

**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: 26th September 2024

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2024 / 854

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23rd September 2024 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) :

Including school-based police officers, school liaison/engagement officers, and any other officers in similar roles, how many police officers are currently deployed in schools across your force area, where their primary duty involves regular engagement within schools?

Of those officers, how many are specifically deployed under the 'Safer School Partnerships' program?

For clarity, by "school-based police officers," I am referring to officers for whom working within schools is a primary and significant part of their role, regardless of the specific title used by your force.

If officers perform a similar function under a different title, please include them in the count and provide their title(s) as used within your force.

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 :-



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 which are created by the Youth and Early Intervention team (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 26 units in Swindon and 18 units in Wiltshire.

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 3 x Police Cadet units, one in Swindon, one in Trowbridge and one in Chippenham. We will open a fourth in Warminster when we have recruited enough staff to run the unit and have enough Cadet applications. Cadets are for young people aged between 14 and 17 years i.e., school age. Coordination and oversight are managed by a central Team within the Youth and Early Intervention team under the Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Unit, with a dedicated staff coordinator. Responsibility for ensuring the running of units each week sits with the Children and Young Person Delivery Officers (two PCSO's), supported by other staff from the Y&EI team, Neighbourhood Police teams and volunteers. Cadet units are independent of schools.

Education and Awareness lessons in schools

The Youth and Early Intervention Team (see below) are 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 familiarisation sessions so they are confident with the materials and how to deliver the sessions. The sessions are:

- Safer Choices KS2, ages 10-11
(Weapons Awareness)

Being able to make your own decision can be hard especially when involving peer pressure, we also cover what is and what isn't a weapon.

- Online Safety KS2, ages 9-11

The online and outside world is moving incredibly fast and before children leave for secondary school, we need them to learn how to keep safe online .

- **Sextortion and indecent images – KS3/4 (Yr8 and above)**

What is sextortion? What is an indecent image? Does everyone really send nudes? Where can I go for help? These are just some of the questions that we will cover in this session.

- **Keeping Safe - Exploitation KS3/4 (Yr8 and above)**

What is exploitation? What does it look like? Who can I talk to if I have concerns for a friend? These are frequent questions that we are asked and what better way than answering those questions with an interactive input from the police.

- **Parent Online Safety Awareness**

The cyber world is ever changing and it's hard to keep up. Invite the parents in to learn about the risks and dangers and the simple steps they can take to keep them and their children safe online.

Added Extras

KS1 (YrR/1) People Who Help Us

KS2 (Yr 5/6) Primary Hate Crime

KS2 (Yr6) Primary School ASB

KS3/4 Secondary School ASB

KS3/4 LGBTQ+ and Hate Crime Awareness (video)

KS3/4 Consent, Sexual Assault and Sextortion (video)

Road Safety (video)

SWIFT & SWIFT PLUS – Swindon and Wiltshire Intervention for Families to Thrive

This is a consent-based programme run over six-months within Wiltshire Police which aims to reduce children coming to police notice and to prevent them becoming part of the criminal justice system. A child that fits the criteria (SWIFT, for those aged 8 – 16, coming to Police attention as a suspect or involved person, at risk of gang-related intelligence, criminal peer pressure, or at risk of being permanently excluded. SWIFT PLUS, for those aged 12 -17 with a greater risk of vulnerability, at risk of, or already having entered the Criminal Justice System, and are open to services) is paired with a Trusted Adult (usually a PCSO from one of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams) and has two-weekly meetings where they work towards bespoke small goals to improve behaviour and build positive outcomes.

Junior Good Citizen

Junior Good Citizen is an annual event each summer, held over two weeks in Swindon and two weeks in Wiltshire, where Year 6 children attend 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, Online Safety, Rail safety, Health and Safety, Road Safety, Hate Crime and inputs around Drug and Alcohol awareness.

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

Each year, several thousand children benefit from the event.

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 (one for the Y&EI team and one for the Cadet units)

1 x Data analyst (Supporting Families)

3 x Dedicated PCSO resource

6 x Dedicated PC resource

2 x Children and Young Person Delivery Officers (PCSO posts who run the Cadet units)

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