March 2017

News

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals
The following officers and staff received their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals on Thursday 9th February 2017:
PC Amanda Binns – Bradford District
Insp Helen Brear – Wakefield District
PC Vanessa Stead – Protective Services Operations
PS Nicola Brown – Bradford District
DCI Michael Brown – Kirklees District
PS Claire Patterson – Bradford District
DC Claire Forder – Kirklees District
DS Ciaran Burns – Leeds District
DC Simone McIntyre – Calderdale District
PC Paul Roper – Protective Services Operations
Insp Shelley Slarke – Bradford District
DC Joanne Jabczynski – Kirklees District
DC David Price – Protective Services Crime
Insp Nicholas Rook – Protective Services Operations
PC Julia Burrow – Leeds District
PC Nicola Kingdon – Kirklees District
DC Nicola Downes – Wakefield District
PC Terry Harriott – Kirklees District
D/Insp Nicholas Ireland – Leeds District
Emma Wright – Finance and Business Support
Caroline Belfield - NE CTU

PCCs Call on Jeremy Hunt to “Scrap the Fee” for Domestic Violence Doctor’s Note
West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner(PCC), Mark Burns-Williamson has joined PCCs across the country calling on Health Minister Jeremy Hunt to scrap the fee charged to domestic abuse victims seeking legal aid.

Due to recent legislation changes, domestic abuse victims now have to apply for legal aid. However to qualify for support they need to provide specific evidence to prove that they have been subjected to such abuse. One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP – a letter that some GPs are charging fees to provide.

The concerns raised by Deputy Labour Leader Tom Watson’s “scrap the fee” campaign have been echoed by Greater Manchester Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd who called on the support of his fellow PCCs to demand a fair process for abuse victims.

Tony said: “That victims of domestic abuse are even being asked to prove they are victims before
they can access legal aid is insulting, insensitive and wholly unhelpful.

“It should not be a privilege for victims of domestic abuse to gain legal aid. There should be no further burden on victims to chase a letter to verify their claim. The government needs to scrap this fee by bringing the service under NHS funding or – better still – scrap the need for the letter entirely.”

Deputy Labour Leader Tom Watson first raised this issue following a visit to a Wythenshawe Safe Spots, a support centre for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Tom said: “I’m delighted that police and crime commissioners across the country have backed my scrap the fee campaign – I learned about the GP fee when I visited a centre for victims of domestic abuse in Wythenshawe. I couldn’t believe it.

“People suffering domestic abuse are already incredibly vulnerable. We should be taking action to help them, not demanding payment for a letter they need to access justice.

“Nearly half of women take no action as a result of not being able to apply for legal aid. That’s appalling. Help for victims of domestic violence should never come at a price.

“I have requested an urgent meeting with Ministers to put an end to this practice. The government should scrap this unfair, immoral fee now. It has to stop.”

16 PCCs, including Mark have added their name to the letter to Jeremy Hunt, and Justice Secretary Liz Truss is also being urged to scrap the need for the letter all together.

Mark said: “I fully support the campaign to scrap the fee. We need to make sure there are absolutely no barriers to reporting domestic abuse, victims have already been through enough without further emotional and financial pressures. I am committed to always putting victims first and ensuring they get the proper help and support that they need.”

Not all GPs apply these charges, and the amounts being charged vary. But to ensure that victims receive a consistent, equitable, and fair service across the UK, the campaign is calling for the service to be provided under the NHS so the fees are abolished.

View the letter to Jeremy Hunt on [www.gmpcc.org.uk](http://www.gmpcc.org.uk)

Find out more about Scrap The Fee

Read previous GMPCC release

**Commissioner Backs Campaign to 'Protect the Protectors'**

West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson said: “Attacks on police officers and other emergency service workers are deplorable and I know the overwhelming majority of our communities agree with that.

“The campaign to protect the protectors has three key points; to improve recording of assaults on officers and staff across England and Wales, toughen up sentencing rules and support for more
sustainable funding into key services like policing. Understandably this campaign was quick to receive widespread support and traction in parliament.

“West Yorkshire (Halifax) MP Holly Lynch’s led a Ten Minute Rule Bill debate which aimed to highlight the need for greater protection to police officers and other front line emergency service workers and tougher sentences for offenders.

“I have met with Holly Lynch MP and the West Yorkshire Police Federation to discuss this campaign in finer detail and have raised it with other Police and Crime Commissioners and at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) general meeting last month where there was also general support.

“I fully support this campaign and applaud Holly for securing the parliamentary debate in to emphasise the need for further protection for other frontline emergency service staff including ambulance crews and fire fighters and I will be watching the outcome of today’s debate closely.

“Most of all I would ask for everyone to spare a moment and think of the thousands of officers and emergency service staff keeping us all safe across England and Wales and have a look at the campaign to see how you can get involved.”

**Police and Crime Commissioner’s Budget Proposal to Pay for More Recruitment Approved**

The PCC’s budget for 2017/18 was formally agreed at West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Panel on Friday 3rd February.

The new budget allows for key recruitment of 500 police officers and protection of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers at over 550. The recruitment will be funded by a slight increase, 3.43%, in the police element of Council Tax which equates to around an extra £4 a year, or less than 8 pence a week for most households in West Yorkshire.

The full Council Tax amount includes contributions to the Council, Police and Fire Authorities and in some areas Parish Councils. The Police element of Council Tax makes up roughly 10% of the total amount. Levied at a local level with West Yorkshire having the third lowest Police Council Tax in England and Wales.

Before finalising the budget, the Police and Crime Commissioner launched a Community Conversation consultation with the communities in West Yorkshire on whether they would support an increase as long as it paid for more frontline policing to tackle new demands on cyber crime, missing persons enquiries and vulnerable victims.

The consultation received 2076 responses with 77% stating that they would support an increase.

Mark Burns-Williamson said: "I am very pleased to announce, with the help of our communities and the support of the Panel, I have been able to set a budget that allows further open recruitment of police officers and protection of Police Community Support Officer numbers in continuing to strengthen the policing and neighbourhood response in particular.

"It’s no secret that we have been hit by extensive government budget cuts of over £140m since 2010 which has resulted in the loss of 2000 police officers and staff but we are now starting to rebuild that number, which in my view is essential in tackling some of the complex demands the police and partners now face – such as cyber crime, sexual abuse and missing persons.
"I pledged to protect frontline policing and I will continue to do so with the help of our partners and our communities in building more public confidence in the services provided.

"The response to the consultation comes as a timely reminder that our communities in general very much support and appreciate your hard work and I'd also like to pass on my own gratitude for your tireless efforts in keeping West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe on a daily basis."

West Yorkshire Police Chief Constable, Dee Collins said: "The value of frontline policing continues to be recognised across our local communities and it is critical that we use our resources in the most efficient and effective way possible.

"This latest budget agreement by the Police and Crime Commissioner will allow us to build upon current capabilities and further bolster our numbers.

"Coupled with our recent 'Positive Action' recruitment work, we are developing a workforce which is ever more representative of the diversity that exists across our county.

"It will help us to drive our ambitions around Neighbourhood Policing, strengthening our abilities to solve local problems at the earliest opportunity, keeping the most vulnerable safe and feeling safe.

"Similarly, it will allow us to reinforce the important links with our partners, as we look to deliver a service which is increasingly collaborative in its approach."

Results from the Community Conversation survey

Would you be prepared to pay the proposed increase on the police element of your council tax?
(Only responses where the respondent says they pay council tax and live in West Yorkshire have been included)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West Yorkshire</th>
<th>Bradford</th>
<th>Calderdale</th>
<th>Kirklees</th>
<th>Leeds</th>
<th>Wakefield</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>77.2%</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Base:</td>
<td>2,076</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>306</td>
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Police council tax for 2017/18:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council Tax Band</th>
<th>Total cost per year £</th>
<th>Increase per annum £</th>
<th>Increase in pence per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100.64</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>117.41</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>134.18</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>150.95</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>184.49</td>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>11.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>218.03</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>251.58</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>301.90</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>19.2</td>
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Sport

Calling All Female Footballers
The Great Britain Ladies’ Football Team is looking to recruit new members as preparations begin for the 2020 European Police Championships in Norway. The team recently returned from the 2016 Championships where nine different forces were represented amongst a squad of 18.

Fixtures are planned at various locations within the UK and abroad, so if you have a footballing background please get in touch.

Manager – Michelle Gregory (Northumbria) Michelle.gregory.8657@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
Recruitment officer – Netty Manca-Wilcox (West Mids) Manca_21064@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Obituaries
It is with deep sadness that the Beat reports the following obituaries:
Serving member of Police Staff, Senior CSI Jackie Crossley, died 12th February 2017, aged 49 years. She worked as a detention officer before becoming a Scenes of Crime Officer and then a Senior CSI.


Arthur Roper, died 4th February 2017, aged 70 years. He was a Sergeant at Training School.

George Kenneth Hobson, died 22nd February 2017, aged 79 years.

Brian Tidswell, died 5th November 2016, aged 83 years.

Norman Roberts, died 26th February 2017, aged 91 years. He was a Police Constable at Huddersfield.

Retirements
The Beat would like to wish the following officers a happy retirement:
31st March 2017 - Irene Vezina, Wakefield
31st March 2017 – DC Max Jowett, Protective Services Crime
22nd March 2017 - DI Steve Hudson, Protective Services Crime
15th March 2017 - PC Gareth Pearson, Protective Services Operations

Force Lottery
The results for January and February 2017 are as follows:

January 2017
£2,250 A.L Gibson, Leeds
£250 N.G Townsend, Protective Services Crime
£100 D.A Nevins, Protective Services Operations
£100 S.M Forsythe, Retired
£100 R.J Kent, Retired
£50 D.S Watkins, Information Management
£50 C.L Depledge, Protective Services Crime
£50 J.I Dooley, Wakefield
£50  S.J Leek, Protective Services Crime
£50  P.R Smith, Protective Services Crime
£50  S.A Wheater, Business Services
£50  P.G Fraser, Wakefield

February 2017
£2,250  M.D Baldwin, Protective Services Operations
£250  M.J Bowes, Leeds
£100  T.E Baxter, Retired
£100  D.J Manson, Wakefield
£100  S.J Hearn, Leeds
£50  C.R Gadd, Protective Services Operations
£50  R.M Leadbetter, Protective Services Operations
£50  H.S Walsh, Leeds
£50  J. Harrison, Protective Services Operations
£50  C. Rowlands, Protective Services Crime
£50  J.M Hall, Kirklees
£50  M.L Butler, Wakefield