

## Detectives recognised in New Year's Honours

Every hour of every day there are incredible people doing incredible things to help others, not least police officers and staff across the UK. But, all too often it's the negative aspects of policing that play out publicly. We can also be guilty of not blowing our own trumpet. Yes, it is all part of the job, but when individuals go above and beyond it's absolutely right this is recognised and rewarded. That's why I was delighted to see some of our finest detectives recognised in the New Year's Honours list.

Four detectives from across the country have picked up this prestigious honour. These officers work extremely hard and as Deputy Secretary for PFNDF, I am extremely proud that they received the recognition that they so thoroughly deserve.

Many Congratulations to you all.

Here are their stories.



Karen Stephens,  
**Interim National Board Member  
and Deputy Secretary for PFNDF**

## Detective Constable Louise Pye QPM, Sussex Police

A serving officer with Sussex Police for 29 years, Louise joined as a patrol officer in Brighton, before becoming a CID officer in the town. In 1998, she started a training programme for officers whose roles included liaising with families of victims of serious crime or disasters. The following year, Sussex Police became one of the first forces to operate with such a team.

Louise, who is based at Police Headquarters in Lewes, also worked in the Major Crime Team as a Detective but her career focus has been that of family liaison. She has worked with FLOs and families who have been involved in the 9/11 New York attacks, the 7/7 London bombings, as well as the aftermath of the Tsunami that left many coastal areas devastated around the Indian Ocean in 2004.

More recently, Louise has led and worked with more than 20 police officers who have been supporting families of the victims of the Shoreham air crash in August 2015.

Louise said: "I am extremely proud to receive the Queen's Police Medal and hope that it will help promote the work and awareness of Police Family Liaison Officers.

"My job has allowed me to meet some very talented and conscientious officers who volunteer to work with families in some of the most difficult of circumstances.

"For me, becoming a police officer was driven by my desire to investigate serious crime, while also supporting victims of such crimes. It has often been challenging, but incredibly worthwhile and rewarding.

"I would like to thank colleagues who have supported me over the years, Sussex Police who have allowed me to continue in this role, and those who proposed and supported my nomination."



## Detective Inspector Carol Ellwood QPM, Humberside Police

Carol has been a serving officer with Humberside Police for 29 years, where she has had a variety of roles. Carol works in the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit and this is where she began her policing career in 1987 as a Police Constable she progressed through the ranks and is now a Detective Inspector. She joined the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit in 1993. The job is exceptionally challenging and demanding, and she has seen some of the most horrific cases of abuse against vulnerable people.

In her role as a DI in the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, Carol works very closely with a range of partner agencies across Humberside Police, to ensure safeguarding needs are addressed and where appropriate, the offenders are brought to justice. Carol's role often sees her undertake Serious Case Reviews, Learning Lessons Reviews and other multi-agency reviews following the death or serious injury of a person. Carol works closely with partner agencies to ensure that any lessons learned can be implemented effectively.

Carol's other role is that of a Family Liaison Co-ordinator. She originally trained as an FLO in 2001, then as an FLC in 2004. She has become the Force Lead FLC, chairs the North East Region FLC meetings, and also represents the NE Region on the National Family Liaison Executive Board. Carol is also a member of the National Family Liaison Officers' Professional Development Committee – a small team of police officers who are responsible for arranging and delivering CPD events to FLOs across the UK - both roles report directly to the Homicide Working Group. Due to the demands of the job, most of the FLO work is undertaken in Carol's own time.

Carol is extremely passionate about her role as an FLO, and works hard to ensure families that have suffered bereavement in the most tragic of circumstances are supported and provided with all the information they need to help them. For Carol, the role of an FLO is one of the most difficult roles within the police service that she's ever had to undertake and it never fails to amaze her how resilient, grateful and supportive the families are.

Carol said: "It is hard for me to put into words how I really feel without getting tearful but I am very grateful as well as emotional, proud, honoured and humbled – all of those things rolled into one.

"I have received some lovely letters, comments and emails from people I do not personally know, as well as from people who I currently work with or have previously worked with - they all mean a lot to me."



## Detective Constable Abid Saleh MBE, Lancashire Constabulary

Abid has been a serving police officer with Lancashire Constabulary for 15 years, where he has worked in a variety of roles, all of which he has thoroughly enjoyed. In his current role as a DC, he works on the Child Sexual Exploitation Team. Abid is also a volunteer within the East Lancashire community, developing services for children, including scouting, education, football and sports.

Abid's work is extremely challenging and demanding, and involves working with the most vulnerable members of society. Abid is an advocate for children and feels that as a whole, everyone needs to do more to protect them and others who are vulnerable. Abid has dealt with some difficult and horrific cases, which unfortunately are not rare and an ever increasing area of work for the police nationally. Abid really enjoys his role and the difference he can make to those who are vulnerable and hopes to be able to continue working with children and vulnerable people in the future. As a police officer, Abid feels extremely privileged



to be in a position to help people and have a positive impact on their lives.

Abid's wife and three children were delighted when he told them the news that he had been awarded the MBE. As with all detectives, his family have often dealt with him being away at meetings or events.

Abid said: "I feel extremely honoured and humbled by this award and still don't think it has sunk in. I'm extremely fortunate in that I love helping to improve the lives of children and the vulnerable in our communities. It is something I take a great deal of fulfilment from.

"However, it is always a team effort and I can't accept this MBE without mentioning all the people I volunteer and work with. The opportunity to meet royalty and to receive such an esteemed award is something that I never ever imagined.

"I hope I can inspire others to contribute to public service, benefitting our communities, children and those who are most vulnerable."

## Detective Sergeant Sarbjit Kaur MBE, Merseyside Police

Sarbjit has been a serving police officer with Merseyside Police for 13 years, and is currently an Acting Detective Inspector, working within the Force Intelligence Unit. During her career, Sarbjit has worked in local BCUs, as well as spending time in specialist roles, including the International Crime Unit and Special Branch.

As a detective, one of the challenges that Sarbjit has found is the sophistication of some of the crimes that the service deals with, such as Cyber Crime and the challenges facing officers and forces to reduce the threat, harm and risk element to communities when they are dealing with these types of crimes.

Sarbjit said: "I could not have achieved this honour without the support from many colleagues and mentors. Early on in my career, I recognised I could assist Merseyside Police in raising awareness of Forced Marriages and Honour Based Abuse. Receiving this award means these issues are being highlighted and will encourage further discussions.

"I would also like to thank my husband and children, who have been the driving force throughout my career. There is no doubt in my mind that the honour I have received also recognises their support and love."



*Have you been involved or know of any great work that you would like to feature in the newsletter?  
If so, then please let us know via email: [Karen.stephens@polfed.org](mailto:Karen.stephens@polfed.org)*

