



## **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.

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



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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.



# 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)

- 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**

## PRIORITY 3



## 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.

## PRIORITY 3

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.”*

### 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.

### 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.



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

-  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.

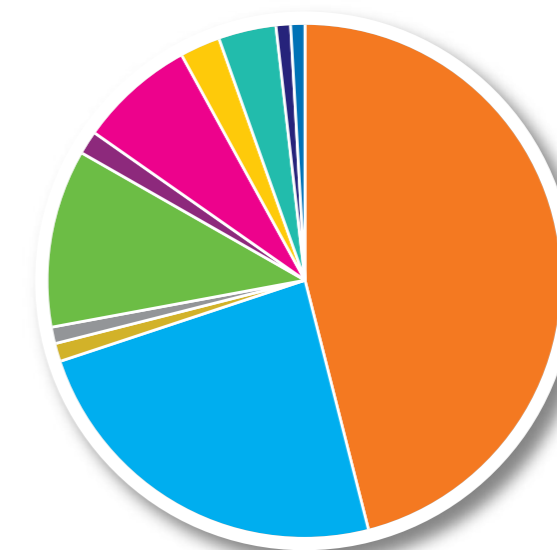
- The OPCC continues to work with community safety partners surrounding key projects and topical issues, including the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the recommissioning of domestic abuse services, and supporting delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.

### Evidence-based Policing

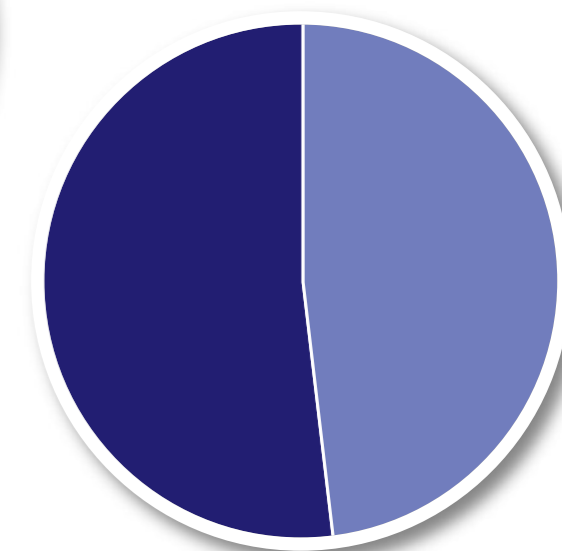
- The PCC continues to support evidence-based proposals to aid policing in Dorset. In the past year, this has included funding specialist autism training for Independent Custody Visitors, welcoming the law to make Nitrous Oxide possession illegal, and supporting the Pineapple Project to safeguard young 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.

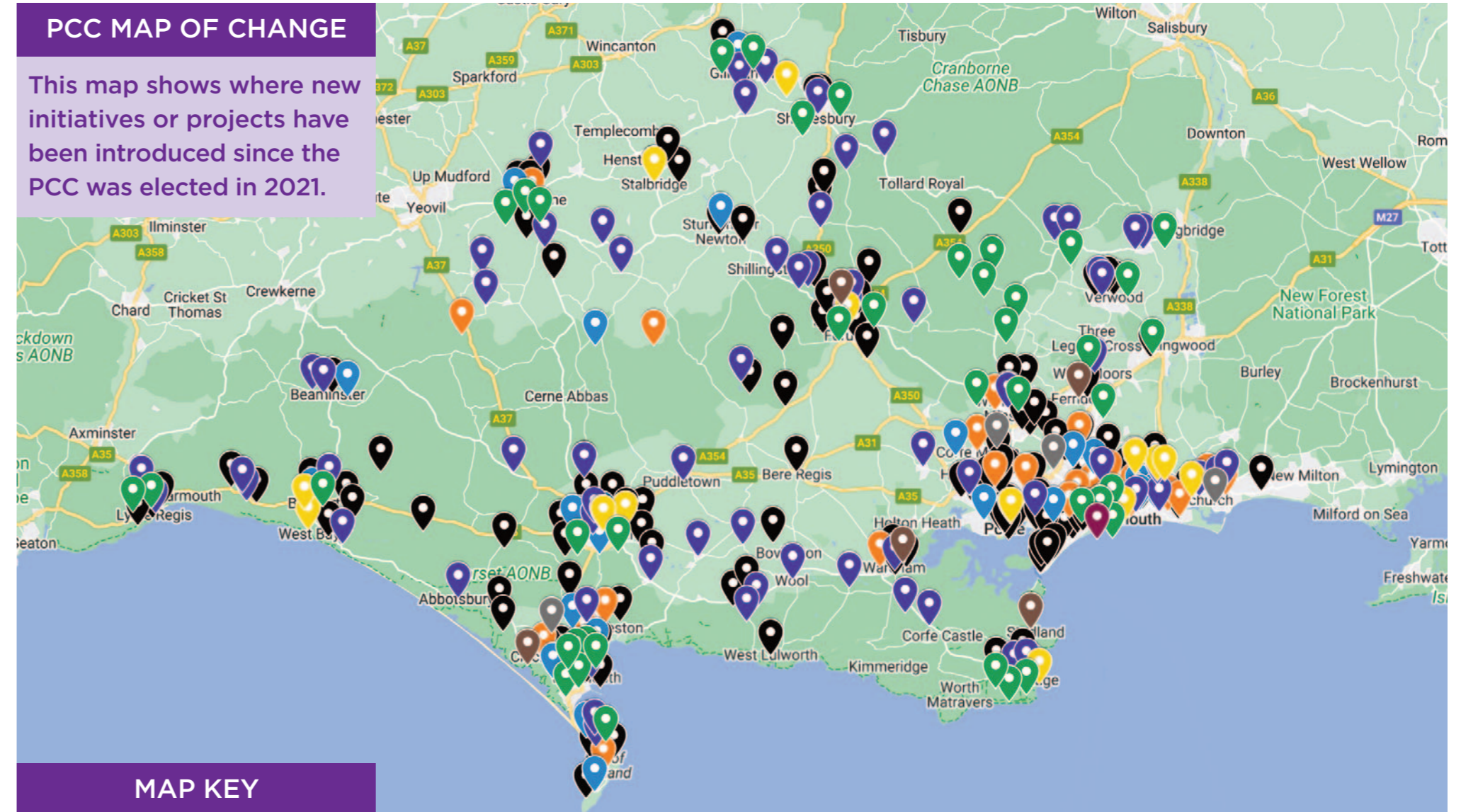
In 2024, the OPCC produced a 'Map of Change' to help residents and communities find out more about what has been happening in their area.

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

