



Police and Crime Panel 7 March 2024

Police and Crime Commissioner's Report

Report Date	28 February 2024
Security Classification	Official
Disclosable under Freedom of Information Act?	No

Standing Agenda Items

1. Details of key activities and decisions taken since the previous meeting
2. Details of any emerging local and national issues.
3. Climate change and sustainability considerations.
4. Progress made against Police and Crime Plan objectives
5. Criminal Justice System considerations.
6. Governance and holding to account activities
7. National Crime and Policing Measures
8. Communications and engagement activities
9. Grants and commissioning
10. Financial summary

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 (DPCC), and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) since the Panel's previous meeting on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

This period excludes the meeting of the Panel on Monday 5 February 2023, which was convened solely to consider the police budget and precept proposals for Warwickshire for the fiscal year 2024/25. I wish to put on record my personal thanks to the members of the Panel for the scrutiny, challenge, and support that they provided to me during this important democratic process in determining the precept; also, for the unanimous vote in support of my proposal for the increase in the precept.

At previous meetings of the Panel, in addition to those subjects already identified in its scheduled work programme, several requests were made for further topics to be included in future reports. The totality of these remaining requests is: -

1. **Empower – People:** *“A review of this pillar of Warwickshire Police’s change programme would be undertaken, with an update provided later in the year.”* An update on this subject will be provided to the meeting of the Planning and Performance Working Group as it accords with the Panel’s recommendations following its agreement to the police precept.
2. **Homicide:** *“To be revisited at a future meeting to examine the specific areas of good practice adopted by Warwickshire Police and the OPCC to respond to homicide.”* An update on this subject will be provided in a future report to the Panel.

2. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Emma Daniell in her role as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to supporting me in delivering the ambitions of my Police and Crime Plan and continues to direct her energy in attending community events and listening to the views of the county's communities. These interactions feed directly into both the OPCC and Warwickshire Police to improve the delivery of policing services in the county.

Emma's portfolio of interest has grown as she has directly responded to the rise in retail crime across the county and is now leading the Retail Crime Response within the OPCC, with a partnership event recently held to encourage partnership working around both the prevention and detection of retail crime. Several of the commissioned services and grant recipients are directly involved in the event and the benefits of these services are being seen across businesses. Emma is now a board member on the Regional Cyber Resilience Forum and is working to ensure that Warwickshire is being supported by this regional resource to prevent cyber-attacks to businesses in the county. Details of this facility can be found at:

<https://www.wmcrc.co.uk/membership>

3. Emerging national and local issues

3.1. Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

My term of office as the PCC for Warwickshire will end on Wednesday 8 May 2024. Information regarding PCC candidates in each policing area will be published by the Cabinet Office. Their website as a single, central site for information relating to candidates in each individual policing area. The site will be updated with the 2024 election candidates in April 2024 after the nomination period has closed: <https://choosemyppcc.org.uk/>.

Election Protocol

The OPCC is consequently preparing for the election of the PCC for the new term of office. This includes the production of an 'Election Protocol' that sets out the arrangements to ensure that candidates and potential candidates participating in the election are dealt with in a fair, transparent and impartial manner. The protocol also provides guidance and safeguards to all staff of the OPCC and Warwickshire Police, to avoid allegations of bias. The election is planned to take place on 2 May 2024.

Roles and responsibilities

- The Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) is Mr Steve Maxey, Chief Executive of North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- The OPCC CEO and Monitoring Officer is Mrs Polly Reed.

4. Police and Crime Plan

A summary of activities undertaken in support of the five principal objectives of my Police and Crime Plan since the since the previous meeting of the Panel are as follows: -

4.1. Fight crime and reduce offending

a) Violent Crime

- **Warwickshire Serious Violence Prevention Strategy**

The Strategic Needs Assessment for Serious Violence is now complete and has informed a refresh and relaunch of the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. Both items were required because of the new Serious Violence Duty and have been submitted to the Home Office by the required deadline on 31 January 2024. This work continues to be led by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of all duty holders, driven through the Serious Violence Partnership Delivery Group. It is closely overseen and supported by my Office, as the conduit to the Home Office for governance and reporting purposes.

b) Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

- **SOC Partnership Delivery**

My office continues to work with Warwickshire Police and other partners via the county's SOC Partnership Delivery Group to move forward with the 'Clear, Hold, Build' initiative (locally named as Operation Stronghold). The aim is to start

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implementation by the end of March 2024. My Office is also involved in drafting a local SOC partnership strategy, which will consider the revised national SOC strategy that was published in December 2023.

c) Reducing Reoffending

- **Reducing Reoffending Strategic Framework**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending. My office has assisted in a review of the approach in Warwickshire, which has resulted in a new Reducing Reoffending Framework being developed that is fit-for-purpose for the future.

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. I am therefore pleased to report that as of February 2024 the headcount strength of Warwickshire Police stands at 1,122 police officers.

b) Neighbourhood Policing

The force's recruitment activity in 2023/24 has been directed to the recruitment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of neighbourhood policing. I am therefore please to report that as of February 2024 a total of 19 candidates are going through final checks for the April 2024 intake of PCSOs, with a further seven applicants to be interviewed.

Neighbourhood Policing week of action took place in the third week of January 2024. This national event provided an opportunity to support Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers and staff with a range of informative updates and some wellbeing inputs to support them in their challenging role. It allowed the police to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of all SNTs.

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. The other elements of 'Empower-Place' and 'Empower-Technology' continue to be progressed by the force and are scrutinised by my office through formal governance arrangements.

4.3. Keep people safe and reduce harm

a) Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- **Warwickshire VAWG Board / Strategy**

VAWG continues to be a priority for my office, who work closely with partners to progress actions and activity in support of the strategy. A review has taken place into tackling Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) by children, and a consequential realigning of that work to the county's Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Steering

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Group has been agreed. My office is also assisting the VAWG Board with a deep-dive into stalking behaviour, which is currently being undertaken by the Community Safety Analysts that I fund.

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

My office continues to support the work of the county's RASSO Steering Group. The most recent work of the Group is focused on better understanding and responding more effectively to the concerns raised in relation to sexual offences amongst children and young people. A lot of these behaviours are internet related and linked to indecent / pornographic imagery which is fuelling HSB and leading to offending of the most serious type. All support services are reporting increased referrals.

Other matters of current interest include best use of special measures in the court environment, especially pre-recorded cross examination evidence and properly understanding and responding effectively to victim's needs. Hearing the 'victim's voice' is critical.

- **Interpersonal violence against men and boys**

As previously reported, this is an area of developing concern and increased petitioning from representative groups. My office is now assisting the VAWG Board with a deep-dive into this area of concern and will be undertaken by the Community Safety Analysts. I continue to ensure that the victims services I commission (either solely or in partnership) are always available to men and boys, who represent 25% - 33% of victims of domestic abuse.

b) Vulnerability

- **Warwickshire Safeguarding – Exploitation Strategy**

My office is currently supporting Warwickshire Safeguarding with a review of its Exploitation Strategy. This review falls into two parts, firstly the consideration of exploitation of adults and then secondly the exploitation of children and young people. This work commences with a workshop on each subject during February and March 2024.

- **Working Together 2023**

On 15 December 2023, HM Government issued a substantial (168 pages) replacement statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023'. It sets out key roles for individual organisations and agencies to deliver effective arrangements to help, support, safeguard, and protect children. It is issued under a range of legislation but principally the Children Act 2004.

This latest version is the first update since 2018 and makes several substantial changes, including the formal introduction of a new role of Lead Safeguarding Partner. The Chief Constable is one of three role holders of this role along with the Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council, and the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board. I have already engaged with the Chief Constable in relation to these recent changes, with implementation anticipated to be in Autumn 2024. My office will work closely to support the force and Warwickshire Safeguarding during this time.

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- **Mental Health – Right Care Right Person (RCRP)**

My office continues to be engaged in overseeing the implementation of RCRP in Warwickshire. At its centre is a revision by Warwickshire Police of the way in which it responds to mental health related incidents. The force is actively engaged with relevant partners in planning the change, and the partnership board across Warwickshire, Coventry, and the wider West Midlands region continues to meet to ensure there is a coordinated and consistent approach. Learning from the implementation of RCRP in other areas of the country is a crucial element of the approach taken. If implemented successfully, people with mental health needs will see an improved response from those organisations that are best placed to support them to recover; the police will also be relieved of many hours' worth of officer time that can be redeployed into core policing responsibilities.

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

Warwickshire continues to develop a joined up and more knowledgeable approach to MSHT through the work of county's Modern Slavery Steering Group, actively supported by my office. The Steering Group has also been reviewing the recently published First Report of Session 2023/24 from the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee on Human Trafficking, to identify key learning that can be implemented in Warwickshire. The work of the Independent Modern Slavery Advocate (IMSA) role that I fund continues to develop, but it is important to note that each case is complex and requires significant investment in time.

c) Road Safety

It is concerning to report that the number of people killed and seriously injured on Warwickshire roads is returning to pre-pandemic levels. This is reflected regionally and nationally and is a matter of widespread concern, despite all the work that is achieved by roads policing and road safety professionals. On 1 March 2024 I am chairing a conference in which the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership will take stock of its progress to date and consider how it will continue to deal with the challenge of achieving the aim of reducing all death and serious injury on the county's roads by 50% by 2030.

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.

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. In 2023 the ICVs have visited over 250 detainees. My office hosted the Annual General ICV meeting on 27th January 2024 to review the scheme in 2023 and also ensure the scheme is compliant with national

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membership body ICVA, welcoming the CEO and other guest speakers, offering learning opportunities for volunteers and sharing experiences with peers.

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. This year the AAs have provided over 200 hours in custody supporting vulnerable detainees.

My office continues to work closely with custody officers and staff and has supported in offering insights to improve the custody environment.

My office continues to 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.

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: - [Jobs and Opportunities - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire \(warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/jobs-and-opportunities).

b) Crime Prevention

- **Retail Crime**

On Thursday 22 February 2024 I hosted a Warwickshire Retail Crime Conference with stakeholders to discuss our collective approach to addressing this growing area of concern. Retailers of all scales continue to lobby for improved police response to unprecedented levels of theft from the retail environment. Those criminally operating in this landscape range from determined individuals feeding a significant drug habit to organised crime gangs using vulnerable people to steal who are often victims themselves of trafficking and slavery. I am therefore pleased to report that Warwickshire Police has implemented a dedicated investigation team to respond to retail crime. In a few months they have radically and positively changed a lot of the investigation outcomes.

- **School Attendance**

My office has begun to engage with Warwickshire County Council in relation to the absence of children from education. Absence has a range of negative impacts on children's attainment, health, and future earnings - it is also a critical safeguarding issue. If children are not in school, we cannot be assured they are safe, nor can we be sure that they are staying out of trouble. Whilst most of the absence is not truancy, absence can be a risk factor for involvement in crime. Collaborative work is required on this area, and my office is exploring with partners what this may need to look like.

c) Partnership working

- **Criminal Justice Bill**

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The Panel may be aware that the Criminal Justice Bill is currently in the Committee Stage in the House of Commons. The Bill includes a new power conferred on PCCs to make recommendations to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) about how they formulate and implement the strategies required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This provision is intended by Government to strengthen and improve how PCC's and CSPs work together to tackle crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour - recognising that no one single agency can address all its drivers. My office continues to monitor the Bill through its passage towards Royal Assent.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

The review of the partnership approach to tackling ASB across is being led by my office. The ASB Partnership Forum has now agreed a revised approach, which takes account of new statutory guidance published in 2023, to undertaking ASB Case Reviews and subsequent Appeals

Following an ASB workshop in November 2023, my office is now leading on producing a county-wide ASB strategy to support CSPs in their statutory obligation to have a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, including ASB. This strategy will reference the ASB policies of Warwickshire Police and of the district and borough councils, as well acknowledging the national ASB principles, statutory guidance and the Action Plan issued by Government in 2023. A first draft of this strategy will be shared with the ASB Practitioners Forum in March 2024.

I am currently awaiting detail from the Home Office as regards to the £1 million awarded to all Police and Crime Commissioners to tackle ASB hotspots through the provision of additional visible patrols. I mentioned previously that an ASB dashboard was being built by the Community Safety Analysts, this is nearing completion and will be able to evidence where the ASB hotspots are across the county.

I am also waiting for the final results of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) review and ASB Powers consultation which the Home Office undertook last spring. Some consultation proposals are being taken forward via the Criminal Justice Bill, as mentioned above, but further detail relating to the role of PCCs is still unclear.

- **Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime**

The rural environment continues to present much work to Warwickshire Police's Rural Crime Team and the South Warwickshire Rural Crime Prevention Coordinators. Their work is valued by many and I was incredibly pleased to see that they were all recognised for their invaluable work by the recent Police Neighbourhood Awards. My decision to help fund and support these areas of work is very worthwhile. Listening to the concerns of rural communities is essential and I will be meeting with farmers in both the north and south of the county this month to further understand the issues and to consider how best I can help.

4.5. Deliver better justice for all

a) Victims and Witnesses; b) Improved Communication

- **Victims and Prisoners Bill**

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The Victims and Prisoners Bill is now at the Committee Stage within the House of Lords for scrutiny and consideration of amendments prior to being passed back to the House of Commons. My office is following the debates with much interest. It is still anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in the Spring.

c) Justice Outcomes

- **Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)**

A key area of work for both me and the OPCC remains focused on the complex workings of the Criminal Justice System. I am therefore pleased to report that the extensive review of Warwickshire's LCJB was completed in December 2023. This review includes a refresh of the multi-agency strategic priorities and focus areas, a new delivery plan, and the introduction of new policy mechanisms to aide and assist the important work of the LCJB.

More broadly, there are some positive signs of improvements locally in court backlogs, which have reduced over the last 6 months. However, they remain above pre-Covid levels and are affected by national issues such as the recruitment of Judges and Barristers.

- **Criminal & Family Justice**

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 victim-survivors, witnesses, or offenders) receive fair and respectful treatment throughout their experience. One of the priorities is 'Putting Victims, Survivors, and Witnesses First'. Contributing towards this priority, my Criminal Justice Policy Officer is developing a closer working relationship between the LCJB, and the Family Justice System (FJS). This has emerged as a crucial area of work collaborative work and will benefit those transcending through both the criminal and family court systems.

5. Governance and Assurance

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

- A statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the police to account on behalf of the public.
- To maintain an efficient and effective police force for the police area;
- To scrutinise, support and challenge the overall performance of the force including against the priorities agreed within the Police and Crime Plan;
- To hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force's officers and staff.

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

5.1. Governance and Performance Board

Each month I hold a formal Governance and Performance Board 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

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and finance, along with topical issues of interest. A 'Focus' topic is selected for additional scrutiny at each meeting: -

2024

- January - Safeguarding Children
- February - Victims and Witnesses Bill / Victims Code
- March - Strategic Policing Requirements (Public Order)
- April - Roads
- May - Safeguarding Children
- June - Business / Retail Crime
- July - Custody
- August - Artificial Intelligence
- September - Public Trust and Confidence
- October - Health & Wellbeing
- November - Cybercrime / Fraud
- December - County-lines / Organised Crime Groups

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.

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 NCPM report for Q3 2023/24 is therefore appended at Appendix A for the information of the Panel.

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.

The 19 February 2023, the Independent Office for Police Conduct published its complaints data for Q3 2023/24. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 requires the Police and Crime Commissioner to publish the most recent quarterly complaints data for their force. The data and reports are to be published within one month of publication by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and reviewed quarterly. Consequently, this information has been published on the OPCC website at: - <https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

On 16 January 2024, I met with the Head of the force's Professional Standards Department (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.

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Since the 1 April 2023, to date the OPCC have conducted twenty-four complaint reviews, of which ten 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 23 January 2024, I participated in the Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC). 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. The Committee will meet again on the 27 March. Members of the Committee usually attend Police and Crime Panel meetings to keep abreast of issues and avoid any duplication of effort.

5.5 Police and Crime Panel Performance & Working Group

A meeting of the 'Police and Crime Panel Performance and Planning Working Group' is scheduled for 28 March 2024, where the OPCC will be represented by Claire Morris and David Patterson from the Assurance team. The OPCC has prepared a report of cybercrime-fraud for consideration at the meeting.

6. Communication and Engagement

Since the last Panel report, my Deputy and I have been maintaining my programme of engagement events around the county, seeking to reach as diverse a range of communities as possible.

As the winter months have unfolded, we have both been please to attend many of the Warm Hubs which have been organised through the Warwickshire Rural Community Council. They are an ideal opportunity to sit and talk with members of the community who might not otherwise have an opportunity to discuss community safety and policing issues with. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Emma Daniell is pictured below at the Hillmorton Warm Hub.

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I was pleased in February 2024 to attend Warwickshire Police's Neighbourhood Policing Awards in Rugby. The event was part of Neighbourhood Policing Week, which highlights the pivotal role played by Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) in keeping communities safe.

I know that across Warwickshire SNTs are valued very highly by the public, so I was delighted to see their work commended in this way, alongside the partnership activities which help to underpin that activity. I presented the Nuneaton & Bedworth SNT with the 'Team Initiative of the Year Award' for their work in bringing the Knife Angel to Nuneaton last year and the successful Operation Outfitter to tackle youth violence in the town. I was also pleased to see the Stratford Rural Crime Advisors, who I fund alongside the District Council, recognised for their work to keep rural communities safe.

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Other engagement events throughout the period have included:

December 2023

- Warwickshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, Leek Wootton.
- Project EDWARD Parliamentary Reception, London.
- Leamington Spa Probus Club.
- Shotteswell Warm Hub

January 2024

- Student Officer Passing-Out Ceremony, Warwick.^{1*}
- Warwickshire Search and Rescue event, Stoneleigh.*
- Lillington Warm Hub, Leamington Spa.
- Rugby Warm Hub.
- Independent Custody Visitors' AGM, Leek Wootton.
- Warwick Warm Hub.

February 2024

- Wolvey Warm Hub.*
- Salford Priors Parish Council.
- Bedworth Police Station - visit to Patrol officers.
- Snitterfield Women's Institute.
- Atherstone Warm Hub.
- Warwickshire County Rural & Wildlife Crime Meeting, Stoneleigh.
- Visit to Leamington LAMP (CSP-funded initiative).*

¹ * Deputy PCC engagement

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- North Warwickshire Farmers' Meeting, Fillongley.
- Youth Justice Leaders' Summit, Birmingham.*
- Refreshing Warwickshire's Approach to Retail Crime Event, Leamington Spa.
- National Police Chaplaincy Commissioning Service, Birmingham.*
- Camp Hill Community Forum, Nuneaton.
- South Warwickshire Farmers Meeting, Wootton Wawen.
- South Warwickshire Partnership Board Big Event, Rugby.

7. Commissioning and Grants

7.1. Safer Streets Fund Round 5

I previously reported that we had secured £1m of Home Office funding to support crime and disorder interventions across Warwickshire (£465k in 2023/24 and £565k in 2024/25). Unfortunately, we have recently been informed by the Home Office that nationally the funding for the 2024/25 element has been reduced by £180k per Local Policing Body, namely to £335k. The revised breakdown of allocations by agency is shown below and has now been re-approved by the Home Office. Some projected underspending was anticipated against the 2023/24 projects, and this has enabled some 2024/25 projects to be brought forward, ensuring that much of the original programme of works can still be completed within the funding envelope.

Agency	Funding 2023-25	Interventions
North Warwickshire Borough Council	£87,495	CCTV
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	£20,000	CCTV
Rugby Borough Council	£174,769	CCTV, Lighting, Help points
Stratford on Avon District Council	£70,000	CCTV
Warwick District Council	£275,123	CCTV, Community Wardens, training
Warwickshire County Council	£119,869	Coordinator, Community Engagement, Community identified interventions
OPCC Warwickshire	£8,544	Administration
Warwickshire Police	£34,200	VAWG Training
Crimestoppers	£30,000	Engagement campaign
Total	£820,000	

7.2. Criminal Justice-related Substance Misuse Services

The mobilisation process for the OPCC three-year commissioned contracts for the criminal justice related Drug and Alcohol Service for Adults and the separate contract for children and young people is well underway, and new services will commence from April 2024. Services will be co-located where appropriate in police estate, to ensure the best outcomes, and to drive up referral rates. Performance will be monitored through a range of key performance indicators.

7.3. Commissioner's Grants Scheme 2024/25

All grant applicants have now been updated on the outcome of their applications to the 2024/25 grants round.

A total of 57 applications were received, with a total funding ask of £660k, significantly oversubscribed against the budget of £300k. The evaluation process took place between 12 November 2023 and the 3 January 2024, followed by a period of various due diligence checks including qualitative and quantitative work to ensure that the successful organisations had appropriate safeguarding arrangements, relevant policies, financial standing, and insurances in place to meet the eligibility criteria.

Twenty-nine organisations have been awarded funding under the Small Grants Scheme, along with a further three organisations for road safety projects. All details in relation to the of the successful organisations will be posted on the OPCC website in due course.

8. Finance

8.1. Statement of Accounts

I am pleased to report that the external audit of the 2022/23 Statement of accounts by Grant Thornton is now complete and an unqualified opinion has been received. Grant Thornton have also issued a positive report on the PCC and forces arrangements for value for money. Both are published on the OPCC website. This concludes our work with Grant Thornton and future external audits will be conducted under the new contract with Azets.

8.2. Forecast outturn 2023/24

Revenue

I continue to 'hold to account' the Chief Constable for her spending against the 2023/24 revenue budget. I receive regular monthly updates, and at the end of December 2023, a year-end forecast underspend of £0.156m has been reported. I welcome this position, which is broadly consistent with the reporting in preceding months.

The most significant expenditure variance is on police officer overtime (£1.884m) which has arisen due to various serious and complex investigations, and for backfilling vacancies in specialist teams whilst 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 and therefore there is no current requirement for a draw-down from the operational reserve.

The additional income of £2.030m is from a variety of sources, including a further £0.813m for providing custody detention places for use by the Prison Service as part of Operation Safeguard; £0.675m of additional incentivised uplift grant funding; £0.284m of reimbursed costs from the Regional Organised Crime Unit to cover overtime costs; £0.360m of additional abnormal roads income related to HS2

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construction; and £0.249m 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 has been undertaken as part of the budget process for 2024/25.

Capital

Expenditure on capital schemes is forecast to be £7.258m against a revised budget of £12.318m, including slippage from 2022/23, in addition to some accelerated spend from 2024/25. This is likely to reduce further as the delays with the delivery of some vehicles are ongoing. The closing balance on reserves at year-end is forecast to be £12.748m.

The budget and precept for 2024/25 has now been set, and all districts and boroughs have been issued with the relevant precept notifications and payment schedules. This draws to a close the budget process for 2024/25 and I look forward to monitoring the outcomes and financial performance over the coming months.

9. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

In December 2023, the OPCC moved from its previous location at Northgate Street, Warwick to Warwickshire Police headquarters at Leek Wooton. This new accommodation is modern and open-plan and therefore more conducive to effective working and to improving the health and well-being of the staff. There has also been a significant revenue cost saving on rent.

In November 2023, the OPCC were joined by three new members of staff, namely Hannah Toulson as a Communications and Engagement Officer, Dawn Lewis-Ward and Emma Dixon as Commissioning and Grants Officers. Jemima Busby in her role as a Scrutiny and Assurance Officer recently departed from the OPCC, I thank her for her work in supporting me and I wish her well for the future.

APPENDIX A

National Crime and Policing Measures Q3 2023/24

1. Introduction

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

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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.

2. Specified Information Order

In August 2021, the 'Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021' came into effect, requiring PCCs to publish information relating to a police force's performance against the NCPM and thereby enabling greater public scrutiny of police performance and to allow the electorate to hold PCCs to account more effectively. The order states that: -

- PCCs are required to provide a statement on the contribution of their force to achieving improvements against those priorities.
- The information must be published in a prominent place on the PCC's website. The purpose of this requirement is to make it as easy as possible for the public to access the information, and quarterly updates should be made following the publication of quarterly crime statistics.

3. Statement of Contribution.

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 consideration of the requirements of the NCPM.

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 is attended by senior officers and staff from the force and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (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.

4. Warwickshire Police Overview

The Govt. baseline for NCPM is the performance data for December 2019 and there are specific measures for the six priority areas. The Home Office recognise that not all measures will apply equally to every force, so PCCs must consider how best to apply these measures in their force area. Warwickshire Police has therefore selected some additional proxy measures to assess the force's contribution towards these national priorities and the force will continue to develop its approach to ensure that the measures are aligned with the national position.

This report has principally been prepared through scrutiny of the performance data provided in Warwickshire Police's monthly performance reports for Q3 2023/24: -

- Performance Monthly Insights – October 2023.
- Performance Monthly Insights – November 2023.
- Performance Monthly Insights – December 2023.

A summary of the force's position, with commentary, is provided as follows.

5. Reduce Murder and Other Homicides

5.1 Force data

During Q3 2023/23 there was one homicide, recorded in December, representing a reduction on the two homicides recorded in the previous quarter.

5.2 OPCC commentary

Murder and homicides are allied to the subject of Serious Violence and are therefore discussed in the following section.

6. Reduce Serious Violence

The Govt. measures are: -

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

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.

6.1 Force data

a) Serious Violence

- Violence with Injury

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In December 2023, volumes increased by 13% (n=419) on the previous month and were above the 3-year average and forecast. Initial analysis shows no notable reason for the increase.

In November 2023, the 3-month rolling average 'action taken' (Offenders Brought to Justice) outcome rate was at 13.3%. The recommendation in the December 2023 performance report is noted, regarding a focus on improving this rate.

- **Robbery**

In December 2023, volumes (n=29) remained comparable to the previous month and remained above the forecast but below the 3-year average. The recommendation in the December performance report is noted, regarding a focus on improving this rate.

A question was raised in the Q2 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding the specific measures the force were taking to improve the 'action taken' rates for robbery. The force's position will continue to be monitored by the OPCC.

b) Knife Crime

The Home Office data collection for offences involving knives or sharp instruments is limited to selected offences and certain weapon types. It excludes possession offences. The data for December 2023 was not available. In November 2023, there were 28 offences recorded, representing a very slight increase on the previous month. In October 2023, there were 26 offences recorded.

c) Firearms

The Home Office data collection reports on offences where a firearm was used as a threat. In Q3 2023/24, there were 13 firearms offences recorded, none resulting in fatality or serious injury. This volume of offences is consistent with the previous quarter.

6.2 OPCC commentary

During the festive period in December 2023, Warwickshire Police invest additional resources during recognised peak periods for the night-time economy 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 can escalate.

The Warwickshire Strategic Needs Assessment for Serious Violence is now complete and has informed a refresh and relaunch of the county's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy. Both items were required because of the new Serious Violence Duty. This work continues to be led by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of all duty holders, driven through the Serious Violence Partnership Delivery Group. It is closely overseen and supported by the OPCC, as the conduit to the Home Office for governance and reporting purposes.

7. Disrupt Drugs and County Lines

The Govt. measures are: -

- a) Drug Related Homicide.

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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.

7.1 Force data

a) Drug Related Homicide.

This information is not included in the performance reports. A question was therefore raised in the in the Q2 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding what arrangements are to be made for the capture of NCPM data in respect of the of a) Drug related homicide and b) Cyber-crime and their inclusion in the performance reports?

The response provided by Warwickshire Police in respect of drug related homicide was that due to the low volume of homicide within the county, the force does not disaggregate this information within the performance framework, but data is provided nationally, accessed through the Digital Crime and Performance Pack (DCPP).

The DCPP data indicates that since 2016 around 45% of the force's homicides carried a 'drug' marker - this is consistent with the national rate of 49%. The marker is applied for several varied reasons, including drug use by victims and offenders. A 'Homicide and Near Miss Problem Profile' was completed in 2023, which indicated 8% of such incidents were influenced by the drug market.

b) OCG Disruption

The Warwickshire Police Performance Quarterly Insights – November 2023 report provides information for Q2 2023/24 on the number of County Lines and OCGs operating in the county, and the number of 'disruptions' achieved. Of note is that that there were 29 confirmed disruptions during this period, representing a significant increase on the 18 disruptions in the preceding quarter. Also, that 14 adults and 21 children were safeguarded during this period.

7.2 OPCC commentary

The PCC commissions criminal justice related drug and alcohol misuse services for the county, to try and break the link between substance misuse and offending behaviour.

Information regarding drug related homicide is not specifically included in the performance reports. 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.

8. Reduce Neighbourhood Crimes

The Govt. measures are: -

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

The force's measures are: -

- a) & b) & c) Home Office Crime Recording categories

8.1 Force data

a) Burglary (Home)

In December 2023, volumes increased by 7% (n=93) and remained below the 3-year average and in-line with the forecast for this high-harm offence type of significant public concern, as the below graph illustrates: -



Figure 1 – Burglary (Home) Volumes.

The north of the county saw a 36% reduction (n=-15 offences to 27), but the south saw an increase of 46% (n=+18 offences to 57). Analysis of the crimes reveals that vehicles at the residence are a common motivation, where there were 14 car key burglaries of which 11 were in the south of the county. All Burglary (Home) incidents were attended.

In December 2023, the 3-month rolling average 'action taken' rate was at 4.4%. The recommendation in the December performance report is noted, regarding a focus on improving this rate.

b) Vehicle Crime

In December 2023, volumes (n=347) remaining relatively consistent when compared to the previous quarter and were in-line with the 3-year average forecast and below the forecast. Analysis of these crimes reveals that theft of HGV fuel, theft from vans, and theft of wing mirrors in the Warwick District are notable modus operandi (MO). Warwickshire remains an 'outlier' in its Most Similar Group (MSG) of forces at 8th place and is ranked 33rd nationally.

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The recommendation in the December performance report is noted, regarding continuing to interrogate the modus operandi to identify emerging trends and target resources at repeat offending. Also, to focus on improving the outcome rates to bring them in-line with comparator police forces.

A question was raised in the Q2 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding the specific measures the force were taking to improve the 'action taken' rates for vehicle crime. The force's position will continue to be monitored by the OPCC.

c) Theft from Person

In December 2023, volumes (n=26) were comparable to the 3-year average but above the forecast. Percentage rates are volatile due to the small number of offences. The recommendation in the December performance report is noted, regarding seeking to reduce volumes through preventative measures.

The 'action taken' rate remains relatively low, as it does with comparator police forces.

8.2 OPCC commentary

a) Burglary

Considering the recommendation made, the force's performance will continue to be monitored and scrutinised in the expectation that improvement will be made in Q4 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 '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 levels are comparable to the 3-year average and as such no further comment is made.

9. Victim Satisfaction

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).
- b) Victim satisfaction surveys.

9.1 Force data

Of note is that Warwickshire Police has now set 'target rates' for Victim Satisfaction, namely: -

- Domestic Abuse - 80% or above
- Vehicle Crime - 70% or above
- Violence - 75% or above
- Burglary - 80% or above
- Hate Crime - 80% or above

In December 2023, the rolling 6-month 'whole experience satisfaction' trend delivered the following levels of performance: -

- Domestic Abuse 79% < Target - 80% reported in Q2 2023/24 report
- Vehicle Crime 62% < Target - 61% reported in Q2 2023/24 report
- Violence 66% < Target - 66% reported in Q2 2023/24 report
- Burglary 69% < Target - 66% reported in Q2 2023/24 report
- Hate Crime 69% < Target - 72% reported in Q2 2023/24 report

The comments in the performance report for December are noted, regarding the improvement in the 'follow up' measure for Burglary (67%) when compared to the low rate in September 2023 (25%) which negatively contributed to the 'overall satisfaction' rate.

A question was raised in the Q2 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding victim satisfaction rates, with particular concern regarding the poor 'follow-up' measure for Burglary victims. It is therefore a positive development that there has been considerable improvement in this specific area of performance with all Burglary (Home) investigations being allocated to detectives in the Serious Acquisitive Crime Teams. The force's position in respect of victim satisfaction across all measures will continue to be monitored by the OPCC.

In December 2023, the in-month rate for DA victim satisfaction showed a 13% increase on the previous month by rising to 82%, a strong indicator of improving performance.

9.2 OPCC commentary

The monthly increase in victim satisfaction for domestic abuse is a positive development. The force's performance will continue to be monitored and scrutinised in the expectation that further improvement in satisfaction rates will be made in Q4 2023/24. The recent introduction by the force of a Crime Control Centre (CCC) should assist in achieving this aim. The intention of the CCC is to focus on effective investigation management through identifying those crimes which have the best chance of being solved with a positive outcome for the victim. This should mean that there is more time to carry out investigations and to engage with the victim according to their needs in accordance with the Victims Code.

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The OPCC works 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.

The PCC commissions the following victim services for Warwickshire:

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

10. 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.

10.1 Force data

Information not included in the Performance Reports. A question was therefore raised in the in the Q2 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding what arrangements are to be made for the capture of NCPM data in respect of the of a) Drug related homicide and b) Cyber-crime and their inclusion in the performance reports?

The response provided by Warwickshire Police in respect of cyber-crime was that the force currently reports cyber-crime measures through the Proactive and Preventative Steering Group (P&PSG). Cyber Crime reporting is transitioning to APMIS, the national system for recording cyber disruptions. This measure will soon be also available through the DCP tool and disaggregated to Warwickshire.

10.2 OPCC commentary

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is now a Board member for the Cyber Resilience Centre for the West Midlands that supports and helps protect small business, SMEs, and supply chain businesses and third sector organisations in the region against cybercrime.

An in-depth review of the force's response to 'cybercrime – fraud' has been conducted. Of note is that Action Fraud as the national agency for the collation and dissemination of fraud offences is to be replaced to ensure that victims are given a

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more accessible and customer friendly service, and ensuring the right crimes are disseminated with expediency across policing.