

# MAKING CHESHIRE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

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JOHN  
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Police and Crime Commissioner  
Candidate for Cheshire,  
Warrington and Halton

 **Conservatives**

Thursday 15th November 2012

A strong voice for policing in  
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington



Find out more about John Dwyer and what he stands for at:

[www.johndwyer.org.uk](http://www.johndwyer.org.uk)

## UNRIVALED SKILLS

*Dear Resident*

On November 15th, we will vote in the biggest reform to policing since Sir Robert Peel's London 'bobbies' were first seen in 1829.

The introduction of a new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will mean that, for the first time, you will be able to hold someone to account for policing in Cheshire.

Your new PCC will set the priorities for policing and determine the budget. While operational matters, quite correctly, will remain with the Chief Constable, I will work with the Chief Constable to build confidence levels in the force to a new high.

Cheshire is already a fantastic place to live. Its low crime rate has much to do with our excellent police force working hand in hand with enthusiastic residents and local agencies. But we must not rest on our laurels. Success lies in further freeing officers to do what they do best – policing.

My background is policing and public service. I am a former Assistant Chief Constable and was a cabinet member for 3 years on Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council until it became part of Cheshire East in 2009. I have also run my own business and I'm trustee to a number of local charities.

I think these skills, including the managing of major budgets, and the plans I have set out in this booklet will be unrivalled in the choice for Cheshire's PCC.

*John Dwyer*

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## 2 MY PRIORITIES FOR CHESHIRE



**ENHANCE FRONTLINE POLICING** to enable officers to further drive down crime.



**INCREASE THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY TO 1000**, aiming to have a Special Constable in every town and village.



Demand a **ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH TOWARDS YOBBISH BEHAVIOUR** to punish the small minority who blight our lives.



**DELIVER TARGETED HELP FOR THE 100 WORST OFFENDERS** in Cheshire.



**INTRODUCE A SENTENCING UNIT** that will monitor punishments on behalf of the victims of crime and, if necessary, campaign for tougher sanctions.



I will **DEVELOP A CRIME PREVENTION FUND** to support community crime prevention projects.



**RURAL CRIME** will be a particular focus for police activity.



**INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY** will be encouraged.



I will **BUILD FURTHER PARTNERSHIPS** particularly connected with a focus on drugs and alcohol abuse.



Introduce the post of **YOUTH AMBASSADOR** in the Commissioner's Office.



**INTERNET SAFETY** will be a serious consideration for the police.



**PROMOTE BETTER DRIVING** to reduce the number of serious and fatal road traffic collisions. This will include adopting a zero tolerance approach to driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.



**BUILD AND ENHANCE** the most important partnership of them all, the one between the public and the police.

## 3 ENHANCE FRONTLINE POLICING

I want to start by recognizing the excellent work already being done by the police across Cheshire. Crime has fallen by **6%** in the last year alone; what we need to do is ensure officers are free to continue that trend.

We are in difficult economic times – that's why every penny we spend must be spent wisely.

I will instigate a root and branch review of Cheshire Police and look for more efficient ways of working. The savings found by this exercise will be made available to the Chief Constable for frontline policing.

I will seek to build partnerships with neighbouring police forces and other agencies to drive down the costs of buying products and services. Effective policing is about hours spent on the street, not behind a desk.

As PCC I will be relentless in ensuring police officers are out on the beat, not stuck desk bound doing paperwork.



# 4 INCREASE THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

Cheshire Police have plans to increase the number of volunteer Special Constables from 450 to 500. This is welcome but simply not enough.

Within four years I will aim for **1000** Special Constables.

Special Constables have full police powers, including the power of arrest, and will enhance the already excellent work being carried out by PCSOs.

Every town and village will have its own Special Constable or Constables to whom the residents can relate. These 'Parish Constables' will be local people with a particular remit for their area.

Recruits for regular police officers of the Cheshire Constabulary will be mainly drawn from the ranks of the Cheshire Special Constabulary. Special Constables will be refunded their council tax policing precept, which will equate to about £600 over 4 years. The refund will be the Band D precept for every Special (Band D is judged to be an average figure).

I will enter into discussions with Local Authorities to establish

whether there are any further incentives we can offer.

I will invite retiring Police Officers to continue in service, with their rank, as a Special Constable. This will ease them into full retirement and, at the same time, allow the Cheshire Police to retain their expertise.



# 5 ZERO TOLERANCE OF YOBBISH BEHAVIOUR

A **CRIME IS A CRIME** and it doesn't lessen its impact by calling it anti-social behaviour.

As PCC I will ensure the police get tough on the yobbish behaviour that at times blights all our lives. Drunkenness, graffiti, littering and allowing dogs to foul footpaths are all unacceptable. These crimes will only increase if we accept or ignore them.

These crimes will be resolved where possible using restorative justice but the police will not shy away from prosecution.

The Crown Prosecution Service and Courts will be told in no uncertain

terms about the impact these few offenders are having on communities (see section on *Sentencing Unit*).

We will work with the Probation Service to ensure the public, via their elected Councillors, have a greater say in the range of meaningful tasks carried out as part of Community Service Orders.

I believe offenders should wear high visibility vests with the words 'Community Payback' on the back whilst performing these tasks.



## 6 A '100 TEAM' FOR DRUG OFFENDERS

All too often large numbers of crimes are committed by a small group of people and the common denominator is frequently **DRUGS**.

I will form a partnership with Social Services, Drug Rehabilitation, the Probation Service, Housing Officers, the Court Service, Mental Health organisations, GPs and the Police and I will chair the panel personally.

The job of this new partnership will be to identify the 100 worst

offenders in Cheshire and come up with solutions tailored for those individuals.

The '100 Team' will have a major impact on crime levels and free up officer time.

## 7 SENSE IN SENTENCING

It is important that communities have confidence in every step of the criminal justice system. Within six months I will set up a **'SENTENCING UNIT'** in my own office.

Sentencing guidelines are currently set to achieve national consistency. However, crime patterns are regional, and what may be a deterrent in South Yorkshire could have little effect in Cheshire.

Victims are often left bewildered and scared as offenders receive lenient sentences.

I want a sentencing approach in Cheshire that strikes the right balance, embracing severity and

strictness when needed. I also want longer custodial sentences for those who perpetrate violence and for persistent robbers and burglars.

The new Unit will closely monitor sentences passed by courts. It will analyse and compare each punishment and ensure all opportunities to influence sentencing are taken, such as sentencing recommendations by Cheshire Probation as well as community and victim impact statements.

The unit will systematically and formally object, using powers available to citizens under the Criminal Justice Act, to sentences that it considers too lenient.

I will also engage with the National Sentencing Council to achieve the best outcomes for Cheshire.



# 8 CRIME PREVENTION FUND

I will **ESTABLISH A FUND** specifically to assist local communities, including business communities, to develop crime prevention initiatives.

I shall continue the excellent work which has been started by community groups and local authorities, including the Fire Service,

to divert those at risk of committing crime into activities which will be a positive benefit to them and to our communities.

# 9 RURAL CRIME

Crime in rural areas can bring a community to a halt. I will ensure there is a greater emphasis placed on **TACKLING RURAL CRIME**.

The theft of livestock, farm plant and machinery, not to mention the impact of rural fly tipping, is a blight on Cheshire's rural community.

The new 'Parish Constables' will play

a key role in this battle.

I will also encourage more representation from rural areas on local criminal justice boards and community safety partnerships.



# 10 INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

# TACKLING ABUSE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

I will continue the use of **INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY** making it easier for local residents to report crime.

The government has launched the 101 telephone number for the public to report low-level and non-urgent matters. We will continue to embrace modern technology including introducing a free smartphone application.

The App can be used to report crime, send in pictures and video which can be reviewed in the Force Control Room within seconds. It can also be used in reverse; if officers need urgent help locating someone of serious and urgent

interest, his or her picture can be sent to every App user and be viewed by thousands of residents in seconds.

We need to ensure that we **PREVENT CRIME** as well as tackle it. Getting the message across about the dangers of drugs and alcohol will be a start.

Drugs and alcohol abuse lead to crime. We need to further engage with Health Authorities, schools, victims and charities and

never stop looking for innovative ways of getting the message across. I will appoint a Youth Ambassador who will play a key role in this field.



# 12 YOUTH AMBASSADOR

# 13 INTERNET SAFETY

Engaging with **YOUNG PEOPLE** will help with the fight to stop drug and alcohol related crime as well as highlight the importance of staying safe online.

The principal role of the PCC is to be the bridge between the public and the police, and it's important that our young people are not left out of that partnership.

I shall appoint a Youth Ambassador to ensure they are not forgotten when the policing plan is written.

The Youth Ambassador will also be responsible for taking our message into schools whether it be on drugs, alcohol or internet safety.

Staying safe **ONLINE** is a key concern for most parents. I will ensure that this message is communicated through our schools and community groups

Parents often tell us how worried they are about their children using online chat rooms and social networking sites.

stay safe online message will be taken into every classroom in the area.

I will ask the Youth Ambassador to be our 'Safe Internet Champion'. With Local Authority support, the

But I will not stop there; I will ensure all parents have access to sensible and realistic advice.





# 14 ROAD SAFETY

The number of road traffic collisions in Cheshire has declined over recent years. However, there are still **TOO MANY FATALITIES** and serious injuries on our roads.

I will ensure we continue to focus on highways policing to encourage all road users to be considerate of others on the road. Work with other agencies will continue in order to promote the 'safer roads' message to all drivers.

The use of a community intelligence initiative will allow the public to report their concerns about particular individuals or vehicles so

the Police can focus on them.

Drink Driving is already unacceptable but driving under the influence of drugs must become as deplorable. I will lobby the Government to develop technology and introduce legislation to assist the police in quickly assessing whether a driver is driving under the influence of drugs.

# 15 POLICE AND PUBLIC – THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP

Your views and concerns matter. That's why, if elected, I will ensure that **YOU REGULARLY HAVE A SAY** in how policing is run in Cheshire.

My success as your Police and Crime Commissioner will depend on my understanding of Cheshire and shaping the force accordingly.

I will be an accessible Commissioner who will hold regular surgeries and public meetings as well as embrace all modern forms of technology to have an ongoing conversation with all residents.



*"A vote for me is a vote for unrivalled experience and determination to make Cheshire an even better place to live."*





Making Cheshire a safer place to live



MAKING  
CHESHIRE  
AN EVEN BETTER  
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