

Police commissioner launches 4-year plan



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By Rachel Gardner

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens has launched her four-year vision for policing across Avon and Somerset.

She launched her first Police and Crime Plans in a jam-packed 11-hour tour of the force area yesterday, visiting various projects.



Police commissioner Sue Mountstevens, right, at The Bridge, with centre manager Debbie Hewlett and Chief Constable Nick Gargan Photograph: Jon Kent BRJK2013 0328A-

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The plan covers the commissioner's four priority areas of tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary, violence against women and children and putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system.

The plan also focuses on key issues that were raised by the public during consultation in January and February, such as road safety and visibility of police officers.

Targets in the Police and Crime Plans aim to increase public confidence in Avon and Somerset Police to the top ten nationally.

She also wants to increase detection rates for serious sexual offences, increase recorded and detected burglary and overall victim satisfaction to a top ten position within police forces nationally by 2017.

Ms Mountstevens said: "This is my opportunity to show how I intend to keep the promise I made to residents when I was elected.

"I campaigned on these four priorities because I heard loud and clear that these things matter to communities.

"Many people tell me they want to see more done to tackle anti-social behaviour and burglary that is why I have made it a priority for the police and partners.

"Many victims of crime tell me that too often they are contacted numerous times by different people and organisations.

"I have made it a priority to support victims and to look at improvements to simplify and improve their journey.

"In addition to the statutory Avon and Somerset plan I have introduced six local plans which aim to reflect what is happening where you live and what you care about.

"I want to make real improvements and drive forward the change needed to make the communities of Avon and Somerset be safe and feel safe."

One of the places Ms Mountstevens visited on Thursday was The Bridge Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Bristol city centre.

She met centre manager Debbie Hewlett and toured the facility, which is a sexual assault support service for men, women and children in the Avon and Somerset area.

She told The Post she thought The Bridge was an exemplary service that she hoped would encourage more victims to report assaults to the police.

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan and the six local Police and Crime Plans covering Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Somerset West and East are all available on-line at www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk.

Read more: <http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Police-commissioner-launches-4-year-plan/story-18553716-detail/story.html#ixzz2Ps1l4hxz>

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