



These are unprecedented and unusual times – there’s no other way to put it.

Certainly in my policing career, and I think I’m safe in speaking for the rest of my colleagues across the force, I’ve not experienced anything like this before.

On March 26, the Government gave us, the police, new powers which mean officers are able to disperse anyone not following the social distancing guidance. In turn, we can issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone who does not co-operate.

From speaking to colleagues, our communities across the force area are in the main adhering to the Government guidance and from speaking to officers covering the North West Leicestershire neighbourhood policing area, that’s very much the case.

One thing that I’ve found really heart-warming during this is the drawings we’ve been sent by children living across the area. PC Emma-Louise Holmes posted a video on the North West Leicestershire Police Facebook page, asking your children to send in letters and pictures and the response has been absolutely fantastic. It’s been great to look through all the drawings and messages we’ve received.

We have had some reports of people gathering or not adhering to the Government guidance, but our approach is the same across the force. Where possible officers are out engaging with people, explaining why it’s important to follow the guidance and encouraging people to do so. When we’ve spoken to people in North West Leicestershire and reminded them of why it’s important not to gather in large groups – to stop the virus from spreading – they’ve been compliant.

Things haven’t changed a great deal in the way we’re policing the area. On a personal level, I’m still having regular meetings with colleagues from North West Leicestershire District Council and other key partners, albeit they’re not face-to-face like they usually would be.

We’re still sharing our building in Coalville with our colleagues from both the East Midlands Ambulance Service and Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service but of course are maintaining that social distancing.





Force restructure



On March 11 Leicestershire Police introduced our new Target Operating Model (TOM) across the force area.

For NWL this has resulted in the community benefiting from improved service, more resilience and capability in local areas, officers having stronger local knowledge and intelligence and improved response times.

I continue to lead the area and now have additional capability for patrol, incident response, investigation, problem-solving and community engagement.

We also have our own area CID team, headed up by a Detective Inspector Dan GRANGER, meaning a dedicated resource in neighbourhoods for investigating more serious offences locally.

One of the main changes is the introduction of a new role of 24/7 Neighbourhood Patrol Officer (NPOs). These officers will respond to incidents, carry out pro-active patrol and investigate volume crime such as burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage. They will be overseen by additional locally based sergeants. They will work alongside existing Dedicated Neighbourhood Officers and teams who work to address local issues and priorities with partners.

All newly trained police officers joining the force will become an NPO and be allocated to a neighbourhood policing area. The force will be recruiting 189 new police officers this year – 100 paid for from local council tax payers and 89 from the Government's Uplift programme

April the Rural Crime and Bardon Beat Team found stolen digger in Dawson's Yard Heather, which had been taken from Braunstone, Leicester.

With help from the vehicle Tracker Company the digger was recovered and returned to the rightful owner.





Cyber take over day

11th February marked National Safer Internet Day #freetobe



The Bardon Hill beat team with support from Samantha Hancock, Force Cyber Project officer, spent the day engaging with Warren Hills Primary School. The team talked to all students from years 3 to 6 about internet safety, holding activity sessions and chatting with the children and staff over lunch.

They also held a presentation for the parents to show what the students had been learning during the day and tips on how they can carry this on at home.

A pledge board was on display for parents and teachers to sign, around 192 students, 20 parents plus all teachers got involved.



Cadets

March 7th-8th 2020 North West Leicestershire Police Cadets, along with their leaders, PCSO Lynette Rose and PCSO Rich Willet, spent the weekend at Fox Covert, Scout camp site, practising for the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award, Lynette commented "It's been a privilege to spend it with such determined, inspiring young people. So proud of them all".

If you will be aged between 13 and 17 by 31 August 2020, you are eligible to apply to be a Volunteer Police Cadet

March 14th-15th saw our Cadet Leaders, PCSO Rose and PCSO Willet taking part in a Mountain Rescue first aid course near Snowden in Wales, both Lynette and Rich give up their own time to do this role and we are very proud of them.





Operation Hatch

“Officers from across force have worked together on this operation in order to gather information, obtain warrants and then carry out this enforcement activity.

Investigations following these arrests will remain ongoing. This has involved a lot of commitment and dedication from all involved and my thanks go to them as well as to members of the community for working with us while the enforcement has been carried out”. Inspector Rich Jackson, North West Leicestershire NPA Commander.

Over a 4 day period the team executed Operation Hatch which consisted of;

- 22 warrants
- 1 cannabis factory & £60,000 worth of cannabis recovered
- 16 Arrests
- Excellent community and partner feedback
- Numerous closure order applications being progressed

Arrests included:

- 41-year-old woman, of Ashby, was arrested on suspicion of fraud by false representation. She has since been charged with the offence.
- 23-year-old man and an 18-year-old man, of Leicester, were arrested in connection with a non-stop collision in Belvoir Road in Coalville on Monday 13 April. Leicestershire Police have issued previous appeals in relation to the investigation. Both men have since been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent. This is addition to charges for other separate offences including drugs offences.
- 28-year-old man, of Coalville, was arrested under the Proceeds of Crime Act. He has since been released under investigation.
- 29-year-old man, of Leicester was arrested and has since been charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class A and one count of possession to supply class B.
- 41-year-old man, of Coalville, was arrested on suspicion of sexual communication with a child. He has since been released under investigation.
- 32-year-old woman, of Coalville, was arrested on suspicion of theft. She has since been charged with two counts of theft.
- A man and a woman, both aged 63, of Coalville, have both been arrested on suspicion of drugs offences. They have since been released under investigation.

“Anyone who has any information in relation to crime in their area should report it to us immediately. We will listen to you and we will take action.”

You can report online at www.leics.police.uk/ or by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency.

