



Philip Secombe
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Warwickshire

Annual Report 2022/23

Executive Summary

Reduce crime, support victims, make communities safer



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Foreword - Police and Crime Commissioner

This is the seventh annual report during my time as Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. It outlines the progress made over the course of 2022/23, an exciting year that marked the beginning of the implementation of my new Police and Crime Plan, which sets out my core aspirations for police, criminal justice and community safety until 2025.

A huge amount of activity has taken place to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policing and ensure communities are protected from crime and the most serious of harms, with strong support in place throughout criminal justice processes to help victims cope and recover. That is accomplished not only by the police, but also via excellent partnership working, which has been enhanced in numerous key areas and is an important component of my office's work.

I was joined this year by my new Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Emma Daniell. Her recent operational policing background has been invaluable in providing a distinct perspective to my office, assisting me in 'holding to account' the Chief Constable and in identifying areas of performance where further improvements can be made by the force.

We have achieved continued success in boosting police officer numbers. My target of bringing the force up to 1,100 police officers was met by the end of the year and marked a high waterline for policing in the county. This has been achieved through additional funding from local taxpayers and the Government's Police Uplift Programme and is a huge achievement. The same energy will now be placed into maintaining and, as funding allows, expanding those numbers while also seeking to ensure that current vacancies within PCSO and police staff roles are also filled.

I will be working hard across the remainder of this term of office to deliver my plan to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer.

Philip Seccombe TD

Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire

Thank you for taking the time to read my annual report as the elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, a position that I am privileged and honoured to hold.



Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

I have been in post for 12-months now and the time has flown by. I have increased the engagements that our office completes with both partner agencies and our wider communities.

I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to speak with youth representatives, either through the Warwickshire Police Cadets, schools, and organisations that our grants have supported. Listening to the voices of young people is crucial to how we can develop better strategies to increase community safety.

I am the Senior Responsible Officer for the delivery of the Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership across Warwickshire and I am supporting the delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy for the county. Both roles are fundamental in bringing all partners together to ensure that we collectively deliver better outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

I continue to support the delivery of the ambitions of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 and I am looking forward to continuing with my commitment to spending more time with officers on the frontline to see how we can support and drive improvements in how Warwickshire delivers policing.

Emma Daniell

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire

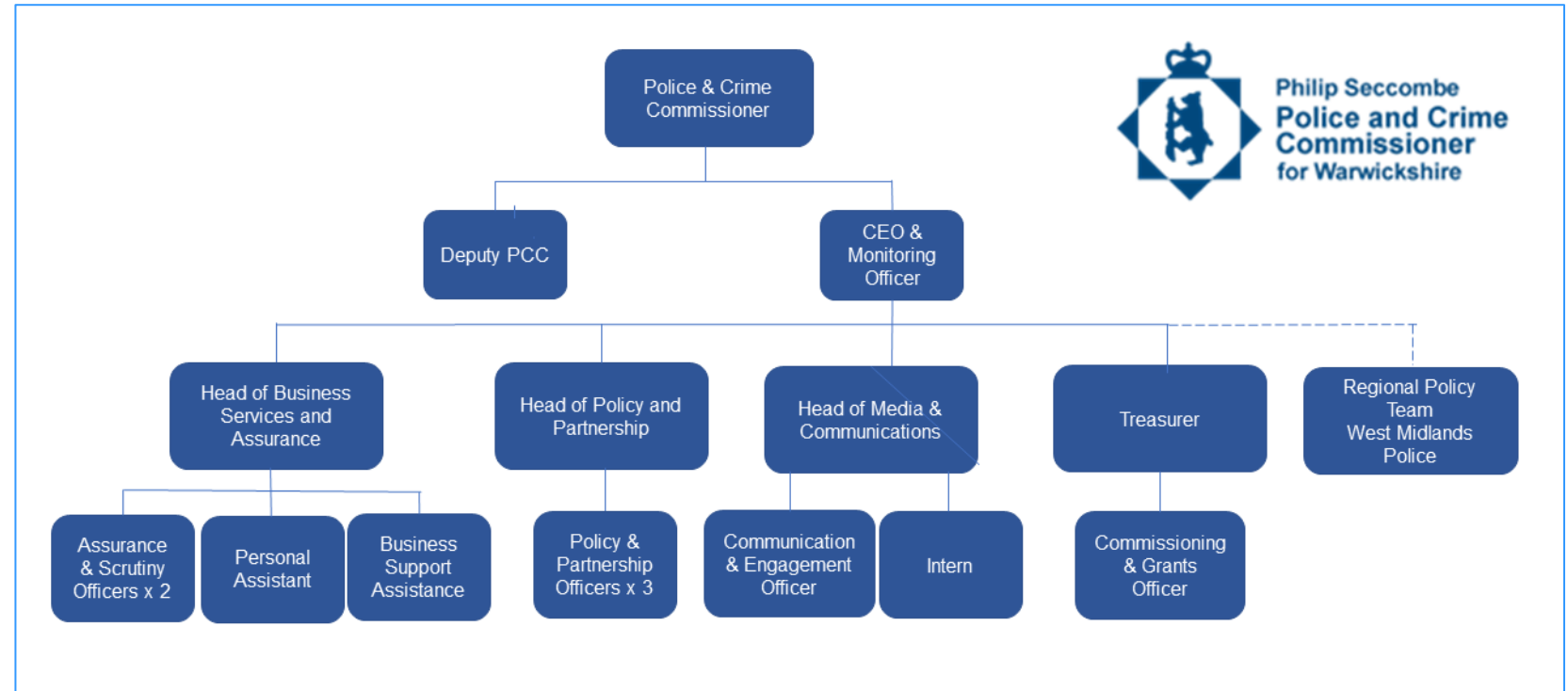


Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

This year has been a time of consolidation following the fundamental changes to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) organisational structure that took place in 2021/22. The changes better support both me and the Deputy PCC in our respective roles and responsibilities and help deliver the goals of the Police and Crime Plan more effectively and efficiently.

The management team enhances capability and resilience. The four teams in the office have improved accountability and efficiency and each have their own clear responsibilities and objectives

There will be further recruitment to the OPCC in 2023/24 with the addition of an Intern to support Public Affairs. This will be a first for my office and an exciting development opportunity for the successful candidate.



Police and Crime Plan 2021-25

My second term of office came with the statutory responsibility of preparing a new Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2025, ensuring that Warwickshire Police and other community safety partners focus on the issues which are of greatest concern to the county's communities.

This was the second year of delivering on its ambitions and a brief summary of the activities undertaken in support of the objectives of priorities and focus areas are contained in the following pages.

The Plan can be viewed in full at: www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/

Vision: Communities across Warwickshire feel safe and supported, with crime investigated effectively, better outcomes achieved and re-offending reduced, leading to increased confidence in the criminal justice system.

To achieve this, my priorities are to:

- 1. Fight crime and reduce reoffending**
Shared outcome: Co-ordinated action disrupts and deters the most serious and harmful crimes and those which cause most concern to communities, with offenders brought to justice and less likely to reoffend.
- 2. Deliver visible and effective policing**
Shared outcome: A visible police presence with strong welfare support deals effectively with local issues through innovative use of resources, delivering value for money for the taxpayer.
- 3. Keep people safe and reduce harm**
Shared outcome: Women and girls are protected from violence, vulnerable people are safeguarded and there is a sustained reduction in the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.
- 4. Strengthen communities**
Shared outcome: Communities are empowered to shape how policing and community services are developed and delivered, with strengthened partnership working - building public confidence and resilience to crime.
- 5. Deliver better justice for all**
Shared outcome: Victims and witnesses have a better experience from the point of reporting crime to receiving an outcome, with clear pathways to tailored support services and improved confidence in the process.

Areas of focus:

Violent crime County Lines and knife crime Organised crime Drugs, exploitation, fraud and cyber crime Re-offending Substance misuse, managing offenders	Extra officers Including staff welfare and tackling officer assaults Neighbourhood policing Rural crime, burglary, vehicle crime and theft Transforming the force Better IT, buildings and fleet, including for the environment	Violence against women and girls Including domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking Vulnerability Mental health, hate crime and homelessness Road safety Reducing death and injury	Involving communities Listening to people and using volunteers Crime prevention Supporting communities to deter criminal activity Partnership working Community safety and collaboration	Victims and witnesses Victim and witness rights and securing specialist support Improved communication Across policing and the criminal justice system Justice outcomes Better investigations and timelier results
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Delivering value for money for the taxpayer through a good and balanced budget and efficient and effective services.



Priority 1: Fight crime and reduce offending

Violent crime

Serious Violence Duty

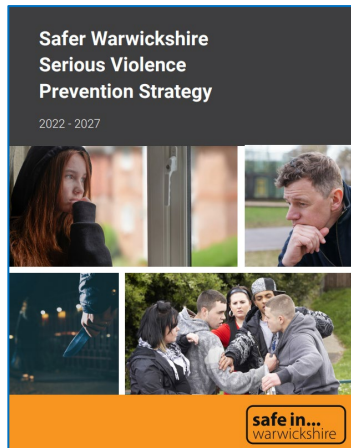
On 16 December 2022, the Home Office released the awaited statutory guidance in relation to the new Serious Violence Duty. My office has worked closely with local duty holders, in particular Warwickshire County Council (WCC), to put governance and delivery arrangements in place to ensure the success of the initiative.

In addition, my office has also secured funding from the Home Office to support implementation of the new Duty in Warwickshire

Safer Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy

The county already has in place a 'Serious Violence Prevention Strategy' and work is underway to finalise the delivery plan.

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/safer-warwickshire-serious-violence-prevention-strategy-2022-2027/>



Serious Organised Crime

SOCJAG

The county's Serious Organised Crime Joint Action Group (SOCJAG) is a long-established partnership that has been supported by my office since its inception. The group has been occupied over the year in developing the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy.

County-lines

Warwickshire Police continues to commit its officers and resources, along with those of the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and the National Crime Agency (NCA), to tackling this pernicious form of criminality.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

My office is a member of the Warwickshire Modern Slavery Steering Group and is actively supporting the Safer Warwickshire Initiative of improved training and education for MSHT 'first responders'

Cyber-crime

Improving communication between Victim Support, Action Fraud, and the Warwickshire Police Economic Crime Unit have been reviewed to ensure that the most vulnerable victims are being properly supported.

Reducing reoffending

Substance misuse

My office has work with partners to locally deliver the Government's '10 Year Drug Strategy: 'From Harm to Hope'. Under this strategy there is a requirement upon every police force area to establish a Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP). Emma Daniell (DPCC) has been appointed as Chair of the DASP and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the CDP

Additional funding has been allocated to police force areas for the introduction, or expansion, of the existing 'Drug Test on Arrest' (DTOA) programmes.

Reducing Reoffending Board

My office is a regular contributor to the RBB and is also an active member of the county's Community Safety Performance Challenge Group.

Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme

In collaboration with the Home Office a new Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (W-DAPP) has been implemented. During 2022/23, W-DAPP delivered 747 individual sessions and 30 group sessions to perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, seeking to prevent and divert them from their abusive behaviour.



Priority 2: Deliver visible and effective policing

Extra officers

A key pledge of my Police and Crime Plan is to have more police officers in Warwickshire. At the end of 2022/23 Warwickshire Police had 1,113 officers. This figure means the county now has the largest number of officers in its 160+ year history.



Around 45% of the officers who have joined in the past 12-months are women, and just over 10% of all officers who have joined during this period identify as black, Asian, or mixed race. It is reassuring to see that the new officers to the force have a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and in some cases previous professional experience, as Warwickshire Police continue to build a diverse workforce that reflects the communities it serves.

Neighbourhood Policing

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Our communities want to see their local SNTs stabilised and with more Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) to tackle persistent issues and increase police visibility and public confidence.

Now that the target for police officer numbers has been reached, the force's recruitment activity in 2023/24 will be re-directed to the recruitment of PCSOs; alongside increasing the number of Special Constables who make a vital contribution to visible front-line policing. I will be doing all I can to support the force in achieving these aims in the coming months.

Rural Crime

I welcome the recent launch of a new 'Wildlife and Rural Crime Strategy 2022-25' by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC).

Warwickshire Police's Rural Crime Team (RCT) leads the force's response to rural crime.



Transforming the force

Warwickshire Police are presently embarking on significant change programme called Empower:-

Empower People

A new operating policing model for the force. Some aspects of the programme have already been enacted with full implementation of the new model on 24 April 2023. The model incorporates fundamental changes to the operational delivery of the force's services to the county's communities, including the establishment of three geographical policing areas for the county, namely North, South, Eastern to improve performance and provide effective engagement with local communities.

Empower Place

The force's Estates Strategy is being delivered under the Empower - Place change programme to develop an estate that reflects modern day policing requirements.

Empower Technology

This programme concerns the force's recent and significant investment in technology to maximise its potential and ensure that the efficiencies are realised.

This innovative programme continues to be scrutinised and monitored by the OPCC through representation at the force's Change Board.



Priority 3: Keep people safe and reduce harm

VAWG

Violence Against Women & Girls

My office has worked closely with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and other partners in producing an updated 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy' for the county. This work has now reached conclusion, with a definitive version of the new VAWG strategy ready to publish. Work continues with the associated Delivery Plan.

The strategy is closely aligned with the county's 'Serious Violence Prevention Strategy' and with my Police and Crime Plan, with my office actively involved in supporting this work and in making its own commitments



<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/vawg/>

Vulnerability

Hate Crime

The OPCC is an active member of the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership and is contributing to a review of the strategy and action plan. It is also working in partnership with WCC and the Equality and Inclusion Partnership to organise the next Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board 'Big Conversation' event on 14 June 2023.

Homelessness

Through our preparations for the next round of commissioning, my office has included a requirement in the specifications that is akin to the 'Duty to Refer' under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Gambling

The new commissioned victim services include a requirement that the successful provider ensures its frontline staff receive training in Gambling Harm Awareness.

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

The Victims of Crime Needs Assessment led by my office has informed the recent commissioning of victim services. More must be done to support victims of MSHT in the county and my office has consequently commissioned the 'Independent Modern Slavery Advocate Service' (IMSA).

Road Safety

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership

As the chair of the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership (WRSP) we have a road safety strategy with the intention of halving the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads by the year 2030. My office also now chairs the Operations Board of the WRSP.

Victims Needs Assessment

The 'Warwickshire Road Victims Needs Assessment' that I commissioned provides research on the needs of the bereaved and those suffering life-changing injuries. It also shows that the work of the commissioned 'Independent Road Victims Advocate' is needed and highly valued.

World Day of Remembrance

Sunday 20 November 2022 marked the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. In recognition, a memorial service was organised at St Mary's Church in Warwick.

Community Speed Watch

I am a passionate supporter of Community Speed Watch. There are now 70 groups around the county with over 600 volunteers helping to make Warwickshire roads safer. I have invested a further £10k to help schemes start-up.



Priority 4 Strengthen communities

Involving communities

Local Authorities

My office has contributed to the independent reviews of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the role of the PCC. We also work closely with the county's Community Safety Team, this has included work on Serious Violence Prevention, Safer Streets, and Crime Prevention.

Volunteer schemes

I operate two volunteer schemes to assist with the activities and scrutiny of Warwickshire's two custody facilities. These volunteers have continued to offer significant assistance and I am very grateful to every member who has played a role in improving the criminal justice system.

- **Independent Custody Visitor**

The North and South Panels of the Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme continue to meet regularly to support improvement at the force's custody centres.

- **Appropriate Adult**

In addition to the longstanding ICV scheme, I also host a volunteer Appropriate Adult scheme. This enables the force to provide volunteer provision for vulnerable adults in custody. This scheme was the winner of last year's Lord Ferrers Award. I am incredibly pleased that their exemplary work has been formally recognised.

Crime prevention

Community Safety Partnerships

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires 'Responsible Authorities' (CSP) in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area. There is currently ongoing a national review of the role of CSPs and I await the review's conclusions and recommendations with a keen interest.

This collaboration with our local authorities has resulted in securing of additional funding from central Government to support crime prevention and community safety initiatives, with an additional £354,000 of funding received from the Home Office under the Safer Streets Round 4 grant fund. This, along with an additional £198,000 of local match funding, will result in a range of improvements and interventions at locations across the county.

Warwickshire Police

The successful evolution of the force's 'Harm Hub' to the 'Prevention Hub' under the Empower change programme is critical to delivering on this ambition to reduce crime through prevention

Partnership working

Unauthorised Encampments

In collaboration with the Warwickshire Police's Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT), my office has now completed a refresh of the Unauthorised Encampment County Protocol. The document has been adopted by all partners and I'm pleased that the frequency of unauthorised encampments in the county has much reduced.

The GRT History Month falls in June 2023, and with a view to further developing positive relationships with the GRT communities of Warwickshire, I am exploring opportunities to engage with the young members of these communities.

Anti-social Behaviour case reviews

Requests for an ASB case review appear to be on the rise in the county, as my office has recently become engaged in two cases necessitating consultation with our CSP partners with a view to provide a multi-agency response to the issues raised.

Big Conversation

In October 2022, the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board 'Big Conversation' conference was held at the British Motor Museum. My OPCC Engagement and Communications Officer worked alongside WCC colleagues to organise the event.



Priority 5: Deliver better justice for all

Victims & witnesses

I am pleased to have recently appointed Dr Grace Boughton as my new Criminal Justice lead. This role subsumes the responsibilities of the former 'Local Criminal Justice Board' (LCJB) manager and so is a vital role in assisting both myself as chair of the LCJB, and more widely the criminal justice partners, in seeking improvements for victims and witnesses, and progressing the delivery of local criminal justice services.

The Government has now introduced the Victims and Prisoners Bill into Parliament, with the intention of progressing it to statutory legislation. I very much welcome the arrival of the new statute as it demonstrates a strong will from all quarters to do more for victims and witnesses.

Victim Support

Victim Support continue to be the main support service for victims of crime in Warwickshire. They ensure every single victim of crime receives a copy of the Code of Rights for Victims of Crime 2021 to ensure the 12 rights for victims as defined by the Code are delivered by the criminal justice agencies in Warwickshire. Dealing with approximately 2,000 referrals per quarter their standard of service delivery is consistently strong and victim satisfaction rates with the service received is consistently high.

Improved communication

Local Criminal Justice Board

As the Chair of Warwickshire's LCJB I can confidently report that the Board continues to be well attended and functional. Nevertheless, in Warwickshire we always seek to improve where possible, therefore the LCJB will undergo a refresh directed by my new Criminal Justice lead and recently received LCJB revised national guidance.



Domestic Violence Courts

As the Chair of the LCJB, I have encouraged a closer look at Warwickshire's Domestic Violence Courts following concerns raised by some partners about its present location in Coventry and its operating practices. As a result, many of the concerns raised have been resolved, with more appropriate listing practices taking place and improved police and HMCTS communication. The response has been positive, but the LCJB will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that appropriate provision is in place for the victims of domestic abuse.

Justice outcomes

Post-pandemic

When understanding the current, post-pandemic Criminal Justice landscape, it is evident that my team and I must continue to prioritise working in partnership with all key agencies to ensure that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) operates as smoothly as possible for Warwickshire residents who may transcend through the CJS either as victims - survivors, witnesses, or perpetrators.

Restorative Justice

Work has been undertaken during the year to improve the awareness and uptake of Restorative Justice (RJ), which is provided by Victim Support in addition to their commissioned victim service. This has been a very successful piece of work.

Operation Soteria

Warwickshire Police is a participant in Operation Soteria, a national research and change programme looking to transform the police response to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO). The programme brings together police forces with academics and policy experts to use new insight to enable police forces to build more effective investigations. I am taking an active interest in the progress of Operation Soteria with updates at the LCJB meetings.

Engagement

It is hugely important that the public's voice is fully heard by the police and other agencies. As an elected representative of the residents and communities of Warwickshire, I want to ensure all agencies are working together to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer.

My Communications and Engagement Strategy determines the engagement activities I and my office conduct in support the Police and Crime Plan focus area to Strengthen Communities. It outlines several strategic objectives with the intention that all communications or consultation activity would derive from one or more of four strands: -

- 1. Inform:** Communities and service users have a clear understanding of the role, priorities, services, activities and achievements of the my role.
- 2. Engage:** Communities have opportunities to engage with me and the wider OPCC to raise issues, highlight the priorities that are important to them and gain feedback on the actions taken to address them.
- 3. Assure:** Communities have trust in the OPCC and are confident that public money is used wisely and in accordance with the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. They are also assured that the OPCC meets its statutory obligations and is effective in holding the force to account and delivering an efficient and effective policing service.
- 4. Involve:** Residents, service users, partners and businesses are involved in decision making, helping to shape and scrutinise service delivery and allowing them to take action to make communities safer.



Commissioned Services and Grants

Commissioned Services

My office financed over £1.4m of commissioned services in 2022/23. These services include general support services for victims to help them cope and recover in addition to providing other specialist victims services in the high harm areas such as domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, and drugs and alcohol support, through a variety of outreach services and referral centres.

It was also a successful year for securing external funding to finance other project and commissioned work with partners following a series of grant applications in response to government funding opportunities.

Victim support services

The full procurement process to commission the following five victim support services for Warwickshire has now been completed: -

- General victim support: Victim Support
- Sexual violence and abuse: Safeline
- Child exploitation: Barnardo's
- MSHT: West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network
- Restorative Justice: Victim Support

These newly commissioned services will commence on 1 April 2023 for a duration of three-years, with an option to extend for up to a further two-years. Each provider will submit performance reports and attend quarterly performance monitoring meetings with the leads in my office

Grants

In 2022/23 I made £0.469m of funding available for small annual grants and funding for our four local Community safety partnership's. This was in addition to a further £0.350m of funding to support and enhance our partnership working arrangements across the county to deal with initiatives including rural, cyber crime, business crime and prevent work.

Further details on all the projects that have received funding in 2022/23 are available on the OPCC website.

Grant recipients

I was delighted to be able to host our first in-person Grant Recipients' event since 2019 due to the pandemic. The event was very well attended, and the delegates heard from previous grant recipients on the positive impact that my grants have made to their service users. The event also offered a networking opportunity for the organisations to understand each other's work. It also allowed me to meet with representatives of many of the organisations receiving a grant through my scheme to thank them for the excellent work they conduct across the county.



Scrutiny and Assurance

Governance and Performance Board

I have a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Responsibility Act 2011 to 'hold to account' the chief constable of Warwickshire Police for policing services in the county.

To fulfil this responsibility I hold a weekly meeting with the Chief Constable to discuss matters of concern and also hold a monthly 'Governance and Performance Board' (GPB). The schedule of meetings incorporates an in-depth scrutiny of force performance and finance, along with issues of interest: -

- April 2022: National Crime and Policing Measures
- May 2022: Road Safety
- June 2022: Performance / Health and Wellbeing
- July 2022: Public Engagement and Contact
- August 2022: Neighbourhood Crime
- September 2022: Performance / SOC
- October 2022: Domestic Abuse, and Rape and Serious Sexual Assault
- November 2022: Victims and Witnesses
- December 2022: Performance / Empower-People
- January 2023: Safeguarding children
- February 2023: Offender Management
- March 2023: Performance / Victims Code

Minutes of these meetings, together with quarterly scrutiny of the force's performance data, are published on the OPCC website

Inspectorate reports

In October 2022, HMICFRS published its 2021/22 inspection report for Warwickshire Police. I welcome the report as it provides an in-depth assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the force and provides several recommendations as to areas for improvement.

The findings did not come as a surprise to me as it reflects the analysis my own office undertakes, as well as some of the concerns the public have raised with me.

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
		Preventing crime	Investigating crime	
		Treatment of the public	Responding to the public	
		Protecting vulnerable people	Managing offenders	
		Developing a positive workplace		
		Good use of resources		

I have held the chief constable to account on these issues and will continue to do so. As a result, I can provide reassurance that the force's Empower change programmes, both planned and already under way, will improve its overall performance – described by HMICFRS as a cause for optimism.

National performance measures

As part of the Government's strategic priority cut crime and to improve police performance, the National Crime & Policing Measures (NC&PM) have been introduced as an element of its Beating Crim Plan: -

- Reduce murder and other homicides.
- Reduce serious violence.
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines.
- Reduce neighbourhood crime.
- Tackle cyber-crime.
- Improve satisfaction among victims.

These measures are monitored on a quarterly basis against a national baseline of June 2019, as selected by the Home Office and are published on the OPCC website.

Professional Standards

Since 2020, I have had responsibility for carrying out the appeals for complaints that have been dealt with by Warwickshire Police. These reviews enable members of the public who remain dissatisfied with their complaint to ask for it to be reviewed, providing me with a good insight as to the issues and enables me to remedy the service provided by the force. Since this legislation came into effect, the OPCC have conducted 111 complaint reviews and have made recommendations to the force to improve service delivery in 46 of these cases.

Budget

Duty

I have a statutory duty under the Police Reform and Responsibility Act 2011 to set the force budget and determine the policing precept. In properly exercising this responsibility it is essential that I achieve value for money and seek to drive out inefficiencies and maximise effectiveness wherever possible.

2022/23

In 2022/23 I approved an increase in the precept of 3.85%, which supported a fully costed budget of £121.389m to deliver the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Over 95% of the annual budget is delegated to the chief constable to deliver operational policing.

Statement of Accounts

Warwickshire PCC and force were amongst 12% of reported public bodies nationally who achieved the publication deadlines for our 2021/22 audited accounts and finance staff will be working hard to meet the tighter deadlines again this year.

The draft Statement of Accounts for the force and OPCC for 2022/23 will be produced and published by the end of May 2023 deadline and the external audit is due to commence in July 2023.

How do we spend our budget 2022/23 £121.4m?



2023/24

In preparing the budget for 2023/24, there were several key principles that both the chief constable and I agreed. They are supported through my Police and Crime Plan and the force's strategic plans and form the backdrop to how we will deliver improvement to Warwickshire Police:

- More police officers and PCSOs
- Improvements to how the public contact the police
- Improved efficiency, making best possible use of the investments in ICT made in the past few years.
- An enhanced police estate, with buildings that are fit for purpose for the people that use them and retain the geographic footprint around the county, further improvements to vehicles used by the force and a reduced carbon footprint with lower energy use.

That's why I proposed to increase the Precept by 5.3%, considerably below the current rate of inflation. This is equivalent to £14 per year on an average Band D property, or around 27 pence per week. Those in lower Council Tax bands will pay proportionately less and there is considerable financial help and support for those on lower incomes.

Among the many enhancements designed to improve the service to the public, this budget will help to ensure Warwickshire Police continues to operate on a sound and sustainable basis into the future. It is also a key part of my strategy to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer

Governance

Police and Crime Panel

It is vitally important that my activities and performance as the Police and Crime Commissioner are statutorily scrutinised and challenged to provide a 'check and balance' to the decisions that I make and the authority that I hold. The Police and Crime Panel principally perform this role. An important distinction is that the Panel is not responsible for 'holding to account' either the Chief Constable or Warwickshire Police, its purpose is to function as a 'critical friend' to me by providing both support and challenge to my role as PCC. Over the year the Panel met nine times to discharge its important statutory functions.

Underpinning the panel in Warwickshire are two separate working groups, the Performance and Planning Working Group and the Budget Working Group. These two groups conduct additional scrutiny of my work and that of OPCC.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally express my great appreciation and thanks for to the members of the Panel, both past and present, for the public serving support and challenge that they have provided to me during the past year.

The papers for the meetings of the Panel can be found at:
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=136>

Joint Audit and Standards Committee

A Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC) serves to scrutinise both Warwickshire Police and my position as the PCC. The JASC consists of five members, all independently recruited for their professional skills and expertise and meets quarterly and consider matters relating to internal and external audit, corporate governance, monetary management, standards, and ethics risk registers and HMICFRS action plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally express my appreciation to the members of the JASC for their rigorous scrutiny that they have provided during the past year.

The papers for the meetings of the Panel can be found at:
[Joint Audit and Standards Committee - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire \(warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk)

Regional Collaboration

At the regional level, the four forces of Warwickshire Police, West Mercia Police, West Midlands Police and Staffordshire Police and their respective PCCs collaborate across several specialist areas of policing, to increase efficiency and effectiveness and to meet their obligations under the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

There are formal collaborations in place across regional organised crime, counter terrorism, police air support, public order training and the delivery of police training to the new recruits. The four forces also work together across several other specialist policing capabilities such as firearms and roads policing, and Warwickshire has a bi-lateral collaboration with West Midlands Police for the provision of forensic services.

Governance of the collaborative activity takes place at the Regional Governance Group made up of the four PCCs and four Chief Constables. The structure enables oversight and collective decision-making in respect of the formal collaborations. It also provides a forum for oversight of national programmes that may have local and regional implications. This activity is facilitated by two Regional Policy Officers, jointly funded by the four PCCs

The Year Ahead

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this report, and that it goes some way to demonstrate the breadth and volume of activity I have been involved in. I am always keen to hear from residents and communities and to have an opportunity to listen to the matters that concern people. I commit to using my role to make Warwickshire safer, influencing strategically where I am able.

Looking forward to 2023/2024, I have set a clear direction of travel through the new Police and Crime Plan and have committed to strategic activity, working with partners on shared priorities and holding to account the chief constable for the activity and performance of Warwickshire Police.

I am planning a continued series of engagement and consultation activity across the next 12-months. I am already committed to attending several partnership engagement events which provide a forum for community members to engage with Warwickshire Police. The OPCC will again have a stall at Warwickshire Pride in Leamington Spa and will also be attending the Nuneaton Pride event in the summer. The Kenilworth Show in June will also provide an opportunity to engage with people from across the rural communities of Warwickshire.


I am also planning a range of engagement events across the county, including in Rugby, Coleshill, Atherstone, Nuneaton, Bedworth, Whitnash and Shipston, as well as continuing to speak at town and parish council meetings across the county.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in the coming months.

CONTACT US

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