

## Police commissioner Tony Lloyd: I'll be your voice, if you voted for me or not

The police and crime commissioner for Greater Manchester, Tony Lloyd, on how he'll approach the job



Tony Lloyd, Police and crime commissioner

Getting out into all the boroughs of Greater Manchester and listening to the public is what's important and that's exactly what I've been doing over the last few months, using your views to help shape the police and plan.

And this is not my plan, it's our plan. It sets out the policing priorities for the next three and half years.

Tackling anti-social behaviour is on this list.

Anti-social behaviour can have a devastating impact on people's quality of life and victims have often told me they feel isolated and ignored.

There's no denying that the police and local authorities haven't always got it right and as Police and Crime Commissioner I have the authority to make sure that anti-social behaviour is treated with the seriousness it deserves, with the needs of victims at the centre.

Dealing with serious and organised criminality, protecting vulnerable people, driving down crime and tackling anti-social behaviour – these are the things that are important to you.

And although you might not always know who's doing it, the public want to see action taken to tackle these issues. That is my role – to give you a voice.

Once the plan is published, that's not it, job done, stop listening.

Because if I do that I'm not doing my job effectively.

I will make sure that the police and partner agencies deliver on these objectives.

But I also need to hear from you. How do you feel in your community? Do you feel safe? Are the police doing a good job? If you've been a victim of crime what was your experience?

How you feel is more important than statistics. An 11 per cent drop in crime across Greater Manchester is good news, but the reality is statistics are of little comfort to the devastated young family who have just been burgled, or the lady who is the victim of constant ridicule just because she has learning difficulties.

These are the real consequences of crime that real people have to deal with every day and are why putting victims at the centre of what we do is a fundamental part of the police and crime plan.

The shambles that was the police and crime commissioner elections has been under the spotlight again recently with damning reports from both the Electoral Reform Society and the Association of Electoral Administrators criticising the Government for the timing and administration of the polls.

I've been publicly critical about the lack of effort from central government to engage voters and raise awareness of the elections, and for holding them during a cold, dark day in November. And it was no surprise that this resulted in the lowest election turnout in peacetime history.

Despite this, the low turnout doesn't take away my mandate to serve you, the people of Greater Manchester.

It doesn't matter whether you voted for me, my priority is to represent you and give you a voice.

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