



Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

Freedom of Information Act

Request Response

No. 002732/14

Question

- 1) Does your Police Force have in place a process to seek community engagement, be this through community meetings; outreach programs with schools; or any other form of community engagement?
- 2) If so how many meetings has your Police Force held for the each of the last 5 financial years, or since the creation of your outreach programme.

Answer

I can confirm that Northamptonshire Police holds the information requested as follows:

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission have a whole programme of work which aims to further engage and involve the community about policing and wider criminal justice issues and priorities. Please find attached a programme of work we are undertaking to increase our engagement with communities.

This document is in addition to Consultation we are statutorily required to undertake in term of capturing people's police and crime priorities and feedback on the budget.

You will find attached results of previous consultations we have undertaken since the Commissioner came into Office which describe the methodology and how many focus groups, 1:1s etc were undertaken.

In addition we have also recently been running a stop and search consultation, which the results are due to be made public within the next few weeks. However I can tell you that between April and June 2014 we consulted 1161 people, through detached youth work and which 102 were from young people who attended focus groups, including young people from a variety of backgrounds and environments: Asian and Black communities and faith based groups, supplementary education programmes such as Fire and Rescue ARC (Action Reaction Consequence – a targeted diversionary course), schools, youth clubs and young volunteers.

We have so far consulted around 150 young people on online safety through workshops and focus groups, in schools and scout groups but we are only in the initial stages of this engagement.

In addition to this consultation we support ongoing meetings of the four Independent Advisory Group across the County, whose role it is to be a "critical friend" supporting the work of Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission. IAG members represent the different diverse communities within Northamptonshire, and assist the Police and the Police and Crime Commission by enhancing understanding of community issues and specifically equality issues affecting those who live, work and visit Northamptonshire. Since coming into office 14 meetings have been held.

All officers have a responsibility to engage with their communities. In practice, much of this work falls to the PCSOs on a local level. They should be engaging on a daily basis with their residents, community groups, businesses and faith institutions. Many of them do an excellent job and will attend resident's meetings and other community group meetings on a regular basis. They will also engage with their local schools.

PCSO's are also involved in seeking views from residents and businesses in their wards. These interactions are recorded and aim to identify local areas of concern. These will be prioritised and form the local SCT plans.

The Locally Identified Solutions and Practice (LISP) plans are also utilised by PCSOs and SCT officers to engage and solve issues. These form part of the Intensive Engagement conducted by SCTs. Meetings with individuals or groups linked to a local issue are held by officers to discuss solutions.

Rachel Packman and Nick Stephens are the Force's two Community Engagement Officers. Attached is some info about their roles. They have specific responsibility to engage with our minority communities and faith groups. They also engage with the LGBTQ community. We aim to be proactive – out looking for opportunities to engage with communities and groups. Our

aim is to maintain a network with contacts in every community and faith group in the county.

They established a countywide Mosque/Police meeting which has met about 5 times over the last 3 years or so. They attend many other types of meetings with different faith groups and community groups.

In March this year for example, they attended meetings involving the Ghanaian community, represented the Police at International Women's Day, met with rep from Afghanistan youth group, attended a Mosque in Northampton to discuss traffic issues, represented the Force at NBC Diverse Communities Forum, met with Pakistani community members in Northampton, represented the Force at an event hosted by Association of Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools, met with Deaf Connect group, met with a Muslim group in Daventry and attended a Northampton Inter Faith Forum event. These are in addition to their meetings with individuals/ad hoc visits.

In the last few years they have held/attended about 7 meetings with the Asian community about concerns relating to the so called 'Asian Gold' burglaries.

They have also organised 3 specific community engagement functions – two at FHQ and one at a local church hall. One was for communities and faith representatives to meet the Northampton Area commander and the Chief Constable. One was for them to meet the PCC and the Chief Constable and the last was to meet the Head of Community Safety. These have occurred in the last 4 years or so. They also encourage community and faith representatives to learn more about policing and have organised visits to custody suites, FCC, public order and defensive tactics training. PREVENT officers also are involved in engagement with schools and groups around Preventing Violent Extremism.

Community Engagement Officers

Police Officers Rachel Packman and Nick Stephens have the responsibility for community engagement on a countywide level for Northamptonshire Police.



As Community Engagement Officers they proactively engage with community and faith groups to offer advice and assistance. They liaise with different minority groups, individuals and partners to build trust and confidence. They want to make sure that all of the communities in Northamptonshire are safe and secure. It is important that the police deliver a service that is accessible to all.

Rachel and Nick are keen to widen their support and welcome contact from individuals and groups representing different communities and faiths from anywhere in the County.

In an emergency call **999**
For non-emergencies call **101**
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Rachel and Nick work with a wide variety of communities - e.g. African Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, Somali, Chinese, Afghan, Middle Eastern, Polish and other Eastern European.

They have also built up ties with faith groups including Baha'i, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Christian and Buddhist.

Rachel and Nick work closely with front line policing units including response officers and the Safer Community Teams. They also support other units throughout the force such as CID, the Major Incident Team, and all those within the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Department, particularly the Hate Crime Unit, Child Protection Team and Domestic Violence Unit. In addition, Rachel and Nick:

- Support community cohesion and assist community forums in particular those for young people and women.
- Act as the central point of contact during major incidents where communities are affected.
- Work closely with partners and communities to ensure resilience to violent extremist elements.



Please contact them on **101**
(or if calling from outside Northamptonshire 03000 111 222).
Rachel - ext 345227, Nick ext - 345727
You can email them at:
rachel.packman@northants.pnn.police.uk
nick.stephens@northants.pnn.police.uk

In an emergency please call 999

Victims Voice Report –

<http://www.northants.police.uk/images/mediapool/news/24-09-13-Victims-Voice-Report.pdf>

Making Northamptonshire the Safest Place in England Consultation –

<https://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/CMIS5Live/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=bDnCd0qXJ3DjZNX429hhIH6FjAzK5sAftTG|2bo5m6bdiDBfWCLXqg%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAlvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOlgFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d>