



CONTINUING TO MAKE CHESHIRE AN EVEN SAFER PLACE TO LIVE

**John Dwyer's manifesto for
Police and Crime Commissioner
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington**

Thursday 5th May 2016

*A strong and experienced voice for
policing in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington*



**Find out more about John Dwyer, his record in office
and his plan for the future at:**

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Delivering a safer Cheshire: *a record of action and a promise of more*

Dear Resident,

When I was elected in 2012 I promised to do all I could to make Cheshire a safer place in which to live and work. I'm pleased to have the opportunity on Thursday 5th May to put my record to the people of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington for them to judge whether or not I've achieved my aims.

My pledge to local people remains simple – I want to make Cheshire the safest county in the country for its decent, hardworking, law-abiding citizens but I also want to make it the most hostile county in the country for those, relatively small in number, who are intent on committing crime.

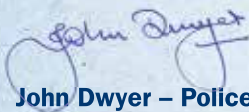
A safe county, with low crime levels and strong communities, will attract businesses and jobs to our area, making Cheshire a desirable place in which to live and work. My vision is for the role of policing to become an integral part of the economic development and prosperity of our county to benefit us all.

The role of Police and Crime Commissioner matters. Police and Crime Commissioners:

- Have the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable;
- Set the budget for police and support staff;
- Determine police priorities in their 'Police and Crime Plan.'

I'm proud that, under my leadership and thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Cheshire Constabulary officers, staff and volunteers, our local police force has been judged 'Outstanding' by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. I'm determined to build on this 'Top 3' status for Cheshire in the years ahead.

With my background in policing and public service, including as Assistant Chief Constable for Cheshire, I will continue to use my skills to manage the multi-million pound budget and deliver the safest possible county for young and old alike.



John Dwyer – Police and Crime Commissioner & Conservative Candidate



My Plan for a safer Cheshire

- ✔ **Continue to drive down crime with more visible police officers** – 2,053 frontline police officers by March 2017;
- ✔ **Enhance community policing** to ensure police officers and Police Community Support Officers are there when you need them, working in your communities;
- ✔ **Ensure every penny of taxpayers money is spent wisely** by regularly and robustly reviewing the Constabulary's business processes and expenditure;
- ✔ **Give officers the tools and technology they need** to work visibly and more effectively in the community;
- ✔ **Bring more criminals to justice** by solving more crimes, particularly burglary and domestic violence;
- ✔ **Develop support for victims** through the newly commissioned Cheshire CARES service;
- ✔ **Strengthen the specialist investigation teams** to tackle cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation;
- ✔ **Collaborate with other 'blue light services,'** agencies, local authorities and partners to improve the criminal justice process for victims and making the best use of CCTV, public buildings and community patrols;
- ✔ **Enhance the Roads Policing Unit with technology to address speeding and careless driving** and to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads;
- ✔ **Strongly represent the policing needs of young people, who make up 25% of Cheshire's population, by continuing to work with the Cheshire Youth Commission** | established in 2016;
- ✔ **Extend the mental health triage scheme to cover the whole county, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week** to ensure persons suffering mental health issues are dealt with by appropriately qualified personnel;
- ✔ **Continue to invest in community and safety projects across Cheshire** to help bring communities closer together.

1 Continue to drive down crime with more visible police officers

I'm proud of the record of Cheshire Constabulary in driving down crime to make our communities safer. Overall crime in Cheshire is down to its lowest level since the 1990s and in the last year alone police recorded burglaries are down by 19%; the sort of crime that affects people the most. Having a strong and visible police presence on our streets has been key, in my view, to this success, but there's more to do.



Greater efficiency, streamlined administration and focused investment has enabled Cheshire Constabulary to put more than 2,000 officers on our streets already, helping protect the most vulnerable in our communities. As a former police officer, with 30 years' service, including as Assistant Chief Constable for Cheshire, I know first-hand how much this matters to local people.

My commitment, if re-elected as Police and Crime Commissioner, is to maintain this ongoing investment in police numbers. That's why my most recent budget set the target of 2,053 frontline police officers by March 2017. This is a growth of 70 frontline officers in our communities and is a commitment I'm determined to see through in my drive to make Cheshire the safest county in the country in which to live and work.

2 Enhance community policing – maintaining PCSOs



First and foremost, Cheshire Constabulary is here to provide policing to the communities of Cheshire. That support comes in many forms – frontline police officers, Special Constables, police staff, the wide range of volunteers across the county and our important network of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs.)

of PCSOs in their local community, the reassurance they give and the range of different policing options available to them.

As Police and Crime Commissioner I'll retain the PCSO network to further enhance the visibility of Cheshire Constabulary and continue to recruit Special Constables to support the programme of having a community Special in every town and village in Cheshire. The Special Constabulary now stands at 450 strong, all of whom are active and motivated which compares to 350 members in post in 2012, many of whom were no longer active. Putting more boots on Cheshire's streets, making the county even safer, more prosperous and a place hostile to criminals, remains my top priority.

As I've met residents, businesses and community organisations across Cheshire, they've told me how much they value the presence



3 **Ensure every penny of taxpayers' money is spent wisely**



Although our economy has improved since I was first elected in 2012, we can't be complacent about the future.

That's why as Police and Crime Commissioner, I've used my experience of running my own business and managing budgets, to ensure every penny of hardworking taxpayers' money is spent wisely. This is a big responsibility and one I take very seriously with an overall budget of £192.5m to look after.

I took the difficult decision earlier this year to ask Cheshire taxpayers to back my 3.2% increase in the council tax precept. My judgement, after local consultation, was that local residents would support an extra 10p per week to protect the policing service in Cheshire and meet both local and national security threats.

But I'm not just asking for money. Working with the Chief Constable, we've undertaken an ongoing 'root and branch review' of policing in Cheshire. This work establishes future budgeting priorities to ensure investment is directed to frontline policing whilst achieving financial savings to meet the challenges all public sector organisations face.

Since 2013 the Constabulary have saved some £21.5m but there's more to do. As Police and Crime Commissioner I'll continue to review the business processes and expenditure of the Constabulary so they are fit for the future and work with neighbouring forces and other agencies to drive down the costs of buying products and services to achieve value for money.

4 Give officers the tools and technology they need to work visibly and effectively

Advances in technology are constantly changing the way Cheshire Constabulary polices the county. We've made huge advances in recent years by embracing new methods of policing and communication services, including Facebook and Twitter - instant ways to communicate with people and give access to information.

Technology has a crucial part to play in enabling police officers to do their job more efficiently and effectively and increase their visibility. I will continue to support the roll-out of mobile IT equipment, such



as tablet computers, to enable officers to be out on the beat, not stuck behind desks doing paperwork. I'll deliver more Public Contact Points around the county to enable members of the public to have quick and easy access to the Constabulary whilst supporting more traditional methods by upgrading the main public helpdesk facilities.



I will also support victims by expanding the use of GPS tagging of repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse and introduce 'live-link' technology to allow the most vulnerable to give evidence in court in a safe environment.

5 Bring more criminals to justice by solving more crimes



Cheshire Constabulary was recently rated as ‘outstanding’ for its work in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and keeping the public of Cheshire safe. I’m proud of this fantastic record, not least given the consistent and extensive reduction in crime we’ve seen in the last few years.

The commitment that ‘We’re here for communities’ will be reinforced as we move to eight Local Policing Units, aligned to local authority boundaries. I believe the leadership

provided in each LPU, led by a Chief Inspector responsible for a specific geographic area, will give a clear point of contact for the community and partner organisations. A dedicated team of police officers, PCSOs, Special Constables and police volunteers will ensure a major focus on bringing criminals to justice.

In a diverse force area such as Cheshire, with many rural communities outside the bigger towns, I’ll maintain my commitment to the Rural Crime Network, build on initiatives such as the mounted volunteers and develop the availability of interactive Police Contact Points to help people report crime and thereby help the police to solve crime.



6

Develop support for victims



As Police and Crime Commissioner I've sought to ensure that victims and witnesses of crime are at the heart of the criminal justice system. Being a victim of crime can be a traumatic and life-changing experience; too often we hear stories where the offender is given greater priority.

I am proud to have pioneered the newly commissioned Cheshire CARES service which is dedicated to providing support to all victims of crime in Cheshire and is based on individual needs. All victims of crime, bereaved relatives, parents or guardians of victims under 18 and businesses are entitled to access the services on offer. I'll

maintain the investment needed to see this organisation expand and develop during the next four years.

As the Government gradually increases the responsibility of Police and Crime Commissioners for budgets associated with services to support victims, I'll continue to make sure actions and plans are in place to empower victims. Just like the 'Cheshire Victim Information Pack', which provides information and advice about what victims are entitled to expect from the police and other agencies in the criminal justice system.

7 Strengthen the specialist investigation teams to tackle cyber-crime and child exploitation

The use of computers, mobile phones and the internet provides extensive access to information and services, almost unimaginable even 10 years ago. Technology is a central part of most people's lives but cyber-crime is an increasing problem with criminals using new technology to commit offences. This includes hacking important personal information, fraud, the selling of illegal drugs and for child exploitation.

I want Cheshire to have a zero tolerance approach to these crimes and will:

- Deliver resources on the ground through my commitment to more frontline police officers

tackling these issues head on;

- Support the Chief Constable in providing resources to bolster the capacity to investigate cyber and hi-tech crimes;
- Ensure closer working between the hi-tech and paedophile units;
- Provide specialist training for officers involved in these areas so they can respond as effectively as possible; and
- Maintain investment in a Public Protection Directorate to deliver a determined focus on the protection of vulnerable people.



8

Collaborate with other 'blue-light services' to improve service delivery



I believe an efficient and effective police service cannot act alone. As Police and Crime Commissioner I've led, alongside the Chair of Cheshire Fire Authority, proposals for the collaboration of Police and Fire HQ back office support and advice services in addition to the work of the Constabulary with other police forces across the North West and beyond. We've worked with North Wales Police on firearms and achieved the addition of Nottinghamshire Police into the Cheshire and Northamptonshire Police Multi-Force Shared Service, delivering financial savings by sharing back office functions such as finance and human resource teams.

I will continue to build on this work to increase the capacity and capability of policing operations and maximise any cost savings. Working in partnership remains critical to reducing crime, as does the need for all public services to better understand and further embrace the culture of working together.

In the next four years I will work with local authorities to make the best use of CCTV, public buildings and community patrols and prioritise collaboration with those services that address the root causes of policing demand around drugs, alcohol, mental health and complex family issues.

9 Enhance the Roads Policing Unit with better technology



Almost everyone in Cheshire is affected by the road network on a daily basis either as a driver, passenger, cyclist, motorcyclist or pedestrian.

Although the number of fatal and serious road traffic collisions is down by 24%, there are still too many on our roads. I remain committed to ensuring a robust focus on policing



Cheshire's roads to encourage users to be considerate of others and make them as safe as possible.

As Police and Crime Commissioner I will:

- Ensure the best use of technology such as 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition' to police our roads;
- Encourage the use of 'Community Speed Watch' volunteers to monitor and seek to alter drivers' attitudes and behaviour towards speeding; and
- Develop the use of new technology to tackle people who drive under the influence of drugs.

10 Strongly represent the needs of young people



Young people make up 25% of Cheshire's population but too often only adults get involved in the decision making process. That's why I prioritised the appointment of a Youth Ambassador to champion youth issues, help communicate key messages on issues like internet safety and the dangers of drugs and alcohol and ensure a point of contact for young people to register their views. In 2016 I established the Cheshire Youth Commission to enable young people to support, challenge and inform my work as Police and Crime Commissioner and that of Cheshire Constabulary.

I remain committed to ongoing and effective engagement with young people across Cheshire, not just because their views matter in their own right but as a means to help in the fight to prevent people from offending in the first place.

If re-elected, I will guarantee a focus on youth issues for the next four years and ensure the projects already in place are fully supported to deliver clear outcomes of benefit across the county.

11 **Extend the mental health triage scheme to cover the whole county**



Mental health issues affect one in six adults in Britain at any given time and mental health needs are often high amongst offenders linked to drugs and alcohol use. I've endorsed the Constabulary's Mental Health Strategy in my time in office but gone one step further too. Dealing, in an appropriate way, with people who suffer from mental health issues matters greatly to me.

I've committed to seeing a pioneering mental health scheme extended throughout Cheshire. The 'Street Triage Scheme' involves mental health nurses attending incidents with police

officers where people suffering with mental health issues need immediate support. If re-elected in May, I will campaign to ensure this scheme is rolled out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, across our county.

Vulnerable people, with mental health problems, are often taken into police custody because there is no other place to go. Mental health triages have been shown to reduce the number of individuals detained in police custody and are a brilliant example of collaboration between the police and its partner organisations. I am absolutely committed to this essential work in the years ahead.

12 Continue to invest in community and safety projects across Cheshire

I was elected in 2012 to serve the whole of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington, as Police and Crime Commissioner. It has been a particular pleasure for me to support crime prevention activities and projects in communities across the whole Force area, with nearly £1million worth of grants made available for local safety schemes. This support has included targeted activities for young people, initiatives to divert drug users, utilising new anti-social behaviour tools and powers and programmes of activity to reduce re-offending and alcohol-related violence.



In the next four years I will:

- Assist local communities in developing crime prevention initiatives;
- Continue investing in services for victims to make certain they are at the heart of our criminal justice system; and
- Work with Community Safety Partnerships across Cheshire to reduce crime, alcohol related harm, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse.

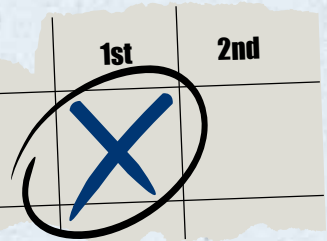
Conclusion



“Cheshire is my home. I know what a fantastic place it is in which to live, work and visit. But I believe it can be better still. As Police and Crime Commissioner I’ve worked hard to listen and act on your views, as members of the public, using them to shape the direction of policing here in our county. If re-elected on

Thursday 5th May I will continue to engage with you, respond to your concerns and use my experience and determination to make Cheshire the safest county in the country. I will work hard on your behalf, regardless of your party political allegiance. That’s a promise.”

John DWYER



FIRST CHOICE for Cheshire's Police & Crime Commissioner on 5 May 2016

 **Conservatives**



Making Cheshire, Halton
and Warrington a
safer place to live



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