



Welcome to my latest newsletter.

I am pleased to include within this edition results from my latest perception survey, together with figures relating to the performance of West Mercia Police. There's also detail about what I'm doing to tackle road safety and details of courses you may be interested in signing up for.

I've also been shining a spotlight on rural crime and finding out more about what's working and what more needs to be done to tackle it. All of which I will be raising with the Chief Constable at our Assurance and Accountability meeting next week, which you will be able to listen back to.

Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion



Delivering safer roads and reducing harm

In 2024, 56 people were killed and 516 were seriously injured in road traffic collisions across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire.

But these are not just statistics, these are lives; and I know from listening and speaking with you, how devastating these collisions are for both the families and communities.

That's why road safety and community partnerships are at the heart of my West Mercia Safer Communities Plan, and I've been working closely with various projects to support people to become better and safer on our roads.

Just last week, I wrote to the new leaders of Worcestershire County and Shropshire Councils calling for a joined-up approach which brings together education, engineering, and community engagement.

At the end of last month, my Chief Executive visited MORSE to speak to partners and BBC Shropshire about the positive impact it's making with the launch of a Youth targeted programme.

Led by [YSS](#) and West Mercia Youth Justice Service, MORSE is focused on making our roads safer by working with people to improve their driving skills and behaviours.

The project, which I provide funding to, brings partners together and is making a real difference across West Mercia.

At the start of May, I joined local motorcyclists at the Redditch Advanced Motorcyclists' Group taster day.

Organised in partnership with my team, West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, the event was an

With the warmer weather on its way and more motorcycles on the road, I want to ensure riders are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to stay safe.

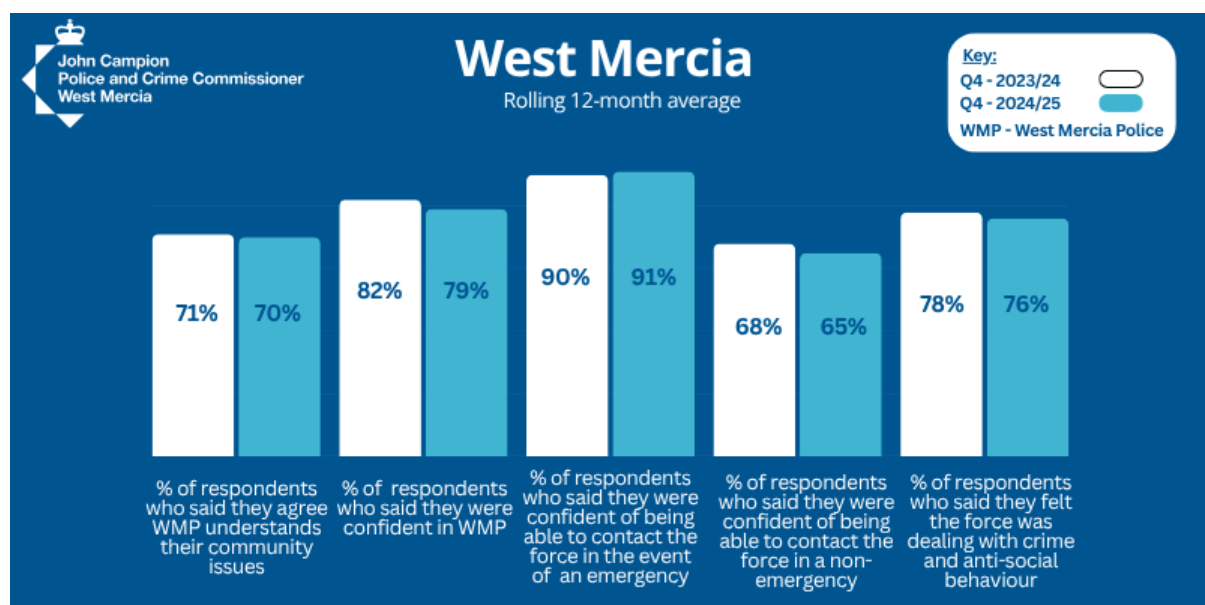
One of the three Es, education, is vital in changing the too familiar story of lives being needlessly lost on our roads, and whether you're young or old that applies.

Starting next month until the end of October, West Mercia Police and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service are inviting mature drivers to attend a free awareness session where they can experience a virtual reality film that has been developed specifically to help drivers understand the changes that happen as we age and how it can affect our driving.

This innovative initiative is another part of the focus I outlined in my Safer Communities Plan, to educate drivers on the important role they play in reducing the excessive harm too often caused on our roads.

You can find out more about [the dates and locations for the mature drivers' sessions here](#).

[Read my letters sent to councillors](#)



Seven out of 10 residents agree West Mercia Police understands the issues in their community

Policing with the community and putting the voice of the public at the heart of policing to address local crime concerns, is key to the successful delivery of my West Mercia Safer Communities Plan.

Police (WMP) and use results from these to hold the Chief Constable to account if there are any shortcomings.

One of the questions is around how well the force understands the concerns you have.

According to the latest results, seven out of 10 residents (70%) agree WMP understands the issues in your communities. This has increased since Q1 (68%) but is slightly down on the same period the previous year (71%).

Despite a 6% fall in overall crime [as detailed in the latest ONS figures](#), there has been a small drop in overall confidence in the force from 82% during the quarter from January to March 2024, to 79% for the same quarter this year.

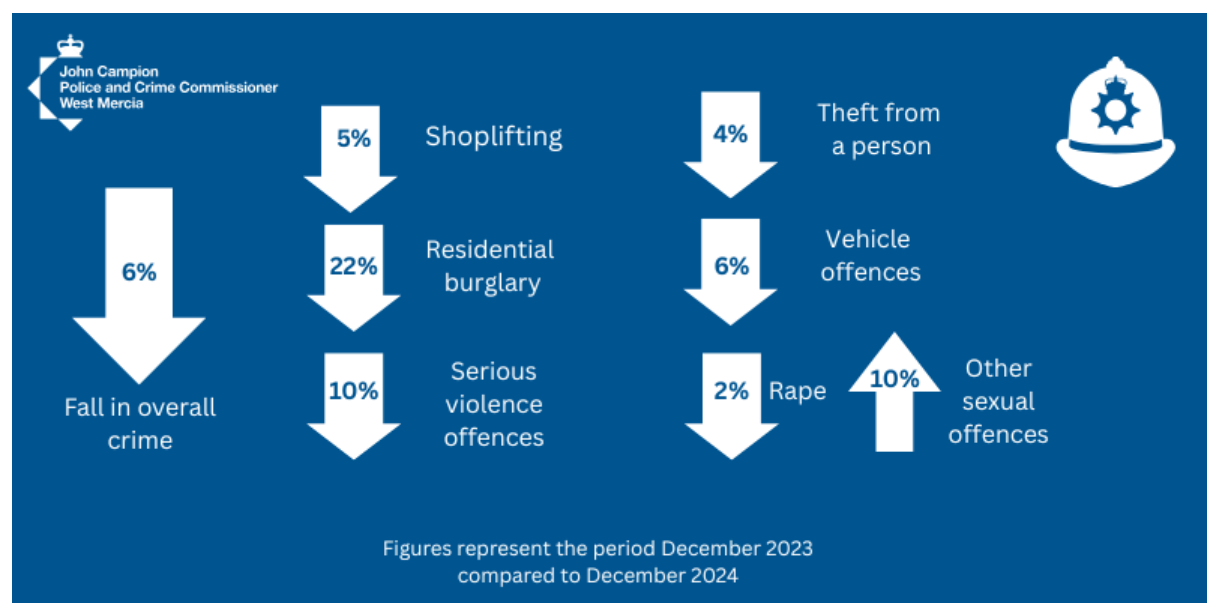
Three quarters (76%) of those surveyed are confident they would receive a good service from WMP, with confidence in WMP lowest in Shropshire (73%) and highest in South Worcestershire (77 %).

Residents of North Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin are 76% confident they would receive a good service from WMP.

Clearly more work can be done, and I am determined everyone feels like they are receiving a level of service they expect from their police force, regardless of where they live.

I will be relentless in continuing to engage with communities to hear their concerns and address these with the Chief Constable to find solutions.

I want to see effective engagement improved with community groups and for people to have confidence in policing.



Latest ONS figures show positive picture in West

Delivering on my commitment to cutting crime as detailed in my West Mercia Safer Communities Plan, the latest crime figures for England and Wales have been released by the Office for National Statistics.

Bucking the national rise in crime of 14%, the picture in West Mercia is positive with a 6% fall in overall crime and reductions in key crime types.

From December 2023 to December 2024, there have been decreases in shoplifting (5%), residential burglary (22%), serious violence offences (10%), theft from the person (4%) and vehicle offences (6%).

Whilst rape offences have fallen by 2%, other sexual offences have risen by 10%.

The drop in crime, which goes against the national picture, demonstrates the proactive work West Mercia Police is doing to tackle the bread-and-butter issues that you care about.

However, there is no room for complacency, and I remain concerned about the prevalence of violence against women and girls in our society.

That's why I am committed to working with the Chief Constable to build on these foundations by delivering more for the communities of West Mercia.

[More detail on the latest ONS figures](#)



Shining a spotlight on rural crime

to rural communities and victims of crime about the concerns and challenges they face in relation to flytipping, hare coursing, drugs, ASB, road safety and the theft of both livestock and equipment.

These crimes damage livelihoods and lives, and I am determined to do all I can to support the force in stopping this criminal activity.

I fund five Rural and Business Officers (RABO) across our communities, and my Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner has visited local RABOs and policing teams to see the work taking place to tackle crime and support victims.

This feedback was used in two online focus groups I hosted last week and will be used to support and challenge the Chief Constable at our Assurance and Accountability meeting next week.

An update from that will follow and the meeting itself will be recorded and shared. You will be able to access the recording [via my website](#).

By putting your voice and that of your community at the heart of policing, we can work together to tackle the crime concerns that impact your area.



Pershore sees significant fall in crime and ASB

Putting the public voice at the heart of policing is central to the effective delivery of my West Mercia Safer Communities Plan.

Listening to concerns raised and acting on them, I meet regularly with the Chief Constable to support and challenge how the force is responding to the things that matter to you most.

During a Community Conversation in the town, I heard from more than 60 residents who were unhappy with the service they were receiving from West Mercia Police and wanted to see change.

Returning six months later, communities were starting to feel improvements, but it was clear there was more to do, so targeted activity continued and the latest crime data for 2025 has shown a brighter picture, with anti-social behaviour down by more than a quarter (28%) since 2023.

The drops in anti-social behaviour and crime are significant and reflect safer streets, stronger policing, and a community that feels heard.

I will continue to hold Community Conversations and online forums across the three counties of West Mercia to hear your concerns, and will raise these with the Chief Constable to deliver similar positive outcomes.

Eleven arrested in Hereford immigration operation

Ensuring data sharing is improved amongst partners to better inform interventions and enable disruption activity across West Mercia, is also part of my Safer Communities Plan.

A successful example of this was an operation this month that targeted suspected immigration offences in Herefordshire.

West Mercia officers, supported by partners in Immigration Enforcement, Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service, and Herefordshire Council, worked together to target six locations in response to intelligence received.

Eleven people, who had no right to work or reside in the UK were arrested, and owners of the businesses involved served with penalty notices. There were also several failures to meet basic safety requirements at the premises.

While this operation was a success, I know more can be done forcewide across our three counties and beyond, and I will continue to collaborate with partners to develop cross-organisational and cross-boundary relationships that maximise investments and deliver a safer West Mercia for us all.

Telford shoplifter handed two-year Criminal Behaviour Order

I know from speaking to local businesses, retail workers and the public, the damage retail crime is causing communities across the

Earlier this month, a prolific Telford shoplifter was given a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) after being convicted of theft.

The individual had picked up more than £250 worth of steaks and had offended in the past. He is now banned from five stores in the town for two years.

I am determined, through continuing to make sure officers are both accessible and visible, to deliver safer town centres with the help of dedicated town centre policing teams that will work with businesses and partners to reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Hotel staff offered training in how to spot signs of child sexual exploitation

At the end of April, hotel staff across West Mercia were offered training to help them spot the signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Child exploitation, in particular sexual exploitation, can often take place in hotels, so it's an important part of the force prevention strategy that those working in hotels spot the early signs and flag them to the police.

Led by specialist officers, the sessions aimed to help staff understand what child sexual exploitation is, how to spot the signs, and what they can do if they have any concerns.

Supporting victims and witnesses has been an integral part of my commissionership, and I endorse several initiatives aimed at both supporting children who have been victims of crime and partnerships that help keep vulnerable young people away from criminals.

This financial year, I commissioned Catch22 to deliver the new Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service (STEPS).

Building on the success of initiatives already making a difference in West Mercia, Catch22 will be partnering with Willowdene and Brightstar Boxing.

It is vital we recognise the danger vulnerable children can be in and give them access to the support they need during the criminal justice process and set them up to succeed moving forward.



New West Mercia Police and Fire Hub wins delivering value award

Delivering on my commitment to reform the police estate whilst delivering greater value for taxpayers' money, I was delighted when the newly-opened police and fire hub in Redditch won the Delivering Value Award at this year's Constructing Excellence Midlands West Awards.

The nomination showcased how consideration wasn't only made about cost, but how the project would unlock societal benefits with it delivering £8.78 million in 'social value' for the local community, more than double its target.

The project was also shortlisted for the Building Project of the Year Award.



Steer Clear funding to tackle knife crime to continue

Knife crime devastates families and communities, and while the number of offences are relatively low in West Mercia, one life lost is one too many.

As set out in my West Mercia Safer Communities Plan, prevention is at the heart of my approach to cutting crime and that includes knife crime.

That's why I'm proud to be investing £288k in Steer Clear this financial year.

This brings the total amount of funding provided by my office to £825k since 2023, when I first awarded the grant to be delivered by The Children's Society.

The award-winning Steer Clear programme, which will continue to be delivered by the Children's Society, makes a real difference by educating and supporting young people about the dangers of carrying a knife.

Through education and support, Steer Clear aims to improve young people's understanding of knife crime and offers alternative solutions, with the aim of reducing serious youth violence.

But we can do more across society and our communities, which is why I fully supported the recent force activity around Op Sceptre.

The police operation across the force area, saw heightened activity with officers engaging with local retailers and businesses to ensure they played their part in keeping knives off our streets and out of the hands of vulnerable young people.



HMICFRS publishes its PEEL Inspection Findings of West Mercia Police

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has published its findings from a PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) Inspection of West Mercia Police.

The report follows an inspection of the force in 2024 and identifies areas of good work and progress on challenges, whilst also highlighting where further improvement is needed.

The report's gradings found West Mercia Police to be 'good' in one area, 'adequate' in four and 'requiring improvement' in four.

I know that you rightly have high expectations of the police, so it's important we use these findings as a platform to drive further change.

Together with the Chief Constable, action is already taking place to address concerns and it's my expectation that this progress will continue at pace.

I will continue to work with and support the Chief Constable in delivering my Safer Communities Plan, by directing the resources needed to deliver the best possible service to the communities of West Mercia.

We remain focused on the issues that matter most to you, which is providing a service that is responsive, fair, and trusted.

[Read the report in full](#)



Investing in the next generation of leaders at the 2025 Criminology Conference

DPCC Marc Bayliss opened the 2025 Criminology Conference at the University of Worcester on 16 May.

Investing in the next generation of leaders, he spoke to the students, researchers, and practitioners about how my Safer Communities Plan will help tackle crime using best practice, together with the latest innovation and artificial intelligence (AI).

The five themes that ran through the day included violence prevention, organised crime, green criminology, diversity in the criminal justice system, and the lived realities of working in it.

Communities are at the heart of policing, and it was a privilege for my office to open this event, whose key themes reflected the work I'm doing to ensure the force delivers a Safer, Stronger West Mercia.

In the heart of your community

Worcestershire

Remembering those who have sadly lost their lives on our roads, DPCC Marc Bayliss visited Redditch Arrow Valley Park to see the new doves installed by RoadPeace West Midlands and West Mercia.

RoadPeace does incredible work to help those who have been left bereaved or been injured in road



Herefordshire

As part of my commitment to improving road safety, I provide speed cameras and high-visibility jackets to Community Speedwatch volunteers.

APCC Steve MacKay visited two groups in Herefordshire (Aston Ingham and Colwall) to see them in action. Both said they had noticed a difference in the number of instances of speeding in the area since getting the equipment. However, concerns were raised about the speed of vetting potential volunteers, which I shall explore further with the Chief Constable.



Telford

Established to tackle concerns around neighbourhood safety and to create long-term support for community groups, Telford & Wrekin's Safer & Stronger programme has helped launch a wonderful community sensory garden in Dawley.

The programme, which is in partnership with myself, helps bring

APCC Steve MacKay joined the Cllr Richard Overton and church secretary Sharon Hanson to officially open the garden.



Shropshire

Communities should not only be safe but feel safe too. In April, the town of Oswestry experienced some incidents of extremist graffiti. This will not be tolerated in West Mercia and needed to be dealt with immediately. DPCC Steve MacKay visited the town to speak to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and residents, to find out more about what had happened and crucially what had been done since to stop such nasty incidents from happening again.



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