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Police and Crime Panel 21 September 2023

Police and Crime Commissioner's Report

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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 22 June 2023. The last quarter has been a busy period, with a particularly full calendar of summer engagements and holding to account activity following a busy summer operationally for Warwickshire Police, whilst they continue to grow officer numbers and implement their new operational model.

2. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Emma Daniell is enjoying her role as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner in supporting the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan through her focus and work. In doing so, Emma has attended a wide number of community events across the county with other members of the office to engage with the public about their expectations and experiences of policing. She continues to visit both our grant recipients and the newly commissioned services to directly hear about their important work and how it is positively affecting the county's residents and communities.

The rollout of Warwickshire Police's 'Empower- People' operating model has been closely monitored and Emma has enjoyed hearing the views of operational police officers about how this change has positively affected their capacity to increase the levels of service they can now provide to victims of crime.

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

3. Emerging national and local issues

3.1. Homicide

There has rightly been much concern regarding the recent homicides in the county, notably the shooting in Leamington Spa that led to the tragic death of Ben Daly. The investigation is on-going and as such I am constrained in the information I can provide to the Panel. Nonetheless, I receive regular operational briefings from the Chief Constable and want to take this opportunity to reassure the Panel that I am confident in the force's capacity and capability to bring the offenders to justice.

HMICFRS has recently published a report following its inspection of eight police forces, 'Homicide prevention: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.' It identified that there are a range of factors that can lead to homicide and that preventing violent incidents should be a priority for every police force. The report makes recommendations for Chief Constables and provides a summary of the elements of 'good practice' that the inspection identified.

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The subject of Serious Violence and its prevention, is therefore the focus subject for the October 2023 meeting of the Governance and Performance Board, providing me with an opportunity to formally 'hold to account' the Chief Constable on this important matter of public concern. In parallel, my office continues to oversee delivery of the Serious Violence Duty, working with partner agencies in continuing to develop the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and the associated Delivery Plan.

5. Climate change and sustainability

Sustainability is a key component of Warwickshire Police's Empower change programme, to improve environmental efficiencies across the force estate and infrastructure. The Chief Constable will be providing an update at the October 2023 meeting of the Governance and Performance Board as to the force's arrangements and the progress made to achieve this aim. Following this, I will provide further information to the Panel at its next meeting in November 2023 on this increasingly important matter of public interest.

6. Police and Crime Plan

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

6.1. Fight crime and reduce offending

a) Violent Crime

Work towards completing a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for Serious Violence continues apace. 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 but is being closely supported and overseen by my Policy and Partnerships Team, who provide the conduit to the Home Office for governance and reporting purposes.

The work is currently on track for reporting outcomes to the county's Serious Organised Crime & Serious Violence Executive in November 2023, and the Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board in December 2023, prior to the Home Office deadline of 31 January 2024.

b) Serious Organised Crime

As previously reported, my Policy and Partnership Team have been working closely with Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council (WCC), and other partners, to review the necessary partnership governance and oversight arrangements for Serious Organised Crime (SOC), recognising the links from this to Serious Violence (SV), and to develop and propose new arrangements that are fit for the future. This work has now been completed and has introduced a revised partnership governance and delivery structure for both SOC and SV, overseen by a new Executive Group. A schematic of the governance structure is at Appendix A.

c) Reducing Reoffending

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My deputy Emma Daniell continues to chair the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership (DASP), which has recently been praised by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) during a deep dive of Warwickshire's drug treatment figures. DASP was specifically praised for proactively setting up the Power BI dashboard (which enables data to be tracked and analysed) and for the excellent continuity of care in the county.

My Policy and Partnership Team continues to collaborate closely with WCC and local service providers to deliver the actions within the DASP delivery plan, including monitoring the situation with synthetic opiates that have recently caused an increase of drug related deaths in the region. There is now a drug related deaths subgroup of the DASP.

I have co-commissioned a Pre-Arrest Diversionary Scheme (PADS) with the other PCCs in the region to increase drug education intervention in place of arrest, for individuals found with specific substances for personal use which commenced in September. I am currently re-commissioning drug and alcohol services for adults and young people in contact with the Criminal Justice system to begin in April 2024. Further information is provided at Para. 9.2 of this report.

6.2. Deliver visible and effective policing

a) Extra Policing

As I stated in my Annual Report 2022/23, the target for police officer numbers has now been reached. On 31st March 2023, 1113 officers had been recruited, the highest number on record for Warwickshire police in its 160 year history, meeting the Government's target.

On Tuesday 13 June 2023, I was immensely pleased to attend a celebration of Warwickshire Police's very first graduation ceremony for Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) and Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) student officers, held at force HQ at Leek Wootton.



Figure 1 - Student officer graduation ceremony

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The PCDA students were awarded a BSc (Hons) degree in Professional Policing Practice and DHEP students received a Graduate Diploma in Professional Policing Practice. Both courses were provided and delivered by Staffordshire University, and graduating student officers were joined by their very proud family and friends.

I was delighted to share this occasion with the officers. It was good to meet and talk to many of them and their families, and to get the opportunity to thank them on behalf of the communities of Warwickshire for joining the force. I look forward to working with them in keeping the county safe.

b) Neighbourhood Policing

The force's recruitment activity in 2023/24 will therefore be re-directed to the recruitment of PCSOs to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of neighbourhood policing. To support this aim the force recently held an online recruitment event, with inputs from serving PCSO, special constables, student police officers, and detectives; discussing their roles and how they arrived at them. In addition, the force has created a range of recruitment videos to be used at recruitment events and on social media, these can be viewed online at: -

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WarwickshirePolice1>

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, providing an opportunity for me to formally 'hold to account' the Chief Constable for the effectiveness and efficiency of the policing services for the county.

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.

6.3. Keep people safe and reduce harm

a) Violence Against Women and Girls

My Policy and Partnership team has 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 finalising new governance arrangements, agreeing to chair a new unified Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Group, and attending a new task and finish group to discuss offending against men and boys.

My office continues to support efforts being made by Warwickshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to improve the prosecution rate for VAWG offences, including the work being undertaken under Operation Soteria with regards to rape offences. However, concern still remains regarding the progression of VAWG cases

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within the criminal justice system and in particular the backlog of cases being listed for trial in the Crown Court (see section 5.5. for more information).

b) Vulnerability

- **Hate Crime**

My office worked in partnership with Warwickshire County Council and the Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQuIP) to organise and hold a Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board 'Big Conversation' event on 14 June 2023, with the theme of 'Ending discrimination in all its forms'.

Following the event, a new county 'Hate Crime Action Plan' has been drafted and adopted by the Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership. This includes direct references to the Big Conversation key themes and recommendations from a number of separate 'We Stand Together' events previously hosted by EQuIP in the Spring. A section has also been added to the plan to highlight the cross-cutting links between hate crime and prevent with reference to online activity, especially.

In summary, real challenges continue in terms of early effective communication to provide strong chances of productive engagement and partnership working with minority groups. Work in schools and with young people is deemed a high priority. Engagement should be multi-dimensional and not just on the grounds of race. The hate crime picture is complex and requires better joined up working between key agencies. The 'Big Conversation' demonstrated a great resolve to tackle these challenges.

- **Mental Health**

The Panel is likely to be aware of the rollout by police forces across the country of a new approach to managing mental health related calls for service – called 'Right Care Right Person' (RCRP). This provides a framework for assisting police with decision-making about when they should be involved in responding to reported incidents involving people with mental health needs.

RCRP has already been implemented in a several police force areas and has been demonstrated to successfully help in reducing inappropriate police involvement in care, and in supporting better access to mental health specialists. However, in order to ensure a consistent approach to the rollout and delivery of RCRP across the country, a National Partnership Agreement has been established between the Home Office, Department of Health & Social Care, the National Police Chiefs' Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and NHS England.

Importantly, the agreement makes it clear that local implementation of RCRP needs to be planned and developed jointly through a cross-agency partnership before changes are introduced, and that the implementation timeframe should be established following engagement with health, social care, and other relevant partners. My Policy and Partnership Team also attend a new Warwickshire Police RCRP Programme Board in order to support bringing all relevant partners together to plan and deliver this new approach.

c) Road Safety

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On Friday 7 July 2023, I attended the formal unveiling of Warwickshire's public memorial to all those killed or seriously injured on the County's roads.



The memorial was commissioned by the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership (WRSP), for which I am the chair. The event received local, regional, and national media coverage and was very well attended by many individuals, groups, and agencies.

This initiative has been hugely supported and recognised by bereaved families and road safety charities. It is seen as a groundbreaking moment in remembering road victims.

It is so important that we never forget those lives lost or injured in a collision and can honour their memories. Every person harmed in this way is one too many and this is something as a partnership we are working hard to try and change, encouraging safer road use for all.

6.4. Strengthen communities.

a) Involving communities

My office continues to operate both the volunteer Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) and the Appropriate Adult (AA) schemes.

The ICVs are a well-established system of volunteers who attend police stations unannounced to check on the treatment of people detained in custody. They talk to the detainees and observe the conditions in which they are held and ensure that their rights and entitlements are being observed. This is a statutory responsibility detailed in the Police Reform Act 2002.

The AA's support vulnerable adults in police custody and help to make sure they understand what is happening and the process is fair, the scheme ensures that vulnerable people can understand the criminal justice process, reducing the risk of unjust convictions.

My office continues its drive to further grow the numbers of volunteers who want to give their time to make a difference to their community and thereby strengthen the excellent service that is provided. In the first week of June 2023, during National Volunteers' Week, members of the OPCC presented at a volunteering fair at Nuneaton Job Centre organised by Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA). Over the course of the day they met with scores of people interested in volunteering, telling them about the opportunities available to join the Independent Custody Visiting and Appropriate Adults schemes.

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By way of a thank you and recognition, on 16 September 2023 I will be hosting a Volunteer Conference to acknowledge the work done by our volunteers and to also support their knowledge and understanding of situations that they may face when supporting detainees held in custody.

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 at: -

[Volunteer Schemes - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire \(warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk)

b) Crime Prevention

On 6 July 2023, the Home Office released details of the Safer Streets Fund Round 5, open to applications only from Local Policing Bodies. Further information on the scheme and funding is provided at Para. 9.1 of this report.

c) Partnership working

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**

In June 2023, my OPCC presented to the county ASB Practitioners' Group a summary of the various documents linked to the Government's new ASB action plan. We are seeking to develop an ASB strategy for the county so there is a single and consistent approach to tackling ASB. In addition, the OPCC are leading on the development of a revised ASB Case Review procedure for Warwickshire, which will be presented to the next Practitioners' Group in September 2023.

- **Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime**

Organised Crime Groups targeting the rural landscape continues to be a current and longer-term challenge. For example, theft of high value plant and associated GPS technology for shipping abroad into criminal markets has received widespread coverage in the media recently. Whilst not immune in Warwickshire we have not suffered as much as some areas. This is evidence of the value of dedicated resources that the Warwickshire Rural Crime Team provide and the effective partnerships we have with rural, wildlife and heritage crime partners.

I chair a county wide group twice a year and my staff also contribute to regional and national forums. I will be establishing a formalised strategy for the County Rural Crime Partnership Group that reflects National Police Chief Councils Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy and the APCC National Rural Crime Network, of which I am a committee member.

6.5. Deliver better justice for all

a) Victims and Witnesses

The Victims and Prisoners Bill is now at the Report Stage of the parliamentary process having passed through 1st reading, 2nd reading and Committee Stage. The Report Stage allows the whole House of Commons to discuss and amend the Bill as

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it sees fit. During the Committee stage' the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners gave both oral and written evidence. My office provided written evidence to the APCC which helped shape the overall evidence provided to the Committee Stage by the APCC. Central to the APCC evidence was postulating views on achieving Victim Code compliance and developing collaborative practices with partner agencies to achieve better outcomes for victims. Neither expectations will be able to be seriously developed without careful thought being given to future resource and cost implication.

Achieving code compliance requires analytical support, which in the main is not currently available. Overarching these issues is the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Currently, the PCC is often seen as a convenor and facilitator. It is the considered view that some of the aspirations of the Bill, and expectations on PCCs, will require strengthening of the convenor and facilitator approach to achieve improved outcomes for victims.

Following Report Stage the Bill will go to 3rd Reading before passing to the House of Lords. It is believed Royal Assent will occur at some point early in 2024. It is also expected that as part of the legislative process a revised Code of Practice for Victims of Crime will also be consulted upon by the Ministry of Justice. My office is monitoring that situation with a view to making submissions at the appropriate time.

In terms of achieving good victim and witness outcomes locally, it is pleasing to report that seven Crown Courts are now sitting in Warwickshire as opposed to four, 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

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, multi-agency 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

A key area of work for me and my office focuses on the complex workings of the Criminal Justice System. As a Commissioner focus is on both policing and wider crime, I want to ensure that Warwickshire residents who may transcend through the system (either as victim-survivors, witnesses, or perpetrators) receive fair and respectful treatment throughout their experience. Unsurprisingly, elements of the system are still very much dealing with the after-effects left by the pandemic, and this is likely to be the case for some time. Nevertheless, I remain committed to leading our criminal justice partners to ensure we are applying our best efforts.

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With my support Warwickshire Police remain engaged in Operation Safeguard (the reappropriation of allocated police cells due to stretched prison capacity), albeit the demand to utilise Warwickshire police cells specifically remains very low, and therefore our active participation in this regard is minimal. Notwithstanding, I am still committed to ensuring Warwickshire's co-operation within the wider criminal justice system.

As mentioned above, my office continues to support efforts being made by Warwickshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to improve the prosecution rate for VAWG offences, including the work being undertaken under Operation Soteria with regards to rape offences. However, there are concerns regarding the progression of VAWG, and other criminal cases, through Crown Court. Problems are still being experienced with regards to Crown Court listings and backlogs, but partner agencies are working incredibly hard to reduce said problems. As mentioned above, an additional three Crown Courts are now sitting in Warwickshire taking the total to seven active courtrooms. Evidently, this is a positive step forward, but we still have to exercise caution, especially when contextualised against the wider, national recruitment issues affecting both the Judiciary and HMCTS. VAWG-related issues and blockages within the system criminal justice are just two exemplars that are monitored and appropriately interrogated by the LCJB.

With support from my office, Warwickshire Police have gone live with the new two tier Out of Court Resolution Framework ahead of the national roll-out. Through the work of the LCJB, I am interested in developing an evidence-based profile that shows how, and what, out-of-court resolutions are being used in Warwickshire. Related to this, my office is responsible for (and has preliminarily redrafted) the Community Remedy document; however, this update will not be published yet as there is an ongoing public consultation. Once this has ended and alterations have been made, the revised version will go live via the OPCC website. It should be noted that dispensing justice outside of the courts via proportionate and appropriate means is not a new phenomenon; this has been a part of mainstream criminal justice for many years, but I am hopeful that this regeneration will provide both immediate and future benefits to the criminal justice system and wider society, such as reducing traffic going through the courts, and where appropriate, giving offenders the chance to change their behaviour.

7. Governance and Assurance

My primary obligations as a police and crime commissioner include: -

1. To secure the maintenance of the police force, by setting the budget.
2. To secure that the police force is efficient and effective.
3. To hold the chief constable to account for the exercise of his functions and the functions of the persons under his / her direction and control.

The following are some examples of the arrangements that are in place to facilitate these statutory requirements.

7.1. 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 :

- April - Sustainability
- May - Road Safety
- June - Cyber Crime
- July - Police Firearms
- August - Rural Crime
- September - Violence Against Women and Girls
- October - Serious Violent Crime and Prevention
- November - Victims and Witnesses
- December - Empower Change Programme Review
- January - Safeguarding
- February - Community Engagement
- March - Public Order

7.2. 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.

The Specified Information Order 2011 (amended 2021) had placed an obligation on PCCs to publish information regarding their force's performance in respect of the NCPM. The NC&PM report for Q1 2023/24 is therefore appended at Appendix B for the information of the Panel.

7.3. Police and Crime Plan delivery

The OPCC have introduced a Quarterly Assurance Meeting to assess progress against the objectives and the success measures of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025. An update on the progress made has been reported to the 'Police and Crime Panel Performance and Planning Working Group' and is therefore not replicated in this report.

7.4. Police complaint reviews

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.

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Since the 1 April 2023, the OPCC have conducted eleven complaint reviews and have upheld five of them, in that the handling and outcome to the complaint by Warwickshire Police has not been reasonable and proportionate. The recommendations made to Warwickshire Police arising from these reviews have been accepted by the force.

On 5 June 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 police complaint, anti-corruption, and vetting. A further meeting is scheduled for October 2023.

7.5 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.

On 5 July 2023, I participated in the Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC). The majority of the meetings are conducted in open session, and the agenda items for each meeting are varied. The July meeting agenda items included police complaints, police complaint reviews, updates on various financial matters, reports from internal and external audit, in addition to an overview on cyber-crime and fraud and corruption. I value the work of the committee and thank its members for their professionalism, scrutiny, and the insight they provide in discharging their responsibilities.

8. Communication and engagement

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

8.2. Stuart Ross House

On Friday 23 June 2023, HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the state-of-the-art Operations and Communications Centre (OCC) at Stuart Ross House.

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I was delighted that we were able to showcase the facility to HRH The Duke of Gloucester but even more proud that he was able to see first-hand the dedication and expertise of all of those who work within the OCC.

This facility represents a multi-million-pound investment in policing in Warwickshire and is part of the continued commitment to develop an improved service for the public.

8.3. Warwickshire Pride



On Saturday 19 August 2023, I attended the Warwickshire Pride event. This was the second year my office had a stand at the event for the entire day giving us the opportunity to talk to members of the public, explain my role, and seek feedback from the diverse communities present on a wide range of subjects.

8.4. Engagement Events

Some of the more notable occasions that Emma and I have attended over the last few months are: -

July

- 01/07/2023 - Friendship Project for Children, Kenilworth Fire Station

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- 01/07/2023 - Nuneaton Pride, Riversley Park
- 04/07/2023 - CHESS Youth Club, Nuneaton
- 13/07/2023 - Wolvey School
- 27/07/2023 - Kenilworth Market

August

- 04/08/2023 - Rugby Market
- 09/08/2023 - Bedworth Resident Involvement Day
- 16/08/2023 - Nuneaton Resident Involvement Day
- 19/08/2023 - Warwickshire Pride
- 19/08/2023 - Fillongley Show
- 22/08/2023 - Helping Hands (charity that supports homelessness)
- 24/08/2023 - Probus Club, Stratford

September

- 07/09/2023 – Polesworth Parish Council
- 10/09/2023 - Atherstone Motor Show
- 11/09/2023 - Warwickshire College, Student Welcome Event, Rugby
- 11/09/2023 - The Hive, Hill Street Community Centre, Rugby.
- 12/09/2023 - Warwickshire College, Student Welcome Event, Leamington.
- 14/09/2023 - Safer Streets Community Engagement Session, Nuneaton.
- 14/09/2023 - Ladies Community Engagement Session, Nuneaton.
- 19/09/2023 - Whitnash Community Safety Event.

9. Commissioning and Grants

9.1. Safer Streets Fund Round 5

On 6 July 2023, the Home Office released details of the Safer Streets Fund Round 5 (SSFR5) that is open to applications only from PCC's Mayors Office for Policing (Local Policing Body). The Safer Streets programme is specifically targeted at crime prevention and for Round 5 it is prioritising very specific interventions to address Neighbourhood Acquisitive Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and VAWG in public places.

Under SSFR5, up to £1m of potential Warwickshire funding has been made available. My office has worked closely with partners, in particular Warwickshire County Council, the five District / Borough Councils, and Warwickshire Police to develop proposals and to submit them to the Home Office ahead of the deadline of 29 August 2023. Should the Home Office approve these proposals, all geographical areas of Warwickshire will benefit from the funding and the interventions it will support.

9.2. Criminal Justice-related Substance Misuse Services

The procurement stage of the criminal justice related substance misuse service commissioning process is underway, with two service lots currently being tendered, for adults and young people. The new contracts are due to be in place by the 1 April

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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.

During the market engagement and now period of tender, potential bidders have the opportunity to ask clarification questions regarding the specification and documentation provided, in order to help them prepare their bids. A significant number of questions have been received from potential bidders, which I believe is a fair indicator of the level of interest in the tender. I am hopeful therefore that this round of commissioning will ensure that service provision meets the identified needs of service users, and offer good value for money, in line with my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Staff from my office will be working with other colleagues over the Autumn to evaluate bids in line with the agreed framework, and preferred bidders will be selected later in the year. Once this is known, a period of contract mobilisation work will commence to ensure that any transitioning from the current contracts will be seamless, with minimal disruption to service users, in anticipation of the new contracts commencing on the 1 April 2024.

9.3. Sexual Assault Referral Service

The OPCC has been working closely with regional partners to re-commission the adult Sexual Assault Referral Service (SARC) support services that will be delivered across the West Midlands, including locally from the Blue-Sky centre at the George Eliot Hospital site in Nuneaton.

Following a comprehensive evaluation process of the bids during the summer, a preferred provider is in the process of being identified, and further details will be shared at an appropriate time in due course. The new contract will go live from the 1 April 2024, and my office will continue to assist throughout the mobilisation period to ensure that the service transition is smooth.

9.4. Independent Roads Victim Advisor (IRVA) Service

Following a successful procurement process for an Independent Roads Victims Advisor support service, work is now underway to finalise the contract terms prior to the contract go live on the 1 October 2023.

The new contract will run for at least a three-year period and will provide enhanced support for the victims of road traffic collisions and further supports my commitments on road safety and for improved services for victims as outlined in my Police and Crime Plan.

10. Finance

10.1. Statement of Accounts

Following the publication of the draft 2022/23 statement of accounts in May 2023, the external audit is progressing well, and it is hoped that work will be complete before the 30 September 2023, when opinions are due. At the time of writing there are no significant issues that have been identified by Grant Thornton and I feel optimistic and look forward to receiving their audit findings report in due course. If the

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statements are signed off by the 30 September this will undoubtedly again represent a significant achievement and put Warwickshire within what is expected to be a small minority of organisations to do so. The backlogs and delays with statutory audits across the country and sector is well documented, so I am particularly proud of the position in Warwickshire, thanks to the work of a number of colleagues.

10.2. Pay Award

The police officer and staff pay award has been agreed at 7%, payable from September 2023, and an additional central government pay grant will be received to meet any costs above a 2% increase. The position on the recruitment of officers remains optimistic and the first monitoring point for securing the payment of uplift funding will be at the end of September 2023, which the force is on course to meet.

10.3. Operational costs

It has been a busy year operationally, largely due to a number of incidents that have occurred within the County. On top of this Warwickshire Police has supported national events, which have yielded income to the force in exchange for officer time. Locally additional income has also been received from higher investments due to recent increase in interest rates, but also from abnormal loads income associated with HS2 traffic, and lower running costs, largely as the result of rates rebates for the Justice centres.

10.4. Budget spend

I continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for her spending against the 2023/24 revenue budget. I receive regular monthly updates, and at the end of July 2023, a year-end forecast underspend of £0.535m has been reported.

Expenditure on capital schemes is forecast to be £10.673m against a total budget of £12.644m, including slippage from 2022/23. This includes capital investment in estates, ICT and fleet, which will be funded primarily from borrowing, revenue contributions, and reserves.

The closing balance on reserves at year end is forecast to be £12.089m, which is broadly in line with expectations. Reserve levels will be considered more fully as part of the budget process for 2024/25 to ensure that they remain adequate to manage risk.

10.7. Budget planning

Work on the budget for 2024/25 has already commenced, and I have received a briefing on some of the main issues for consideration in 2024/25 and across the medium-term, including options for meeting the £3m savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

This 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 my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.

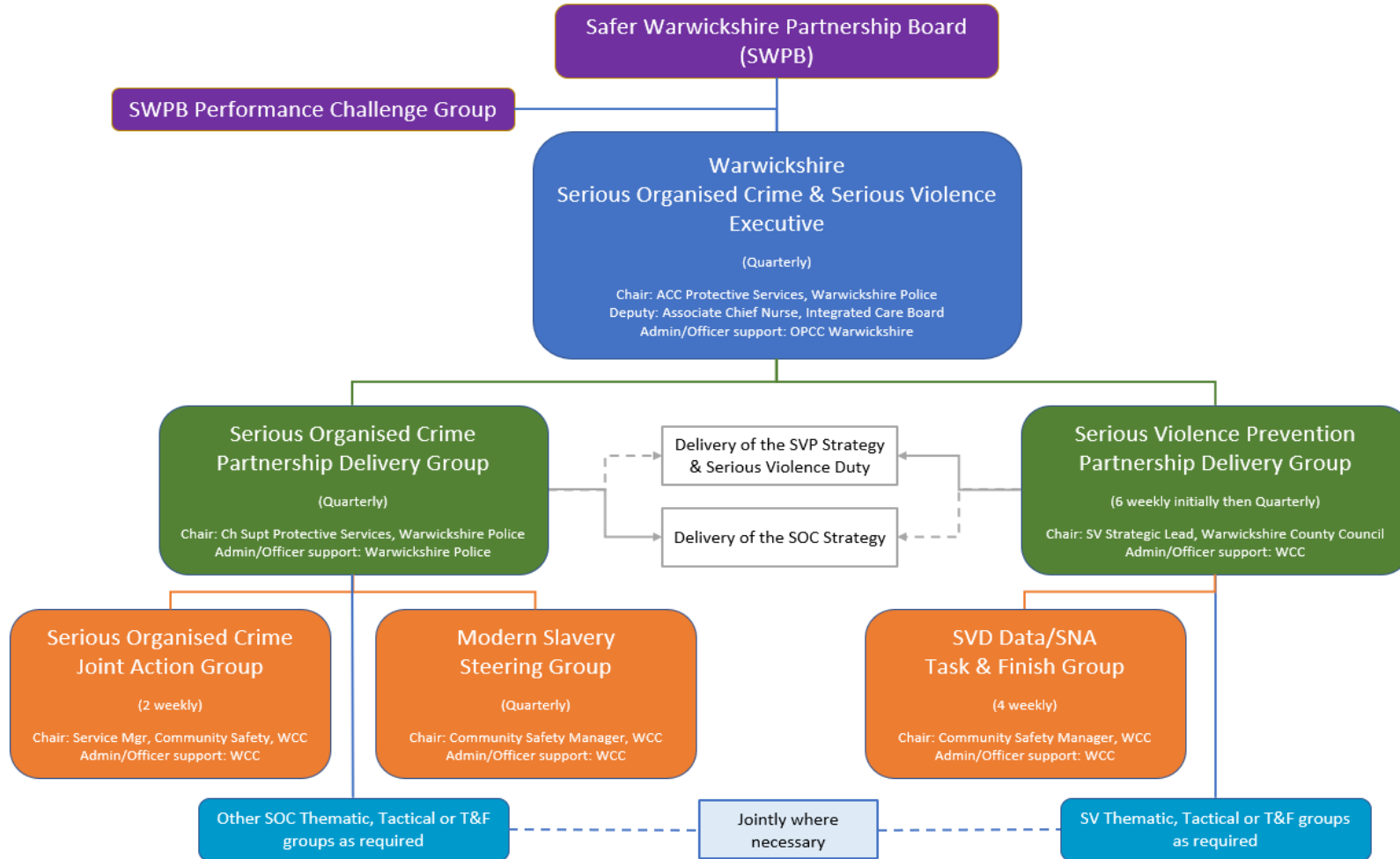
11. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In July 2023, I welcomed Cara Giacalone to the OPCC. Cara is our first intern and I very much look forward to working with her, as this presents an exciting development opportunity for both Cara and the team.

In August 2023, Precious Williamson as the OPCC Commissioning and Grants Officer departed for a new role. I'd like to formally thank Precious for all her good work in establishing the important critical services that I commission and for effectively managing my annual grants scheme. I wish her much success in her new venture. Her successor is in the process of being recruited to the role.

Appendix A

SOC/SV Partnership Governance and Delivery structures





National Crime and Policing Measures

Q1 2023/24

1. Statement of Contribution

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 NC&PM 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.

On 31 March 2022, the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) formally published the 'Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025'. The objectives set within the plan have been formulated with the NCPM in mind.

The PCC wants to ensure that all agencies are working together to reduce crime, support victims and make communities safer, to ensure delivery against the NCPM priorities. This collaboration is achieved through regular engagement with local communities, the police, partners, and community safety organisations. The PCC's position as the Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board also enables him to monitor the provision of an effective and efficient criminal justice system in Warwickshire.

In terms of the PCC responsibilities to 'hold to account' the chief constable for the performance of Warwickshire Police, the PCC holds a formal monthly 'Governance and Performance Board' (GPB) meeting with the chief constable. The purpose of the GPB is to focus on specific areas of force performance and the meeting is also attended by senior officers and staff from both the force and the OPCC. The minutes of the meetings are published on the OPCC website. At each GPB a topical 'Focus' subject of particular interest is selected for in-depth scrutiny and discussion.

2. Warwickshire Police Overview

The NCPM are set to be monitored on a quarterly basis and the Government's baseline for the NCPM data is June 2019. There is an expectation that PCC's will explain how their force is performing against the measures (Specified Information Order).

Whilst there are national key performance measures against the six priority areas, some of these are not available or appropriate for the force to report against. A case in point is the priority to 'reduce serious violence', where one of the national metrics is hospital admissions of under 25's for assault with a sharp object. However, this data is not held by the police and the force are unable to assess its reliably e.g. does the data exclude residents outside of Warwickshire who present at its hospitals.

The force has therefore selected some additional proxy measures which are used to assess Warwickshire Police's contribution to the national priorities. The force has used comparative data where it is available to contextualise performance. It is expected the force will continue to develop its approach with the OPCC to ensure it is appropriately aligned with the national position.

3. Performance Q1 2023/24

3.1. Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

The latest data available data in Warwickshire Police's Performance Report for June 2023, shows that there were no recorded homicide offences in the month, with one homicide recorded during the last six-months - representing a 50% reduction on the same period last year. The force are not considered by the HO to be an 'outlier'.

- **OPCC Commentary**

The comments in the Performance Report are noted regarding the small number of homicides committed in Warwickshire.

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

3.2. Reduce Serious Violence

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

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a) Offences Involving the use of Firearms.

The Home Office data collection reports on offences where a firearm was used as a 'threat'. In Q1 2023/24, there were 26 firearms offences recorded with 17 offences recorded in June 2023. It is understood that this recent increase was driven by repeat offenders - predominately children and young persons (C&YP) - using BB guns or air weapons to threaten other C&YP. There was however one serious shooting involving a sawn-off shotgun which was recorded as an attempted murder.

b) Offences Involving Knives or Sharp Instruments.

In May 2023, there were 50 crimes of knife crime recorded, representing the highest figure in the last 12-months and substantially above the 3-year average.

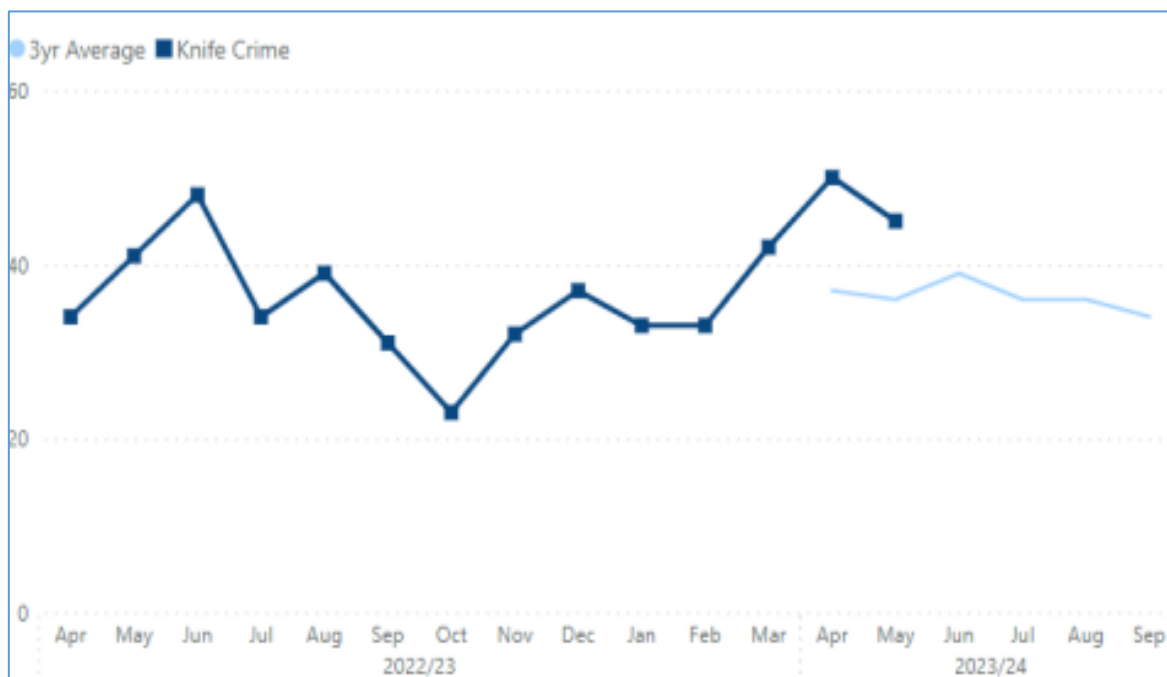


Figure 1 – Knife Crime Volumes

The comments in the performance report are noted regarding the potential for a seasonal increase during Q2 2022/23, driven by the school holidays and increase in the night-time economy.

c) Serious Violence.

- **Violence with Injury**

In June 2023, Violence with Injury offences increased by 12% (n=481) representing the highest total during the last 3-years, most notably in the North Local Policing Area (LPA). In May 2023, the 'action taken' outcome rate at 7.3%. Volumes are predicted to rise during Q2 2023/24, given the previous experience of the last few years.

- **Robbery**

In June 2023, the volumes of Robbery Personal returned to the 3-year average, however the incidents where a knife (or threat of knife) was used during the commission of the offence has increased, constituting a third (n=10) of all offences.

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There is concern regarding the low 'action taken' rates (3.2%), albeit caution is advised due to volatility in the relatively small volume of such offences and in expressing them as a percentage.

- **OPCC Commentary**

The recent increase in the volumes of firearms offences / knife crime / serious violence is a cause for concern, as are the relatively low 'action taken' rates; compounded by the expectation that volumes may continue to rise during Q2 2023/24. 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 mitigate against the predicted seasonal increase and improve the 'action taken' rates.

The OPCC Policy and Partnerships Team continue to work closely with partners to support the delivery of the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy and oversee delivery of the Serious Violence Duty, including the undertaking of a countywide Needs Assessment. Work on this will continue over the next two years, including delivery of a range of county and local intervention to reduce and prevent serious violence.

In addition, the OPCC has been working closely with Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council, and other partners, to review the necessary partnership governance and oversight arrangements for Serious Organised Crime (SOC), recognising the links from this to Serious Violence, and to develop and propose new arrangements that are fit for the future.

3.3. Disrupt Drug Supply & County Lines

The Govt. 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.

a) Drug related homicides

There were no recorded homicide offences in Q1 2023/24.

b) Disruptions.

*Information not included in the Performance Report.

- **OPCC Commentary**

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 considerably public concern.

3.4.Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

The Govt. measures are: -

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

The force’s measures are the corresponding Home Office Recorded Crime categories.

a) Burglary

In June 2023, volumes of Burglary Residential decreased to the second lowest level in the previous 12-months and below the 3-year average. In May 2023, the ‘action taken’ rate remains at 4.3%. There is again a recommendation made in the Performance Report regarding improving these outcome rates.

b) Theft Person

In Q1 2023/24, volumes have remained stable but are significantly above the preceding months and above the 3-year average and the forecast.

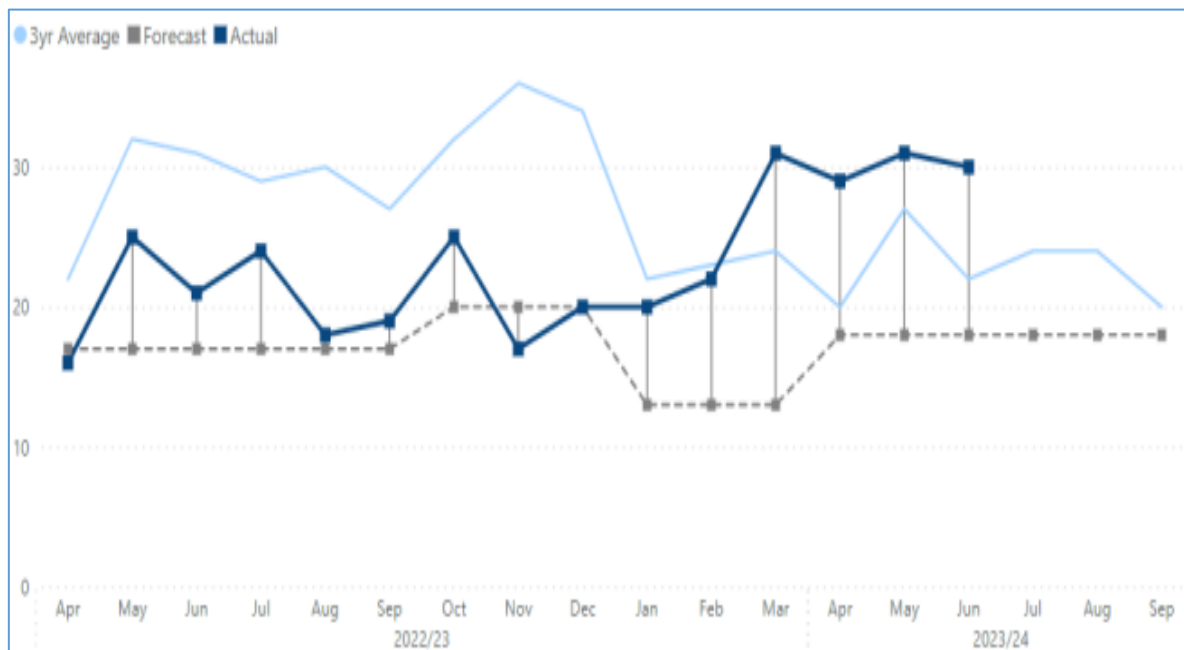


Figure 2 – Theft from Person Volumes

This trend is observed in all three Local PAs, where over half of the offences were related to ‘pickpocket’ crimes. A recommendation is made in the Performance Report to for increased prevention, particularly at tourist sites, including the need for a public information communication campaign.

c) Theft from, and of, vehicle

In June 2023, volumes are now back in line with the 3-year average and are also below the forecast. Warwickshire remains an ‘outlier’ in its MSG but has improved two places nationally to 36th. Decreases were experienced in both the East and

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South LPA but increased in the North by 23 offences (n=126). Of note is that motorcycle theft accounted for 21% of offences in the North LPA. In May 2023, the 'action taken' for Vehicle Crime was 1.5%.

- **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 Q2 2023/24.

b) Theft from Persons

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 Q2 2023/24.

c) 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.

3.5. Tackle Cyber Crime

The Govt. measures are: -

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

The force's proxy measures are: -

a) Action Fraud cyber dependent victim referrals where advice given

*Information not included in the Performance Report.

- **OPCC Commentary**

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

3.6. Improve Satisfaction Among Victims

The Govt. 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: -

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

a) Domestic abuse victim satisfaction survey

Warwickshire Police has now set 'target rates' for Victim Satisfaction with domestic abuse at 80% or above. In June 2023, the rolling 6-month 'whole experience satisfaction' trend stood at 77% and was therefore below the target. The rolling satisfaction rate for domestic abuse has trended downwards for the last 6-months, falling from a high of 83% in December 2022 to 77% in June. 2023. Levels remain just below the target set. A recommendation is made in the performance report to seek to improve domestic abuse satisfaction to avoid a downwards trend.

- **OPCC Commentary**

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 Q2 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.