

Police and Crime Panel – 6th February 2026

Quarterly Monitoring Report - Questions

Priority One - Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Question from Cllr Woode: The Killed and Seriously Injured figures are noted as "to be determined". Why is that?

Unfortunately, the paper deadline for this meeting was closer to the end of the quarter than is typically the case, meaning that the KSI data was not available at the time of submission.

I can now confirm that the KSI figure for Q3 is as follows: 79. This compares to 98 in the previous Quarter.

I must stress that these numbers, again, because of the tighter deadlines remain unverified – that is to say that the severity of injuries can change and, indeed, that some injuries are only reported some time after the event.

Priority Two - Make Policing More Visible and Connected

N/A

Priority Three - Fight Violent Crime and High Harm

Question from Cllr Rampton: The monitoring report refers to "honour based abuse". This terminology seems to have changed from "violence" to "abuse". What is the rationale for this change?

Honour based abuse is a nationally recognised term that relates to a form of Domestic Abuse which is motivated by the abuser's perception that a person has brought or may bring 'dishonour' or 'shame' to themselves, their family or the community. It can take many forms, and can be complex to identify, but centres around the idea of controlling individuals to make them behave in certain ways or subscribe to certain beliefs.

For some people, the concept of so-called 'honour' is prized above the safety and wellbeing of individuals, and to compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame – which can have severe consequences. As a result, this can be used to wrongly justify many types of abuse, and even disownment or physical harm.

Like domestic abuse, which was once much more frequently referred to as domestic violence, the terms honour-based violence and honour-based abuse are often used interchangeably. However, as abuse can take place without physical violence, Karma Nirvana – the first specialist charity established to help victims affected by these crimes – uses the term Honour Based Abuse.

Question from Cllr Rampton: Operation Scorpion has been delivering good results. What follow up is there with victims to ensure that they remain protected?

Dorset Police puts victims first and delivers bespoke vulnerability training to officers and staff. This training teaches how to spot the signs of vulnerability. Vulnerable victims are supported by attending officers and staff, who provide immediate safeguarding advice. In certain cases,

police powers of protection can be used to remove a child to a place of safety to prevent significant harm.

Furthermore, referrals are made to local and national agencies to ensure enduring safeguarding is put in place. Dorset Police remains committed to multi agency information sharing to safeguard vulnerable members of the community, indeed much of the planning takes place with partner agencies.

Operation Scorpion operates regionally but is delivered locally by neighbourhood policing teams – therefore, officers continue to conduct patrols and checks on vulnerable victims who are susceptible to crime.

In terms of cuckooing, officers complete cuckooing checks, these are raised by the Chief Inspector lead for actioning via Neighbourhood Policing Teams or the most appropriate person if there is an immediate threat, risk or harm issue. These are tracked through Viper to ensure compliance, safeguarding is conducted at the address where necessary, intelligence submitted, and relevant partner referrals made.

Officers also work in BCP with the With You charity to refer in vulnerable adults who are being cuckooed so partner engagement can happen with such things as alcohol/drug treatment and rehousing. In the last Scorpion week a total 36 vulnerable adults and children were visited and safeguarded.

Op Tauri was also implemented during Scorpion – this is a prevent initiative around the criminal use of taxis to educate drivers around the signs of exploitation with children using taxis for county lines. NPTs spoke with over 30 drivers that week as part of that prevent campaign.

Op Makesafe also ran during Scorpion – test purchases in local hotels were made to ensure the hoteliers are spotting the signs of exploitation around children. Learning opportunities were identified in a number of hotels and will benefit from wider contextual safeguarding led by the Chief Inspector safeguarding lead.

Op Pester – was also utilised, by sending public health messaging to users known to message county lines phones. This is part of a wider approach to tackling county lines that include wider preventative messaging.

And finally, officers worked with local charity, Escapeline, focusing on educating local schools, communities and businesses with identifying the signs of county lines and drugs use. This was delivered at a partner wide conference in Nov 2025 at AFCB which was well received.

Priority Four - Fight Rural Crime

Question from Cllr Flagg: Social media reported that Dorset Police were joining up with other forces in the response. Has this been beneficial, how has success been monitored, and are there intentions to continue this collaborative approach?

The Dorset Police Rural Crime Team continue to work regionally under the South West Regional rural crime strategy – Operation Ragwort, which aligns with NPCC Wildlife Rural Crime Strategy for 2025-2028. The Superintendents responsible for rural crime matters meet regularly with their regional counterparts to work together on specific operations across the year. Dorset will host an Op Ragwort event later this month for which planning is well underway and rural crime officers from neighbouring forces will work together in a show of strength and commitment to rural crime matters.

Ultimately, Chair, the goal here is to apply the same rigour and scrutiny to rural crime at a regional level, as happens with county lines and tackling drugs through Op Scorpion at a regional level.

To that end, from April Dorset Police will take the regional lead for Rural Crime for the following 12 months, on rotation, providing a co-ordination and leadership role and continuing to raise the profile of rural crime matters.

In terms of benefits, yes, this has been successful, for example in recent months:

- Following a series of farm thefts in West and North Dorset, Dorset Rural Crime Team and A&S Police conducted several arrests attempts in Somerset and Gwent against known OCG members. 6 people were arrested for conspiracy to steal, and 3 trailers were recovered.
- Following intelligence of a large hare coursing event due to take place in East Dorset Op GAUGE saw Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire respond with proactive patrols.
- Following a burglary in North Dorset where several peregrine falcons were stolen. RCT liaised with both national and international partners (Europol) as part of their investigation. They quickly identified a suspect who was arrested.

Performance statistics are not always easily captured for rural crime matters as there is no set Home Office recording measure for rural crime as there are with other crime types, but I am pleased to report that the volumes of reported rural crime show a sustained downwards trend – from 204 in 2022/23, to 176 in 2023/24, and 158 in 2024/25, with 132 crimes recorded in the first three quarters so far this year.

This illustrates the relatively small numbers of crimes reported which as I say continue to reduce year on year in terms of total crime commission, which is a testament to the hard work of the Rural Crime Team and their regional colleagues.

Priority Five - Put Victim and Communities First

N/A

Priority Six - Make Every Penny Count

Question from Cllr Canavan: *The risk appendix to the budget report recognises risks relating to the recently issued white paper. What transitional work are the PCC and force going to do in advance of the bill becoming legislation. What impact does the PCC believe that this transitioning will have on efficiency projects proposed or already underway?*

As Members will know, the long-promised White Paper was published last week. It proposes a number of reforms including:

- The creation of a new National Police Service, which would bring together existing national bodies, including the College of Policing, the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism Policing, into a single organisation.
- An independent review of police structures, which is due to report recommendations in Summer 2026, and has been trailed that will lead to a reduction in the number of Forces by the end of the next Parliament (2034).

- Greater centralisation of power, including powers for the Home Secretary to dismiss Chief Constables, greater centralisation and oversight of local performance measures and, of course,
- The abolition of PCCs (and of Police and Crime Panels) by 2028, being replaced by a local-authority-led Police and Crime Board.

Members will note that although the White Paper is far-reaching, it is a statement of policy intent at this stage, rather than a draft Bill, which will follow later. Members will also note that the cited timescales for the proposed reforms are quite far away.

As a result, I can confirm for Members and for the public listening to this meeting online that I am very clear that I have a job to do, and this will not alter right up to the point whereby primary legislation is enacted that brings about a change. Therefore, until such time as we have some detail on those timeframes, locally, the focus of my Office and of Dorset Police remains on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

In terms of transitional work, there are a number of national workstreams, to which my Office remains closely engaged. For example, the Home Office Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme is a pre-existing programme that already was considering potential opportunities to unlock policing efficiencies through shared services at a national scale. With the publication of the White Paper, this programme has strengthened its focus around delivering the initial iteration of the new National Centre of Policing, which will consist of four initial capabilities, covering existing national IT, commercial, air service and forensics capabilities.

My Office will continue engage with these national transitional programmes in the first instance, and endeavour to develop local programmes as and when the detail of what is required is made available.

And finally, in terms of the impact of this change on existing efficiency projects, the reality is that Dorset Police already works collaboratively at local, regional and national levels, and undoubtedly, there will continue to be further opportunities for improvement identified at all levels which need careful management in advance of national changes.

Simply put, we cannot afford to stand still waiting for national reform programmes to have an impact, and nor would the people who live, work and visit Dorset expect us to, either