

<b>For Consideration</b>	
<b>Public/Non Public*</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Police and Crime Panel</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8 February 2023</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Commissioner Henry (PCC)</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Dan Howitt</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk">ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk</a>
<b>Other Contacts:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>7</b>

## **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner and her office in fulfilling their statutory duties<sup>1</sup> and delivering against the ambitions of the 2021 to 2025 Police and Crime Plan since November 2023.
- 1.2 Supplementary papers include a summary of delivery against the Commissioner's 2023/24 Police and Crime Delivery Plan (Appendix A) and a forward plan of key OPCC and force decisions for the latest planning period (Appendix B).

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of these reports and briefings and seek assurance on any specific areas of concern. The Panel is also invited to request further information where required and make relevant observations and recommendations within the scope of their role<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty<sup>3</sup> to undertake scrutiny of the Commissioner in fulfilling her statutory duties (Section 14 of the Policing Protocol 2011). These reports are designed to assist the Police and Crime Panel in fulfilling these responsibilities.

<sup>1</sup> Section 13 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PR&SR) Act 2011 requires the Commissioner to, subject to certain restrictions, provide the Panel with any information which they may reasonably require in order to carry out their functions, and any other information which the Commissioner considers appropriate

<sup>2</sup> [Police and Crime Panels: A Guide to Scrutiny](#), Local Government Association, Updated 2016

<sup>3</sup> Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

### 3. Police and Crime Delivery Plan 2022/23

3.1 The Commissioner’s annual delivery plan shown at Appendix A outlines a range of specific actions and objectives planned for 2022/23 which underpin the strategic Make Notts Safe Plan. Police and partner agencies across Nottinghamshire continue to make strong progress in delivering against the plan. A number of recent developments are outlined in the section below.

#### Making our Streets, Villages and Towns Safer

3.2 Safer Streets 5 project funding commenced in October 2023 with a further £1.3m being made available for local interventions to tackle ASB, residential burglary, personal robbery, theft from person, vehicle crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG). This comprises of £1m Home Office Safer Streets funding and £333k PCC funding. Interventions in each area include:

	Ashfield	Broxtowe	Bulwell	Clifton	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark	Rushcliffe	Worksop
Alleygating									Y
ANPR			Y	Y					
Awareness Raising / Reporting		Y			Y		Y	Y	
CCTV	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
Environmental improvements	Y		Y				Y		Y
Home Security	Y								
Neighbourhood Watch							Y		
Outreach attitudinal activities			Y	Y		Y	Y		
Public guardianship initiatives						Y			
Street Lighting					Y		Y		

3.3 Serious Violence Duty funding has also enabled St John Ambulance Service to provide a mobile treatment centre in Nottingham’s night-time economy during weekends throughout December 2023. This partnership initiative was supported by Nottinghamshire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service and Nottingham City Council and provided welfare support and a place of safety on weekends throughout December to those who are vulnerable and at risk of being victim to serious violence or sexual assault in the night-time economy. The project helped to reduce demand on various agencies during this period and provided an evidence base for future investment.

## **Steering vulnerable young people away from crime**

- 3.4 The Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership (NVRP) continues to deliver a comprehensive programme of early intervention and prevention work targeted at reducing serious violence.
- 3.5 VRP funded Detached Youth Work teams were deployed in Bulwell, Aspley and Radford and Nottingham City Centre between September and December 2023 and engaged with a combined total of 5,524 young people on topics including education and employment, alcohol and drugs, behaviour management, and family and relationships.
- 3.6 The 'Another Way' focussed deterrence project which went live in June 2023 is now working with 16 young people aged 17 and under from the cohort of 54 identified as eligible for support and intervention. Work with 18 to 24 year olds is yet to commence due to a range of external factors, however, the VRP are working with City Council partners to mobilise this element by April 2024. Work is also underway to put additional support services in place with the involvement of a range of broader local community organisations.
- 3.7 The VRP, under the convening authority of the OPCC, continues to support specified authorities in meeting the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty which commenced on 31 January 2023. All specified authorities are required to complete local area profiles, response strategies and delivery plans by 31 January 2024. Local area profiles have been created for each local authority across Nottinghamshire, plus an additional profile for Nottingham City Centre. These assessments provide a comprehensive overview of trends, drivers and enablers impacting upon serious violence in the respective areas. The information was used to inform Community Safety Partnership level workshops held in November and December to co-produce response strategies and plans.
- 3.8 The OPCC has also completed the Serious Violence Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for 2023/24. The information and recommendations from the assessment are being used to inform the Serious Violence Response Strategy for Nottinghamshire which will be formally submitted to the Home Office at the end of March 2024. The assessment has incorporated information from the local area profiles as well as feedback from consultation and engagement. Focus groups were also held with Police Cadets, Nottingham College and across Nottinghamshire Young People's Centres to understand the impact of serious violence, community perceptions and potential solutions.
- 3.9 Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Partnership funded a major event at Nottingham College to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of knife crime on 14 November 2023 as part of the national 'Operation Sceptre' week of

action. The event was facilitated by the Nottinghamshire Police Youth Outreach team and involved a series of musical and spoken word performances alongside impactful stories from mothers who have lost children as a result of knife crime. Around 200 individuals attended the event. The force's Youth Outreach team continues to visit college campuses to meet with students as part of a 12-week youth outreach programme.

- 3.10 The Commissioner attended the launch of Chayah Development's 'Mix and Blenz' project in Stapleford in December. Chayah is one of 12 organisations benefitting from the latest round of Make Notts Safe Community Chest funding, having received £10,000 to help young people from mixed-race backgrounds to address the issues they may face and develop key skills.

### **Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

- 3.11 Our work to drive, enable and embed delivery of the partnership VAWG action plan has been strengthened by the appointment of a new Violence Against Women and Girls Project Lead and Commissioning Officer, both of whom joined the OPCC in November 2023.
- 3.12 The 'Your Choice' project went live across Nottinghamshire in December 2023 following a successful bid for Home Office funding earlier in the year. The project, delivered by Equation, is a voluntary domestic violence and abuse programme designed to support and effect behavioural change. The OPCC also successfully recommissioned Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and Child ISVA services in December 2023.

### **Visible and Responsive Neighbourhood Policing**

- 3.13 The Commissioner undertook public scrutiny of reforms to the Neighbourhood Policing model in December 2023 following a review undertaken earlier in the year. The new approach aims to ensure that Neighbourhood Policing delivers on the neighbourhood policing guidelines of Targeted Activity; Problem Solving; and Engaging Communities. This will see Operation Reacher teams being combined with the neighbourhood teams to strengthen the consistency of proactive and targeted activity across all neighbourhood areas.
- 3.14 The approach will also aim to ensure that abstractions from neighbourhood policing are minimised, local teams remain focused on local issues and growth in analytical capability via the Prevention Hub helps to ensure that neighbourhood policing is evidence-led and addressing greatest community issues and concerns.

- 3.15 Further to this, a new University Team based at Radford Road and Bryon House (2 PCs and 2 PCSOs) was formed in November to support the specific needs of Nottingham's student population. This includes a focus on strengthening engagement with what can be a highly transient group, building trust and confidence and support the delivery of priorities such as the Violence Against Women and Girls and Race Action Plan.
- 3.16 Work is also underway to develop Nottinghamshire's hotspot policing patrol strategy in view of new Home Office funding which will be made available in April 2024. The hotspot patrols will ensure police resources and activities are targeted in areas where crime and ASB is most concentrated. This approach has been shown to reduce crime and disorder, as well as increase public confidence and satisfaction with the police.
- 3.17 In November, the Commissioner undertook public scrutiny of the force's approach to tackling rural and wildlife crime following new investment in training, development and capabilities. Nottinghamshire Police now has 24 specialist officers as part of its 'Rural Cohort', who have received extensive training in rural crime alongside additional training for new recruits and those acting as at first point of contact within the force's control centre. The force's fleet was increased in November 2023, with three new 4x4 vehicles which allow officers far greater access to remote areas and increase tactical options in the pursuit of those committing crimes within rural settings.
- 3.18 Nottinghamshire Police has also employed a full-time Rural and Wildlife Manager who sits within the Prevention Hub structure, providing a first point of contact. Through Safer Streets funding and a Rural Crime Prevention Officer to undertake target hardening as part of the OPCC led Safer Streets scheme. Nottinghamshire Police is also investing in a number of other innovative initiatives courtesy of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. These include the purchase of diesel dye to inhibit rural thefts and a campaign, in collaboration with Crimestoppers, designed to target domestic violence within rural communities.

### **Policing the Digital Beat**

- 3.19 The Nottinghamshire Fraud Charter was formally launched on 27 November (Cyber Monday), with partner agencies across the force area coming together to pledge their support. The event included updates from local and national experts in the field of fraud prevention, the impact and severity of fraud and minimising the risk of a victim blaming culture. It also included professional insights into supporting victims of fraud and Trading Standards 'scambassador' training, primarily aimed at local Councillors, CEOs and fraud portfolio holders.

3.20 The Fraud Partnership Board and subgroup continue to meet quarterly and drive delivery against the fraud action plan. The first communications cell meeting took place in December with steps being taken to fraud-related comms, content and engagement across the partnership and develop a shared comms calendar aligned to the NPCC/Action Fraud National plan. Experian have produced dashboards for Nottinghamshire which is being used to support a range of initiatives and performance monitoring arrangements. A print version of the Fraud protect booklet has also been published and is being disseminated to higher risk victims. Current notable areas of fraud-related risk include door to door/rogue tradesmen, dating scams, hacking via extortion and pyramid/Ponzi schemes.

### **Responding to issues of greatest community concern**

3.21 The Commissioner launched the Nottinghamshire Immediate Justice scheme on 10 January 2024 after the force area was identified as one of ten 'trailblazer' sites nationally to receive funding to implement the scheme. Immediate Justice will aim to ensure a swift and visible community response to people who commit antisocial behaviour or low-level offences. This includes activity to clean up local streets, work in soup kitchens or take part in other positive community activities.

3.22 The scheme provides an alternative to court or paying fines for eligible first-time or low-level offenders. Nottinghamshire OPCC is leading the project, working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, local authorities and the enforcement service Red Snapper who will supervise placements. As the scheme develops, communities will receive more of a say over the types of reparation activity and where this activity is needed most through a community consultation tool. Victims affected by the anti-social behaviour or low-level crime will also be consulted to ensure that they support the referral and are satisfied with the outcome. The project has secured Home Office funding to the end of March 2025.

3.23 The ASB Taskforce will be working with the Immediate Justice programme and force Prevention Hub to identify ASB priority hotspot locations in each local authority area across Nottinghamshire. This information will be used to inform targeted interventions, the sharing of best practice and the location of Home Office funded ASB hotspot patrols in April 2024. Panel members will be kept informed of developments in this area, including and the priority locations identified.

### **Exposing Hidden Harm and Safeguarding Vulnerable People**

3.24 The force appointed two additional Specialist Honour Based Abuse staff in December 2023 as part of a team situated within the newly formed Prevention and Safeguarding Hub. The roles will help to drive further improvements in the identification, investigation and service response to Honour Based Abuse.

- 3.25 The service response to Modern Slavery and County Lines has been bolstered by the introduction of a new open-source internet investigation platform which will help to improve the development of intelligence and evidential leads. Work is also now progressing to deliver the planned roll out of the partnership Slavery and Exploitation Team across Nottinghamshire.
- 3.26 The Commissioner undertook scrutiny of the force's approach to exposing hidden harm and supporting victims of forced marriage, honour-based violence and Female Genital Mutilation as part of her month Accountability Board in January. This also included an overview of new measures under the Online Safety Act 2023 which place a positive requirement on online service providers to report a range of specified illicit content.

### **Improving Outcomes for Victims of Crime and ASB**

- 3.27 The new Restorative Nottinghamshire Service was formally launched on 24 November 2023 at an event attended by around 100 stakeholders. The service, which is run by Remedi, allows victims the chance to communicate with the perpetrator and receive an explanation, apology or some other form of reparation. The service aims to deliver up to 60 face-to-face consultations per year with those impacted by crime, with every stage of the restorative justice process being guided by a trained practitioner and progressed at a pace that the victim is comfortable with.
- 3.28 Restorative Justice has been shown to be highly effective in helping victims feel empowered as it gives them a voice and enables them to have direct or indirect contact with the offender. Government research demonstrates that 85% of victims participating in Restorative Justice are satisfied with the process. It has also demonstrated a reduction in the re-offending rate of offenders who have taken part, which helps to save public money.
- 3.29 On 21 November, the RaSSO (Rape and Serious Sexual Offences) and Domestic Abuse Crown Court Victims Experience Improvement Group was convened for the third time as part of work towards improving the local experience of victims at the crown court. The half day event was facilitated by the OPCC and hosted by Nottingham Crown Court. The group undertook a large scale process mapping exercise which identified a number of key pinch points and areas of concern where the victims experience could be adversely impacted.
- 3.30 Concerns included the lack of specialist defence barristers, the conduct in which court listing were developed, the lack of cohesive data on understanding the victims' journey and experience through the CJS, and fragmented communication between services and victims. Various workstreams are moving forward to improve overall victim experience and partnership working between all

agencies and key concerns from the group will be raised at a national level with senior Ministry of Justice, Home Office and APCC representatives.

#### **4. Governance and transparency**

- 4.1 The Commissioner convened further Accountability Boards on 21 November and 19 December 2023 as part of her regular programme of scrutiny which is helping to ensure a priority focus on the objectives of her Make Notts Safe Plan. Scrutiny topics included the response to rural and wildlife crime, improving outcomes for victims of crime and ASB, delivery against the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, vetting complaints and misconduct, the neighbourhood policing model, delivery of the Race Action Plan and steering vulnerable young people away from crime.
- 4.2 Scrutiny sessions relating to Neighbourhood Policing and Rural and Wildlife Crime were recorded and made available on the Commissioners website for the first time in November and December, with these sessions also including pre-submitted questions from members of the public<sup>4</sup>. This approach will be adopted where appropriate as part of all future Accountability Board meetings with a view to increasing transparency and public confidence in the scrutiny process.
- 4.3 In addition to the Accountability Board, the Commissioner also continues a weekly dialogue with the Chief Constable and Force leads about matters of organisational significance, or that impact upon community safety and criminal justice across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

#### **5. Organisational developments**

- 5.1 The OPCC appointed Michelle Buttery as Interim Chief Executive in December 2023, with the Police and Crime Panel holding her confirmation hearing on 8 January 2024. Michelle is due to join the OPCC in early 2024, with the OPCC's Head of Commissioning and Partnerships continuing to deputise as Monitoring Officer and the OPCC's Head of Strategy and Performance continuing to deputise as Head of Paid Service in the interim.
- 5.2 Upcoming appointments within the OPCC include four new project leads for VAWG, Safer Streets 5, Immediate Justice and a Whole Systems Approach for Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System - all of which are predominantly externally funded.

---

<sup>4</sup> [Nottinghamshire PCC Accountability Board](#)



5.3 More than 30 delegates from police forces across the country arrived at Nottinghamshire Police HQ on 18 December to learn about the innovative Military Service Leavers Pathway into Policing programme. The programme was launched by Nottinghamshire Police and the University of Derby in March 2023 providing a direct entry route for those in their military resettlement period to utilise their skills and experiences in the police service. The first cohort are now completing their Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA), which will see them become fully-fledged police officers. The scheme is the first of its kind in the country.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

6.1 The Commissioner has provided funding for the Majority Black Led Churches (MBLC) in Nottingham to facilitate community conversations with Black communities to obtain a deeper understanding of local community cultural experience and help strengthen trust and confidence in the police. MBLC and the Force continue to develop new initiatives aimed at improving trust and confidence in the black community, which has included the development of a scheme to provide culturally competent pastoral support within custody settings.

6.1 The OPCC continued to hold regular supermarket pop-up events during November and attending supermarkets covering the areas of Bulwell, Netherfield, Clifton, Retford, Mansfield, Gamston and West Bridgford during November and December to seek views on the council tax precept for policing. Further pop-up events are planned in Broxtowe and Ashfield.

6.2 The Commissioner also commissioned four independent focus groups in December in each of Nottinghamshire's four Community Safety Partnership areas. The focus groups were used to explore both views on the precept for policing and perceptions of trust and confidence in local policing.

6.3 The Commissioner and her office continue to maintain an extensive schedule of engagement which, during the latest reporting period, has included:

- Safer Streets End of Project event (6 November)
- Neighbourhood Inspector visit, City West (8 November)
- Rushcliffe Farmers Forum (8 November)
- Mansfield BID's Celebrate Mansfield Town Centre Night (9 November)
- Remembrance Services - Force HQ (10 Nov), Nottingham City (12 Nov)
- Launch event of Restorative Nottinghamshire (22 November)
- Elimination of Violence against Women Soroptimist Event (25 November)
- Himmah's Second Annual Awards Ceremony (26 November)
- Launch of the Nottinghamshire Fraud Partnership Charter (27 November)
- Fire Service Annual Awards Ceremony (29 November)

- Opening of Coronation House (30 November)
- Diesel Dye Engagement event (7 December)
- VRP Stakeholders Event (12 December)

6.4 The OPCC has continued to expand the physical and online reach of the Commissioner's monthly newsletter, which can now be found in all GP surgeries, front desk counters at Nottinghamshire Police Stations and Inspire Libraries across the city and county. To subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZXqx5NTkdB>

## **7. National Developments**

- 7.1 The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) issued new guidance issued in December urging forces to prioritise attending the scene of a domestic burglaries within an hour of the report in order to capture forensic tests, searches, neighbour interviews and CCTV footage. Evidence suggests that 'golden hour' enquiries such as these significantly improve the likelihood of a positive crime outcome. The Commissioner reviewed force compliance with these guidelines as part of her Accountability Board on 16 January 2024.
- 7.2 On 8 December 2023, HMICFRS published their thematic inspection of the effectiveness of the police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation in England and Wales. The report identifies significant national areas for improvement in terms of partnership working between forces and local agencies, improving understanding of the local intelligence picture, and making better use of warning markers when conducting safeguarding checks. The report also highlighted evidence of victim blaming language across some forces and opportunities to better educate officers and staff on the threat of group based CSE. The Commissioner will hold a dedicated scrutiny session with the force to explore the extent to which these national findings are reflected locally and what areas for improvement are underway.
- 7.3 On 19 December 2023, HMICFRS, HMCPSI, and HMI Probation published their national joint inspection of the police, probation and CPS ability to meet the needs of victims in the Criminal Justice System. The report found that while the victims code is often complied with, this is not always undertaken in an empathetic and considerate manner. LCJBs could not always access how good the victims experience is due to the lack of data sharing across organisations. Furthermore, high workloads are impacting the ability of officers and staff to appropriately investigate all lines of inquiry, which is compounded by a high level of new inexperienced officers and a lack of supervision. The Commissioner's Victim and Witnesses Subgroup and Local Criminal Justice Board will consider the local impact of these national findings.

## **8. Decisions**

- 8.1 The Commissioner has the sole legal authority to make a decision as the result of a discussion or based on information provided to her by the public, partner organisations, Members of staff from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) or Chief Constable. The Commissioner's web site provides details of all significant public interest decisions.<sup>5</sup>
- 8.2 The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force has been updated and is shown at Appendix B.

## **9. Human Resources Implications**

- 9.1 None - this is an information report.

## **10. Equality Implications**

- 10.1 The Commissioner's decisions and strategic direction are fully compliant with the Equality Act 2020

## **11. Risk Management**

- 11.1 There are no significant risks within this report that need to be drawn to the attention of the Police and Crime Panel.

## **12. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

- 12.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Make Notts Safe Plan and provides information on emerging policy and legislative developments.

## **13. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations**

- 13.1 The Commissioner undertakes routine horizon scanning of emerging legislation, government publications, audits and inspections and significant consultations, statistics and research findings in order to help inform local strategic planning and decision making.

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

13.2 Changes to the Specified Information Order came into force on 31 May 2021 requiring Police and Crime Commissioners to publish on their websites:

- A statement on how their force is performing in relation to key national priorities for policing.
- Copies of HMICFRS PEEL inspection reports, and a summary assessment of the force's performance; and
- Copies of IOPC data on force complaints, and a statement on how the PCC (or Mayor's Office) is exercising its complaints-handling functions under the Police Reform Act 2002.

13.3 The Commissioner has taken steps to ensure compliance with the amended legislation.

#### **14. Details of outcome of consultation**

14.1 The Chief Constable has been sent a copy of this report.

#### **15. Appendices**

- A. Make Notts Safe Delivery Plan 2022/23 – January 2024 Update
- B. Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force - January 2024

#### **16. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)**

Make Notts Safe Plan 2021 - 2025

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Dan Howitt, Head of Strategy and Performance of the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, [ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk](mailto:ExecutiveSupport@notts.police.uk), Tel: 0115 8445998