

Content of press release issued on 19 July 2024 by the Commissioner

Former mental health worker recruited to assist Commissioner in tackling antisocial behaviour

A former mental health worker has been recruited to help Devon and Cornwall's Police and Crime Commissioner tackle residents' top priority – antisocial behaviour.

Mark Kingscote has today (Friday, July 19) been confirmed as Devon and Cornwall's Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner on a part-time 12-month contract.

The former mental health worker will lend his expertise to the Commissioner's projects relating to street attached homelessness and drug misuse.

With additional Home Office funding for hotspot policing in 16 locations, the Commissioner's Street Focus project involves bringing multiple partners together to find solutions to some of the complex challenges seen in towns and cities across the force area. Since launching in Torquay it has boosted visible policing, deep cleaned public spaces and resulted in dozens of arrests.

Mr Kingscote, an experienced politician with extensive experience in local government, has had a successful career with the NHS and in the community and voluntary sector. He has been a champion of young people through the Prince's Trust.

Commissioner Alison Hernandez said: "Mark has a strong understanding of governance and has worked with senior leaders in a variety of capacities. He possesses a unique blend of skills that I value, and I believe will benefit the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. I regard the role as being vital to improve performance in policing, as well as reducing crime and ensuring residents feel safe in their communities.

"I have every confidence that Mark is the right person for this role. He is a strong individual who will represent me well, and is committed to building safe, resilient and connected communities where everyone has a part to play."