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Police and Crime Panel 26 September 2024

Police and Crime Commissioner's Report

Report Date	9 September 2024
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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, since the Panel's last scheduled meeting on Thursday 20 June 2024, 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).

At this previous meeting of the Panel, in addition to those subjects already identified in the standing agenda items and the scheduled work programme, it was noted that:

1. "The Panel would write to the Commissioner to outline its wish for transparency in the development of the Independent Review for the Warwickshire Hunt, including details of the agency appointed to undertake the work, its terms of reference, how the findings of the Review will be reported, and a timescale for completion of the work."
 - A letter of 5 July 2024, 'Statement Regarding Policing of Hunting and Proposed Independent Review' was consequently sent by the Panel.
 - A letter of the 8 August 2024, 'Independent Review' was provided to the Panel in response to this request for further information.
2. "The PCC would provide an update to the Panel on the progress of research being undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to produce a gap analysis examining diversionary support offered to perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and VAWG."
 - A report has been prepared by the OPCC for consideration by the Police and Crime Panel Performance and Planning Working Group at its next meeting on Thursday 19 September 2024.
3. "The Panel's Planning and Performance Working Group may wish to examine plans for the public consultation for the next Police and Crime Plan in more detail"
 - A report has been prepared by the OPCC for consideration by the Police and Crime Panel Performance and Planning Working Group at its next meeting on Thursday 19 September 2024

2. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

In addition to the Panel's last scheduled meeting, the Panel also convened on 24 June 2024 to hold a confirmation hearing under 'Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011' to consider my proposal to appoint Emma Daniell as my DPCC during my new term of office. As the Panel are aware, Emma successfully served as my deputy during my previous term of office.

I thank the Panel for the rigorous scrutiny they applied to this process, and I congratulate Emma on her appointment. I am extremely grateful to Emma her commitment to public service in seeking to serve as my deputy, and I very much look forward to continuing to work with her as she focuses on her existing portfolio of priorities in support of my Police and Crime Plan.

3. National issues

During August, outbreaks of violent disorder were seen across the England and Northern Ireland, with disgraceful scenes occurring at locations as far afield as Southport, Middlesbrough, Southampton, Belfast and in neighbouring areas such as Tamworth and Birmingham. News media showed us scenes including police officers being pelted with bricks and bottles, mosques attacked, shops being vandalised and ransacked, and hotels housing asylum refugees being surrounded by violent thugs. The sustained period of violence required robust action by all criminal justice agencies to send a clear message that such disorder would not be tolerated and there is no place for hatred in society.

In Warwickshire, there was no outbreak of disorder and rumoured protest activity did not materialise, thanks in no small part to the actions of Warwickshire Police. Officers were quick to make it clear that such behaviour was unacceptable and would be dealt with robustly. Additional patrols provided reassurance to residents, while the force also sent officers to other parts of the country to assist with disorder there. The bravery of our officers is never in doubt but is particularly highlighted in these circumstances. Three Warwickshire officers were briefly hospitalised while deployed to support other forces, though thankfully without serious injury.

The force's actions in dealing with this potentially dangerous situation had my full backing and support and I want to commend all those involved. That these incidents were seemingly sparked in the aftermath of the brutal and senseless murder of three innocent children in Southport is all the more troubling. I join the many voices who have spoken to condemn utterly the criminal minority of thugs and extremists who sought to hijack the tragedy for racist hatred and violence.

In the aftermath, there have been hundreds of arrests made across the country, with rapid action taken by police, prosecutors and those working in courts. While necessary and an important part of bringing the disorder to an end, it is not without consequence on the wider Criminal Justice System. I consequently convened an extraordinary meeting of the Local Criminal Justice Board to seek an understanding of situation among partners and I am continuing to monitor the situation. With many criminal justice partners operating regionally and with the ongoing national situation over prison capacity, these are issues which will continue to have impact on Warwickshire for some time to come.

4. Annual Report 2023/24

At the last meeting of the Panel, I presented a draft of my Annual Report 2023/24 prior to publication in accordance with 'Section 12 of the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011'. I thank the Panel for its letter of 5 July 2024¹ in response to the report and note the comments made. The Annual Report has now been published on the OPCC website at: <https://www.warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

¹ [\(Public Pack\) Minutes Document for Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, 20/06/2024 14:00](#)

5. Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

5.1. Fight crime and reduce offending

a) Violent crime

My office continues to work closely with Warwickshire County Council, District and Borough Councils, and the other Specified Authorities who hold the Serious Violence Duty, to oversee the implementation of countywide and locally led interventions to reduce serious violence during 2024/25, which have been funded by the Home Office.

The partnership group delivering the Serious Violence Prevention strategy continues to meet regularly and is supported by my office. The Community Safety Analysts posts that I fund are currently refreshing the data previously analysed to support the production of an annual report on the progress made.

b) Organised crime

My office continues to be involved in discussion regarding Warwickshire's strategic partnership approach to Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and how to provide clarity for an agreed approach in the coming years. There are links with this local partnership approach to the current review of the regional and national policing approach to SOC through the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) network.

Operation Stronghold (Clear, Hold, Build) activity continues with positive partnership working taking place including leaflet drops, environmental improvements and community intelligence gathering.

c) Reducing reoffending

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Delivery Board, at which my office is represented, continues to review IOM cases by considering the needs of individuals in terms of housing, health, substance use, and employment. The Board highlights potential gaps and agrees on the actions needed to address these matters.

5.2. Deliver visible and effective policing

a) Extra officers

A key pledge of my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 was to continue have more police officers as part of my wider plans to deliver visible and effective policing. My ambition was to achieve a head count of 1,100 officers by year-end 2022/23.

For 2024/25 the force establishment is 1,122 officers, and as of August 2024 the full time equivalent (FTE) headcount strength stood at 1,115 officers. This figure is due to increase in September 2024 following the scheduled recruitment of 40 new officers.

b) Neighbourhood policing

- **Rural Crime**

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On Thursday the 8 August 2024, I hosted a seminar to discuss rural, wildlife and heritage crime in Warwickshire. The seminar was organised and led by my office and took place at the NFU, Stoneleigh. National, regional and local partners attended the seminar. The response was very encouraging, reflecting Warwickshire's strong reputation on these matters. The information and views gleaned from the seminar will be critical to the formulating of a new rural, wildlife and heritage crime partnership strategy for Warwickshire, which I have asked my office to lead on.



Figure 1: The delegates at the Rural Crime Workshop at NFU Headquarters, Stoneleigh.

c) Transforming the force

Warwickshire Police continues to implement and refine its 'Empower' change programme, consisting of three strategic strands. The 'Empower-Place' element seeks to deliver the force's Estates Strategy. The recruitment to the OPCC of a Strategic Estates and Assets Manager ensures that I have effective oversight of the complex and specialist subject of estates management and sustainability. Some of the areas of work that are in development include: -

1. The development of a PCC-led estates strategy setting out my aims of ensuring Warwickshire Police have facilities to meet current and future operational policing needs.
2. A condition survey has been completed on all PCC freehold owned estate to prioritise essential planned maintenance. The detail of which has been included within the 5-year medium term financial plan. The first year of projects have been approved and works have commenced, with oversight of the Strategic Estates and Asset Manager.
3. A review of accessing S106 developer contributions from Local Authorities has been undertaken with the aim of generating capital income from new housing development to offset the impact of expanding residential growth on Warwickshire Police within the County.

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4. Leasehold management has been transferred to the OPCC from Warwickshire Police to ensure that as landlord, we have standardised, location driven, cost effective leases for Warwickshire Police to operate from.
5. Work has commenced on understanding the sustainability position of Warwickshire Police, to enable the development of sustainability strategy to map the road to decarbonisation. This covers not only the estates element, but fleet and business operations such as waste management.

5.3. Keep people safe and reduce harm

a) Violence Against Women and Girls

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

I am represented by my office at the Warwickshire Police's RASSO Steering Group to monitor force performance in this key area of police work, with an emphasis on scrutiny of the response and support provided to victims of rape and serious sexual assault. At the RASSO Scrutiny Panel meetings, the force reviews 'No Further Action' cases and talks about the investigative process. There are moves to make this a joint Police / CPS meeting and to have a joint chair.

In terms of performance there are some pleasing points to share. There was recently a self-assessment within the force in respect of Op Soteria. This is a unique police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) programme to develop new operating models for the investigation and prosecution of rape in England and Wales. On the whole, the feedback from the self-assessment was very positive and the force believes it is in a relatively good place. Last year the investigations that resulted in a criminal charge stood at approximately 5%, this year it is at 14%. Recent data from the CPS also reveals that Warwickshire performs well with an 83% conviction rate for the offence of Rape.

There are good relationships between the force and the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service, which I commission and is delivered by Safeline, with regular meetings and surgeries taking place. The force undoubtedly is committed to further improving performance and engaging with partners as fully as it can.

b) Vulnerability

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

Implementation of Right Care Right Person (RCRP) in Warwickshire continues to progress, overseen by my office. In February 2024, the changes in arrangements for 'Walkouts / Absent without leave' were successfully implemented. On 24 June 2024, this was followed in relation to responding to 'Concern for Welfare' incidents. Plans are now progressing with partners to implement changes to 'Transport' arrangements and also responding to 'Section 135 / 136 Mental Health Act 1983' cases, both of which are anticipated to be delivered in mid-Q3 2024/25.

- **Child and Adult Safeguarding – Strategic partnership arrangements**

My office has been supporting discussions and plans to separate the current Joint Safeguarding Partnership arrangements and revert it back into its two constituent

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parts - a Child Safeguarding Partnership, and an Adult Safeguarding Board. The need for these changes arises from a combination of revised statutory guidance for child safeguarding: 'Worker Together to Safeguard Children'², together with the implementation of the new 'Families First for Children'³ arrangements in Warwickshire. The new partnership structures are scheduled to be implemented from September 2024 and my office will continue to be closely involved in monitoring, supporting and assisting both arrangements.

c) Road Safety

At a previous meeting with the Chief Constable, I sought reassurance as to the efficiency and capability of the force's Road Safety Unit (RSU). It was accepted that improvements in performance were required, and so it is pleasing to report that the RSU has been modernised and continues to develop its capacity through innovation and embracing modern technology.

The force now has three brand new 'speed detection' vans with 'state of the art' equipment. This will lead to increased, and more effective, deployments - including speed detection during the hours of darkness, representing a significant operational development. Both my office and the force receive representation from Warwickshire's communities regarding speeding, so this enhanced mobile capability will help to build public trust and confidence.

On 11 September 2024, I will lead a 'thank you' event at Old Shire Hall, Warwick for the county's Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers. I anticipate about 200 volunteers will be attending the event where we will celebrate their work and I will be presenting several 'long service awards'. CSW is a vital community volunteer tool in educating the public about the risk of excess speed and I am a very keen advocate of developing and supporting our CSW groups. Across the whole county there are now more than 50 groups who regularly deploy.

5.4. Strengthen communities.

a) Involving communities

- **National Volunteers Week**

National Volunteers Week commenced on Monday 3 June 2024, representing the 40th year of celebrating the contribution volunteers make to our communities.⁴ To acknowledge the occasion and further inspire more people to make a difference, my office participate in the two Volunteering Fairs that were held in Stratford and Atherstone.

On 5 June 2024, I attended a Volunteer Event in Ansty that the OPCC had arranged to acknowledge the volunteers from the two schemes that my office operates,

² [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

³ [Families first for children \(FFC\) pathfinder programme and family networks pilot \(FNP\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

⁴ [Volunteers' Week – Volunteers' Week is a chance to say thank you for the fantastic contribution volunteers make. \(volunteersweek.org\)](https://volunteersweek.org)

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namely the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) and the Adult Appropriate Adults (AA). The ICV schemes prevent the ill treatment of detainees and deliver effective oversight of police custody to ensure a safe environment and deliver public reassurance. The AA scheme provides support for those adults in police custody who may require additional assistance due to their vulnerability. I greatly value the contribution that these volunteers make to the critical area of police detention and the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to personally thank them for their public-spirited commitment.

- **Custody Detention Independent Scrutiny Panel.**

My office has continued to develop a Custody Detention Independent Scrutiny Panel (CDISP). This initiative is intended to provide greater independent scrutiny and oversight of Warwickshire Police's policies, practices, and procedure in respect of police detention; thereby helping to drive improvements and improve the trust and confidence of our communities.

On 4 September 2024, the CDISP met to consider the scrutinise and discuss the subject of 'use of force in the custody environment'. Observations and recommendations from the Panel are raised with the force through existing governance arrangements.

b) Crime Prevention and Partnership working

- **CSP Strategic Assessments**

The Panel will be aware that there is a requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to undertake a Strategic Assessment and write a Partnership Plan that sets out their priorities and strategies to prevent and reduce crime and disorder in their area. The Community Safety Analysts are leading the Strategic Assessment process, which is being closely supported by my office. We continue to work closely with community safety partners across the county on shared priorities.

- **Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**

The £1m of 'Hotspot Response Funding' secured by my office for enhanced patrolling of 18 identified locations has resulted in an additional 2,341 hours of patrol, 25 arrests, and 22 Stop and Searches. The initiative is promoted as Operation Resolve in Warwickshire and the associated communication strategy has been an important element in its delivery, with frequent Warwickshire Connected and social media posts to inform communities of the work taking place.

The ASB Strategic Framework, mentioned in my previous report to the Panel is now in place having been endorsed by Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board and approved by three of the four local CSPs. The South Warwickshire CSP is expected to give approval at the November 2024 meeting.

5.5. Deliver better justice for all

a) Victims and Witnesses; b) Improved Communication

- **Victims and Prisoners Act 2024**

On 24 May 2024, the 'Victims and Prisoners Act' received Royal Assent. Implementation of the Act now sits with the new government and further detail is awaited from the Ministry of Justice. The Act makes provision in respect of: victims of criminal conduct and others affected by criminal conduct; the appointment and functions of advocates for victims of major incidents; an infected blood compensation scheme; the release of prisoners; the membership and functions of the Parole Board; prohibition of certain prisoners from forming a marriage or civil partnership; connected matters.

The Act is split into 5 parts to deal with all of these issues. There are two key areas where PCCs are named in the Act: -

1. Victim Code Compliance: PCC's will be expected to play a leading role in this work.
2. Duty to Collaborate: There will be requirement for agencies to collaborate more effectively in providing support services for victims of domestic abuse, criminal conduct of a sexual nature and serious violence. Again, the PCC will be expected to play a leading part in developing this collaborative approach.

In the recent King's Speech, the Government also referenced a number of key planned pieces of legislation that are designed to benefit victims of crime. The progression of the planned 'Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill' and 'The Crime and Policing Bill', these will be monitored closely.

Elsewhere, as reported on in the media, the backlogs in Crown Court are still present. Local partners are working together to tackle the backlog as best as they can in the current circumstances, including a focus on ensuring clear communications with victims and witnesses. Yet, there are many external and uncontrollable contributing factors stifling progress - such as CPS recruitment and recruitment to specialist teams within Criminal Justice organisations; compounded by a prison capacity crisis. As highlighted in other areas of the country, this is an issue of national concern that ultimately requires additional help from the Government and its relevant departments.

c) Justice Outcomes

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

Understanding the ever-increasing complexities of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), particularly when considering the dispensation of justice on a local level, remains a key objective for myself and the Office. For instance, LCJB members are engaged in constant, reciprocal communication with all relevant services in light of the recent widespread disorder exhibited across different areas in the country. As we have criminal justice agencies that operate on a regional footprint, it is unfortunately likely that this will have further ramifications for the CJS in the future, albeit how this will manifest is yet to be determined.

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• Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System

It is important that all criminal justice partners ensure that we are applying our best efforts to ensure that all Warwickshire residents who may transcend through the system (either as victim-survivors, witnesses, or offenders) receive fair and respectful treatment throughout their experience. Through a portfolio of workstreams directed by the LCJB, we are due to set-up our first Task and Finish group, which is to be focused on women and girls in the criminal justice system (via our Renewing Confidence in the CJS' priority). This workstream was identified as needing further partnership attention following an initial scoping exercise undertaken by my Criminal Justice Policy Officer, Grants and Commissioning Officer, and a Regional Partnership and Stakeholder Women's Lead for Probation. I very much look forward to updating the Panel on the progress of this Task & Finish group as and when appropriate.

6. Governance and Assurance

There are currently two formal meetings where I formally 'hold to account' the Chief Constable, in accordance with my statutory responsibilities: -

1. A weekly meeting with the Deputy PCC, OPCC Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Constable in attendance
2. A monthly Governance and Scrutiny Board (GPB), which is more formal than the weekly meetings and with a broader field of senior management attendance. The agenda is populated with items relating to the scrutiny of force performance, force establishment, estates, finance, and governance.

At each GSB a specific focus topic is included for in-depth scrutiny and challenge: -

2024

- January - Safeguarding children
- February - Victims and Witnesses Bill / Victims Code
- March - Strategic Policing Requirements
- April - Road policing
- May - N/A
- June - Retail and business crime
- July - Police custody detention
- August - Warwickshire Police culture
- September - Public Trust and Confidence
- October - Organised Crime Groups
- November - HMICFRS
- December - Counter Terrorism

Over the last 6 months the PCC has reviewed the way that holding to account takes place, noting the feedback given by the Panel previously. An update on the current approach will be given to the Planning and Performance Working Group on 19 September. Panel Members may also wish to review holding to account content on the website - [Holding the police to account - Office of the Police and Crime](#)

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[Commissioner for Warwickshire \(warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://warwickshire-pcc.gov.uk) which is updated each month.

The PCC has made progress with the review of policing of activities related to hunting, and the work is due to start imminently.

6.2. 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 last Government's 'Beating Crime Plan 2021'.

The 'Specified Information Order 2011' (amended 2021) subsequently placed an obligation on PCCs to publish information regarding their force's performance in respect of the NCPM. For the information of the Panel, the latest SIO report for Q1 2023/24 is appended at Appendix A.

6.3. Police complaints

The issues and themes that result in public complaints against the police provides me with invaluable insight to enable me to secure 'trust and confidence' in Warwickshire Police on behalf of the county's communities. It also enables me to 'hold to account' the Chief Constable for the performance of the force's police officers and staff.

On 24 July 2024, I formally met with the force's Head of the force's Professional Standards Department (PSD) as part of my assurance arrangements for this critical area of business. The agenda incorporated the elements of anti-corruption, vetting, police complaints and performance data from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

On 9 August 2024, representative from the OPCC and PSD met with the IOPC to review the force's complaint handling performance, together with the OPCC's complaint review processes, for Q1 2024/25.

6.3.1 Complaint reviews

Since February 2020, I have had responsibility for carrying out the review of complaints in cases where the complainant remains dissatisfied following Warwickshire Police's handling of the complaint. This allows me with an avenue to provide a remedy where the service provided has not been acceptable. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) retains this responsibility for more serious and complex complaints. In 2024/2025 to date, a total of eleven reviews have been completed with recommendations made to Warwickshire Police in cases where either the handling or outcome to the complaint has not been 'reasonable and proportionate'.

6.4 Joint Audit and Standards Committee

The Joint Audit and Standards Committee (JASC) provides independent scrutiny, advice, and recommendations to both me and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of our governance and risk management frameworks.

The JASC last met on the 10 July 2024, where the Committee received a full update on a variety of subjects. This included a joint OPCC and PSD paper on Standards, Ethics and Police Complaints. At the meeting the JASC also considered the 'Internal Auditors Annual Report for 2023/24', which provides an evidenced opinion on the OPCC and Warwickshire Police's arrangements for governance, risk management and control measures.

The auditors reported that quality standards had been maintained and that controls were considered sufficient to prevent or detect serious breakdowns in systems and procedures. Based upon the results of work undertaken during the year, the opinion was that the control environments operated by the PCC and the force provided "substantial assurance" that the risks facing the respective organisations were being addressed.

The next meeting of the JASC is scheduled for Wednesday 25 September 2024.

6.5 Police and Crime Panel Performance & Working Group

On 9 July 2024, a meeting of the 'Police and Crime Panel Performance and Planning Working Group' was held. The OPCC were represented by Polly Reed (CEO) and Claire Morris (Head of Business Service and Assurance). At the request of the working group, the OPCC introduced a report on four areas of performance that the Panel wished it to focus on, namely: -

1. Crime detection.
2. Anti-social behaviour.
3. Non-emergency 101 service.
4. Visibility and engagement through additional recruitment.

I understand that the Chair of the working group will provide a summary of the meeting to the Panel.

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for Thursday 19 September 2024.

7. Communication and Engagement

I have continued to undertake a full programme of engagements around the county, alongside my Deputy, Emma Daniell. These seek to reach as diverse a range of communities as possible. Some of the more notable occasions were: -

June:

- Student Office Graduation Ceremony, Leek Wootton
- Warwickshire Crimebeat, Whitnash. A grant-funded youth boxing initiative attended by the Deputy PCC)

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June & July:

- Warwickshire Police workforce engagement seminars, addressing the whole workforce, volunteers and Special Constabulary at a series of events throughout June and July at the College of Policing, the British Motor Museum and at Woodland Grange.

July:

- Police Bravery Awards, London
- Burton Green Parish Council
- Aspire in Arts Celebration evening, Nuneaton (Grant-funded initiative)
- Whitacre & Shustoke Show

August:

- Resident's Engagement Day at Bailey Park, Bedworth
- Nuneaton North-East Neighbourhood Watch meeting

Emma, as my Deputy PCC, has continued to attend Warm Hubs across the county, including at Wembrook, Nuneaton. She has also joined officers on patrol in Stratford and Nuneaton.

Emma has also taken part in one Warwickshire Police's 'Walk with Us' events in Southam; the aim of this initiative is to encourage women to come and chat to friendly police officers about personal safety, with the walks open to all women over 18 living or working in Warwickshire. The relaxed, open events take the pressure off people and gives them the chance to feel comfortable enough to talk about any concerns they have. Officers have engaged with 30 women and girls so far, giving out advice and a number of personal attack alarms.

8. Commissioning and Grants

8.1. Government Grants

The PCC receives a number of specific grants, outside of core police funding, which it uses to commission services and deliver projects across the county. Many of these funding streams are coming to an end on 31 March 2025. These include:

- Home Office Safe Streets Funding Round 5
- MoJ funding to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, including an increased provision of IDVAs and ISVAs
- Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Program
- Home Office Hotspot Response funding
- Home Office Serious Violence Duty funding

At the time of writing, we have received no indication of whether these grants will continue in their current format, a variation of their current format or indeed will cease entirely. My office is already beginning to plan for a range of potential

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scenarios, but the risk remains that support services provided to victims or project work to address priorities in my Police and Crime Plan may be adversely.

8.2 PCC Grants to third parties

This year 2024/25, I have made financial awards to 29 organisations under the Small Grants scheme, totalling £272,073: together with a further three organisations under the Road Safety Grant scheme, totalling £27,140.

On the 1 April 2024, all the grant funded projects commenced delivery and will continue until 31 March 2025. I have engagements planned with many of the recipients over the coming months and I also look forward to receiving their mid-year progress update reports to better understand how the funding is helping to deliver positive outcomes in line with my Police and Crime Plan.

Work on developing the 2025/26 PCC Grants Scheme is underway, and my Finance, Commissioning and Grants Team are planning to make some changes to the process, to ensure better value for money through more efficient and effective uses of OPCC resources, and also to streamline the process for applicants. The grants launch is planned for October 2024. On 12 September 2024, the OPCC is to hold a partnership event where further details will be shared with those attending

8.3 Commissioned services

My commissioning work has continued through the various contracts that commenced last year, and others that have commenced in 2024/25, to support victims and vulnerable groups within our communities. These services are funded through the local precept funding and also from £0.677m of core victim services funding received from the MOJ. Further details on all commissioned services are included in the directory on the OPCC website.

My office meets with commissioned service providers on a quarterly basis to discuss and scrutinise their key performance indicators and financial returns as part of the contract management process. Alongside the quantitative data they provide, qualitative data is also considered. This includes case studies, anecdotal comments from service users, and feedback from other stakeholder partners to ensure that providers are effective and performing and delivering support services that are meeting Police and Crime Plan priorities, delivering tangible positive outcomes for service users.

8. Finance

9.1. Statement of Accounts

Following the publication in May 2024 of the draft 'Statement of Accounts 2023/24' the external audit work has progressed well over the summer with the new auditors, Azets. They have completed the majority of their work on our accounts and are awaiting WCC pension fund assurances from Grant Thornton in order to complete the 2023/24 audit. A further update on progress will be given to the PCC and Chief Constable at the upcoming JASC meeting, with a view to signing off the 2023/24 Statements in the coming weeks.

9.2. Pay Award

The police officer pay award has been agreed at 4.75%, payable from 1 September 2024, with an additional central government grant being provided to meet any costs above a 2.5% increase.

At the time of writing, there has been no agreement regarding the pay award for police staff, but this is unlikely to be funded. The budget includes a 2.5% increase for police staff, so any increase above this will be a cost pressure.

9.3. 2024/25 Budget Forecast

I continue to hold to account the Chief Constable for her spending against the 2024/25 revenue budget, and I receive regular monthly updates. At the end of July 2024, a forecast year-end underspend of £0.271m has been reported.

Expenditure on capital schemes is currently forecast to be £12.643m against a revised budget of £12.950m, including slippage from 2023/24. This includes capital investment in estates, ICT and fleet, which will be funded primarily from borrowing, revenue contributions, grants, s106 funding and reserves.

The closing balance on reserves is forecast to be £12.623m at year-end, which is slightly above that anticipated in the original budget. Reserve levels will be considered more fully as part of the budget process for 2025/26 to ensure they remain adequate to manage risk.

9.4. Budget Planning

Work on the budget has already commenced. The first joint meeting with the force is due to take place on 10 September 2024, where some of the main issues for 2025/26 and across the medium-term will be discussed. This work is timetabled over the coming months, but my aim remains to deliver a financial strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan that is affordable, sustainable and resilient.

APPENDIX A

National Crime and Policing Measures

Q1 2024/25

1. Introduction

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

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

1.1. Digital Crime Performance Pack

Data against these six measures is collated by the Home Office in its Digital Crime Performance Pack (DCPP). The current measures and baselines within the DCPP were agreed by the previous government and Home Office officials have not yet had a steer from Ministers as to how they wish to consider force performance going forward. As a result, from September 2024 the outliers process has been paused until such steer is given. The outlier pages within the DCPP have been removed to avoid any confusion

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.



Figure 1 – Police and Crime Plan 2021-25 ‘Plan on a Page’.

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 Scrutiny Board’ (GSB) meeting with the Chief Constable. The purpose of the GSB 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 GSB 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 the calendar year 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 – June 2024.
- Performance Monthly Insights – May 2024.
- Performance Monthly Insights – April 2024.

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

5. Reduce Murder and Other Homicides

5.1. Force data

- In 2023/24, there were six homicides recorded, an increase on the five recorded in the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, there were two homicides recorded. These rates of recorded homicide are comparable to the national average.
- The Home Office identify an 'outlier' as an increase equal or greater than five homicides (negative outlier), or a decrease equal or greater than five homicides (positive outlier), between the latest six-month period and the equivalent six-month period in the previous year.
- Warwickshire Police is not an 'outlier'.

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: -

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

The force's measures are: -

- Serious violence (Violence with Injury, and Robbery).

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- Offences involving knife crime or sharp instruments.
- Offences involving the use of a firearms.

6.1. Force data

a) Serious Violence - Seasonal

Violence with Injury

- The Home Office baseline is the data for 2019 data (n=4,649).
- In 2023/24, volumes (n=4,855) increased by +3% on the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, volumes (n=1,262) increased by +15% (n=1,094) when compared to the previous Q4 2023/24.
- Levels are seasonably variable and were consistent with both the 3-year average and forecast.
- In June 2024, the 3-month rolling average 'action taken' outcome rate was at 16.8%.

Robbery Personal

- The Home Office baseline is the data for 2019 (n=398).
- In 2023/24, volumes (n=347) increased by +5% on the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, volumes (n=117) increased by 23% (n=95) when compared to the previous Q4 2023/24.
- Levels were above the 3-year average and forecast: -

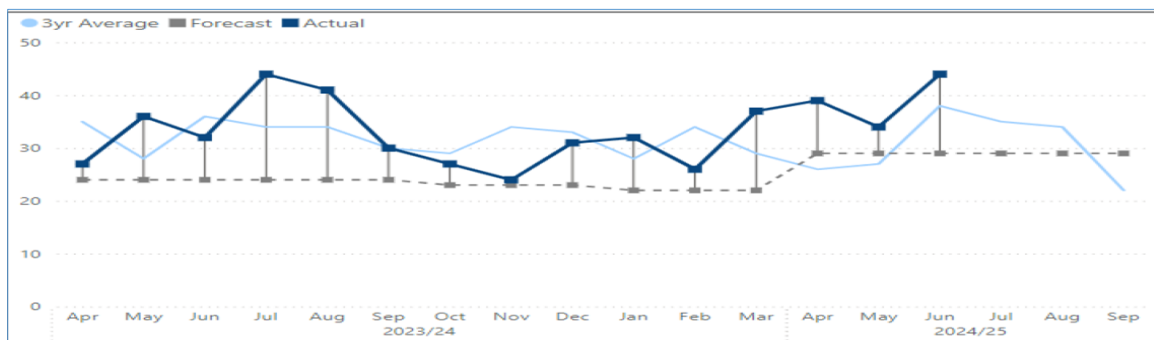


Figure 2: Robbery Volumes

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. Knife crime is not a designated Home Office crime category.

- In June 2024, volumes (n=27) were below the 3-year average.
- The force's Annual Data Return showed a -20% reduction in knife crime when compared to the previous year – a positive position!

c) Firearms

- The Home Office baseline is the 2019 data (n=57). The Home Office data collection reports on offences where a firearm was used as a 'threat'.

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- In 2023/24, volumes (n=64) increased by +20% on the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, there were 20 firearms offences recorded.
- The June 2024 volumes significantly decreased on the previous four-month volumes and was below the 3-year average.

6.2. OPCC Commentary

A question is to be raised at the 'holding to account' Q1 2024/25 Governance and Scrutiny Board (GSB), regarding the specific measures the force are taking to improve the 'action taken' outcome rates for robbery.

The OPCC continued to provide support and oversight of the application of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) in the county, including attendance at the Serious Violence Prevention Partnership in April 2024, and finalisation of the required submissions to the Home Office for 2023-24 in relation to the SVD grant. The OPCC is now working closely with the Specified Authorities to finalise plans for further interventions to reduce serious violence that will take place during 2024-25.

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) oversee and manage some of the most serious offenders in the county, including violence and sexual offenders. Oversight and governance of the arrangements are delivered through a MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB). From April 2024, the OPCC has begun attending the SMB to give the PCC greater insight and assurance of MAPPA and to identify any further ways that the OPCC can support the responsible authorities to reduce the most serious reoffending.

7. Disrupt Drugs and 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.

7.1. Force data

a) Drug Related Homicide.

The force does not disaggregate this information within the performance framework, due to the low volume of homicide within the county. External data indicates that since 2016 around 44% of the force's homicides carried a 'drug' marker, below the national rate. In 2023, Warwickshire Police completed a 'Homicide and Near Miss Problem Profile' that indicated that the drug market influenced 8% of such incidents.

b) Organised Crime Groups (OCG)

In June 2024, there were 97 approved disruptions of OCGs in the county. Of note is that 4 adults and 14 children were safeguarded during this period. Given the

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complexity and sensitivity of OCGs and County-lines activity, which predominately involves cross-border crime, qualitative comment cannot be provided without further context; it has however been noted that there has been a significant increase in OCG disruption during the last 12-months.

7.2. OPCC Commentary

A question is to be raised at the 'holding to account' Q1 2024/25 GSB, regarding the causes for the significant increase in OCG disruptions during the last 12-months.

The OPCC continues to provide support and oversight to the introduction of 'Project Stronghold' in Warwickshire, which is the county's partnership response to the rollout of the national 'Clear, Hold, Build' methodology, designed to make an area a safer place to live and work. This response aims to tackle organised crime groups acting in the neighbourhood, build community resilience, and improve confidence and trust in the police. My office also continues to influence the development of a coordinated countywide partnership strategy for SOC.

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) - Seasonal

- The Home Office baseline is the data for 2019 (n=2,694).
- In 2023/24, volumes (n=1,107) decreased by -2% on the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, volumes (n=267) decreased by -7% (n=287) when compared to the previous Q4 2023/24.
- Levels were consistent with the 3-year average and forecast.
- Of note is that in June 2024, 100% of reports were attended by police.
- Of note is that the action taken outcome rate for March and April 2024 demonstrates a significant improvement: -

b) Vehicle Crime

- The Home Office baseline is the data for 2019 (n=4,614).
- In 2023/24, volumes (n=4,090) decreased by -13% on the previous year.

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- In Q1 2024/25, volumes (n=1,117) increased by +7% (n=1,000) when compared to the previous Q4 2023/24.
- Of concern, is the consistently low levels of action taken outcomes for Vehicle Crime.
 - Volumes remained above the 3-year average and forecast: -

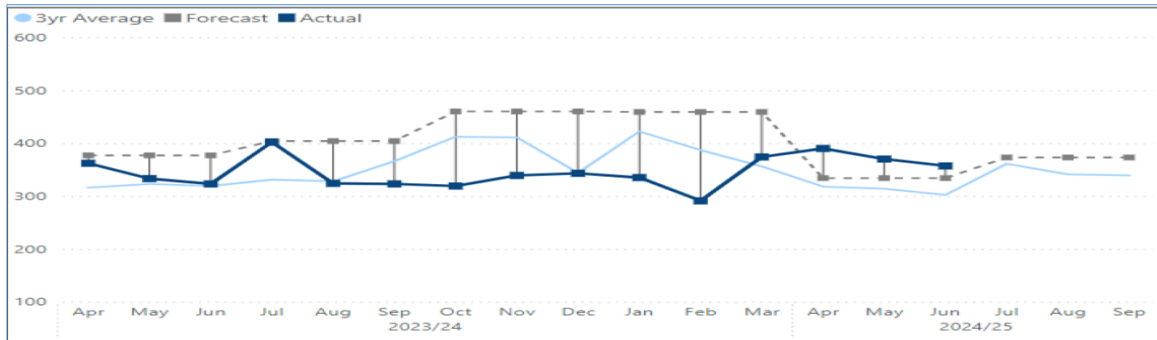


Figure 3: Vehicle Crime Volumes

c) Theft from Person

- The Home Office baseline is the data for 2019 (n=394).
- In 2023/24, volumes (n=258) were consistent with the previous year.
- In Q1 2024/25, volumes (n=51) increased by +64% (n=132) when compared to the previous Q4 2023/24.
- Despite this increase, levels remained consistent with the 3-year average and below the forecast.
- The 'action taken' outcome rates remain mercurial given the low number of offences recorded.

8.2. OPCC Commentary

A question is to be raised at the 'holding to account' Q1 2024/25 GSB, regarding the specific measures the force are taking to improve the 'action taken' outcome rates for vehicle crime.

In December 2023, it was announced that the OPCC had been awarded £1m by the Home Office from the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) 'Hotspot Response Fund 2024/25'. The aim of this funding is to ensure there is an enhanced uniformed presence in ASB and serious violence 'hotspot' areas across the county. On 1 May 2024, Warwickshire Police commenced enhanced patrolling of the eighteen areas identified.

In 2016 at the start of the PCC's first term of office as Police and Crime Commissioner, Warwickshire Police had some 800 police officers in post. A key pledge of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 was to continue have more police officers as part of the wider plans to deliver visible and effective policing. Thanks to a combination of increases in the local Council Tax Police Precept and funding from

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the Government's Police Uplift Programme, I am extremely pleased to be able to confirm that the force now has a headcount of 1,140 officers in post.

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: -

- 11. Force's own domestic abuse victim satisfaction survey (not comparable with other forces).
- 12. Victim satisfaction surveys.

9.1. Force data

Of note is that Warwickshire Police has now set 'target rates' for Victim Satisfaction. In June 2024, the 'whole experience satisfaction' trend delivered the following levels of performance: -

Category	Target %	In Month c%	Rolling 6- month % Q4 2023/24	Rolling 6- month % Q1 2024/25
Domestic Abuse	80	84	75	< 78
Vehicle Crime	70	73	64	< 66
Violence	75	55	68	> 66
Burglary	80	83	75	> 80
Hate Crime	80	98	72	< 67

Figure 4: Victim satisfaction rates.

There are some rolling six-month improvements (Domestic Abuse and Vehicle Crime, along with a notable improvement in the in-month rate for Hate Crime. However, except for Burglary, all other satisfaction rates are below the targets set.

A question was raised in the Q4 2023/24 OPCC Performance Scrutiny report regarding the action Warwickshire Police was taking regarding the low rates for the 'whole experience satisfaction' for Hate Crime, and the 'follow up' measure for Vehicle Crime. It is therefore positive to note the significant improvement achieved for Hate Crime, together with the improvement in the follow up metric for Vehicle Crime that rose from 40% in May 2024 to 56% in June 2024.

Victim Satisfaction will continue to remain under scrutiny by the OPCC given its significance to the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025.

9.2. OPCC Commentary

A question is to be raised at the 'holding to account' Q1 2024/25 GSB, regarding Warwickshire Police's capacity, capability and resilience to effectively manage the high volumes of victims contact and victim support.

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 services for victims-survivors in Warwickshire: -

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

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

Cyber-crime data is not included in the Q1 2024/25 Performance Reports. Warwickshire Police's position is that the force currently reports cyber-crime measures through the Proactive Preventative Steering Group (P&PSG). Cyber Crime reporting is transitioning to Agency and Partner Management Information System (APMIS), the national system for recording cyber-crime disruptions. This measure is available through the DCPD tool.

The DCPD states that: *"Regional and organised crime units and the National Crime Agency record information about operational activity and outcomes in APMIS. They also record quantitative outcomes such as criminal justice and seizures. All agencies record disruptions, which are common measure of the impact of law enforcement actions on disrupting the operation of organised crime groups, vulnerabilities or individuals involved in serious crime. The force recording the crime may not be the*

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only force associated in the action. While APMIS data in the DCPD is refreshed monthly, forces only update their counts on a quarterly basis.”

10.2. OPCC commentary

In April 2024, a report was prepared for the Police and Crime Panel Performance Working Group on the national, regional, and local response and capabilities in respect of cybercrime.

The Deputy PCC a board member on the Regional Cyber Resilience Forum and is working hard to ensure that Warwickshire is being supported by this regional resource to prevent cyber-attacks to businesses in the county.