



**Hello and welcome to my first newsletter of 2021...**

This edition includes: a chance to have YOUR say on my budget; more county lines arrests following cooperation with Merseyside Police; five new electric vehicles to add to the policing fleet; investing in my commitment to improve road safety across West Mercia and some New Year crime prevention tips.

Due to the new COVID-19 government guidelines, my office is mainly working from home and, whilst we are able to take phone calls to our usual OPCC number, I would encourage you to contact us by emailing [opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or by using our social pages 'westmerciapcc' on Facebook and twitter. Any members of the public needing to call the office can do so between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday - Friday. Please stay safe and look out for each other.

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*My call to the community...*

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**HOME  
& DRY**

Be aware of your surroundings

Stay well clear of the edge

Try to always walk or run with a friend

Always let someone know where you're going

Take your mobile phone

Learn swimming and lifesaving skills

**Keep your loved ones safe  
#HomeAndDry**

**Find out more [www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/homeanddry](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/homeanddry)**

**January joggers... Get Home & Dry!**

We all strive to improve ourselves in the New Year. If you're out and about running or jogging, please remember to take a route that's away from rivers and waterways, and always make sure someone knows where you're going.

Make sure you get #HomeAndDry

**[More here »](#)**

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### Look out for our elderly and vulnerable

With new lockdown measures coming into effect, it is vital that we continue to show the community spirit seen throughout 2020, by looking out for our elderly and vulnerable.

A reminder that I have made resources available to help communities across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire, which can be found [here](#).

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## Latest news...



### I've added new zero emission vehicles to the policing fleet

As part of my commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of policing, five electric vehicles will be visible in communities across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire.

[Read more »](#)

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# #PROTECT

## TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME TOGETHER



**Op Protect: The force continue to have my support in tackling county lines drug offending**

More arrests were made over the Christmas period:

The force supported Merseyside Police during a Christmas crackdown on county lines across Shropshire, with 11 people arrested. [See the full story here »](#)

Another man was also arrested, with drugs and a knife seized by investigating officers. [More here »](#)

[Read my commitment to tackling serious and organised crime »](#)

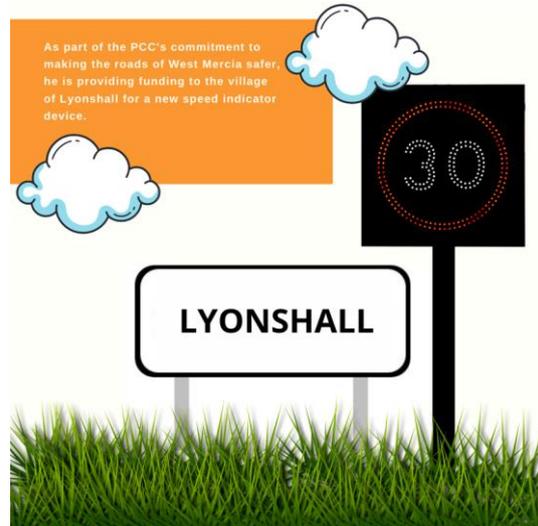
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### **I invested in a new pro laser to help tackle speeding in North Worcestershire**

It forms part of my commitment to improving road safety in West Mercia, and will help make local residents feel safer.

[More details here »](#)



### **I am delivering on my Safer Roads commitment in Herefordshire**

I am helping a Herefordshire community tackle the issue of speeding in the area, by funding a new speed indicator device in Lyonshall.

[Read how it will help local residents »](#)



### **I spent time with the Local Policing Priority Team for Herefordshire and Worcestershire**

It was great to hear about some of their work to disrupt criminal activity and keep our roads safe, among the myriad of other policing activities.

[Head to my personal Twitter for more »](#)

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*You are not alone...*

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**I spoke to BBC Radio Shropshire about the issue of domestic abuse**

I explained why I take personal responsibility in ensuring the right services are available to victims.

Meanwhile, I also explained why tackling perpetrator behaviour is the key to successfully tackling domestic abuse.

[Listen to my thoughts on BBC Radio Shropshire »](#)



**If you are at risk, there is a way out, please don't suffer alone**

1 in 4 women fall victim to domestic abuse in their lifetime and, if you are one of them, remember you are not alone.

Despite the lockdown, you can still leave home if you are at risk of, or experiencing, domestic abuse.

[Head to the Government website for help during the pandemic »](#)

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*I join the force and urge people to help prevent crime...*

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**Mark your property**

Security marking your valuable property can help discourage thieves as it makes the items hard to sell on. It also helps the police return the items to you if they are stolen or lost and later found.

 West Mercia  
**POLICE**

## Follow the advice and protect your items from criminals

Even more so after Christmas, there are things you can do to prevent your items from being stolen. This includes marking your property, flat packing or shredding identifiable packaging, keeping valuables out of site of windows and not advertising your new items on social media.

I help to fund Smartwater, which you can use to mark your property with, whilst registering your new items on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

This means that if the worst should happen and your items are stolen, then they can be returned if found.

[More tips on protecting your property from burglars here »](#)

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## Be aware of scams and warn others...

As the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines continue, criminals are targeting the elderly and vulnerable with a new scam.

Text messages and calls are claiming that the recipient is eligible to apply for a vaccine and must provide personal and financial information. The NHS does not charge for the vaccine.

[More information on how to protect you and your loved ones here »](#)

**Fake Text re - Covid-19 Test**

A dangerous fake NHS text has been circulating, telling people they're eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what it looks like.

Wednesday, 30 December 2020

NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here : [uk-application-form.com](http://uk-application-form.com)

**This URL takes you through to an extremely convincing fake NHS website that asks for your personal details**

**NEVER give out your personal details.**

With the recent approval of multiple vaccines in the UK, these types of scam attempts are likely to continue as fraudsters look to take advantage of the rollout to so many people.

Cold calls regarding the vaccine are also beginning to take place – we've already had reports of scammers asking people to pay for it over the phone. If you receive one of these calls, hang up.

The infographic includes a screenshot of a mobile browser displaying a fake NHS website. The website has a blue header with the NHS logo and the text 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine'. Below the header, there is a section titled 'Application at foot of page' with a yellow box that says 'Read before applying'. The main content area has a blue background with white text that says 'We will now ask some questions' and lists several questions: '1. Name', '2. Date of birth', '3. Gender', '4. Current address', '5. Email address', '6. Phone number', '7. NHS number', '8. Current occupation', '9. Current address', '10. Current occupation'. There is a 'Continue' button at the bottom of the form.

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*Some 2020 statistics...*

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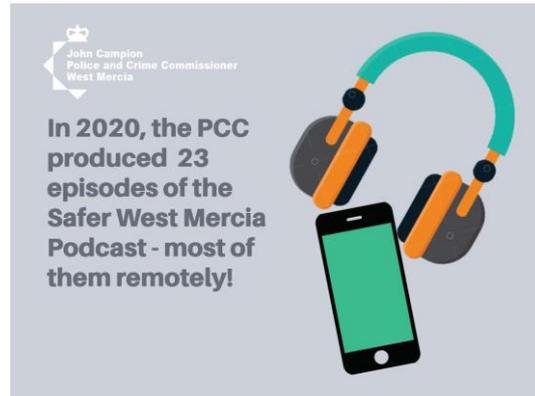


### Working from home

2020 was an exceptional year, but my office has maintained its service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many other offices, technology has enabled everyone to keep in touch and maintain working relationships.

[More on Facebook »](#)



### I recorded 23 podcast episodes

The Safer West Mercia Podcasts feature guests giving practical advice on everything from online safety to domestic abuse.

The podcasts can be heard on Spotify, TuneIn, Buzzsprout Apple Podcasts and Amazon Alexa, or you can head to my website (link below).

[Listen to your favourite episodes here »](#)



### I secured £1,070,630.39 of additional funding

The funding has provided community based initiatives for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Extra funding has also been secured for the

Safer Streets Fund, which will improve the lives of residents in Brookside, Telford.

[Head to my Facebook page for more »](#)



**Sadly, we saw an increase in officer assaults...**

Despite overall crime falling, the number of assaults on West Mercia Police officers increased in 2020.

This is unacceptable, especially given the additional pressures COVID-19 brings to officers and their families.

[More on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram »](#)

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*Finally, take a minute...*

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## How do you get your news?

Help us to improve the way we communicate with you...

**PCC Communication Survey**



**How do you get your news?**

I'm always striving to make it easier for you to keep up-to-date with my work.

Could you help by taking part in my 1 minute survey?

[Survey here »](#)

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