

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	8 February 2022
Report of:	Commissioner Henry (PCC)
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Agenda Item:	9

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (Commissioner) activity in fulfilling her statutory duties¹ since November 2021.
- 1.2 The report also includes an overview of the latest Performance and Insight report (Appendix A). Quarter 2 revenue and capital forecast outturn positions for 2021/22 were reported to the November meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. Quarter 3 revenue and capital positions will be available following the Force Executive Board meeting on 7 February.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of this report 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 scrutinise performance and delivery against the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan and of the Commissioner in fulfilling her statutory duties (Section 14 of the Policing Protocol 2011). This update report is 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. Activities of the Commissioner

- 3.1 The Commissioner completed her programme of stakeholder engagement on the statutory Police and Crime Plan during November and December 2021, publishing her final plan on 26 January 2022. Specific actions, projects and activities linked to the plan are now being captured and tracked as part of the Commissioner's Annual Delivery Plan.
- 3.2 Roll out of the Safer Streets programme continues, having secured over £2m dedicated Home Office funding during the 2021/22 financial year and committed £134k additional local partnership funding to sustain the successful Newark Safer Streets project. Residents from Newark, Nottingham, Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Worksop South have continued to benefit from free home security devices, whilst other developments have included increased Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capabilities and the trialling of a mobile safety app to help improve safety of women and girls.
- 3.3 The Commissioner chaired the inaugural meeting of the Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Assurance Board on 13 December. This group brings agencies together in order to improve services, enhance outcomes for victims and witnesses, increase satisfaction and reduce offending and reoffending. The board will provide a platform for local leaders to seek assurance that all parts of the system are making a contribution to our shared objectives. At the initial meeting the board discussed a range of issues, including the Home Office review of PCC's, work to reduce violence against women and girls, plans to reduce the court backlog and how to improve the victim and witness experience of the criminal justice system. The Commissioner also attended the APCC's Local Criminal Justice Board Chairs meeting on 2 December enabling an increasingly joined up approach to criminal justice oversight at a local, regional and national level.
- 3.4 The Commissioner participated in the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's annual priority setting workshop on 20 December, sharing information, intelligence and insight used to inform the 2021-2025 Police and Crime Plan. The Board confirmed its intention to streamline their strategic priorities for 2022 in a move that will see greater alignment with the Commissioner's new police and crime plan.
- 3.5 Other notable engagements undertaken by the PCC during this period have included the Make Notts Safe Grant Awards, Mansfield (17 November); Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Partnership Summit (18-19 November); Regional PCC and Chief Constable's Board (23 November); Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (30 November); APCC Serious Violence Portfolio meeting (2 December); Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies PEEL

briefing (6 December); Universities of Nottingham Vice-Chancellors Winter Reception (7 December); National Police Bravery Awards (9 December); Nottingham CDP Board (13 December); East Midlands SOU Briefing (14 December); Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Board (16 December) and the Nottinghamshire Fire Authority (17 December).

- 3.6 The Commissioner visited a number of projects during this period which included the PCC funded ‘Switch-Up’ project in Nottingham (16 November), Lytham Gardens in Bestwood (8 December) and the new “Pod” at Asda Hyson Green (8 December).
- 3.7 The Commissioner attended the formal handover of the new Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services’ joint headquarters on 20 January 2022. New facilities at the site, including shared office space and a new police-control room, are expected to drive efficiencies and improve ways of working across both organisations. Commissioner Henry stated: “Our HQ is the newest tool in our arsenal as we combat crime across the county and will enable us to deliver 21st Century policing in Nottinghamshire. The unveiling of our new headquarters is also a testament to our partnership working with the fire service, enabling us to better serve the public and save money.”
- 3.8 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and staff from Nottinghamshire Police and Fire and Rescue Service will relocate within Headquarters during early 2022.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PERFORMANCE (2021-25)

- 4.1 The Commissioner’s Performance and Insight report has been fully revised and updated in line with the 2021 to 2025 Police and Crime Plan and is shown at appendix A. The report contains a range of new indicators which include ‘neighbourhood crime⁴’ rates, homicide, domestic homicide, the use of protection and early intervention measures relating to domestic violence and staking, domestic violence protection orders, notices and disclosures, online crime, issues of priority public concern, number of people killed or seriously injured on Nottinghamshire’s roads, criminal asset recovery and applications and levels of police recorded ‘hidden harm’⁵.
- 4.2 New processes are being established to capture and report on relevant partner agency data sources as part of this process, which include hospital admissions for non-accidental injuries involving knives and sharp instruments, proven

⁴ *National basket of offences comprising residential burglary, personal robbery, theft from person and theft of and from vehicles*

⁵ *Comprising low volume high harm offence categories such as child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation, modern slavery, forced marriage, ‘honour based violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)’*

reoffending rates and application and use of the Community Trigger process at Local Authority level. The Commissioner's Performance and Insight report to September 2021 shows a strong performance trajectory across the majority of key performance indicators.

4.3 Preventing crime and protecting people from harm

- The proportion of respondents to the Police and Crime Survey reporting experience of neighbourhood crime⁶ in the last year (5.1%) remains significantly lower than levels recorded during the 2019/20 baseline year (7.5%). Nottinghamshire's dedicated burglary and robbery teams and targeted crime prevention activity undertaken as part of the Home Office funded Safer Streets programme continue to drive reductions in these offences, however, changes in lifestyles as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic are also believed to have had an impact.
- Levels of violent knife crime have fallen by a further 9% (-71) over the last year, continuing the downward trend seen since March 2018. The number of first time entrants into the youth justice system in the city (126) has increased over the last year, but saw a marginal reduction in the latest quarter and remains significantly lower than levels recorded in the year to June 2019 (160). The overall level of crime severity / crime harm recorded in Nottinghamshire⁷ has remained relatively stable over the last year.
- There have been significant increases in pro-active preventative and safeguarding activity linked to domestic and sexual abuse over the last year which have included rises in the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (+202%) and Notices (+193%). Reported domestic abuse crimes, by contrast have fallen by 5% whilst the average number of domestic homicides recorded in Nottinghamshire has fallen by 52% (based on 3 year rolling average).

4.4 Responding to local need

- Public confidence in the Nottinghamshire Police peaked at 60.7% during the 2020/21 year and has since plateaued at around 60%. This remains higher than the level recorded in the 2019/20 baseline year (55.4%), however, the Commissioner has set an ambition to increase the proportion of residents stating that they have confidence in the police to at least 61.4% by March 2024. To help achieve this ambition, the Make Notts Safe plan maintains an ongoing commitment to the Operation Reacher model, a reinvigorated locality-based problem solving and priority setting process, the implementation of an ASB

⁶ Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Survey

⁷ As calculated using the ONS Crime Harm Index

Taskforce and further development of the PCC's communication and engagement programme.

- Positively, the proportion of respondents stating that the police are visible and accessible in the areas of greatest need has increased from 33.9% to 36.1% over the last year whilst the proportion of service users stating that they were satisfied with the service received increased from 58.7% to 63.0%.
- The Performance and Insight report shows that Nottinghamshire Police are maintaining strong call handling performance, with abandonment rates for the 999 service remaining low and falling (-0.6% pts), despite increasing demand (+11,522 calls). Grade 1 and Grade 2 response times have also increased steadily over the last year.

4.5 Supporting victims, survivors and communities

- A review of around 3,500 closing assessments of victims receiving Ministry of Justice funded victim services over the last year shows that around 71.4% felt that the service had improved their ability to cope with everyday life and recover from harm experienced. This marks a marginal reduction over the last year, partly affected by the impact of the pandemic. The Commissioner has set an ambition to increase the proportion stating that they are better able to cope and recover to at least 80% by March 2024, alongside plans to recommission new victim services for the area.
- The Commissioner has received assurance that the proportion of cases in which the force was compliant with the Victims' Code of Practice has increased from 91.8% to 95.1% over the last year, providing assurance that the care needs of victims are being routinely considered and that victims are being offered support and referral to available victim service providers.
- The revised Performance and Insight Report introduces a new category of hidden harm offences which are low in volume but have a high impact in victims and survivors, for which the Commissioner has set an ambition to increase reporting and identification. Levels of 'hidden harm' recorded by the police have increased by 11% over the last year, largely driven by rises in the number of Child Sexual Exploitation and Honour-based Violence offences identified and recorded.

4.6 Notable outliers:

- The proportion of residents stating that they feel safe outside in the area that they live after dark has fallen steadily since December 2020, from 63.1% to

59.1%. Work will be undertaken to develop a better understanding of the local and national factors that are likely to have impacted upon this trend.

- Self-reported experience of online fraud has continued to increase over the last year (+6.3%) as have the number of online dependent crimes recorded by the police (+4.3%). Of particular concern is the rising rate of online fraud offences in which vulnerable people have been targeted. The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan sets out a number of commitments in this area which include work to support the expansion of the force's digital media investigation team and to work with local, regional and national partners to promote a range of practical crime prevention tools and materials to help residents and businesses to better protect themselves from fraud. Progress will be reported as part of the Commissioners annual delivery plan.

5. Grants and Commissioning

5.1 The Commissioner continued to identify and secure opportunities for investment in the delivery of her Police and Crime Plan priorities for 2021-24.

5.2 **Home Office Safer Streets Fund:** the Commissioner received confirmation of a further £293,542 Safer Streets Funding in December following a successful bid to the 'Safety of Women at Night' (SWaN) fund. This brings the total amount of Home Office funding secured for Nottinghamshire as part of the Safer Streets programme to £2.8m during the 2021/22 financial year. The SWaN funding will be used to improve women's safety and feelings of safety in Nottingham city centre. Initiatives include training for Night Time Economy staff on issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), expanding an existing VAWG campaign and developing a new VAWG Charter for the Night Time Economy. The funding will also support work to provide Safe Spaces for women, improve safety on Nottingham's tram network and the provision of monthly nights of action.

5.3 **Make Notts Safe Grants:** The Commissioner launched her £1m Make Notts Safe Fund on 26 January 2022 which provides multi-year funding for community and third sector organisations to deliver projects that help to deliver against the priorities of the Make Notts Safe Plan. Thematic funding rounds include: youth diversionary activities; responding to hidden harm; tackling rural crime; tackling hate crime and; combating issues of greatest community concern. Thematic funding rounds relating to youth diversion and hidden harm are now open for applications in addition to the Make Notts Safe Community Chest which provides short term funding of up to £5,000. The deadline for applications is 7 March 2022. More information can be found via the Commissioner's website at www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

5.4 The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan also outlines a number of funding commitments for the planning period, which include:

- A dedicated £800,000 for crime prevention initiatives to increase neighbourhood safety and feelings of safety in vulnerable and hotspot locations across Nottinghamshire and;
- Investing £400,000 from the Late Night Levy to support partnership prevention activity in the city including 'Operation Guardian' and activity to improve safety and feelings of safety among women and girls
- Investing over £1,500,000 in custody based diversion for young people
- Investing over £2,600,000 into local drug treatment services for those in contact with the criminal justice system in Nottinghamshire
- Making £400,000 available to tackle rural crime and ensure that the police have the right resources, equipment and training to tackle these offences.

6. National Developments

6.1 The government published a ten year **National Drugs Plan** named 'From harm to hope' on 6 December setting out commitments to break drug supply chains while simultaneously reducing the demand for drugs by getting people suffering from addiction into treatment, and deterring recreational drug use. The plan sets out three core priorities: break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

6.2 This will be achieved by:

- Continuing to roll-up exploitative and violent county lines and strengthen the response across the drug supply chain, making the UK a significantly harder place for organised crime groups to operate
- Investing a further £780 million to rebuild drug treatment and recovery services, including for young people and offenders, with new commissioning standards to drive transparency and consistency
- Strengthening the evidence for how best to deter use of recreational drugs, ensuring adults change their behaviour or face tough consequences, and prevent young people from starting to take drugs

6.3 The plan is supported by almost £900 million of dedicated funding over the Spending Review period, with the government also developing a new set of local and national outcomes frameworks to measure progress. The Commissioner is now working with partners to consider the local implications and how she may optimise her convening powers to best effect in this area.

6.4 The Ministry of Justice launched a consultation on the **Victims' Bill** on 9 December 2021 which aims to bring about landmark reforms for victims of crime,

guaranteeing greater consultation with them during the criminal justice process, ensuring their voices are properly heard and holding agencies such as the police, Crown Prosecution Service and courts to greater account for the service they provide to victims.

6.5 Proposals include an explicit requirement for prosecutors to meet the victims of certain crimes before making a charging decision in order to understand the impact and the introduction of community impact statements to provide an account for the collective impact of an offence, including in cases where there is no clear victim – such as attacks on public places or anti-social behaviour. The Commissioner plans to issue a formal response to the consultation in advance of the 3 February deadline.

6.6 The Home Secretary announced the provisional police funding settlement for 2022/23 on 16 December 2021. A total of £16.9bn has been made available for policing in England and Wales, representing a £1.1bn increase on the 2021/22 funding settlement. PCCs will receive an overall increase of £796m in total funding assuming all adopt the full precept flexibility of £10 per Band D property. The settlement also confirmed total grant funding for police forces for the next three years, with increases of £550 million in 2022/23, at least £650 million in 2023/24 and no less than £800 million in 2024/25. PCCs will have up to £10 of precept flexibility in each of the next three years. The local implications of the settlement are considered within the accompanying precept and budget report.

7. Decisions

7.1 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.⁸

8. Human Resources Implications

8.1 None - this is an information report.

9. Equality Implications

9.1 The Commissioner's decisions and strategic direction are fully compliant with the Equality Act 2021

⁸ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

10. Risk Management

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

11. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

11.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Police and Crime Plan, and provides information on emerging drugs and victim policy issues that may influence future local policy and strategy

12. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

12.1 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.

12.2 The [Elected Local Policing Bodies \(Specified Information\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#) 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.

12.3 The Commissioner has taken steps to ensure compliance with the amended legislation and will be publishing a statement on how the force is performing in relation to the national police outcomes framework when publishing her statutory Police and Crime Plan.

13. Details of outcome of consultation

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

14. Appendices

A. Nottinghamshire Revised Performance and Insight report to September 2021

15. 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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