

# Stakeholder Update

24 April 2020

**Welcome to another special edition of the stakeholder bulletin to provide you with an update on the role of Cheshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner in helping with the ongoing national emergency of the coronavirus pandemic.**

As we move into the sixth week of restrictions in a bid to save lives and protect the NHS, we remain committed to doing everything we can, working alongside our partners to play our part in the national effort.

Our police officers and PCSOs remain as visible as possible in our local communities, engaging with people and providing vital reassurance and support to both residents and the business community.

We are following the 4E's approach – engaging with people, explaining the reasons behind the regulations and encouraging them to take it on board to ensure that everyone is fully complying with these restrictions. Only as a last resort will enforcement action be taken, when it is necessary and proportionate.

Checks on roads are continuing to make sure that those travelling in Cheshire are doing so for one of the essential reasons. Criminals are quick to change their habits depending on the circumstances and, even in a nationwide lockdown, they will still find a way to operate. Part of our checks are to ensure those out and about are not there for criminal gain.

The overwhelming majority of people in Cheshire are being supportive and complying with the Health Protection Regulations and guidance issues by the government. However, not everyone is following the advice and a number of house parties and social gatherings have taken place. Clear guidance has been issued to our teams in relation to the approach that we will take.

Our police officers, staff and volunteers continue to work extremely hard, alongside other key workers, in challenging circumstances. Despite this, there are people who are choosing to use the pandemic as an opportunity to threaten and assault those working on the frontline to keep us safe. This is not acceptable.

We are working closely alongside our partners in the criminal justice system to ensure that anyone involved in this kind of behaviour faces serious criminal charges. Assaults against emergency workers are punishable by up to 12 months in prison. Coughs directed as a threat at other key workers or members of the public could be charged as common assault.

We would also like to remind you of the ways you can get in touch with Cheshire Constabulary. For general enquiries, please visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/> or if it is not an emergency you can call 101. In an emergency, where a crime is taking place or there is a danger to life, always dial 999.

A number of police station helpdesks remain open across Cheshire for residents who have no other means of reporting crime during the coronavirus lockdown. A total of 16 police stations will open to offer a service for members of the public who cannot contact the Constabulary online or by telephone.

Details of the helpdesks that remain open and the opening times can be accessed here: <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/news/cheshire/news/articles/2020/4/helpdesks-to-open-across-cheshire-for-residents-who-have-no-other-way-of-reporting-crime/>

The latest government advice and information on the Covid-19 outbreak is available via <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

This bulletin provides you with a snapshot of key updates from the force over the past two weeks. You are a valued stakeholder and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Stay Safe.

**David Keane – Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire**

**Chief Constable Darren Martland – Cheshire Constabulary**

## **Police leader answers your questions on Coronavirus**

This week the Police and Crime Commissioner held his first weekly virtual reassurance Q&A session with the Chief Constable on the coronavirus outbreak. PCC David Keane put Cheshire residents' questions to CC Darren Martland to seek reassurance about policing and the pandemic in his role to ensure Cheshire Constabulary is delivering an effective service. In excess of 30 individual questions were submitted ahead of the session, which were grouped into key themes that covered the following areas: the policing approach to coronavirus legislation, policing priorities, crime reporting procedures and how Cheshire Constabulary is protecting and supporting its staff.

**[Read More...](#)**

## **PCC awards £7,000 in emergency funding**

PCC David Keane has awarded the first grants as part of his Safer Communities Express Grant Fund to help non-for-profit organisations respond to coronavirus and support their local community. The funding comes directly from money recovered from criminals in Cheshire which David has vowed to re-distribute within our local communities. Over the last week, a total of £7,000 in funding has been awarded to organisations across the county, successful bids have included:

- Audlem and District Community Action for a befriending and delivery service for vulnerable people
- Change Grow Live to provide care packages for those at risk of homelessness
- Changing Lives to purchase tablets to help refuge residents stay in touch with family and friends
- Elton Parish Council to fund supplies for the local foodbank

- Medaille Trust to purchase supplies for victims of modern slavery who are currently isolated
- The Port Grocery to deliver food parcels to families in self-isolation
- YMCA Crewe to purchase equipment to support hostel residents to self-isolate

### **[Read More about each individual project...](#)**

You can find out how to apply for the Safer Communities Fund Express Grant here:  
<https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-i-do/making-cheshire-safer/safer-communities-fund/>

The Commissioner has also published a list of other funding grants available to community organisations in Cheshire to help them to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. For details visit <https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2020/03/emergency-funds-available-during-covid-crisis/>

### **Residents urged to be vigilant as thieves target garages, sheds and outbuildings**

Burglars are continuing to target homes in Cheshire despite the current coronavirus crisis. In the space of a one-week period police received reports of almost 40 burglaries across the county. Criminals have targeted sheds, outbuildings and garages stealing valuables from inside. Residents are being urged to think about security in and around home to reduce the chances of falling foul of thieves.

### **[Read More...](#)**

### **PCC urges people to be respectful when visiting local pharmacies**

Police and crime commissioner David Keane is urging Cheshire residents to be patient when visiting pharmacies following a rise in incidents of violence and threatening behaviour towards pharmacists across the UK. He is backing a national call from the Pharmacists'

Defence Association (PDA) for a zero tolerance policy to reduce abusive incidents at community pharmacies.

[Read More...](#)

## **Latest advice from Action Fraud**

Unfortunately, fraudsters are continuing to use the current pandemic to their advantage using a number of scams to exploit vulnerable people. Action Fraud continues to provide regular updates on the latest COVID-19 scams and what we can do to avoid them.

[Read more...](#)

You can report any suspicions of fraud anonymously to Action Fraud on: 0300 123 2040.

## **Useful contacts for victims of crime**

In this time of uncertainty, local victim support services continue to offer support virtually via telephone and online. This includes services which are commissioned by the Commissioner including the flagship service, Cheshire CARES, which offers support to all victims of crime across Cheshire and a number of other specialised services. Contact details are provided below:

### **PCC commissioned services:**

- Cheshire CARES (support for all victims of crime in Cheshire) 01606 366336 or [cheshire.cares@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cheshire.cares@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)
- RASASC (specialist support for victims of rape and sexual abuse) - 0330 363 0063
- Got Your Back (support for victims under-18 in Halton) – [halton@gyb.org.uk](mailto:halton@gyb.org.uk)
- Remedi (restorative justice and mediation services) – 0800 640 6466

### **Local domestic abuse support services:**

- Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub – 0300 123 5101
- Cheshire West and Chester: 0300 123 7047, option 2
- Halton Domestic Abuse Forum: 0300 111 1247
- Warrington Refuge - 01925 243359

### **Stay in touch**

To receive regular updates on the work we are doing during the coronavirus crisis, please register for updates on Cheshire Police and PCC Alert or follow our social media channels. Further details below:

#### **Cheshire PCC**

**Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:** @CheshirePCC

**Website:** [www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk)

**Register for updates:** [Cheshire PCC Alert](#)

#### **Cheshire Constabulary**

**Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:** @cheshirepolice

**Website:** [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

**Register for updates:** [Cheshire PCC Alert](#)