

## Gwent police boss lays out plan to cut crime

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By **Danielle Sheridan**

GWENT'S first Police and Crime Commissioner will pledge to "put victims at the heart" of his work when he announces his plans to tackle crime today.

Gwent PCC Ian Johnston will launch his Police and Crime Plan for 2013 to 2017 at the Project Bernie event today.

The event is aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of deliberately setting grass and mountain fires, reducing anti social behaviour, and protecting the environment, issues Mr Johnston aims to tackle as PCC.

Mr Johnston said he was "delighted" to be launching his plan at the event, which will be held at Bargoed Rugby Club in Giffach Street.

"It provides a fantastic opportunity for agencies to work with young people to make Gwent safer," he said.

Mr Johnston said this plan allows him to show the people of Gwent what he is doing to tackle their concerns.

"I pledge to put victims at the heart of everything I do and ensure that people in Gwent are less affected by crime and anti social behaviour, protected from serious harm and provided with a police service that is value for money," he said.

Mr Johnston said his priorities include reducing victims of crime and increasing the number of offenders brought to justice, increasing public confidence in the police and reducing anti-social behaviour.

He also wants to reduce serious violent crime and increase value for money.

Within the plan, Mr Johnston prioritises working with the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service to improve the service given by the criminal justice system in Gwent to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Other priorities include working with partners to support victims and communities, to develop a joint approach to restorative justice and divert people from offending behaviour which could lead to them entering the criminal justice system.

Mr Johnston said his findings from speaking with the public will create a police service which is "efficient and effective."

### **Anti-fire scheme is team project**

Project Bernie is an initiative devised by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership.

Head of Fire Crime Unit, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service and leading on Project Bernie, Garry Davies said: "Project Bernie will deliver many messages, initiatives and diversionary activities throughout the Easter Holidays with the aim of reducing deliberate grass fires in local communities."

The messages and activities will be held in unitary authorities which suffer from the highest number of deliberate grass and mountain fires.

The Welsh Rugby Union, in conjunction with the Community Safety partners, will also be delivering a three-day WRU Rugby Stars Camp at the event, to combine local crime fighting partners and sport.

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