



# Engineering, Education, Enforcement



Chief officers and partners from Dorset's Road Safety Partnership

**AT MY Declaration I said that my theme was to be an even more civilised Dorset. Part of a more civilised society is one where people can venture out on our roads confident that they will arrive at their destination safely. In the years leading up to my Declaration I was too often horrified to read in the local paper about another young person dying on Dorset's roads. As the father of teenage children such articles brought about a greater sense of angst. I decided to adopt road safety as the theme of my shrieval year and have been struck by the gargantuan effort by so many agencies and individuals all working towards a utopian ideal of no deaths or injuries emanating from our roads.**

The fact is that people are still dying on our roads and the Rt Revd Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne, organised a church service in September to provide an opportunity for those who have been affected to gather and for those who have been injured or lost their lives to be remembered. It was also the culmination of a week raising awareness of road safety led by Dorset Police in the Dorset press. The service also gave thanks for those who attend road traffic collisions, oversee road safety and all our emergency services.

The Dorset KSI (killed and seriously injured) figure has fallen from 415 in 2015, to 293 in 2018 –the lowest ever recorded in Dorset.

- **DORSET HAS** a Road Safety Partnership which consists of Local Highway Authorities, the Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health, Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, a local road safety charity, Highways England, with support from the Local Highway Authority Portfolio Holders, Chief Officers from Police and Fire and Public Health directors.
- **AN ENGINEERING, Education and Enforcement** approach – the Department for Transport's three means to meet its policy goals in road safety – is adopted by partners focusing on their particular areas of expertise.
- **DORSET RUNS** its own driver awareness course in lieu of fixed penalties. This is an all-encompassing road safety awareness course focusing on driver behavioural change, which has been evaluated by leading psychologists in the field. It is highly acclaimed by attendees.
- **DORSET RUNS** numerous educational interventions for all ages and all types of road use. It has just launched part of its Road Respect campaign which seeks to 'humanise' vehicles, develop empathy between road users, and encourage them to take personal responsibility for their actions.
- **DORSET HAS** a very active Community Speed Watch, with nearly 100 teams of volunteers across the county monitoring speed in their local

communities. These groups of volunteers play a vital role in speed awareness.

- **DORSET HAS** a small but highly motivated and intelligence led Safety Camera Team which performs mobile operations as well as maintaining static cameras. This team also supports our Community Speed Watch volunteers.
- **DORSET HAS** a highly successful 'No Excuse' team of police officers, dedicated to the role of casualty reduction. This team performs numerous daily operations to deal with no insurance, careless driving, speeding, drugs and alcohol offences, and distraction transgressions (eg mobile phones).
- **OPERATION DRAGOON** is performed by roads policing officers and deals specifically with higher-end traffic offences and anti-social driving behaviour. This successful initiative has dealt with over 500 individuals since its inception nearly two years ago. This is an intelligence-led, ongoing operation, which can involve removing dangerous individuals and their vehicles from the road. This operation also links into criminal activity and reciprocal intelligence between different areas of policing across the force.

As part of my theme I have been privileged to witness at first hand the incredible skill and professionalism of the Dorset Police roads policing team. I'm not going to give away any secrets but if you choose to drive on Dorset's roads having taken drugs in recent days then you have a reasonably good chance of being detected, arrested, detained, charged and losing your driving licence. Drug driving is now a big problem for our police to manage owing to the volume of drivers committing this offence, and in so doing endangering themselves and other road users.

**Philip Warr**  
High Sheriff of Dorset 2019-20