

# Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge Newsletter - 16 July 2018

## Community Messages

### 20/07/18 - PCCs Commitment to Victims of Hate Crime

The West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to ensuring victims of hate crime, are listened to and get the support they need, as the number of recorded hate crime offences increases.

In a report released yesterday by HMICFRS, a 57% increase was shown in offences between 2014/15 and 2016/17. In West Mercia, there was an even steeper increase, of

102% with 1321 offences compared to 654, showing a confidence in victims coming forward and an increase in crimes being recorded with a hate marker attached.

The report showed some areas for improvement nationally but evidence of concerted efforts by the police to work with local communities and organisations to promote reporting opportunities.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said "Ultimately, I want our communities to be safer, happier and more united. We can all help to achieve that. I have invested in a number of projects, providing a joined up approach to addressing hate crime, and I am reassured by the work of West Mercia Police who are raising awareness and engaging with communities.

I made a commitment to victims, that they would get an efficient and effective service from the police, and the support to help them cope and recover. Great progress has been made around this, and whilst we are not complacent and there is more to build on, I am reassured that the police are working diligently to prevent and to tackle unacceptable behaviour, and injustices in society."

Chief Superintendent Kevin Purcell, who leads West Mercia Police's response to hate crime, said: "No-one should be targeted for being themselves and we can never underestimate the devastating effect being a victim of a hate crime can have on people. Over the past few years we have worked very hard to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encourage people to come forward and report this to police, working with our partners to make sure support is available.

"We recognise how important it is in getting our response to hate crime right and are currently carrying out a lot of work to improve this and our contact with victims. We have already made great strides in this but are not complacent and know there is always room for improvement.

"We work very closely with our independent advisory groups made up of representatives from our local communities to ensure our response is appropriate and is considerate to the needs of victims. There is no place for hate crime in our communities and I really would urge anyone who feels they have been targeted because of who they are to come forward and report this to police."

For more information on hate crime and how to report it visit: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/hate-crime>

\*\*END OF MESSAGE \*\*

Sender:

WMP1

Citizens in Policing

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/49422/PCCs-Commitment-to-Victims-of-Hate-Crime>

### 20/07/18 - Commissioner Meets Court Service Over Remand Hearings

The use of video link will be explored to try and improve current arrangements for remand court hearings in West Mercia.

Changes were introduced earlier this year that centralised remand hearings for three counties in Kidderminster. John Campion has previously said the changes deny communities local access to justice and put additional strain on police resources.

The Commissioner recently met with Deputy Justices Clerk Jonathan Price from HM Courts and Tribunals Service, who confirmed the centralised hearings would continue, but was willing to consider looking into the use of technology as a means of reducing its impact.

John Campion said: "It is disappointing that the Courts Service will continue with centralised remand hearings. Our communities rightfully expect to be able to access justice locally. This change removes that access for many people. This meeting was about making sure that point was clear to the Courts Service, and that voices from our communities were heard".

"I am encouraged that they are willing to consider the use of video technology. However any potential solution needs to fix problems for our communities and police force, rather than just create new ones. Video technology would still require the commitment of significant time and resource. That commitment cannot come exclusively from the police. All parties involved need to play their part. I will work with our police, the Courts and other partners to see what can be delivered."

\*\*\* End of Message \*\*\*

*Sender:WMP1*

*Citizens in Policing*

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/49412/Commissioner-Meets-Court-Service-Over-Remand-Hearings>

## Contact Details

Malinsgate Police Station

Malinsgate

Telford

TF3 4HW

101 (In an emergency always call 999)

