

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item 8
20th July 2022	Public Report

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The report is being presented to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) to enable it to review the draft Annual Report for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”) under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”). It is to be noted that the Commissioner took up his term of office in May 2021 and his Police and Crime Plan was endorsed by this Panel in November 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Panel is asked to review the Annual Report attached as Appendix A.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 Item 2 - To review, put questions to the Commissioner at a public meeting, and make a report or recommendation (as necessary) on the Annual Report.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 This report is presented to enable the Panel to carry out its functions as noted in paragraph 3. The Panel is required to review the Annual Report.

4.2 Under Section 12 of the Act, the Commissioner must produce an Annual Report on the exercise of the organisation’s functions in the financial year and the progress that has been made in meeting the police and crime objectives in the Police and Crime Plan. It is noted again that the Police and Crime Plan was only endorsed by this Panel on November 15, 2021, and formally published on November 29, 2021.

4.3 As soon as practicable after producing the Annual Report, the Commissioner must send the report to the Panel. The Commissioner must attend before the Panel at a public meeting, present the report to the Panel and answer the Panel’s questions on the report.

4.4 The Commissioner must arrange for the Annual Report to be published.

5. THE ANNUAL REPORT

5.1 The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan was published in November 2021 and endorsed by the Panel. Its layout and simpler style was deliberately designed to make it more understandable for the general public. The design was also compliant with the current government accessibility guidelines. This Annual Report follows that same approach. It aims to provide an easy to read snapshot of the work carried out by the Commissioner and his office, with partners, to contribute to the delivery of the priorities set within the Plan. This paper seeks to provide additional detail and context on the OPCC's work which may be helpful to Panel members in carrying out their role to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Commissioner.

5.2 This Annual Report tells a 'good news story'. Overall crime is down and we have a record number of police officers in post (1,648.7 Full Time Equivalents).

5.3 The OPCC, working in partnership with a range of statutory and non-statutory partners, has enabled an additional **£1,880,175** of investment to be brought into the county. This is made up of:

Funding Stream	Delivery	Amount secured
Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund	Interventions for (and support for victims): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult perpetrators of domestic abuse • Young perpetrators of child to parent/carer violence • Stalking perpetrators 	£311,836
Safer Streets 2	Environmental and physical improvements in three LSOAs in Peterborough	£430,000
Safer Streets 3	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) prevention and enforcement activities including Op Armour and a Behavioural Change Campaign	£471,314
ISVA/IDVA Fund	Funding secured for seven Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and five Independent Domestic Abuse Advisers.	£396,011
Community based domestic abuse and sexual violence support	Funding, for eight providers, to enhance emotional and practical support services in the county. Extra funds were secured for therapeutic services for survivors of rape and sexual violence.	£193,014 & £78,000

6 Putting Communities First

- 6.1 The Commissioner is proud of his track record for listening and responding to public concerns. An average week includes two to three visits within local communities, including schools and colleges, a couple of surgeries with residents, virtual 'round tables' with representatives, meetings with MPs, and interviews with journalists.
- 6.2 The consultation undertaken for his Police and Crime Plan has also guided his approaches to local problem solving. For example, the investment in Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and creation of a Safer Communities Fund were in response to calls from local people to deal with the local issues of crime and disorder. The CSPs are best placed to co-ordinate this work on behalf of all agencies and the Commissioner has given them the resources to do just that. The Safer Communities Fund enables them to fund local initiatives which visibly reassure local people that the CSP (through the Problem-Solving Co-ordinators) is dealing with the local issues of crime and disorder which matter to them.
- 6.3 The Commissioner has used his role to bring people together to tackle community safety and criminal justice issues by leading events to highlight the issue of crime in rural communities, business crime and road safety for example.
- 6.4 During 2021/22 the Constabulary invested in additional call handlers, even going over establishment. The initial benefit takes some time to be felt because of the time it takes to recruit and train. However, the Commissioner has made it clear to the Chief Constable that this is an ongoing priority which he will be further scrutinising in coming year.
- 6.5 The Commissioner has ensured a virtuous cycle of listening and responding tailoring engagement to feedback from public.
- 6.6 Over the year the Commissioner continued to make representation to Government for the Constabulary to receive a fairer share of police funding.

7 Crime Prevention

- 7.1 In 2021/22 the Commissioner supported two bids into the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. These very different projects had the same core ambition: to prevent crime before it happened. In Peterborough environmental improvements aimed to make areas of the city feel and look safer while a countywide initiative, working in partnership with the night-time economy, taught people to spot would-be predators. The results speak for themselves: a rapist caught before he struck and in another area a woman rescued mid-assault.
- 7.2 The OPCC's successful bid to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund has changed the lives of families across the county. The Respect Programme addressing child to parent violence has shown young people the impact of their actions while a Stalking Intervention Programme is stopping offenders in their tracks. All this could not have been done without the existing mature

partnership working arrangements which the OPCC and others have worked hard to develop.

- 7.3 Partnership working is the essence of the Government's Beating Crime Plan and the Commissioner has invested or supported local work to support people to turn their lives around. This includes projects to help people change their behaviours after a first offence, those who want to improve their employability when they leave prison and those who suffer multiple disadvantages and need a step back onto the housing ladder.
- 7.4 Through his new Youth Fund the Commissioner has funded a wide range of work which provide safe spaces for young people to gather. An initiative with an Academy Trust also aims to engage young people in constructive activities and get them out of the way of County Lines recruiters.
- 7.5 The Commissioner recognises the importance of tackling drugs. He has contributed to the local Drugs and Alcohol Treatment contracts which form part of the partnership response to meet the aspirations of the Government's new drug strategy "From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives".
- 7.6 The Commissioner is an active partner of the countywide Bike theft 'Task and Finish' group and in 2021/22 welcomed investment at Cambridge railway station via Greater Anglia and Peterborough Railway Station through the Safer Streets 2 bid.

8 Supporting Victims and Witnesses

- 8.1 The Commissioner is responsible for putting in place support services for victims and witnesses of crime. The model centres around a Constabulary-led Victim and Witness Hub which is seen nationally as best practice with more than five other areas visiting in 2021/22 and developing their own models based on Cambridgeshire's. The team supported nearly 5,000 people last year and worked with a rolling case load of 15,650 victims and witnesses within the local CJS system.
- 8.2 The county has the highest number of specialist staff supporting survivors of domestic abuse and rape and sexual violence it has ever had. This is thanks to multiple bids by the Commissioner's office.
- 8.3 Many local services in the county bring significant added value to the contracts they hold; this ranges from hundreds of hours of free counselling time for bereaved families of fatal road traffic incidents to the provision of practical items for local families escaping domestic abuse.
- 8.4 A more detailed summary of the outcomes secured by all victim service providers is available on the Cambridgeshire PCC website.
- 8.5 The OPCC, in partnership with colleagues in the local authority, ensures that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough victims have a voice in national working groups. The Rape Survivor Engagement Project was praised by the Victims'

Commissioner and the Home Office are liaising with Cambridgeshire, as well as other areas, over a re-look at Domestic Homicide Reviews.

- 8.6 The Commissioning and Grants Strategy sets out the approach taken by the OPCC to fund services or projects which contribute to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.
- 8.7 An Internal Audit undertaken by RSM Tenon provided 'substantial assurance' on all aspects of the OPCC commissioning and grants function. Within 2021/22 the team managed 53 different providers (excluding small grants); many on behalf of the Constabulary

9 Ethical Policing

- 9.1 In the past year the OPCC and Constabulary has established a Community Scrutiny Panel. This group of volunteers provide feedback to improve standards within the Constabulary. It focuses on stop and search and use of force by officers.
- 9.2 The Independent Custody Visitor Scheme has gone from strength to strength carrying out 45 visits and speaking to 139 people over the year. This scheme reassures the public that rights, wellbeing and treatment of people in the county's custody blocks are being met.
- 9.3 The Commissioner has overseen additional investment into the Constabulary's vetting unit showing the commitment to ensuring police integrity has never been more important. New and inexperienced officers are being supported to develop by longer serving colleagues based in the force's Continuous Professional Development Units. The Chief Constable Commissioner has recognised that the average age of the workforce is falling, and it is important to set and maintain the standards expected of new recruits.
- 9.4 Members of our Black and Ethnic Minority communities say they want to see police officers and staff who look like them; the Commissioner is supporting the Constabulary efforts to create a more diverse workforce.
- 9.5 The Commissioner has made clear in his Plan the importance of the sustainability agenda. The Constabulary recently launched its first Sustainability Strategy; the OPCC has ensured all new tenders consider social value when evaluating who the new provider should be; and the OPCC has maintained its approach to agile working introduced during covid restriction measures.

10 Robust Enforcement

- 10.1 The Commissioner carries out his statutory duty to hold the Chief Constable to account to deliver efficient and effective policing through the Business Co-ordination Board. The papers for this meeting are published on the Commissioner's website. Recent papers have focused on the Constabulary's response to the new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Framework, the National Crime and Policing Priorities and the Constabulary Corporate Plan.

10.2 In response to feedback from members of the rural communities the Commissioner has been committed to ensuring rural communities get the response they need when they report crime. The Rural Crime Action Team works closely with Countryside Watch, whose funding the Commissioner doubled in 2021/22, to jointly tackle crime in these communities. Having worked with the county's MPs over the year to campaign for tougher sentences for people caught hare coursing, the Commissioner welcomes new laws introduced by the Home Office under its Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act.

10.3 The issue of drink or drug driving is one which the Commissioner has invested extra resources in to enable more police action. During an 11-day period, in December 2021, at least 1,700 vehicles were stopped, and 76 breath tests conducted, with drivers and occupants engaged about the risks associated with driving 'the morning after'. Colleagues in the criminal justice system then ensured those arrested for drink drive offences were dealt with 48 hours of arrest. The campaign saw 19 out of 25 individuals receiving a disqualification within 48 hours.

11 How the Constabulary is funded

11.1 The Panel are reminded that the Outturn Budget is not available until the Autumn. However previous detail has been provided in the form of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which was shared in February 2022.

12 National Policing Priorities

12.1 Commissioners are required to let their electorate know how their force is performing against the National Policing Priorities which are nationally set measures against the year ending June 2019 as the baseline.

12.2 It is noted that the Annual Report does not include reference to local crime statistics and instead provides links to the Constabulary website where this is available. Local crime statistics are also available in a range of formats on the Home Office website, for example the recent Criminal Justice System Scorecards.

13 Next steps

13.1 The Commissioner will respond to the Panel's report and any recommendations they may have on the Annual Report and then publish the Annual Report.

14 Background documents

14.1 Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A - Annual Report