

# Kent PCC News

June 2026

## Victim Services Update

The Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner continues to play a vital role in ensuring that victims of crime across Kent receive the support they need. Through a strong programme of commissioned services, the PCC has funded a wide range of specialist and community-based support, helping to deliver support to victims at every stage of their journey.

Whilst not a full breakdown of activity, the latest figures clearly demonstrate the scale and impact of this work: during 2025/26, a total of 85,122 victims were referred into PCC-funded services, with 82,064 individuals going on to receive tailored support.

This support is delivered through a diverse network of 43 projects across 26 commissioned services, reflecting a broad and collaborative approach. These services ensure that support is accessible, responsive to local need, and aligned with the PCC's commitment to cut crime, support victims and build trust.



Victim Services Update

Police Forces Merger  
Consultation

Visits

**Matthew Scott says:  
"PCCs are champions  
for victims of crime.  
Supporting those in  
need is one of my most  
important duties. I am  
grateful to all of the  
charities and  
organisations that I  
work with for all they do  
to give victims and  
witnesses the very best  
care and support in  
their time of need. And  
the numbers show the  
extent of the impact  
that PCCs have across  
the sector."**

# Police Forces Merger Consultation



**Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, is inviting local residents to have their say on the Government's proposals to merge police forces across England and Wales.**

In January, the Government confirmed its intention to reform policing by reducing the current 43 police forces into a smaller number of larger, regional forces. The proposals form part of a wider ambition to move from a locally led policing model to a more centralised approach.

An Independent Review is now being carried out to advise the Government on how these proposed police mergers should be taken forward. However, the review is not seeking the views of the public, meaning it remains unclear how much public support exists for such significant changes to local policing.

To address this, Matthew Scott, Kent's PCC has launched this consultation to give residents the opportunity to have their say. The consultation does not set out firm proposals. Instead, it asks residents for their views on a range of key principles linked to potential police force mergers. These include questions around the benefits and negatives of merging, policing visibility and accountability and how AI and facial recognition is used.

**Matthew Scott says:**

**“There is no evidence to suggest that larger Police Forces are better than smaller ones. This has been a policy designed to reduce local accountability and democratic oversight, and I fear will lead to a loss of local policing, reduced crime investigation outcomes and a worse service for the public. If a Chief Constable is responsible for everything from Milton Keynes to Margate, how can they possibly get it right? Technology is helping Police Forces to improve outcomes for victims and reduce the amount of time necessary for some tasks. However, many of these important programmes haven't been subject to public consent. With the creation of Police.AI, and Government funding for live facial recognition vans, I would like to know your views on these issues.”**

Responses will be used to help inform the Commissioner's response to the Independent Review and ensure that the perspective of Kent residents is reflected as decisions are considered at a national level.

The survey also seeks views on the public's opinions on the use of technology within policing.



 Scan Me

To fill out the survey, scan the QR code or click here -

**[Police Forces Mergers Consultation](#)**

The survey will close on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June



## Visits around Kent and Medway



Visiting Northfleet Technology College to discuss the role of the PCC and local policing



Attending the latest Police and Crime Panel



Visiting a group of trainee call handlers



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