

## **Abingdon Neighbourhood Policing Team.**

I am Police Community Support Officer Ali Blood; I have been a PCSO for 17 years & have been based on the Abingdon neighbourhood policing team since I started in 2008. I was given the position of Abingdon Town Centre PCSO, which was to be part funded by Abingdon Town Council. This was a new initiative at the time, & I am delighted this partnership work is still going strong. I work to tackle issues, provide a visible presence & make the town that little bit safer for everyone.

17 years later, I continue to work as part of the Abingdon neighbourhood team & still have the responsibility for the town centre.

Over time, team members come & go, the team is currently made up of one Police Sergeant, four Police Officers & eight PCSOs. We have a police inspector who heads up the team. We are split into two small teams & cover Abingdon as well as the surrounding villages, & the Botley / Kennington area of Oxford.

We work a four week shift pattern that are a mixture of early & late shifts in a bid to give maximum coverage to the public.

Our priorities for Abingdon at present are:

Violence against Women & Girls. (VAWG)

Retail Theft & Fraud.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

All three are very relevant to the town centre.

In the run up to Christmas, the team ran an operation during Friday & Saturday evenings where the overarching aim was to tackle Violence against Women & Girls in the night time economy. As well as providing an increase in uniformed resources, we carried out proactive work with licensed premises, takeaways & taxi firms. The team have also been carrying out multi agency work around several licensed premises we have identified as causing demand to our team. During this work, we have also managed to identify several males whose behaviour was a cause for concern, which we have been addressing; this has included putting one male in front of the courts.

I am the Night Time Economy lead for Abingdon, & work closely supporting licenced premises, Abingdon Street Pastors, the Pubwatch scheme & the Vale of White Horse District Council CCTV Supervisor & operators. I have issued a number of Community Protection Warnings to individuals who continue to breach their Pubwatch bans or cause a nuisance in the night time economy.

My focus is to provide a high visibility presence in the town centre, where the rest of the team supports me. I run the Storenet & Nitenet Radio Link; this is a direct link between the neighbourhood policing team, CCTV, shops, licensed premises & businesses. We have had some brilliant results with this. Recently PCSO Highmoor & I were able to stop check, & detain a

man who was acting suspiciously in the town centre, from this it came to light he was outstanding for a number of theft offences, & that he was a prolific offender from another town.

Over the last few months, I have been working on a project to sign up retailers, to the DISC system; I have been working alongside the business crime reduction partnership manager. I organised a day of action, where we signed up over 25 retail premises to the scheme. DISC – Is an online platform, to enable information sharing between retail premises & for easier reporting of incidents & crimes to the Police.

We have recently had introduced a new neighbourhood policing application, where we can now record all our daily activity. One of the main uses of this, is it shows our hot spot areas so we can more tailor & target our patrols.

The team have been carrying out a lot of work around problematic issues in areas of the town centre, one being in Quakers Court & Magnette Close. We have been holding meetings with residents, liaising with the housing association, carrying out patrols, & stop checking individuals. A number of people were issued Community Protection Warnings in relation to their behaviour. I am pleased to say the issues there have definitely improved but the work does continue. We also work very closely with the secondary schools who assist us in identifying young people involved in anti-social behaviour.

Several members of the team have been carrying work around the increase of E-Scooters & off road bikes being ridden, enforcement has taken place, & a number of seizures have been completed.

Every month, I hold 'Have your Say/Crime Prevention' events. I have been holding these with Age UK, & they appear very popular.

We also love to attend events in the town, & have been present at the Michaelmas Fair, Easter Eggstravaganza, Christmas Extravaganza, & the Mayor Making.

We aim to engage, & support as many branches of the community as possible, I have attended many meetings, & given presentations over the last year as well as just dropping into places to say hello. For example -

Albert Park Residents Association AGM, Abingdon Baptist Church 'Back to 35' group, Muslim Prayer group, Abingdon Careers Convention, as well as this I have a number of schools to look after.

Normal police business does of course continue, so alongside the above, the team answer calls for service on a daily basis, supporting our Incident Crime Response (ICR) colleagues. I have attended a range of incidents, from missing people, to crimes in progress such as assaults, shopliftings, & criminal damage.

This is just a snap shot of the work I have been carrying out over the last year; it is difficult to highlight the amount of work the team carry out on a daily basis to keep Abingdon safe.