

Annual Report

November 22nd 2012 - 31st March 2013



Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

'My first four months of Office'

Ann Barnes



Meeting and Listening to the People of Kent



To the People of Kent

'Welcome to my first annual report as your Kent Police and Crime Commissioner. This report is shorter than normal as it covers the period from my election, 15th November 2012, through to the end of the financial year, 31st March 2013.



'Time flies and I've been getting to grips with my new role. I hope this report demonstrates my unswerving commitment to delivering my manifesto commitments despite the intense financial pressure on police budgets. My guiding principle in everything I do is to make Kent an even safer place in which to live and work.

'As well as overseeing the work of Kent Police, I am continuing to work closely with partnership agencies. Acting as a focal point for partnership working is a central part of my role. Neither I nor the police can deliver improvements on our own.

'Despite a considerable increase in the scope of my work as Commissioner I am pleased to say that I have not increased any costs for my Office. It remains exactly the same as it was when the former organisation, Kent Police Authority, existed. You can read about my budget and financial accounts [here](#).

'This short report gives a flavour of some of the work underway by my Office during my first four months. You might like to assess progress against my previously published [Police and Crime Plan](#) which sets out and explains my priorities for Kent during my term of Office.

Ann Barnes



Please get in touch with me

By contacting my Office on **01622 604343**, or filling in an [online form](#) direct to my office.

Or by writing to me at: **Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner. South Block, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone ME15 9BZ**

Alternatively you can also get in touch via my twitter account [@AnnBarnesKPCC](#)

My Promises to you

During my campaign I visited communities across the length and breadth of Kent to understand your policing priorities. I wanted to update you on the work that has been underway in my first four months of Office to make sure these promises are being delivered.



1. Keep a relentless focus on cutting crime and catching criminals

Crime in Kent continues to fall and I've been working closely with the Chief Constable to hold him and the Force to account for their performance. During my first month in Office, I used my new powers as Police and Crime Commissioner to ask Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to carry out an independent review of how the Force records crime, and reports crime figures. The report highlighted concerns and as a result I have asked for another inspection at the beginning of 2014. The simple question I wanted to answer is can the public have confidence in Kent's policing figures?

I also meet regularly with the Chief Constable at a series of Governance Boards – these meetings are held in public – and anyone can attend. Here I address any concerns I have directly with the Chief Constable on a range of topics from police numbers to issues such as hate crime

2. Fighting Government Cuts

Time and time again I hear the same message from local people in towns, villages and hamlets across the county. Everyone wants to see more visible community policing. It's for this very reason that I stood on a platform of fighting police cuts.

Kent so far has had to find £50million in savings - a staggering amount - that's roughly one fifth of the workforce equating to over 600 staff and 500 officers who have walked through the door and have not been replaced. From 2015 another £20million could be wiped off the police books. These cuts will present the Force and I with significant challenges.

Earlier this year I wrote to MPs expressing my concerns but I need everyone to join my cause. If we are serious about wanting and maintaining visible community policing in our county then we need to let everyone know that's how we all feel.



3. Giving you a greater opportunity to have your say

I promised to be out of the office as often as possible in order to hear first-hand your policing issues. In my first four months I've been on 76 public visits to hear about concerns from communities across Kent. All the information that you tell me helps to inform my decisions. I've also held my first question time session, known as a '[Meet the Commissioner Event](#)', and these will be held throughout the rest of the year.

I'm also holding regular [surgery sessions](#) where you can have your say on a policing issue or concern at a face-to-face appointment. I'm also contactable online through my [website](#) or on [twitter](#).



My Promises to you

4. Putting victims at the heart of the Police and Criminal Justice System

Being a victim can be one of the most devastating events that a person experiences. It can be an intensely emotional experience and we should never lose sight of this. I am committed to making sure the victim's 'journey' is improved.

That's why I have been working with partner agencies from early on in the year to launch a new Sexual Assault Referral Clinic. The new clinic will be launched in the autumn and will provide help and support to victims of rape and sexual assault.

Work is also underway with Kent Police to create a 'Track A Crime' service that I hope to launch in 2014 – just like 'Track Your Parcel.' This new initiative will add to existing victim care services.

6. No privatisation

I stood on a platform of being Independent and free from party politics. My only concern is what you - the people of Kent - want to see from their policing service. I have promised to keep Kent Police free of privatisation and I stand by this.

5. Appointment of a Youth Commissioner

I stand by my commitment to recruit a Youth Commissioner to help bridge the gap between the police and young people. I will make this appointment during 2013.

7. Visible Community Policing

I know how important visible community policing is to you all. That's why I made the decision in February this year, very early on into my role as Commissioner, to boost police numbers on the streets.

I took the difficult decision to raise the police part of the Council Tax by two per cent – that's roughly 1p a day. In this time of financial austerity, no increase is welcome but, in my job, I have to make choices.

This extra money has helped to fund 60 Police Community Support Officers, 20 Police Community Support Officers and 18 Custody Attendants. These resources are now on the streets of Kent.

During my first few months of Office I have been working closely with Kent Police to ensure a rollout of Mobile Police Stations for the summer of 2014. [The Mobile Police Stations](#) are a significant boost to visible Policing particularly in rural areas.

8. New and Innovative ways of working

I've been working closely with the Force to ensure that new technology is being used where possible. One project that I have backed is 'Predictive Policing' - software that's being used successfully in LA. It allows the Force to predict where potential hotspots are and makes sure Officers are put into those areas reducing crime or anti-social behaviour. It's about good old fashioned visible community policing backed by 21st century computer technology.

