

**DORSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER  
DAVID SIDWICK

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



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 myself and my team during the 2022/23 financial year.

It has been another busy and productive year, with progress being made across all the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan. This activity will be maintained throughout the remainder of my term as I continue to deliver on the commitments made in the Plan.

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 has welcomed a new Chief Constable in March of this year and I very much look forward to seeing how Amanda Pearson will make the role her own. Chief Constable Pearson has already said that she very much wants to ‘keep up the good work’ and build on the solid foundations of this Police and Crime Plan. I look forward to working alongside the Chief and her executive team over the coming weeks, months, and years to keep on delivering my vision and

the Force operational vision of being tough on crime, keeping people safe and putting victims first.

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. Thank you also to the staff and volunteers of my office – the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – for all of their hard work in helping me to deliver my Police and Crime Plan. Thank you also to the public. I am your voice in delivering this Plan, so please do continue sharing your views about crime and community safety with me.

I look forward to another positive year ahead.

**DAVID SIDWICK**  
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner  
**JUNE 2023**



# 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 as well as 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 February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats. These are as follows: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies. These remain from the 2015 version with the addition in 2023 of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

Given this annual report is for the year April 2022 to March 2023, it will not respond in detail to the revised SPR due to the timing of its publication. However, the PCC is confident that due regard has been shown to the six threat areas in the previous SPR within the Police and Crime Plan and via his scrutiny of the Force. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue which is updated in this report and will be prioritised in future iterations.



# PRIORITY 1

## 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)

- Dorset Police continue to implement Operation Relentless to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across Dorset.
- Incidents of ASB have reduced by 13% compared to 21/22. Dorset Police have increased patrols in ASB hotspots, using intelligence from residents to guide their focus.
- Following the success of the initial Operation Relentless Community Fund, the PCC made the decision to run a second round of funding and £50,000 was made available to 12 organisations for a range of initiatives designed to reduce ASB across Dorset. Projects included installing CCTV, securing an old toilet block used by drug dealers, and providing diversionary activities for those at risk of being involved in ASB.
- The PCC has attended numerous public meetings across Dorset to help address ASB. For example the Commissioner has attended

summits in Lyme Regis as part of a swift response to concerns raised by residents, community groups and local politicians about ASB in the town. These summits brought together responsible authorities, to tackle ASB and drug crime in the area, resulting in positive feedback from members of the public.

### Fraud & Cybercrime

- The OPCC worked alongside a range of partners including national cybercrime specialists, Dorset and BCP Trading Standards and Age UK to produce a leaflet that gave simple, clear advice from trusted sources, on how to stay safe and get help should you become a victim of fraud. This leaflet was distributed to thousands of residents and can also be downloaded for free from our website.
- The PCC launched the joint OPCC and Dorset Police Cybercrime e-newsletter. This promoted the work of national cyber security agencies and provide advice on how to prevent cybercrime to businesses.
- The PCC commissioned training for members of the Dorset Safer Business Partnership, to improve knowledge surrounding fraud and cybercrime, including signposting to information available from national and local organisations.

### Burglary

- The PCC welcomed the Force's confirmation that it would support the national commitment to attend all victims of home burglary and vowed to ensure that this took place. Dorset continues to have relatively low levels of burglary.
- In December the PCC was pleased to report that dwelling burglaries had reduced by 17% and non-dwelling burglaries by 22.2%.



## FOCUS ON FIX THE FUTURE



### The Fix the Future Fund

This was provided by the PCC as a financial resource to support local initiatives which positively benefit young people and deter them from criminal or ASB.

The PCC funded nine Dorset charities and community groups a total of £42,000. Examples of initiatives funded included, clubs providing fitness classes to promote health; mentoring programmes and work experience; and charities who run education sessions on key topics, such as county lines.

The PCC will continue to visit some of the grant holders to evaluate the success of the projects and the satisfaction of the young people involved.

### Educational Courses

The PCC worked with stakeholders to identify and address some of the root causes of criminal behaviour in young people. One of the main causes identified, was young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). As the result of this, the PCC awarded funding for education courses to support young people who are NEET. This included online or classroom-based courses which focused on core skills like English and Maths. In addition to this, the PCC has also funded a variety of practical courses, like animal

care, as not all young people excel in a classroom environment. All the courses funded aim to increase employability for young people and open up more opportunities for them in the future.

### The Youth Voice

The PCC is keen to increase engagement with young people and gather their opinions on the Police and Crime Plan, and policing in general. The Commissioner's Office is therefore, exploring how best to engage with young people to ask questions and facilitate discussions on policing and the community. The results of this engagement will be used to influence PCC decision making and priorities in the future.





## PRIORITY 2

# MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE AND CONNECTED

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

### Customer Service

- Following reports of poor performance, the PCC issued a challenge to Dorset Police regarding response times to the public. As a result the Force has established a strategic group to assess and resolve the issues identified. This has resulted in improved call handling times and better governance of response times.
- The PCC launched a public contact survey giving Dorset residents a chance to feedback their views on the service. Participants were asked to share preferred methods to contact the police and for examples of excellent customer service experiences from other organisations.
- Some of this year's facts and stats - 91% of people feel safe in Dorset. 84% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds and the number of calls dealt with each day on average was 174.

### Engagement and Connectivity

- The PCC, members of office staff and community volunteers attended a series of summer engagement events, engaging with members of the public to hear their concerns and opinions. Over this period the team consulted with 2650 members of the public through the Summer Safety Survey, capturing their views on safety and crime in Dorset. Nearly 60% of respondents said that Dorset was either the safest county or one of the safest counties in England and Wales.
- During the summer months the PCC supported a pilot project that saw the introduction of a mobile police station front-desk and office. Utilising a police van, Force Contact Officers set up at dedicated locations to provide a physical point of contact and reporting in areas without a police station. Areas attended included; Shaftesbury, Lyme Regis, Sherborne and Sturminster Newton.
- Community Contact Points were introduced in several areas, including Swanage, East Dorset and Christchurch. These are pop-up events, attended by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, which are advertised across

the Force's social media platforms, with the aim of providing a range of dedicated events intending to increase accessibility and visibility in local communities. These contact points offered a facility to report crime and incidents as well as offer prevention advice and generic engagement.

- The OPCC undertook an assessment of the Force's Neighbourhood Policing Team pages and found that there had been significant improvements made to the information and engagement material made available to the public, following OPCC feedback.

### Visibility and Uplift

- The OPCC continuously promoted the work of the Force to fulfil its requirements under the Police Uplift programme. Dorset is now the sixth safest county in the UK and 174 new police officers have been recruited due to the Uplift programme - the PCC having endorsed the Force's request to go above and beyond the initial target set by the government. Dorset Police now has 1,441 serving police officers - the highest number in Dorset since 2012.

## FOCUS ON SINGLE ONLINE HOME

**The benefits of joining the Single Online Home (SOH) – a website platform now used by more than three-quarters of police forces in England and Wales – are numerous, which is why the PCC pledged that Dorset Police would join the system within the tenure of his Police and Crime Plan.**

It was clear to the PCC that, in order to make policing more visible and connected, it followed that the Force should take advantage of the national website which aims to encourage more online reporting and improve the ease and accessibility for those wishing to contact the police.

At the end of March 2023, Dorset Police successfully moved to SOH. The results can be seen by visiting [www.dorset.police.uk](http://www.dorset.police.uk). The new website follows the same layout and structure as all other SOH forces, meaning that – once the remaining few forces have also joined up – there will be a consistent approach online.

Key features of the new SOH website include an entirely overhauled online reporting system. A series of easy-to-use forms, tested and designed by national experts, allow members of the public to report a wide variety of crimes, incidents, and intelligence online.

The software that powers these forms helps users to supply relevant information and identify the correct agency, which should help to make contacting the police easier and more intuitive. Equally, by collecting all the required information at the first point of contact, it is hoped that the forms will help the police to deal with reports more efficiently in future.

In the years ahead, and with the collective power of UK policing behind it, SOH will continue to be improved and expanded. The PCC and his office will continue to monitor the development of SOH in Dorset to ensure that changes are well communicated, and that Dorset Police makes the best use of this exciting technology.





## 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 APCC Joint Chair of Addictions and Substance Misuse, the PCC has throughout the year continued to raise awareness of the dangers of addictive substances, this included a series of press releases and blogs highlighting the damage of 'recreational' drug use which included a blog on the misuse of Nitrous Oxide (NOX).
- The PCC continued his role as chair of the Dorset Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP), driving the local ambition to implement the government's 'Harm to Hope' Strategy.
- Operation Scorpion and Operation Viper continue to target illegal drugs and county lines in Dorset. These Operations have resulted in more suspected drug dealers facing consequences, more suspected illegal drugs taken off the streets, more knives and dangerous weapons confiscated, more vulnerable people safeguarded and our residents and communities being safer.

### Violence Reduction

- The PCC received confirmation of the funding allocation for Dorset for the delivery of the **Serious Violence Duty**. The allocation has been confirmed until 2025, totalling £676,000. With the duty commencing on 30 January 2023, work began with partners to establish appropriate governance to support the delivery of the requirements under the duty.

### Domestic Abuse & Stalking

- The PCC was successful in securing continuation funding of £270,000 for the previously funded domestic abuse perpetrator programmes. This included; training of frontline practitioners, expansion of the Up2U Creating Healthy Relationships programme, and the Drive Perpetrator Programme.
- The PCC secured an additional £261,000 for services that support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This included; additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), Domestic Abuse Advisors, trauma counselling and behavioural pattern changing courses.
- The PCC and Chief Officers approved plans to move towards a Pan-Dorset Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service. This was following an independent report from SafeLives, in which they raised concerns relating to the independence of the service and 'scope creep' between victim care and police tasks. Currently the Force employs a number of Domestic Abuse Advisors to undertake the role of an IDVA whilst also undertaking police tasks.

### Violence Against Women and Girls

- Launch of a one year pilot of Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI). This initiative provides an online self-assessment tool designed to help alcohol licence holders and operators provide a safe and secure environment for staff, customers and local communities.
- The PCC welcomed the introduction of Operation Focus, which sees that those who cause the most harm to women and girls are subject to enhanced investigations upon arrest in order to maximise the opportunities to bring charges against them.

### Child Abuse

- The PCC commissioned Circles Southwest to undertake a training exercise to educate schools and practitioners in the identification of child abuse, hypermasculinity and harmful sexual behaviour. This funding also enabled Circles Southwest to work directly with young people perpetrating harmful behaviour to reduce reoffending.
- The PCC opened a multi-agency conference at Bournemouth University on Child Exploitation and County Lines Awareness. The conference was for police officers, social workers, teachers, youth workers, nurses, GPs, support workers, headteachers and aimed to train professionals and raise awareness on child exploitation, which entails criminal, sexual and financial exploitation.

## FOCUS ON

# THE COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

Following the announcement from the Government in December 2021 of their 'Harm to Hope' 10-year Drug Strategy, the PCC began lobbying partner agencies to establish and chair the Dorset Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) to support local delivery of the Government's strategic ambitions to break drug supply chains, deliver a world class treatment and recovery system and moreover to achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.

Dorset has received £1.4 extra funding for under the 'Harm to Hope' Strategy and the government has indicated that over the next two years, Dorset will receive over £2 million pounds to ensure the continuation of the programme in our county.

The CDP was established in September 2022 and is made up of statutory and non-statutory partners responsible for tackling drug crime, commissioning or providing substance misuse services, general health care and people with lived experience.

### The core membership includes:

- BCP and Dorset Councils - elected members, and senior officers
- Dorset Police and the SW Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU)

- Prisons and Probation Services
- Public Health Dorset
- NHS Dorset
- Dorset HealthCare
- Drug and alcohol treatment providers
- People with lived experience
- Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service.

Each area is required to have a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), which in Dorset is the PCC. The SRO is responsible for convening and chairing meetings, ensuring engagement with partners, overseeing the identification of joint needs, implementing a local strategy and delivery plans, and reporting on progress to the Government.

The CDP has met three times and has already established a needs assessment, a delivery plan, and agreed in principle to co-fund a business manager post to coordinate delivery of the CDP. In addition to this a number of CDP sub-groups have been established to focus on keys areas:

- Enforcement – to tackle drugs in our communities and in prisons
- Treatment and Recovery – to improve engagement and access to treatment and recovery services in our communities, and

throughout the Criminal Justice System.

- Prevention – focusing on impactful education and support with children, young people, and families at risk
- Joint Analytics – produced the needs assessment and coordinated the delivery plan

The multi-agency commitment and work in this area will continue throughout the life of the 'Harm to Hope' strategy.





## 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

- The PCC continued his support of the Dorset Police Rural Crime Team, increasing the total number of team members to nineteen, which saw three additional special constables allocated to the team, and the recruitment of a Resilient Communities Coordinator to work with local Watch groups and focus on the implementation of rural Watches.



### Country Watch

- Launch of the Country Watch website to inform rural businesses and the public of news and developments. The site serves as a 'one stop shop' for crime prevention advice and important information relating to rural, wildlife and heritage crime.
- The PCC supported investment into two new vehicles for the Rural Crime Team, a rural crime engagement van and a bespoke 4x4 vehicle, which allows the Rural Crime Team to reach more remote areas and rural communities, improving visibility, connectivity and communication between the police and the rural communities they serve.

### Fly-tipping

- As part of the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC), the decision was made to set up a fly-tipping sub-group to ensure focus on this issue. Initial meetings were held in which partners agreed key points of focus, thresholds of what constitutes fly-tipping and waste crime, and a cross agency Information sharing agreement to ensure partners work together to tackle fly-tipping.

- Continued exploration of preventative and enforcement measures through the DPARC. This includes a multi-agency Information Sharing Agreement that is being progressed between the Environment Agency, Dorset Police, and Local Authorities, to enable sharing of high level data to improve identification and prosecution of serious offenders.

### Wildlife crime

- Through his role as chair of DPARC, the PCC worked to ensure that all aspects of wildlife crime are included in the definitions used by the Force, and in the work carried out by Board members. The PCC sought to ensure that important issues were not missed due to restrictive definitions.
- Through DPARC, members are developing an awareness raising film about the true impact of poaching of rural businesses, with perpetrators showing little regard for the countryside and none-at-all for the wildlife and the farmers land they destroy.

## FOCUS ON COUNTRY WATCH

Through engagement with rural communities and businesses the PCC identified the need for a forum for partner agencies and those living and/or working in rural communities to discuss key issues, common themes and tackle the crime affecting them.

Due to this, in April 2022, the Rural Crime Reduction Board (RCRB) was created by the PCC and met for the first time. The Board, now known as the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC), focuses on key topics such as; fly-tipping, wildlife crime, heritage crime and rural resources. One of the first actions agreed was to establish a Country Watch campaign and 'one stop shop' website.

The purpose of Country Watch is to promote the work of the DPARC and to bring together rural communities and relevant agencies so that crime, ASB and disorder issues affecting rural areas can be best addressed.

The Country Watch website was launched in September 2022 and acts as a resource to help rural residents find proactive advice, support if they are a victim of crime, information on reporting crimes, and to find out more about volunteering opportunities.

The website includes an introduction to Country Watch and also features information surrounding four key priorities:

- **Fly-tipping** has a definition, and information on the extent, responsibilities, penalties, and how to report incidents to the correct authority
- **Rural Resources** highlights the work of the Force to tackle rural crime, gives prevention advice, outlines the Force's strategy, and how people can get involved in preventing and tackling rural crime
- **Wildlife Crime** includes definitions and examples, legislation and enforcement powers, and how to report incidents
- **Heritage Crime** features definitions, legislation and enforcement powers, and how to report
- **News** - The website provides updates on the work that DPARC partners do to tackle rural crime and ASB

The Country Watch owl logo is used on publicity, campaigns and initiatives targeting rural crime in Dorset such as the recent campaign by Forestry England to encourage dog walkers to help protect rare nesting birds on their sites in Dorset.

[www.countrywatchdorset.co.uk](http://www.countrywatchdorset.co.uk)





## 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.”*

### Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice

- The OPCC and Force engaged with Addiction Recovery Agency, the service provider for problem gambling support in the south west, and came to an agreement for them to make available an out of court disposal for problem gamblers, free of charge.
- The OPCC scrutinised the use of Out of Court Disposals process in Dorset, exploring what is delivered, why, and whether it is in line with best practice. The report found that Dorset is delivering a high quality service in line with legislation and national best practice.
- Proactive awareness raising of the Restorative Justice and Mediation service, delivered by Restorative Solutions, saw a 50% increase in demand. Due to this the PCC agreed to provide additional funding to manage the additional demand on the service.

### Business and Retail Crime

- OPCC launched a cybercrime survey aimed at Dorset businesses to help understand knowledge of cybercrime threats within local businesses and to highlight areas where we can improve cybercrime awareness and support provisions.
- A letter was received from the manager of a large retail store in Dorset, expressing gratitude for an increase in police activity. As a result, the manager reported that thefts in the store had reduced by £239,000 over the last 12 months, with no further reports of assaults or abuse on staff.

### Hate Crime

- The OPCC contributed towards the creation and launch of a new Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy for Dorset Police. The strategy's key aims are to ensure that all our communities are represented, respected, involved and protected.
- The PCC sought reassurance regarding the use of hate crime awareness courses in Dorset, concluding that the courses were right for the area.
- The PCC attended the annual Dorset Hate Crime Conference. The invited members came from diverse communities, support services, and statutory partners to discuss issues surrounding hate crime, experiences of prejudice, unconscious bias, and gave a voice to the respective communities.

### Victims and Communities

- The PCC met with HMICFRS as part of their inspection into the efficacy of the Criminal Justice Service in meeting the need of victims. This ongoing scrutiny was welcomed as it looks to ensure victims are treated fairly and their rights are upheld in compliance with the Victims Code of Practice.
- The PCC continued to support Dorset's Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and Community Speed Watch, attending their conferences and publicly thanking all the volunteers involved.

### Vulnerability

- The PCC has worked with the Force and partners to ensure that those suffering mental ill health receive the correct response, so that they are best looked after and that the Force can better manage demand. The Force is actively exploring the 'Right Care, Right Person' initiative.

## FOCUS ON

# DORSET SAFER BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

**In February 2022, the Dorset Safer Business Partnership (DSBP) was set up to provide a joined-up approach to fighting business crime.**

The DSBP consists of the PCC, Dorset Police, business representatives and trade bodies who work together to develop strategies that address issues such as retail crime and violence against shopworkers also to improve confidence in the police.

The DSBP meets quarterly, focusing on four key strands which underpin and provide structure to the partnership. The key strands are issues that business owners predominantly experience and areas which are undergoing improvement:

- Crime Reporting
- Engagement and Visibility
- Cybercrime and Fraud
- Prevention.

In the last 12 months, the DSBP has grown in strength, with the DSBP working together to develop solutions to criminal activity that impacts on businesses.

Work is underway to improve the crime reporting process. The implementation of a new police system, Single Online Home (SOH) has been launched and will bring with it more options for the public to report online a wide range of crimes, incidents, make applications and request information. The DSBP is working with businesses to increase the submission of crime packs to the Police.

The Dorset Police dedicated strategic lead for business crime is working with Neighbourhood Policing Teams to increase engagement and visibility across Dorset. This includes building closer working relationships with businesses of all sizes, to encourage increased crime reporting, strengthen Shop Watch and under the prevention thread, provide advice to retailers.

Dorset Police have introduced new strategies and tactical plans, after consulting with the DSBP partnership, demonstrating the positives of progressive partnership working.

Through the partnership, the PCC has rolled out a cyber awareness campaign to increase knowledge around cybercrime threats to businesses. A newsletter is disseminated on a bi-monthly basis informing businesses of current criminal activity, mitigation and highlights training sessions available to local and regional businesses.





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 successful in securing additional grant funding through competitive processes from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to the sum of £683,000. This represents an increase of £95,000 over the last financial year, and included grants to support victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and the provision of domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.
- The Force and OPCC received news that two Community Infrastructure Levy bids made by Dorset Police and supported by the PCC had been approved by Dorset Council planners. The two bids were for £48,000 for eight new Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and £49,486 towards a new Force community engagement van.

Efficiency

- Following the announcement that the former Chief Constable, Scott Chilton, would be moving to Hampshire, the PCC and OPCC ensured that robust arrangements were put in place to find an exceptional replacement and ensure a smooth and efficient handover. A recruitment process was designed to establish the most effective overall candidate, and included panels made up of senior leaders in both the Force and partner agencies. As a result of this process Amanda Pearson was chosen as the new Chief Constable of Dorset Police.
- The joint PCC and Force Innovation Board approved an initiative to deliver the automatic transfer of intelligence reports to the Force record management system to improve data consistency, save staff time, and reduce double keying.
- Through the ongoing Estates Futures work, a commitment has been made to upgrade heating systems throughout the estate to improve the organisations green credentials, ensuring a more energy efficient approach and reducing the organisations carbon footprint. Work also progresses on the new headquarters building at Winfrith.

Philosophy and Co-operation

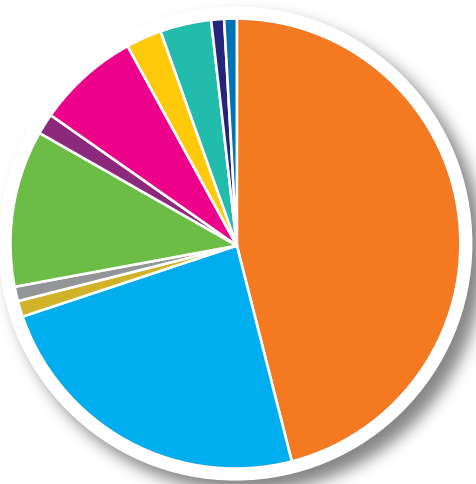
- As part of the Dorset Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Partnership, the OPCC approved an additional contribution that will fund a post to ensure that the SARC is compliant with new standards, as set by the Forensic Science Regulator, due in 2023.
- The OPCC worked with Dorset Council and supported their bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, subsequently securing £250,000 for improved CCTV, support for victims of stalking and harassment, and support for Weymouth Safe Space – a place for vulnerable people to go on a night out.

Evidence Based Policing.

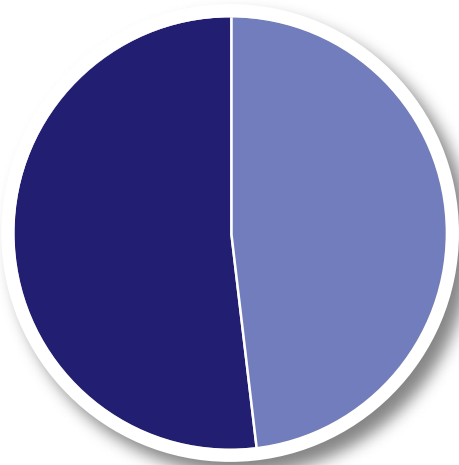
- Innovation, and evidence-based policing, are areas that every member of staff can play a part in supporting and inspiring. The OPCC continues to work alongside Dorset Police to listen to, review and implement staff ideas and opportunities for innovation which can deliver a tangible improvement to policing. Whether it's funding new equipment or introducing a new process to reduce bureaucracy or suggesting a new scheme which innovates and improves the policing service received by the public. Whatever the innovation, it is recognised that the best ideas come from within the workforce, and opportunities are taken to make the most of their collective knowledge and experience.

BUDGET

TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£m
<div></div>	Police Officer Pay & Allowances	87.0
<div></div>	Police Staff Pay & Allowances	44.8
<div></div>	Police Pension (Injury and Ill Health)	2.2
<div></div>	Training and Development	1.8
<div></div>	Premises	21.3
<div></div>	Transport	2.5
<div></div>	Supplies & Services (e.g. IT services, licence fees, equipment, uniform and other office costs)	13.8
<div></div>	Capital and Borrowing Costs	4.6
<div></div>	Regional and National Collaborations	7.2
<div></div>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	1.5
<div></div>	PCC Commissioning and Grant Funding	1.5
Total Expenditure		188.2
Specific Grants and Income		-25.3
TOTAL		£162.9



TOTAL FUNDING		£m
<div></div>	Council Tax Precept	83.9
<div></div>	Government Core Grant	79.0
Net Revenue Budget		£162.9



	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
2022/23 Charge	£177.05	£206.56	£236.07	£265.58	£324.60	£383.62	£442.63	£531.16
Annual Increase	£10.00	£11.67	£13.33	£15.00	£18.33	£21.66	£25.00	£30.00
2023/24 Charge	£187.05	£218.23	£249.40	£280.58	£342.93	£405.28	£467.63	£561.16



# ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

This is the sixth 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 that operates in Dorset, and across the UK is supported by both the PCC and his office.

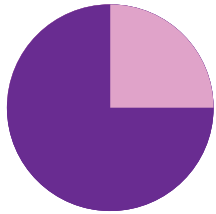
## What did we do in 2022/23?

Over the last year we have conducted several surveys with Dorset's residents and communities including Precept, Community Safety, Public Contact and a Firearms Survey.



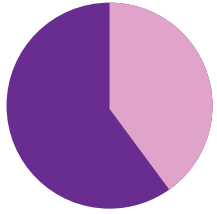
## PRECEPT SURVEY 2023/24 1,553 online responses to the survey

Do you agree that Dorset Police requires additional funding?

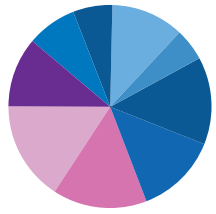


Yes	75%
No	25 %

60% said that they would be willing to pay an extra £1.25 a month to help Dorset Police keep investing in and improving the service you received and also to recruit more officers.

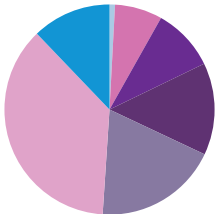


Yes	60%
No	40%



AREA OF THOSE THAT TOOK THE SURVEY

Bournemouth	12%
Christchurch	5%
Poole	14%
East Dorset	13%
North Dorset	15%
West Dorset	16%
Weymouth & Portland	11%
Purbeck	8%
Prefer not to say	6%



AGES OF THOSE THAT TOOK THE SURVEY

Prefer not to say	12%
18-24	1%
25-34	7%
35-44	10%
45-54	14%
55-64	19%
65+	37%

# ALSO THIS YEAR...

## Events

- There have been 16 scrutiny panels held, the 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 email. In 2022/23, the OPCC was contacted 1,713 times in total by members of the public. The nature of public correspondence received is wide-ranging, from general comments to requests for information.
- 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 both opportunities to engage and find out more about the work of the OPCC.



- There have been over 80 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 all of our 8,756 Dorset Alert members.
- The PCC joined members of Dorset Police to broadcast live-streamed engagement events to talk with members of the public about Cybercrime, the Precept and policing in both the BCP and Dorset areas. The PCC has also appeared in 16 videos talking about a range of policing issues.





# SCRUTINY

## Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel

The Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny panel (UPPS) has continued to meet quarterly as the independent overarching scrutiny panel.

The Panel has reviewed a range of independently dip-sampled cases supported by Body Worn Video (BWV). Additionally to enrich their understanding of Dorset Police from an oversight perspective, panel members have been invited to join officers on an observer patrol and visit the Force Command Centre to understand more clearly how emergency and non-emergency calls are handled. The calls are prioritised from the perspective of a Threat Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement (THRIVE) assessment. Panel members also attended a presentation on county lines to better understand how this crime affects Dorset.

The objective in establishing this new Panel was to shine a light on issues such as the disproportionality of stop and search and use of force activity, public contact (101, 999 service) and complaints handling by Dorset Police.

## 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 offending including child offenders, thus preventing their entry into the formal criminal justice system. The OoCD Panel has continued to follow best practice by scrutinising cases on themes agreed by members beforehand, such as domestic abuse, incidents affecting young people, knife crime, hate crime, and cases involving Restorative Justice. Equally, some cases are selected at random to ensure clear objectivity. The panel also considers reoffending by those cases considered at the last meeting. As well as deciding to select some cases at random with no particular theme, the panel have decided to choose cases for future scrutiny, based on themes of domestic abuse for adults, incidents in the home for youths, knife crime, hate crime, and cases involving Restorative Justice.

Feedback from both 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, who are security cleared and trained, from our local communities make unannounced visits to detainees held in police custody to ensure their rights have been given and check on their welfare. These visits can be at any time day or night. During the 2022/23 year, there were 106 visits made and 273 detainees were spoken to.

## Complaint Reviews

To ensure that the PCC is satisfied that Dorset Police are handling complaints appropriately, the OPCC has 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 95 complaint review requests during the 2022/23 period, with 79% determined to have been dealt with appropriately. Recommendations have been agreed with the Force in the remaining cases.

## PCC Challenge

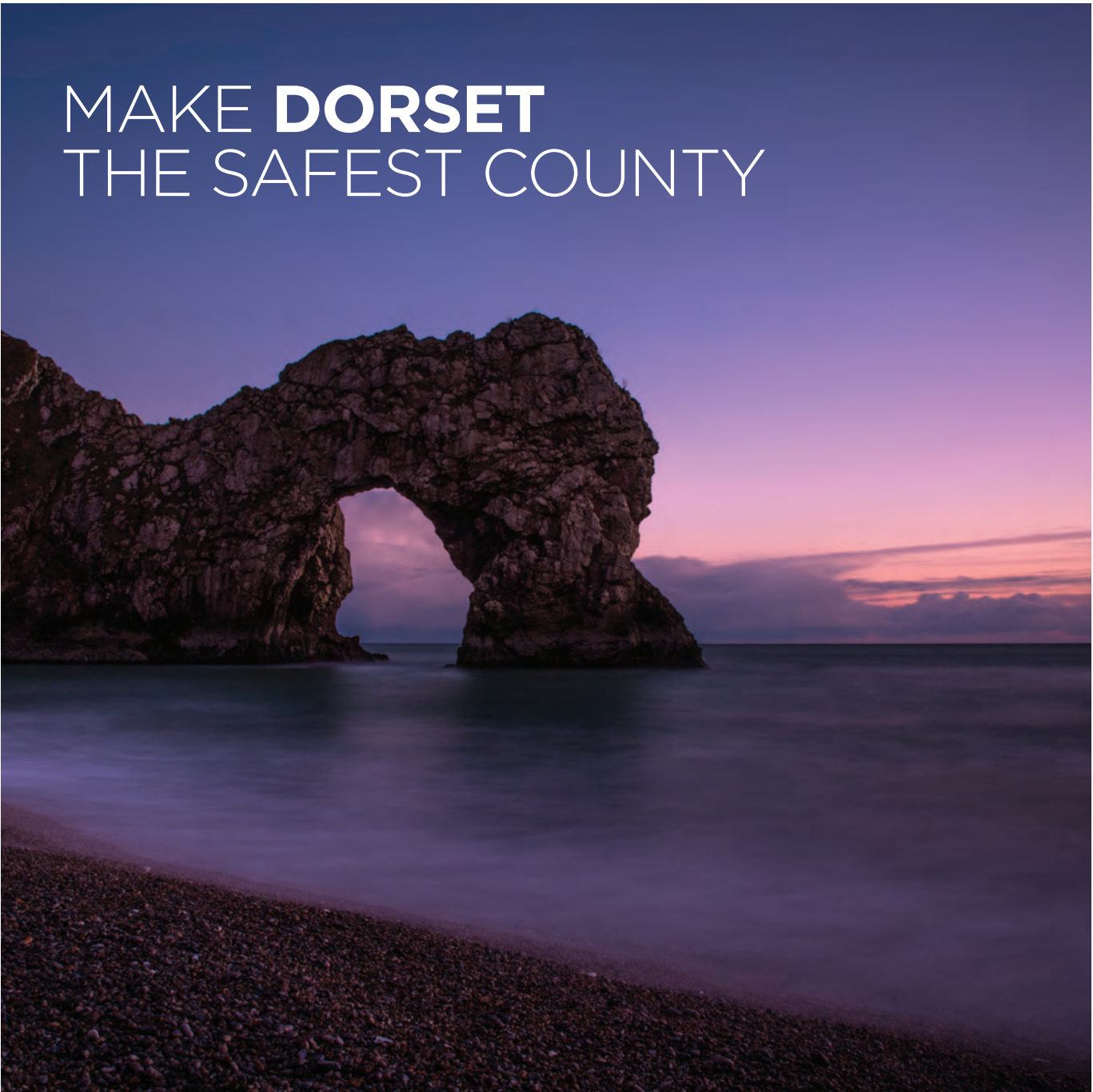
The PCC issued formal challenges to the Chief Constable regarding police response times and to seek reassurance around the Force's efforts to root out police perpetrated abuse. The Chief Constable has provided initial reassurance on both of these key matters, with further formal updates pending.

## Police & Crime Panel

Dorset Council have 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 2023, this has also included confirming Amanda Pearson as the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Constable.

## Independent Audit Committee

The Independent Audit Committee meet on a quarterly basis and provide comment, advice and assurance on matters relating to the internal control environment of the Dorset Police and the OPCC. It has oversight of general governance matters and will provide comments on any new or proposed PCC policies and 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 are publicly available on our website.



MAKE **DORSET**  
THE SAFEST COUNTY





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All the information contained in this document refers to the period between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023.  
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