

## **Chief Constables Briefing Note – Police & Crime Commissioner**

### **(Week Commencing 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020)**

In response to questions posed by members of the public to the Police & Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable provided a broad overview to the policing approach to dealing with the current Pandemic.

There are some specific 'local based' issues, which will be addressed separately, with an update provided to the Commissioner.

#### **Legislation & the 'Policing Approach'**

With the changes in advice from the government in relation to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic recovery strategy. We have received national guidance with regards to how this will impact on the legislation and the way it is policed.

As a Constabulary, we will continue to support our communities and do all we can to keep them safe. Our policing approach will remain focused on the 4's.

- 1) Do everything possible to **Engage** with our communities, in person & on-line.
- 2) **Explain** the legislation and why it has been introduced i.e. protect the NHS and save lives!
- 3) **Encourage** compliance, we will do everything we possibly can, having explained the legislation, to encourage people to comply and clearly stating the reason why it is necessary.
- 4) If and only if people fail to comply and are particularly unreasonable, then we can and will take **Enforcement** action.

#### **Policing Priorities**

We will continue to support our local communities as we start the challenging road to recovery. We will ensure that our officers are visible and accessible in order to provide reassurance, in particular during the bank holidays where we often see an increase in people enjoying local parks and gardens.

We will be ensuring that operational resilience is maintained, especially over the public holidays and that we focus on the most vulnerable members of our communities.

I am pleased to see the continued and overwhelming support from our Special Constabulary who have volunteered a staggering 5100 hours towards keeping Cheshire safe. They have visited over 700 premises to share safety messages which has been a valuable contribution.

#### **Protecting & Supporting Our Staff**

Our staff will remain visible and will continue to engage with communities, strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines and we have also ensured that sufficient PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

We have also issued clear guidance to our staff in relation to when PPE should be deployed and used and in which circumstances. In more serious cases we have purchased specialist equipment, which will be issued to dedicated officers as and when required.

We will not tolerate any abuse of our staff and, in a small number of occasions when individuals have deliberately coughed / spat at officers and staff, enforcement action.

#### **Our Approach to Dealing with Domestic Abuse**

Cheshire Constabularies priority is to ensure that we to all we can to protect victims and witnesses of domestic abuse.

With the changes in legislation and the introduction of the Stalking Protection Act. We are able to use civil stalking protection orders (SPO) to safeguard victims. We will ensure that our officers and police staff are given guidance in securing the best evidence we can, which will enable us to take appropriate action against perpetrators.

Working closely with our national and Pan-Cheshire partners, we will make sure that we identify vulnerable people at the earliest opportunity and put the support network in for victims, family and witness.

**Darren Martland**

**Cheshire Constabulary**