

ROYAL ST. HELENA POLICE SERVICE



# POLICE & CRIME PLAN 2022-2027



*Making St. Helena & Ascension Island Safer*

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## **Governor's Foreword**

Capable and competent policing is at the heart of a safe and stable community. A community where the way of life means people can go about their daily lives with confidence. It follows, therefore, that maintaining the balance between personal freedoms and ensuring the rule of law can be upheld is an endeavour to which the entire community must contribute, our collective aim to achieve policing by consent.

Keeping our society on St Helena and Ascension well served by its police service requires forethought and planning. I, therefore, welcome the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2027. The priorities for policing it presents are the right ones. The emphasis on community engagement, deterring crime, protecting the vulnerable and ensuring the necessary policing specialisms are available, means capable and competent policing should be assured well into the future.

I commend the intent of this plan and look to the Chief of Police, officers in the Royal St Helena Police Service and colleagues in the St Helena and Ascension Governments and administrations to turn this plan into a successful reality.

**Nigel Phillips C.B.E.**

Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

# Our Vision for the Police Service

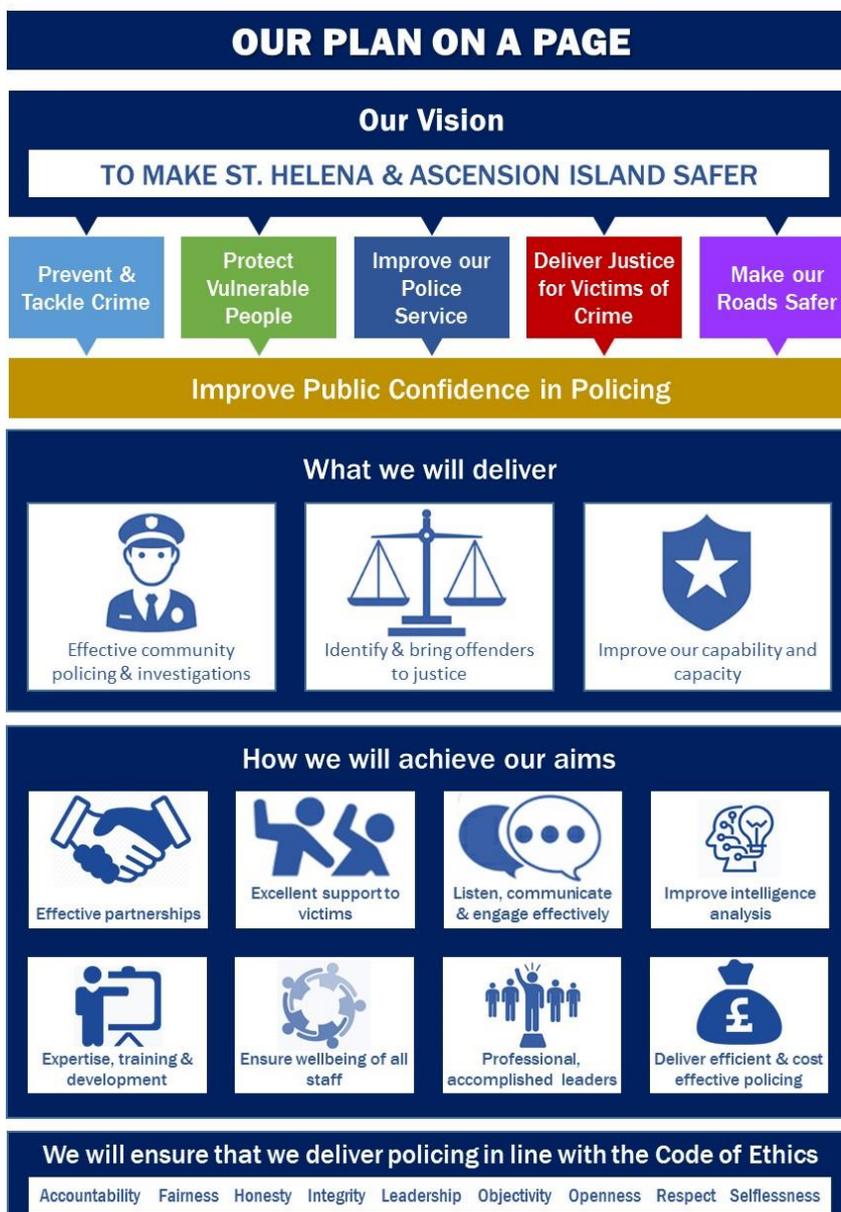
St. Helena and Ascension Island are safe places and the Royal St. Helena Police Service is committed to ensuring they become even safer for people who live, work and visit our beautiful islands.

I am incredibly proud to have been appointed as Chief of Police and I am determined to work tirelessly with our officers, staff and volunteers to deliver an efficient and effective police service that meets the needs of our communities.

This Police and Crime Plan is an important document which outlines the priorities for the police service on behalf of the public that we serve. It is then my job, together with the command team, to deliver the Plan's objectives. In doing this, we will take into account the recommendations from the inspection carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in 2020 and the emerging crime and policing priorities, both locally and internationally.



Whilst some people may query how this translates into the policing that our islands deserve, in reality there are strong links between them and my role is to distil them all into simple operational directions for our officers, staff and volunteers. To this end, I have introduced a straightforward 'plan on a page' which incorporates each of these elements into a single strategic intention.



In simple terms, our role is to make St. Helena and Ascension Island safer and to ensure that our islands remain a hostile environment for criminals. In this respect; the core role of the police has remained constant throughout the history of the service, since our formation in 1836.

The key to achieving our aims is our approach to community policing. This will be a vital area of development over the next 12-18 months and we are very fortunate to have been offered expert support by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to assist us in this process. This will enable us to develop our processes and skills, improving our ability to understand our communities and to solve the problems that matter to them most.

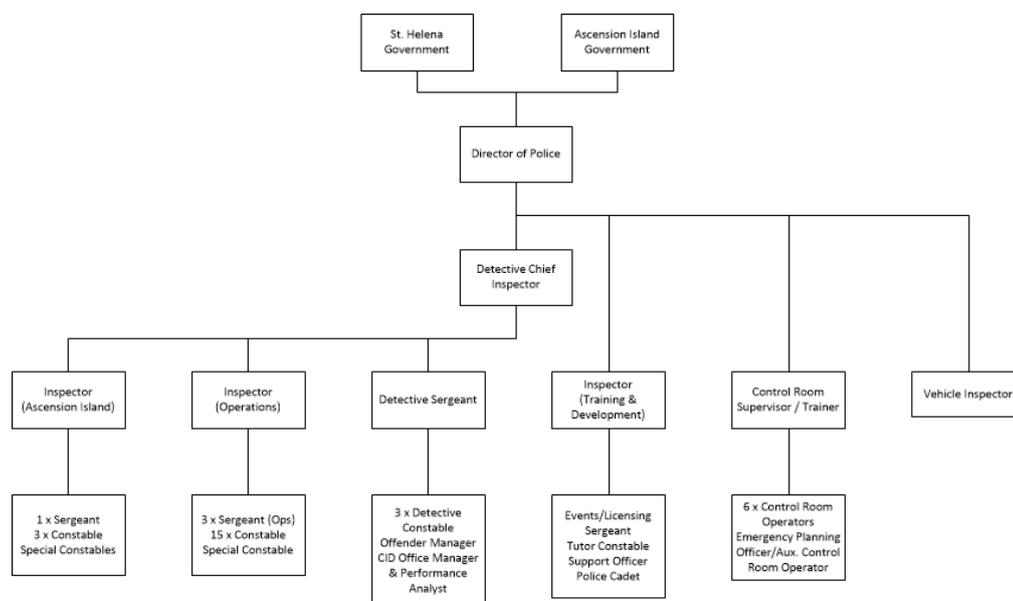
By delivering this Police and Crime Plan in collaboration with our partners, we will meet our shared objective of keeping our communities safe and driving down crime, with a police service that both islands and their people can have confidence in and be proud of.

*D. Price*

David Price, Chief of Police

# Policing St. Helena & Ascension Island

Section 44 of the Constitution of St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, defines the special responsibilities of the Governor, which include internal security and, specifically, policing. The Royal St. Helena Police Service, whose structure is shown below, is responsible for the policing of both St. Helena and Ascension Island. As a result, the police service works very closely with the St. Helena Government (where it sits within the Safety, Security & Home Affairs Portfolio) and the Ascension Island Government and we reflect the strategic aims of both islands in our vision and the objectives set within this plan. Our officers move between the two islands, providing support, development and training in both locations in order to ensure that our communities receive a consistent quality of service, regardless of where they are.



## Our policing model

Our policing style is based on community policing. This means that police officers and staff work with local people to solve local issues. This is an area that we are determined to develop and you will see that this is reflected as one of our priorities for policing. We will be working hard to identify and build links with all elements of our communities, based on the locations where people live and different age and social groups.

There are three distinct elements within the police service:

- Joint Emergency Services Control Room:** This is a 24/7 service that monitors the non-emergency (22626) and 999 telephone lines on St. Helena, as well as the maritime radio stations for both St. Helena and Ascension. The controllers support all the emergency services, including fire, police and ambulance, and can communicate with personnel throughout St. Helena using our digital radio network. The control room records all incident reports using the Overseas Territories Recorded Crime and Incident System (OTRCIS) as well as providing a reception service for all who visit the police station.

While there are no control room facilities on Ascension, officers when on duty or on call will answer 999 calls. If, for any reason, the call cannot be answered, it will be transferred to their digital radios. Ascension Island officers also take calls for Mitie Fire Service, who are responsible for domestic fire cover on the island.

- Uniform Operations:** Our uniformed officers on both St. Helena and Ascension Island are the most visible aspect of policing. They respond to incident reports, investigate some crimes and offences and carry out proactive patrols and policing operations to address identified problems within our communities.
- Criminal Investigations:** Experienced, specialist investigation officers are based at Police Headquarters on St. Helena. They take responsibility for investigating serious and/or complex crimes and provide advice and guidance to their uniformed colleagues on both islands. We also have a number of people trained as crime scene investigators and they provide technical support to our investigations.

## Working in partnership

Working with all our key partners will be crucial to the success of this Plan. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour cannot be the responsibility of the police alone as we need the support and expertise of our local agencies working together to solve relevant issues. The police service, as the lead on policing and crime, is well-placed to encourage all agencies to work together to make St. Helena and Ascension Island safer.

Through our engagement with both formal and informal community safety partnerships, we will work with government and the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver the priorities in this Plan and identify opportunities for collaborative working. It will be especially important that we work effectively with the health, social care, education, safety and security services on both islands to identify and implement strategies to tackle the issues facing our communities.

If we are to maintain and improve the level of confidence that our communities have in their police service, it is vital that we provide regular updates to the communities and Elected Members on both islands with regards to how policing is being delivered in their local areas. We will explore more opportunities, especially those involving social media and our online presence, in order to develop effective more effective methods of communication.

The police service will continue to drive forward collaboration with other blue-light services, including our Fire and Rescue, Sea Rescue and Ambulance Services, to identify how we can work together to deliver our training and services more efficiently. We will also foster a close working relationship with all those working in the criminal justice sector, including the Probation Service, Prison and the Crown Prosecutor, to improve outcomes for those interacting with the criminal justice system.

Collaboration with the police services of the other Overseas Territories and the United Kingdom will provide us with the opportunity to ensure that we maintain our high standards of policing and can identify and implement developments that will improve the quality of the services we offer. We will access external funds such as those from the FCDO Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), as they become available, in order to help us to develop the service.

During the course of 2022, we hope to establish a long term relationship with a single United Kingdom police service. This aims to significantly improve the development opportunities for our staff, as well as providing access to specialist support and advice.

### A Year in the Life of the Police on St. Helena



All the above information is based on the year 01/04/21 to 31/03/22

# Our Priorities for Policing & Crime

## PRIORITY

### Prevent & tackle crime

- ☑ Prevent violent crime
- ☑ Tackle anti-social behaviour
- ☑ Prepare for and respond to the increasing threat of cybercrime
- ☑ Tackle sexual offending

## PRIORITY

### Protect vulnerable people

- ☑ Identify and support victims of domestic violence
- ☑ Work with partners to protect children, young people and adults at risk
- ☑ Evolve community Safeguarding through partnership working
- ☑ Identify and prevent exploitation of children

## PRIORITY

### Improve public confidence in policing

- ☑ Deliver effective community policing
- ☑ Recruit more police officers and volunteers
- ☑ Train and develop local officers and staff
- ☑ Define the policing footprint

## PRIORITY

### Improve our police service

- ☑ Enhance the police estate
- ☑ Ensure legislation, policies and procedures are fit for purpose
- ☑ Deliver value for money
- ☑ Improve capacity and capability

## PRIORITY

### Deliver justice for victims of crime

- ☑ Provide support for victims
- ☑ Maintain satisfaction among victims
- ☑ Record crime accurately and ethically
- ☑ Maintain solved crime rates

## PRIORITY

### Make our roads safer

- ☑ Work with partners to educate road users
- ☑ Adopt an intelligence-led approach to policing our roads
- ☑ Reduce injury road traffic collisions
- ☑ Introduce new initiatives to improve road safety

*St. Helena and Ascension Island are amongst the safest places to live, work and visit in the world. It is our responsibility to ensure that the police service has the right resources, so that the Royal St. Helena Police Service keeps its great record for preventing and tackling crime.*

Knowing and understanding what leads people to commit crimes is vital when it comes to tackling issues in our communities. We will ensure that the police continue to work closely with all our partners on programmes aimed at reducing the number of people committing their first crime or reoffending. For less serious crimes, we will, when appropriate, utilise alternative out of court disposals, in order to prevent young or first time offenders entering into the court system and acquiring a criminal record.

We will use our budget to ensure that we have sufficient officers to prevent and tackle crime and that our officers, staff and volunteers are well-equipped to tackle all forms of criminality.

We will also develop and improve our intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities in order to ensure that we can identify and target those individuals and groups who pose the highest risk to our communities.

### **Prevent Violent Crime**

Increasing the number of police officers on our streets is one of the ways we can reduce violent crime in our communities. We will continue to actively encourage local people to join the police service, either as a regular officer or as a Special Constable, and contribute to making our communities safer. We must also work with our partners to prevent people from becoming involved in serious crime in the first place.

Alcohol has been identified as a contributory factor in many violent crimes and we will work closely with our partners across both islands, especially the Health Service, to reduce the harm, including violent crime, caused by excessive or problematic alcohol consumption in our communities.

### **Tackle anti-social behaviour**

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can have a devastating effect on local communities, and it is one of the most common issues reported to police.

Every person living in or visiting St. Helena and Ascension Island has the right to feel safe and protected by the law, particularly within their home, their street and their local community.

To tackle ASB, we will ensure that officers are adequately trained and resourced to identify issues within local communities and work with residents and partners to solve them.

### **Prepare for and respond to the increasing threat of cybercrime**

Until now, both St. Helena and Ascension Island have been relatively isolated from many of the more damaging aspects of the information revolution. However, the impending activation of the Equiano internet cable connection to St. Helena will undoubtedly increase the risk of cybercrime impacting on the islands.

It is imperative that the police service develops its capabilities to respond to cybercrime and works with its partners to, as far as is reasonably possible, reduce the likelihood of cybercrime on both islands. The police service plays a very active role in the St. Helena Resilience Forum and mitigating the impact of cybercrime is a key focus for this group.

### **Tackle Sexual Offending**

Unfortunately, St. Helena has a high level of sexual offences for the size of its population and the police service will work tirelessly to identify and support victims and to bring offenders to justice for such offences.

However, this is not a problem that the police service can resolve on its own and we will work with all our partners to raise awareness of the damage that this offending can cause and to highlight the responsibility of everyone in our communities to work together to prevent this type of crime. The most important aspect of this will be the joint partnership between Health & Social Care, Education, Safety, Security & Home Affairs and Elected Members that will tackle this key issue.

*Crime, or the fear of crime, can damage our communities and can have a severe impact on those who are most vulnerable and are therefore more likely to become victims of crime.*

Gaining an understanding of the factors that increase vulnerability is key to protecting the most vulnerable and at-risk people in our communities. Vulnerability is when someone is at greater risk of becoming a victim of crime.

We will work with partners, other agencies and our communities to further develop and enhance the ways in which we protect and support vulnerable people and victims.

### **Identify and support victims of domestic violence**

Unfortunately, on St. Helena and Ascension Island as elsewhere in the world, domestic violence has been under-reported and it is important to note that this type of crime can affect anyone in our communities, irrespective of their gender or any other personal characteristic. The reasons for this are many and complex but, in order to address this issue, it is vital that the police service retains the confidence of the community and that we are seen as being able, with our partners, to support victims of domestic violence who seek our help.

Undoubtedly, the best way to reduce domestic violence is by preventing it from ever happening in the first place, so we will continue to work with our partners to develop our harm reduction strategies and to update our legislation to reflect international best practice.

### **Work with partners to protect children, young people and adults at risk**

Children and young people are some of the most vulnerable people in society. They are most at risk of victimisation, particularly when the crime involves coercion or manipulation, such as child sexual exploitation. As has been previously noted, the sexual exploitation of children is an area for concern here and, as a result, there is a need to protect vulnerable young people through working with partners, especially in the care system and where the child in question is missing from home.

Children must also not be the forgotten victims of domestic abuse and we should not underestimate the impact this trauma can have on them in later life. Identifying and referring children exposed to domestic violence will help to provide them with the support they will need.

It is equally important that we are able to identify, protect and support vulnerable adults. Officers and staff will receive training to ensure that any such adults receive appropriate support when they come to our attention. We will also work with partners to identify and address any adult safeguarding or elder abuse issues.

### **Evolve community safeguarding through partnership working**

The Royal St. Helena Police Service has been an active member of the local Safeguarding Boards since their inception and will continue to play a key role in this vital aspect of protecting our communities.

While safeguarding has been successfully adopted and embedded in some services, further development is required in other services and groups to ensure that appropriate policies and processes are in place to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. We will work with our partners to assist these organisations in developing their safeguarding procedures.

### **Identify and prevent exploitation of children**

Our children are our most precious resource and also amongst the most vulnerable members of our communities. We will work with our partners to identify factors that place children at risk and to address these through education, publicity, access to specialist services and, where necessary, enforcement.

Providing our staff with the expertise needed to address this critical issue will be vital. This is especially important as continuous improvements are being made in the approaches to this area of our business. Working with our partners both here and overseas, we will identify and implement best practice and deliver the training required.

*The key to preventing crime is earning public support and there are significant operational benefits to high levels of public confidence in policing. It is therefore vital that we work closely with the communities on both St. Helena and Ascension Island to continue to further enhance their levels of confidence in the policing services that we provide.*

Not only does confidence in policing breed trust, legitimacy and consent, it can also lead to increased crime reporting, which will give the Royal St. Helena Police Service better community intelligence to identify and tackle crime and give confidence to victims.

This priority sets out how we will ensure the police service has the tools to build confidence within our communities at a time that the challenges we face are becoming increasingly challenging.

### **Deliver effective community policing**

It is vital that our residents and visitors know that our officers, staff and volunteers will be there when they need them. We will continue to invest in developing community policing to ensure there is an effective police presence in all our communities.

This will involve seeking support and guidance from experts from the United Kingdom and developing our capabilities to appropriately engage with all elements of our communities. Our officers, staff and volunteers will receive training and support to enable them to deliver the style of policing required for St. Helena and Ascension Island.

With the arrival of the Equiano cable, which will improve our connectivity, we will also improve our online services, providing more opportunities for local residents to use digital technology to contact the police service.

### **Recruit more police officers and volunteers**

It is vital that our police service reflects the communities that we serve and provides opportunities for local people to enjoy long and successful careers in policing. We will continue to work closely with our partners to address factors that deter local people from joining the police service and provide increased opportunities for people to learn more about our role.

We will also explore the potential to open up more roles, such as Crime Scene Investigators, to volunteers, as well as recruiting additional Special Constables.

### **Train and develop local officers and staff**

For the police service to be successful, we have to provide opportunities and support to enable our officers, staff and volunteers to reach their potential. In order to achieve this, we will be adopting a long term development plan that will provide a clear explanation of the career paths open to our people, as well as defining the training and development opportunities that we will provide.

Our annual training plan will be available to all our officers, staff and volunteers and will be based on the identified needs for that year. We will also be developing close links with a United Kingdom police service, which will allow our staff to have access to development secondments, mentors and colleagues, whose experience they can use to assist in their progress.

### **Define the policing footprint**

Historically, the police service has been seen as responsible for a wide variety of matters, many of which have no direct relationship to policing. The recent reorganisation, which resulted from the 'Fit for the Future' programme, will allow the Royal St. Helena Police Service to focus on its core business and responsibilities.

We will be very clear about our areas of responsibility, as this will help us to build community confidence, and will work closely with our partners to ensure that people clearly understand where and how they can access the services they need.

*Policing is constantly evolving and is becoming increasingly complex. In order for us to deliver an outstanding service, we must keep up with the latest developments in how policing is delivered and identify how they can be applied to St. Helena and Ascension Island.*

This includes adopting new technologies, ensuring our staff are well-resourced and looking at good examples outside of policing to help us provide a more efficient and effective service to our residents.

### **Enhance the police estate**

We have made significant changes to the Police Headquarters at Coleman House in the past two years, with the construction of the new custody suite and office facilities and the recent changes to create a new training, meeting and command centre in the space vacated when the Immigration Team moved to the Port Control Building.

However, there remains much more to be done to provide the police service with buildings that are sustainable and fit for purpose. We will improve the facilities on Ascension Island, bringing the custody facilities there up to the latest standards, and will refurbish Longwood Police Post. In the longer term, we will also explore more energy-efficient options for all our buildings.

All of our buildings need to be accessible for all members of our communities, so we will work to provide appropriate access for all. Also, we all have a responsibility to tackle climate change and its effect on our planet. As the police service provides a vast array of services our communities, our activities and operations will have an impact on the environment. We are committed to putting a plan in place to reduce the police service's carbon footprint over the next five years, with the long-term aim of eventually becoming carbon neutral.

### **Ensure legislation, policies and procedures are fit for purpose**

The police service upholds the laws of St. Helena and Ascension Island and it is obviously important that our legislation is up to date and reflects best practice in as many areas as possible.

Much of the legislation which the police service uses on a day to day basis is now very outdated and is in urgent need of revision. We will work closely with politicians and government officials on both islands, and especially the Attorney General's Chambers, to identify, prioritise and update the relevant ordinances and will also

explore the possibility of securing external funding to assist with this process.

### **Deliver value for money**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the economies of both islands and the resulting financial restrictions have affected all public services. As we move forward, it is vital that the police service delivers value for the funding it receives.

In order help us to achieve this, we will combine the budgets allocated to policing on St. Helena and Ascension Island in order to provide us with the flexibility to respond to the varying demands on both islands. We will also ensure that we challenge all expenditure and explore all possible avenues that may enable us to reduce the costs of the services we provide whilst still maintaining the policing standards that our communities expect.

### **Improve capacity and capability**

Policing requires specialist skills, personal qualities and expertise and maintaining these in an organisation as small as the Royal St. Helena Police Service is a considerable challenge. We will work closely with our communities to clearly establish the capabilities we require and, where necessary, provide the training and development opportunities that our staff require to deliver them. Where it is not viable to maintain very specialist capabilities on the islands, we will establish robust arrangements to ensure that we can access the skills and abilities required from the United Kingdom, or elsewhere.

In order to deliver the police service that our islands deserve, we must have sufficient officers staff and volunteers available with the necessary skills. We will continuously monitor our working patterns and staffing levels in order to ensure that we have the capacity to deliver the required services.

*The Royal St. Helena Police Service and its partners have a responsibility to ensure the availability of appropriate support services for victims of crime. This includes the victim support service that will be launched in 2022 and other services which support victims of specific crimes.*

We fully understand that navigating through the complex criminal justice process can be difficult, particularly for first-time victims of crime and that's why we need to ensure that these services are in place to ensure the process is as smooth as possible.

Victims are at the heart of everything we do and we will constantly review services available to victims in order to ensure that they meet their needs. The VNA will help us understand victims' priorities as we commission services over the course of this Plan. It will help us ensure the criminal justice system is delivering justice for victims of crime and support services are helping them recover from their ordeal.

### **Provide support for victims**

Victims of crime in St. Helena and Ascension Island wanted to feel empowered and in control throughout their journey through the criminal justice system. For this to happen, they need to be kept informed on the progress of their case, what will happen next and be given an indication of when this will happen. All victims of crime will receive a clear 'victim contract' describing how we will achieve this and what to do if they are not receiving the support that they require.

We will promote the new victim support services, which will be co-ordinated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. As well putting in place more publicity to raise awareness of the support on offer, we will also work with partners to make all victim services more accessible.

### **Maintain satisfaction among victims**

In order for victims of crime to have confidence in the criminal justice system, they must feel listened to, taken seriously and supported.

The police service cannot claim to be providing a good service to victims of crime unless we can support that assertion with proper evidence. Working with our partners, and particularly the victim support team, we will continue to develop our mechanisms for seeking and receiving feedback from victims of crime and for using this information to improve the services and support we offer.

### **Record crime accurately and ethically**

When there are doubts about the accuracy of crime data recorded by the police, this can have an adverse effect on the public's trust and confidence in the police service, particularly among victims of crime.

Whilst the Royal St. Helena Police Service has a good track record for crime recording, we will continuously monitor our crime recording practices in order to give victims the confidence that their report will be taken seriously and actioned appropriately.

Ensuring crime is recorded accurately will also improve our intelligence to ensure victims can access appropriate support services.

### **Maintain solved crime rates**

Not every case where the police know who committed a crime can be counted as solved, but some crimes are counted this way when the victim might view the case as far from solved. For any crime to be counted as solved, sufficient evidence must be available and capable of standing up to independent scrutiny.

St. Helena and Ascension Island have solved crime rates that all United Kingdom police services would be very jealous of. It is important that we do not lose sight of the importance of maintaining these high levels of detection as we move forward and encourage the increased reporting of crime types, such as domestic abuse, that we recognise have been under reported in the past.

*Making our roads safer is an incredibly important priority for everyone on St. Helena and Ascension Island. Every year we have too many people injured on our roads and it is vital that we take every opportunity to improve safety for all road users.*

The police service regularly receive complaints about speeding or reckless driving in our communities and share these concerns. We also work closely with all road users on both islands to address other related concerns, such as parking or unsafe vehicles.

With the development of the 'green travel' agenda, which will promote increased walking and cycling, we will need to take action locally to protect and educate road users, alongside carrying out enforcement against people who put themselves and others in danger.

### **Work with partners to educate road users**

The Royal St. Helena Police Service regularly works with key partners, including the Fire and Rescue Service, the Health Service, the Roads Section and the Highways Authority to raise awareness of road safety issues in schools and other community venues.

We will also explore the possibility of creating a multi-agency Road Safety Group, to ensure all the road safety awareness activity delivered across the islands is coordinated and delivers the same objectives.

The police service will also continue to monitor developments in the United Kingdom and throughout the world in order to understand best practice and identify new techniques in road safety that could be adopted in St. Helena and Ascension Island.

### **Adopt an intelligence-led approach to policing our roads**

With limited resources, it is important that the police service's road safety activities are accurately targeted at those locations and behaviours that are creating the highest levels of risk for our communities.

We will analyse our incident records and combine these with intelligence received from our officers, staff, volunteers and the community. We will use this to identify and target road users whose behaviour is causing concern and also to ensure that our staff are deployed at the correct times and places to have the maximum possible impact in improving road safety.

### **Reduce injury road traffic collisions**

The police service will work with partners to support and introduce initiatives to reduce the likelihood of injury road traffic accidents occurring and, if they do, to reduce the severity of the injuries that result from them. This will include working with politicians and road users to increase the use of seatbelts in vehicles and to reduce the drink drive limit on St. Helena to the same as that in Ascension Island and the United Kingdom.

We will also examine any locations where accidents occur and work with the Roads Section and the Highways Authority to see if there are any engineering solutions that will reduce the possibility of future accidents.

### **Introduce new initiatives to improve road safety**

Traditionally, the approach to dealing with poor driving has been to prosecute the driver concerned. This clearly does not necessarily improve the standard of their driving and, consequently, has only a minimal impact on improving road safety.

With the introduction of the new Road Traffic Ordinance and with the support of our partners, we will therefore introduce education programmes for drivers who are identified as driving carelessly or too fast for the first time. Attendance at these schemes will be offered as an alternative to prosecution, either via fixed penalty or court appearance, and they will involve a training input followed by practical advice about how to improve the person's driving standards.

We will also take the opportunity to review and update the driving test, which has not been changed for many years, to reflect the improvements to the standards of driving that we hope to see over the next few years.

## **Keep in Touch**

**E-mail the Joint Emergency Services Control Room**

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**Follow us on Facebook**

**<https://www.facebook.com/sthelenapolice>**

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