

## **Police and Crime Plan media launch – Police and Crime Commissioner’s opening statement**

Good morning and thank you for coming to the launch of the first ever Police and Crime Plan for Wiltshire and Swindon.

I know many will despair because it is 64 pages long, but it needs to be!

It is wide ranging document, touching a multitude of aspects of our lives where crime and disorder affects us. And it is document which should have resonance with everyone in our community. Why?

Because it touches on education in schools, anti-social behaviour, (and in that I might include those who speed in our villages), health, (drugs and alcohol), the rehabilitation of offenders and troubled family work. It is about communities.

Partnership, pro-activity and prevention is my philosophy.

By the end of the plan period, we will have police officers and staff visibly rooted in our communities as a matter of routine. They will work with other public agencies and most importantly, they will work with the public. That means having communities much more closely involved in policing – as Special Constables, on Restorative Justice Panels and in the wide range of ‘watch’ schemes which already exist and on which we can build.

Why?

Financial resources from central government have reduced and we have been warned that they will reduce again, so we have to reduce demand. It is in that reduction of demand that everyone in our communities has a part to play.

Policing is a community activity. I do not want to be ‘policed’. I believe the Constabulary are there to arrest and take away those who do not or will not conform, to act on our behalf, but we have responsibility ourselves, and we have to have an environment where we are confident to take that responsibility.

Over that past few months I have met many organisations and individuals who are prepared to ‘get involved’ and deliver the vision in this plan. The journey actually starts here as those who have read the plan say “WE can do that” and come forward with plans that can make a difference.

Most of the funding I have available will be spent with the Chief Constable. Today is about the broad thrust of the changes which I intend to bring about – changes which I firmly believe the public of Wiltshire and Swindon wish to see. In the next few weeks I will have worked through with the Chief Constable how he will deliver this change. Details of his delivery plan and the metric by which he will be held to account will be published and public.

The plan has been out in draft for some weeks, and I’d like to thank those who took the time to comment, and the work of the Police and Crime Panel in its review. We had more than 120 comments on the plan, as well as those that commented at the workshops, coffee mornings or other events. I have read everyone, and the plan has taken them into account.

The journey starts on 1 April, and I urge communities in Wiltshire to come with me and the Chief Constable on that journey. This is not just about volunteering - it is about partners working together, jointly commissioning with a common aim.

There is a £1m innovation fund available to advance the objectives of the plan. That is open for business, and I'm looking for ideas from partners and other organisations. There is great interest in this, I have several useful meeting and conversations with those who want to access this to make a difference.