



## Police and Crime Panel

**Date:** Wednesday, 24 July 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

**Members (Quorum: 3)**

Mr Mike Short (Chair), Dr Liz Mytton,  
Cllrs: Patrick Canavan, David Flagg, Alasdair Keddie, Peter Sidaway, Tony Trent,  
Louise Bown, Simon Gibson, Louie O'Leary, Andrew Starr and Carl Woode

**Chief Executive:** Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services  
Meeting Contact 01305 224213 - [chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

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### Agenda

Item	Pages
1. <b>APOLOGIES AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
2. <b>MINUTES</b>	5 - 10
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024.	
3. <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their disclosure councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Representatives of town or parish councils and members of the public who live, work, or represent an organisation within the Dorset Council area are welcome to submit either one question or one statement for each meeting. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person or via MS Teams to read out your question and to receive the response. If you submit a statement for the committee this will be circulated to all members of the committee in advance of the meeting as a supplement to the agenda and appended to the minutes for the formal record but will not be read out at the meeting.

**The first eight questions and the first eight statements received from members of the public or organisations for each meeting will be accepted on a first come first served basis in accordance with the deadline set out below.** For further information please see [Public Participation - Dorset Council](#)

All submissions must be emailed in full to [chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by **8.30am on Monday 22 July 2024.**

When submitting your question or statement please note that:

- You can submit one question or one statement.
- A question may include a short pre-amble to set the context.
- It must be a single question and any sub-divided questions will not be permitted.
- Each question will consist of no more than 450 words, and you will be given up to three minutes to present your question.
- When submitting a question please indicate who the question is for (e.g. the name of the committee or Portfolio Holder)
- Include your name, address, and contact details. Only your name will be published but we may need your other details to contact you about your question or statement in advance of the meeting.
- Questions and statements received in line with the council's rules for public participation will be published as a supplement to the agenda.
- All questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) - Procedure Rule 9

#### **Councillor Questions**

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to [chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chris.harrod@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) by 8.30am on **Monday 22 July**

**2024.**

[Dorset Council Constitution](#) – Procedure Rule 13

**5. PCC ANNUAL REPORT AND POLICE AND CRIME PLAN UPDATE 11 - 30**

To present members with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's approach to his Police and Crime Plan, as well as to update members on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2023/24.

**6. Q4 MONITORING REPORT: TO INCLUDE IN QUARTER QUESTIONS & OVERVIEW. 31 - 42**

To receive the Q4 Monitoring Report 2023/24.

**7. DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING 43 - 56**

To provide an update on Addiction and Substance Misuse delivery, within Priority Three of the Police and Crime Plan – fight violent crime and high harm.

To detail progress to date and the actions undertaken or directed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to meet the commitments set out in the Plan.

To address three Key Lines of Enquiry as provided by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel:

**8. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE CHAIR (MAIN PANEL / COMPLAINTS SUB COMMITTEE)**

To elect Chair, Vice Chair of PCP and Complaints Sub-committee.

**9. RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBER**

To receive a verbal report from the Service Manager for Assurance.

**10. COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

To receive a verbal update from the Service Manager for Assurance.

**11. FORWARD WORKPLAN**

To discuss the Forward Workplan.

**12. URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

**13. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

**There are no exempt items scheduled for this meeting.**



## POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2024

**Present:** Dr Liz Mytton, Mr Mike Short,  
Cllrs: Pete Barrow, Pauline Batstone, Graham Carr-Jones (left meeting at 11:20),  
Les Fry, Sherry Jespersen (left meeting at 13:52), Patrick Canavan, Alasdair Keddie,  
Peter Sidaway and Tony Trent

**Apologies:** Cllrs David Flagg

**Also present:** Cllr Jon Andrews

**Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):**

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance),  
Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Elaine Tibble  
(Senior Democratic Services Officer), Adam Harrold (OPCC Director of Operations),  
Julie Strange (OPCC Chief Finance Officer), David Sidwick (Police and Crime  
Commissioner) and Matthew Turnbull (Democratic and Electoral Services Apprentice)

**35. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023 were confirmed and signed.

Actions from the last meeting had all been completed:  
information on the saved lives project  
an update on shoplifting and  
the community safety partnership.

**36. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

**37. Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements.

**38. Budget Precept Financial Year 2024/25 (00:03:22 on recording)**

The Chairman advised that the Panel should consider the PCC's proposed budget requirement and independently scrutinize its appropriateness. The options open to the Panel were to either support, not to support or veto the proposal.

The PCC introduced the report and framed the strategic need – he gave a positive resume of this 7-year plan which he confirmed was working.

He reminded the Panel that Dorset Police was the second lowest recipient of the national funding formula, and that over half of the Force was paid for by the people of Dorset, whereas in other parts of the country it was 20%.

The Chief Constable then presented an oversight from the point of view of Operations (00:09:38 on recording). It had been a challenging year due to the impact of high inflation, increased borrowing costs and an underfunded pay award. Savings had been made by renegotiating contracts, innovative use of technology and a reduction of police staff posts, non-essential travel costs and non-essential training had been removed and overtime controls improved. Changes had been made to the way services were delivered and the budget was expected to balance. The Chief Constable highlighted a number of improvements and successes achieved and areas where crime had fallen in Dorset.

The Chief Finance Officer then set out the details of the key funding sources for the budget as well as the pressures facing the Force and the proposals to balance the budget including the precept proposal put forward. (00:30:25 on recording). The Chief Finance Officer advised that the final settlement had been confirmed and there were no changes required to the report. The pay award presented the greatest risk within the budget as this was estimated from September onwards. In summing up the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the reserves level was adequate and the budget proposals robust.

The Director of Operations shared the results from the public consultation that had been run between the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (00:34:37 on recording)

Following the presentations, the Panel members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the PCC and his team. (00:43:20 on recording) The questions and responses can be found at appendix 1 to these minutes.

**Decision: that the Police and Crime Panel support the PCC's proposal to increase the precept for 2024/25 to £88,130,280 equivalent to a Band D charge of £293.58, an increase of £13 per annum or £1.08 per month".**

10 minute comfort break 11;20 - 11;30

39. **Q3 2023/2024 Monitoring Report 01:26:24 on recording**

The PCC gave an update on progress against the police and crime plan.

**Priority One - Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.**

Total crime had reduced in Dorset. Year to date ASB was down by 14% overall, and non-dwelling burglary had also reduced. There had been a slight increase in dwelling burglary. The PCC talked about his road safety campaigns, the Doc-Bike charity and the Fix the Future Fund which had awarded £51,824 to 11 organisations.

Panel members were given the opportunity to ask questions. The PCC responded to questions in relation to ASB, highlighting his Operation Relentless Community Fund which was designed to address ASB and had proved to be successful in a number of areas. He also acknowledged that it does take some time put mechanisms in place to address this issue.

**Priority Two - Make Policing More Visible and Connected (01:41:18 on recording)**  
The number of full time equivalent police officers had increased to 1432, the response times for call handling and follow up had improved and the introduction of Rural Mounted Volunteers had increased visibility.

(01:48:30 on recording) Questions from the Priority Leads and Panel members. (attached at appendix 1).

Members discussed the complexity of crime and intelligence reporting, the importance of engagement and making sure the correct messages were relayed to the communities. Ward Councillors, Parish/Town Councillors and Faith Leaders should all be key community contacts to liaise with the Force.

**ACTION: PCC to provide an update at the next meeting on the outcome of measures taken to improve and simplify the call handling process and communications to explain to the public how to use the website.**

**Proposed By Cllr Jespersen, seconded by Cllr Barrow.**

**Decision: In accordance with procedural rule 8.1 a vote was taken, the committee agreed to exceed the 3 hour meeting time limit.**

Lunch Break 12:15 to 12:45

**Priority Three - Fight Violent Crime and High Harm (02:44:14 on recording)**  
The PCC focussed on addiction substance misuse and Operation Scorpion. Dorset had been successful in arresting 26 people and taking £93,000 worth of drugs out of operation, increasing the latest figures to over 600 arrests with over one million pounds worth of drugs taken off the streets.

The PCC planned to use some reserves to get a violence reduction unit up and running. He had launched the Violence Against Women and Girls Improvement Panel, which brought subject matter experts together to provide vital feedback and insight.

Priority Leads and Panel members were invited to put forward questions (02:52:00 on recording).

In order to drive down knife possession the PCC had funded each patrol car to have a knife wand and he had also funded a portable knife arch.

**Priority Four - Fight Rural Crime (02:59:51 on recording)**  
The PCC was pleased to report that rural crime had reduced. He had carried out a rural crime survey, the Dorset Partnership against rural crime continued and 5

Forces had come together to share intelligence in Operation Ragwort to look at transit across borders. A part time fly tipping role had been created to gather evidence of fly tipping hotspots. 10 rural mounted volunteers had also been recruited.

(03:04:55 on the recording) Panel member questions.

**Priority Five - Put Victim and Communities First (03:15:48 on recording)**

The PCC reported that hate crime had gone down. The Immediate Justice scheme had been launched for Dorset together with a survey to understand how communities would like the scheme to work in their area. The PCC highlighted the Force's work with shopkeepers to try and drive down shoplifting figures, he also addressed the issue of hate crime.

(03:20:27 on recording) Priority Lead and member questions.

**Priority Six - Make Every Penny Count (03:36:47 on recording)**

The PCC welcomed the award of Home Office Safer Street funding to Dorset which would have a great effect in keeping people safe in Dorset.

Questions from the Panel (03:40:01 on recording) and attached at appendix 1.

(03:45:17 on recording) the Chief Executive offered some more detail regarding ICT and future contact systems in order to streamline the system as a whole.

40. **Rehabilitation (03:48:51 on recording)**

The PCC presented the report which provided the Panel with an update on the PCC's work in support of the rehabilitation of offenders. The report addressed the four Key Lines of Enquiry provided by the PCP.

The PCC focussed on elements of the report, namely the importance of offender rehabilitation in reducing offending rates. This required a full "wrap around" service to make sure those people leaving prison had what they needed to stop them offending again. Factors being looked at ranged from getting offenders into accommodation, including a new initiative in the Southwest Region called "Prisoners Build Homes". These were basically eco-pods and those constructing the homes were gaining new skills which would also give them the resources needed to find work. PCC's in the South West had funded Dorset Trade Skills to deliver education and training to younger people, Future Roots was another operation in North Dorset where a farm housed young people who may have been involved in county lines and may have issues. The PCC highlighted a number of opportunities available to young people to steer them away from criminality.

The PCC raised concerns that the whole country was not getting to grips with drug and alcohol problems. The situation needed tough enforcement, effective treatment and impactful prevention, which is what had been implemented in the "From Harm to Hope" drug combating partnership which had been running in Dorset for two years.



Questions from the authors of the Key Lines of Enquiry (04:08:52 on recording)

**ACTION:** In response to member questions the PCC suggested that an update on the outcome of the criminal justice board was added to the workplan.

41. **Complaints Update**

There had been no complaints to report.

42. **Forward Workplan**

The PCP forward plan was noted.

43. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

44. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Appendix 1**

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 2.23 pm

**Chairman**

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## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 24 JULY 2024**

### **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

#### **REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE PAPER**

*To present members with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's approach to his Police and Crime Plan, as well as to update members on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2023/24.*

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) issued the 2021-29 Police and Crime Plan in October 2021, a few months after first becoming elected to the role. At the time of the Plan's publication, the PCC made it clear that he intended for this Plan to span two terms of office, bearing in mind the extent of the ambition contained within the document, alongside the fact that his first term was to be unusually shortened because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) a Police and Crime Plan for Dorset must be published by 31 March 2025. The legislation also permits for an already published Plan to be revised or reissued at any time. As the PCC was re-elected to a second term in office earlier this year – and is consequently able to continue delivering the 2021-29 Plan – he has opted to review and refresh the document ahead of re-publication.
- 1.3 The PCC has been entirely clear that the vision and priorities of the Plan will not be altered, but he is naturally keen to ensure that the Plan should be assessed to ensure that it reflects any necessary changes since its original publication. The work to revise the Plan is ongoing, with consultation being carried out this summer ahead of a planned September completion date.
- 1.4 Alongside this, the PRSRA also states that the PCC is required to report to the Police and Crime Panel on the exercise of his functions in each financial year. Specifically, the Annual Report should report on:
  - (a) the exercise of the PCC's functions in each financial year; and
  - (b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.5 The Annual Report is an important summary document of PCC activity over the course of the previous financial year, and complements the more detailed quarterly performance reports that the Panel receive at each meeting.

- 1.6 The Annual Report has been designed to be accessible and easy to digest. Members will note the consistency in approach across the Police and Crime Plan, the Annual Report, and quarterly update reports to the Panel.
- 1.7 A draft of the Annual Report for 2023/24 has previously been circulated for the Panel's consideration. In accordance with the Act, Panel members were invited to review the report and to make any recommendations to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for consideration in the final editing process.
- 1.8 The Panel's feedback was received last month. A number of changes have subsequently been made to the document as a result of those helpful suggestions. The finished document is included at Appendix 1 and has also been used to inform the aforementioned review of the Police and Crime Plan.

## **2. ANALYSIS**

- 2.1. In developing the Police and Crime Plan, the PCC is required to consider the views of the local community and victims of crime, as well as have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement. Legislation sets out a range of areas that must be included in the Police and Crime Plan – this includes, but is not limited to, the PCC's police and crime objectives; the policing that the Chief Constable is to provide; and the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured.
- 2.2. As stated, the PCC has made it clear throughout his tenure that the Plan was intended to span two terms of office. This has meant that no changes to the over-arching vision – to make Dorset the safest county – nor the six priorities have been made.
- 2.3. Upon close examination the PCC has determined that it would be prudent to make a small number of changes to the headline themes that underpin these priorities. This includes the headings of 'Violence Against Women and Girls' and 'Rape and Serious Sexual Offences' being split into discrete sections and, also to fold 'Pet Theft' and 'Burglary' into a single heading of 'Burglary and Acquisitive Crime'. 'Support for Young People' and 'Business and Retail Crime' have been retained, but now sit under different priority areas. Finally, 'Heritage Crime' has been added under the Fight Rural Crime priority.
- 2.4. Within these themes, the PCC is proposing to make changes to the commitments that are contained within the Plan. These changes fall into one of three categories:
  - a) For commitments that pledged to 'introduce' initiatives (for instance a rural crime watch scheme), these have been amended if this has now occurred – instead pledging to 'maintain' or 'enhance' such initiatives. This has been done so that the public can better understand the progress that has already been made thus far. For brevity, such examples have not been listed within this report.
  - b) For commitments that contained references to obsolete terminology or nomenclature, these too have been amended to reflect the current position. For instance, the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC) was originally referred to as a Rural Crime Reduction Board. Again, it is felt that these updates will prove beneficial to readers. For brevity, such examples have not been listed within this report.
  - c) Finally – and indubitably of most interest to Panel members – there are some commitments which have been amended because of new ideas or initiatives that

occurred since the original publication of the Plan. These will be detailed within the next section of this report.

### **Changes and Additions of Note**

- 2.5. The most significant change is in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls and Rape and Serious Sexual Offences as listed under the Fight Violent Crime and High Harm priority. The commitments that relate to both crucial areas have been expanded upon to better reflect the work being undertaken by the OPCC, Dorset Police and partners, as well as the direction as set out in national action plans.
- 2.6. For Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), this means that revised commitments, among other things, provide additional clarity around the work to improve the effectiveness of the response to such crimes; to improve the safety of public spaces; and also the PCC's VAWG Scrutiny Panel. For Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, this means that revised commitments, among other things, provide clarity on the work to embed Op Soteria; to pursue preventative initiatives such as Op Vigilant; and the re-commissioning of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.
- 2.7. Also falling under the priority to Fight Violent Crime and High Harm are the commitments pertaining to Violence Reduction. The OPCC has a dedicated Violence Reduction and Prevention Team and, accordingly, these commitments have been amended to better explain the work being undertaken and outline the ambition the PCC has for this crucial delivery area.
- 2.8. Under the Fight Rural Crime priority, two commitments have been added under the heading of 'Heritage Crime', reflecting the DPARC action plan. Additionally, the PCC has opted to include a specific commitment relating to the efficiency and efficacy of the Force firearms licensing service.
- 2.9. For the priority of Put Victims and Communities First, the PCC has also adopted to add some new commitments. For instance, to reflect the considerable partnership work to ensure compliance with the Victims Code of Practice this activity is now specified within the Plan. Most significantly, however, the PCC has chosen to include more detailed commitments under the heading of Vulnerability. These include commitments to tackle issues affecting older people, as well as relating to homelessness and mental health initiatives.
- 2.10. Finally, commitments have been added within the Make Every Penny Count priority to reflect the ongoing national productivity work and also the increasing opportunities that have come about through robotic process automation.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1. As required in legislation, the PCC is widely consulting on the refreshed Police and Crime Plan – this includes with the Chief Constable, the Force, the public and other stakeholders. The Panel will be sent a draft for their consideration and feedback within the coming days.
- 3.2. Once this consultation has concluded, the PCC will consider the feedback and respond accordingly. The intention is that a final copy of the revised 2021-29 Police and Crime Plan will be published by September 2024. The PCC and his office will, of course, keep the Panel sighted on developments and progress in the interim period.

3.3. The final version of the Annual Report 2023/24 will be published on the PCC's website. The Report, along with previous Annual Reports, can be found [here](#) and is appended to this document.

#### **4. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION**

4.1. The PCC had previously made clear his intention that his Police and Crime Plan should span two terms of office – a fact that has been clearly and regularly communicated, not least evidenced by the document having always included a date covering the two terms.

4.2. With the PCC having been re-elected, this has allowed the PCC to make good on this promise, while also taking the opportunity to refresh and revise the document as has been outlined in this report.

4.3. Work is ongoing to complete the refresh of the Dorset Police and Crime Plan – this work will be completed by September 2024 as indicated. Meanwhile, the OPCC and the Force can continue to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan aided by the consistency and continuity that this approach has provided and as evidenced by the latest Annual Report.

4.4. The PCC looks forward to the Panel's feedback on the proposed changes and he and his office will continue to work to deliver the Dorset Police and Crime Plan 2021-29.

4.5. Members are recommended to note this update.

#### **ADAM HARROLD DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



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All the information contained in this document refers to the period between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024.  
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## MAKE DORSET THE SAFEST COUNTY



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# FOREWORD



I hope that you find this document to be an informative and insightful summary of the work undertaken by me and my team during the 2023/24 financial year.

Once again, we have been very busy working on your behalf to make Dorset a safer place to live, work and visit. I am pleased to report that progress has been made across all of the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan and this activity will be maintained throughout the next four years as I pick up my new tenure as your Commissioner.

Once again, there have been some big successes and developments, many of which will be covered in more detail in this report, but I would like to give special mention to the fact that Dorset remains firmly in the top ten list of safest places to live. We have reduced ASB across the county by 14% over the past year, cut county lines and started to address street drug dealing, launched a Rural Mounted Volunteers scheme, and invited funding applications for the latest Operation Relentless Community Fund to empower communities to help address incidents of anti-social behaviour where they live.

I would like to place on record my gratitude to all the officers, staff and volunteers within Dorset Police who show such commitment, professionalism, and skill in their service to the public. A special thank you also to the staff and volunteers within my office – the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – for all their hard work in helping me to deliver my Police and Crime Plan.

And finally, a thank you to the residents and communities of Dorset. I am your voice in delivering this Plan, so please do continue sharing with me your views about crime and community safety. You can find contact details for my office on the back cover of this report or on my website [www.dorset.pcc.police.uk](http://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk)

I look forward to another positive year ahead as we drive towards Dorset being the safest county.

**DAVID SIDWICK**  
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner  
**JUNE 2024**





# THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

WORK HAS BEEN ONGOING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO ENSURE THE POLICE FIGHT CRIME, VICTIMS ARE PUT FIRST, AND THAT THE LOCAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS MORE EFFECTIVE.

These are all very important areas of work for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), his team and partners. The following pages detail the work undertaken for each priority.

## Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs and Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in 2023 - this set out seven identified national threats as follows: Serious and Organised Crime; Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder; Civil Emergencies; and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

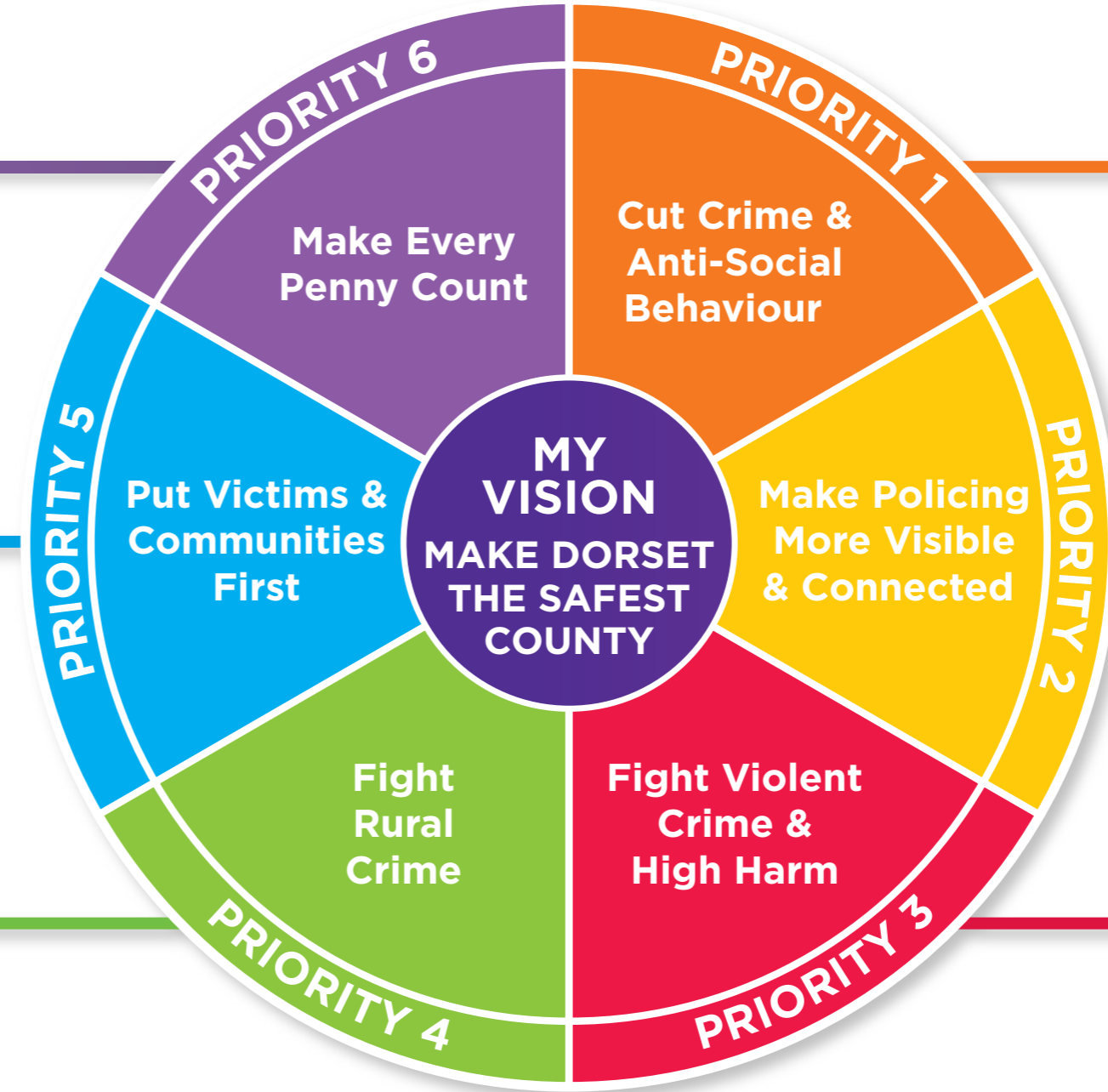
The PCC regularly seeks assurance that the Force has sufficient capacity and capability to meet these responsibilities. Information relating to child abuse, cyber crime and VAWG is covered in more detail within this document and the Police and Crime Plan - though it is also important to highlight that the Force continues to deliver upon its VAWG action plan.

During 2023-24, the Force has worked extensively alongside the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit to tackle drugs, fraud, cyber crime, and crime relating to organised immigration. Preparing for national incidents of public disorder and maintaining the required numbers of specially trained officers continued to be a focus during 2023-24. Equally, the Force works closely with the Local Resilience Forum to prepare for emergencies, participating in a programme of joint exercises and training to ensure SPR capabilities are met.

**MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT**  
Resourcing and transforming the frontline and improving efficiency so that the police can spend more time out in their communities. Ensuring robust oversight of financial, audit and governance arrangements.  
See Page 24 for further information

**PUT VICTIMS & COMMUNITIES FIRST**  
Support all victims, particularly those most at risk of harm - and build community strength by working with local agencies. Supporting volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch, and increasing opportunities for young people.  
See Page 20 for further information

**FIGHT RURAL CRIME**  
To significantly increase the rural crime team and their capabilities and to have specific strategies to address those crimes and issues that most affect rural communities. Also to tackle wildlife crime.  
See Page 16 for further information



**CUT CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**  
The police will provide a robust focus to cut crime and the constant grind of anti-social behaviour, so people across Dorset see a clear difference and feel safer. To better engage with young people to secure a brighter future.  
See Page 6 for further information

**MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE & CONNECTED**  
To increase the number and visibility of police officers in our neighbourhood teams, so police can fulfil a prevention role and people and businesses across Dorset experience less crime. Contact and connectivity with the public to be improved.  
See Page 10 for further information

**FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME & HIGH HARM**  
To tackle organised crime, be tough on drugs and violent crime, and to tackle hidden harm issues that affect Dorset's communities, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and modern slavery.  
See Page 12 for further information

## CUT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

*“The police will provide a robust focus to cut crime and the constant grind of anti-social behaviour, so people across Dorset see a clear difference and feel safer. To better engage with young people to secure a brighter future.”*

### Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Operation Relentless Community Fund returned for a third round, with the PCC awarding £40,000 to 10 organisations across Dorset to fund projects and initiatives aimed at reducing ASB. Projects included a security initiative in Weymouth, CCTV, and a project working with young people with a history of ASB. Following receipt of funding, Littlemoor Youth and Community Services reported an 80% drop in ASB incidents in their area.

- Dorset Police continue to patrol ASB hotspots across the county, using data and intelligence from residents to guide their focus. As a result of this consistent hotspot patrolling, incidents of ASB have reduced by 25% when compared with 2019, with a year-to-date drop of 14%.

- Over the summer months, the PCC supported the Force in launching their 100 Days of Summer policing campaign in Weymouth. The campaign involved an increased police presence and hotspot patrols. As a result, the town saw a 40% reduction in ASB incidents during the campaign period.
- The PCC has engaged with communities across Dorset to better understand their concerns around ASB and address the issues. This has included attending numerous public meetings, engaging with a wide range of community groups, meeting local and national business owners and spending time with those people who have been directly affected by ASB.

### Fraud and Cyber Crime

- The PCC and Dorset Police have successfully continued to publish their cyber crime e-newsletter with a further five issues shared this year to businesses in Dorset. The newsletters have helped to spread awareness on topics such as Ransomware, provide guidance from the National Cyber Security Centre and promote additional free advice as well as the free cyber crime awareness training which Dorset Police offers to local businesses.

- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) support Dorset Police in undertaking new work with the South West Cyber Resilience Centre (SWCRC). The team engaged with local independent businesses across Dorset to explain the cyber help on offer from SWCRC and Dorset's Cyber Protect Officer.
- The PCC funded Age UK's package of support for elderly Dorset residents to minimise their falling victim to fraud. This offer includes scam awareness workshops customised to the participant's needs and requirements.
- The PCC welcomed Dorset Police's recruitment of a Fraud Protection Officer. The officer will work with partners to engage with individuals and businesses to raise awareness, share information and promote national, regional, and local crime prevention messaging, whilst also ensuring that all victims of fraud receive an appropriate safeguarding response to help reduce repeat victimisation.

### Burglary

- As part of a bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the PCC successfully secured £15,000 for additional equipment for the **Bobby Van** which will be used to support vulnerable victims of burglary, as well as £24,000 funding for an initiative to reduce rural burglary.

- The PCC commissioned the production of a burglary prevention leaflet aimed at new homeowners and has partnered with Dorset-based estate agents, Symonds & Sampson to distribute the leaflets within their packages for new homeowners. The information leaflet gives proactive advice on how to help keep the home secure, with key police-approved information reminding residents of useful crime prevention advice.
- The PCC launched a Business Crime Community Fund to enable Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to bid for up to £5,000 for local initiatives which address the Police and Crime Plan priorities and specifically reduce business crime or violence/abuse against shop workers. Initiatives funded include an upgrade of Shop Watch radios, PR marketing to encourage crime reporting and a matched funding initiative for businesses to upgrade and extend CCTV on their business premises.

### Support for Young People

- The OPCC commissioned the initial stages of a youth voice project. This first stage saw members of the OPCC team engage with the four Dorset Police Cadet units to gain a better understanding of young people's engagement

and experience with policing. The findings have been used in the development of the next stages of the youth voice project, which will see engagement expanded to Dorset's wider youth population.

- The PCC launched the second round of the Fix the Future Community Fund which saw more than £51,000 awarded to 11 projects and initiatives which contribute to or benefit young people in the community by facilitating youth development and providing young people with opportunities. Projects included mentoring for young people, youth club outreach and engagement work, and crime prevention education.

### Road Safety

- Over the last year, there has been a positive reduction in all road safety casualty figures, with fatalities reducing by 11%, serious casualties by 11% and slight casualties by 6.3%.
- Dorset now has 87 Community Speed Watch (CSW) Teams, with around 1,000 volunteers helping to keep the county's roads safe. In 2023, 1,477 CSW sessions were carried out across Dorset. The PCC recognises the importance of the CSW teams and how they have helped reduce speeding across the

county by being a very visible deterrent to poor driving standards and he continues to support their work across the county, having visited many of the teams this year and promoted their work through social media and newsletters.

- The PCC continues to support the Force's summer and winter 'Lift Legend' drink/drug drive campaign in which designated drivers are offered free soft drinks at participating pubs and bars. After the 2023 Christmas phase of the campaign, the PCC visited some of the venues which took part in the scheme and joined Dorset Police in writing to all venues thanking them for their help in making Dorset's roads safer.
- The PCC has continued to support Op Snap and encouraged the public to submit video and photographic evidence relating to driving incidents that they have witnessed. In 2023, 1,721 submissions were made to Dorset Police and almost 50% of footage submitted was used by the police to take action against drivers. Out of these, 843 incidents led to prosecution; a significant increase compared to 630 in 2022.





## FOCUS ON ROAD SAFETY

Throughout the year the PCC has introduced a number of new schemes to help make Dorset's roads safe for all who use them.

The OPCC has continuously engaged with Dorset Road Safe, the multi-agency partnership dedicated to improving road safety and reducing the number of people injured on our roads. When proposing new projects or schemes, the PCC has taken on board the concerns of the public and engaged with the Dorset Road Safe Team to ensure new initiatives are effective and achievable.

After hearing North Dorset residents' concerns over speeding through their villages, the PCC provided £4,600 funding to Dorset Council for a 12-month speed warning signage trial starting in North Dorset to combat speeding. The trial is being carried out in 10 village locations where no other enforcement measures are in place. North Dorset has been selected due to the number of speed complaints received and the significant level of existing support from local Dorset Council members.

Further to this, the PCC provided £9,500 funding to Dorset Road Safe to purchase and trial 12 Auto Speed Watch cameras to support CSW operations across the county. The cameras work in a similar way to that of CSW volunteers in that they notify the authorities of offences to enable warning letters to be sent to offenders.

In reaction to complaints from members of the public and bike shop owners around the number of motorcycles stolen and used in ASB and crime, the PCC joined forces with independent charity, DocBike to launch a motorcycle anti-theft initiative. Stolen motorcycles often present a significant risk to other road users as they are ridden in a way that could result in serious or fatal injury to the rider as well as other road users.

The scheme saw 250 alarmed disc locks sold to Dorset residents at a subsidised rate with the PCC funding the £8,000 difference. All 250 locks sold within the first 12 hours of the scheme launching and the PCC therefore agreed to provide funding to extend the initiative twice. The second and third run of the initiative saw keen interest from the local motorcycle community, with all locks selling out

within a day of release. In total, 750 motorcycle owners have been able to secure their motorcycles against theft and in turn the bikes have been prevented from being used in crime that could result in a road traffic collision.





# PRIORITY 2

## MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE AND CONNECTED

*"To increase the number and visibility of police officers in our neighbourhood teams, so police can fulfil a prevention role and people and businesses across Dorset experience less crime. Contact and connectivity with the public to be improved."*

### Customer Service

As part of his role holding the Chief Constable to account, the PCC issued a challenge to Dorset Police regarding response times to the most serious emergency calls. Since the challenge was issued, the Force has worked hard to improve waiting times. There has been a 10% reduction in these times with 83% of Grade 1 calls being responded to within 20 minutes.

- In addition to the improved response times, in October 2023 the Force also re-opened Boscombe police station as an operational base for local policing. The move was part of an effort to improve response times to emergency calls in East Bournemouth and Christchurch.

- Following feedback from the public, the PCC asked for reporting intelligence to be made more straightforward through the Force's website. A new '**Report your Intelligence**' function was added to the Dorset Police website homepage to ensure the public could easily provide the Force with vital intelligence when they have not been the victim of a crime but may have seen something suspicious.

### Engagement and Connectivity

- Over the summer months the PCC supported Dorset Police in launching a pilot project which aimed to bring the Force closer to the people it serves by re-opening police station front desks in Swanage, Lyme Regis, and Blandford.
- The PCC, members of office staff, and community volunteers attended seven summer engagement events across the county, engaging with members of the public to hear their concerns and opinions. Over this period the team consulted with 2,956 members of the public through the Annual Survey, capturing their views on safety and crime in Dorset. 46% of respondents said Dorset was either the safest county or one of the safest counties in

England and Wales with ASB remaining a top concern for 71% of respondents.

- The PCC launched a survey to consult with the public on the policing precept. This included the PCC and OPCC staff attending eight pop-up events at supermarkets and libraries across Dorset. The PCC also hosted an online focus group to allow for more in-depth discussions with the public to take place. The responses were used to inform the decision-making process, with a clear majority of respondents supporting the proposed rise.

### Visibility and Uplift

- In early 2023, Dorset Police exceeded its target for the National Police Uplift Programme, with 174 new police officers in Dorset. Over the past year these officers have completed their training and a significant majority of the new officers have started working, going into community policing roles. The increase in officers, and the increase in the policing precept funding, has also allowed the Force to increase the size of specialist units including the Rural Crime, Missing Persons, and Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams.

# FOCUS ON

## FRONT COUNTERS AND COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS

**As part of the PCC's commitment to making policing more visible and connected, in the past year communities across Dorset have been given further opportunities to engage face-to-face with police officers and staff.**

Thanks to police station front desks re-opening in some parts of the county, and more Community Contact Points than ever before, the drive to improve contact between members of the public and officers has continued apace.

In the past 12 months, police station front desks have re-opened in Blandford, Lyme Regis and Swanage as part of a pilot project, operating on a trial basis and are available for the public to visit and receive the face-to-face service many people have asked for. Front desks are also open in Sherborne, Gillingham, Bridport, Weymouth, Bournemouth, and Poole.

Along with the front desk trials, 72 Community Contact Points have given people in Dorset the opportunity to speak directly to an officer from their Neighbourhood Policing Team. These locations include Shaftesbury, Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland, Swanage, Verwood, Ferndown and across Bournemouth,

Christchurch, and Poole as well as many other locations in the county.

Dorset Police also launched an **interactive map** to help residents find their nearest police station front desk or community contact point. The map gives key information including the address, opening hours and information about crimes and priorities in the area.

The expansion of Community Contact Points and the police station front desks trial follows a pilot programme in 2022 in which Dorset Police used a police van as a mobile office, allowing officers to provide a physical point of contact in areas without a police station.

It is clear to the PCC how vital it is for the people of Dorset to see and feel a police presence. Through front desks being re-opened across the county, Community Contact Points ensuring face-to-face engagement, and an additional 174 new officers joining the Force under the National Police Uplift, the PCC and his office will ensure the pledge to make policing more visible and connected is upheld and continually improved.



# PRIORITY 3

## FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME AND HIGH HARM

*"To tackle organised crime, be tough on drugs and violent crime, and to tackle hidden harm issues that affect Dorset's communities, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and modern slavery."*

### Addiction and Substance Misuse

- As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Joint Chair of Addictions and Substance Misuse, the PCC has continued to raise awareness of the dangers of addictive substances. This includes a series of [press releases](#) and blogs highlighting the damage of 'recreational' drugs. The PCC welcomed the law change around Nitrous Oxide (N2O) and continues to support prevention initiatives to educate young people on the dangers of illegal drugs.
- The PCC continued in his role as chair of the Dorset Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), driving the implementation of the Government's 'Harm to Hope' strategy in Dorset, focusing on three main ambitions – breaking supply chains, delivering a world class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.

- Operation Scorpion continues to target illegal drugs and county lines in Dorset, with a focus on demonstrating the 'ring of steel' around the South West and tackling visible street dealing and associated crime. As part of the latest Op Scorpion iteration, the PCC also launched a high-profile bus back campaign urging the public to submit intelligence which could assist in identifying those causing harm. Alongside Operation Viper, these initiatives have resulted in more suspected drug dealers facing consequences, illegal drugs taken off the streets, dangerous weapons being confiscated, vulnerable people safeguarded, and residents and communities being made safer.
- The PCC commissioned the charity Escapeline, who help young people to stay safe by educating them on how child exploitation and grooming happens, and how it is linked to county lines and illegal drugs. The charity works with a range of agencies and groups including local authorities and the police, as well as directly with schools, parents, and pupils.

### Violence Reduction

- The PCC has worked with key authorities in the delivery of the [Serious Violence Duty](#) to ensure partners are delivering the requirements, as well as scrutinising spend and interventions. As a result of the efficient partnership working, the full financial allocation from Government has been successfully claimed.
- The PCC approved the implementation of a new team into the OPCC - the Violence Reduction and Prevention Team. This team will oversee several specified areas to understand need and gaps in provision, as well as creating a strategy and acting as the driving force to establish a Dorset-wide Violence Reduction Unit.
- The PCC funded hand-held metal detecting security wands for every police car in the county and two portable knife arches. These vital pieces of equipment ensure officers can act quickly against the threat of knives on the streets and are a useful tool in prevention and education.

### Domestic Abuse and Stalking

- The PCC continues to support Op Encompass in Dorset. The operation is a safeguarding partnership between the police and education providers to enable schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.
- The PCC has commissioned independent domestic abuse charity SafeLives to undertake a Dorset-wide analysis into all elements of domestic abuse victim pathways in the county. This will support the commissioning of services and establish best practice across the whole system. This work is ongoing with a new model and contract specification being developed.
- The National Police Chiefs Council, the College of Policing and the Crown Prosecution Service announced a joint commitment to transforming how they investigate, handle, and prosecute domestic abuse. The three organisations are developing a national Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan. The PCC has highlighted advice and support for victims in his weekly newsletters.
- The PCC continues to raise awareness of stalking and has supported a new stalking campaign from Dorset Police which uses a high-quality romcom-style video to drive home a key message around stalking behaviours which are part of the FOUR mnemonic – Fixated, Obsessed, Unwanted, Repeated.

### Violence Against Women and Girls

- Following a successful bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the PCC, in partnership with local authorities and other agencies, launched a range of initiatives to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, including the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Unity Promise and the expansion of the Pineapple Project in Weymouth into Swanage and Portland. The PCC also shared several newsletters and guest blogs throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.
- The OPCC set up the VAWG Improvement Panel to review and scrutinise the work of Dorset Police over their service for victims of VAWG-related incidents. The OPCC, together with victim services and voluntary representatives, carry out independent reviews on a sample of VAWG incidents where police have been contacted. The panel provide constructive and critical feedback, conscious of the overarching aim to identify organisational learning and implement best practice.

### Child Abuse

- Victim Support, a service commissioned by the OPCC, delivered a school-based cyber project to enable young people to understand different forms of threats of cyber bullying and inappropriate online relationships, and how to respond.
- The PCC welcomed the passing of the Online Safety Bill. The Bill has been strengthened, with firmer protections for children, more control for adults, and clarity for social platforms.
- The PCC supported the NSPCC launch of a new campaign in partnership with the Home Office to tackle child sexual abuse. The campaign encourages adults to contact the [NSPCC Helpline](#) if they are concerned a child could be at risk.

**Tell us where the 'deal' is and we will deal with it.**

Report anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111, or the Safe Street App. Alternatively report to us online at [www.dorset.police.uk/intelligence](http://www.dorset.police.uk/intelligence) or call 101



**#NoPlaceForDrugs**  
**Operation Scorpion**





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## FOCUS ON SAFER STREETS FUND

The OPCC was successful in securing £784,055 from round 5 of the Safer Streets Fund following a bid to the Home Office in partnership with BCP Council, Dorset Council, and Dorset Police.

This funding will drive forward projects and initiatives over the next two years, focusing primarily on the safety of women and girls within the night-time economy across Dorset. The funding will also be used towards burglary prevention packs as well as tackling crime in Dorset's rural communities.

With some projects already underway, the funding is beginning to make a positive difference. The Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Unity Promise, in which businesses sign up to seven commitments that focus on training to prevent VAWG and nominate a champion within their venue to promote women's safety, launched this year in Bournemouth. It is due to expand to Christchurch and Poole following the initial launch.

The OPCC has also commissioned the charity STARS to provide guidance and education to college and university students on subjects including consent, bystander training and respectful relationships. STARS is a pan-Dorset charity which offers one-to-one support for anyone who lives, works, or studies in Dorset and has experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their life.

Another project receiving support is the **Pineapple Project** in Weymouth. The project centres on providing safe spaces for young women and with the support of the OPCC, expansion of the project will see it set up in Swanage and Portland.

The Safer Streets funding will also be put towards CCTV cameras in Weymouth, Sherborne and Horseshoe Common in Bournemouth. A number of existing CCTV cameras from rural areas will also be integrated into the Dorset Council CCTV control room to enhance the service. Theft and burglary prevention packs are also being provided to people in rural areas to protect farming equipment.

As part of the funding, ID scanners and the Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) will be rolled out to night-time economy venues as part of the effort to deter underage drinking and help protect customers through police approved crime prevention initiatives that include a self-assessment of VAWG, drink spiking, anti-social behaviour, and theft. The Dorset Bobby Van will also receive target hardening equipment to further support vulnerable victims from burglary. Thanks to this significant funding, there are a range of projects across Dorset receiving help on a scale not seen previously.





# PRIORITY 4

## FIGHT RURAL CRIME

*"To significantly increase the rural crime team and their capabilities and to have specific strategies to address those crimes and issues that most affect rural communities. Also, to tackle wildlife crime."*

### Rural Resources

In October 2023, the PCC welcomed the launch of the Rural Mounted Volunteers (RMV) Scheme which sees volunteers on horseback work with the Dorset Police Rural Crime Team, providing intelligence and information to support and protect local rural communities. These volunteers patrol while out on their regular hacks, along bridleways, lanes, and country roads, gathering intelligence and reporting anything suspicious to the police. Since the launch, the volunteers have completed 140 hours of patrols and reported intelligence relating to numerous rural fly-tipping sites.

- Earlier this year, the PCC joined his counterparts from across the South West to launch a new cross-border rural operation, Operation Ragwort, which aims to target

Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in rural crime. OCGs who target rural communities are often behind many rural crimes such as burglary, the theft of farm vehicles and equipment, poaching and hare coursing, and will be the focus of this regional coordinated operation.

- The expanded Rural Crime Team continues to work tirelessly to tackle rural offences, with some great success. NFU Mutual's 2023 Annual Rural Crime Report showed a 28% drop in the cost of crime in Dorset, compared to an increase of 22.1% nationally. The team have also been recognised nationally for their outstanding work, winning a National Police Chief's Council award for most innovative partnership to tackle serious and organised acquisitive crime.

### Country Watch

- In June, the PCC worked with counterparts across the South West to launch a Rural Crime Survey to explore how crime impacts rural communities. The survey was open to those living and working in rural areas across the region and aimed to gain a better understanding of how crime affects

residents, in particular the types of crimes that are unique to rural areas. This information is then being used to inform police activity going forward.

- The majority of survey respondents had not been the victim of crime in the last year, however 50% of respondents who had experienced crime said they had not reported them to the police. Since the survey, the PCC has and continues to work with Dorset Police to launch campaigns highlighting the importance of reporting crime to the police.

### Fly-tipping

- The Rural Crime Survey also found that fly-tipping was the crime most commonly experienced by respondents and was also a crime of high concern to many. In response to this, the PCC agreed to fund an evidence gathering role to enable further enforcement of fly-tipping offenders in Dorset. The post will focus on priority areas of repeat fly-tipping, aided by improved mapping processes and data monitoring identified through the work of the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC).

### Wildlife Crime

- During the National Rural Crime Week of Action in September, the PCC launched 'Poaching - a Farmer's Story', a short film, about the true impact of poaching on rural business owners in Dorset. The film, which was shared across social media, focused on the resulting damage to crops and property, livestock loss, the threat of harm and emotional impact on farmers, and the economic cost to the businesses affected. The video, which was produced by the OPCC, has been well received, being viewed more than 5,000 times on YouTube.
- In October 2023, the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime's quarterly meeting, chaired by the PCC, focused on wildlife crime. During the meeting, Dorset Police, Natural England, and Dorset Wildlife Trust presented updates on recent cases they have tackled in Dorset. In addition, the Angling Trust and the Game and Conservation Trust also explained their work and offered to support the Force's wildlife crime training programme for officers.
- Throughout the year, the PCC has visited local farms, attended farmer forums, and met with gamekeeper groups to give residents a chance to voice their concerns as well as allow the PCC to highlight the work of Dorset Police and other partner agencies relating to tackling and preventing wildlife crime.







THE DORSET PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

The Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC) was set up by the PCC in 2022.

The partnership brings together the OPCC along with Dorset Police, BCP Council, Dorset Council, the Country Land and Business Association, Cornish Mutual, Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Forestry England, Historic England, Kingston Maurward College, the National Trust, Natural England, National Farmers Union and NFU Mutual, to work together and share knowledge and best practice to better support Dorset's rural communities.

The DPARC meets quarterly with each meeting focusing on a different rural crime topic. These topics are captured as actions in the DPARC Delivery Plan, reflecting the actions in the Police and Crime Plan, and include:

- Country Watch
- Communication and Engagement
- Prevention
- Fly-tipping
- Rural Resources
- Wildlife Crime
- Heritage Crime

This year, the DPARC meetings have covered topics of heritage crime, rural resources, fly-tipping, livestock crime, and wildlife crime. As well as meeting four times a year, members of the DPARC also take part in task and finish groups, which are set up when further work is required for a particular focus. These task and finish groups have been very successful so far, with positive outcomes including: improvements in data sharing between agencies relating to fly-tipping; the establishment of a new evidence-gathering role for fly-tipping; the creation of resources to promote prevention information; joint operations to target fly-tipping and waste crime; and increased awareness of responsibilities of waste disposal.

The work of the DPARC has also included closer links with Dorset's rural communities, such as the Dorset Police Rural Mounted Volunteers scheme and the pilot of a Heritage Watch scheme.

A key outcome of the DPARC was the creation of the **Country Watch** Dorset website in 2022, with the brand going from strength to strength throughout 2023. The website acts as a one-stop rural resource centre for all things related to rural crime in Dorset, hosting information on different types of rural crime, advice on how to

report crimes, and updates from partner agencies working to combat the issues. The news page is regularly updated with articles informing Dorset residents of rural crime prevention tips and updates on successful operations to combat rural crime, as well as advice and guidance on rural issues.





# PRIORITY 5

## PUT VICTIMS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

*“Support all victims, particularly those most at risk of harm – and build community strength by working with local agencies. Supporting volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch, and increasing opportunities for young people.”*

### Business and Retail Crime

- The PCC continues to chair the Dorset Safer Business Partnership (DSBP), which is focused on increasing business crime reporting, police engagement and visibility, and cyber crime awareness and training.
- The PCC provided £48,000 to UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) to enable 200 Dorset businesses to sign up for UKPAC services, with the cost of membership covered for a year. UKPAC provide an incident reporting platform to help businesses report crime to police and provide evidence to support a prosecution.
- With the support of the PCC, Business Improvement District (BID) areas in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole united with UKPAC to launch the first 'Against Business Crime' partnership to tackle shoplifting and retail crime.
- The Force launched Operation Shopkeeper, supported by the PCC. The initiative tackles prolific and high harm offenders who cause the most damage to retail businesses through close working with community safety partners and BIDs.

### Hate Crime

- The PCC and Chief Constable successfully lobbied government for additional funding to manage the impact of the Bibby Stockholm arrival in Portland. The funding has been used to enhance policing in the area, including dealing with any related incidents of hate crime.
- In partnership with Restorative Solutions, Dorset piloted the use of a Hate Crime Awareness course as an Out of Court Disposal measure for individuals committing hate crime. The course is used to educate perpetrators and potentially reduce re-offending.
- The PCC supported Hate Crime Awareness Week, actively sharing a blog from a victim of hate crime, as well as raising awareness on how to report the offence.

### Victims and Communities

- The OPCC continues to work with Dorset Police to ensure the best possible service is provided to victims of crime in line with the **Code of Practice** to Victims of Crime and the 12 rights that victims are entitled to receive from Criminal Justice Agencies.

- The OPCC continues to work closely with the commissioned Victim Services to ensure delivery of good services to victims of crime including those affected by domestic abuse and sexual assault as well as theft and burglary.
- The PCC continues to chair the Dorset Criminal Justice Board and the OPCC attends the Victim and Witness Strategy Group which closely monitors processes and works to improve services to victims of crime.

### Vulnerability

- The OPCC held initial discussions with Bournemouth University to explore opportunities to safeguard international students from fraud and extortion.
- The PCC commissioned Age UK to provide a range of services to ensure the safety of elderly residents. The service, costing £27k, will identify individuals at risk, provide tailored support to meet their needs and reduce the risk of them falling victim to crime.

- The PCC has supported the Force's implementation of **Right Care Right Person**, an approach which means that people who may otherwise seek help from Dorset Police in times of crisis are directed to a more appropriate service.



### Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice








Dorset was selected as a trailblazer police force area to introduce the Government's Immediate Justice pilot scheme, where swift and visible punishments are given to those who have committed crime and anti-social behaviour. Launched in November 2023, the scheme has seen increasing referral numbers from across the county.

- The OPCC continues to monitor the delivery of the restorative justice contract with **Restorative Solutions**, as well as explore and develop opportunities for new courses to be provided to offenders, such as the Hate Crime Awareness course and the Assaults on Emergency Workers Awareness course.



## So far the Dorset Immediate Justice Pilot scheme has seen:

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-  30 referrals from Dorset Police
-  8 people completed an ASB Awareness Course
-  4 people took part in community conferencing
-  8 people completed pieces of reparative work
-  81 hours of unpaid work completed in the community
-  Work included litter picking, community gardening and working for charities at soup kitchens or in charity shops
-  Work took place across Dorset including Bournemouth, Weymouth, Dorchester, Boscombe and Poole.



## FOCUS ON IMMEDIATE JUSTICE

In 2023, Dorset was selected as one of 10 police force areas to implement the new Immediate Justice scheme set up by the Home Office, receiving a potential £1 million government grant.

Under the Immediate Justice scheme, those found committing anti-social behaviour (ASB) will be made to repair the damage they have inflicted on victims and communities. The most relevant and effective reparative activities are determined locally but include litter picking, basic repairs of damaged property, cleaning of graffiti, and working for charities at soup kitchens or in charity shops.

In Dorset, the OPCC has worked with Red Snapper Managed Services and Restorative Solutions to effectively implement Immediate Justice. The pilot scheme launched in November 2023.

Immediate Justice Dorset currently focuses on adult offenders who commit ASB related offences. If the offence meets the criteria of an Out of Court Disposal, the individual is then referred to the Immediate Justice scheme.

Within 48 hours of the referral to Immediate Justice, the individual undertakes the appropriate reparative action, overseen by Red Snapper. Additionally, if appropriate, the individual is also referred to Restorative Solutions to commence an ASB awareness course to help them understand the impact of their actions and potentially reduce further offending.

Restorative Solutions also oversee community conferencing, which is a voluntary process that includes everyone involved in and affected by an incident or crime. Those involved have a chance to heal and learn from the incident and discuss how to be accountable to one another in the future.

At present, the Home Office has confirmed an additional £1 million funding for Immediate Justice Dorset to continue expanding the scheme into 2024/25.



# PRIORITY 6

## MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT

*"Resourcing and transforming the frontline and improving efficiency so that the police can spend more time out in their communities. Ensuring robust oversight of financial, audit and governance arrangements."*

### Funding

The OPCC was successfully awarded funding totalling £784,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. The projects are jointly delivered with BCP Council and Dorset Council, and primarily focus on VAWG within the night-time economy but also include rural crime prevention in a bid to reach historically underfunded areas. (Please see page 13 for details.)

- The PCC received a total of £1 million for the roll-out of the Immediate Justice initiative as part of the government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan. Referrals to Immediate Justice are increasing as part of the continued work with partners Red Snapper and Restorative Solutions.
- Following lobbying from the PCC, it was confirmed the Home Office had agreed to increase its initial funding offer to support community policing of the Bibby Stockholm

accommodation vessel from £375,000 to £520,000 and to reimburse Dorset Police for any related mutual aid costs.

### Efficiency

- The joint PCC and Dorset Police Innovation Board approved funding for a pilot to enable the automatic transfer of intelligence reports from Crimestoppers to the Force's own crime reporting system, minimising the need for the manual transfer of information.
- The PCC welcomed the relaunch of the Force Legitimacy Board. The Board, attended by senior Dorset Police and OPCC personnel, provides leadership in important matters relating to professional standards of behaviour, diversity, and culture.
- The PCC scrutinised the ongoing development of a new headquarters building at Winfrith.

### Philosophy and Co-operation

- The PCC held a series of meetings with the Serious Violence Duty Authorities to receive formal updates on Dorset's Serious Violence Needs Assessments, strategies, and to establish the plans for the funding.

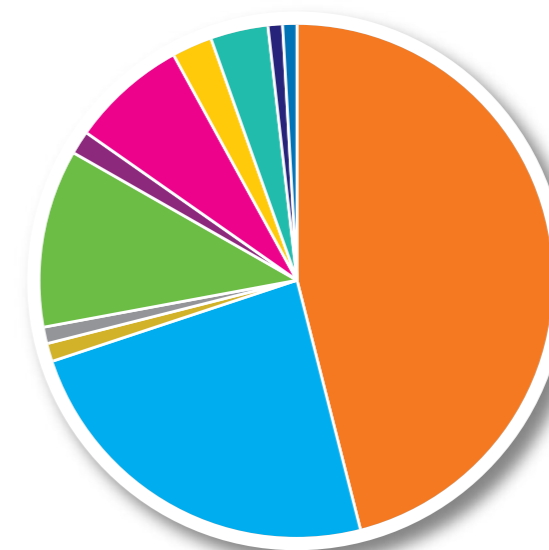
- The OPCC continues to work with community safety partners surrounding key projects and topical issues, including the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the recommissioning of domestic abuse services, and supporting delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.

### Evidence-based Policing

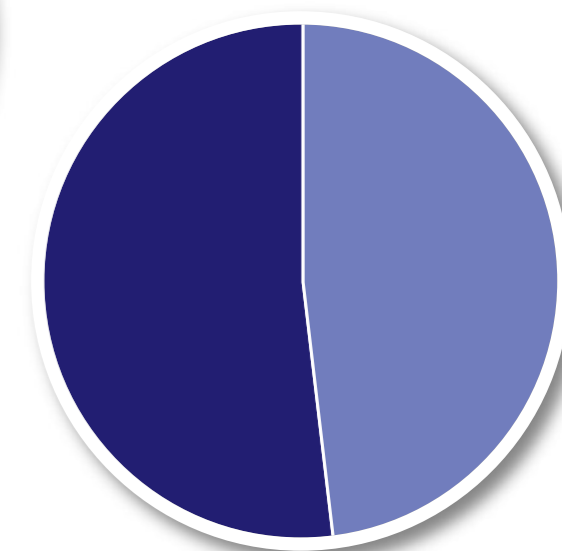
- The PCC continues to support evidence-based proposals to aid policing in Dorset. In the past year, this has included funding specialist autism training for Independent Custody Visitors, welcoming the law to make Nitrous Oxide possession illegal, and supporting the Pineapple Project to safeguard young women.
- Due to the increasing number of competitive bid processes from government, the OPCC appointed a Fundraising Manager. The role works with partner agencies, sourcing the best available evidence, to bid for specific government funds. The position immediately proved effective as demonstrated by the significant funding received from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund.

# BUDGET

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£m
Police Officer Pay & Allowances	97.1
Police Staff Pay & Allowances	47.6
Police Pension (Injury and Ill Health)	2.4
Training and Development	1.8
Premises	21.7
Transport	2.5
Supplies & Services (e.g. IT services, licence fees, equipment, uniform and other office costs)	15.2
Capital and Borrowing Costs	6.0
Regional and National Collaborations	7.8
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	1.6
PCC Commissioning and Grant Funding	1.5
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>205.2</b>
<b>Specific Grants and Income</b>	<b>-33.3</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£171.9</b>



TOTAL FUNDING	£m
Government Core Grant	83.2
Council Tax Precept	88.7
<b>Net Revenue Budget</b>	<b>£171.9</b>



	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
2023/24 Charge	£187.05	£218.23	£249.40	£280.58	£342.93	£405.28	£467.63	£561.16
Annual Increase	£8.67	£10.11	£11.56	£13.00	£15.89	£18.78	£21.67	£26.00
<b>2024/25 Charge</b>	<b>£195.72</b>	<b>£228.34</b>	<b>£260.96</b>	<b>£293.58</b>	<b>£358.82</b>	<b>£424.06</b>	<b>£489.30</b>	<b>£587.16</b>



# ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

This is the seventh Annual Engagement Report, designed to allow greater transparency, accountability and public scrutiny of the PCC's current engagement approach, empowering residents to become more involved in generating new ideas to bring policing more effectively to the heart of all communities in Dorset.

The PCC acts as the representative and voice of local people and aims to ensure that communities receive a dynamic and responsive police service. Various methods are adopted to consult and inform residents that the policing by consent model operating in Dorset, and across the UK, is supported by both the PCC and his office.

## Our Social Media

	<b>2,826</b> followers - up 9%
	<b>6,969</b> followers - up 2%
	<b>782</b> followers - up 11%
	<b>105,487</b> Website page views
	Over <b>8,000</b> local residents receive regular news and newsletters via the Dorset Alert service

## What did we do in 2023/24?

Over the last year we have conducted several surveys with Dorset's residents and communities including Precept, Immediate Justice, Rural Crime and our Annual Community Safety survey.

Responses to surveys have not only helped guide investments and so enabled the recruitment of 174 more police officers for Dorset, they have also influenced the provision of two portable knife arches and

a knife wand for every police car across the county to help tackle knife crime.

Those who engage with the OPCC have also guided the introduction of a pilot project which has seen three police station front desks reopen across the county, and the ability to show public support to tackle illegal drugs has meant that there has been continued support of vital policing operations such as Operation Scorpion and Operation Viper to tackle illegal drugs and county lines, not only across Dorset but across the whole of the South West region.

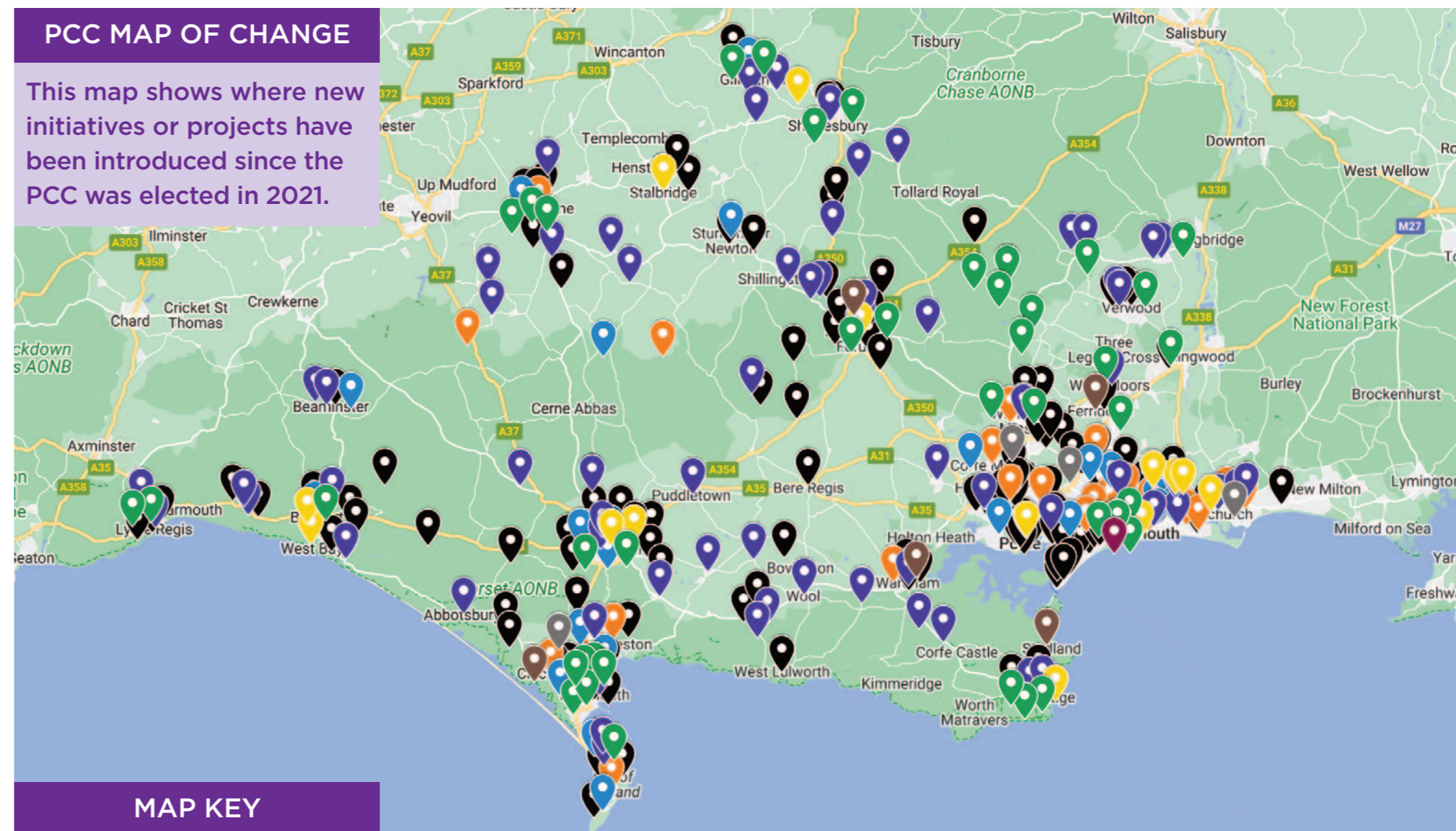
The Commissioner regularly attends community group meetings, conferences, face-to-face meetings and events across the county and directly engages with residents and stakeholders to ensure that there are opportunities to find out more about the work of the OPCC.

In 2024, the OPCC produced a 'Map of Change' to help residents and communities find out more about what has been happening in their area.

You can see the map of change on the page opposite. Visit the OPCC website to find out more and see how the map works.

## PCC MAP OF CHANGE

This map shows where new initiatives or projects have been introduced since the PCC was elected in 2021.



## MAP KEY

- Operation Relentless Community Fund Project
- Fix the Future Community Fund project
- Public contact initiatives
- PCC public meeting/visits
- OPCC public engagement events
- Safer Streets Fund projects
- OPCC youth voice work
- Rural Mounted Volunteers
- Partner projects





# ALSO THIS YEAR...

## Our Engagement

• There have been 16 scrutiny panels held. These panels are administered by the OPCC, and attended by independent members of the public, to help the PCC hold Dorset Police to account. With residents being actively involved and participating in the process, it ensures scrutiny is thorough and takes into account the experiences of diverse groups across Dorset.

Residents can engage directly with the OPCC via telephone, website contact forms and by post or email. In 2023/24, the OPCC was contacted 2,390 times by members of the public. The nature of public correspondence received is wide-ranging, from general comments to requests for information.

• There have been over 110 articles written on a wide variety of policing issues over the last year, all of which are available on the PCC's website and were sent out to over 8,000 Dorset Alert members. The PCC has also appeared in 15 videos talking about a range of policing issues.

• The PCC joined members of Dorset Police to broadcast live-streamed engagement events to talk with members of the public about the precept, and rural crime and policing in both the BCP and Dorset areas. The PCC also led a scrutiny/feedback group session with Dorset Alert members to discuss precept and policing in 2024.

• The OPCC has grown and improved its social media reach this year by joining more Facebook community groups and sharing information about surveys and funding opportunities with the aim of reaching beyond our most engaged with audiences.

• Our engagement, in all its forms, helps the PCC to raise the issues that are important to the public directly with the Chief Constable.

• The feedback we receive has led to changes in force systems and processes, as well as investment and resourcing in areas of policing that matter to the residents and communities of Dorset.





# SCRUTINY

## Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel

The Use of Police Powers and Standards (UPPS) Scrutiny Panel has been established as the independent overarching scrutiny panel. The Panel meets quarterly and continues to shine a light on issues such as the disproportionality of stop and search and use of force activity, public contact through the 101 and 999 service, and complaints handling by Dorset Police. One of the ways it does this is by reviewing a range of independently dip sampled cases supported by Body Worn Video (BWV).

The Force has recently established its own Independent Scrutiny Panel, which reports into the UPPS on the outcome of their review and independent scoring of BWV footage of stop and search and use of force cases. This provides the Panel with additional assurance. Additionally, a sub-group of panel members independently dip sample complaints against the Force.

The newly established Violence Against Women and Girls Improvement Panel reports into the UPPS Panel and scrutinises a dip sample of 101 /999 calls and scores these based on how they feel the member of the public has been treated.

## Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel

The OPCC also administers the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel which meets quarterly and considers a sample of cases of Out of Court Disposals (OoCDs) to determine if they are appropriate. OoCDs allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offences including child offenders, thus preventing their entry into the formal criminal justice system.

The Panel has continued to follow best practice by scrutinising cases on themes agreed by members beforehand, such as cases involving women and ethnically diverse individuals, cases involving possession of weapons, assaults of emergency service workers and cases involving Restorative Justice.

Equally, some cases are selected at random to ensure clear objectivity. The Panel also considers re-offending by those cases considered at previous meetings, as well as deciding to select some cases at random without a particular theme.

Feedback from both the UPPS and OoCD Scrutiny Panels helps to inform how Dorset Police might further improve the service it provides and helps to increase transparency and public confidence in the police.

## Independent Custody Visiting Panel

It is a statutory duty for every PCC to have an Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Panel. Volunteers from local communities, who are security cleared and trained, make unannounced visits to detainees held in police custody to ensure their rights have been given and to check on their welfare. These visits can be at any time day or night. During the 2023/24 year, 100 visits were made and 303 detainees were spoken to.

This year, the ICV process has resulted in Dorset Police appointing an additional Custody Inspector which has led to a significant improvement in the timeliness of reviews of detention, ensuring that no detainee is held in custody longer than necessary.

## Complaint Reviews

To ensure the PCC is satisfied Dorset Police are handling complaints appropriately, the OPCC commissions the service of a Complaints Review Officer who has responsibility for reviewing complaints if the complainant is dissatisfied once the case has been closed by Dorset Police. There has been a total of 114 complaint review requests during the 2023/24 period, with 73.9% determined to have been dealt with appropriately. In those cases that are determined not to have been dealt with appropriately, recommendations are made to the Force so that the correct steps can be taken.

## PCC Challenge

The PCC continues to receive updates on performance relating to a previous challenge issued to the Chief Constable regarding police response times. In 2023, an improvement was recorded, and this is monitored by the PCC and the OPCC team to ensure the Force continues to monitor progress being made relating to stop and search disproportionality.

## Police and Crime Panel

Dorset Council has responsibility for the Dorset Police and Crime Panel held four times a year. The Panel members primarily focus their attention on important strategic actions and decisions made by the PCC. In February 2024, the Panel unanimously approved plans for this year's policing precept.

## Independent Audit Committee

The Independent Audit Committee meets on a quarterly basis and provides comment, advice and assurance on matters relating to the internal control environment of the Force and the OPCC. It has oversight of general governance matters and comments on any new or proposed PCC policies, strategies or changes to existing relevant policies and strategies which, in the opinion of the Chief Financial Officers, are significant with regards to financial risk and probity. The Committee is comprised of five independent members recruited for their skills and expertise in the area. The reports made to each committee meeting are publicly available on our [website](#).

# MAKE DORSET THE SAFEST COUNTY





Crime & ASB	Burglary	Fraud & Cyber	Road Safety	Young People	Pet Theft
Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green

- Pilot of Auto Speedwatch cameras to tackle speeding motorists.
- PCC approved another round of the motorcycle lock initiative.

Uplift and Visibility	Connectivity and Engagement	Customer Service
Green	Green	Green

- Notable improvements in 999 call handling.
- PCC newsletters on areas including substance misuse, the Operation Relentless Community Fund and the precept.

Addiction	Violence Reduction	VAWG	DA & Stalking	Child Abuse	Modern Slavery
Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green

- PCC commissioned a stalking awareness 'romcom' video.
- PCC funded Escapeline County Lines and Child Exploitation conference.

Funding	Efficiency	Evidence Based Policing	Philosophy & Co-operation
Yellow	Green	Green	Green

- Police 'Direct and Deploy' initiative to improve both the timeliness and quality of service
- Year two funding and delivery proposal for the Immediate Justice scheme.

Philosophy	CJS & RJ	Vulnerability	Hate Crime	Business & Retail Crime
Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow

- Launch of the PCC commissioned, Age UK 'Older Safer Initiative'.
- Update on the successful Op Shopkeeper pilot.

Rural Resources	Country Watch	Fly-tipping	Wildlife Crime
Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow

- Recruitment of Fly-tipping Evidence gathering role in Dorset Council.
- 90 hours of patrols reported by Rural Mounted Volunteers.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



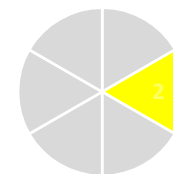
In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p><b>Ref. Auto Speedwatch</b>            “In Dorset, our Community Speed Watch teams are a valuable asset... These new cameras come as a direct result of Dorset residents telling me they want more done about speeding in their villages.”</p> <p>PCC, 22 February 2024</p>	Total Crime (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -5%	Non-dwelling burglary 23/24 (YTD)	-3.1% (-24)		^
				Dwelling burglary 23/24 (YTD)	-1.4% (-14)		v
	Total ASB incidents (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -26%	Killed or Seriously Injured (rolling)	-9.6%		v
				ASB YTD	-11.9% (-2,050)		v
	Public Opinion	↑	-- 46%	% people feeling safe in Dorset	91%		-
				Commissioning: Crime Prevention 23/24	£1.2m		^

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Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail	Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Road Safety			The PCC <a href="#">launched</a> a pilot of Auto Speedwatch (ASW) cameras in Dorset, purchasing 12 cameras, at a cost of £9,487, to be positioned in areas with high levels of speeding complaints. The cameras complement the work of the <a href="#">Community Speed Watch</a> scheme, identifying speeding motorists and automatically passing the information to enforcement teams.	Crime and ASB			The PCC contributed a further £8,000 to DocBike for an additional round of the bike theft initiative. Dorset motorcycle owners were <a href="#">offered the chance</a> to purchase an alarmed disc lock at a significantly reduced price.
				Fraud & Cyber Crime			The OPCC published two <a href="#">Cyber Crime newsletters</a> this quarter – one giving advice on Victim Support work for cybercrime victims and the other on the Southwest Cyber Resilience Centre walk about in Dorset.
Burglary			The Safer Streets Fund saw £15k of additional equipment to support vulnerable victims of burglary, through installation of safety measures. The PCC also collaborated with <a href="#">estate agents</a> to provide new homeowners with safety tips.	Support Young People			Through money secured by the OPCC as part of the Safer Streets Fund, <a href="#">STARS Dorset</a> recruited a Consent Engagement Officer to provide guidance and education to young people in college and university.



RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p>“I am urging the people of Dorset to help us in our fight to drive these criminals out of our county. We need your eyes, ears, and expert knowledge... I know how damaging the effects of drugs can be for a community, but the police need your help to go further than ever; they can’t do this alone”</p> <p><b>PCC, 23 February 2024</b></p>	Number of full-time equivalent police officers	↑	↑ 1,431.79	Victim Satisfaction (Whole Experience)	68.6%		^
				Victim Satisfaction (Actions Taken)	58.5%		^
	Percentage of People who feel Dorset Police do a good job in their area	↑	--	Victim Satisfaction (Kept Informed)	57.7%		v
		80%	66%	Average 101 answer time	15.6 mins		-
	Percentage of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds	↑	↑	Complaints received by Dorset Police (Q4)	313		v
		90%	88.0%	Complaint Reviews received by OPCC (Q4)	29		-

Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Uplift and Visibility			A large uptake in the use of the Pronto platform has been observed, enabling officers to access information and run processes remotely, for which they would have once had to return to a station to achieve. This has also resulted in an improvement in public protection notice accuracy being reported to the Force’s Continuous Improvement Board.
Engagement and Connectivity			<p>The PCC has released 38 news articles and PCC newsletters on a range of subject areas including <a href="#">substance misuse</a>, the <a href="#">Operation Relentless Community Fund</a> and the <a href="#">precept</a>. Of particular note, the OPCC led the <a href="#">communications</a> activity for Op Scorpion round 7, the Southwest regional anti organised crime/drugs campaign.</p> <p>The OPCC Communications Team has been working with <a href="#">Neighbourhood Policing Teams</a> to develop improved community engagement scrutiny processes and ensure that the neighbourhood engagement commitments are met.</p>
Customer Service			<p>There have been notable improvements in 999 call handling following software and process changes enacted with the Force Contact Centre. The PCC has also taken <a href="#">opportunities</a> to explain the available reporting methods to members of the public.</p> <p>Joint work was undertaken alongside the IOPC to ensure that the relevant review body was correctly identified by the Force when dealing with complaints to ensure the most efficient and proper service.</p>

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p>"I want to be clear; victims' voices are heard and will continue to be heard in my fight to make Dorset the safest county. I would encourage anyone who is worried or concerned they have been a victim of stalking to have the confidence to come forward... you will be listened to."  <b>PCC, 16 February 2024</b></p>	Most Serious Violence (from 2019 baseline)	↓	↓ -6.9	Domestic Abuse Crimes	+7.7% (+677)	▲	▲
				Domestic Abuse Incidents	+7.7% (+832)	▲	▲
	Domestic Abuse Crime and Incident Reports	↑	↑	Violence Against the Person	-2.5% (-515)	■	-
				Domestic Violence, Sexual Harm and Stalking Prevention Orders 23/24	290	▲	▲
	Effectiveness assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Commissioning: Reducing Reoffending 23/24	£600k	▲	▲

Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail	Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Addiction and Substance Misuse	▲	▲	<p>The PCC <a href="#">supported</a> the seventh phase of Op Scorpion – the drugs operation which involves all five southwest PCCs and their forces. The operation saw 15 warrants executed, 37 arrests made and £78k worth of drugs seized in Dorset.</p> <p>PCC provided £2,347 to <a href="#">Escapeline</a> to cover the cost of a County Lines and Child Exploitation conference in Bournemouth.</p>	Child Abuse	▲	▲	The OPCC supported the NSPCC campaign that launched in partnership with the Home Office to tackle child sexual abuse by <a href="#">sharing advice</a> and details of the NSPCC helpline.
				Violence Reduction	■	■	Postholders have taken up their new roles within OPCC Violence Reduction and Prevention Team. The PCC also issued a public <a href="#">statement</a> after a manslaughter conviction.
Violence Against Women and Girls	■	■	<p>The PCC provided funding of £4,500 to the Soroptimists for a 'Fresh Thoughts' booklet providing guidance to female victims/survivors.</p> <p>The PCC opened a VAWG event held by Bournemouth University – Changing the Culture to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls – and <a href="#">supported</a> Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week.</p>	Domestic Abuse & Stalking	■	■	Dorset Police and the OPCC launched an awareness raising <a href="#">campaign</a> about harmful stalking behaviours. The approach included a powerful 'romcom' <a href="#">video</a> , a suite of posters, social media and electronic display artwork. Alongside this campaign, the PCC highlighted the launch of the Victims Code campaign from the Ministry of Justice.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p>“Working across county borders and with neighbouring forces is also something the force has been doing more and more... through Operation Ragwort the new joined-up operation to tackle rural crime across county borders.”</p> <p><b>PCC, 8 March 2024</b></p>	Total Rural Crime (compared to 2019 baseline – YTD)	↓	↓ -75%	Crimes ‘Flagged’ as Rural	-26.7% (-47)		V
	Rural Resources	↑	↑	Engagement events in County LPA (Q4)	90% (19)		^
	Public Opinion	↑	↑ 65.86%				

Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail	Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Rural Resources			The Force provided enforcement and prevention updates at the PCC-chaired Dorset Partners Against Rural Crime (DPARC) meeting, to ensure partners and local businesses are aware of potential threats and prevention advice. The update included the successful prosecution of four offenders including two for wildlife crime, and two for farm thefts. The PCC <a href="#">celebrated</a> a recent successes in the fight against rural crime, with offenders being sentenced to eight and a half years.	Country Watch			<p>Since the launch of the <a href="#">scheme</a>, the Rural Mounted Volunteers recorded 90 hours of patrols in local areas. It is anticipated this will increase due to a further 5 volunteers currently going through recruitment and indication.</p> <p>The OPCC produced a Rural crime prevention leaflet, in collaboration with the DPARC partners, to inform rural communities of local issues and provide prevention advice.</p>
Fly-Tipping			Dorset Council recruited into the fly-tipping evidence gathering role within their Enforcement Team. The PCC-supported role will gather evidence of fly-tipping offences, as well as map hotspots for proactive enforcement and prevention.	Wildlife Crime			PCC has supported cross-border operations such as <a href="#">Op Ragwort</a> and also accompanied the Force on a cross-border wildlife crime operation ‘Op Galileo’. In February, the PCC <a href="#">highlighted</a> that Dorset had seen a 20 per cent reduction in reports of poaching offences.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p>“As PCC I have spoken to various business owners across Dorset who have told me how serious and damaging incidents of shoplifting and anti-social behaviour can be, especially when staff are abused or attacked. By working together, we can deal with offenders, reduce crime and work to make Dorset the safest county.”</p> <p><b>PCC, 20 March 2024</b></p>	Number of victims supported by OPCC commissioned services	↑	↑	Victim Support – Cases Created (Q4)	2983		-
				Victims’ Bureau – Contact (Q4)	7,358		^
	Victim Satisfaction	↑	-- 69%	Recorded Hate Crime (YTD)	-4.5% (-42)		v
				Recorded Hate Incidents (YTD)	+15.9% (+146)		^
	Legitimacy Assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Business Crime (YTD)	+18.7% (+882)		^
				Commissioning: Victim Services 23/24	£2m		-

Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail	Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice			A review of Restorative Mediation cases was produced, showing that 69% of cases had no further incidents reported following mediation. The reviews were undertaken at six months and a year after the case completion.	Victims and Community			A PCC agreed to a 6-month extension to the Victim Services contract, which was due to end in October 2024. This aligned commissioning timelines with partner agencies to enable exploration of future collaboration opportunities.
Business and Retail Crime			The PCC supported the launch of the <a href="#">BCP Business Crime Reduction Partnership</a> . He also, alongside UK Partners Against Crime, <a href="#">appealed</a> for businesses across Dorset to sign-up to a new service to help them fight business crime.	Vulnerability			Age UK began delivery of the PCC commissioned ‘Older Safer Initiative’. This fraud initiative aims to prevent crime and promote wellness.
			The Op Shopkeeper pilot saw ongoing success, providing good results on prolific and high harm retail offenders. As a result of the pilot, it has been agreed that the approach will now become business as usual.	Hate Crime			STARS Dorset continues to engage with marginalised communities through the OPCC and MOJ funded service. In this quarter STARS reported working with 89 individuals from these marginalised communities.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



In the Spotlight	Measures of Success	Target	Current	Additional Key Indicators		Q3	Q4
<p>“Dorset is one of the safest areas in the country, but we must not be complacent and should always focus on improvement to ensure we strive to be the safest county in the country”</p> <p><b>PCC, 20 March 2024</b></p>	Money secured from competitive national funds	↑	↑ £1.01m	Total Commissioning Spend by OPCC (2023/24)	£3.78m		^
	Budget Forecast	SEE FINANCE SLIDES	SEE FINANCE SLIDES	Innovation Bids Submitted (since 01/04)	9		V
				Small Grant Bids Awarded 2023/24	21		^
	Efficiency assessment by HMICFRS	ADQ.	ADQ.	Absence Rates for Officers (Q3)	4.02		^
				Absence Rates for Staff (Q3)	3.72		^

Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail	Theme	RAG Q3	RAG Q4	Detail
Evidence Based Policing			In response to the cost challenge and the direction from OPCC to take further steps to reduce spend, ‘Project Evolve’ was launched in March, bringing together a range of evidence-based opportunities to further improve a range of operational functions, including optimising shift patterns, and improving the way officers can engage with members of the public through enhanced video contact.	Efficiency			Following on from a PCC Challenge on Force response times, Dorset Police identified opportunities to improve emergency dispatching. ‘Direct and Deploy’ includes a range of processes to improve both the timeliness and quality of service, ranging from a phonebook app allowing officers to look up numbers on the go, to closer working between dispatchers and patrol to ensure an accurate overview of officer availability.
Funding			<p>The OPCC submitted a proposal for the year 2 delivery of the Immediate Justice Scheme (IJ). This will see a continuation of the reparative activities but will also explore expansion of the scheme including youth IJ.</p> <p>The Precept proposal was unanimously <a href="#">approved</a> by the Police and Crime Panel.</p>	Philosophy and Co-Operation			Following input from PCCs and Chief Constables, a new national Code of Ethics for policing was <a href="#">launched</a> , simplifying the nine principle from the 2014 Code into three, easier to recall principles of: public service, courage, and respect and empathy. The PCC also <a href="#">highlighted</a> the launch of a new Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse Reporting Service.

RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period

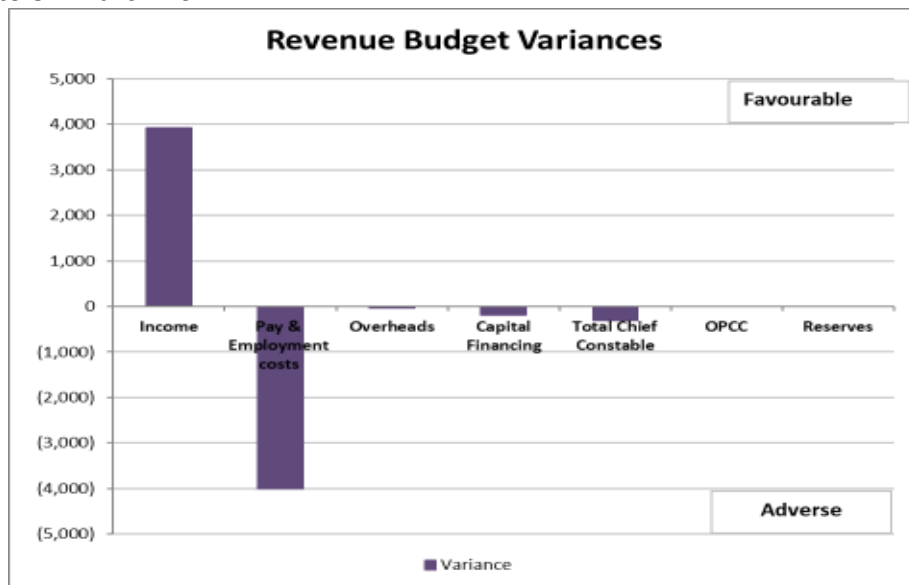


## 2023/24 QUARTER 4 FINANCIAL REPORT- OVERVIEW

The overall revenue spend for the year was £163.2m against a budget of £162.9m, an adverse variance of £0.313m or 0.19%. Whilst this is still a significant improvement from earlier in the year, it is still an overspend and reserves have had to be used to fund it. £90,000 has been taken from the Budget Management Fund, £40,000 from the Uplift Reserve and £183,000 from the General Fund Balance.

This has reduced the General Fund Balance to £5.778m, equivalent to 3.55% of Net Revenue Expenditure. This is above the minimum level of reserves of 3% but below the maximum level of 5%.

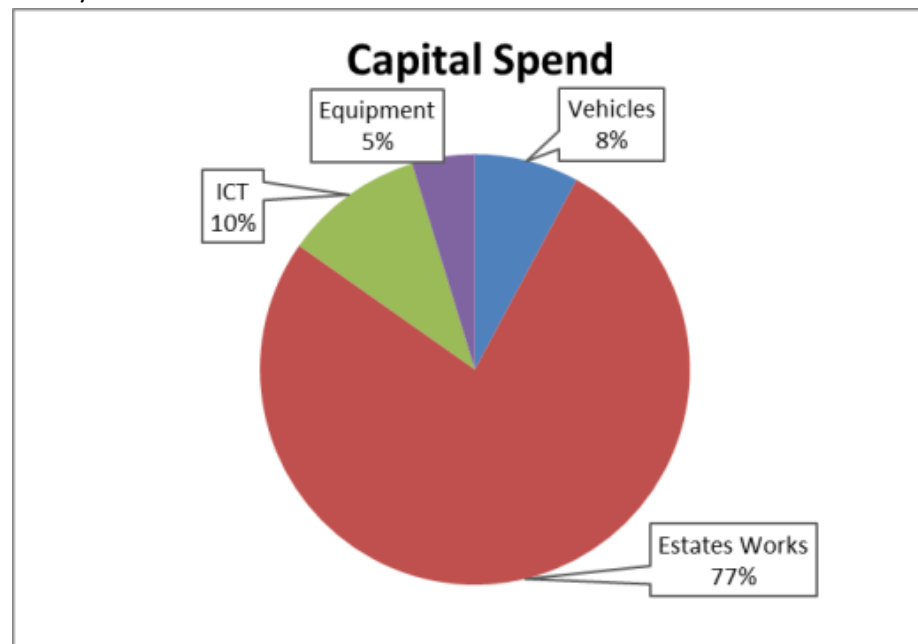
The graph below summarises the outturn revenue variances for the year to 31 March 2024.



## CAPITAL

The Capital Programme finished the year with expenditure of £16.235m against a revised budget of £18.406m for the year. The variance of £2.171m is made up of slippage of £1.859m and underspends of £0.312m. This reduced the borrowing required in 2023/24 to fund the capital programme.

The graph below shows the final allocation of the capital spend for 2023/24.



Further information on both the revenue budget, capital programme and reserves can be found on the following pages.



RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



## REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Unaudited Outturn	Variance fav / (adverse)	Ref	Revenue Commentary
Chief Constable	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's		
Income	(24,895)	(29,834)	(33,749)	3,915	R1	R1. Additional income from further uplift recruitment offsetting additional pay costs, grant relating to the Bibby Stockholm operation, increased regional contributions and increased interest received as a result of higher rates and cashflow. This more than offsets the additional interest payable incurred below.
Pay & Employment costs	135,821	140,633	144,636	(4,003)	R2	R2. The additional costs of the extra 27 officers are included here, as well as the savings built into the budget which have not been delivered. The impact of the pay award (net of the grant received) is also included here. Overtime budgets were also overspent but not as much as in previous years.
Overheads	44,738	45,766	45,794	(28)	R3	R3. Increased costs of business rates have now been exceeded by reductions in utilities and some maintenance. Increased costs of equipment, body armour and pension administration fees are being offset by savings in IT licences and network costs, regional collaboration costs and fuel savings.
Capital Financing	4,649	4,687	4,884	(197)	R4	R4. Increased interest costs for temporary borrowing as a result of continued high interest rates.
<b>Total Chief Constable</b>	<b>160,312</b>	<b>161,252</b>	<b>161,565</b>	<b>(313)</b>		
OPCC	2,968	2,782	2,782	0	R5	R5 OPCC agreed to make contributions totalling £0.272m to reserves therefore the budget was moved to the reserves line. This was made up of £0.203 to the Police and Crime Plan reserve, £0.030 to the OPCC Legal Reserve and £0.039 to the OPCC Reserve.
<b>Total Net Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>163,280</b>	<b>164,034</b>	<b>164,347</b>	<b>(313)</b>		
Reserves	(406)	(1,160)	(1,160)	0		R6. The final variance of £0.313m is equivalent to 0.19% of the total net budget. This will be funded from the Budget Management Reserve (£0.090m), the Uplift Reserve (£0.040m) and General Balances (£0.183m). This leaves the General Balances at 3.55% of the net revenue expenditure for 2023/24.
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>162,874</b>	<b>162,874</b>	<b>163,187</b>	<b>(313)</b>	<b>R6</b>	

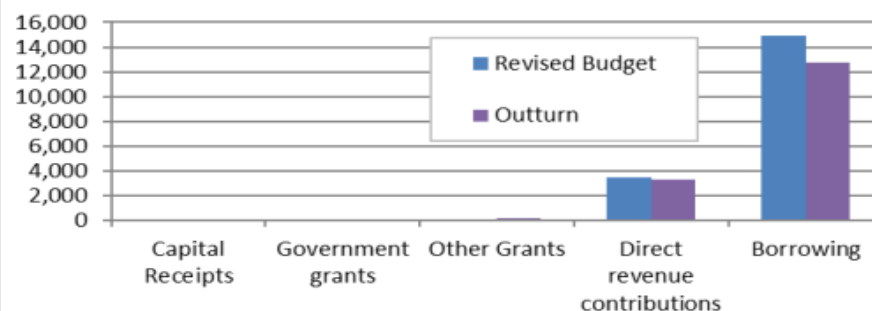


## CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

2023/24	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Outturn	Variance Fav / (Adverse)	Capital Programme Commentary
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
<b>Capital Investment</b>					
Vehicles	924	1,121	1,273	(152)	The vehicle replacement programme showed an overspend at year end, primarily due to increased costs of new vehicles. The forecast additional deliveries forecast at quarter 3 did not materialise.
Estates Works	15,123	13,779	12,487	1,292	The Estates budgets showed slippage of £1.217m at the year end, primarily relating to the Firing Range, Ferndown projects and roofing works. In addition, there were some small underspends, totalling £0.075m on schemes which completed this year.
ICT	3,537	2,584	1,708	876	Slippage in IT projects totalled £0.505m with underspends in projects totalling £0.371m. Around £0.150m of the underspend related to costs previously included within capital which were deemed to be revenue costs. These were therefore removed from the capital expenditure and the revenue contributions reduced to fund the costs within the revenue budget.
Equipment	637	1,271	767	504	There is slippage in the equipment budget where equipment has been ordered but not delivered by the year end which totalled £0.137m with underspends of £0.373m. The slippage built into the budget has been fully offset against underspends.
Slippage	(500)	(349)	0	(349)	
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>19,721</b>	<b>18,406</b>	<b>16,235</b>	<b>2,171</b>	

## CAPITAL FINANCING

Sources of Finance				
Capital Receipts	0	0	29	(29)
Government grants	0	0	0	0
Other Grants	23	72	155	(83)
Direct revenue contributions	3,288	3,453	3,309	144
Borrowing	16,410	14,881	12,742	2,139
<b>Total Capital Funding</b>	<b>19,721</b>	<b>18,406</b>	<b>16,235</b>	<b>2,171</b>





RAG Status	
This Period	Last Period



## USABLE RESERVES

2023/24	Opening Balance at 1/4/23	Budgeted transfer to/(from) reserves	Actual Transfer to/(from) reserves	Closing Balance at 31/3/24	Reserves Commentary
Reserve	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Budget Management Fund	1,616	(707)	(797)	819	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table sets out the final reserves position after the final overspend has been funded.</li> <li>£90,000 of the Budget Management Reserve has been used to fund the year end overspend in addition to the planned use of carry forwards. £200,000 of the closing balance is being used as part of the 2024/25 budget. The remaining balance is committed to projects likely to complete in 24/25.</li> <li>£203,000 of PCC commissioning commitments were not completed by the year end therefore have been carried forward to complete in the coming year. This has offset part of the transfer to the new Violence Reduction Reserve.</li> <li>An additional £30,000 was transferred to the OPCC Legal Reserve as planned and £39,000 transferred to the OPCC Reserve.</li> <li>The opening balance of the Forensic Capability Network reserve was utilised in the year but the Home Office provided further funds in Q4 in order to facilitate the transfer to NPCC as the funding provider in 2024/25.</li> <li>The Uplift and PEQF reserves have been fully utilised (except for the balance already planned to be used in 2024/25) in funding the increase in provisions required at the year end, and part of the year end overspend.</li> <li>The General Fund Balance reduced to £5.778m after taking into account the budgeted contribution and the remaining overspend after applying the above use of earmarked reserves. This is equivalent to 3.55% of Net Revenue Expenditure. This would be above the minimum level of reserves, but below the maximum of 5%.</li> <li>The capital receipt from the sale of Bargates has now been received. No commitments have yet been made on what these receipts should be used for.</li> </ul>
Police and Crime Plan Reserve	1,028	(567)	(567)	461	
Violence Reduction Reserve	0	770	770	770	
OPCC Legal Reserve	220	30	30	250	
OPCC Reserve	377	39	39	416	
Regional Collaboration Reserve	34	0	0	34	
Forensic Capability Network Reserve	256	12	12	268	
Workforce Change Reserve	643	0	0	643	
Uplift Reserve	549	(509)	(549)	0	
Learning & Development Reserve	46	0	0	46	
PEQF Reserve	375	(328)	(328)	47	
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>(1,260)</b>	<b>(1,390)</b>	<b>3,754</b>	
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,860</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(82)</b>	<b>5,778</b>	
<b>Total Revenue Reserves</b>	<b>11,004</b>	<b>(1,160)</b>	<b>(1,472)</b>	<b>9,532</b>	
Capital Receipts Reserve	505	0	3,112	3,617	
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>11,509</b>	<b>(1,160)</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>13,149</b>	

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## **DORSET POLICE & CRIME PANEL – 24 JULY 2024**

### **ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

#### **BY THE COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide an update on Addiction and Substance Misuse delivery, within Priority Three of the Police and Crime Plan – fight violent crime and high harm.

To detail progress to date and the actions undertaken or directed by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to meet the commitments set out in the Plan.

To address the following three Key Lines of Enquiry as provided by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel:

- A. The influence of alcohol abuse as a causation of crime generally falls into two clear categories: In the home, leading to domestic abuse, and in public, leading to violent episodes and a growing public fear for their safety in towns. What does the PCC consider to be the priority focus areas for alcohol abuse? What is his strategic approach to combating these focus areas, including working in partnership and use of commissioning powers? How is effectiveness monitored?
- B. Drug Crime again covers a wide range of areas. From simple possession through to County Lines and Organised crime. What does the PCC consider to be the priority focus in each of these areas, in terms of key threats? What is his strategic approach to resolving these focus areas, including working in partnership and use of commissioning powers? How is effectiveness monitored?
- C. To what extent does the PCC think that gambling is a driver for crime? What is his strategic approach, including working in partnership and use of commissioning powers? How is effectiveness monitored?

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Every day, lives are forever changed – indeed lost – due to addiction. Whether it be gambling, drugs or alcohol, families and communities everywhere are all too aware of the tragic consequences that come about when people are unable to break the cycle of addiction.

1.2 At the same time, national legislation and local public services alike have struggled to keep pace with the evolving landscape of substance abuse, including, for example, the proliferation of synthetic drugs and opioid use, which represent new challenges in terms of prevention, treatment, detection, enforcement, and emergency response. Additionally, the complex way that addiction can manifest itself, such as comorbidity with homelessness and mental health issues, further complicates police work, requiring officers to possess skills beyond traditional law enforcement.

- 1.3 This paper aims to set out the key considerations relating to addiction and substance misuse in Dorset and explain the actions undertaken by the PCC and Dorset Police to meet the commitments set out in the Plan. Although it is understood that addiction can apply to just about anything that an individual is undertaking to the point that it is causing harm, this paper will – in line with the Panel’s Key Lines of Enquiry – focus on three main areas: namely, drugs, alcohol, and gambling.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The third priority of the Police and Crime Plan is to fight violent crime and high harm. One of the themes contained within this priority is addiction and substance misuse.

- 2.2 The commitments for addiction and substance misuse cover complex and cross cutting issues. To reflect this, the priority has six supporting themes outlined below:

- Make certain that, first and foremost, Dorset Police takes a robust approach to tackling drug related criminality and exploitation. The Force should use their powers appropriately to disrupt county lines activity to reduce the damage caused to local communities, as well as associated violence, ASB and acquisitive crime;
- Ensure that a regional, joined-up approach is taken to drug dealing, substance misuse and gambling addiction so that the entire Southwest works together to reduce this risk;
- Work with Dorset Police and key partners – in particular, health and social services – to commission services and educational inputs that can help reduce the harm of drugs and alcohol;
- Introduce ‘sobriety tagging’ as and when the national legislation allows Dorset Police to do so. Review the current rules and decision-making relating to rehabilitation provision and lobby for change if required;
- Ensure that Dorset is the best positioned to be innovative and collaborative in this space, by taking up the joint lead of the association of the Police and Crime Commissioners’ national addiction and substance misuse portfolio; and
- Increase awareness of the harms of recreational drug usage.

- 2.3 The Police and Crime Plan addresses substance misuse and addiction jointly and, indeed, there is considerable overlap between the topics of drugs, alcohol, and gambling. The needs of people who come into, or are at risk of entering, the Criminal Justice System are often complex and encompass mental health, substance misuse, alcohol, gambling, and other identified addictions. However, diversion, support, and treatment for these needs often develop in silo from each other. Government funding streams and statutory and voluntary services have tended to focus on separate delivery, meaning policy and procedures designed to tackle these issues have tended to evolve separately. The work of the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) and relevant partners is focused on reducing duplication and ensuring services for different needs complement each other and align where possible.

- 2.4 However, while the overlap between these topics is clear – and work is ongoing to ensure that efforts are complementary, these issues will nevertheless be explored in more detail separately to clearly address the Key Lines of Enquiry.

## The causes of addiction

Whilst an exploration of the causes and antecedents of addiction is outside the realm of this paper, it is helpful to include a short explainer, as understanding the multifaceted nature of addiction is crucial for developing effective prevention and treatment strategies.

Addiction is generally defined as not having control over doing, taking, or using something to the point where it could be harmful to you.<sup>1</sup> Research consistently finds that there are a range of risk factors associated with a higher rate to addiction. These include:

### Genetic Predisposition

- **Hereditary Factors:** Studies show that genetics can account for about 40-60% of an individual's vulnerability to addiction.
- **Brain Chemistry:** Certain individuals may have brain chemistry that makes them more susceptible to the effects of addictive substances or behaviours.

### Psychological Factors

- **Mental Health:** Conditions like depression, anxiety, ADHD, and PTSD can increase the risk of substance abuse and addiction. Individuals might also use drugs or alcohol to mask the negative effects of a mental health condition.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences:** Past traumatic experiences, especially in childhood, can make a person more prone to addiction as a way to cope with emotional pain.
- **Personality Traits:** Traits such as high impulsivity, sensation seeking, and poor self-control are linked to a higher risk of addiction.

### Environmental Influences

- **Family Environment:** Growing up in a household where addiction is prevalent can normalise such behaviours and increase risk.
- **Peer Pressure:** Social circles and peer influence can encourage the initiation and continuation of substance use, in particular.
- **Socioeconomic Status:** Although the research here is less clear, both poverty and high-stress environments are associated with higher substance use and addiction rates.

### Social Factors

- **Cultural Acceptance:** Societal norms and cultural attitudes towards certain substances or behaviours, for example alcohol, can affect their use and potential for addiction.
- **Availability:** Easy access to addictive substances or activities can better support the opportunity for addiction to persist.

### Biological Mechanisms

- **Reward System Activation:** Addictive substances or behaviours are typically associated with experiencing a mental 'high' - stimulating the brain's reward system by releasing large amounts of dopamine, creating a feeling of pleasure.
- **Tolerance:** Over time, repeated use can lead to tolerance (needing more stimulus to achieve the same effect).

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<sup>1</sup> [Addiction: what is it? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### **The causes of addiction** (continued)

- Dependence: Over time, repeated use can lead to dependence (experiencing negative withdrawal symptoms – a ‘come down’ without repeated stimulus).

#### Behavioural Factors

- Coping Mechanism: Individuals often turn to addictive behaviours or substances to cope with stress, anxiety, poor mental or physical health, or other negative conditions.
- Habit Formation: Regular use of a substance or engagement in a behaviour can create habitual patterns that are hard to break.

#### Early Years Development

- Age of First Use: Early exposure to addictive substances or behaviours – particularly including prenatal exposure – can increase the risk of developing addiction later in life.
- Brain Development: The adolescent brain is more plastic and susceptible to addiction during development, particularly in the areas of decision-making and impulse control.

## **3. CONTEXT AND KEY ISSUES**

### **Drugs**

- 3.1 In the year ending March 2023, an estimated 9.5% of people aged 16 to 59 years (approximately 3.1 million people) reported using an illicit drug in the last 12 months; with 7.6% reporting using cannabis (around 2.5 million people) and 3.3% reporting using a Class A drug (around 1.1 million people)<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2 Although there were no statistically significant changes in prevalence compared with the year ending March 2020, levels were higher compared with ten years ago (year ending March 2013) for any drug (8.1%), cannabis (6.3%) and Class A drugs (2.5%), where prevalence were at all-time lows across these three categories.
- 3.3 Across Dorset, drug users can broadly be divided into three groups:
- Firstly, so-called “social” drug users who use harmful substances but show no signs of repetitive patterns and for whom drug use is not a focal point in their life.
  - Secondly, “substance abusers” who may not use substances daily and have periods of abstinence without support, but who remain prone to binge usage.
  - Thirdly, those with active addictions characterised by compulsive drug seeking despite the harmful consequences.

All three drug user typologies are at serious risk of harm and have a significant impact on the local community. 21% of victims of the most serious violence perpetrated in Dorset between 2018-2022, had a flag on their records for drugs.

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<sup>2</sup> [Drug misuse in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)



- 3.4 In the last year there have been 1146 drug related crimes recorded across Dorset. This includes trafficking in controlled drugs, possession of a controlled drugs, intent to supply, along with other drug related crime.
- 3.5 During 2021-22 there were around 740 children living with drug users in treatment, and another 350 living with people with an alcohol dependency across Dorset and BCP. Parents with addiction often live within chaotic environments and their children receive inconsistent physical and emotional support. They also have an increased risk of physical and emotional harm, and abuse and neglect are typical adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) which affect the healthy development of children's brains. These impacts can stretch well beyond childhood.
- 3.6 Nitrous Oxide (NOS) and cannabis use are increasing. Cannabis is now the most consumed illegal drug in the UK, with a fifth of 15-year-olds using cannabis in the last year. Hospital admissions for under 25s for substance misuse is above the national average in Dorset at 996.6 per 100,000.
- 3.7 Over a quarter of under 18s in Dorset & BCP substance misuse treatment in 2021-22 reported being affected by other people's substance misuse and 8% of school exclusions related to drugs or alcohol.
- 3.8 There were 80 suspected drug related deaths in Dorset during 2023. Analysis of the provisional data suggests that the pattern of deaths remain similar to that seen during 2022 – a similar age distribution and predominantly males. Most occurred at the home address, and the greatest proportion of deaths occurred in Bournemouth area.
- 3.9 In Dorset, over half of service users in treatment and recovery support have complex physical and mental health needs which impact on their daily lives. Anecdotal evidence and case reviews suggest that a significant proportion with complex needs struggle to access services from wider partners to meet these needs. For example, of those clients who have mental health needs, 60% of these are receiving help from their GP, 20% are engaged with mental health services and 20% are not receiving any treatment.
- 3.10 Evidence also suggests that the average age of those in treatment is increasing – one in three clients are aged 50 or over, and 3% are aged 65 or over. The aging cohort in treatment are more likely to have significant health and care needs and the broader treatment system needs to be developed to meet these needs.
- 3.11 Approximately one in eight people drop out of treatment before 12 weeks across Dorset. When engaged in treatment, people use alcohol and illegal drugs less, commit less crime, improve their health, and manage their lives better. Keeping people in treatment long enough to benefit would therefore deliver improved outcomes, however, the key barriers are complex and include access to suitable housing, lack of a connection with non-drug using communities and accessibility of mental health services.

### **Alcohol**

- 3.12 In 2022, 32% of men and 15% of women drank at levels that put them at increasing or higher risk of alcohol-related harm (over 14 units in the last week). 30% of those aged 55 to 74 drank at least 14 units of alcohol per week, the highest of all age groups.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [Adult drinking - NHS England Digital](#)

- 3.13 Six per cent of men in the South West drank more than 50 units per week, placing them in the highest risk category, and a further 30% drank between 14 and 50 units per week, placing them in the increasing risk category. This total of 36% in these two categories is comparatively high with other regions (which ranged from a total of 25% to a total of 39%).
- 3.14 Six per cent of women in the South West drank more than 50 units per week, placing them in the highest risk category, and a further 13% drank between 14 and 50 units per week, placing them in the increasing risk category. This total of 19% in these two categories is the highest compared with other regions (which ranged from a total of 10% to a total of 19%).
- 3.15 Alcohol related hospital admissions have been increasing steadily in BCP and Dorset, since 2017/18. Data show that the rates of alcohol related hospital admissions in BCP are significantly worse than the England average; this is a long-term trend. In 2020/21, the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in BCP was 589 per 100,000 in comparison to the rate in England of 494 per 100,000. In Dorset, the figure was 382 alcohol related hospital admissions.
- 3.16 COVID-19 had a significant impact on alcohol consumption, nationally seeing an increase in alcohol sales of 25% during periods of lockdown. Unplanned admissions for alcoholic liver disease during this period increased by 13.5% and alcohol specific deaths increased by 20% on the previous year's data. Local health and treatment services are still seeing these increased demands for specialist services.
- 3.17 For young people in England the average level of hospital admissions for alcohol specific conditions is 31 per 100,000 young people, the figure is higher in BCP and Dorset, at 60 and 47 respectively.
- 3.18 There is also significant hidden harm associated with alcohol due to its contribution to domestic violence and child neglect.
- 3.19 As with substance misuse, alcohol is considered through the Combating Drugs Partnership needs assessment and delivery plan. One key area identified is the impact of alcohol in the over 55s population in terms of treatment and recovery. Alcohol harm impacts on ASB and violent crime. In prevention, alcohol – along with other substances – has been prioritised through inputs with schools and support with families.
- 3.20 The Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy includes the tackling alcohol, drugs, and addictions as one of nine pathways to reducing reoffending. It identifies that around two-thirds of prisoners used illegal drugs in the year prior to imprisonment. Alcohol is linked to around half of violence crime, as well as others, whilst drugs are linked to significant proportions of acquisitive crimes, such as theft, burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting. There is also a clear association between problem gambling and crime.

### **Gambling**

- 3.21 There is currently no convention on how rates of problematic gambling should be measured, but the UK regulator suggests that 2.5% of people surveyed are 'disordered' gamblers, individuals who gamble with negative consequences and possible loss of control. A further 3.5% are moderate-risk gamblers, with moderate levels of gambling-

related harm. 50% of respondents undertook some form of gambling in the month prior to being surveyed, most commonly participating in lotteries or scratch cards.<sup>4</sup>

3.22 A recent review published by Public Health England “Gambling-related Harm Evidence Review” identified the following risk factors linked to harmful gambling:

- Impulsivity (cognitive trait),
- Alcohol consumption,
- Being male, and
- Experiencing depression.

3.23 The Gambling Commission found that 26% of 11–17-year-olds used their own money to engage in gambling activities in 2023. The most common forms were arcade games, placing bets with family and friends, and betting on card games.

3.24 The Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA) is the National Gambling Support Network provider for the South West, funded by Gamble Aware to support individuals and families who are impacted by gambling related harms.

3.25 ARA have found that almost one in five adults gamble online in the UK, and that there are 340,000 adults in the UK diagnosed as having a gambling disorder; Harmful gamblers are 15 times more at risk of suicide than the general public, and two people a day in the UK take their own lives due to gambling harm. Around 4.3 million people are directly affected by another person’s gambling.

3.26 In terms of the economy, 15% of gamblers have gambled in the workplace in the past four weeks, and the cost of gambling harm in the UK to the public purse is £1.27 billion whilst the gambling industry spends £1.5 billion per year on advertising.

3.27 As with substance misuse and alcohol, gambling has been considered through the Combating Drugs Partnership needs assessment and delivery plan development.

3.28 The PCC has acted as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) co-lead for addiction and substance misuse since 2021. In this capacity he has worked with the APCC to produce a Gambling Checklist for PCCs to review and action. There are 20 recommended ‘asks’ and ‘takeaways’ for PCCs to consider, under four thematic areas which are under constant review:

- Improving understanding, raising awareness;
- Access to services and support;
- A better response in the policing and criminal justice system; and
- Stop the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) from hitting families and blocking recovery.

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<sup>4</sup> [Gambling participation and the prevalence of problem gambling survey: Final experimental statistics stage \(Step 3\) \(gamblingcommission.gov.uk\)](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gambling-participation-and-the-prevalence-of-problem-gambling-survey-final-experimental-statistics-stage-step-3)

## 4. PROGRESS MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

### Drugs

- 4.1 The PCC's role as the APCC co-lead for addiction and substance misuse ensures that Dorset is in the best position to be innovative and collaborative with local, regional, and national partners.
- 4.2 Dorset Police has strong networks locally, regionally, and nationally to identify drug related networks, including Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), operating both in and out of Dorset. Between 2020 and the 2022 there were a total of 26 OCGs identified to be operating in Dorset whose primary threat was recorded as drugs. OCGs involved in the distribution and sales of drugs also come with the additional threat of serious violence. For instance, between the period of 2018-2022, 40% of most serious violence and homicide offenders had a flag assigned to their records for a drugs warning.
- 4.3 The previous government established the national strategy From Harm to Hope<sup>5</sup> to tackle the issues of drug related crime within our communities. The strategy noted that seaside towns are among the areas with higher prevalence of multiple disadvantages (drug addiction, homelessness and contact with the criminal justice system). Bournemouth ranked ninth for opiate and crack misuse, and eighth for multiple disadvantages and complexities. It is estimated that there were a further 1500 opiate and/or crack cocaine users in the Dorset County area.
- 4.4 The PCC has heard from those with lived experience of substance misuse and involvement in county lines and understands just how damaging drugs can be not only to the users' lives but also to their families. As well as how the effects of drugs can be for a community. Shoplifting, anti-social behaviour, and vehicle crime are just some of the offences often linked to drugs. Such feedback appears to be common across all police force areas and it is something that the PCC is determined to address in Dorset.
- 4.5 In early September 2022, the Combating Drugs Partnership (CPD) was established, in response to the requirements in 'From Harm to Hope'. Chaired by the PCC, the CDP supports delivery of the three main strategic ambitions to:
- Break drugs' supply chains;
  - Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system; and
  - Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
- 4.6 To support the development of Dorset's CPD, a Joint Analytic Sub-Group was established with the task of completing a Pan-Dorset Needs Assessment. This needs assessment was the basis for the CDP Delivery Plan which complemented the national outcomes and supporting metrics required by the national strategy.
- 4.7 A further three sub-groups lead the CDP's delivery plan activities, each one having responsibility for a strand of the delivery plan and advising the CPD at each board meeting regarding progress and challenges:
- **Enforcement** – Ensuring Dorset Police take a robust approach to tackling to drug related criminality and exploitation.

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<sup>5</sup> [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/from-harm-to-hope)



- **Prevention** – focusing on education and support with children, young people, and families at risk.
- **Treatment and Recovery** – to improve engagement with and access to treatment and recovery services in communities, and throughout the Criminal Justice System.

### *Enforcement*

4.8 Operation Scorpion is a partnership drugs operation which involves all five South West Police and Crime Commissioners, their respective police forces, the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU) and other key partners including British Transport Police. It aims to make the region a hostile environment for illegal drugs, concentrated on drug supply and the associated harms. The recent seventh phase of Operation Scorpion had three aims:

1. To demonstrate a 'Ring of Steel' around the South West, making it clear that drug gangs and associated crime will be targeted and removed from the region.
2. To focus on visible street dealing by disrupting those who cause harm in communities through visible drug dealing and the associated crime.
3. To encourage the public to submit intelligence which may assist in identifying and tacking those responsible for causing drug related harm to communities.

4.9 During the abovementioned Operation Scorpion week of action there were 37 arrests, 15 warrants executed, £77,800 worth of Class A and B drugs seized, £18,000 cash seized from various addresses, 14 adults and five children safeguarded, 45 stop searches conducted and hotspot patrols carried out across the county. Further weeks of targeted activity are planned throughout the year ahead.

4.10 Dorset Police also has Op Viper, the Force's own dedicated and proactive initiative targeting criminality, taking drugs off the streets, sharing intelligence, and protecting the vulnerable. This team uses intelligence and enforcement to disrupt county lines in order to make Dorset a hostile place for those dealing illegal drugs and bringing misery to communities. The Force has a specific County Lines Task Force, which is supported by Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams (NETs) to disrupt and deter incoming drug networks. Throughout June, for example, Op Viper resulted in a total of 54 drug disruptions, with 17 arrests, six people charged, 25 safe and wells visits, and seizures of pepper spray, drugs, phones and cash. Together, Op Scorpion and Op Viper are working to robustly tackle drug crime across our county.

4.11 Furthermore, a new national approach to tackling OCGs groups acting in neighbourhoods known as Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) is in its early stages of roll out in Dorset. This multi-agency approach focuses on targeting OCG drug and related crime and ASB within a specific geography, which is jointly identified by partnership data and intelligence. To have a sustainable impact it consists of three phases:

**Clear** – initial targeted enforcement activity (arrests and relentless disruption) that target OCG members, their networks, business interests, criminality, and spheres of influence. The police use all powers and levers to impact on their ability to operate, creating safer spaces to begin restoring community confidence.

**Hold** – consolidating and stabilising the first phase to stop remaining or other OCG members capitalising on the vacuum created. This aims to improve community

confidence by ensuring spaces remain safe. Visible neighbourhood policing in hot spot areas is used to provide continuing reassurance.

**Build** – delivering, in partnership, a range of community-empowered interventions that tackle drivers of crime, exploitation of vulnerabilities and hotspots of harm through:

- Improved engagement with services,
- Increased confidence within the community, and
- Greater reporting to police and partnerships.

4.12 Dorset's CHB was launched in March 2024 and is focused on Bournemouth Town centre. Results will be shared in due course, once initiatives are up and running.

*Prevention, Treatment and Recovery*

4.13 To tackle and reduce the risk of drug crime we need to prevent demand in the first place and to maximise access to treatment services to support those who are already using drugs. Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA) has been introduced across both Dorset Police custody suites, with the focus on perpetrators of violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls (VAWG).

4.14 The use of DToA will potentially lead to a reduction in further offending as a result of the rehabilitation offered. A positive test can then be used by the Crown Prosecution Service when the primary criminal case is being considered and can form part of the sentence which can include a rehabilitation treatment requirement. Initial results in Dorset, from 27 individuals being tested within custody, produced one positive test for opiates, 19 positive tests for cocaine, and three positive tests for both. Eighteen subsequent referrals were made for Drug Treatment Assessments.

4.15 Local substance misuse treatment services can offer multi-disciplinary interventions to people who use drugs involved in the criminal justice system, managing them from the point of arrest (drug testing on arrest > out of court disposals > arrest referral > support to probation court officers > pre-sentence planning) to release (assertive support on release from custody and prison > working with prisons for the smooth transition of individuals back to the local area) and on to specific programmes aiming to reduce alcohol and/or drug related crime throughout treatment.

4.16 There are a variety of different treatment options available across Dorset, as substance misuse issues can be addressed either through an out of court disposal via a court order or on release from prison – based on the substance itself, the level of dependency, and the age of the individual. Treatment services can assist and support family members as well. To ensure that people in the Dorset and BCP areas are supported through relevant services, continuity of care targets are kept under review via the CDP. The continuity of care target for Dorset is 58% (55% according to May 2024 figures) and the continuity of care target for BCP is 57% (60% in May). Work is underway to improve continuity of care within both Dorset and BCP, which will be overseen by three new sub-groups – namely, the Number of people in treatment task and finish group; Recovery group; and Drug related deaths group.

- 4.17 As part of a Community Sentence, courts can impose a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) instead of receiving a custodial sentence. If a court order is given, the offender must engage with both the probation service and the nominated treatment service. Failure to comply with this order results in the individual going back to court to be re-sentenced.
- 4.18 Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirement (AAMR) tags became a sentencing option in March 2021. Over the past year, 78 so-called sobriety tags have been fitted as part of a community sentence. Like DRRs or ATRs, failure to comply with this order results in the individual going back to court to be re-sentenced. As part of the tagging requirement treatment services will also be provided to individuals.
- 4.19 In terms of prevention activity focused on young people, Talk About Trust, with funding from the PCC, has designed and piloted drug education resources, trialled with over two hundred children during the Easter Term 2024. The materials cover issues such as NOS, vaping, MDMA, ketamine, cannabis, and cannabis derivatives, and were delivered via a short series of lessons for Year 9 students, an animated short film, teacher training, student assembly and interactive games. Indications of behaviour change or motivation to experiment with drugs were compared with children in two control schools who did not have the resources. Teachers delivering the pilot resources were interviewed to see what worked well and what needs adapting in Phase 2, which is due to be delivered in the Autumn term 2024.
- 4.20 There are, of course, additional educational inputs provided to young people in Dorset. This includes the work of the Safer Schools and Communities Team, which has produced a variety of relevant inputs and tools in this space – including ‘click and play’ videos focused on alcohol and drugs, as well as county lines, for use in schools. This also includes the work of the charity Vita Nova, which has been granted funding from the PCC’s Fix the Future Fund. This funding went towards the ‘Wasps Nest’ play, which is being performed in schools across the area. The powerful piece of work, performed by people in recovery from addiction, depicts the story of a teenager who becomes embroiled in county lines and knife crime, and how he found himself lured in.
- 4.21 Preventative activity, treatment, and recovery in relation to adults often involves the use of an Out of Court Disposal (OoCD). An Adult OoCD is to utilise suitable conditions to rehabilitate offenders and prevent re-offending. In suitable cases, vulnerable offenders are issued conditions which give them access to free support from partner agencies or commissioned services which aim to treat their vulnerabilities. Non-vulnerable offenders however are set conditions to attend education courses for which they pay. Ensuring the correct diversions for each offender will then assist with preventing re-offending.

### **Alcohol**

- 4.22 The APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse portfolio has prepared an Alcohol Related Crime checklist<sup>6</sup>, with a particular focus on the nighttime economy. This enables PCCs to quickly appraise the delivery of their Force and benchmark it against a national standard.

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<sup>6</sup> [next-steps-for-pccs-on-alcohol-related-crime-and-homicides.pdf \(apccs.police.uk\)](#)

### *Enforcement*

- 4.23 Dorset Police through their Neighbourhood Policing Teams have used effective operations in hot spot areas of Dorset which are designed to tackle key perpetrators of violence crime, drug offences and ASB. These are often linked to alcohol and, working within a multi-agency partnership these perpetrators are targeted to improve the safety of the wider community.
- 4.24 The night-time economy is inextricably linked with alcohol disorder and Dorset Police Crime Prevention Officers are frequently engaged to provide assessments of vulnerable and high demand areas within our town centre and the wider night-time economy. This information is shared with partners to achieve improvements.
- 4.25 Again, as also applies to drug users, OoCDs can be used to divert offenders into treatment and education services. This includes diversions for alcohol led crimes such as ASB, violence and domestic abuse.
- 4.26 Linked to OoCDs, Immediate Justice is a diversionary scheme for adult offenders who have committed ASB related offences such as criminal damage, theft, public order (where alcohol is typically the driver), and lower-level assaults where a conditional caution or community resolution has been identified as suitable disposal via an OoCD. This is for first time offenders only and Immediate Justice will be a one strike.
- 4.27 The offender, once accepted on to the programme, will be made to repair the damage they inflicted on victims and communities by completing unpaid community-based work as swiftly as possible after the conditional caution or community resolution has been issued. Community reparative work is undertaken through an external supplier who supervise and arrange the work with the offender.
- 4.28 Dorset also utilise Restorative Solutions who perform an Anti-Social Behaviour Course which seeks to educate to prevent offending. The Immediate Justice (IJ) programme has been running since November 2023, and results are reported to the Home Office as part of the funding requirement.
- 4.29 Forty-three referrals were made in the initial phase of delivery, of which 24 were from Dorset Police, 12 were from BCP Council, and seven were from Dorset Council. These resulted in:
- 10 Adult Conditional Cautions,
  - 29 Community Resolutions,
  - 4 Voluntary Interventions,
  - (With 2 referrals being rejected as not appropriate)
  - In addition to these, 17 people also undertook an education or awareness course.

### *Prevention, Treatment and Recovery*

- 4.30 The work of the Combating Drugs Partnership subgroups also includes a focus on alcohol. A key output of this has been the development of the ARCH approach (Alcohol Related Crime and Homicide) to support local activity. ARCH considers alcohol-related crime and disorder, from ASB through to the most serious crimes of all, including domestic violence, serious sexual assault, and homicide. As joint lead for this area the PCC is representing Dorset nationally as part of a new group to help set the role of policing to tackle alcohol-related crime and homicide.



- 4.31 The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has set out the priorities and supporting outcomes framework for the CDP treatment and recovery groups delivery plan. These targets relate to the numbers of adults and under 18s receiving structure treatment for opiate use, non-opiate use, and alcohol use.
- 4.32 The initial data set highlighted the BCP had lower than expected number of people over 55 years receiving structured treatment for alcohol use. As a result, the commissioning team is focusing on increasing engagement with the over 55 population. The team delivering this are in community-based settings such as the Dolphin Centre in Poole making advice and treatment more accessible. Within the first six months of implementation, the numbers of over 55s in structured treatment increased significantly, exceeding the target.
- 4.33 Of note, the Treatment and Recovery working group are now reviewing the “Drug Related Death” process to look to include alcohol related deaths. Dorset PCC was a key partner in the development of the national guidance for the drug related death panel guidance. We now need to replicate the process for alcohol related deaths where we see higher numbers which may cause some challenges with capacity.
- 4.34 As previously mentioned, local substance misuse treatment services offer multi-disciplinary interventions to people who use alcohol, and there are a variety of different options for treatment on offer across Dorset, which are considered by the CDP. Complementing these, courts can impose an Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) as an alternative to a custodial sentence, in the same manner as with Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (see paragraphs 4.14 to 4.16 for further detail).

### **Gambling**

- 4.35 The APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse portfolio has also produced a Gambling Checklist for PCCs to review and action. There are 20 recommended ‘asks’ and ‘takeaways’ for PCCs to consider, under four thematic areas which are under constant review. The four thematic areas are:
- Improving understanding, raising awareness,
  - Access to services and support,
  - A better response in the policing and criminal justice system, and
  - Stop POCA from hitting families and blocking recovery.

### *Prevention, Treatment and Recovery*

- 4.36 To support the national response to the above themes, the Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA) was appointed as the Southwest area provider for services including training for professionals and support for those wanting support with their problematic gambling addiction. Since 2021 ARA has worked with Dorset Police, the Probation Service, and local authorities to improve the local awareness of harmful gambling and embed the referral routes to support.
- 4.37 Training packages are now being rolled out to the wider partnership including alcohol and drug treatment services, public health, and social services via the CDP.

- 4.38 Nationally ARA supported 1758 people with gambling harm within the last 12 months. They look at early intervention, structured intervention, and continual intervention. 97% were satisfied with the service they received.
- 4.39 Locally, through the OPCC, a range of measures have been implemented to enable the better identification of problem gamblers at various points through the criminal justice system journey – from initial screening and signposting to support, to support within police custody to reduce the risk of future offending, through to supporting the Criminal Justice Liaison Service to improve both prison and probation services.
- 4.40 For example, problematic gambling has been added to the list of risks that are screened for when individuals come into police custody and if any concerns are identified they are provided with the relevant information and signposting to the ARA service and a referral can be made.
- 4.41 Additionally, support has been put in place for Dorset Police and OPCC officers, staff, and volunteers by including gambling harm within the substance and alcohol misuse policy to ensure all colleagues are aware of support services, and training for line managers will be provided to support this. ARA have also been included within the welfare department and referrals when required are made.

## **5. NEXT STEPS AND CHALLENGES**

- 5.1 OPCC is working hard to ensure that the antecedents to and consequences of addiction and substance misuse are prioritised by the police and partners across the county, and the Police and Crime Plan clearly sets out that detail. Over the past three years, considerable progress has been made against these commitments.
- 5.2 This is an area of extreme importance to the PCC and he, along with his office will continue to deliver the commitments within the Police and Crime Plan.
- 5.3 The uncertain funding landscape remains a key challenge for both policing and its key delivery partners. This has necessitated working more creatively to achieve the necessary funding to meet the demands of adults and young people seeking to access treatment and recovery. The additional funding secured has resulted in a significant increase in the numbers of people accessing structured treatment for substance and alcohol addiction, but this is not guaranteed for the next financial year which puts at risk potential developments to improve services but also to maintain the current offer.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1. Members are asked to note the report.

## **COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP MANAGER**

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