



Celebrating excellence



Chief Constable's Annual Awards Ceremony

Thursday 13 May 2021



**Kent
Police**

The Phillip Pratt Award for Community Policing cont.

Police Constable Ashley McMahan – Community Safety Unit, East Division

Ashley has been assaulted several times whilst on duty, including one serious assault to the head where he still managed to detain the offender and remained on duty after hospital scans.

He has dealt with organised out of county shoplifting gangs, some involving European Union nationals. He even learned basic Polish to communicate with the growing local community.

On single crewed patrol in Canterbury, he attended a disturbance with reports of a large fight and at least three people with stab injuries. Recognising the threat and potential risk of this incident, he took the opportunity to run to Canterbury Cathedral to obtain an Emergency Trauma Pack and attended the scene as a first responder to safeguard the public. He was met with multiple victims with just one paramedic and numerous eyewitnesses. Ashley ensured the scene was safe and administered first aid with medical personnel. He made several enquiries with witnesses to ensure no other members of the public were at risk.

Establishing it was a road rage incident, he located two victims who had left the scene and ensured they received medical attention. He secured the scene, recovering substantial items of evidence. By administering emergency first aid, he saved lives.

Since Ashley's tenure began, he has treated and dealt with five members of the public experiencing an immediate medical emergency - four being in cardiac arrest. In each case, he administered CPR and most recently dealing with an unresponsive person in cardiac arrest he successfully commenced chest compressions. The patient became responsive and was taken to a local hospital and survived. He is also trained in trauma risk management (TRiM) and has supported staff in terms of their wellbeing within the district. He demonstrates incredible flexibility and resilience, often changing shifts at short notice to support local operations and events.

Detective Sergeant Heidi Collins – Community Safety Unit, East Division

Heidi brings high levels of enthusiasm, motivation and a highly innovative approach to her role. Working within the Community Safety Unit, Heidi has led a number of community projects including 'The Bike Project' which is aimed at reducing crime and ASB.

She also led on the 'Kent Youth Weapons Intervention Scheme' where professionals can refer young people into the scheme where they engage in sessions around consequences, prevention and diversion away from knife related crime. 'Ladder of Risk' is another initiative Heidi has led on which is a partnership project involving school-based workshops on knife possession, accepting gifts in association with exploitation, online activities, and drugs/alcohol addiction. She has also led and delivered a series of training sessions to officers, staff and partner agencies which has led to upskilling staff and a significant increase in the use of ASB powers in order to tackle this type of criminality. A number of compliments were received from members of the public following the effective use of these powers.

Heidi takes a proactive approach to her duties and is instrumental in supervising a number of operations targeting organised crime groups and regularly demonstrates effective partnership working at the highest level. Along with partner agencies at Thanet, she implemented an enforcement approach to a number of frequent callers to prevent nuisance calls to the emergency services. This joint working had a positive impact on demand reduction for these types of callers.



Volunteer of the Year Award

Kent Search and Rescue Team – Citizens in Policing

The Kent Search and Rescue (KSAR) team has supported Kent Police for many years, working with Kent Police Search Advisors searching for and rescuing missing people. They have been embedded within the Force Control Room (FCR) since March 2019 in a new initiative designed to support the force with attending suitable incidents involving vulnerable people.

The KSAR team has developed working practices with the force suitable for their skills, expertise and remit where they can add most value and support to protect the public. They arranged and undertook all their training and each week manage the deployment of their search managers and staff in their vehicles each Sunday. A member of the team is embedded on the podium to work alongside the force incident manager and control room staff to identify opportunities to use the team's skills to best effect. The team are proactive in their approach as they view and utilise the force computer system to assess incidents where they may be able to assist.

They swiftly located an elderly vulnerable person who was found collapsed in their home and numerous missing people, provided medical first aid and to those suffering anxiety and stress and directed them to appropriate support services. Some of these very vulnerable victims in crisis will engage more readily with KSAR volunteers than police and gain valuable information and intelligence to safeguard them on an on-going basis.

On average, KSAR attend seven calls each shift, many of which are resolved without police attendance. KSAR has answered, deployed and assisted with an estimated 250 calls during their first year. The number of police hours saved is substantial, releasing police officers to attend other calls. This has provided an invaluable resource for the community of Kent, aiding officers, reassurance to members of the public and has no doubt helped vulnerable people and prevented further harm in the community.

Sally Herzog – Citizens in Policing, East Division

Sally joined Kent Police as a volunteer in order to provide better training and support for officers and staff in dealing with and supporting vulnerable victims of domestic abuse. Sally provides the advice and knowledge around the circumstances of coercive control of domestic abuse and focuses on the victim and the best possible engagement from officers and staff. She is the south east regional training coordinator for the National Centre for Domestic Violence and is an expert around domestic and sexual abuse and provides the context and training advice which is invaluable for officers and staff when dealing with vulnerable victims.

Sally now delivers training to the investigative training courses, the new probationer training courses, Force Control Room (FCR), officers and staff and all divisional officers and special constables. She also assists with a new initiative in Maidstone, supporting training sessions for the night-time economy staff and businesses which has received fantastic feedback particularly in relation to her personal approach, knowledge and delivery of learning.

She has also been involved with the new Domestic Abuse Hub for the West Division and has applied independent scrutiny for the pilot and introduction at force level.

Irene White – Professional Standards Department, Citizens in Policing

Over recent years, Irene has consistently dedicated and volunteered her personal time to assist in the Professional Standards Department (PSD), supporting members of the public and the media with regards to the attendance at misconduct hearings. Many of the hearings have been extremely intensive in the demands placed upon the team's staff, and Irene's help and support has been invaluable to the department.

Irene always has a smile on her face and the team has no doubt this, and her continuous professionalism leave a lasting impact upon members of the public and the media who attend the hearings.

It is essential misconduct hearings are open to the public and media to provide transparency, instilling the public with trust and confidence in the whole process. Irene's direct assistance as a volunteer allows this to occur and her time, that she gives up voluntarily is much appreciated by PSD and the force. She is an absolute credit to Kent Police and the PSD Hearings Team and is worthy of this recognition.