

This matter is being dealt with by:

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W www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel

Commissioner Caroline Henry
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Joint Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 8PP

22 September 2022

Dear Commissioner Henry

Police & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report

Thank you for presenting your Annual Report for 2021/22 to the Panel meeting on 21 September 2022 for members to review.

Members noted the achievements that you listed within your report, together with those areas where you indicated that you would continue to work.

Areas of particular interest to members in debate included comments around community safety partnerships and concerns around the withdrawal of financial support. Your response and proposal for regular reviews of funding commitments to ensure it is being directed appropriately on the basis of need was noted.

Members also took the opportunity to ask questions about the work undertaken to ensure the improved integrity of crime data and sought assurance that the data on which assertions in the annual report were based, was robust. It was explained that often when a victim reports a crime that is logged immediately; as the investigating continues it often highlights other offences, which were not recorded. Quality checks were in place to ensure that information was recorded. There was some concern expressed by Panel members about the robustness of data on which assertions in the report was made. You agreed that it was a complex issue and a paper on this area would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel. Members also recognised that the effect of COVID on activities has made comparing and understanding performance more complicated in recent years.

As the Panel has previously been involved in work to support the former Commissioner around the Criminal Justice System, the Panel was keen to hear about the progress being made following your convening of a Criminal Justice Board for Nottinghamshire. We would be grateful if you would continue to keep us up-to-date on the progress you make and outcomes that are achieved.

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel, c/o County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

The Panel was interested to understand and welcome that you have now created an Accountability Board for the purposes of your holding the Chief Constable to account. I'm sure that will assist in providing your report, based on your Accountability Board, to the Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel talked about opportunities to publish good news stories, particularly in respect of neighbourhood-based activity, through the media. Your response that whilst good news stories were provided, they were not published. Local Councillors indicated they may be able to provide support to you to share these stories through their networks and local communities.

The Panel would commend the Commissioner and the police on improvements to the police estate which have been realised over the last year - notably in Force HQ, the Custody Suite, and the SARC. We acknowledge that these developments were the result of long-term planning initiated under the previous Commissioner which came to fruition on the current Commissioner's watch.

We would also endorse the Commissioner's view expressed to the panel that sometimes chasing grants is a burden on other organisations, especially when this results in a short time to deliver the outcomes. We would support her in the intention to minimise this burden, and to encourage other departments, such as the Home Office, to do likewise.

Informally, members of the Panel suggested that it would help if the report included some cross-referencing, for instance, if an assertion is made that the occurrence of a particular crime has reduced, either provide the data or examples alongside it or refer to where that data is listed within the report.

The other suggestion that was made informally by members recognised the report as fulsome, but suggested that a summary document could better help its readability by members of the public.

Finally, thank you again for sharing your report with us and giving an opportunity to the Panel to make comments.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Goldstraw OBE
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel

CC: Sharon Caddell