



Warwickshire Police is the territorial police force responsible for policing Warwickshire in England. It is the second smallest territorial police force in England and Wales after the City of London Police, with only 823 (full-time equivalents) regular officers as of September 2017. The resident population of the force area is 554,002.

History

The force was established in 1840 as Warwickshire Constabulary. It did not, however, even cover all the rural areas of the county until 1857. Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick originally had their own police forces. The Warwickshire force absorbed Warwick Borough Police in 1875 and Stratford-upon-Avon Borough Police in 1889 with Leamington Borough Police lasting until 1946. In 1969, Coventry City Police amalgamated with Warwickshire Constabulary and the force became Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary. However, with the inclusion of Coventry in the new county of the West Midlands in 1974, Coventry passed to the new West Midlands Police, which also took over the areas of the Birmingham City Police and part of the northwestern area of Warwickshire (around Solihull and Sutton Coldfield). Warwickshire Constabulary reverted to its old name. In 2001, its name was changed to Warwickshire Police.

Under proposals announced by the then Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, on 6 February 2006, Warwickshire Police would have merged with Staffordshire Police, West Mercia Constabulary and West Midlands Police to form a single strategic force for the West Midlands region. These proposals were subsequently abandoned.

Warwickshire Police was until April 2007 a partner alongside three other forces in the Central Motorway Police Group.

In August 2010, the second Warwickshire Justice Centre was opened in Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa. As well as a police station, the complex houses the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court, County Court, and other agencies such as the Probation Service and Victim Support. It was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 4 March 2011. A similar complex was already in operation in Nuneaton.

Chief Constables

The force has had a number of chief constables since 1857:

1857–1876 : James Issac

1876–1892 : J.H. Kinchant (fled to India and dismissed)

1892–1929 : Captain John Turner Brinkley

1929–1948 : E.K.H. Kemble

1948–1958 : Lt-Col. Geoffrey C. White

1958–1964 : Peter Ewan Brodie

1964–1976 : Richard Bonnar Matthews

1976–1978 : Albert Laugharne

1978–1983 : Roger Birch

1983–1998 : Peter D. Joslin

1998–2000 : Andrew C. Timpson

2000–2006 : John Burbeck

2006–2011 : Keith Bristow

2011–2015 : Andy Parker

2015–2021 : Martin Jelley

2021–present: Debbie Tedds

Organisation

The force is run by a chief constable, a Deputy chief constable, an assistant chief constable. As of September 2020, the force has 1,041 police officers, 100 special constables, 87 police community support officers (PCSO), 65 police support volunteers (PSV), and 809 staff.

The county is divided into five districts and boroughs (based on local government districts/boroughs). There are 33 local policing teams within Warwickshire Police – called Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

North Warwickshire Borough

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Rugby Borough

Stratford-on-Avon District

Warwick District

The districts and boroughs are grouped into two policing areas, each commanded by a superintendent. North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby make up the North Warwickshire policing area and Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick make up the South Warwickshire policing area.

The current chief constable (2022) is Debbie Tedds, who was appointed in July 2021 following the retirement of her predecessor Martin Jelley. He was appointed to the role on 7 April 2015, following the retirement of Andy Parker. Parker succeeded Keith Bristow on 1 December 2011. Bristow succeeded John Burbeck, who in turn succeeded Andrew Timpson, who in turn succeeded Peter Joslin.

West Mercia alliance

In September 2013, Warwickshire Police embarked on an alliance with West Mercia Police which saw one of the biggest reorganisations the force ever had.[citation needed] The alliance saw the sharing of back office facilities, force systems and support teams. In October 2018, West Mercia's chief constable and West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner started formal proceedings to end the alliance. This action was not supported by Warwickshire's chief constable or the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The alliance formally ceased to exist in October 2019.