

## The Changing Face of Crime

Paul Macey, Deputy Chair for Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch (NottsWatch), welcomed guests to the 2017 Conference. He introduced this year's theme by retelling a [story](#) published in the Nottingham Post, just the previous day. An elderly woman had been tricked into buying £4000 worth of iTunes vouchers as she had been frightened with the threat of arrest over an alleged HMRC debt, backdated to 1969.

How much easier for fraudsters to steal £4000, over the phone, than to break into several houses, steal goods, to then sell them, to likely raise less than this and risk being caught.

### Guest Speakers



**Paddy Tipping, Police & Crime Commissioner** referred to the recently new appointments to the [Chief Officer Team](#) of Chief Constable Craig Guildford and Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Barber and new recruitment of 84 officers. He promised a further announcement after the upcoming election on 8 June.

Paddy highlighted the police's budget challenges and the need for Craig and Rachel to make difficult decisions regarding resource with the changing nature of crime. Communities like to see *Bobbies on the Beat* but the evidence shows car crime and burglary have reduced, whereas, we are all aware of the increase in fraud.

Paddy said the police need to improve their understanding of cybercrime and it is particularly topical today, with our NHS's IT systems having been attacked. He said the police need to develop new skills to tackle this crime, that warranted officers don't necessarily have.

He finished by thanking neighbourhood watch volunteers, saying we all want to be proud of where we live and have a safe and secure environment. Working together, we can achieve this.

There was a brief opportunity for questions before Paddy headed off to support the Newark Show. Lianne Taylor, [Community Engagement and Memberships Director](#) for Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network (NHWN) referred to the National [Friends Against Scams](#) and Mike Douglas, Product Director for [Neighbourhood Alert](#) suggested the police work with him to allow registered coordinators to be recognised separately to "all users" to allow an effective means of communication between NHW and police. Mike said a police force needed to trial this and Paddy agreed that should be Nottingham. Lianne, Mike and Paddy will meet to put a plan in place.

**DI Les Charlton, Notts Police Digital Investigation & Intelligence Unit** gave



a very informative [presentation](#) explaining the nature of cybercrime and risky behaviour that can lead to becoming a victim of it. In short, if you are not expecting a phone call, letter, email etc. it is unsolicited and likely to be fraudulent.

He strongly recommended the websites shown to the left. Also see the [Fraud Awareness Videos](#) published by Western Union, which explain how the criminals work a number of known frauds.



**Eva Hunt and Victoria Willis, Nottinghamshire Victim Care** gave a dual [presentation](#) explaining their roles in supporting victims and offering restorative justice. As referred to previously by Les and Paddy, many victims of cybercrime are too embarrassed to report the crime. The message came across that Victim Care are not there to judge, just support. Also, the victim does not even need to report the crime to the police to be able to seek their help.



**DCC Rachel Barber, Nottinghamshire Police** sees NottsWatch as a key partner in trying to avoid the public needing Eva and Victoria's services. She gave a [presentation](#) explaining how the police will support communities using Neighbourhood Champions, throughout Nottinghamshire. The police will work with NottsWatch to review and update the Service Level agreement, signed by her predecessor last July. She added that communication/information sharing is a challenge and welcomes feedback from neighbourhood

watch members. The Police Comms Team are putting together an Information Plan, in which neighbourhood watch policy remains at its core. Rachel referred to Paddy Tipping speaking of the challenging resourcing issues she faces. This makes the police's engagement with key partners even more essential.

**Q & A with our panel of speakers** is always a popular part of the conference.

Questions included:



**Why don't the police have the expertise to hack the hackers?**

Les responded that the big companies like Microsoft can – they have a [Critical National Infrastructure](#) but the NHS attack is likely to be from malware embedded in an email, sent to many thousands of recipients, that an NHS employee has mistakenly opened. In some

cases the police can't realistically trace the perpetrator so promote Prevent and protect measures.

**How do NHW persuade residents to report low level crime? What is the point?**

Rachel confirmed that the police need to know about all crime. To not report crime could result in a community losing out when the Inspector allocates resource.



**Engagement and Communication**

Mike Douglas referred to best practice by Cambridgeshire Police. All Neighbourhood Policing Teams issue



weekly updates to NHW coordinators. Residents can [sign up](#) to receive updates. Lianne Taylor suggested Nottinghamshire Police pilot connecting and protecting, to make NHW more relevant for today's crimes. Family conversations about potential cybercrimes are required rather than police intervention.

**Suggestions to raise the profile of NHW – by Radcliffe-on-Trent lead Coordinator, David Griffin**

1. Add a "[How to join NHW](#)" link to neighbourhood alerts.
2. Promote dial 101 to join NHW on police cars – as exemplified by Kent Police.
3. In monthly crime stats provided on [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) add a column to show the stats relating to successes where crime detected and criminals charged.

DCC Rachel Barber seemed keen to take many of these suggestions on board and said she looked forward to working with NottsWatch and neighbourhood watch schemes.

