



Dorset Police and Crime Panel

Statement of Purpose

- ✓ The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) is an independent statutory body, which operates to represent the population of Dorset.
- ✓ We exist to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account through our scrutiny role. As such, the Commissioner has no direct control over the work of the Panel.
- ✓ We seek to ensure that the PCC is supported by the PCP in order to ensure that our county is safe for all.
- ✓ Where possible (and appropriate to do so) we also actively seek to support the PCC in the achievement of positive results for the good and benefit of the residents of Dorset.
- ✓ It is important to recognise that the Panel does not exist to scrutinise operational Police matters. Instead our clear statutory purpose and constant focus must remain on the PCC's role, output and effect.
- ✓ We will continually look to support the PCC in their task of bringing down crime, recognising that nationally the figures are not reducing in some areas.
- ✓ In exercising our scrutiny responsibilities we must understand and appreciate the pressures that the PCC may have to operate within (e.g. whether through lack of personnel, or funding etc.)
- ✓ We recognise the value that the public places on transparency in decision-making. We will therefore actively seek to ensure that decisions made by the PCC are supported by sound reasoning and evidence.
- ✓ Through our routine scrutiny of the PCC we will continually look for assurance that the outcomes the public are expecting are understood and action is being taken to deliver these.
- ✓ We will look for evidence that the PCC is listening to resident's problems and seek assurance that appropriate action is being taken to improve outcomes.