

Safer in Kent

News from Matthew Scott: Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

Thank you to our funded services

Covid-19 has severely impacted our daily lives across Kent, however a great deal of this impact is hidden behind closed doors and with it comes great risk of harm; increased domestic abuse with restrictions keeping people at home in dangerous situations and adverse effects on our mental health.

It is important that support services are available to respond and provide the much-needed interventions for those in need. For instance, **South Kent MIND** reported an increase in demand of 156% whilst being able to keep in contact with over 250 people during lockdown.

Support services have seen a surge in demand and recognising the difficulties our commissioned services were experiencing during Covid-19, Matthew Scott created an Emergency Fund to support them, as well as maintaining funding through other streams.

This funding was for those charities whose ability to deliver services had been adversely impacted by the pandemic.

The total Emergency Funding was £112,516.62, allocated to service providers, which was in addition to the other funding streams provided by his office, allowing them to achieve impressive outcomes:

Thank you to all charities who have kept going through this difficult time; only a handful of the fantastic examples have been mentioned here but we appreciate the work all our funded services do. These services are vital to maintaining support to our most vulnerable in our county.



Matthew Scott stated:

'Without the hard work these charities show, so many of us would fall through the safety net, which helps people manage the potentially long-term impacts of trauma and prevents crime through education and engagement. This surge in demand coupled with dealing with this virus made it an easy decision to provide further funding.'

'The fact that our commissioned services have continued to do this in the face of a pandemic is no less than remarkable, so this is my opportunity to thank these services as well as my commissioning team for their continued hard work and dedication.'

To find out more about our fantastic partners and the positive outcomes they have achieved, please go online at: <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/news-menu/press-releases/2020/pcc-funded-services-continue-to-deliver-much-needed-support-during-the-pandemic/>

What does the PCC do?

- Sets Kent Police's priorities
- Holds the Chief Constable to account
- Decides the budget and sets the policing part of your council tax

- Commissions services for victims
- Runs a custody visiting scheme
- Works with councils and others to prevent crime
- Leads on mental health work for the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

Additional support in place for rape and sexual assault victims

Victims of rape and sexual violence are receiving additional specialist support in Kent.

The Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott secured more than £240,000 from the Ministry of Justice to fund four Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA).

Half of this money has been awarded to Family Matters to help victims of gang-related abuse. The other half of the PCC-secured funding will go to East Kent Rape Crisis Centre, for ISVAs to support students who have been victims of sexual assaults.

Find out more: <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/news-menu/press-releases/2020/Additional-support-in-place-for-rape-and-sexual-assault-victims-in-Kent/>



Commissioner attends launch of Maidstone Task Force

Efforts to tackle crime, reduce violence and enhance safeguarding for vulnerable people are being boosted by the creation of a new Maidstone Task Force.

Strengthening local communities and keeping people safe will be at the heart of the work carried out by the multi-agency team, comprised of Kent Police, Maidstone Borough Council, and other partners including Trading Standards, housing associations and voluntary organisations.

The task force officially launched in the

middle of October and will be focused around tackling key issues including knife crime, drugs supply and anti-social behaviour. Working together more closely will make it easier for police and other stakeholders in Maidstone to share information and solve problems.

It will also help in identifying causes of crime more accurately, as well as highlight other concerns and priorities raised by communities.

Matthew Scott said:

'I am delighted that Maidstone is now going to benefit from its own dedi-



cated task force, staffed with police officers funded by my decision to raise the council tax earlier this year. These officers are on top of Maidstone's extra town centre PCs who were funded by last year's precept.'

Bosses invited to tell PCC about business crime

For the first time, Kent's elected Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott has created a survey specifically to understand the impact of business crime in the county.

Questions include 'How safe do you feel the area is where your business is based?', and 'Has your business experienced crime in the past year?'

The responses received will help Mr Scott understand attitudes towards policing and other crime prevention initiatives across Kent.

The survey is available on the [OPCC website](#) and will remain open until November 30th. While it is intended mainly for business leaders and store manag-

ers, employees are also welcome to complete it and offer their views.



Engagement with Kent's communities continues despite Covid-19



Matthew Scott - Kent PCC

Matthew has been meeting numerous community groups online whilst also getting out meeting MPs, communities, police and volunteers, whilst maintaining socially-distant. These meetings included: Thanet Synagogue, Medway, Deal and Blean Rotary Clubs, whilst conducting walkabouts with Natalie Elphicke MP and Helen Whately MP. These various engagements are important to him, so he is able to continually gauge the differing issues across the county.

Additionally he has also met with charities such as the mental health 'Crisis Drop-In Centre', spoke to Dover Council about issues, including their new CCTV system, conducted visits to a handful of Speed Watch groups and travelled to Romney Marsh to talk about the work being done to stop hare-coursing. On top of this he has continued his ongoing meetings, such as his Performance and Delivery Board where he holds the Chief Constable to account.

I'm happy to help you or answer questions—please do get in touch with me using the details below

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