

## **Raft of new measures announced for Wisbech**

Chairman Whittlesey NHW,

Listening to you, the community, is really important to me and the wider Fenland Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Last year the Safer Wisbech programme was launched to understand, and deal with the perception that certain areas in Wisbech were unsafe to live and visit. We carried out a survey to understand these concerns, analyse them and act upon them.

As a result we received £10,000 from the Proceeds of Crimes Act and this was invested back into the community. From this, we were able to employ a youth outreach worker and committed to a partnership to work with Blackfield Creatives, who work with the local community to deliver a project to address some of the anti-social behaviour taking place within Wisbech town centre.

But our work is not yet done as some members of the community are still sharing their frustrations with the anti-social behaviour in the town.

In response to this, Operation Luscombe is to launch in the next few weeks to tackle the effects of begging and associated street anti-social behaviour (ASB) through the creation of "The Intervention Hub".

The Hub is a centralised meeting point that all partners come together at on a weekly basis to offer the support vulnerable individuals require to break the cycle of rough sleeping and associated offending and ASB.

The aim of the operation is to address individuals support and welfare requirements, and to reduce the ASB issue, which has a detrimental effect on the local community and businesses. The operation will be both intervention and enforcement when required.

Reaching out and listening to the local community is a priority for my team and helps us to deliver targeted work where it's needed.

Working with young people is so important, and that's why we're reintroducing a school's officer within the Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team. In Fenland alone there are 31 primary Schools, 4 secondary school and 3 special educational needs schools; this equates to nearly 20,000 young people. A targeted school's officer will be able to work closely with the schools, students, and parents to reduce the risk of young people been drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour.

We will also be working closely with Wisbech Town Council and retailers in the town centre to launch shop watch and reduce the harm caused to businesses through shoplifting.

We will continue our targeted activity, from acting on intelligence and carrying out enforcement activity through warrants, to speed enforcement and working with our local Speedwatch.

I appreciate we may not be able please all the people all the time but it's important for me to share the hard work your Fenland Neighbourhood team do.

Inspector Morris – Fenland Neighbourhoods.

