



Your police service

Putting the public first

- Protecting the public
- Fit for the future
- Working together

Protecting the public

- **The strength of your British police service is that we police by consent.** As the founder of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel, said 'the police are the public and the public are the police'. Consent comes from the knowledge that your police officers are impartial and accountable for their actions. The office of constable ensures operational independence of the police service and maintains the integrity, impartiality and accountability of operational policing and must remain at the heart of British policing.
- **Every year, approximately 11,000 people are taken to a police station as a 'place of safety' under the Mental Health Act.** In addition, the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health states that up to 15% of incidents which the police deal with are thought to have some kind of mental health dimension.



Mental health emergencies should have mental health professionals attend as first responders, not police officers.

- **Increasingly, police officers are providing active support to safeguard vulnerable members of society, including those who are young and older.** This is hugely important and valued police work and, while it may not



Fit for the future

- **People are the most precious resource in any police service.** It is crucial therefore that your police service is motivated, focused and valued.
- We need a well-funded, fully trained and effective police service to ensure the welfare and efficiency of police officers, resilience and the provision of the best possible service for the public.
- **Piecemeal reform only ever addresses short-term issues and creates instability.** To maximise investment, we need an independent Royal Commission, or an overarching independent review of policing, to examine what the public want from their police service, including future structure and function, otherwise money and resources risk being poured into the wrong things.



always be fighting crime, it is what the public want and expect of their police service.

- **Supporting victims of crime must be at the heart of the criminal justice system.** Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) state in their report, 'Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse', that every 30 seconds the police are contacted by a victim of, or witness to, domestic abuse and that 8% of all recorded crime is related to domestic abuse. Supporting domestic abuse victims, as well as managing the offenders responsible, must be embedded in the daily work of neighbourhood policing teams across the country.
- **The police service is continually dealing with the changing nature of crime.** While successful policing has reduced some crime,



there has been growth in new areas that require training and resources to tackle. Cyber-crime, an increase in reported sexual offences, child protection issues and female genital mutilation are just some examples. These heinous and often hidden crimes require sufficient time and personnel to investigate and tackle properly.

- **In recent years, we have seen a decline in valuable police units, such as dogs, horses, air support, firearms and roads policing.** These units have been the victim of cuts to the police budget, yet they play an invaluable role in protecting and reassuring the public.
- **There should be greater collaboration between forces.** HMIC's report, 'Policing in austerity: meeting the challenge' made clear that, in the absence of additional funding, some forces will need to collaborate more or change how policing is organised; this may include the need to consider merging. However, any change must be undertaken with proper public consultation and must not be to the detriment of the level of service communities receive.



Working together

- The police are often the first and the last port of call when the public don't know who else to turn to. But this does not mean that the police should be left to pick up the pieces as a consequence of cuts to other public services.
- Working closely with communities, partners, agencies, charities and other public sector services, builds trust and confidence in policing. Any reduction in the investment in neighbourhood policing could jeopardise the trust and relationship between the police and the local community.
- While outsourcing has a place within policing, budgetary concerns may put pressure on police forces to sell off core services such as patrol, custody and investigation. This cannot be allowed to happen – it would damage the resilience of the service, hinder its ability to respond to changing demands and weaken police accountability to the public.
- The police service pulls together when needed, drawing on resources from across the country, to police large scale events e.g. this year's NATO Summit in Wales. Any further reduction in police officer numbers could weaken the ability for your police service to deal with such large-scale events while maintaining effective day-to-day policing.
- All agencies and communities have a vital part to play in working together with the police to protect victims and bringing offenders to justice.

The Police Federation of England and Wales

The Police Federation of England and Wales is the voice of rank and file police officers representing a total of 124,000 constables, sergeants, inspectors and chief inspectors. Our core purpose, in fulfilling our statutory responsibilities for the welfare and efficiency of police officers and your police service, is to:

- ensure that our members are fully informed and that there is the highest degree of transparency in decision-making and use of resources;
- maintain exemplary standards of conduct, integrity and professionalism;
- act in the interests of the members and the public, seeking to build public confidence in the police service and accepting public accountability for our use of public money;
- work together within the Federation and in partnership with others in the policing world to achieve our goals.