

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	27 March 2023
Report of:	Commissioner Henry (PCC)
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Other Contacts:	None
Agenda Item:	5

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 since January 2023 in undertaking their statutory duties¹ and delivering against the ambitions of the 2021 to 2025 Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.2 Supplementary papers include a summary of delivery against the Commissioner's 2022/23 Police and Crime Delivery Plan (Appendix A), the Revenue and Capital outturn position as at 31 December 2022 (Appendix B) and a forward plan of key OPCC and force decisions for the latest planning period (Appendix C).

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 role².
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty³ 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.

¹ 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

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

³ Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

3. Police and Crime Delivery Plan 2022/23

3.1 The Commissioner's annual delivery programme shown at Appendix A outlines a range of specific actions and objectives planned for 2022/23 which underpin the strategic Make Notts Safe Plan. This section highlights progress made against the plan by the OPCC, police and partner agencies since January 2023.

Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

3.2 The OPCC has been working closely with key partners across the statutory and voluntary sector to develop a strategy for tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, based on the five key pillars of preventing, responding, supporting, including and strengthening local service provision.

3.3 The five year strategy will seek to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls, bring more perpetrators to justice and increase the support available to victims and survivors. This includes underpinning objectives to increase confidence to report VAWG-related crimes among victims and third parties, develop and implement schools based healthy relationships programmes and ensure that a consistent range of trauma-informed services are available to support survivors.

3.4 The strategy is informed by the views and experiences of survivors, front line service providers and the general public through stakeholder workshops, focus groups and surveys. The Commissioner launched a consultation on the partnership strategy as part of engagement events in the City and County on 8 March 2023 alongside an [online consultation](#)⁴ which will be open until 31 March 2023. The strategy will be underpinned by a series of detailed delivery plans which will be developed for 2023/24.

Improving our approach to reducing reoffending

3.5 The OPCC convened the Nottinghamshire Reducing Reoffending Board on 8 March 2023 bringing together a wide range of partners to confirm the delivery plan 2023/24 and assign appropriate lead roles and responsibilities. The delivery plan focuses on the priority themes of resettlement, substance dependency, mental health, domestic violence and abuse, weapon-enabled offending, disproportionality within the criminal justice system and the priority cohorts of women, care leavers and ex-armed service personnel

3.6 Home Office funding has been secured for the regional roll out sobriety tags following the conclusion of a successful Nottinghamshire pilot. The pilot

⁴ <https://www.ibyd.com/vawg>

monitored over 2,500 hours of activity in which 90% saw users with alcohol-related needs abstaining. Further tags and remote breathalysers will be rolled out across the region, with Nottinghamshire force being one of the first in Europe to make use of facial recognition enabled breathalyser technology. The project will work local treatment providers to ensure the provision of longer-term recovery support for those subject to sobriety tag interventions.

Policing the digital beat

- 3.7 The OPCC has reviewed and supported a range of local activity to tackle and prevent fraud in Nottinghamshire, which has included:
- Operation Signature - preventing vulnerable people from becoming victims of fraud through proactive work to identify and provide advice and guidance to those that may be at risk
 - Events in banks to train staff in relation to banking protocols and provide an opportunity for the public to speak with specialist protect officers
 - Work to develop a fraud advice booklet which incorporates details of common scams, where to access support and how to avoid being a victim
 - Attendance at university freshers fairs, job fairs and the Nottinghamshire Show to provide opportunities to speak with Protect and Prevent officers in collaboration with Victim Care.
 - Provision of Call Blockers to prevent scam. These are monitored and assessed to establish how many calls have been prevented and quantify the estimated financial savings to victim and the police.
- 3.8 The Commissioner attended the APCC's Fraud Deep Dive event in January 2023 which provided an opportunity to discuss and explore emerging good practice in relation to protect and prevent fraud initiatives which could be replicated locally. The OPCC is now liaising with West Midland OPCC to capture and apply learning from their public health approach to tackling fraud. The OPCC is also working to establish a local Fraud Partnership which will aim to improve the understanding and co-ordination of strategic activity to prevent, respond to and support victims of fraud in Nottinghamshire.
- 3.9 Furthermore, the OPCC are involved in a range of APCC meetings to influence and keep up to date with national developments in this area, including the Corporate Transparency Bill and Online Safety Bill. The OPCC is also supporting the delivery of consistent messaging, advice and campaign material alongside the City of London Police and Action Fraud. The benefits of this approach were seen during the 12 Frauds of Christmas campaign in December. At a regional level, the Regional Organised Crime Unit continues to roll out Proactive Economic Crime Teams (PECTs), whilst the East

Midlands Specialist Operations Unit (EMSOU) is due to receive an uplift to bolster regional Fraud and Economic Crime capabilities.

- 3.10 The Commissioner continues to support, challenge and scrutinise force activity to improve the response to crimes committed or facilitated online. In 2022/23, this included increasing the number of cyber investigators within the specialist Cyber Pursue team, improving the capability to pursue crypto currency and digital proceeds of crime and improving in the knowledge and understanding of cyber crime among frontline officers and staff via additional training and support.

Responding to issues of greatest community concern

- 3.11 The OPCC convened a second ASB taskforce on 7 February 2023 which brought a wide range of partners together from police, local authorities, housing, community safety, youth justice and fire and rescue to improve the strategic response to ASB across the area.
- 3.12 Partners discussed the changing trends in ASB and opportunities to develop a better understanding of the prevalence and impact of ASB on communities through greater sharing of partnership information. Options to improve recording and case management approaches to ASB were also discussed alongside a review of the approach to managing and promoting the Community Trigger process.
- 3.13 Work is now underway to improve the quality and consistency of local policies and protocols in response to ASB which will also aim to ensure clarity of the roles and responsibilities of respective statutory agencies.
- 3.14 The response to rural crime and the needs of rural communities remains an important priority for the Commissioner, having relaunched her Rural Crime thematic grants in January 2023. Applications are now being reviewed and evaluated with the successful bids being announced shortly.
- 3.15 The Commissioner's target hardening funding, [Safer For All](#), has helped to secure a dedicated rural crime prevention officer for the [Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood \(and Rushcliffe?\)](#) area. Part of their role involves visiting victims of rural crime, completing crime prevention assessments and arranging the installation of security and target hardening products where appropriate and necessary. This is helping to reduce risk of repeat victimisation and increase feelings of safety among victims of rural crime.

Improving outcomes and experience of the CJS for victims

3.16 The Commissioner's Victims and Witnesses subgroup was held on 22 February 2023 whereby key criminal justice and victim support partners considered changes to monitoring arrangements for Victims' Code compliance, the draft Nottinghamshire Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and any issues of concern affecting local victim service providers.

3.17 The PCC and force continue to drive improvements in the police and criminal justice response to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) with investment in two unmarked mobile digital forensic units (DigiVans). They vans are equipped with technology to enable forensic recovery and 'at scene' with a 24-hour turn-around time for extracting data from victim's mobile devices. The turnaround for securing digital material from the mobile phones of victims has reduced from 413 hours in April 2022 to around 21 hours, significantly reducing the impact that this process has on victims. Evidence of this nature is now used in around 35% of all adult rape cases and is helping to secure improvements in criminal justice outcomes.

Supporting Communities to Make Notts Safe

3.18 The Commissioner continues to support and promote increased involvement in volunteering and community-led watch schemes across Nottinghamshire.

3.19 The Nottinghamshire Cadet programme continues to grow, with 93 cadets and 97 on the waiting list to join. The force has 38 cadet leaders and two pending vetting. As well as engaging with the police, the cadets are engaging extensively with local communities through events such as Pride, the Remembrance Day parade, selling poppies and undertaking test purchasing operations for fireworks and knives. A new programme has also been developed for the cadets to work towards earning badges in recognition of their work.

3.20 A further Make Notts Safe Innovation Fund is scheduled to be launched in early 2023 to support third sector organisations to research, develop or pilot and evaluate new initiatives which aim to enable local delivery against PCC priorities.

4. Governance and accountability

4.1 The OPCC is working in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police to embed the Independent Community Scrutiny Panel (ICSP) and Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) as mechanisms for capturing recommendations and advice from local residents as part of a robust scrutiny and engagement process.

- 4.2 The Independent Community Scrutiny Panel enables local communities to independently scrutinise Police activity and decision making in areas of significant public interest such as use of force and stop and search. Nottinghamshire's panel is made up of six vetted individuals who reside in the area and have specific expertise in handling and critically analysing complex data. Since its inception the panel they have engaged in a wide variety of scrutiny activity, including a stop and search panel where they analysed body worn footage and officer behaviour in the community. They have also requested to view specific data on hate crime and convened a panel where they have viewed hate crime incidents, from the first contact through to follow up calls and offers for victim support.
- 4.3 To date, the panel has made a number of recommendations for senior officers to improve and change police practice in the areas of:
- Community engagement to explain the stop and search process and the rights of the individual
 - Force data reports to inform the ICSP of officers with a high rates of stop and search.
 - Contact management to work on reassuring victims on calls that units have been dispatched.
 - Improvement in keeping victims informed of case progress and ensuring compliance with this area of the victims' code.
- 4.4 The PCC has also launched a Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) in collaboration with the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission which will work with young people and the police across a range of settings to drive improvements in levels of trust and confidence in the police. The Youth Commission is made up of over 30 young people from across Nottinghamshire who are passionate about their community and being involved in driving improvements in Policing. The group has met the PCC to discuss their work programme for the year and have met with the Chief Superintendent of local policing to discuss the drives of trust and confidence in the police among young people. Actions to date have seen Youth Commission members advise the force communications team on how they can best reach an engage with young people, including those with lived experience of the criminal justice system and violence against women and girls. The OPCC will continue to monitor outcomes from these initiatives an ensue recommendations are embedded within policy and practice where appropriate.
- 4.5 In addition to these developments, a partnership has also been formed with the Majority Black Led Churches group, who are seeking to use their influence in the community to reach those who are most disillusioned with

the police due to historic experiences of the community that go back decades. This will result in a series of workshops aimed at improving community cohesion by bringing together members of the Black community and senior officers in neutral venues to build relationship and share food together. The PCCs office will also be attending an Islamic Awareness session to strengthen cultural competency and understanding the experience of the Muslim community.

- 4.6 The OPCC convened further Accountability Boards on 14 February and 14 March 2023 as part of a regular programme of oversight and scrutiny which is helping to ensure a priority focus on the objectives of the Make Notts Safe Plan. Areas of focus included detection and charge rates, out of court disposals, compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice, violence against women and girls, hotspot patrols and a review of corporate performance. The February Board was observed by members of the Independent Community Scrutiny Panel who provided positive feedback and assurance.
- 4.7 In addition to the Accountability Board, the Commissioner maintains 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. Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1 The Commissioner met with the Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer on 9 February 2023 to discuss Nottinghamshire Police's Military Service Leavers' Pathway into policing. The trailblazing scheme is one of a number of ways in which Nottinghamshire is finding new ways to attract fresh talent to the force.
- 5.2 The Commissioner was a guest speaker at the Newark Business Club breakfast and attended Newark College campus and the launch of Deafinitely Women's Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in February 2023. In March 2023 the Commissioner attended Nottingham Muslim Women's Network's AGM and jointly hosted an event with Nottinghamshire's Women's Aid, opening of the Hickling Women's and Children's Centre.
- 5.3 The Commissioner held a Walkabout Wednesday event in Worksop town centre on 11 January 2023, visiting the Safer Streets projects in the area and meeting representatives from North Notts Bid, Bassetlaw District Council and the local neighbourhood policing team. The Commissioner undertook a walkabout in Clifton on 8 February along with the local PC and PCSO, visiting the NTU Clifton campus to meet local stakeholders.

- 5.4 The Commissioner and her office have continued to undertake a range of community engagement activity from January 2023. This has included:
- Base 51's 30th Anniversary event (19 January)
 - Mansfield Day of Action, Oaktree Estate (23 January)
 - Mansfield CVS's Community Network Meeting (1 February)
 - Chat with Caroline visit to Notts LGBT+ Network volunteers (7 February)
 - Rushcliffe Rural Crime Forum (16 February)
 - Nottingham Nightlife Safety Forum (16 February)
 - Nottinghamshire's Rainbow Heritage Awards evening hosted by Nottingham City Council (22 February)
 - Visit to Notts Trans Hub (23 February)
 - Nottinghamshire's joint Police, Fire & Rescue and OPCC family event for LGBT+ History Month (25 February)
 - Nottingham City Council's International Women's Day event (8 March)
 - International Women's Day Rugby Event (8 March)
- 5.5 The OPCC continue to expand the physical and online reach of the Commissioner's monthly newsletter. To subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZXgx5NTkdB>. Future Walkabouts are scheduled for Mansfield town centre (22 March), Bestwood (12 April) and Kirkby-in-Ashfield (24 May).

6. Finance, use of resources and value for money

2022/23 Budget Monitoring

- 6.1 The Commissioner approved a Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2022/23 in February 2022. This set out the overall budget for the PCC including the budget that is delegated to the Chief Constable.
- 6.2 The Commissioner's Accountability Board provides a formal mechanism for holding the Chief Constable to account for the budget that the Commissioner has delegated. At this meeting the Chief Constable submits both revenue and capital budget monitoring reports for scrutiny. The reports as at the end of December 2022 were discussed at the February 2023 Accountability Board and are attached at Appendix B for information.

Revenue

- 6.3 The 2022/23 forecast outturn for revenue expenditure at Q3 shows a £2,089k forecast underspend both the Chief Constable's budget and the OPCC budget. The 2022/23 budget is shown in the following summary table.

	Working Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Chief Constable	236,431	235,840	(591)
OPCC	6,950	5,452	(1,498)
Total	243,381	241,292	(2,089)

This is expanded by expenditure type in the tables below.

Chief Constable

Spend Type	Original Budget £'000	Virements £'000	Working Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Agency & Contract Services	16,621	477	17,098	17,375	277
Capital Financing	5,072	438	5,510	6,586	1,076
Comms & Computing	10,675	(132)	10,543	10,370	(173)
Employee	159,785	907	160,692	162,066	1,374
Income	(16,825)	(3,030)	(19,855)	(24,696)	(4,841)
Pensions	37,786	290	38,076	38,610	534
Premises	8,423	57	8,480	8,429	(51)
Supplies & Services	10,468	997	11,465	12,772	1,307
Transport	4,425	(4)	4,421	4,329	(93)
Total	236,431	0	236,431	235,840	(591)

OPCC

Spend Type	Original Budget £'000	Virements £'000	Working Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Agency & Contract Services	9,957	(80)	9,877	10,722	845
Capital Financing	0	80	80	80	0
Comms & Computing	12	0	12	18	6
Employee	1,156	0	1,156	1,028	(128)
Income	(4,925)	0	(4,925)	(7,158)	(2,233)
Pensions	167	0	167	213	46
Premises	6	0	6	5	(1)
Supplies & Services	564	0	564	522	(42)
Transport	13	0	13	22	9
Total	6,950	0	6,950	5,452	(1,498)

6.4 There are several variances within the forecast outturn on the Chief Constable's budget that are described in detail in Appendix B, the summary of those variances is shown below, the overall impact is a £591k forecast underspend.

Summary	£'000
Payawards	3,100
Overtime	1,901
Capital Financing	1,076
Inflation	751
Insurance	724
Uplift	(2,400)
Staff Pay	(2,500)
In-Year Savings	(1,146)
Seconded Officers	(663)
Addnl Income Generation	(658)
Investment Interest	(500)
Other	(276)
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	(591)

6.5 The forecast outturn for the OPCC takes into account the addition of in year grant income, (and corresponding expenditure) that was pending a decision record at the time. The income and expenditure budget has since been increased by £3.5m. There is the potential for an underspend on the OPCC budgets of some £1m. Some of this is due to the timing of Community Safety Grants and Commissioning activity, this will need to be carried forward at year end to fund the activity next year. There will be an underspend on the OPCC staff budget given so many posts were filled part way through the year.

Capital

6.6 The capital budget is £12,587k, an increase of £200k since last month, forecast outturn at the end of 2022/23 is £8,824k, generating a variance of (£3,764k). This is broken down to (£251k) underspend and (£3,513k) slippage. The 2022/23 Capital Programme budget summary is shown in the table below.

Capital Summary 2022/23 £'000

Department	Original Budget	Slippage from 2021/22	Addnl Approved Budget	Virements	Working Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	YTD Actual Spend
Estates	3,568	2,779	915	0	7,262	4,949	(2,313)	3,786
Fleet	2,422	1,991	80	0	4,493	3,096	(1,397)	1,183
Information Technology	458	174	200	0	832	778	(54)	452
Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	6,448	4,944	1,195	0	12,587	8,824	(3,764)	5,422

6.7 More detail on the forecast variances on the capital programme is available in Appendix B.

2023/24 Budget

6.8 The Commissioner approved the revenue budget and council tax requirement for 2023-24, and a medium-term financial plan and capital programme through to 2027-28 on 21 February, Decision Record number DR2023.018 refers.

6.9 The following strategies will be published in March:

- Financial Strategy (incl. Value for Money & Efficiencies)
- Reserves Strategy
- Capital Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy

6.10 The Commissioner met again with the Minister for Policing, Chris Philp, in February 2023 to discuss enhancing productivity and efficiency in policing, the need for increased revenue to meet the police pay settlement, the continued pressures of displaced mental health demand upon policing, and crime counting rules for burglary of domestic and non-domestic dwellings. The Commissioner continues to amplify Nottinghamshire's voice during Government consultations, particularly in relation to the fairer national funding formula for policing.

6.11 The Commissioner organised a Westminster meeting between Nottinghamshire Police Federation representatives with cross-party Nottinghamshire politicians to discuss the challenges faced by Nottinghamshire Police rank and file officers.

6.12 The Commissioner convened a meeting with Dame Carol Black, author of the Government's From Harm to Hope 10-year drug strategy, and public health colleagues from both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council.

7. National Developments

7.1 The OPCC has also issued responses to a number of national consultations during this period, which include:

- Government consultation on new legislative measures to strengthen how law enforcement agencies tackle serious and organised crime which was launched on 24 January 2023
- Home Office consultation on the Anti-social behaviour and Vagrancy Act closed on 3 February 2023 sought PCC views on the operation of ASB tools and powers alongside views on the replacement of the Vagrancy Act. The OPCC provided insight and practical examples of how ASB is being tackled in the area.
- The Home Office and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) consultation which closed on 6 February 2023. The OPCC together with Nottingham City Homes provided evidence of ASB best practice and the challenges faced by social housing providers when dealing with ASB issues.
- Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, Call for Evidence which closed on 21 February 2023. The OPCC together with partners and stakeholders collected written evidence on the health and social harms of nitrous oxide and its impact on local communities.

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.⁵

8.2 Panel Members have previously requested that the Commissioner provide a list of all forthcoming decisions (Forward Plan) rather than those already made. This Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force has been updated and is shown at Appendix B.

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

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.

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 – March Update
- B. Revenue and Capital Outturn Position to December 2022
- C. Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force - February 2022

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

Make Notts Safe Plan 2021 - 2025

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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