

Jeff Harris: Personal Statement

I am delighted that Surrey's new Police & Crime Commissioner, Kevin Hurley, has asked me to act as his Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner during his term of office. Subject to confirmation of my appointment by the Police & Crime Panel, I am looking forward to working with Kevin and his team of staff in this new and challenging role. Kevin and I bring a shared passion for policing and a determination that local people should receive the very best policing service possible.

The majority of my professional career was spent as a police officer in the Metropolitan Police Service. My last role before retiring as a Chief Superintendent in 2005 was Borough Commander for Hounslow, leading a team of 640 officers, PCSOs, civilian staff and volunteers with an annual budget of £25million. I developed close working relationships with local authorities, co-chairing the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and sitting on various groups such as the Community and Police Consultative Group, Race Crime and Harassment Group and the Borough Criminal Justice Group. During my time in Hounslow, crime was reduced by over 20% and the Borough was one of the highest performing in the Metropolitan Police area.

I have also served as Borough Superintendent in Lewisham where I was personally responsible for performance issues across all departments, from budgets to enforcement activity and prosecution. In this role I designed, formulated and led Operation Seneca – a multi-million pound Police, Transport for London and public/private Sector operation across London aimed at addressing crime and disorder on public transport routes. This ultimately resulted in the reintroduction of CCTV on London's buses, with unprecedented success and the project was nominated for the national Tilley awards for multi-agency problem-solving.

After retiring in 2005, I became an Assistant Director for Westminster City Council, a role that I enjoyed for almost five years. My portfolio of responsibilities included integrated street management, bringing together the numerous City Council employees involved in street based services (such as enforcement inspectors and City Guardians) under one, simplified management structure. The team worked closely with Police and the health, housing and voluntary sectors. The project, one of the largest reorganisations undertaken by the Council, was delivered on time, to budget and with an in-year saving of £500k with no redundancies.

From January 2011 until this summer I have been a volunteer and then Team Leader for the Prince's Trust Team Programme based in Egham, Reigate, south London and Crawley. This has seen me lead groups of highly vulnerable young people aged 16 to 25 on intensive development courses designed to improve their employment and educational prospects. I've also been responsible for discipline, welfare, training, budget management and assessment reports.

On a personal level, I live in Tadworth with my wife who has worked in the Paediatric Unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital for almost thirty years. We have three grown up sons, two of whom are serving police officers and the third is a deputy anaesthetist. I have been a volunteer staff member with the Metropolitan Police Voluntary Cadets based in Croydon and serve as Conservator with the Banstead Commons Conservators in North Surrey. In my spare time, I enjoy walking, gardening, photography and watercolour painting.

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