

Key to developing a partnership is communication. There are so many ways that you Can build a relationship with your local police that will help them in their work.

Report crimes and provide information directly or through Crimestoppers. Can you be a go-between e.g. is there an elderly person in your community that has been a victim of crime but is fearful of going directly to the Police that you can make the Police aware of, or be a 'good neighbour' and act as a point of initial contact for any visitors to a vulnerable person? Even if there is little chance of finding the offender, the police need to know what crime is happening and where so that they can do something about it.

Thank your police and preferably in writing. Police officers face critical scrutiny of their work every day, and need to be encouraged and affirmed. They have an extremely challenging job and work everyday with broken and chaotic people. You may be the one voice of encouragement they hear. We can offer them simple acts of kindness to demonstrate that we appreciate who they are and what they do.

Find out who your local neighbourhood team members are. Make contact with them and thank them. As a church or churches together, you may like to arrange a service of thanks for the police, emergency services or other public services. How about a community lunch on a day when you know the local PCSO or Neighbourhood officer is working.

PACT meetings - The local Neighbourhood team sometimes hold events to engage with the local community to find out what issues concern them. See Cambridgeshire case study (Appendix C). Attend your local Police And Communities Together meeting, contribute to the debate, and find out the priorities in your area. This will inform prayers too.

Feedback when they need to improve and how.

Witnesses - be an active citizen and provide a written statement to the police if you witness an incident or an accident. Even though this is not something many people want to do, it is important in seeking to administer justice and ensure the truth is revealed.

Find out the needs of our communities by approaching our Neighbourhood policing teams. This information can inform your prayers. Find out what areas of crime and disorder the police are aiming to tackle in your area and support them in prayer. Make an initial point of contact to the Inspector heading up your local Neighbourhood team.

