

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 12th April 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 329

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th April 2022 concerning School-based police officers.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Early Intervention Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

1. How many school-based police officers (including Safer Schools Officers or personnel bearing other titles that may cover police staff who spend some of their time on a school site) are there currently in your police force?

If possible, please can this be broken down by:

(i) The name of the school

(ii) The number of officers based at the school currently

Wiltshire Police does not have any Police Officers or PCSO's based in schools in the context of Safer Schools Partnerships i.e., assigned to a Safer Schools Officer role profile.

However, under our Section 16 obligation to be as helpful as possible to an applicant, I can confirm that the current position with regards to Wiltshire Police engagement with schools is as detailed below :-



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

General

Most primary and secondary schools have a nominated PCSO as a first point of contact. PCSO's are encouraged to be visible as often as time permits, especially in primary schools for example by being at the school gates and chatting to parents and pupils. This is a positive engagement activity to build good and trusted relationships with the local police team and their community. When appropriate, PCSOs can also have 'touch down' points in schools to work from. PCSO's also deliver learning and awareness lessons in schools (see below).

Mini Police

Wiltshire Police support Mini Police units in Swindon and Wiltshire, each unit comprises up to 20-year 5/6 pupils who work as a group with a PCSO, over a term, on ways to address issues that matter in their community. The Mini Police share their work with other school pupils and parents/carers/community. We currently have 14 units in Swindon with 6 more planned plus 3 units in specialist provision; 14 units in Wiltshire and 3 more planned. The objectives of Mini Police are to:

- Build positive relationships and build trust between children, their families, and the police, with a positive impact on the wider community
- To develop and nurture skills and self-esteem in pupils who participate
- To develop and nurture understanding of social responsibility and belief that they can make a difference
- Increase knowledge and understanding of the people and services which help us

Cadets

Wiltshire Police currently has 4 x Police Cadet units, for young people aged between 14 and 17 years i.e., school age. Coordination and oversight are managed by a central Team within Citizens in Policing, with a dedicated staff coordinator. However, responsibility for ensuring the running of units each week sits with the Neighborhood Sergeants and operationally this devolves to PC's and PCSO's. Cadet units are independent of schools.

Education and Awareness lessons in schools

The Youth and Early Intervention Team is responsible for providing lesson plans and presentations for PCSO's to deliver in schools. All lesson plans and presentations are reviewed to ensure that they are using best evidenced approaches to learning; are trauma informed and use current and age-appropriate material and information. PCSO's have familiarization sessions so they are confident with the materials and how to deliver the sessions. The sessions are:

- Keeping Safe – introducing trusted adults in uniformed roles – KS1
- Personal and Online Safety –KS2 (Primary)
- Sexting and Healthy Relationships – KS3 through to higher education (Year 8 and up)
- Keeping Safe - A package which explores youth violence and use of weapons targeted to KS3 through to higher education (Year 8 and up). A new Weapons Awareness input is currently being trialled.
- We also have targeted sessions around substance misuse and role of the police, these can be used outside of educational establishments, such as Guides / Scouts.

Junior Good Citizen

Junior Good Citizen is an annual event, one in Swindon and one in Wiltshire, at which Year 6 children come with their class for half a day to a venue where they engage in a range of scenarios covering aspects of safety and citizenship. The scenarios include ASB, Cyber Safety, Rail safety, Health and Safety, Fire Safety.

This is a partnership initiative and could not be delivered without a range of committed partners who deliver the scenarios. It is however coordinated by Wiltshire Police and significantly supported by Police staff including PCSO's.

Due to COVID, in 2020 and 2021 a virtual input was provided to all schools for Y6 students force wide.

World of Work

Wiltshire Police no longer supports individual work experience placements. Instead, each year young people seeking work experience as part of the school curriculum are invited to apply for World of Work, of which 3 events run across the Force area, with a total of 90 young people able to participate.

The programme runs for a week and is classroom based, participants work through a scenario and learn about/have presentations from a range of police business areas such as intel, crime scene, forensics etc. as well as working individually and in groups on tasks. Due to COVID, we were unable to run events in 2020/2021 and 2022. World of Work will re-start in 2023.

Designated Capacity

All Community Policing Team staff will support schools in their area as operationally required. In addition, Wiltshire Police has a Youth and Early Intervention team, whose roles are focused on delivering Early Intervention work with children and young people and supporting Community Policing Teams to do so. This team comprises:

- 1 x Supervisor
- 2 x coordinators
- 1 x analyst (Troubled Families)
- 3 x dedicated PCSO resource
- 6 x dedicated PC resource

2. Are there plans to introduce or add more in the 2022/2023 academic year, if so, how many?

There are no plans currently to increase the capacity as described above.

3. Has there been any consultation with any of the listed school-stakeholders (below) in decisions to introduce or add school-based police officers (including Safer Schools Officers or personnel bearing other titles that may cover police staff who spend some of their time on a school site) to any of the schools:

School governors

Parents and carers of school children

School children

Local community groups

If yes, please can you provide details of the consultation and any minutes/reports that were compiled.

Not applicable as Wiltshire Police does not have Safer Schools Officers.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk