



**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**  
for Leicester,  
Leicestershire & Rutland  
Your Communities - Your Commissioner



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-22

Making Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safer



“ My vision is for efficient, robust and professional policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.”

Rupert Matthews  
Police and Crime Commissioner

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## Police and Crime Commissioner's introduction

My first year in office reminds me of the famous poem by Rudyard Kipling – "If".

Many people are familiar with parts of this poem – for instance the words written over the entrance to Wimbledon's Centre Court:

*"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same."*

Disaster certainly came with the untimely death of former Chief Constable Simon Cole. But there is far more to the poem than those two lines, and so much of it seems relevant as I sit here and look back on my first months in office.

Like all those entering into a new job, I came with aims and hopes. Unlike many others, however, mine were published for all to see in the form of my Police and Crime Plan [insert link]. This sets out clearly what I hope to achieve to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer for all who live, work and visit our beautiful area.



This Plan is designed to last for two full terms of office. Some of the ambitions are very long term indeed, but others are capable of being completed more quickly. Some are a mix of both.

Take for instance the establishment of a Rural Crime Team to tackle crime that

affects farmers and others in rural areas. The Team was established within a few weeks of my taking office, but it will take some time for it to grow, gain experience and achieve its full potential.



Similarly, it was a short process to set up the Commissioner's Safety Fund – a £600,000 pot of money to be allocated over two years to fund crime prevention projects run by community groups – but the good work underwritten by the Fund will go on for years to come.

Other tasks included providing stability and continuity with what was already happening. I found the People Zones already in existence and have continued to fund them. But I have increased the resources given to this project with two full time members of staff who are overseen by a police officer of Inspector rank to emphasise the importance that I give to this project.

But it has not all been "eye-catching initiatives" – the hard grind of routine duties and decisions have consumed much of my time. Police officers need vehicles to travel in, uniforms to wear and buildings to work in. They all need to be paid for, which involved me in a thorough review of the budget of over £230 million. With inflation looming and the uncertainty of long-term funding

ever present, some serious rethinking was necessary to ensure long term sustainability for our police force and for the crime prevention, victim support and other measures my office funds.

It is also essential that a Police and Crime Commissioner knows and understands what you – the public – want and expect from the police and from the PCC. To achieve that I undertook the largest consultation exercise that any PCC has ever carried out to find out your views on my Police and Crime Plan – and then changed it accordingly.

I also established a weekly "Community Day" when I visit different parts of our City and Two Counties to meet the public, community leaders, business owners and others to find out what is needed so that I can represent those views to the Chief Constable to get action taken. You can keep up to date with what I discover by following me on social media (Twitter: @LeicsPCC and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LeicsPCC](http://www.facebook.com/LeicsPCC)).

Throughout all of this, I have sought – in the words of Kipling's poem – to "fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run". Have I succeeded? It is not really for me to judge. It is up to you.

In this Annual Report, I have set out a brief outline of what I and my office have done in the past year. Greater detail is available on my website ([www.leics.pcc.police.uk](http://www.leics.pcc.police.uk)).

Rupert Matthews



Simon Cole QPM, Chief Constable of  
Leicestershire Police 2010 - 2022

# How the money works

Making sure that your money is spent wisely and well is a top priority for me. As Police and Crime Commissioner it is my task to ensure value for money both from the Chief Constable and Leicestershire Police, and from the services that I commission directly. I have always taken a cautious approach to financial risk. For that reason, I was disappointed to find on taking office that a number of expensive items that will fall due in the next few years were uncostered in

the budget, that assumptions about future costs were questionable and that a deficit of £11.4m was forecast for 2024/25.

Therefore, my budget for the 2022/23 financial year needed to address these points taking into account the assumptions in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). It was based on what was affordable and sustainable.

## Tribute to Simon Cole QPM

I was shocked and like everyone who knew him, saddened to learn of Simon Cole's death.

Simon had already been Chief Constable for many years when I was elected. He was the very essence of professionalism, he helped me greatly, he sought to explain what things meant to the new PCC.

Simon really set the standard for positive working relationships. He always had time for staff and officers alike. That was the measure of a true Chief Constable, Simon Cole style.

He was the standard-bearer for decency and the shield for Leicestershire Police for nearly 12 years. He served with such passion as chief constable in the area in which he grew up. A true inspiration to all officers and staff.

Simon led from the front and by example. He did this at a time when legislation has never been more complex for the police. He recognised

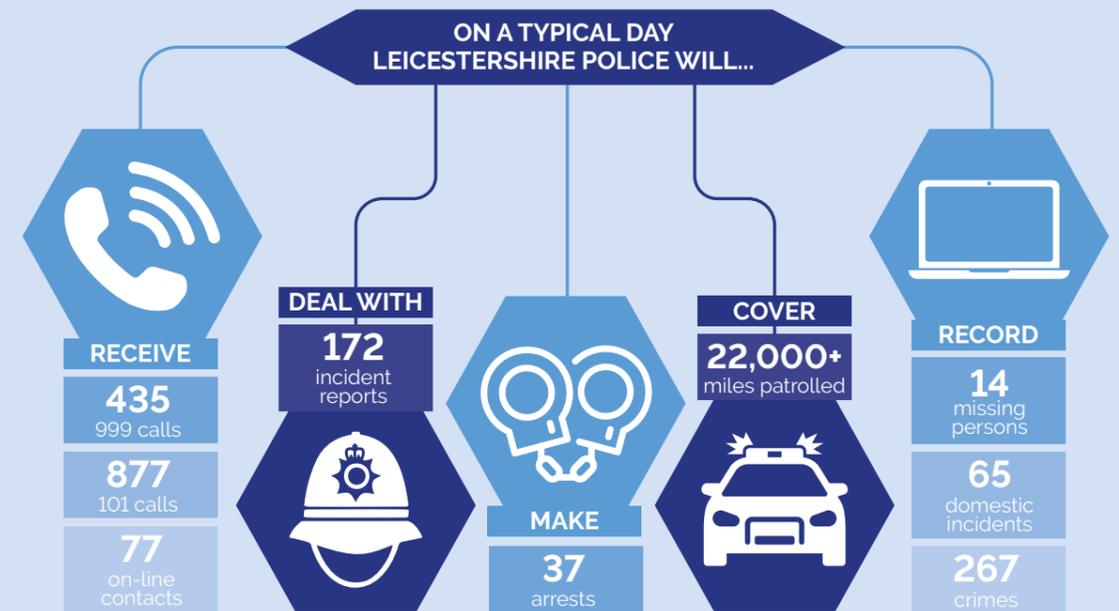
the ever-increasing and ever-more challenging demands on the police. He fulfilled his duty to steer Leicestershire Police carefully and surely through the toughest of times. And we are all safer for it.

Simon was not only a good copper at local level; he was an imposing and influential leader on the national stage and earned an exceptional reputation with stakeholders and colleagues.

Simon has not only been a Chief in Leicestershire Police for many years, but he has also created a legacy where the force is now regarded as a modern service that is now one of the top performing forces in the country.

I shall finish by writing some of the words Simon's colleagues used to describe him in the book of condolence, "A true leader; genuine; approachable; a gentleman; caring; compassionate; intelligent; amazing; inspirational."

## POLICING LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND



## Budget for 2022/23

My first budget for policing in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland aimed both to equip our Chief Constable with the funding necessary to deliver the improvements to Leicestershire Police as set out in my Police and Crime Plan and at the same time to put future expenditure on to a more sustainable footing. The announcement of a 5% pay rise for officers and the growth of inflation have vindicated my cautious approach to finances. Leicestershire Police are now set for a more sustainable financial future in the short to medium term.

In setting this budget I took into account the feedback I received from local people across the City and Two Counties. That is why I sought opinions from residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. This is why I consulted exhaustively on my Police and Crime Plan so that my plans were emphatically endorsed, and clearly reflected the areas in which the public wish to see improvements.

I must also say how grateful I am to everyone who responded to my consultation on both the policing priorities and the amount of council tax paid towards policing. Their responses have shown overwhelming support for both my policing priorities and an increase in the amount of council tax that is paid towards policing.

For more financial information please see the [Finance section](#) of my website.



Rupert on a patch walk with PCSO Eastwood in Blaby

# Improving policing across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

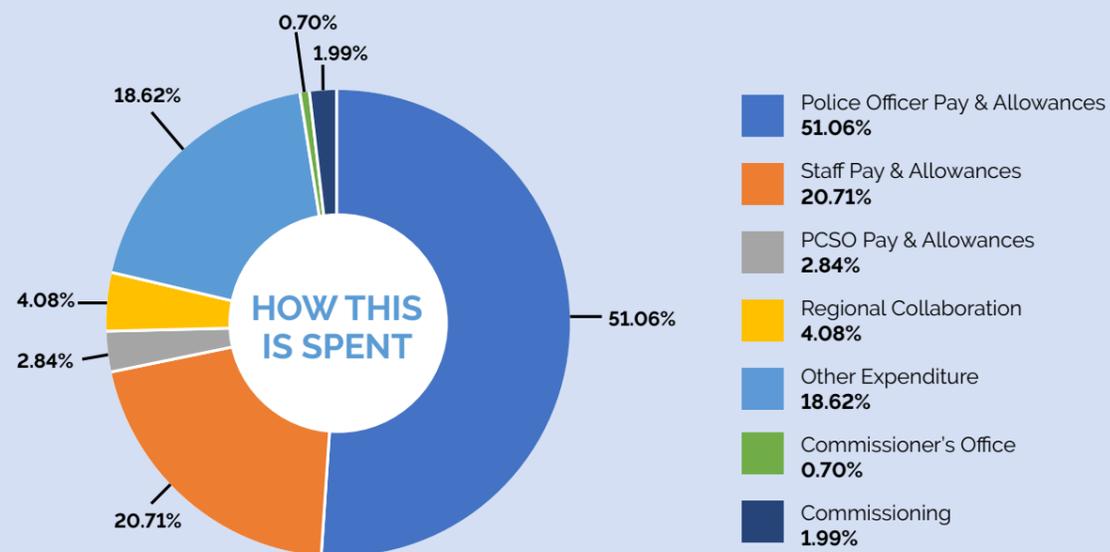


Our police operate in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Criminals are becoming ever more sophisticated and ruthless, taking advantage of modern technology, transport links and new techniques to bring theft, violence and disorder to our communities. That is why I have been working with Leicestershire Police's Chief Officer Team to transform local policing and make sure that we stay fully up to date in crime fighting tactics and equipment.

I must pay tribute to the Chief Officer Team at Leicestershire Police. The leadership that they have, and continue, to provide to our police force is magnificent. They have been tireless in providing innovative solutions to problems, identifying ways that the Force can improve and seeking new ways to keep our City and Two Counties safer. Nothing that has been achieved could have been done without them.

## THE COST OF YOUR POLICE

The budget has been set at £223.2m for 2022-23. The amount you will pay towards policing in 2022-23 depends on the property in which you live. The average (Band D) household will pay an extra 19p a week through the small part of the council tax bill that goes towards policing.



## Delivering my plan

It was a proud moment to see that the national inspection body for policing, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), found Leicestershire Police to be outstanding in a number of areas in its latest report.

That said, there is always more to be done, and to that end I held significant discussions with the Chief Constable and the entire Chief Officer Team, alongside my own senior executives, to establish how my Police and Crime Plan would be delivered.

Matters have moved swiftly and already it has been agreed that:

- Police officer numbers will not fall below 2242;
- There will be continued investment in digital technology to future proof the service;
- The force needs to retain skills and capability whilst new recruits become fully competent and skilled to take over the more specialist roles;
- There will be a thorough review of the Estates Strategy to ensure that police stations, offices and other buildings meet the needs of the police and the public. This has already led to plans for a front office enquiry facility to be reopened in Rutland;
- The service standards expected from each Neighbourhood Policing Team, including joint patch walks and local updates, have been agreed;
- There will be a focus on standards and uniform alongside a reintroduction of the traditional headwear, with a uniform that is interchangeable between the generalist and specialist departments to ensure a consistent and smart corporate image. Independent oversight and scrutiny will be encouraged;
- Dedicated schools officers working to prevent young people carrying knives and take early action to address and prevent issues escalating



Rupert delivering crime prevention leaflets in Burrough-on-the-Hill



Rupert and Cllr Mullaney in Hinckley High Street where they're showcasing some of the Safer Streets equipment

## Increasing public trust and confidence

Public trust and confidence in the police remains the ultimate indicator of success. This is why an internal Leicestershire Police 'Trust and Confidence Strategy' is being developed. It is designed to act as a guide to the actions considered necessary to enhance and preserve the high regard in which Leicestershire Police are held by our communities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Among the objectives of the strategy are the ambitions to:

- Enhance public trust and confidence;
- Aid the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan;



Rupert delivering crime prevention leaflets with Alberto Costa MP in Lutterworth



Rupert walking through Oadby delivering crime prevention leaflets

- Build on the excellent inspection feedback Leicestershire Police receives from HMICFRS;
- Demonstrate that Leicestershire Police listens to the views of the law-abiding public;
- Continuously improve the skills and training of police officers, staff and volunteers;
- Ensure that police officers have the appropriate technical and digital capability;
- Ensure value for money.

## Improving the service

In order to deliver the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan, I am pleased to say that Leicestershire Police has already:

- Introduced the 'Team Leicestershire Academy' to deliver first-class training;
- Increased Taser training, with the aim of having a taser-trained officer in every double crewed vehicle;
- Introduced an inspection regime for all new recruits to create a culture of professional pride;
- Introduced a 24/7 drone capability leading to a significant reduction in costs and significant performance benefits;

- Established a 'Rural & Heritage Crime Team' with officers trained to tackle these types of crime and equipped with four-wheel drive vehicles;
- Developed a new response to domestic abuse, to improve the ability to capture evidence and enhance investigation capability;
- Introduced a programme aimed at preventing reoffending by domestic abuse perpetrators – which is already showing early signs of progress;
- Begun a rolling programme of operations that target those identified as habitual knife carriers with strengthened interventions designed to reduce the number of people carrying a knife in our communities;
- Strengthened cross border relationships with neighbouring police forces, including a series of regular and frequent operations;
- Developed a partnership and evidence-based approach to tackling serious violence, supported by a dedicated team of officers carrying out high profile foot patrols in key locations.

## Enhancing visible leadership

To achieve more effective policing through more visible leadership, Leicestershire Police has begun the process of:

- Increasing the number of inspectors and sergeants
- Creating 24/7 critical incident command along with a 24/7 shift inspector role
- Appointing a dedicated Rural and Heritage Crime Inspector

## Increasing volunteers, specials and watch schemes

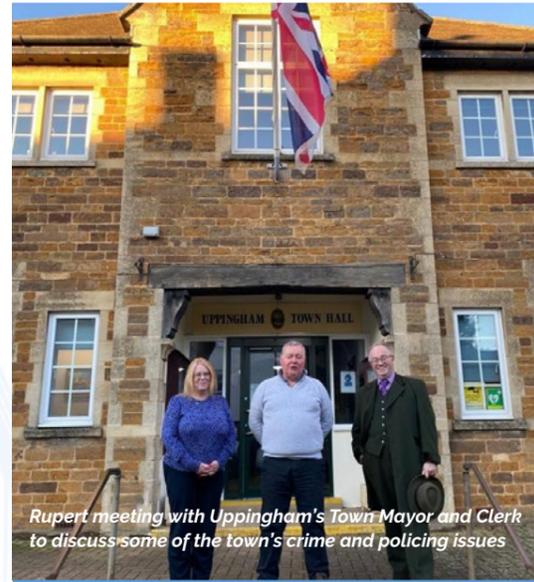
I outlined in my Police and Crime Plan my belief that we need to revitalise the spirit of volunteering. I have been working to unleash the power of our communities through more 'Watch Schemes', such as Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed-Watch, as well as supporting a variety of community groups to tackle quality of life issues relating to crime and security.

### This is being achieved by:

- Incorporating 'Specials' training within the Academy with learning being interchangeable with regular officers where possible;
- The decision to appoint a dedicated 'Watch Scheme Development Officer';
- Enabling Specials to serve in the Rural Policing Team;
- Integrating access to senior leadership development and command training programmes for all Special senior officers.

## Independent custody scrutiny

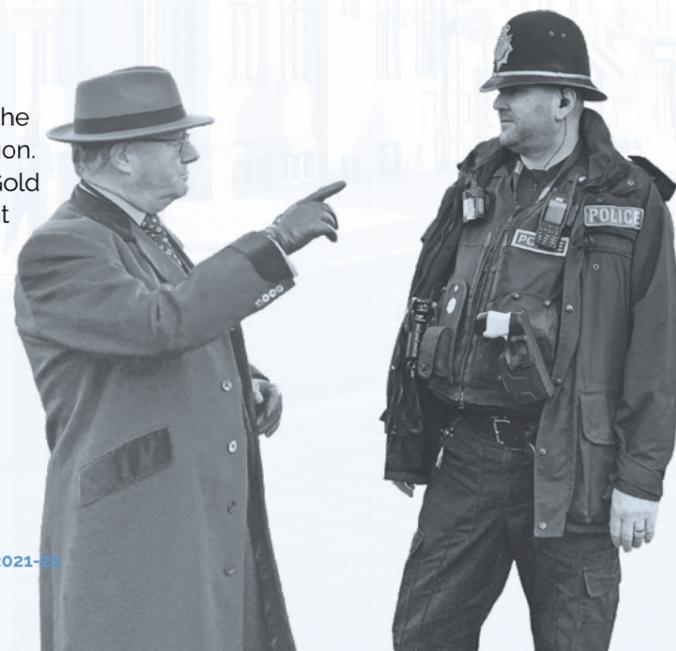
- My own Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, where volunteers known as Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) make regular visits to the primary custody suites within the force area, has retained the Investing in Volunteers Award for the fourth occasion. I am proud to say that it has also been granted a Gold Award for Quality Assurance from the Independent Custody Visiting Association.
- The Scheme produces its own annual report, which can be downloaded from my website.
- I also agreed to introduce an Animal Welfare Scheme to confirm that our police dogs receive the highest standards of welfare.



Rupert meeting with Uppingham's Town Mayor and Clerk to discuss some of the town's crime and policing issues



Rupert visiting PC Daley at the Vale's Police Office in the Vale of Belvoir



# Supporting victims and preventing crime



As well as setting the budget and strategy for Leicestershire Police and holding the Chief Constable to account for force performance, I also have responsibility for commissioning a host of other services. These encompass crime prevention, victim support, community safety and a wide range of other services that help to keep us all safe.

## Commissioning

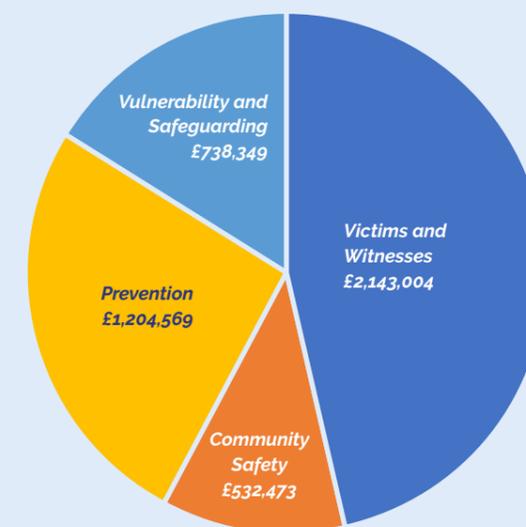
Commissioning services from charities, community groups and others is essential to fulfilling the ambitions set out in my Police and Crime Plan.

By tightening up on performance monitoring and quality control, I am improving the services available to victims, strengthening the work to

prevent crime and enhance community safety while delivering best value for money for the taxpayer.

In 2021-22 my Office was awarded over £5m additional funding to both support victims of crime and to protect those at risk of crime.

### Commissioned Services 2021/22



### Grants Received 2021/22

| Grant Category   | Amount (£)       |
|--|------------------|
| MOJ Victims and Witnesses                                      | 1,277,869        |
| MOJ DA Support Uplift  | 219,244          |
| MOJ SV Support Uplift  | 82,965           |
| MOJ Independent Sexual Advisors Funding                        | 436,796          |
| MOJ Critical Support Funding                                   | 73,791           |
| Violence Reduction Unit  | 880,000          |
| VRN - Serious Violence Intervention - Custody                  | 232,657          |
| VRN - Serious Violence Intervention - Schools                  | 382,767          |
| VRN - Serious Violence Intervention - Trauma Informed Training | 319,259          |
| VRN - Youth Endowment Fund - The Reach Project                 | 122,014          |
| Safer Streets Round 2  | 482,000          |
| Safer Streets Round 3  | 594,041          |
| DA Perpetrator funding   | 191,339          |
| <b>Total Grant Funding</b>                                     | <b>5,294,742</b> |

## Enhancing Services for Victims

Being a victim of crime can be a traumatic experience that many people find difficult to overcome. That is why a significant part of my Police and Crime Plan is dedicated to ensuring quality support is available for victims as and when they need it.

I am completely committed to improving the scope and quality of victims' services throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, evidenced by the strengthening of services.

I have worked in partnership with a number of bodies to ensure efficient and effective commissioning and improve the experience of victims, thereby supporting them to recover. Over the last financial year, investment in victims' services amounted to over £4m.



Rupert at the CFO Activity Hub open day in the city talking with some of the participants about their experiences

## Victim First

My largest commissioned service is currently 'Victim First', which ensures that all victims of crime have access to appropriate support to cope and recover from the impact of their crime.

It provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime as well as family members of victims. It is available across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and can provide help

regardless of whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

The service receives referrals from the police, partners and self-referrals. 'Victim First' officers discuss emotional or practical needs with the victim and work to put in place a support plan which could involve referring them to a commissioned specialist service for further support.



In addition, working with partners we have:

- Set up virtual drop-in sessions with Loughborough University to support students who have been victims of crime;
- Increased social media presence and enhanced the material that is posted on social media;
- Submitting evidence and case study examples to Catch22 for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) call for evidence;
- Service Delivery Group meetings and continued work with Police Liaison Officers.

## Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice brings together people harmed by crime with those responsible for the harm, to find a positive way forward. It gives victims the choice and the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, get answers to their questions and ultimately get an apology. I'm pleased to see that feedback shows:

- 100% of participants said they felt safe during the meeting;
- 100% of participants said they were very satisfied that everyone was able to

communicate all that they wanted to say, and that the other person took responsibility for the harm that they had caused;

- 100% of victims were very satisfied with the outcome of the meeting and would recommend a restorative meeting of that type to other people in their position;
- 100% of offenders said they would recommend a restorative meeting to other people.

## Prevention

Prevention is most definitely better than cure. Fewer crimes mean fewer victims, less demand on the police and less pressure on the criminal justice system. It is for this reason that I am encouraging the police to organise events across the City and Two Counties to give advice on home and business security.



Rupert speaking with residents in Bell Street, Wigston about their concerns regarding crime in Wigston

## The Commissioner's Community Safety Fund

My Community Safety Fund, worth £600k over two years, has been established to help prevent crime and protect vulnerable people.

This grant scheme is channelling funding into community projects that help to reduce the risk of crime and abuse and increase public safety. Awards of up to £10,000 are available to local organisations which successfully apply and prove their project addresses my key safety priorities.

Examples of those funded in the first round include:

- Free from Fear project, supporting victims of abuse directly to increase reporting;
- A Community Outreach Programme to prevent exploitation, identify and support victims;
- Street Outreach Programme to support individuals away from working in street prostitution;
- Peer Support Groups for Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.



Rupert signs a cheque for commissioned services

## You're Right, That's Wrong

This powerful campaign encourages men to stand up to the mark and call out unacceptable behaviour towards women. By the end of March 2022 it had been viewed more than three million times on social media, with videos and stills imagery designed by

delivery partner Hitch Marketing promoted across social media platforms including Snapchat, Instagram and YouTube.

Importantly, more than 19,000 visits were made to the campaign's dedicated website: [www.thatswrong.co.uk](http://www.thatswrong.co.uk).



## Support to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and trauma

Within my Police and Crime Plan, I set out my intention to develop a partnership response to reduce violence against women and girls. To that end I

have funded for a consortium to coordinate sexual and domestic violence services worth over £400,000 across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

I have also provided £10,000 for a Modern Day Slavery Helpline which provides information, advice and guidance about modern slavery issues.

## Rehabilitation

In my plan, I was clear that I will work to ensure that those at risk of a life of crime can be identified so that intervention and rehabilitation services step in to try to divert them back to a productive and honest life. I am pleased to say that our commissioning strategy is already helping some of the most vulnerable members of our community.



Rupert was pleased to provide funding worth £17,592 to the Falcon Centre in Loughborough

## Safer Streets

Since my election £1,076,041 has been awarded to Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland via the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. I am hopeful that the impact of the work funded by these awards will continue to have a positive effect on crime rates over the coming years.

Amongst other things the funding has delivered:

- Free security upgrades such as new locks, window alert alarms, light timers and door bar/chains in 1,000s of homes across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland;
- New CCTV cameras in parks and public spaces across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area to increase the safety of women and girls;
- Bicycle/vehicle packages to protect them from theft;
- Personal Attack Alarms and Property Marking Kits.

# Communicating with local people

The most fundamental part of my role is to engage, listen, respond and be accountable to all residents of our City and two Counties. My job is to represent the public's voice in policing. The best way I can do this is by being accessible and open to scrutiny through a variety of different methods.

I believe that communication is as much about listening as informing. It is vitally important for me to listen to the varying views of local people in relation to crime and community safety. These views are used to shape my future decisions.

I was clear on my election that I felt communication with the public was key to improving trust and confidence. The promulgation of information has increased threefold.



Rupert went to Medbourne to listen to Cllrs Modha and Rickman about their residents' concerns

## Listening to you

To ensure that my Police and Crime Plan reflected the wishes of local residents across the entire force area, I undertook one of the largest public consultations of any PCC to date to establish the public's priorities. Thousands of responses from the public and local stakeholders supported my plans after which the final plan was endorsed by the Police and Crime Panel.

To ensure that I am aware of any changes to public priorities, and equally importantly, very local matters, I have boosted consultation to undertake a series of locality-based surveys through social media and one to one opportunities while we are out and about across the City and two Counties.

## Keeping in touch with communities

I have established a weekly 'Community Day', whereby I visit towns, parishes and wards across the area to meet local residents, community

representatives and businesses. I listen to their views, feed my findings back to the force where appropriate and keep those I have met informed of progress.

This micro-level interaction is boosted still further by street stands in areas of potential footfall,



Cllr Ruma Ali explaining policing needs of her Humberstone and Hamilton ward in the city



Rupert went to Belgrave Road in Leicester to celebrate Diwali with residents and INSP Ismail, Cllr Chamund and Cllr Solanki

where I meet local residents wishing to see how I can help them and willing to give their views on community safety where they live. In this way I am building up a very detailed view of the varying issues faced by different communities. These views are retained, addressed and tracked to maintain momentum.

### Working with local representatives

Those elected to represent our communities, as an MP or County, City, District or Parish Councillor, know the issues in their areas better than anyone else. My door is always open and over the months I have held numerous meetings with local councillors to discuss problems such as speeding, anti-social behaviour and drug crime.



Rupert talking with residents about their concerns relating to policing and crime in Diseworth, NW Leics

I have also held regular meetings with local MPs, both on their 'patch' and in my office, to see how they can take local issues to Westminster and equally, how they can support my own work to improve community safety. In addition, local MPs are invited to regular updates with the Chief Constable and myself, providing an excellent two-way dialogue.

### The written word

In a world where we endeavour to meet the demands of 24-hour instantly updated news, it is clear that there remains a veritable appetite for newsletters. I have initiated a schedule of newsletters for Councillors and residents in each local authority area. At the outset, members of the public and stakeholders were invited to tell me what sort of news they wished to receive. The content has been based on that very positive feedback. Sign up to receive your copy [HERE](#).

I also produce a regular and popular blog which informs readers about the breadth of the role, the expectations of a PCC and provides a glimpse into the kaleidoscopic variety of work that I undertake, from visits to the Home Office, to visits to schemes I have funded to report reading.

I have also issued over 130 press releases, statements and responses which have received exceptional coverage, giving rise to interviews with broadcast and printed media on over 50 occasions. This helps to keep you informed of how the Force and I are working to keep you safe.

### Social media

The main social media channels utilised by my office are Twitter, Facebook and You Tube (for video purposes) and I have agreed to include Instagram going forward.

The following continues to grow which is pleasing and these different platforms provide an excellent opportunity for two-way engagement. Direct messages are responded to in a timely fashion and those raising topics in the public forum are invited to meet me to discuss.

The reach by the end of March stood at 1,207,217.

### Postcards from the plan

To raise awareness of the key priorities of my Police and Crime Plan, and to illustrate that I remain of the belief that one size does not fit all, I have produced bespoke postcards for the City and two Counties. These are available in hard copy, or digitally. They have been issued widely alongside a crime prevention leaflet which I provide to those I meet.

These leaflets have also been issued by mail to interested parties. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact my office.

### Business Matters

Business crime in all its forms is a concern to all those who work hard to keep our local economy flourishing. I determined that it was important to remain aware of these issues and have held meetings with local business representatives and the Chamber of Commerce across the area to establish the key and changing problems they face. I have, as a result, been in a position to support initiatives designed to tackle these problems.

### Responding to contact

The right to query the work of any public body or figure and receive a response is pivotal to our democracy.

Since I took up office I have undertaken 96 Complaint Reviews and responded to 17 Freedom of Information requests.

I have also responded directly, in written format, to 276 contacts from local residents and stakeholders.



Celebrating the success of the Community Leadership Programme



Rupert meets an equine friend on a rural community day



Rupert with Leicestershire Search and Rescue team member

# Working with partners

No police force can successfully work in isolation. Our work with partners, statutory or otherwise provides a valuable source of support when it comes to keeping our communities safe.

To drive this work forward with our statutory partners, I chair the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB). This Board provides system leadership and the strategic coordination required to prevent and reduce violence and vulnerability across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Board is responsible for the discharge of shared legal duties including the new Serious Violence duty and agreeing and owning relevant LLR-wide strategies. This meeting also provides the formal governance for our ground-breaking Violence Reduction Network.

There are nine Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across the area, and I provide approximately £640,000 to help fund a number of activities, agreed by each local CSP, to tackle issues specific to their district. Working in partnership this year with the CSPs, VRN and the police we have also managed to generate an additional £1,076,041 through the Safer Streets Fund.



The VRN's VIP Youth Workers offer tailored support, opportunities and hope to young people affected by violence

## Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

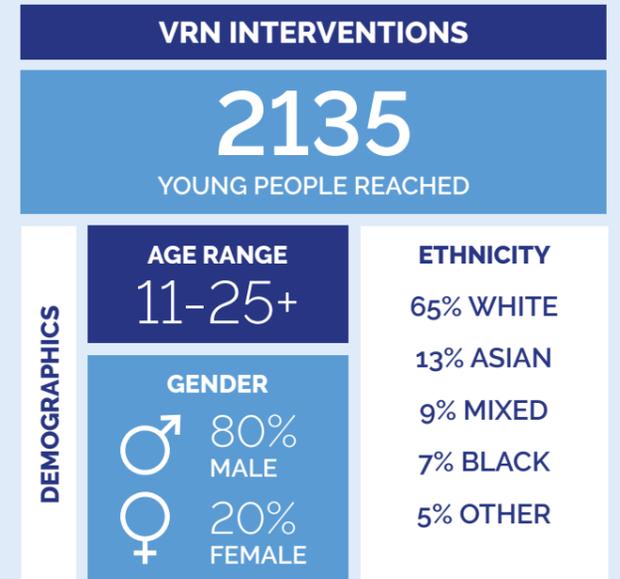
I have been determined to move the VRN and its work onto a more sustainable footing and made the case for longer-term funding to the Home Office. I was delighted to have been successful and have secured a three-year funding settlement for the VRN totalling £3.5 million over the next few years.

The VRN is an innovative and collaborative partnership and the achievements this year have been numerous including:

- The extension of the Violence Intervention Project into police custody settings;
- A new pilot project, the Reach Programme places youth workers in schools to work with young people at risk of exclusion and to prevent their involvement in violence and exploitation;
- A new Youth Involvement Partnership wherein a range of community partners have worked with the VRN team to ensure young people most affected by violence are given the opportunities and tools to influence local responses;

- The design and delivery of a system-wide workforce development programme equipping practitioners and their managers with the knowledge and skills to adopt a trauma-informed approach to their work.

The reach of the VRN's six interventions has been impressive:

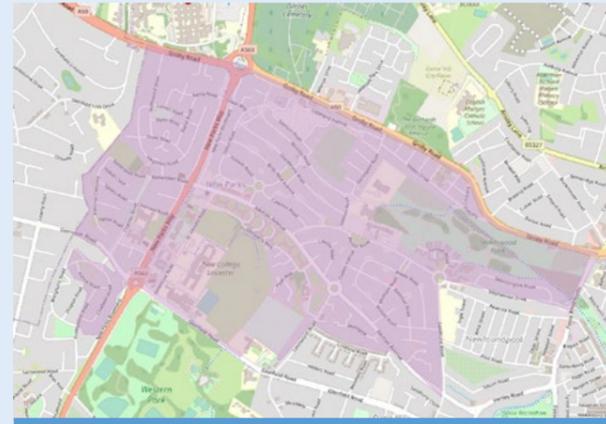
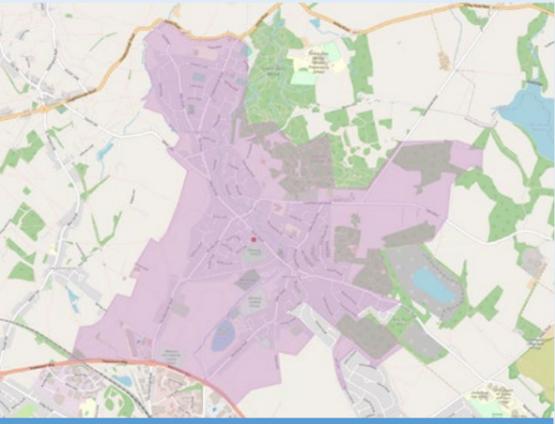


The VRN attends numerous community events

# Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland crime statistics

The year ending 31 March 2022 saw an increase in some offences recorded by Leicestershire Police – including violence – while other offences, including thefts, robberies and burglaries, recorded decreases.

Post-Covid it is clear that crime levels have returned to normal. Some rises in recorded crime can be attributed to changes in recording practices such as violence against the person offences whereby all common assaults are now reviewed and often re-classified as actual bodily harm.



Thringstone and Whitwick People Zone

New Parks People Zone

Bell Foundry People Zone

## People Zones

I inherited 'People Zones' which is a brilliant concept, but one that I felt would benefit from a redesign of the existing zones to make them more worthwhile and effective. The OPCC now has a full-time 'People Zone' team to help build on the positivity and skills in communities.

I believe that local people are best placed to know local issues, concerns and the gaps that exist in provision of services and resources. My new approach will set community solutions and ultimately make 'People Zones' safer for everyone who lives and works within them.

We are currently working with three areas where we have identified local talent and community leaders, to connect services to create a cohesive, accessible and enjoyable community for everyone.

I'm pleased to note that Community Payback, where offenders work on projects to pay back the community for their crimes, is helping the 'People Zone' in New Parks to overhaul a disused area and turn it into a suitable space for a mental wellbeing gardening club. As mental health issues are a concern in New Parks, the hope is that this project will provide a positive outlet and reduce some of the challenges faced across the local community.



Planting a tree in New Parks

## Community Leadership Programme

I'm proud to see the VRN and my own office supporting this innovative programme which is making a real sustainable impact on the quality of life in communities.

Two cohorts of the Community Leadership Programme have now successfully completed the programme which provides local people already working in a community with a leadership role.

This is part of a public health approach to reducing violence which involves supporting people and working through their problems to prevent crisis and stop them turning to crime.



In addition, over 2000 police officers have had data integrity training to improve upon crime classification. Improvements in data integrity are also attributed to the Dedicated Decision Makers (DDMs) who review crime classification and have been in place at Leicestershire police since 2019.

In 2021-22 there were 39,565 'violence against a person' crimes recorded by Leicestershire Police. This is an increase of 16 per cent from the previous year. Analysis shows that the majority of these offences relate to a low-level injury offence, for example a scratch or a bruise being caused.

Violent offences are not acceptable and I will ensure that everything possible is done to tackle this. Successful initiatives such as Lives Not Knives campaign and the Violence Reduction Network, will continue to work with communities and partner agencies to reduce violence.

Sexual offences reporting has also increased by 29 per cent during the reporting period, illustrating the positive results from campaigns to encourage victims to report this type of crime.

We saw a decrease in robbery offences of 5%, vehicle crime was down by 2% and burglary by 6%. The past few months have also seen a number

of successful arrests, charges and convictions in court.

I am confident that improved crime recording is reflected in these figures showing a rise in recorded crime by police. It is my job to hold the Chief Constable to account on these matters but improvements that have been made do have to be seen as a good thing even if it means the figures are increasing. This was reflected in the recent report by HMICFRS where Leicestershire Police were shown to be outstanding in several categories including crime recording.



Rupert gets a closer look at a fleet car with local response officer

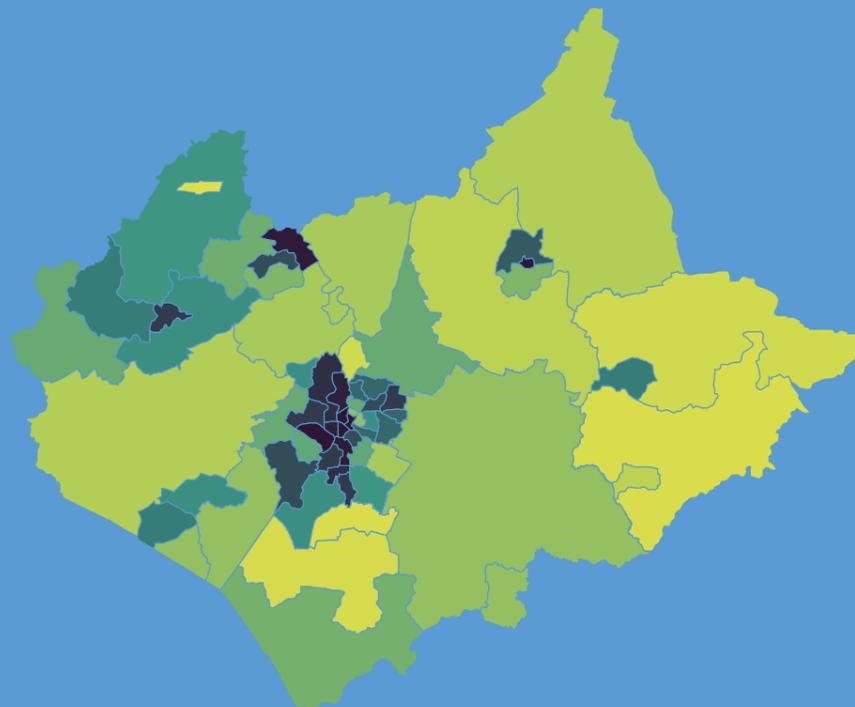
The table below shows the total volumes broken down by crime category for the past two financial years. The positive outcome rate for the Force is around 14% for all crimes, with the highest outcomes rates recorded in the possession of weapons and drug offences categories.

The positive outcome rate for Leicestershire is currently the second highest when compared to our most similar forces group. (Nottinghamshire,

Essex, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Bedfordshire, Kent and Sussex).

A proportion of the recorded increase in crime can be associated with the force's ambition to improve accessibility to the public, and increase the reporting of crime. Furthermore, the endeavour to be as ethical as possible with what crime recording standards does contribute to the unprecedented high levels of recorded crime.

| OFFENCE CATEGORY                     | 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022 | 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 | Difference    | % Change      |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Violence Against the Person          | 33,763                            | 39,150                            | 5,387         | 15.96%        |
| Theft Offences                       | 21,554                            | 24,495                            | 2,941         | 13.64%        |
| Public Order                         | 11,067                            | 13,694                            | 2,627         | 23.74%        |
| Criminal Damage & Arson              | 9,506                             | 10,721                            | 1,215         | 12.78%        |
| Sexual Offences                      | 3,052                             | 3,908                             | 856           | 28.05%        |
| Drug Offences                        | 3,435                             | 3,450                             | 15            | 0.44%         |
| Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society | 2,312                             | 2,383                             | 71            | 3.07%         |
| Possession of Weapons Offences       | 735                               | 927                               | 192           | 26.12%        |
| Robbery                              | 757                               | 722                               | -35           | -4.62%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>86,181</b>                     | <b>99,450</b>                     | <b>13,269</b> | <b>15.40%</b> |



The image to the left displays the rate of crime per 1000 population by the Police beat areas, from this it shows the pockets of crime hotspots across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Dark = highest rate

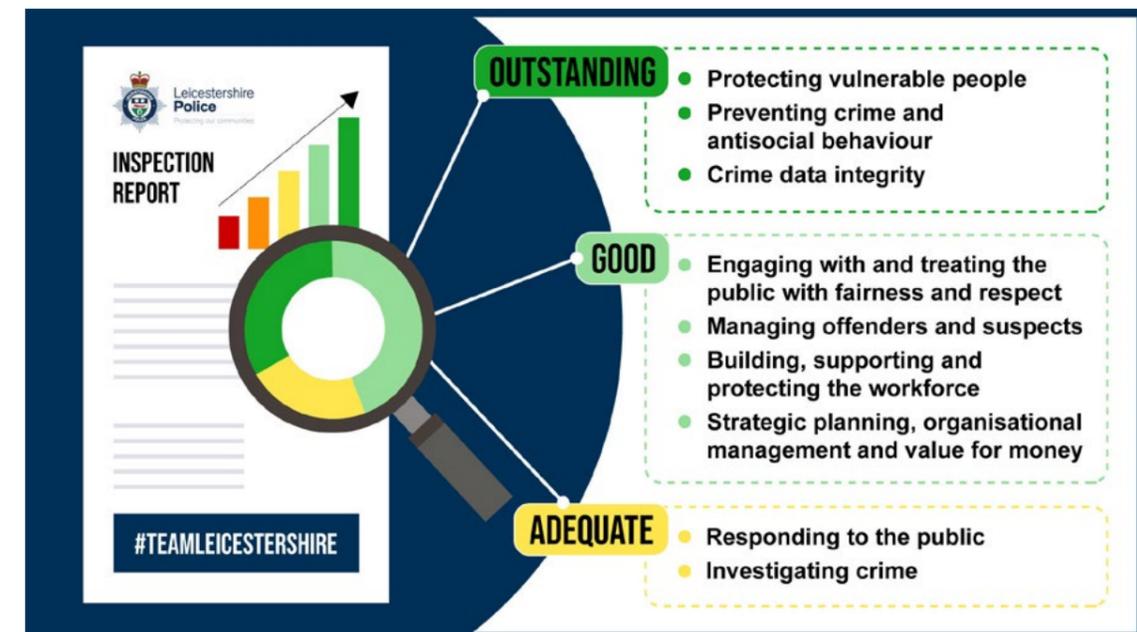
# Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services

As the national inspection body for policing, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) is an independent body that examines the performance of each police force, produces an assessment on their findings and compares each force's performance against one another.

HMICFRS ask the searching questions that the public wants answered of their local force and I am pleased to say that Leicestershire Police are outstanding in a number of areas:



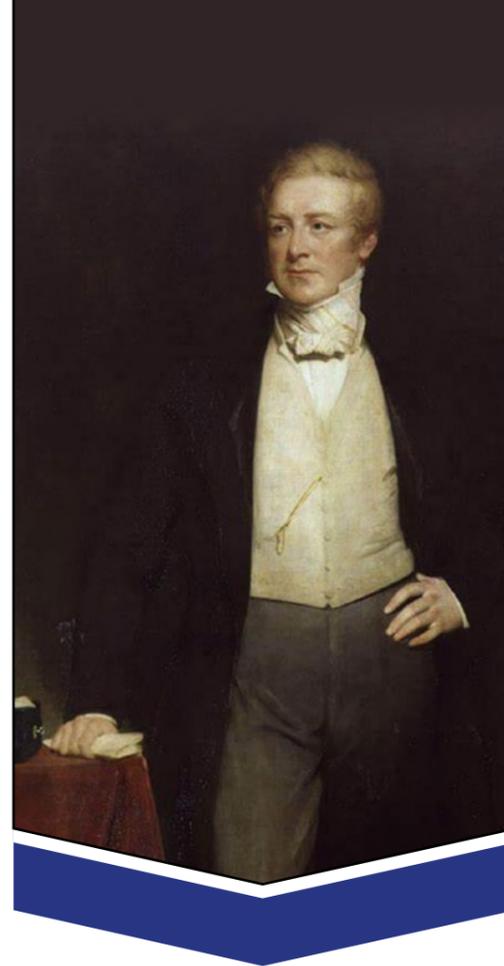
Rupert on the beat in Melton with PCs Ashton and Sanderson



# The Peelian principles

When Sir Robert Peel founded the modern British police force in 1829, he set out the basic principles of policing that have endured to the present day. These are:

- 1 To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment
- 2 To recognise always that the power of the police to fulfill their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour, and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect
- 3 To recognise always that to secure and maintain the respect and approval of the public means also the securing of the willing co-operation of the public in the task of securing observance of laws
- 4 To recognise always that the extent to which the co-operation of the public can be secured diminishes proportionately the necessity of the use of physical force and compulsion for achieving police objectives
- 5 To seek and preserve public favour, not by pandering to public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to law, in complete independence of policy, and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws, by ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of the public without regard to their wealth or social standing, by ready exercise of courtesy and friendly good humour, and by ready offering of individual sacrifice in protecting and preserving life
- 6 To use physical force only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient to obtain public co-operation to an extent necessary to secure observance of law or to restore order, and to use only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective



- 7 To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence
- 8 To recognise always the need for strict adherence to police-executive functions, and to refrain from even seeming to usurp the powers of the judiciary of avenging individuals or the State, and of authoritatively judging guilt and punishing the guilty
- 9 To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them



Rupert at the call centre



Rupert with an officer in Oakham



Rupert speaking at an African Network event in Beaumont Leys, Leicester



Rupert with NPA Commander Insp Lindsay Booth



Rupert discussing neighbourhood policing with with C/Insp Rob Randall



## Making Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safer

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