

JULIE SPENCE, OBE BEd LLB MA MBA

CHIEF CONSTABLE

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY



Julie, after taking her 'A' Levels, spent four years at Liverpool University and I M Marsh College of Physical Education where she trained to teach PE and Biology. She moved to the West Country to take up a teaching post but soon discovered teaching was not for her.

Consequently in 1978 she joined Avon and Somerset Police and was posted to South Bristol. After a period of service, which included postings to CID, community policing, the force communications centre, the Family and Child Protection Unit, the Press Office and uniform patrol, she was seconded to the Association of Chief Police Officers secretariat in London for two years as a Temporary Chief Inspector.

On returning to Avon and Somerset Julie undertook a number of operational roles before being promoted to Superintendent and posted to North Bristol. She is an advocate of life long learning and during her career continued her personal development and consequently undertook part-time and distance learning degree courses in law, police studies and management.

In 1999 she was appointed to Assistant Chief Constable for Thames Valley Police, where she held the Corporate Development portfolio. She took over the Territorial Policing portfolio in January 2003.

She was appointed to Deputy Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire Constabulary in April 2004 and was responsible for Operational Policing for the County.

On 1 June 2005 Julie was appointed Acting Chief Constable and subsequently appointed to Chief Constable on 10 December 2005.

In the Queen's 80th birthday honours list she was awarded an OBE for her management of complex and contentious organisational issues, leadership of Thames Valley's contribution to the operations to protect Heathrow and the Queen Mother's funeral, her work for the ACPO Terrorism and Allied Matters Committee on Royalty and VIP Protection and her strong leadership and determination in taking forward the Gender Agenda and the development of the British Association of Women in Policing, which have both become major drivers for gender equality in British policing.

Maximising the potential of all staff, and particularly those in a minority, is an area of work that Julie has championed throughout her career. She is currently the President of the British Association for Women in Policing and the ACPO business lead for Citizen Focus.