

Police chief pledges new intake of officers

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By Dan Bean

NEW police officers will be recruited next year, according to the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire.

Chief Constable Dave Jones was taking part in a live webchat when he answered questions from the public for an hour.

He confirmed there would be a new intake of officers in March 2014, and said he was committed to ensuring "a wide, diverse workforce with the skills to deliver a world-class policing service to the people of North Yorkshire and the City of York".

He was quizzed on topics including how much he and the Police and Crime Commissioner were working together to improve the force, to which he replied: "I have now been in post for nearly six months and consider we have developed a mature and professional relationship. Between us we have identified areas of potential saving of up to £10 million by April 2016.

"We are one of the only forces in the country which is committed to maintaining the number of police officers and PCSOs. The public have said this is what they want but also professionally I believe this to be the right decision. By maintaining those numbers it should mitigate the workload of officers."

When asked about the lack of a Place of Safety for people with mental health issues in North Yorkshire, which was expected to be launched this year but is not now likely before 2014.

Mr Jones said: "We are clearly concerned that people with mental issues are having to be held in police cells, which is why we are working very closely with our NHS partners to provide bespoke facilities in York and Scarborough.

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