

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 2 JULY 2026

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

To update members on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2025/26.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must 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.
- 1.2 The Annual Report is an important summary document of PCC activity over the course of the last financial year and complements the quarterly performance reports submitted to the Panel at each meeting.
- 1.3 The Annual Report has been designed to be an easy to understand and accessible document. The Report has been produced in a consistent style for a number of years and has been designed to match the approach used in both the Police and Crime Plan and the aforementioned quarterly update reports to the Panel.
- 1.4 A draft of the Annual Report for 2025/26 has previously been circulated for the Panel's consideration. In accordance with the Act, Panel members were invited to review the document and to make any recommendations to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for consideration in the final editing process.
- 1.5 A final review of the Annual Report was undertaken throughout June and the finished document is included at Appendix 1.

2. NEXT STEPS

- 2.1. The final version of the Annual Report 2025/26 will be published on the PCC's website. The Report, along with previous Annual Reports, can be found [here](#).

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. Members are recommended to note this update.

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DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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DORSET
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
DAVID SIDWICK

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



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 2025/26 financial year. As ever, we have been extremely busy working on your behalf to make Dorset a safer place to live, work and visit, and I am pleased to report that strong progress continues to be made across the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan.

Anti-social behaviour continues to fall and is now at its lowest level in more than 16 years, supported by targeted initiatives such as hotspot policing and the continued success of the Operation Relentless Community Fund, which has supported dozens of local projects to help tackle issues in neighbourhoods across the county. Meanwhile, offences involving knives have also reduced, reflecting the impact of preventative education, enforcement activity and strong partnership working with schools, community groups and local agencies.

Tackling serious and organised crime remains a key priority. Intelligence-led activity through operations such as Operation Scorpion continues to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs, close down county lines and protect vulnerable people. This work is complemented by the work of Dorset's Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), which brings together partners across enforcement, prevention and treatment to deliver a coordinated response to drug-related harm.

Supporting victims and protecting vulnerable people remains at the heart of everything we do. During the year, my Office continued to commission a wide range of services to ensure victims receive the practical and emotional support they need. We have also strengthened our approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls through enhanced scrutiny, partnership work and proactive initiatives designed to improve safety and confidence.

We have also continued to support visible neighbourhood policing and innovative initiatives that help Dorset Police remain connected to the communities it serves.



At the same time, we have maintained a strong focus on rural crime, strengthening partnerships with farmers, landowners and rural communities to protect the countryside and those who live and work within it.

All this progress has been achieved despite the ongoing financial challenges facing Dorset Police. Dorset remains one of the lowest-funded forces in the country, and I will continue to lobby government for a fairer funding formula that recognises the unique challenges of policing a county like ours. Despite these pressures, the commitment, professionalism and resilience of Dorset Police and our partners continues to deliver real results for local people.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents and communities of Dorset for your continued support and engagement. As your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), I am your voice in policing and your voice in shaping community safety. Please continue to share your views and experiences with me so that together we can keep Dorset one of the safest counties in the country.

DAVID SIDWICK
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner
MAY 2026

THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

THROUGHOUT MY TENURE AS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, I HAVE CONTINUED TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PARTNER AGENCIES TO ENSURE MY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STAYS RELEVANT.

This ongoing exchange of information has ensured the priorities of the Plan continue to be an accurate reflection of policing, crime and safety issues that are most important to Dorset's communities.

The foundations of this plan remain firmly rooted in the concerns and priorities raised by residents across Dorset. Listening to you and acting on what you tell me continues to shape the work of my Office and our partnership activity with Dorset Police and other agencies. Because of this shared focus, Dorset continues to rank among the safest places in the country, a testament to the

dedication and professionalism of our police officers, staff, volunteers, and the committed team within my Office who work tirelessly on behalf of our communities.

The following pages detail the work undertaken for each priority.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the 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. As part of the usual business planning process, the PCC ensures that both he and the Chief Constable have due regard to the SPR, and that contributing to the policing effort of dealing with national threats is carefully balanced with managing local policing priorities.

The last time a revised version of the SPR was published was 2023 and it set out seven identified national threats: Serious and Organised Crime; Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder; Civil Emergencies; and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

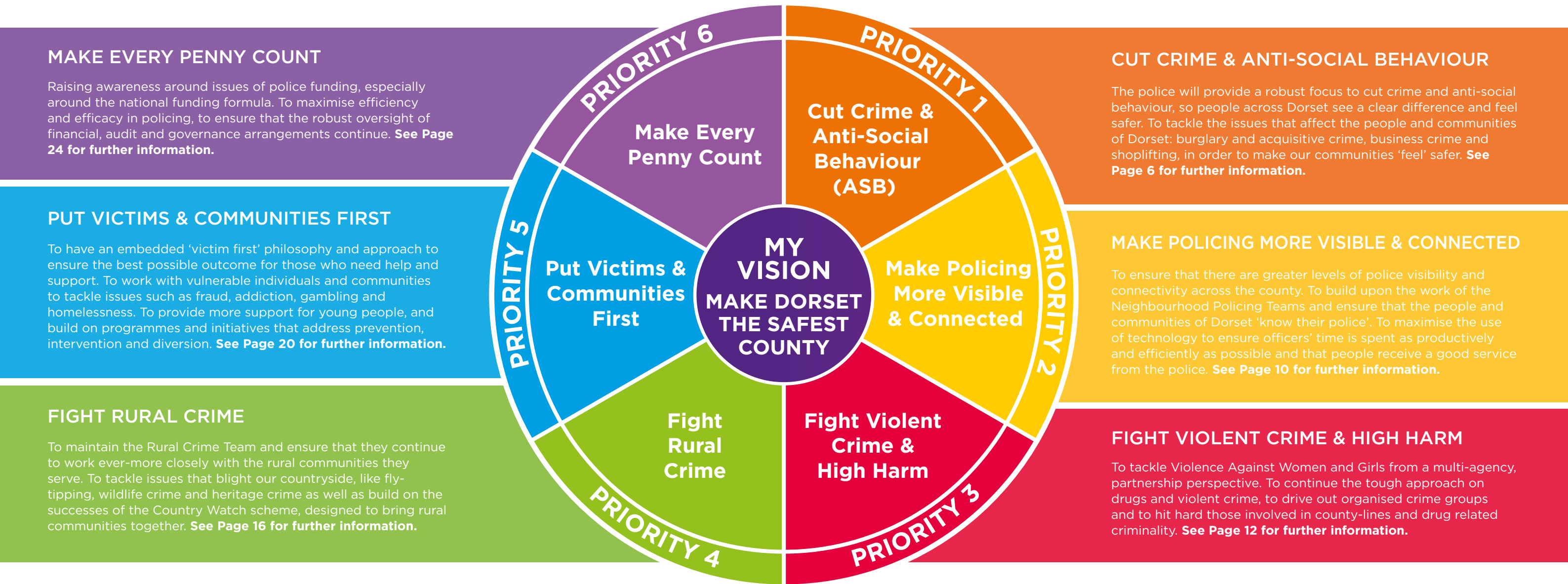
It is incumbent on PCCs to seek assurance that there is sufficient capacity and

capability within the Force 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; however, it is also important for me to highlight that the Force continues to deliver on its VAWG action plan.

There are a range of partners that continue to work with the OPCC to make Dorset a safer place.

The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit tackles drugs, fraud, cyber-crime, and crime relating to organised immigration. They prepare for national incidents of public disorder and maintain the required number of specially trained officers for that purpose.

The work of the Local Resilience Forum is also important as they prepare for emergencies, participating in a programme of joint exercises and training that ensure SPR capabilities are met.



CUT CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

THE POLICE WILL PROVIDE A ROBUST FOCUS TO CUT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, SO PEOPLE ACROSS DORSET SEE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE AND FEEL SAFER. TO TACKLE THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF DORSET: BURGLARY AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME, BUSINESS CRIME AND SHOPLIFTING, IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES 'FEEL' SAFER.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Focus

- The PCC launched the fifth round of the **Operation Relentless Community Fund**. A total of 12 successful applicants were awarded funding totalling £49,323. Funding initiatives included additional provision at youth clubs, family support, skateboarding lessons, alcohol reduction activities and diversionary activities for young people.
- Following on from successes in 2024/25, Dorset Police secured an additional £1 million from the Home Office Hotspot Action Fund for 2025/26 to boost high-visibility patrols tackling ASB and violent crime in hotspot areas, including Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth. 2025/26 saw further expansion of the scheme to target hotspots in Blandford, Wimborne and Swanage.
- The 'Hotspot Policing' initiative, Operation Track, has seen 9,000 hours of targeted patrols delivered in ASB hotspots. This resulted in the creation of 683 police intelligence logs, 69 weapons seized, 147 arrests, 193 Section 35 dispersal notices, and 213 stop searches within the hotspots. Furthermore, there have been 16,500 meaningful engagements with members of the public and over 4,000 visits to businesses.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) pursued the ambition of a restorative awareness course to be introduced for perpetrators of ASB. Delivered by Restorative Solutions, the course focuses on young people aged 18 to 25 and/or people with vulnerabilities. Perpetrators are

referred via Dorset Police's Adult Out of Court Resolution route. To date, 25 cases have been accepted and 19 have been completed. The perpetrators have 16 weeks to undertake the course.

Fraud and Cyber

- The PCC and Dorset Police continue to publish the **cyber-crime e-newsletter** which took on a new look this year. Each edition informs businesses about preventative cyber-crime security measures to protect themselves from cyber-crime fraud. This year the newsletters have included reminders on how to be vigilant to cyber-crime with topics such as business email compromise, ransomware and cyber preparedness when there are marked increases in cyber-crime at certain times of the year.
- The PCC funded a joint project between Dorset Police and AGE UK North, South and West Dorset called 'Call Blocker', a fraud-prevention initiative aimed at protecting vulnerable older people from scam and nuisance calls. Call-blocking devices, funded by the PCC are installed free of charge in the homes of older people at risk of scams to help prevent fraud attempts. Nearly 2,000 nuisance calls have already been blocked.

Burglary and Acquisitive Crime

- The PCC welcomed news there has been a significant year-on-year reduction in the theft of motor vehicles and an improvement in positive outcomes for home burglaries.

- The OPCC developed a Home Safety leaflet, offering practical advice on securing homes, outbuildings, and garages against crime. Created with Dorset Police, it includes tips for new homeowners/renters on locks, security devices, and crime prevention. The leaflet is distributed via estate agents and is available for **digital download via the OPCC website**. It was also distributed to homes across Dorset by Police Cadets and shared with the Association of Dorset Watches.

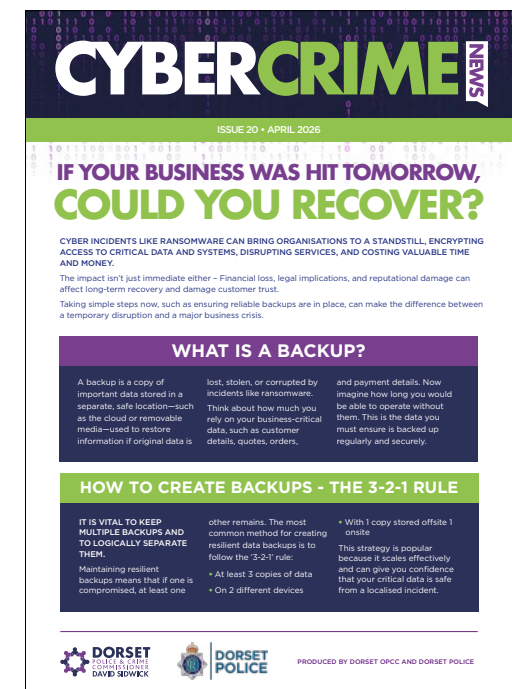
Business and Retail Crime

- The OPCC and Dorset Police worked with local business owners to **improve crime reporting**, with new technology introduced to make reporting business crime easier than ever. In addition to this, the Force has implemented the Nice Investigate evidence platform and developed digital theft packs, which streamline crime reporting and drastically reduces processing times, getting vital information from retailers to police officers in hours rather than days. Retailers can now report shoplifting more quickly to a dedicated team of officers in the Retail Crime Team who are then able to link in quick time offences across multiple stores, identify repeat offenders, use CCTV to build stronger cases, and detect trends that allow targeted police patrols in hotspot areas.
- The PCC continued to support Op Shopkeeper which targets high harm prolific shoplifting offenders in Dorset. This operation has resulted in an increased number of offenders receiving custodial sentences, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Drug Rehabilitation Orders and Exclusion Orders to prevent offenders targeting businesses. Op Shopkeeper is making a significant positive impact in Dorset, with the Force's Retail Crime Team achieving a positive outcome rate of over 70% for shoplifting offences - significantly above the national average at a time when retail theft is increasing across the country.
- The PCC continued to chair the Dorset Safer Business Partnership (DSBP), which focuses on increasing business crime reporting, police engagement and visibility, prevention

and cyber-crime awareness and training for businesses.

Road Safety

- The PCC worked with a victim of drug driving to raise awareness of 'The Lasting Impact of Drug Driving'. This piece of work was picked up by local and national news outlets, and follow up TV interviews were filmed in order to show a wider audience the long-term psychological impacts of drug driving-related traffic collisions.
- The PCC continued to raise awareness of the use of illegal e-scooters and illegal e-bikes. The awareness raising complemented Dorset Police enforcement action in 2025 with 99 illegal e-bikes (including Sur-Rons and scramblers) and 128 illegal e-scooters seized under road safety legislation.
- The PCC engaged directly with Community Speed Watch (CSW) Teams to provide support and encourage the valuable contribution the volunteers provide to road safety in Dorset, with teams carrying out 1,615 CSW sessions, monitoring 521,537 vehicles and seeing some 13,954 warning letters issued.





FOCUS ON

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

THE OPCC CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE A STRONG COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY ACROSS DORSET. THROUGH ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DORSET STRATEGIC ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, ACTIVITY REMAINS FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING THE “FATAL FIVE” FACTORS OF ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE, HIGH-RISK ROAD USERS, INCLUDING MOTORCYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS, CYCLISTS, YOUNG DRIVERS, AND OLDER DRIVERS.

A key element of the road safety work has been the PCC's ongoing partnership with the motorcycle safety charity DocBike, a charity that delivers a unique combination of roadside critical care and preventative engagement.

By deploying highly qualified doctors and critical care paramedics on motorcycles, Doc Bike responds rapidly to incidents, whilst also working to reduce motorcycle-related deaths and serious injuries through education, research, and community engagement.

In 2025, the PCC provided support for the development and delivery of the DocBike NextGen Riders Course. This free, two-day programme is aimed at riders aged 16-35 and responds directly to the increasing number of serious and fatal collisions involving younger motorcyclists, particularly within urban areas. The course focuses on improving rider skills, maintenance knowledge, and hazard awareness. As part of this initiative, PCC funding enabled the provision of high-security motorcycle locks to participants who completed the course, acting both as an incentive and as a practical measure to reduce theft and the associated risks of stolen motorcycles being used in further offences or collisions.

In addition, the PCC has sponsored the provision of first aid kits for attendees of BikerDown courses, equipping members of the public with the tools, skills and confidence to provide immediate, potentially life-saving assistance at the scene of a collision until emergency services arrive.

This sustained commitment and collaborative approach was recognised at a DocBike award ceremony held in Poundbury, where the Police and Crime Commissioner received an award for exceptional service to motorcycle injury prevention. This acknowledgement reflects the PCC's leadership and his office's ongoing contribution to initiatives that improve both road safety and post-collision care.

Overall, the PCC's work with DocBike and Dorset Police demonstrates a comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety, combining enforcement, prevention, education, and emergency response to reduce harm and save lives on Dorset's roads.



PRIORITY 2

MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE & CONNECTED

TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE GREATER LEVELS OF POLICE VISIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNTY. TO BUILD UPON THE WORK OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS AND ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF DORSET 'KNOW THEIR POLICE'. TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ENSURE OFFICERS' TIME IS SPENT AS PRODUCTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT PEOPLE RECEIVE A GOOD SERVICE FROM THE POLICE.

Customer Service

- More than 90% of 999 calls to Dorset Police are answered within 10 seconds, exceeding the national target.
- Progress is being seen in relation to 101 answer times, and a new police initiative has been established to track abandoned calls which result in online reports.
- A detailed examination of contact performance data from Dorset Police took place at the OPCC's Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel. The PCC continues to monitor performance for secondary call handling, holding the Force to account to ensure that improvements are realised.
- The PCC issued a refreshed leaflet for members of the public and key stakeholders. This was distributed via stakeholder contacts and has also been made available online, as well as being provided to around 1,000 people at face-to-face events across the summer months.

Engagement and Connectivity

- Dorset Police launched two **Mobile Police Stations** to enable improved engagement following a change to front counter provision. These are set up to visit the same locations at regular intervals to ensure consistent opportunities for residents to speak to a police officer.

- The Force also refreshed its use of Community Contact Points, noting that members of the public preferred to engage with the police in their neighbourhoods and, additionally, that the Community Contact Points allowed officers and staff to be in places that do not have a police station or other point of access.
- The PCC launched his annual survey, providing the opportunity for residents to share their views on policing and community safety in Dorset. There were 1,501 responses received from members of the public which will shape the direction of OPCC communication and engagement for the next 12 months.
- The PCC and his team held several engagement sessions over the summer, including visits to public venues across Dorset. These events supported the precept survey and gave residents the chance to discuss key issues such as police funding and the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.
- The PCC has continued to liaise with a range of communities, attending public residents meetings and town and parish council events to discuss the Police and Crime Plan, as well as to hear feedback on policing in Dorset.

Visibility and Uplift

- The PCC and Chief Constable welcomed confirmation from the Government that all forces would receive extra funding to increase resources dedicated to neighbourhood policing. This, alongside continuing work linked to the Evolve project, which was set-up to improve public service, ensure that every penny of public money is spent wisely and

to enable officers and staff to do an even better job means that 40 police officers will be joining Neighbourhood Policing Teams across Dorset, including a new team for Bournemouth.

- In total, there will be 23 additional officers across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and 17 across the Dorset county area who will be focused on active, visible policing, keeping businesses safe, and tackling anti-social behaviour as well as solving crimes in neighbourhoods such as burglary.

- The PCC supported Neighbourhood Policing Week and welcomed the impact hotspot policing had upon police visibility.

- Between 1 January 2025 and 31 October 2025 there have been a total of 445 Community Contact Point and Mobile Police Station deployments, with more than 5,700 people engaged in meaningful conversations.

FOCUS ON

MOBILE POLICE STATIONS & COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS

OVER THE PAST YEAR, DORSET POLICE HAS ROLLED OUT THE USE OF TWO MOBILE POLICE STATIONS ACROSS DORSET, BOOSTING ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND MAKING POLICING MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

This initiative goes hand in hand with the Force's positive use of Community Contact Points (CCPs), which have proved popular with residents and helped to ensure policing is more visible and connected to the communities Dorset Police serve.

The initiative was launched in response to the public making it increasingly clear they prefer speaking with officers and staff in their neighbourhoods, rather than travelling to police stations. Data has shown a steep decline in the use of traditional front counters, with the public opting to contact Dorset Police online and at CCPs instead.

The Mobile Police Stations are placed in locations outside supermarkets, shopping centres and village halls, ensuring they are convenient and easily accessible. They each visit six set locations, every month, which are advertised well in advance, ensuring ample opportunity for people to plan a visit if necessary. As well as being a more effective engagement method, the use of the Mobile Police Stations, alongside the Community Contact Points, has increased the geographic reach of Dorset Police, particularly into those communities without existing police estate.

The PCC and his Office will continue to scrutinise this engagement activity to ensure public expectations are met, and the commitments made within this priority are fulfilled. Delivering improved visibility and connectivity is vital, and work will continue unabated to ensure the public see and feel this. Positive changes have been made, and the focus remains firmly on sustaining this progress and further strengthening trust, accessibility, and meaningful engagement with communities across Dorset.



FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME & HIGH HARM

TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM A MULTI-AGENCY, PARTNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE. TO CONTINUE THE TOUGH APPROACH ON DRUGS AND VIOLENT CRIME, TO DRIVE OUT ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS AND TO HIT HARD THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTY-LINES AND DRUG-RELATED CRIMINALITY.

Addiction and Substance Misuse

- As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Joint Chair of the Addiction and Substance Misuse portfolio, the PCC has continued to raise awareness of the dangers associated with addictive substances and behaviours. This has included supporting prevention campaigns and public messaging highlighting the risks of illicit drugs, with particular focus this year on the growing harm linked to ketamine use. The PCC has supported awareness campaigns to ensure young people, parents and professionals better understand the risks and long-term impacts associated with ketamine and other illegal substances.
- The PCC has also strengthened the focus on addiction in its wider context by supporting the launch of the Gambling Charter into Dorset Police. The Charter brings together partners across policing, local authorities, health and the voluntary sector to recognise gambling-related harm and improve support pathways for those affected. By signing the Charter, Dorset Police has committed to raising awareness, improving early identification of harm and ensuring individuals and families can access appropriate support.
- The PCC has continued in his role as Chair of the CDP, driving forward the implementation of the 'Harm to Hope' strategy locally. Work continues across the three strategic priorities of breaking supply chains, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs. The CDP Enforcement Sub-Group has strengthened partnership working with the prison service to better understand and disrupt the routes through which illegal drugs are brought into prisons, recognising the strong link between drugs, organised crime and continued offending.
- Prevention and education remain a key

priority. The PCC continues to commission and support organisations such as Escapeline and Talkabout Trust to deliver targeted education programmes in both junior and senior schools. These programmes help young people understand the risks associated with drugs, alcohol, exploitation and county-lines activity, while also equipping parents, teachers and communities with the knowledge needed to identify warning signs and support young people at an early stage. Through this continued investment, more schools across Dorset can access high-quality preventative education designed to reduce harm and build resilience among young people.

Violence Reduction

- During this year's activity, the PCC commissioned a Focused Deterrence programme, which is evidenced to have a significant impact on reducing serious violence. This multi-agency approach combines swift consequences for young people involved in perpetrating serious violence with tailored support that addresses underlying vulnerabilities. The programme launched in September 2025 and has already demonstrated a positive impact on the young people it has supported.
- The PCC has continued to work 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. Supported by the full financial allocation from Government, a number of initiatives have been funded including a mobile youth café in BCP and a healthy relationship education programme for schools in the County area.

- The PCC has match-funded a targeted mentoring programme in a Weymouth school, working with young people at risk of permanent exclusion. Education and aspirations are among the strongest protective factors in preventing young people from becoming involved in serious violence. Year one of the programme has demonstrated several positive outcomes, supporting successful funding applications to expand the programme into three additional education settings in year two.

Domestic Abuse and Stalking

- The PCC continued to support Op Encompass, a safeguarding partnership between the police and education providers to enable schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Op Encompass now includes coverage of early years settings in Dorset County, which was previously only available in BCP.
- Following a formal procurement process, the PCC awarded a new contract to Victim Support Dorset to provide free and confidential support to victims of 'standard risk' domestic abuse. This valuable service provides practical and emotional support to victims of domestic abuse and help them to cope and recover from the impact of domestic abuse crime. Specialised support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse is also provided as part of the service.

- All OPCC staff received Dragonfly Champion Training from Paragon. The Dragonfly programme was developed to train community champions to identify signs of domestic abuse and provide them with the tools to assist victims. Dragonfly training is available and free to anyone in the community.

- The PCC continued to financially support the Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) service, provided by You Trust/Paragon. The **ISAC** works with people who have been actively stalked and provides both practical and emotional support to improve their safety.

- The PCC continued to support the aims of National Stalking Awareness Week, an important time to highlight the dangers of stalking as well as the support available to victims affected by this terrible, destructive offence.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- The VAWG Improvement Panel continued to operate, with members reviewing cases across a range of crime types, including stalking and

harassment, domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences, and child exploitation. Since the Panel's inception, eight meetings have been held, featuring constructive discussions and valuable learning focused on the victim experience. The Panel remains committed to improving outcomes for victims of violence against women and girls across Dorset.

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

- The OPCC continued to work with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to prepare for the new incoming Forensic Science Regulator standards for SARCs and, in preparation, the PCC funded a pre-assessment to establish the levels of compliance in Dorset, which reflected that Dorset is well positioned to achieve the required standards.

- The PCC approved fixed term funding for an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) Caseworker within our commissioned ISVA service with STARS Dorset. This was done in response to growing waiting lists and times for clients. This role takes some of the administrative burden from ISVAs, enabling them to focus on front line support.

Child Abuse

- The PCC is supporting a project led by the Centre for Child Protection at the University of Kent to explore the use of a trauma-informed simulation for officers for child sexual exploitation investigations as well as identifying approaches to support the co-designing of the national scaling of this innovative and research based product to help reduce victim-blaming, support engagement, and strengthen investigative outcomes.

- The OPCC is working with the Bluestar Project to help champion collaborative commissioning and shared accountability across agencies involved within child sexual abuse through embedding lived experience at the heart of decision-making and supporting transition to sustainable, long-term systems change.

Modern Slavery

- The OPCC has continued to provide strategic leadership and coordination across pan-Dorset partnerships to ensure a robust, intelligence-led and victim-centred approach, strengthening Dorset's system-wide readiness to identify victims early and respond effectively to their needs.

FOCUS ON

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NAVIGATORS

THE OPCC JOINTLY FUNDED THIS INITIATIVE WITH UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS DORSET CHARITY IN LATE SUMMER 2025. THE PROGRAMME AIMS TO PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-25 FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN SERIOUS VIOLENCE BY PROVIDING TIMELY, TARGETED INTERVENTIONS WHEN THEY ATTEND THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED).

The programme focuses on responding to critical reachable or teachable moments, offering support, guidance, and access to ongoing services at a time when young people may be most open to change and in need of help.

Youth workers engage with young people who present as victims of serious violence or following incidents involving violence. They have been operating in Royal Bournemouth Hospital since mid-August 2025 and in Poole Hospital since September 2025. Their role is to support victims of crime or those involved in violence, providing advice and intervention across a range of issues, including drug and alcohol education, homelessness, self-harm and emotional resilience, sexual health, and money management.

This support is provided at a crucial time, when young people may be most receptive to accepting help and making positive changes. The youth workers are an additional resource to existing ED teams, enabling them to dedicate time to each individual. They focus on delivering tailored support, advocating

for young people and their families with healthcare providers, and connecting them with wider services such as substance misuse support, family services, and assistance with reporting crimes.

Since the programme was launched, 120 young people have been supported at both sites.

Through the work of the youth workers, young people have also been supported to report crimes to the police, strengthening safeguarding measures and helping to preserve evidence for further investigations. In addition, ten young people have been referred to specialist services, alongside 114 instances of signposting to other forms of support, with some individuals receiving multiple referrals to an array of services.

By addressing underlying issues and risk factors, the programme aims to help young people build resilience, access appropriate services, and make safer, more positive choices for their future.



FIGHT RURAL CRIME

TO MAINTAIN THE RURAL CRIME TEAM (RCT) AND ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO WORK EVER MORE CLOSELY WITH THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE. TO TACKLE ISSUES THAT BLIGHT OUR COUNTRYSIDE, LIKE FLY-TIPPING, WILDLIFE CRIME AND HERITAGE CRIME AS WELL AS BUILD ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE COUNTRY WATCH SCHEME, DESIGNED TO BRING RURAL COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.

Rural Resources

- Dorset Police has worked with cross-border forces on several operations including a serious acquisitive crime case with Somerset Police and the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) where Dorset Police recovered property stolen from West and North Dorset and three people were subsequently arrested. Work has also taken place with landowners and adjoining forces in East Dorset relating to vehicles causing damage across fields, linked to poaching and hare coursing.

- Over the last 12 months, the Rural Mounted Volunteers completed 1,244 hours of patrol over 439 duties – providing the equivalent of almost £20,000 worth of policing duties to the county. As a result of these patrols, volunteers submitted 156 intelligence reports, 2 potential poaching/hunting offences, 20 fly-tips reported to the relevant local authorities and undertook 191 engagements with people in rural areas whilst on duty.

- The PCC, along with other South West PCCs and Forces at the South West Strategic Police Collaboration Board in September 2025, raised the need for a greater focus on targeting Serious and Organised Crime offenders engaged in rural crime, and large scale cross-force operations such as Operation Ragwort continue to take a ‘no borders’ approach to policing in order to tackle rural crime.

Country Watch Dorset

- Through the PCC - chaired Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC), communication, engagement, and prevention activity was mapped and partners agreed to

a plan of action to deliver key activities and publish awareness raising campaigns.

- The PCC delivered a range of rural crime messages including several pieces during Rural Crime Action Week in September – with a focus on victims’ experiences of rural crime which included sharing and promoting an information video on poaching and a new video showing the range of rural crimes experienced in Dorset and their impact.

Waste Crime and Fly-tipping

- The PCC made a written submission and attended the oral session as a panel member of the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee call for evidence focusing on serious and organised waste crime. He highlighted work that is ongoing across the whole of the South West region and the need for better funding for enforcement.

- The PCC continued the joint funding of the dedicated Assistant Enforcement Officer (AEO) with Dorset Council, strengthening on-the-ground investigation and enforcement work, resulting in a clear increase in penalties and action taken against **fly-tipping offenders** in Dorset.

- In addition, further funding was provided for additional signage on fly-tips once they have been reported, to notify the public the site is being managed. The AEO role has been working with partners including Parish Councils, enhancing partnerships between local authorities and communities regarding the issue of fly-tipping, to coordinate enforcement and intelligence sharing against waste crime.

Wildlife Crime

- The PCC consulted with members of the Dorset PARC in relation to the new sentencing guidelines for hare coursing. Following this consultation, the PCC submitted a response to Sentencing Council via the Ministry of Justice and, in his role as chair of the PARC, submitted a joint response with the members. Responses focused on a scale of levels for both culpability factors and harm factors for offences, along with the escalation of punitive measures, and possibility of all relevant ancillary orders to be used in sentencing.

- Dorset Police ran a major operation in September to successfully deter the implementation of a large-scale illegal hare-

coursing event in north east Dorset. The PCC supported the Force through engagement and intelligence sharing with partner agencies and organisations in the Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC).

Heritage Crime

- Resourcing and potential funding was offered from Historic England to enable the mapping of Heritage Crime in Dorset.

- Dorset Police crime reporting systems now record reported incidents using the Historic England mapping database to identify heritage crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour as they are reported.



FOCUS ON

HERITAGE CRIME

SINCE HERITAGE CRIME WAS ADDED TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AS A PRIORITY AREA IN THE 2024 REFRESH THERE HAVE BEEN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ACROSS DORSET. IN 2025, THE HERITAGE WATCH SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN DORSET.

Police officers have received specific training in heritage crime related offences, and there has been considerable development of the heritage crime mapping system, and the planned delivery of a pilot project with Dorset Police Cadets on protecting heritage sites from incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime.

The public launch of Heritage Watch in Dorset took place in July 2025 at Durlston Country Park in Swanage, attended by a range of organisations and agencies involved in the protection and promotion of heritage locations across the county. A Heritage Watch Working Group was set up in order to progress work outlined in the Police and Crime Plan and this group will work closely with the members and partners of PARC to ensure joined up working practices and shared positive outcomes.

In addition to the work carried out through these groups, Dorset Police has delivered a number of key actions to improve the delivery of this area of the Police and Crime Plan, including:

- The Citizens in Policing Team has set up Heritage Watch on Dorset Alert and over 130 people or organisations have signed up to it. The link to join Heritage Watch was promoted by the Force and the OPCC at the Heritage Watch launch.
- Heritage Crime sessions have been provided by the Force's trained Heritage Crime Single Point of Contact (SPoC) to Investigation & Resolution Centre staff, county-based

Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the Rural Crime Team and Force Contact Centre supervisors. This training will be delivered in the future to police officers in the conurbation Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

- Dorset Police has updated its website to accommodate a specific page for [reporting Heritage Crime](#), which is also linked to the Country Watch Dorset website page.
- Historic England has also been working to deliver this priority locally, having developed a 'Missing Pieces' project to raise awareness of protected heritage. It invites people to share pictures and stories of the unique, significant and memorable places on the National Heritage List for England - a register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites across England. The Force's Police Cadet Team are being trained to help deliver this project in the summer of 2026.



PUT VICTIMS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

TO HAVE AN EMBEDDED 'VICTIM FIRST' PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR THOSE WHO NEED HELP AND SUPPORT. TO WORK WITH VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE ISSUES SUCH AS FRAUD, ADDICTION, GAMBLING AND HOMELESSNESS. TO PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND BUILD ON PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES THAT ADDRESS PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION.

Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice

- The new Restorative Justice (RJ) contract was awarded in October 2025 with a formal launch during RJ Awareness Week in November. The contract was awarded to Restorative Solutions, for a five-year period. The service works with adult offenders and victims, and for cases involving under 18 offenders the service works with the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. Since the inception of the restorative justice service in Dorset, it has engaged with over 1,000 victims, far exceeding the predicted 675 originally set.

Hate Crime

- The PCC supported Hate Crime Awareness week, taking part in communications in partnership with Dorset Police to affirm that 'hate crime has no place in society'. The PCC continued to highlight disability hate crime and the role that restorative justice plays in dealing with those who commit hate crime offences.

- Through the re-commissioning of the RJ contract, the PCC included the provision of Restorative Hate Crime Awareness Courses. These courses are provided in-person with individual offenders, through the Out of Court Resolution cases at the Community Resolution level - referred by Dorset Police. The Government has recently agreed that

Dorset can be included in the Hate Crime Awareness Course for the more serious 'Conditional Caution', and that started in April 2026.

Victims and Communities First Philosophy

- Following the redesign of the Force Victims' Bureau, the PCC considered alternative solutions to improve victim satisfaction and understanding of the victims' journey. Through this approach, the PCC agreed to part-fund, with Dorset Police, a Victim Champion role to continue and enhance the focus on service to victims of crime. The Victim Champion is the force tactical lead and supports the delivery of the Victims' Strategy.

- In April 2025, the PCC commissioned Victim Support Dorset to provide practical and emotional support to victims of crime in Dorset. This enhanced service ensures that victims of crime have access to free and confidential practical and emotional support to help them cope and recover from the impact of crime.

- Dorset Police trained a group of officers and staff who are Victims' Code Ambassadors. This network of ambassadors was brought in to help promote awareness of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and ensure victims are always at the forefront of our work.

Support for Young People

- More than 1,060 young people responded to the youth consultation, which was designed to better understand their lived experiences and perceptions of knife crime and serious violence. The OPCC listened to the voices shared through the consultation, and the insights gathered helped shape the Violence Reduction and Prevention Strategy.

- In partnership with Dorset Council and the PCC, the **100 & First Foundation** delivers 'Level Up', an early-intervention project based at Budmouth Academy in Weymouth. The project supports disadvantaged young people who are struggling to engage with school or are at risk of exclusion, helping them to build

confidence, resilience and a stronger sense of belonging.

Vulnerability

- The OPCC funded the creation of a video to raise awareness of the Herbert Protocol, which supports vulnerable people to stay safe while maintaining their independence. The scheme encourages carers, family members and friends to share important information in advance, so it can be used quickly if someone goes missing. This helps the police focus their efforts on the places where the person is most likely to be found, improving the chances of a safe and speedy recovery.





VS BEYOND CRIME
VICTIM SUPPORT

We provide specialist and tailored support, helping people move beyond crime and get their lives back on track.



For help call our Supportline on **08 08 16 89 111** or visit our website.

Help us help more people - donate, volunteer, campaign.

www.victimsupport.org.uk

f VictimSupport @VictimSupport

Business Disability Forum Leaders in Diversity Stonewall DIVERSITY CHAMPION

Registered charity number 239028
Registered address: Victim Support, Haldon House, 54-60 Haldon Street, London W1W 6JL
T 020 7616 0100



FOCUS ON

VICTIM SERVICES

DURING THE PCC'S TERM, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK DELIVERED BY OUR COMMISSIONED VICTIM SERVICES. THE PCC COMMISSIONS EXTERNAL EXPERTS TO DELIVER CORE SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF CRIME IN ORDER TO HELP THEM COME TO TERMS WITH AND MEANINGFULLY RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT OF THE CRIME THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED.

Restorative Justice - Restorative Solutions

Restorative Solutions is responsible for Restorative Justice services across Dorset; a service delivered in partnership with BCP Council.

Restorative Solutions offers victims an opportunity to be heard, to ask questions of the offender, and to have their say in the resolution of the harm caused. For offenders, restorative justice provides an opportunity to face the consequences of their actions, recognising the impact that their offending behaviour has had upon others and, where possible, make amends.

Over the past four years, Restorative Solutions have supported an average of 230 victims annually through the restorative justice process, and are confident that the service is well established as a local support mechanism, providing vital support to victims of crime.

Victim Services - Victim Support

Victim Support was first awarded a contract in Dorset in 2014, and has been a consistent

presence ever since, with the service evolving to meet demand and align to best practice. Most recently re-commissioned in 2025, the service provides support to victims of what is known as 'volume crime', covering all crime types except those which require individual specialism, such as sexual assault.

Victim Support offers structured, personalised support that is carefully tailored to meet each victim's unique needs, recognising that each person's journey is different, providing the flexibility and care necessary to ensure victims receive support that is tailored to them. Sessions can be provided through a variety of means, including in-person meetings, phone support, online sessions, or group sessions.

From the commencement of the new contract, Victim Support has received, on average, over 900 referrals a month for support.

Victim Support also offer some digital solutions including webinars covering topics such as wellbeing, self-care and information such as your victims' rights, a self-help platform, and an online My Support Space which includes an interactive range of self-support guides.

"I want them to know how they made me feel"

Restorative Justice gives victims of crime the opportunity to communicate with the person responsible.



PRIORITY 6

MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT

RAISING AWARENESS AROUND ISSUES OF POLICE FUNDING, ESPECIALLY AROUND THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA. TO MAXIMISE EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY IN POLICING, TO ENSURE THAT THE ROBUST OVERSIGHT OF FINANCIAL, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS CONTINUE.

Funding

- The OPCC successfully secured £40,000 through two bids to the Ministry of Justice’s Strategic Commissioning Fund. This funding was used in the development of a Victim Data Integration & Insights Platform and a Sexual Violence Needs Assessment.
- Continued partnership working with Dorset Police through the Hotspot Action Fund having been awarded a further £1 million for 2025/26. This has funded a further 9,000 police patrol hours and has seen the integration of CSAS officers working alongside the police in ‘hotspot’ areas where there are higher levels of criminal activity.
- The PCC issued a blog in response to the HMICFRS State of Policing report. The PCC backed the report which described the current funding arrangements as ‘outdated and unfair’. The PCC has continued to lobby Government for a fairer funding formula for Dorset, working with councillors and MPs from across the political spectrum in a collaborative effort to secure a better deal for the people and communities of Dorset in the long-term.

Efficiency

- During the year, the OPCC took part in the Priority Based Budgeting process. The work, which is ongoing, reviews the cost, benefits and performance of 12 business areas within the Strategic Alliance to rapidly assess and reprioritise budgets as needed to ensure continued alignment to current and emerging strategic priorities, and to achieve the required savings.
- In 2025, following an exceptionally hot and dry summer, and in consultation with the Force Welfare team, the PCC confirmed funding for additional refreshments and other resources to be made available to frontline

staff throughout the summer. This was in recognition that officers cannot easily take similar actions to other members of the public, such as wearing loose or cool clothing or standing in the shade.

- The PCC agreed to part-fund a pilot of a wellbeing project based in Dorset, aimed at officers and staff who regularly deal with trauma. The pilot is anticipated to roll out in the autumn of 2026 in collaboration with the Force, Police Federation and Unison. The OPCC is part of the working group to ensure that the scheme’s benefits are tracked and evaluated.

Philosophy and Co-operation

- Working alongside Dorset Council’s and BCP Council’s Adult and Children Services, the OPCC co-commissioned a new, all-age appropriate adults contract. The new contract sees additional investment from the commissioners to ensure the contract meets demand and will now also include the provision of appropriate adults for voluntary interviews.

Evidence-Based Policing

- The PCC was pleased to report that his Office had secured £1 million for ‘hotspot’ policing – an evidence-based approach to the reduction of serious violent crime and ASB.
- The PCC also issued statements in response to the HMICFRS PEEL inspection report, and in response to the quarterly Office of National Statistics (ONS) data.
- The PCC was updated on the current academic and Evidence-Based Policing projects that are being supported by Dorset Police. This included the analysis of data from the SmartTag forensic spray initiative, which was publicised by the Force.

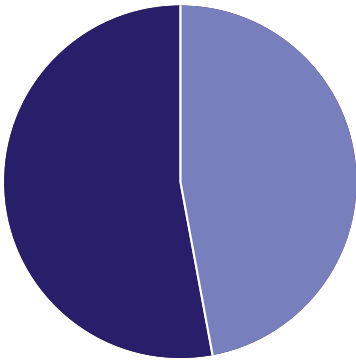
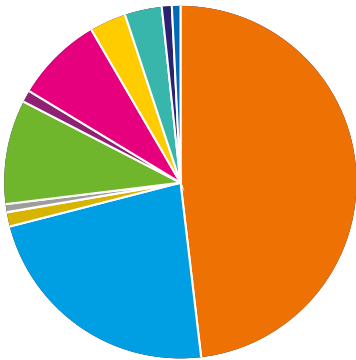
FOCUS ON

BUDGET OUTTURN

TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£m
Police Officer Pay & Allowances		103.4
Police Staff Pay & Allowances		51.4
Police Pension (Injury and Ill Health)		2.6
Training & Development		1.6
Premises		20.8
Transport		2.4
Supplies & Services (e.g. IT services, licence fees, equipment, uniform and other office costs)		17.3
Capital & Borrowing Costs, contribution to reserves		7.1
Regional and National Collaborations		7.5
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner		1.8
PCC Commissioning and Grant Funding		1.6
Total Expenditure		217.5
Specific Grants and Income		-34.8
TOTAL		£182.7

FUNDING SOURCES		£m
Government Core Grant		86
Council Tax Precept		96.7
Net Revenue Budget		£182.7

	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
2024/25 Charge	£195.72	£228.34	£260.96	£293.58	£358.82	£424.06	£489.30	£587.16
Annual Increase	£9.33	£10.89	£12.44	£14.00	£17.11	£20.22	£23.33	£28.00
2025/26 Charge	£205.05	£239.23	£273.40	£307.58	£375.93	£444.28	£512.63	£615.16



ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

THIS IS THE NINTH 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 engage, 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.

What we did in 2025/26?

Over the past year the OPCC has conducted several surveys with Dorset's residents and communities including Precept, and the Annual Community Safety survey.

Responses to surveys have helped guide OPCC investments in tackling ASB, through initiatives such as the Operation Relentless Community Fund - which has now provided more than £200,000 of funding to over 50 local projects - and the expansion of hotspot policing through Operation Track, which has delivered significant progress in tackling ASB. The Office was successful in securing additional funding for hotspot policing in Dorset, and in areas where Operation Track has been implemented, ASB has reduced by almost 70 per cent. Dorset Police also recorded an 11 per cent year-on-year reduction in ASB (ONS), now at its lowest level in 16 years. In Dorset, tackling ASB needs

strong partnership work, and these results demonstrate the commitment to tackling this key Police and Crime Plan priority.

Those who engage with the OPCC have also been able to influence work being done to help protect women and girls from violence. This year, the OPCC continued to work closely with Dorset Police and partners to scrutinise, commission, and target enforcement to protect women and girls across Dorset. Effective police-led initiatives such as Operation Vigilant continue, while the OPCC's VAWG Improvement Panel reviews how Dorset Police handle sensitive cases to ensure victims receive the highest standards of care. Services commissioned by the Office, such as Victim Support Dorset, STARS, and Circles South West, remain crucial partners in this work, ensuring victims are supported, and crucial education is delivered.

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.

Our Social Media

 3,100 FOLLOWERS	 130,576 WEBSITE VIEWS
 6,500 FOLLOWERS	 OVER 9,000 local residents receive regular news and newsletters via the Dorset Alert system. You can sign up here .
 866 FOLLOWERS	

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 2025/26, the OPCC was contacted 3,251 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 96 PCC newsletters written and dozens of press articles, comments and opinion pieces written on a wide variety of policing issues over the last year. All of the newsletters are available on the PCC's website and were sent out to almost 9,000 Dorset Alert members. The PCC has also appeared in over 25 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 a range of policing issues in both the BCP

and Dorset Council areas. The Commissioner regularly attends community group meetings, conferences and events across the county to give residents and stakeholders opportunities to take part in Q&As and find out more about the work of the OPCC. In the last year the PCC has attended 103 such events.

- 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.
- Engagement, in all its forms, helps the PCC raise issues that matter to the public directly with the Chief Constable. All communications in 2026 will be shaped by the priorities residents and communities have highlighted, including anti-social behaviour, illegal drug use, burglary and theft, road safety, violent crime, VAWG/sexual assault/rape/stalking, rural crime, shoplifting and business crime, criminal damage, and cyber-crime.
- 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.



GOVERNANCE & 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 its own Independent Scrutiny Panel, which reports into the UPPS on the outcome of its 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 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 Resolution (OoCR) Scrutiny Panel

The OPCC also administers the Out of Court Resolution (previously Out of Court Disposals) Scrutiny Panel which meets quarterly and considers a sample of cases of Out of Court Resolutions (OoCRs) to determine if they are appropriate. OoCRs 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. These range from cases involving women and ethnically diverse individuals; cases involving possession

of weapons, knife crime, and assaults of emergency service workers; and cases involving Restorative Justice, shoplifting, domestic abuse between parent and child and drugs possession and intent to supply.

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 OoCRs 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. During the 2025/26 year, 100 visits were made, and over 220 detainees were spoken to. These visits have taken place covering all days of the week and all hours of the day and night, a testament to our dedicated volunteers.

Complaint Reviews

To ensure the PCC is satisfied Dorset Police is 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 have been over 120 complaint review requests during the 2025/26 period, with 75% 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 relating to the long-standing challenge on stop and search disproportionality. While progress has been made, this remains closely monitored by the OPCC team. Similarly, police response times – which were previously subject to a formal challenge – are assessed via the PCC-chaired Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel.

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 2026, the Panel 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 and Force 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 meeting are publicly available on our website.





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Accessibility Statement: If you would like a translation of any part of this document please contact us via our [website](#).