

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

Date: Wednesday 22 November 2023
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall

Membership

Mr Andy Davis (Chair)
Councillor Derek Poole (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Barbara Brown
Mr Andrew Davies
Councillor Jenny Fradgley
Councillor Natalie Gist
Councillor Clare Golby
Councillor Dave Humphreys
Councillor Ray Jarvis
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher
Councillor Jim Sinnott

There is one remaining appointment to be made to the Panel for 2023/24.

Items on the agenda:

1. General

(1) Apologies

To receive any apologies from members of the Panel.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2023.

5 - 12

(4) Public Speaking

2. Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

13 - 38

The Report is attached for consideration and comment by the Panel.

3. Community Safety Partnerships 39 - 50

A report examining the work undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships.

4. Issues Raised by Community Safety Partnerships

To consider any issues flagged by Community Safety Partnerships, providing a means for community concerns that have high-level, strategic implications to be discussed by the Panel and Commissioner.

5. Report of the Planning and Performance Working Group Verbal Report

An update of the Group's meeting on 17 November 2023.

6. Work Programme 51 - 56

To consider and review the Panel's Work Programme.

7. Dates of Meetings

To note the arrangements for future meetings.

Meetings will start at 2pm, unless specified otherwise. The following meetings are scheduled to be held at Shire Hall, Warwick:

- 5 February 2024
- 7 March 2024
- 20 June 2024
- 26 September 2024
- 21 November 2024
- 3 February 2025
- 13 March 2025

8. Any Urgent Items

At the discretion of the Chair, items may be raised which are considered urgent (please notify Democratic Services in advance of the meeting).

9. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

To consider passing the following resolution:

“That members of the public be excluded from the meeting for the items mentioned below on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.”

10. Complaints

To consider any complaints received and considered regarding the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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Disclaimers

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Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Panel. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak, please notify Democratic Services in writing at least three working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Panel's Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel

Thursday 21 September 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Panel Members

Andy Davis (Chair) (Independent Member)
Councillor Derek Poole (Vice Chair) (Rugby Borough Council)
Andrew Davies (Independent Member)
Councillor Natalie Gist (Stratford-on-Avon District Council)
Councillor Clare Golby (Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council)
Councillor Dave Humphreys (Warwickshire County Council)
Councillor Ray Jarvis (North Warwickshire Borough Council)
Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher (Warwickshire County Council)

Officers

John Cole, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Nic Conway, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Caroline Gutteridge, Senior Solicitor – Delivery Lead, Commercial and Regulatory

Others Present

Emma Daniell, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Cara Giacalone, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Helen Knee, Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee
Polly Reed, Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Philip Seccombe, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Dr Denise Taylor (Public Speaker)

1. General

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Jenny Fradgley and Councillor Katie Hunt.

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There was none.

(3) Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair highlighted discussion of vetting and standards of police conduct at the previous meeting. He sought an update from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The PCC advised that all Warwickshire Police officers had now been re-vetted. This process had highlighted some issues which would be investigated. However, the results of re-vetting had been generally positive. A report had recently been provided by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) which graded the Force's vetting processes as 'adequate'. The Inspectorate had recommended specific improvements, some of which had already been implemented.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(4) Public Speaking

Dr Denise Taylor was welcomed to the meeting and invited to put her question to the Panel and Commissioner.

Dr Taylor highlighted the importance of standards of police conduct, community safety and transparency, stating that in December 2022, Warwickshire Police had issued a Community Protection Notice (CPN) on the Warwickshire Hunt on the grounds of "anti-social use of the county road network" following concerns about road safety, trespassing, anti-social behaviour, and illegal use of quad bikes. This had followed a warning notice issued on 14 May 2022 which noted "unreasonable and dangerous use of the roads" by the Hunt.

Dr Taylor stated that the conditions of the CPN required Warwickshire Hunt to give advanced notice of its events with details of the times and locations of crossing points. The CPN had also specified that the Hunt inform the Rural Crime Team of how hounds would be controlled and to notify its members of their responsibilities around designated crossing points. She emphasised that it had been clearly stated that a breach of these conditions would amount to a criminal offence.

Dr Taylor stated that the CPN had since been withdrawn prior to a court appeal scheduled for 15 August 2023. She stated that this raised serious concerns, and the circumstances of the withdrawal of the CPN had not been transparently explained to the public. Since then, the media had reported that a privately agreed protocol was in place between the Force and Warwickshire Hunt seemingly in place of the withdrawn CPN. She stated that the confidential nature of this protocol had the effect of fuelling community distrust. She emphasised that, unlike the CPN, the protocol was not enforceable in law.

Dr Taylor asked that attention be given to making the protocol publicly available in the interests of community trust and safety. Additionally, she asked what actionable and enforceable steps would be taken by Warwickshire Police to ensure that the Hunt abided by road safety regulations and community protection guidelines in future.

Councillor Poole moved that the question be referred to the PCC. This was seconded by Councillor Jarvis and agreed unanimously by the Panel.

The Commissioner thanked Dr Taylor for her questions, stating that the nature of the PCC's role meant that he was unable to become involved in operational matters – the activities of officers came under the direction and control of the Chief Constable. He advised that he had sought information from the Force to provide a response. He advised that Warwickshire

Police had issued a public statement concerning arrangements for the Warwickshire Hunt. This could be viewed on the Force's website. He advised that a CPN had been issued by the Force outlining road safety concerns. The Hunt had exercised its right to appeal. During this process, the Force had met with members of the Warwickshire Hunt and agreed a different approach, resulting in a protocol between Warwickshire Police and Hunt. This document had been classified as exempt from publication under Section 32 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In respect of the actions to be taken by Warwickshire Police to ensure adherence by the Hunt to road safety regulations and community protection guidelines, the Commissioner advised that the Force had confirmed that it would continue to respond to calls to deal with any incidents that may arise. He emphasised that this was a civil matter – Warwickshire Hunt had accepted and understood community concerns relating to road safety and was keen to work with all parties to manage these concerns.

In response, Dr Taylor stated that the Hunt continued to be active several days a week, making use of public roads. There was no indication that the Hunt had made changes following agreement of the protocol. This meant that serious concerns relating to public safety remained unresolved.

2. Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) presented his report which provided an update on key activities since the meeting of the Panel in June 2023. He stated that the report included details of activities by the Force to promote sustainability including installation of solar panels, EV charging facilities, new boilers, and double glazing across the police estate. He stated that there was more work to be done in this area and a programme was being developed which included the prospect of an electric vehicle pilot scheme.

In respect of police officer numbers, the Commissioner advised that the latest figures showed that the Force now had 1,117 officers. This meant that Warwickshire Police was on course to meet Police Uplift Programme targets which would be measured at the end of September 2023.

The Commissioner reported that a 101 triage pilot scheme had been introduced. This had shown good early results and the average waiting time for a 101 call was now approximately one minute. The new system improved the capability of the Force to direct calls to other agencies where necessary. For example, referral of mental health matters to the Mental Health Partnership. The triage initiative presented an effective means to manage demand and its progress would continue to be monitored.

The Commissioner reported that the 'Right Care, Right Person' (RCRP) initiative was proposed as a partnership agreement between the Force and health and social care partners to manage mental health-related calls for service. This initiative had been devised to ensure that an individual experiencing mental health issues could be treated as soon as possible by a professional mental health nurse. However, he emphasised that the introduction of RCRP did not mean that police officers would neglect their duty to help those in distress.

The Commissioner reported that the Victims and Prisoners Bill was progressing through the Parliamentary process. This included a proposed updated statutory code for the treatment of

victims of crime. He advised that Warwickshire operated a Victims Charter which encompassed many of the principles of the proposed new statutory code. This would remain in place. Positive victim and witness outcomes would also be supported by the addition of three Crown Courts in Warwickshire (taking the total to seven active courtrooms) which would help to reduce the previously reported Crown Court backlog.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner advised that set procedures were followed by the Force in the event of a homicide. He emphasised that homicide was treated as a high priority by Warwickshire Police, 'reducing murder and other homicides' was also a key priority of the Government's Beating Crime Plan. He advised that specific attention was given to homicide during 'holding to account' activities between the PCC and Chief Constable including a focus on how improvements could be made, not only in reacting and responding to homicides but also in the delivery of prevention initiatives.

It was resolved that the Panel would revisit this subject at a future meeting to examine the specific areas of good practice adopted by the Force to respond to homicide.

In response to Councillor Golby, the Commissioner stated that 'holding to account' of the Force was fundamental to his role as PCC. In many instances, scrutiny was informed by points raised by Warwickshire residents. Each week, a meeting was held with senior police officers to examine current issues. A meeting of the Governance and Performance Board (GPB) was held each month which included in-depth scrutiny of a specific topic. He recognised that crimes were often perpetrated by individuals coming from outside of Warwickshire. For this reason, it was necessary to work closely with adjoining police forces. In the West Midlands region, this was supported by the Regional Organised Crime Unit which focused specifically on cross-border offences. Effective arrangements were also in place with other neighbouring forces to facilitate joint operations.

In response to Councillor Humphreys, the Commissioner underlined the importance of taking steps to improve sustainability and reduce emissions in line with the national commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. He stated that there was an increased focus on sustainability which would be facilitated by the 'Place' pillar of the Empower Programme. This would look specifically at management of the police estate. Any renovation of buildings would be done in a way that prioritised sustainability. However, he emphasised the scale of the challenge, particularly in specific areas such as transitioning to electric vehicles.

The Chair stated that a detailed update of sustainability-related matters at the Panel's next meeting would be welcomed.

Councillor Gist stated that there had been increased reports from residents in Stratford District of anti-social behaviour (ASB) including disturbances caused by motorcyclists late at night. She stated that this was often a difficult problem to resolve and sought the PCC's view of how progress could be made.

The Commissioner stated that he had also received reports of ASB from residents of Stratford District. He highlighted the options available to residents to address ASB including engagement with the District Council to pursue a Community Resolution. He encouraged residents to report instances of disruption caused by motorcyclists late at night. This would enable the Force to gather intelligence to respond effectively. He highlighted that Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) were in place to engage with communities to address ASB.

In response to the Chair, Polly Reed (Chief Executive, OPCC) agreed that future update reports would include a section focusing on the delivery of measures to address ASB as a priority of the Police and Crime Plan (alongside details of partnership working arrangements to tackle ASB).

Councillor Jarvis highlighted the problem of ASB including disturbances caused by motorcyclists late at night which also affected communities in North Warwickshire. However, he stated that many residents did not report instances of ASB due to the long waiting times experienced when contacting 101. He queried how the average one-minute waiting time for 101 calls had been determined as this did not tally with feedback he had received from residents.

The Commissioner agreed that there was a need to encourage residents to report crime and ASB. He advised that 101 waiting times were calculated using a verifiable methodology. He offered to provide the Panel with details of how waiting times were calculated at a future meeting. He emphasised that the number of calls received by the Force had continued to increase. It was now close to 6,000 calls per week. This was why funding had been allocated to appoint 15 additional call handlers in 2023/24.

The Chair stated that it was encouraging to see that upgrades had been made to the 101 Service. The Planning and Performance Working Group had set 101 communications as an area of ongoing focus – this would provide a means to examine the impact of recent changes in more detail.

In response to Councillor Pandher, the Commissioner advised that the proportion of officers from ethnic minorities joining the Force was below the targeted level. However, it was common for any new recruitment course to include at least one individual from an ethnic minority background. The Force had taken steps to engage with ethnic minority communities to promote opportunities to young people.

Polly Reed reported that figures from March 2023 showed that 5.66% of police officers, 7.08% of staff, and 8.2% of special constables were minority ethnic. Overall, this was 6.3% of the workforce.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner emphasised the importance of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). At present, the Force was seeking to recruit an additional 18 PCSOs to reach the targeted headcount. A course had been scheduled in October 2023 which was anticipated to bring in 12 new PCSOs. He highlighted the challenges for recruitment of PCSOs, this was exacerbated by movement between roles as it was common for PCSOs to opt to retrain as police officers. He emphasised that recruitment of PCSOs was a priority and frequently discussed with the Chief Constable.

In response to Andrew Davies, the Commissioner advised that the Force was financially resilient. Warwickshire Police held over £15m in reserves. However, he emphasised that taxpayers' money needed to be used efficiently. For this reason, he had agreed with the Chief Constable that savings of £3m would be made over a three-year period. It was proposed that this would be divided evenly across the three years. This year, the Force was comfortably on course to achieve savings of £1m as recent investment in ICT had delivered improved efficiency.

In response to Andrew Davies, the Commissioner provided an update on the Empower Change Programme, stating that a review of the 'People' pillar of the Programme would be undertaken, an update would be available later in the year. Under 'Place', no significant disposals of the Force

estate were proposed. However, improvements to buildings and offices were required. A budget of approximately £10m had been set aside for maintenance work. This would be a capital spend to save revenue expenditure. For example, energy costs would be brought down by the installation of double glazing. Meetings with the Force were held regularly to monitor Empower and its associated costs.

The Chair highlighted the potential advantages of the RCRP initiative and the partnership arrangements in place to ensure that vulnerable individuals received the right care. However, it would be necessary to make certain that the scheme was properly set up so that those affected were not left unsupported between service providers.

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) stated that considerable attention had been given to ensuring that robust arrangements were in place to make certain that vulnerable individuals received the right care. A working group had been established to secure an understanding between partnership organisations, rather than there being a withdrawal of police support without adequate involvement by others.

In response to Andrew Davies, the Commissioner stated that the courts system was controlled by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The MoJ was represented on the Criminal Justice Board. He recognised that specific challenges affected the Criminal Justice System, and these had been raised with the MoJ. He stated that the Force had been encouraged to make use of out of court disposals, where appropriate, which would help to reduce the backlog of court cases. He acknowledged the impact that delays in the courts had on victims and witnesses. It was an ongoing area of focus.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner advised that since 1 April 2023, 11 police complaint reviews had been completed, five of which had been upheld. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that complaints were handled properly with an independent mindset. Within the OPCC, there was in-house expertise to facilitate this process. Where necessary, an independent law firm would also be consulted. He stated that meetings were held with the Force's Head of Professional Standards to examine the details of specific complaints as well as broader trends.

In response to Councillor Humphreys, the Commissioner stated that consideration had been given to policing requirements in North Warwickshire and that concerns relating to response times were treated with seriousness. The introduction of a patrol base at Coleshill had led to an improvement. He affirmed his long-term aspiration for an additional patrol base to be established in Atherstone, this was a matter frequently raised during discussion with the Chief Constable.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner stated that the recommendations emerging from the Panel's 2019/20 [Review of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Funding of Substance Misuse Services](#) would be taken into consideration when developing the specification for recommissioning of drug and alcohol services in the months ahead.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner advised that expenditure on capital schemes was forecast to be £10.673m against a total budget of £12.644m, including slippage from 2022/23. There were multiple reasons for this, including ongoing difficulties in obtaining certain materials and delays associated with planning permission for building work. As a result, there could be slippage of schemes from year to year. However, capital spending of £10.673m was positive and would lead to reduced revenue expenditure. He emphasised that a capital grant was no longer

provided by central government. Therefore, it was necessary to achieve a balance between selling an asset or borrowing to fund capital projects.

In response to the Chair, the Commissioner advised that planning for the 2024/25 Budget was underway. Attention had been given to specific challenges such as the 7% pay increase for police officers. This would be mostly financed by the Home Office in the year ahead, but it would be necessary to take account of future implications for pay costs. He stated that the Panel's input on budget planning would be heeded. However, setting the budget required his judgment to determine what the Force required to keep Warwickshire safe as well as the amount that could reasonably be asked of Warwickshire taxpayers.

3. Appointments to the Planning & Performance Working Group

The Chair introduced the report, stating that the Panel was asked to note the membership of the Planning and Performance Working Group for 2023/24 and confirm Group's Terms of Reference for 2023/24 as set out in the report.

Councillor Poole moved that the recommendations be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Humphreys and agreed unanimously by the Panel.

Resolved:

That the Police and Crime Panel:

1. Notes the membership of the Planning and Performance Working Group for 2023/24.
2. Confirms the Planning and Performance Working Group's Terms of Reference for 2023/24

4. Report of the Planning & Performance Working Group

John Cole (Senior Democratic Services Officer) provided a summary of the Working Group's activities since the last meeting of the Panel, including meetings on 27 July and 19 September 2023. He reported that Councillor Barbara Brown had been appointed as the Group's Chair for the year ahead.

John Cole reported that at its meeting in July, the Group had given detailed attention to cyber and digital crime. The Group had also received a report looking at vetting processes and how these were monitored by the PCC. It was considered that the report provided reassurance that vetting by Warwickshire Police was undertaken to a good standard. In its analysis, the Group noted that there were clear links between organisational culture, standards of conduct, and vetting.

John Cole reported that at its meeting in September, the Group had examined the recent Force Scrutiny Report which provided an overview of Warwickshire Police's performance during Quarter 1, 2023/24. In its analysis, the Group paid specific attention to knife crime, prevention measures to address pickpocketing, progress by the Force to address vehicle crime, victim satisfaction rates, and recent changes to the 101 Service. The Group also received a report on Burglary Detection Rates. It had been decided to focus on Environmental Sustainability at the Group's next meeting on 8 November 2023.

5. Issues Raised by Community Safety Partnerships

No issues had been raised by Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) ahead of the meeting.

In response to Councillor Poole, Polly Reed (Chief Executive, OPCC) expressed support for a meeting to be held between the OPCC and CSP chairs. She stated that consideration had been given to a range of potential discussion topics which could be shared ahead of the meeting.

The Chair expressed support for this approach, stating that the meeting would be well timed following the appointment of new CSP chairs during the summer. He highlighted that a report looking at the role of CSPs was scheduled at the Panel's next meeting on 22 November 2023. He suggested that the meeting between the OPCC and CSP chairs occur prior to this date so that its findings could feed into broader discussion of CSPs.

6. Work Programme

The Panel noted the Work Programme.

The Chair highlighted that attention would be given to future arrangements for the Panel's working groups which would inform development of the Work Programme.

There was discussion of the Chief Constable's address to the Panel. In January 2023, a visit to Stuart Ross House had been arranged allowing the Panel to meet the Chief Constable and senior leadership team of the Force. This had proved to be informative, and consideration would be given to the prospect of holding a similar event as an alternative to a formal address by the Chief Constable.

7. Dates of Meetings

The Panel noted the dates of future meetings.

8. Any Urgent Items

There was none.

9. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information

As there were no complaints to consider, there was no requirement to enter confidential session.

10. Complaints

There was none.

The meeting rose at 15.30.

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Chair

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Police and Crime Panel

22 November 2023

Police and Crime Commissioner's Report

Report Date	13 November 2023
Security Classification	Official
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act?	Yes

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel with an update on my key activities as the county's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), those of my Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) since the Panel's previous meeting on Thursday 21 September 2023.

At this previous meeting, in addition to those subjects already identified in the Panel's scheduled work programme several requests were made for further topics for discussion, namely:

- **Sustainability** - a report on this subject will be discussed at the Panel's Performance & Working Group.
- **Community Safety Partnerships** - A report focusing on the role of CSP's and their relationship with the PCC, including:
 - Enabling CSPs to exercise judgement to allocate funding to local concerns, making best use of local knowledge.
 - The benefits of partnership working between CSPs. □ Data and crime statistics provided to CSPs.

A report on this subject is provided for discussion according to the agenda.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour** - Future reports to include a section focusing on the delivery of measures to address ASB as a priority of the Police and Crime Plan. ASB is included under the section Strengthen Communities (Partnership Working) and will be a standing feature of this report.
- **Empower People** - A review of this pillar of Warwickshire Police's change programme will be undertaken by the force, with an update provided later in the year.
- **Homicide** - To be revisited at a future meeting to examine the specific areas of good practice adopted by Warwickshire Police to respond to homicide.

2. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Emma continues to attend a wide number of community events across the county with other members of the office to engage with the public about their experiences of policing and what they expect from policing. This has resulted in some very interesting conversations with community members including a number of asylum seekers and some inspiring young people at the Warwickshire Youth Conference.

Emma regularly visits both our grant recipients and the newly commissioned services to directly hear about their important work, from the communities and individuals that are directly benefiting from these.

Emma continues in her role as the Senior Responsible Officer for the Drug and

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Alcohol Strategic Partnership, bringing together all joint partner agencies in a collaborative and cohesive way to ensure that Warwickshire can deliver on the 'National Combatting Drugs Outcome Framework'.

The changes within the Operational Control Centre have resulted in an increase in the available ways in which the public can contact Warwickshire Police and Emma is interested in continuing to monitor the positive effects of this.

3. Emerging national and local issues

3.1. Criminal Justice

- **Prison System**

The England and Wales Criminal Justice System (CJS) is currently experiencing a multitude of acute pressures across all areas of work. In light of this, the recent statement on 16 October 2023 by the Lord Chancellor outlined the Government's positioning regarding current issues that the CJS are facing nationally. In addition to the short and long-term ideas for criminal justice reform, the Lord Chancellor also highlighted the prison system crisis, with a particular focus on prisoner capacity.

Although Warwickshire has no prisons within the county, I remain committed to ensuring Warwickshire's co-operation within the wider criminal justice system, so that we are best positioned to help support Warwickshire victims and survivors. This also relates to offenders, ensuring that they are reintegrated appropriately and safely back into society.

With my support, Warwickshire Police have been engaged in Operation Safeguard (the appropriation of police cells due to stretched prison capacity), albeit the demand to utilise Warwickshire Police cells remains very low.

The Government has decided to enact the powers available in Section 248 Criminal Justice Act 2003 to allow the prison service to move some 'lower level' offenders out of prison up to 18 days before their automatic release date and onto licence, referred to as the End of Custody Supervised License (ECSL). This has been referred to as a temporary operational measure to relieve any immediate pressures contributed to by remand prisoners. This provision will not apply to: offenders serving an extended determinate sentence, those sentenced for an offence of particular concern, or those convicted of the following offences - serious violence offence; terrorism; sex offences. Breaching any of the conditions attached to the ECSL could lead to the offender being recalled to custody. The impact that this measure will specifically have on Warwickshire has yet to be fully determined and will be reported upon in due course.

With the support from my office, ahead of the national roll-out Warwickshire Police has gone 'live' with the new 'two tier' Out of Court Resolution (OOCR) Framework. I am hopeful that regeneration of this long standing approach will provide both immediate and future benefits to the criminal justice system and wider society,

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including reducing the demand on the courts; and where appropriate, giving offenders the chance to change their behaviour.

- **Crown Court case progression**

Concerns remain regarding the progression of criminal cases through Crown Court. Challenges are still being experienced with regards to Crown Court listings and their backlogs, but partner agencies are working exceptionally hard to reduce these issues. In total, there are five active Crown Courts sitting in Warwickshire. This is a positive step forward, but caution still needs to be exercised, especially in context with the wider, national recruitment issues affecting the Crown Prosecution Service, the Judiciary, and HMCTS.

4. Police and Crime Plan

A summary of some of the activities undertaken in support of the five principal objectives of my Police and Crime Plan since the commencement of 2023/24 are as follows: -

4.1. Fight crime and reduce offending

a) Violent Crime

- **Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy**

Work towards completing a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for Serious Violence is almost complete. The SNA is a requirement of the new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) and will lead to a revision of the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. The work is being led by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of all duty holders, driven through the Serious Violence Partnership Delivery Group, and being closely supported and overseen by my office, who provide the conduit to the Home Office for governance and reporting purposes.

The work to complete the requirement under the SVD remain on track for reporting into the county's Serious Organised Crime & Serious Violence Executive on 21 November 2023, and the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board on 5 December 2023, prior to the Home Office deadline of 31 January 2024. **b) Serious**

Organised Crime

- **SOC Partnership Delivery**

Following the review of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) partnership oversight and governance in the county, led by my office, the new SOC Partnership Delivery Group is now meeting and being closely supported by my office. One of the first tasks for the Partnership Delivery Group will be to write a new SOC partnership strategy. **c)**

Reducing Reoffending

- **Reducing Reoffending Board**

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The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending. Warwickshire has had a countywide reducing reoffending strategy, driven by the Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB), but these arrangements are no longer suitable as many reducing reoffending interventions and activities are driven through other partnership structures as part of 'business as usual'. My office is therefore supporting a review being undertaken by the Chair of the RRB, with a view to proposing a framework model that clarifies the best working arrangements moving forward.

4.2. Deliver visible and effective policing**a) Extra Policing**

In my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, I state that success in achieving this focus area is to have 1,100 police officers by the end of 2022/23, and more beyond. On 31 March 2023 this target was reached, in that the force had 1,113 officers - representing the highest number on record for Warwickshire police in its 160 year history. On 30 September 2023, the force's headcount was 1,127 officers and therefore met the criteria for the main and additional Govt. funding for the first half of the year.

The first intake in the new 2024/25 financial year is planned for June 2024, which will be the first cohort of the Police Constable Entry Programme (PCEP) This fourth entry route into the police service is in addition to the other three established entry routes through the Police Education Qualifications Framework.

b) Neighbourhood Policing

The force's recruitment activity in 2023/24 is directed to the recruitment of PCSOs to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of neighbourhood policing, with a recent intake of new PCSO recruits on 16 October 2023. However, there has been an increase in the turnover of established PCSO as police officer recruitment continues, particularly with the non-degree PCEP entry routes being more widely available. The next PCSO intake is planned for April 2024 and is to be supported by marketing and recruitment events.

c) Transforming Warwickshire Police

As previously reported to the Panel, Warwickshire Police embarked upon its 'Empower' change programme, with three separate strategic strands of People / Place / Technology.

On 24 April 2023, the 'Empower-People' programme was implemented to create a new operating model for the force. A six-month review of the operating model is scheduled and its findings are to be discussed at the December 2023 meeting of the Governance and Performance Board. The other elements of 'Empower-Place' and 'Empower-Technology' continue to be progressed by the force and are monitored and scrutinised by my office through formal governance arrangements.

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4.3. Keep people safe and reduce harm

a) Violence Against Women and Girls

- **Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)**

The work of the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Steering Group, a sub-group of the county's partnership VAWG Board, has been refreshed and is now chaired by Det. Supt. Hill, who leads on Public Protection for Warwickshire Police. My office closely supports the work of Group and the chair. The Group has renewed its Terms of Reference and has the key priorities that will drive the work of the Group – these are 1. Prioritising Prevention, 2. Supporting Victims, 3. Pursuing Perpetrators and Reducing Re-offending and 4. Strengthening the System. A Continuous Improvement Plan has been developed to capture the work and progress in pursuit of these four priorities, which is being supported and monitored by my office.

In addition, Warwickshire Police has become an Operation Soteria force. Operation Soteria is a national project which involves police forces and academics who are working towards improving service delivery to victims of rape and serious sexual assault and improving criminal justice outcomes. It is very advantageous to the work of the RASSO Steering Group to have connection with Operation Soteria via the force. It will mean the Group has access to all the latest thinking and best practice aimed at improving the RASSO picture for victims and improving detection rates. At the core of Op Soteria philosophy is having a strong suspect focus; being entirely victim centred and understanding the context in which the alleged offending has been perpetrated. Warwickshire Police will be subject of a Soteria Thematic Review at some point in November.

- **Interpersonal violence against men and boys**

This is an area of developing concern and increased petitioning from representative groups. Whilst I have ensured that the victims services I commission (either solely or in partnership) are always available to men and boys, concern can be expressed locally and nationally that the focus on 'violence against women and girls' is marginalising the 25% - 33% of victims of domestic abuse who are male. My office is therefore supporting a piece of work being led by WCC, which is specifically looking at the experience of male victim-survivors of interpersonal violence in Warwickshire and whether anything more needs to be done in this area and to provide support. **b)**

Vulnerability

- **Hate Crime**

The Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership has published and finalised its new 3-year strategy for Tackling Hate Crime in Warwickshire. My office has played a key role in developing this document, at the core of which is the following key strategic aim:

“Working with our partners and communities, we will seek to prevent hate crime, to increase trust and confidence of communities that fear they may be targeted by such crime, and to identify and prosecute those that commit such crimes.”

This strategic statement now has much added importance in view of the very

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recent escalating conflict in Israel and the Palestine region. My office is in receipt of several information and guidance documents, in the main from central Government, advising on protective advice for Jewish and Islamic communities and associated matters. At the time of writing there are no known hate crime incidents in Warwickshire relating to the conflict, but vigilance is very much raised and the specific police operation follows national policing procedure and policy.

- **Mental Health – Right Care Right Person**

The Panel may be aware of the rollout across policing nationally of the Right Care Right Person (RCRP) arrangements. RCRP is an approach designed to ensure that people of all ages who have health and / or social care needs are responded to by the right person, with the right skills, training, and experience to best meet their requirements. Although the approach can be applied more broadly than those cases relating to mental health, the focus of RCRP is on the interface between policing and mental health services.

At the centre of RCRP is a threshold to assist police in making decisions about when it is appropriate for them to respond to incidents, including those which relate to people with mental health needs. The threshold for a police response to a mental health-related incident is:

- to investigate a crime that has occurred or is occurring; or
- to protect people, when there is a real and immediate risk to the life of a person, or of a person being subject to or at risk of serious harm.

This approach involves the consistent use of the RCRP threshold to determine whether the police are the appropriate agency to respond at the point at which the public or other professionals report a mental health-related incident.

It is crucial that at the heart of planning and implementing RCRP for people with mental health needs, there is a focus on ensuring patient safety is maintained and people in mental health crisis are not left without support. This means that before changes to responses are introduced, the approach to RCRP implementation for people with mental health needs should be planned and developed jointly through cross-agency partnerships. While police forces will ultimately determine the timeframe for implementing the RCRP approach locally, it should be established following engagement with health, social care, and other relevant partners.

My office is currently engaged in overseeing the implementation of RCRP in the county. Warwickshire Police are actively engaged in the planning, and there is a partnership board in place across Warwickshire, Coventry, and the wider West Midlands region to ensure there is a coordinated and consistent approach.

If implemented successfully, people with mental health needs will see an improved response from those organisations who are best placed to support them to recover, and the police will be relieved of many hours' worth of officer time that can be redeployed into core policing responsibilities.

- **Homelessness**

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My Policy and Partnership Team have begun a piece of work to review whether more needs to be done to prevent homelessness leading to individuals becoming victims or offenders, due to their increased vulnerability. This has included attending the county's Homelessness Strategic Group as well as its Offenders Accommodation subgroup, which is looking specifically at the difficulty in housing those leaving prison. The victim services that I recently commissioned included a requirement to understand the 'duty to refer' under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and make referrals in line with the guidance.

- **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)**

The week of the 16th to the 22nd October 2023 was National Anti-Slavery Week, with the 18th marking National Anti-Slavery Day. To mark this event, my office worked with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council and the county's Modern Slavery Steering Group, to have a stand at Nuneaton Market to raise awareness and understanding about MSHT. Our recently appointed Independent Modern Slavery Advisor (IMSA) also attended, and engaged with numerous people visiting the stand, who showed genuine interest and sharing anecdotal information for consideration. This further demonstrated that we have MSHT amongst our communities hiding in plain sight. Labour exploitation that has links to illicit drugs and sex services are most concerning. Without doubt, my commissioning of the IMSA service is filling the gap in service that was identified in the Warwickshire Victim Needs Assessment. The work of the IMSA is already strengthening Warwickshire knowledge and responses and is also demonstrating the complexity of the issue from a human and geographical perspective. Throughout National Anti-Slavery Week my office proactively engaged with the media to further highlight key MSHT issues and received good coverage.

It is pleasing to note that after a prolonged period of uncertainty the Home Secretary has recently appointed a new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner – Eleanor Lyons, who replaces Dame Sara Thornton who stepped down in April 2022. Ms Lyons was previously Deputy Children's Commissioner for the Home Office. **c) Road**

Safety

- **Remembering Lives Lost**

On Sunday 19 November 2023, I will be participating in the annual service for 'Remembering Lives Lost and Injured on our roads in Warwickshire' at The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Old Square, Warwick. This day is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

It is also important to note that Saturday 18 November 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the dreadful crash on a section of the M40 motorway in Warwickshire, when a school minibus from Hagley RC High School collided with a maintenance vehicle at night, resulting in the deaths of 12 pupils and their teacher. This was one of the worst collisions for loss of life on UK roads. The service will mark this event and demonstrate Warwickshire's commitment to the victims and witnesses of road death and injury.

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- **IRVA Service**

I am pleased to report that I have now fully commissioned an Independent Road Victim Advisor (IRVA) Service, the contract for which has been awarded to Brake for the next 3 to 5 years. Brake is a Road safety charity working since 1995 with communities and organisations across the UK to stop the tragedy of road deaths and injuries, make streets and communities safer for everyone, and support people bereaved and seriously injured on roads.

The IRVA service was developed and refined through grant funding that I previously awarded to Brake and has been so successful for road traffic victims that formally commissioning the service was a logical next step. The commitment to the IRVA service further underlines my focus to support road victims.

Equally, I am determined to achieve safer roads in Warwickshire and achieve casualty reduction through working effectively with partners. It is a challenging environment. The most recent summer saw an increase in motorcycle casualties and the killed and seriously injured figures.

4.4. Strengthen communities.

a) Involving communities

- **Custody Volunteers**

My office continues to operate both the volunteer Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) and the Appropriate Adult (AA) schemes. I am a strong supporter of volunteering in all its forms and the work of volunteers in keeping Warwickshire safe cannot be underestimated, so I would encourage anyone interested in donating their time to take inspiration and find out more about how they can get involved. More information on volunteering opportunities can be found on the OPCC website. **b) Crime**

Prevention

- **Safer Streets**

On 6 July 2023, the Home Office released details of the Safer Streets Fund Round 5, open to applications only from Local Policing Bodies. I am pleased to report that following a collaborative bid, my office was successful in securing £1m of funding. Further information can be found at Para: 7.1 of this report. **c) Partnership**

working

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder that includes antisocial behaviour (ASB). There are currently gaps in Warwickshire in this regard, and although neither I nor my office are a responsible authority for CSPs, I am keen that we do all we can to support CSP's in reducing the impact of ASB through better

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partnership working and evidenced-based solutions, as outlined in my Police and Crime Plan.

Consequently, my office is currently leading on a comprehensive review of the partnership approach to tackling ASB across the county. This is being overseen by the county's Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Forum and has commenced with the drafting of a countywide approach to the undertaking of ASB Case Reviews and subsequent appeals, in order to bring Warwickshire in line with new statutory guidance released by the Government.

My office is also assisting in the undertaking of an ASB workshop taking place on 22 November 2023, where partners will learn more about how the new ASB policy being introduced by Warwickshire Police will interface with the partnership approach, as well as discuss the next steps towards achieving the required strategy. This further work will consider the new Government ASB Action Plan.

In addition, the panel will be aware that I fund two Community Safety Analysts posts, which are hosted by WCC's Business Intelligence team. These analysts are currently working on building a new ASB Dashboard that will give greater clarity and understanding of ASB through the analysis of a combination of data sets from different agencies and organisations.

- **Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime**

The week of the 18 to the 24 September 2023 saw National Rural Crime Action Week. I'm pleased to report that the force were very active that week and were involved in many varied activities in terms of awareness raising, training, prevention, and investigation. To date, the Rural Crime Team has recovered over £3m worth of vehicles and plant, equipment, and tools. They are respected regionally and nationally and work very closely with the recently formed National Rural Crime Unit, who have already attended Warwickshire to share intelligence and assist in proactive operations in the county.

I am pleased to report also that I have recently been appointed to the vice chair position of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN). The NRCN is a body representing PCCs on rural, wildlife and heritage crime matters. I look forward to further positively influencing matters on a national basis and bringing back ideas and good practice to Warwickshire.

- **Governance Review – Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board**

My office has been supporting the annual review of the SWPB structures and the content of the county's Community Safety Agreement, including attending and presenting at a workshop on 19 October 2023. This work continues. **4.5.**

Deliver better justice for all

a) Victims and Witnesses

- **Victims and Prisoners Bill**

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The Victims and Prisoners Bill remains at Report Stage within the House of Commons. The Ministry of Justice are currently convening workshops to further develop understanding and dialogue in respect of future Code Compliance expectations that will be placed upon PCCs. My office is engaging with this dialogue.

- **Victims Commissioner**

It is pleasing to note that the Ministry of Justice has temporarily re appointed a Victims Commissioner. The post has been vacant for some time and has been subject of comment and speculation in respect of government intention. Baroness Helen Newlove, who previously held the post prior to the most recent incumbent (Dame Vera Baird), has been temporarily re-appointed. This has been warmly received by victim support groups across the whole victims' landscape. My office will continue to liaise with the office of the Victim's Commissioner to make sure that the needs of Warwickshire victims is at the heart of national progress.

- **Retail Crime**

The impact of retail crime on victims and witnesses who work in the sector has been gaining very significant media coverage. Without doubt determined criminals including organised crime groups are targeting the retail sector with devastating consequences. Small independent retail outlets through to the largest hypermarkets are all suffering from organised and quite often violent offending. Warwickshire is not at all immune to this. Criminals seem unfazed by the prospect of challenge or capture.

The picture is complex and multi-faceted, but the Government, the Association of PCC's (APCC), the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), and the retail sector, have come together to launch a Retail Crime Action Plan to lead the fightback. This initiative is called 'Pegasus', and my office is working to ensure that Warwickshire will be aligned to the Pegasus initiative. I also continue to support the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative, Warwickshire Business Watch, and the development of a Warwickshire Police 'Business Crime Action Plan'.

In terms of achieving good victim and witness outcomes locally, it is pleasing to report that five Crown Courts are now sitting in Warwickshire to try and make positive in-roads into the previously reported Crown Court backlog. Early signs are favourable but there is still some way to go. Criminal Justice professionals are extremely concerned at the lack of availability of barristers and a developing exodus of young barristers away from the profession. Further innovations will need to be found to tackle the backlog as well as sensitively managing the expectations of victims and witnesses.

b) Improved Communication

- **Local Criminal Justice Board**

As the Chair of Warwickshire's Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), I can confidently report that the Board continues to be well attended and functional. It is anticipated that the extensive review of the LCJB undertaken by the Criminal Justice lead will be completed by early 2024 at the latest. This will include refreshed, multiagency

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strategic priorities and therefore a new delivery plan, and the introduction of new policy mechanisms to aide and assist the important work of the LCJB. **c) Justice Outcomes**

- **Probation Service**

A key area of work for me and my office remains being focused on the complex workings of the Criminal Justice System. I remain committed to leading our criminal justice partners to ensure we are applying our best efforts to ensure that Warwickshire residents who may transcend through the system (either as victimsurvivors, witnesses, or offenders) receive fair and respectful treatment throughout their experience.

My Criminal Justice Policy Officer is leading a portfolio of work to develop a collaboration between my office and the Probation Service regarding Community Payback / Unpaid Work schemes, as per the PCC Review. The review identified that there was a clear role for PCCs to play in supporting the Probation Service to deliver these schemes, which contribute to enhancing communities as well as supporting the rehabilitation of offenders. Unpaid Work is one of the key punitive requirements that can be added to a Community or Suspended Sentence Order, with courts able to impose between 40 to 300 hours of Unpaid Work depending on the seriousness of the offence. This is a visible punishment which tangibly improves local areas that have been harmed by crime and allows the public to see justice being done. Community Payback also provides opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and increase the employability of offenders.

Furthermore, my Criminal Justice Lead and Drug and Alcohol Policy Lead are working closely with WCC's Drug and Alcohol Commissioner to ensure that the strategic priorities and subsequent action and delivery plans of the LCJB and the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership (DASP) are aligned where appropriate.

5. Governance and Assurance

5.1. Governance and Performance Board

I hold a Governance and Performance Board each month with Warwickshire Police's Chief Constable, together with senior officers from the force and the OPCC. The schedule of meetings incorporates an in-depth scrutiny of force performance and finance, along with topical issues of interest. At each meeting a 'Focus' topic is selected for additional scrutiny: -

2023/24

- April - Sustainability
- May - Road Safety
- June - Cyber Crime
- July - Police Firearms
- August - Rural Crime
- September - Violence Against Women and Girls

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- October - Serious Violent Crime and Prevention
- November - Engagement Strategy / Right Care Right Person
- December - Empower – People Change Programme Review
- January - Children and Young Persons Safeguarding
- February - Community Engagement
- March - Strategic Policing Requirements

5.2. National Crime and Policing Measures

The Panel has requested that information is provided on key performance indicators for Warwickshire Police, including as a standing agenda item the National Crime and Policing Measures (NCPM) that were introduced as consequence of the Government's Beating Crime Plan. This can be found at Appendix B.

5.3. Police complaints

The issues and themes that result in public complaints against the police provides me with an invaluable insight to enable me to 'hold to account' the Chief Constable and to fulfil my responsibility to secure the maintenance of an effective and efficient police service for Warwickshire. As per the statutory requirements I have published a link to the most recent IOPC complaints statistic report, and the force's complaint data on our website.

On 9 October 2023, I met with the Head of the force's Professional Standards Department, together with representatives from the OPCC and PSD, as part of my assurance arrangements for this critical area of business that is instrumental in establishing communities trust and confidence in Warwickshire Police. The agenda incorporated the elements of anti-corruption, vetting, police complaints and the IOPC statistics.

Since the 1 April 2023, to date the OPCC have conducted fifteen complaint reviews, of which seven have been 'upheld' in that Warwickshire Police's handling and / or outcome to the complaint has not been reasonable and proportionate. The recommendations made to Warwickshire Police arising from these reviews have subsequently been accepted by the force.

5.4 Joint Audit and Standards Committee

On 26 September 2023, I participated in the Joint Audit and Standards Committee. This committee provides independent advice and recommendations to both me as PCC and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal control environment, financial reporting and ethics and standards; thereby helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

6. Communication and Engagement

Over the last couple of months, Emma Daniell and I have participated in a diverse range of meeting with members of the public, partner agencies and elected officers.

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My programme of engagement seeks to gain feedback from as diverse a range of participants as possible and is designed to cover all aspects of community safety.

Notable among these included a partnership initiative in Nuneaton, highlighting the issues of modern slavery and human trafficking. On Anti-Slavery Day on October 18th, I joined Nigel Oseman from the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network (a service I commission in Warwickshire) and partners from Warwickshire County Council and the Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership on a stand at Nuneaton Market. We were able to engage with residents and passers-by across the morning, highlighting the work that is being done to bring offenders to justice and provide support to victims.



Figure 1: Promoting Anti-Slavery Day messages with me in Nuneaton are Nigel Oseman from West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network; Bogdan Fironda from Warwickshire County Council's Community Safety Team and Rowena Musgrave and Abu Malek from NABSCOP.

Another interesting opportunity to engage, this time with a younger audience, came at the Warwickshire Youth Conference at Warwick University on 3 November 2023. Organised under the auspices of the Child Friendly Warwickshire, the event was organised by young people, for young people. Under the theme of 'Voices of Tomorrow', the conference offered a friendly and safe environment where young people aged between 11 and 17 years of age could come together with local organisations to be heard and help shape the future of Warwickshire.

The OPCC had a stand at the conference and Emma and my Head of Media and Communication were able to talk directly with more than 50 of the conference delegates, explaining my role and the work of the office, as well as hearing directly their feedback on policing and community safety. I was delighted that a number of the services I commission also had engagement stands, including Safeline and Compass. Warwickshire Police ran a community safety workshop using Virtual Reality headsets, which proved a popular and interactive way to get across safety messages.

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Further engagements that Emma* and I have attended over the last few months include: -

September

- 19/09: Whitnash Community Safety Event
- 20/09: Rural crime event, Hampton Magna
- 24/09: National Association of Retired Police Officers annual lunch, Warwick
- 25/09: Brailles Parish Council
- 25/09: Wildlife crime police training event, Kingsbury*

October

- 03/10: High Sheriff's Legal Service, Warwick*
- 09/10: Kerseley Village residents meeting
- 12/10: Warwickshire Police Awards Evening, Warwick
- 14/10: Warwick District Faith Forum Wellbeing Conference, Leamington Spa*
- 19/10: Edward Street Community Centre engagement evening, Nuneaton*
- 19/10: Visit to Safeline (PCC Commissioned Service), Warwick
- 23/10: Visit to Helping Hands (PCC Grants recipient), Leamington Spa*
- 26/10: Meeting with Warwickshire Pride (PCC Grants recipient), Warwick*
- 27/10: St John's Church Drop-in morning, Kenilworth
- 29/10: Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh community event, Leamington Spa

November

- 01/11: Visit to Victim Support (PCC Commissioned Service), Leamington Spa
- 07/11: Alcester Town Council
- 08/11: Arts Uplift (PCC Grants recipient), Leamington Spa
- 09/11: British Horse Society Awards, Newbury. Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership received the annual Tarquin Trophy for excellence in equine road safety initiatives.

7. Commissioning and Grants**7.1. Safer Streets Fund Round 5**

My office has worked closely with community safety colleagues from WCC, the districts and borough councils, and Warwickshire Police, to formulate a bid into Round 5 of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. I am pleased to report that this bid was successful and as a result we have together secured another £1m of funding to support crime and disorder interventions across Warwickshire (£465k in 2023/24 and £565k in 2024/25). These are broken down by agency as follows: -

Agency	Funding	Interventions
North Warwickshire Borough Council	£73,495	CCTV
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	£59,710	CCTV, Target Hardening

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Rugby Borough Council	£192,759	CCTV, Lighting, Help points, Community Garden
Stratford on Avon District Council	£120,000	CCTV
Warwick District Council	£346,794	CCTV, Street Marshalls, Community Wardens, Staff training
Warwickshire County Council	£119,999	Coordinator, Community Engagement, Community identified interventions
OPCC Warwickshire	£6,043	Administration
Warwickshire Police	£51,200	VAWG Training
Crimestoppers	£30,000	Engagement campaign
Total	£1,000,000	

7.2. Criminal Justice-related Substance Misuse Services

The procurement stage of the criminal justice related substance misuse service commissioning process is reaching its conclusion and the identity of the successful applicants will be shortly announced. There are two service lots being tendered, for both adults and for young people. The new contracts are due to be in place by the 1 April 2024, at a total annual budgeted cost of £240,000, and will cover an initial period of three years, with options to extend for a further two years.

7.3 Commissioner's Grants Scheme 2024/25

In early October 2023, I opened the application process for my Commissioner's Grants Scheme for 2024/25. Organisations across the county were invited to apply for funding of up to £15,000 for projects or initiatives which support my Police and Crime Plan's objectives and have the overarching themes of:

- **Prevention:** Targeting the causes of criminality and / or anti-social behaviour in our communities and on our roads, seeking to break the generational cycle of offending to prevent it from occurring in the first place. And / or
- **Diversion:** Supporting individuals who have already begun a journey of perpetrating crime and / or anti-social behaviour in our communities or on our roads, but who, armed with the right knowledge, understanding and commitment, can be diverted from this path towards a brighter future.

On 9 October 2023, a briefing event for prospective applicants was organised and was well attended. The closing date for applications was Friday 10 November and the total number of applications was being finalised as this report was compiled. All applications will be subject to a rigorous evaluation process, with successful applicants being notified of the outcomes in January 2024, significantly earlier than in previous years, to enable adequate time for planning and preparations to be undertaken by organisations for a go live date from April 2024 onwards.

8. Finance

8.1. Statement of Accounts

The external audit of the 2022/23 Statement of accounts is ongoing, due to the delayed receipt of police pensions information from the actuary directly to Grant Thornton. As a result of this information, some further issues are being considered, and need to be agreed and resolved fully, prior to the audit sign-off. The value for money audit work is continuing and is undertaken somewhat separately to the audit of the financial statements. This work is progressing well with Grant Thornton, although the audit opinion is not expected for some weeks.

8.2. 2023/24 forecast outturn – revenue and capital

I continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for spending against the 2023/24 revenue budget. I receive regular monthly updates, and at the end of September 2023, a year-end forecast underspend of £0.530m has been reported. I have welcomed this position, which is broadly consistent with the reporting in preceding months. The most significant expenditure variance is on police officer overtime (£1.702m) which has arisen due to various recent serious and complex investigations, and also for backfilling vacancies in specialist teams, while the new recruits become established and undertake training. These higher overtime costs are forecast to be met from underspending elsewhere, primarily in staff and PCSO pay, and some of the additional income outlined below, thus, not currently requiring a draw down from the operational reserve, which is held to manage such situations. The additional income of £2.485m is from a variety of sources, including a further £0.928m for providing cell places for use by the prison service as part of Operation Safeguard, £0.675m of additional incentivised uplift grant funding, £0.475m of reimbursed costs from the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) to cover overtime costs, £0.360m of additional abnormal roads income related to HS2 construction, and £0.174m of additional investment income. Many of these were either unknown or not anticipated as part of the 2023/24 budget setting, but a full review on the longevity of some of this income will be undertaken as part of the budget process for 2024/25.

Expenditure on capital schemes is forecast to be £9.260m against a total budget of £13.365m, including slippage from 2022/23, in addition to some accelerated spend from 2024/25. There remains a risk with the delivery of the £9.260m forecast, due to the complex nature of some projects and the interdependencies and resource issues in a tight employment market. Thus, the tactic of acceleration of some projects will continue to be considered and used to smooth the flow of work and investment in line with the budget and strategic plans. The programme covers capital investment in estates, ICT and fleet, which will be funded primarily from borrowing, revenue contributions, capital receipts and reserves.

The closing balance on reserves at year end is forecast to be £12.084m, which is broadly in line with expectations. Reserve levels will be considered more fully as part

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of the budget process for 2024/25 to ensure that they remain adequate to manage risk.

8.3. Budget planning

Work on the budget for 2024/25 continues, and early discussions with the Chief Constable have focussed on her views regarding operational policing requirements in 2024/25 to deliver my Police and Crime Plan priorities, including officer, staff and PCSO numbers, and the various cost pressure and efficiency saving options to enable the delivery of a balanced budget in 2024/25. The budget assumptions are key and work is progressing on reviewing non-pay inflation on various goods and services, in addition to various contractual obligations. Alongside this work, modelling of the outcomes from some recent detailed analysis on workforce planning is also being reviewed as part of the pay budget, and staff continue to engage with colleagues and their networks to develop an understanding and any intelligence regarding pay assumptions for 2024/25.

The Autumn Statement is due on the 22nd November, and this may give some indication regarding what policing can expect in the provisional finance settlement for 2024/25, but this is not anticipated until later in December, and until then the position on central funding for 2024/25 and any further flexibilities on precept remains uncertain.

The ongoing budget work will progress over the coming months, but my aim remains to deliver a financial strategy and MTFP, which is affordable, sustainable, and resilient (reserves), which factors in the risk that the current challenges pose and which in turn supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

• Budget Consultation

To support the planning of the budget for 2024/25, I launched the 'Your Police, Your Views' consultation in early October 2023, to ask people across Warwickshire about their priorities for policing for the year ahead and for their views on the Police Precept.

The survey can be completed online or by paper copy on request and is being promoted on social media and through the local media. Community engagement events have also been arranged for both face-to-face and online feedback; these include a series of online events for town and parish councils and the local business community, which take place across November and December. In January 2024, a further online meeting will take place with representatives from county, district, and borough councils, while face-to-face meetings have been arranged with the county's Members of Parliament and Warwickshire Police's workforce associations.

The survey will close in on 22 December 2023, with the results helping to inform the budget planning process, alongside the findings of a currently live telephone survey commissioned by Warwickshire Police.

I encourage members of the Panel to support me in getting the message about the survey out to local communities across Warwickshire, to ensure that their voices are

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heard. You can complete the 'Your Police, Your Views' survey at: www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/yourviews.

I have also commenced by targeted consultation meetings and have held two meeting with Parish and Town council representatives to discuss the budget planning process and the ongoing consultation process. more meeting with a variety of representatives are planned over the coming weeks and months.

9. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

At the end of October 2023, Priya Tek-Kalsi as the OPCC Communication and Engagement Officer departed for a new role. I'd like to formally thank Priya for all her good work in extending my reach and that of my office to Warwickshire's diverse communities throughout the extent of the county. I wish her much success in her new venture.

In addition to the recruitment of a replacement Communication and Engagement Officer, there a two new Grants, Commissioning and Finance Officers, who commenced in post mid-November.

Lastly, in December 2023 the OPCC will be moving from its present location at Northgate Street, Warwick to Warwickshire Police Headquarters at Leek Wootton. Whilst Northgate Street has served its purpose as the offices of OPCC since its establishment in 2012, the new accommodation is more modern, larger and open plan and therefore will be more conducive to effective working and to improving the health and well-being of the staff located there.

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Appendix B: National Crime and Policing Measures Q2 2023/24

The Government's National Crime and Policing Measures (NCPM) are intended to complement the local priorities that are set out in Police and Crime Commissioners' Police and Crime Plans; nonetheless the Government is clear that forces must achieve significant reductions in crime and restore the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. The six key priorities of the NCPM are: -

1. Reduce murder and other homicides
2. Reduce serious violence
3. Disrupt drugs supply and county lines
4. Reduce neighbourhood crime
5. Tackle cyber-crime
6. Improve satisfaction among victims – with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse

1. Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

Force Data

During Q2 2023/23, there were two recorded homicides, both classified as murder. These unrelated matters occurred in August 2023 in the East and South Local Policing Areas (LPA) and represent the first homicides in the county since April 2023. Warwickshire Police are not considered to be an 'outlier' by the Home Office.

OPCC Commentary

The National Police Chief's Council's has requested all forces to produce a 'problem profile' of homicide and 'near-misses'. This is a positive development, as it will enable a better understanding of the position and identify areas for improvement in Warwickshire

2. Reduce Serious Violence

The Government measures are:

- a) Hospital admissions for persons under 25 years old injured with sharp instrument (NHS).
- b) Offences involving discharge of a firearm.

The force's proxy measures are:

- a) Serious violence (Violence with Injury / Robbery).
- b) Offences involving knife crime or sharp instruments.
- c) Offences involving the use of a firearms.

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Force Data

a) Serious Violence

- **Violence with Injury** - In September 2023, offences reduced by 2.2% (n=403) on the previous month and were broadly consistent with the 3-year average and forecast. Following the peak that was experienced in Q1 2023/24, volumes are predicted to remain relatively stable during Q3 and Q4 2023/24.
- **Robbery** - In September 2023, volumes decreased by 29% (n=30) when compared to the previous month but remained comparable to the 3-year average and the forecast, as the below graph illustrates: -



Figure 1 – Robbery Volumes.

- b) **Offences Involving Knives or Sharp Instruments** - In September 2023, there were 27 offences representing the second consecutive monthly decrease since the peak experienced in July 2023 that was commented upon in the Q1 2023/24 OPCC Scrutiny Report. It is positive position that the further increase that were anticipated during Q2 2023/24 did not materialise.
- c) **Offences Involving the use of Firearms** - The Home Office data collection reports on offences where a firearm was used as a 'threat'. In Q2 2023/24, there were 13 offences recorded - including the use of a firearm in a murder. This figure represents a 50% decrease from the levels in Q1 2023/24, where it was noted that those figures were driven by repeat offenders of children and young persons' (C&YP) using BB guns or air weapons to threaten other C&YP.

OPCC Commentary

Across all categories there has been a reduction in volumes throughout Q2 2023/24 - a positive position! The following activity by Warwickshire Police has seemingly had the desired impact on serious violence offences:

- **Operation Outfitter** - A Warwickshire Police led initiative that focused on a core group of 17 young people suspected of being involved in serious violence and offensive weapon offences across Nuneaton and Bedworth. A secondary group of young people were identified, as being likely to be

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influenced and potentially exploited by the core group. This was a multiagency operation which saw the effective use of police powers to deal with those committing the most serious harm, whilst identifying intervention opportunities for the less serious offenders to divert them away from the criminal justice system and prevent an escalation in offending. The enforcement element of Outfitter saw several targeted operations including warrants, high visibility and plain clothes patrolling, and traffic enforcement operations which saw a number of the primary young people of interest put through the justice system and a number remanded in custody.

- **Operation Sceptre** - Operation Sceptre are nationally coordinated intensification weeks focusing on knife crime. Warwickshire Police support activity engaging in a number of activities.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Teams** - The teams are heavily involved with their local schools and provide educational inputs to students concerning knife crime. There is a well-established interventions programme with the school and intelligence shared at the SOCJAG Tactical Groups inform where to direct this activity. A significant amount of engagement occurs with Warwick University, with activity intensified during the beginning of the academic year due to the new student cohort. Protect messaging is shared and information offered to ensure young people make good decisions to protect themselves from becoming a victim of serious violence.
- **Enhanced Policing During Night-Time Economy** - Warwickshire Police invest additional resources during recognised peak periods for the night-time economy in an effort to prevent offences before they occur through the deployment of high visibility patrols. These same officers are then also available to manage any anticipated increase in demand with a view to negating a threat before it has the opportunity to escalate.

3. Disrupt Drug Supply & County Lines

The Government. measures are:

- a) Drug Related Homicide.
- b) Police Referred Drug Treatment (supplied by Public Health England).

The force's proxy measures are:

- a) Drug related homicides.
- b) Organised Crime Group (OCG) disruption.

Force Data

- a) **Drug related homicides** - This information is not included in the performance reports.
- b) **Disruptions** - The Warwickshire Police Performance Quarterly Insights - August 2023 report provides information for Q1 2023/23 on the number of County

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Lines and OCGs operating in the county. Of note is that that there were 18 confirmed disruptions during this period, representing a small decrease from the preceding quarter. Also, that 4 adults and 5 children were safeguarded from the OCGs.

OPCC Commentary

Information regarding drug related homicide is not specifically included in the performance reports. The recent homicide investigations are currently 'live' and therefore the relationship between the deaths and controlled drugs is not presently a consideration for this report. A key priority for the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 is to Fight Crime and Reduce Reoffending, with a focus on Violent Crime and Organised Crime. The Plan provides a narrative as to how this will be achieved and the measures by which the success of the plan will be measured. The PCC will continue to closely monitor performance and 'hold to account' the Chief Constable in this area of considerable public concern.

4. Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

The government measures are: -

- a) Burglary.
- b) Theft from, and of, vehicle (Crime Survey England & Wales - CSEW).
- c) Theft form Person,

The force's measures are: -

- a) Home Office Crime Recording category
- b) Home Office Crime Recording category
- c) Home Office Crime Recording category

Force Data

- a) **Burglary (Home)** - In September 2023, volumes increased by 26% (n=97) albeit they remained below the 3-year average for this high-harm offence type of significant public concern, as the below graph illustrates: -



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Figure 2 – Burglary (Home) Volumes.

- b) **Theft from, and of, vehicle** - In September 2023, volumes decreased by 2% (n=319) and were below 3-year average and are the forecast, with substantial decreases in the East LPA (5%) and the South LPA (16%). Despite this decrease levels are still high when compared to the national position, predominately due to cross-border crime with the West Midlands area. The PCC will therefore hold to account the Chief Constable on these matters at the Governance Performance Board, to ascertain what proactive measures the force is implementing to reduce the levels of vehicle crime and to improve the detection (action taken) rates.
- c) **Theft from Person** - In September 2023, volumes (n=20) were comparable to the 3-year average and the forecast. It is a positive position given that the elevated rates that were identified in the Q1 2023/24 have now reduced.

OPCC Commentary

- a) **Burglary** - In light of the recommendation made, the force's performance will continue to be monitored and scrutinised in the expectation that improvement will be made in Q3 2023/24.
- b) **Theft from, and of, vehicle** - The Home Office has previously identified Warwickshire Police as an outlier, a position driven by comparison with the force's performance with its Most Similar Group (MSG) of police forces - Warwickshire has historically suffered due to its proximity to the metropolitan West Midlands area and its crime profile. Given the latest performance data, the PCC will again 'hold to account' the Chief Constable on these matters at the Governance Performance Board, to ascertain what proactive measures the force is implementing to mitigate against these series of offences and improve the 'action taken' rates.
- c) **Theft from Persons** - The reduction in levels to the 3-year average and forecast is a positive development and as such no further comment is made.

5. Tackle Cyber Crime

The government measures are:

- a) Confidence in law enforcement response.
- b) Percentage of businesses experiencing cyber-crime. Data taken from nonpolice sources.

The force's proxy measures are:

- a) Action Fraud cyber dependent victim referrals where advice given.

Force Data

This information is not included in the performance reports.

OFFICIAL**OPCC Commentary**

The force has previously provided advice to victims of cyber-dependent crime in 100% of cases.

6. Improve Satisfaction Among Victims

The government measures are:

- a) Victim satisfaction with police by victims of domestic abuse.
- b) Victim satisfaction with police (CSEW) - Not available.

The force's proxy measures are:

- a) Force's own domestic abuse victim satisfaction survey (not comparable with other forces).

Force Data

Warwickshire Police has now set 'target rates' for Victim Satisfaction with domestic abuse at 80% or above. In September 2023, the rolling 6-month 'whole experience satisfaction' trend stood at 80%, representing a marginally improvement on the previous month.

OPCC Commentary

In light of the recommendation made, the force's performance will continue to be monitored and scrutinised in the expectation that the target will continue to be met in Q3 2023/24.

In August 2021, the PCC collaborated with the Home Office in the funding of a new Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme in the county. On 31 March 2023 that funding ended, but with the offer of continued match funding, the OPCC were able to make a successful bid to the Home Office for additional funding of £300,000 over the next two years.

The OPCC has also continued to work closely with Warwickshire County Council and other partners in delivering the aims of the county's 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy'. This has included reviewing the governance arrangements and working closely to link the work of the county's VAWG Board with the work of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). This is particularly important in relation to progress to improve criminal justice outcomes for victims of Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse.

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Community Safety Partnerships

Report Author	Richard Long, Head of Policy and Partnerships
Report Date	3 rd November 2023
Security Classification	Official
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act?	Yes

1. Introduction

This report seeks to inform the panel about the working relationship between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Warwickshire and the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) in the county; and in turn their collective relationship with Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

The report sets out how the CSP's are constituted, what their legal responsibilities are, and the role the PCC has in relation to those functions. It includes commentary on how the PCC provides both resources and funding to support the work of the CSPs, which allows them to exercise their own judgement in prioritising and supporting activity to tackle local concerns, making use of their local knowledge. The report also highlights the benefits of closer partnership working between the CSPs.

2. Community Safety Partnerships

2.1 Key Legislation

The concept that local multi-agency partnership working was vital in preventing and reducing crime developed in the 1980s. Following a number of initiatives to create such partnerships voluntarily, they were placed on a statutory footing in 1998.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (**the Act**) is the primary legislation that sets out the statutory requirement for a local body of 'responsible authorities' to work together to 'formulate and implement strategies' in their local area. These bodies, formerly known in England as 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (CDRPs), are now known as 'Community Safety Partnerships' (CSPs).

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 and Amendments 2010, 2011 and 2012 (**the Regulations**) are secondary legislation issued under the Act, which sets out a range of further statutory requirements in relation to the responsible authorities working together.

The following sections set out the main requirements under the Act and Regulations.

2.2 Responsible Authorities

Under the Act, the following bodies are designated as 'responsible authorities' in Warwickshire:

- The relevant district or borough council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Probation Service
- Chief Officer of Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority
- Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

It should be noted that the PCC is **not** a responsible authority under the Act.

OFFICIAL**2.3 Geographic Area**

The Act identifies the geographic area of responsibility for a CSP as being the relevant 'local government area', which it defines as:

- each separate district or borough area, or
- two or more district and borough areas who have combined together for the purpose.

For example, in Warwickshire, the geographic options under the Act include:

- 5 x CSPs: North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby Borough, Warwick District, and Stratford on Avon District
- 4 x CSPs: The current model of North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby Borough, and South Warwickshire (Warwick District and Stratford on Avon District combined)
- 3 x CSPs: North Warwickshire, East Warwickshire and South Warwickshire
- 2 x CSPs: North Warwickshire and South Warwickshire
- 1 x CSP: Warwickshire

The arrangement for a combined CSP for South Warwickshire is an example of where cross district collaboration can reduce duplication of effort and bureaucracy and at the strategic level but continue to allow local delivery on local district priorities at the operational level.

2.4 Strategies

The Act sets out the strategies that must be 'formulated and implemented' by a CSP as follows:

- a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment.
- a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances.
- a strategy for the reduction of re-offending
- a strategy for—
 - preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence (including as victims)
 - reducing instances of serious violence

These strategies are a legislative requirement. However, individual CSP's do not have to work in isolation on separate strategies where there is a shared vision. CSP's can collaborate together on a single strategic approach (a single strategy) but one that still allows for local delivery in accordance with local need.

3. CSP Strategy Group (i.e. CSP Strategic Boards)

The Regulations set out that for each CSP area there shall be a 'strategy group'. In Warwickshire the CSP strategy groups are each of the four CSP strategic boards (also known as CSP responsible authorities' groups).

The original 2007 Regulations set out a range of requirements about membership, attendance by district/borough council elected members who are portfolio holders, appointing a chair, meeting frequency, etc. However, these were simplified in the 2011 Amendments, which now set out that each CSP strategy group:

- shall prepare '**strategic assessments**'; and prepare and implement a '**partnership plan**' for the area.
- shall consist of two or more persons appointed by one or more of the responsible authorities in the area; and where there is more than one provider of probation services in the area, those providers shall jointly appoint one or more persons to the strategy group.
- may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies and such other persons as the strategy group invites (such as the PCC/OPCC).
- shall have in place arrangements governing the review of the expenditure of partnership monies and for assessing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of such expenditure.
- shall have in place arrangements for the sharing of information between responsible authorities and shall prepare a protocol setting those out.

3.1 Strategic Assessment

The Regulations set out that the CSP strategy group shall prepare a strategic assessment during each year, the purpose of which is to assist the group in revising its partnership plan. The Regulations identify the information to be considered in the strategic assessment and that it shall include for the area:

- a. an analysis of:
 - i. levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse
 - j. changes in those levels and patterns since previous assessment
 - k. why those changes have occurred
- b. the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise
- c. the matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise
- d. an assessment of the extent to which the partnership plan for the previous year has been implemented; and
- e. details of those matters that the CSP Strategic Board considers should be brought to the attention of the 'county strategy group' to assist it in exercising its functions (see 'County Strategy Group' below).

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3.2 Partnership Plan

The Regulations set out how the strategy group (i.e. the CSP strategic board) shall:

1. Prepare a partnership plan for the area.
2. Revise the partnership plan before the start of each year, and;
3. When revising the partnership plan, consider the latest strategic assessment (as set out above) and community safety agreement (see below).

The Regulations determine that the partnership plan shall set out:

- a. the strategies required under the Act.
- b. the priorities identified in the latest strategic assessment.
- c. the steps the group considers necessary for the responsible authorities to take to implement the strategies and meet those priorities.
- d. how the group considers the responsible authorities should allocate and deploy their resources to implement those strategies and meet those priorities
- e. the steps each responsible authority shall take to measure its success in implementing the strategy and meeting those priorities.
- f. the steps the strategy group proposes to take during the year to comply with its other obligations under regulations including to:
 - i. obtain the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about levels of crime and priorities; including the holding of one or more public meetings during each year, attended by persons who hold a senior position within each of the responsible authorities.
 - ii. consult with as many different groups or persons likely to be affected by the implementation of the partnership plan, as possible.
 - iii. publish in the area a summary of the partnership plan in such form as it considers appropriate, having regard to the need to bring it to the attention of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable.

The CSP strategy group must send a copy of the partnership plan to the PCC.

4. County Strategy Group (i.e. Safer Warwickshire)

The Regulations set out how, in addition to the arrangements for CSP strategy groups each county area must have a 'county strategy group'. In Warwickshire this group is Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

The original 2007 Regulations set out a range of requirements about membership, attendance, appointing a chair, meeting frequency, etc. However, these were simplified in the 2011 Amendments, which now set out that the county strategy group (i.e. SWPB):

- shall be to prepare a **community safety agreement** for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area.
- shall consist of two or more persons appointed by one or more of the responsible authorities in the county area.

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- may be attended by persons who represent co-operating and participating persons and bodies for the areas in the county area and such other persons as the county strategy group invites (such as the PCC/OPCC).

The Regulations set out how, in addition to the arrangements for local CSP strategy groups, each county area must have a 'county strategy group' whose function is to prepare a '**community safety agreement**' for the county area on behalf of the responsible authorities in that county area. In Warwickshire this group is Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB).

4.1 Community Safety Agreement

The Regulations intend for the county strategy group to coordinate activity across two-tier areas on cross-cutting issues, formalising the role of the county council in supporting CSPs. The Regulations set out how this is to be achieved through the creation of a 'community safety agreement'.

The county strategy group (i.e SWPB) shall:

- before the end of each year, prepare a community safety agreement for that year.
- base the community safety agreement on the CSP strategic assessments for that year.

The community safety agreement shall identify:

- a. the ways in which the responsible authorities in the county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in the CSP strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and
- b. how the responsible authorities in the county area might otherwise reduce reoffending, crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

A copy of the community safety agreement must be sent to the PCC.

5. The Police and Crime Commissioner

5.1 Key Legislation

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gave a clear legal basis to the relationship between PCCs and CSPs, making amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its Regulations. There are five key relationships enshrined in the legislation:

1. The PCC and CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their plans and must act in co-operation with each other. This should encourage joint working on mutual priorities.
2. The PCC has a power of accountability over CSPs. They can call in representatives of CSPs in the force area to a meeting to discuss any strategy

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(or strategies) that the PCC may specify. The PCC can chair the meetings and may specify the descriptions and numbers of persons to attend (including, in particular, representatives of the responsible authorities).

3. Subject to certain conditions, the PCC can request a written report from CSPs on such matters connected with the exercise of their functions and may choose to arrange for the report to be published.
4. PCCs can approve mergers between CSPs (many in the country have already merged) but cannot instruct mergers.
5. PCCs can make grants to CSPs for the reduction of crime and disorder but are under no obligation to do so.

5.2 Working with CSPs

In practice, the PCC and their office needs to work closely with CSPs in order to deliver the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

In Warwickshire, the PCC or his deputy, and a member of his office, are invited as guests to each CSP Strategic Board and SWPB and seek to attend every meeting. This provides an excellent opportunity to identify shared concerns and priorities, and work collaboratively to seek solutions.

Members of the PCC's office also attend each CSP local delivery group (aka Operational Group) as guests, as well as the county Community Safety Officers Group (a meeting of Community Safety leads across the county). This further improves join up and collaboration on cross-cutting issues.

The PCC, his deputy, or a member of the PCC's office, also directly leads on, or provides close support and/or contribution to, the formulation and implementation of strategies that are required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but which are overseen by other county partnership constructs. Examples include the Drugs & Alcohol Strategy, Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) strategy, Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, Hate Crime Strategy, and Exploitation Strategy.

5.3 Provision of Funding

PCC direct funding

For a number of years, the PCC for Warwickshire has entered into a Partnership Agreement with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to host a number of posts that provide direct support to CSPs, SWPB, and their constituent responsible authorities.

Community Safety Coordinators

The PCC funds 2 x posts that are hosted within WCC's Community Safety Team.

These posts undertake a range of activities that directly supports the work of CSPs and the delivery of shared community safety priorities, including:

- Developing and delivering partnership projects, initiatives and events

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- Liaison with the OPCC, other WCC services and partner agencies, including the Police and District and Borough Councils, to ensure that initiatives are appropriately targeted and are consistent with agreed needs /objectives.
- Recording and carrying out activity on agreed delivery plans that support the identified shared priorities, providing regular updates and reports to the OPCC, WCC and key stakeholders as required.
- Working with the Business Community to develop and oversee the implementation of initiatives that will support the shared priorities, engaging with them to maintain links with the Police, Warwickshire Trading Standards, Local Enterprise Partnership, Federation of Small Businesses etc to empower their support.
- In line with the identified shared priorities, delivering presentations and training to a wide variety of audiences on a range of targeted crime issues and how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim.
- Working with partners to develop key messages, advice and campaigns appropriate for a range of vulnerable groups including young people, parents and older people, covering key issues under the identified shared priorities, such as cyber-enabled bullying, sexting, online harassment and abuse.
- Working with relevant Warwickshire Police specialist teams, such as their Cyber Crime Team, to monitor current and emerging trends both locally and nationally in relation to the shared priorities and provide a link on issues and concerns in order to identify and develop tool kits of appropriate preventative advice and information on how to report (for example, to Action Fraud).
- Providing direct assistance to victims, signposting them as necessary to national and local support services, information and guidance, and reporting pathways, thereby supporting them and strengthening communities.
- Working with Neighbourhood Watch and other third sector organisations as appropriate.
- Utilising/maintaining agreed websites that support the identified shared priorities (currently the Cyber Safe Warwickshire website and Business Watch website) and utilising related social media tools to promote relevant initiatives and campaigns.
- In collaboration with the OPCC and other partners, identifying and seeking external funding to support the work of the partnership projects and initiatives.
- Assist the OPCC in the evaluation of applications for grant funding made to the PCC to support related projects and initiatives.

Without the provision of PCC funding, the above activity would have to be incorporated into the normal business of the responsible authorities.

OFFICIAL**Community Safety Analysts**

The PCC funds 1.4 Analyst posts (rising to 1.8 posts in April 2024). These posts are hosted within WCC's Business Intelligence unit and undertake a range of activity that directly supports the work of CSP's including:

- Annual strategic assessment process for each CSP, inc. carrying out of the Management of Risk (MORILE) process and review of new/emerging trends.
- Annual strategic assessment report with recommendations for each CSP.
- Monthly CSP Performance reports for each CSP Local Delivery Groups (aka Operational Groups).
- Quarterly CSP Performance reports for each CSP Strategic Board and attendance at board.
- Bespoke analytical reports on thematic issues for CSP Local Delivery Groups (aka Operational Groups) and Problem-Solving meetings, etc.
- Twice-yearly performance reporting for Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and attendance at board.
- Quarterly performance/analytical reports, and bespoke analytical thematic reports, to the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and attendance at group.
- Quarterly performance/analytical reports, and bespoke analytical thematic reports for the VAWG Board, and attendance at board.
- Development of partnership datasets
- Analytical support to bids for national funding such as Safer Streets and support following successful bids to understand outcomes and impact.
- Development of various crime Power BI Dashboards and Profiler Tools
- Support to developing and reviewing the Community Safety Agreement
- Support to in relation to new licence applications for licensed premises
- Bespoke analytical reports on other thematic issues in support of shared community safety priorities
- Other ad-hoc support to CSP's and WCC Community Safety Team on local matters of priority and emerging issues.

In order to undertake the above analytical activity, it is necessary for the Community Safety Analysts to work closely with Warwickshire Police to obtain their data and crime statistics; as well as working collaboratively with the other responsible authorities to secure access to their relevant data sets.

Without the provision of PCC funding, the above activity would have to be incorporated into the normal business of the responsible authorities.

5.4 PCC grant funding

In addition to the above funded support, the PCC has, in every year of his tenure, supported local action by CSP's on shared community safety priorities, through access to an annual grant award. There is no legal obligation to do so, but the PCC recognises the importance of enabling local CSPs to exercise judgement about how best to address very local concerns using their local knowledge.

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From 2017/18 to 2023/24 (inclusive), the PCC has awarded the following total grant award amounts to each CSP:

• North Warwickshire CSP:	£181,769
• Nuneaton and Bedworth CSP:	£499,793
• Rugby CSP:	£160,618
• South Warwickshire CSP (Stratford):	£289,688
• South Warwickshire CSP (Warwick):	£275,840
Total:	£1,407,708

In addition, the PCC has provided separate funding contributions for countywide activities that support action on shared community safety priorities, such as:

- funding for Domestic Homicide reviews (a statutory responsibility of CSPs)
- coordination of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Prevent (a statutory counter-terrorism duty that applies to the same CSP responsible authorities as well as other organisations)
- Anti-social behaviour collaboration
- Rural crime

5.5 National Funding

Over many years the PCC's office has worked closely with WCC Community Safety, district/borough community safety teams, and CSP's more widely, to identify national funding streams and submit collaborative bids to support activity on local community safety priorities, further enabling local CSPs to address very local concerns using their local knowledge.

This collaborative approach has proved extremely successful, for example, resulting in the securing of **£1,603,010** from rounds 3, 4 and 5 of the Safer Streets Fund and **£605,185** from the Serious Violence Prevention Fund; additional funding that supports the reduction of crime and disorder in our local communities.

6. Future Developments

6.1 National CSP Review

In 2022, the Government published the findings from Part Two of its review of PCCs. The review found that, whilst the importance of local partnerships such as CSPs was widely acknowledged, they were not being used as effectively as they could be. The PCC Review recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of CSPs across England and Wales to improve their transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The PCC Review made other recommendations relating to CSPs, including to examine the role of CSPs in relation to ASB and unpaid work.

The first part of the CSP Review was targeted consultation that focused on the accountability of CSPs and the role of CSPs and PCCs in tackling ASB. As locally

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elected bodies, PCCs set police and crime objectives for their area, and in the consultation, the Government was interested in exploring how greater focus can be brought to the delivery of those objectives, particularly by CSPs. In particular, the consultation focused on three elements.

1. Proposals to make changes to the current requirements of strategic assessments and partnership plans, including a requirement to publish them.
2. Whether PCCs should have greater access to assessments and plans published by CSPs to inform their own work.
3. Proposals to strengthen the accountability model of CSPs to align their work more closely to PCCs and deliver more effective outcomes for the public. This part of the consultation considered whether PCCs should review and make recommendations on CSPs' activity.

The PCC Review also included recommendations to consider introducing a new duty for CSPs to report on local ASB strategy and delivery to PCCs and whether the Government should legislate to set out the role of PCCs regarding the ASB Case Review (formerly known as the Community Trigger).

We await the outcome of the Governments review of CSP's and the related role of the PCC.

6.2 Improving local efficiency and effectiveness

As outlined above, successful, well-organised and meaningful collaboration, can bring dividends in the form of improved effectiveness, additional support, and better outcomes for local communities. However, if not effectively managed, collaborative working can come at the cost of increased demand, duplication of effort, and unnecessary bureaucracy, as well as complex and sometimes overlapping partnership arrangements.

At its very heart, community safety is a local issue. Every crime, however serious, takes place in a local community, often with local victims at the centre. Naturally then, local resources undertaking local activity is often the best form of intervention to reduce crime, support victims, and make communities feel safer.

The PCC's office is keen to continue working collaboratively to ensure an efficient and effective approach to community safety and compliance with the Act and Regulations.

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Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2023/24

Date of next report/update	Item	Report detail	Date of last report
22 June 2023	Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair	To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.	22 June 2023
22 June 2023	Appointments to Working Groups	To appoint the membership of the Budget Working Group and Planning and Performance Working Group.	22 June 2023
22 June 2023	Annual Report of the Police and Crime Panel 2022/23	To approve the Police and Crime Panel's Annual Report for 2022/23.	22 June 2023
22 June 2023	Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner 2022/23	Scrutiny of the Commissioner's Annual Report for 2022/23.	22 June 2023
22 June 2023	Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee (WJASC) Annual Report 2022	Mr John Anderson, Chair of Warwickshire Joint Audit & Standards Committee, will introduce WJASC's Annual Report.	22 June 2023
21 September 2023	Appointments to the Planning & Performance Working Group	To confirm arrangements for the Working Group in the 2023/24 municipal year including Terms of Reference.	21 September 2023
22 November 2023	Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)	<p>A report from the PCC focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of enabling CSPs to exercise judgement to allocate funding to local concerns, making best use of local knowledge. • Benefits of partnership working between CSPs and other organisations to achieve positive outcomes. • Data and crime statistics provided to CSPs by Warwickshire Police. 	

5 February 2024	Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget and Precept Proposal	To consider the PCC's Budget and Policing Precept for 2023/24.	
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Standing Items	Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner	<p>A regular update from the Commissioner including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of key activities and decisions taken since the previous meeting. • Progress made against Police and Crime Plan objectives. • Grants and commissioning. • Governance and holding to account activities. • Communications and engagement activities. • National Crime and Policing Measures. • A financial summary. • Criminal Justice System considerations. • Climate change and sustainability considerations. • Details of any emerging local and national issues.
	Complaints	To consider any complaints against the PCC, taking account of the Complaints Protocol (verbal update).
	Report of Working Groups (Following a meeting of a Working Group)	<p>The Panel has delegated quarterly budget monitoring to the Budget Working Group, which will report its findings and minutes to each relevant PCP meeting.</p> <p>The Panel has delegated scrutiny of the Police and Crime Delivery Plan and Force performance to the Planning & Performance Working Group to identify key issues for Panel enquiry.</p>
	Work Programme	To consider and review the Panel's Work Programme.
	Issues Raised by Community Safety Partnerships	To consider any issues flagged by Community Safety Partnerships providing a means for community concerns that have high-level, strategic implications to be discussed by the Panel and Commissioner.

		It is not proposed to consider single local issues, but rather provide a means to take a strategic view to evaluate the implications of residents' concerns.
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Items to be Timetabled		
Items	Report detail	Timing Considerations
Re-vetting	The National Police Chiefs Council has requested that all police forces in England and Wales cross-check their officers against the National Police Database to safeguard standards of police conduct. The Chief Constable has instigated a programme of re-vetting across Warwickshire Police. The PCC has agreed to provide an update to the Panel once the re-vetting process has been completed.	To be timetabled upon completion of the re-vetting work being undertaken by Warwickshire Police.
Local Government Reorganisation / Review of the Role of the PCC	<p>Due to the recent unitary debate across the County, it was agreed in November 2020 that an item on Local Government Reorganisation and the implications for the PCC in terms of Police and Fire and Rescue Services should be added to a future agenda.</p> <p>In July 2020, the Home Office launched a two-phased Review of the Role of the PCC. Recommendations from Part One were reported in March 2021 and included the Home Office working with the LGA to develop a good governance training package for Police and Crime Panels and the mandatory appointment of a Deputy PCC.</p> <p>In March 2022, the Home Secretary outlined the conclusions from Part Two of the Review with a focus on PCCs' role in offender management, including a duty to 'lock-in' collaborative working between PCCs and the Probation Service; improvements to the way PCCs work in partnership with other agencies to fight crime and support victims; measures to improve public confidence in policing; improved access for PCCs to criminal justice data;</p>	<p>The Fire Reform White Paper and consultation was published on 18 May 2022. The Home Office will publish a response paper to the consultation.</p> <p>The Home Office will advise of its progress in delivering the recommendations of the Review.</p> <p>Once more information is available, a report will be provided to the Panel.</p>

	<p>effective local scrutiny, examining the role of Police and Crime Panels; and measures to ensure that the public can complain about their PCC if needed with trust that their complaint will be handled fairly.</p> <p>The Home Office has advised that it will work with its partners to continue to deliver the recommendations in the year ahead.</p>	
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Task and Finish Reviews		
Topic	Task and Finish Group	Status
Performance Framework (Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2025)	The Task and Finish Group met three times in 2021-22. It has concluded the initial phase of its work. The initiative to develop a Performance Dashboard for monitoring of delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 25 will be progressed by the Planning and Performance Working Group in collaboration with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Adjourned – the Group has kept open the option to reconvene, if required.
Sustainability / Climate Change	Drawing on the findings of Warwickshire Police’s Estates Review, this proposed scrutiny review will examine actions being taken by the PCC and the Force to meet the challenges of climate change and reduce emissions in line with the Government’s commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.	Pending – consideration will be given to Environmental Sustainability by the Planning & Performance Working Group prior to determining next steps for work in this area.

Briefing Notes		
Topic	Briefing note detail	Timing considerations
None required at present.		

Training / Conferences / Other		
Event	Description	Date
Police Finance Training Workshop	A workshop examining police accounting and finance processes.	Wednesday 30 August 2023 (2pm - 3.30pm)
External Training	Delivered by Frontline Consulting	Wednesday 6 September 2023 (2pm – 5pm) and Wednesday 11 October 2023 (2pm – 5pm)
Police (Fire) and Crime Panels Annual National Conference	The Annual Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) And Crime Panels will be held on Thursday 9 November 2023 at Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre (University of Warwick).	Thursday 9 November 2023
Representation from the Chief Constable	To be held at Leek Wootton Police Headquarters (details to be confirmed)	Date TBC
Precept / Budget Briefing 2024/25	A briefing to be provided by the OPCC outlining the Commissioner's proposed budget for 2024/25 prior to formal consideration by the Panel.	1 February 2024 (10am – midday) via MS Teams

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