71 modern day slavery crimes in Cambridgeshire alone, an increase of 37% from 2018.

Historically traffickers have been known to con businesses into employing victims of modern day slavery under false pretences, while pocketing victims' pay. Moreover, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton warned that traffickers may also take advantage of vulnerable people with businesses rushing to recruit new workers as the country emerges from lockdown.

**“ In these challenging times we continue to support modern day slavery victims. If anything, the pandemic highlights the importance of protecting the most vulnerable. It is essential that businesses continue identifying potential victims of modern day slavery and know that we can provide support and advice for what to do next. ”**

*Specialist Victim and Witness Care Co-ordinator, Alina Jablonske*

Earlier this year, more than 30 local businesses attended a free workshop hosted by my office to help them spot the signs of modern slavery.

As we begin to plan our Covid-19 recovery and adjust to a different way of life, we all must be vigilant against traffickers looking to potentially exploit the circumstances presented by Covid-19.

A potential victim of modern day slavery may display signs of the following:

- Look malnourished, unkempt or have untreated injuries;
- Show fear or anxiety;
- Not be in possession of their passport or travel documents as these documents are being held by someone else.

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, victims can access free emotional and practical support from two Specialist Victim and Witness Care Co-ordinators based in the Victim and Witness Hub.

The staff, who are funded through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner supported 427 victims from 17 nationalities as a result of modern day slavery or domestic abuse (this included 397 victims of violence) between April 2019 and March 2020. The support was provided in an outreach capacity and over the phone and this work continues during lockdown with both staff working virtually to ensure victims remain supported. Employers can also seek advice if they are unsure what to do next once they identify a potential victim.

For more information, please visit the [Cambridgeshire Victim Services](#) website.

If you suspect someone is being exploited or is a victim of modern day slavery in Cambridgeshire, report it by calling 101.





## Constabulary to consult on proposals for a new police hub in Milton

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has launched a month-long consultation on proposals for a new police station on the outskirts of Milton.

The current facilities at Parkside Police Station in Cambridge do not allow the Constabulary to fully respond to today's needs.

There is no room to expand the existing station, too few cells, the location is subject to heavy traffic and the building doesn't meet modern standards.

In February 2020, the Constabulary consulted on the principle of proposals to enhance the service for the south of Cambridgeshire by replacing the outdated facilities at Parkside Police Station with both a new city centre police station and a police hub on the outskirts of Cambridge.

The response to the consultation showed significant agreement that the nature of policing and crime in Cambridgeshire is changing, and that increasing population growth means that the Force needs to be able to respond to increasing demand for police services in the county.

The Constabulary, alongside the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, is now undertaking a formal consultation, throughout July, on proposals to build the new hub in Milton.

In total the Constabulary considered 22 sites, most recently in June 2020, and after assessing a number of criteria including availability, ecology issues, access and infrastructure, a site next to the Park & Ride facility in Milton was considered the best option.

The benefits of the proposed site include:

- Enhanced facilities enabling the Constabulary to respond to, and investigate, complex crimes such as fraud and online investigations more effectively;
- Enhanced facilities allowing for the increased use of virtual courts which reduces the need for travel to courts;
- Increase in cell provision from 12 to 24 to help meet future demand;

- The facilities and ability to better meet demand as population growth continues;
- And better road access, subject to less traffic, enabling officers to respond to calls for service more efficiently.

Acting Commissioner, Ray Bisby said: "I fully support the Constabulary's request to have a police station that is able to meet operational requirements and to better respond to the challenges of modern-day policing.

"It is my job to listen to public concerns therefore I encourage all local residents to provide their views so these can be taken into account."

A virtual exhibition (due to social distancing guidelines and government advice) where more information can be found, including a series of live chats, is available through the [consultation website](#).

The consultation opened at 9am on 1<sup>st</sup> July and will end at 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020.



## New route into policing to launch

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A new way of joining policing is to launch in Cambridgeshire allowing new recruits the opportunity to gain a degree.

The implementation of the Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF) will bring a new approach to police training and entry routes to the constabulary, and the other six forces across the eastern region.

PEQF is the new route into policing which will be the biggest change in policing for a generation.

Developed by the College of Policing, PEQF is designed to support the development of policing as a profession, recognising and raising educational standards. It will ensure that all police officers receive the best possible education and professional support to build the skills and capabilities they need throughout their careers.

Together with other forces in the region, the force has worked to secure a contract with Anglia Ruskin University.

The new programme is due to commence in Cambridgeshire with two intakes, in October next year and April 2022. These intakes will be in addition to the force's existing recruitment channels and new enhanced training courses, which will continue prior to full implementation later in 2022.

**“ Policing is a great career. I hope this adds to its appeal and it results in many more people, from a diverse range of backgrounds and life experiences, applying to join the policing family in Cambridgeshire. ”**

*Chief Constable, Nick Dean*



Other routes are still available into policing, please visit the [Cambridgeshire Constabulary website](#) to find out more.



## USEFUL CONTACTS ...

### CRIME:

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE

Report a crime online, find local information about where you live including crime statistics and where your closest station is and keep up to date with the latest news and appeals from Cambridgeshire Police.

**W:** [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)

**T:** 999/ 101

#### ECOPS

By registering with eCops, you receive news and appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice - direct to you as an e-mail. The service is completely free and works alongside Neighbourhood Watch, to bring you messages about your local area.

**W:** [www.ecops.org.uk](http://www.ecops.org.uk)

#### CRIMESTOPPERS

An independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime – 100% anonymously.

**W:** [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

**T:** 0800 555 111

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE VICTIM AND WITNESS HUB

You don't need to have reported your crime to the Police to receive support. For free, confidential and tailored advice on which service can best suit you call the Victim and Witness Hub

**W:** [www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk](http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk)

**T:** 0800 781 6818

#### ACTION FRAUD

The UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cybercrime.

**W:** [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**T:** 0300 123 2040

### COMMUNITY GROUPS:

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Organisations which promote greater public participation across the County in the prevention and solving of crime and encourage improved communication between NHW Members and Cambridgeshire Constabulary so that effective liaison between the police and the public could be enhanced.

**W:** [www.cambsnhw.org.uk](http://www.cambsnhw.org.uk)

#### SPEEDWATCH

The Community Speedwatch scheme trains volunteers from members of the community to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. It is used in areas where speeding has been identified as a priority at quarterly neighbourhood panel meetings.

**W:** [www.speedwatch.info](http://www.speedwatch.info)

#### COUNTRYSIDE WATCH

Operates a network across the county with mobile equipment to get targeted messages out to the rural community. This gives the community time to protect itself against such things as suspicious vehicles, distraction burglaries and property theft.

**W:** [www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk](http://www.cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk)

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Award hundreds of grants each year to front-line charities and voluntary groups who support people in Cambridgeshire.

**W:** [www.cambscf.org.uk](http://www.cambscf.org.uk)

**T:** 01223 410535

**E:** [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk)



CambsPCC



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# GETTING in TOUCH

## IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS TEAM REPRESENT YOUR VIEWS:

So if you want to get in touch, please do. The Commissioner is here to represent you and to make sure your voice is heard.

### You can write to us here:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridge and Peterborough, PO Box 688, Huntingdon PE29 9LA



[cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)



0300 333 3456

## THE COMMISSIONER OFFERS REGULAR ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS ACROSS THE COUNTY:

As a result of the current Covid-19 health emergency, these will be offered as telephone or video calls if preferred, in line with social distancing advice. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, you can book a 15-minute appointment by emailing [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

### UP COMING SURGERY DATES ARE:

20th July: 12.00noon – 2.00pm

24th August: 10.00am – 12.00 noon

23rd September: 12.00 noon – 2.00pm

26th October: 10.00am -12.00 noon

23rd November: 10.00am -12.00 noon