

Panel Member Questions to the PCC

Question 1: from Dr Stephen Handsley

During a previous PCP meeting, I raised the issue of the way children, and in particular, the case of a young black 15-year-old female, had been strip searched, by female police officers from the Metropolitan Police. A recent report by The Children's Commissioner has found this was not, however, an isolated case. Indeed, more than six hundred children underwent "intrusive and traumatising" strip-searches by the Metropolitan Police over a two-year period, with black boys disproportionately targeted, figures show.

Could the Commissioner provide any such figures with regard to Derbyshire Police and, if so, can we as a panel, be reassured that such incidences have never occurred, nor do they form any part of current day to day police operations?

PCC Response:

This question was answered at the time. I stated that this specific case had been discussed with the Chief Constable at the time it became public. I had already asked for reassurance from the force that this is not how our force conducted themselves and that the Chief Constable had reviewed their practices and reassured me, accordingly, confirming that such incidents have not occurred in Derbyshire and this practice does not form part of day-to-day operations.

Following the incident in the Metropolitan Police a review of Derbyshire's position was undertaken in relation to stop and search and in particular where these led to the strip search of a juvenile. During 2021/22 there were 5 strip searches carried out on under 18's which was 3% of all strip searches during the same time period. The reason for all of the searches was to find controlled drugs and all U18 strip searches took place in the safety of the custody suite environment. Within Criminal Justice a custody Inspector monitors and reviews all searches. Each one is reviewed to ensure appropriateness and forms part of CJ oversight directly into the Superintendent and ACC.

Derbyshire have a stringent scrutiny process around stop and search in a bid to improving legitimacy which has been recognised as good practice by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue. Internally, all stop searches on BAME individuals are scrutinised by the respective local policing Inspector who covers the area where the search took place. This review covers a number of areas including the legitimacy and legality of the search, whether any force used was proportionate and whether the grounds for search were reasonable. In addition to this, there are 30 monthly randomly selected searches scrutinised including a review of Body Worn Video (BWV) by stop and search leads, where any identified learning is fed back to searching officers and their supervisors and any trends or themes help shape training.

Externally Derbyshire have 2 separate scrutiny groups (Independent Advisory Group and OPCC) who each sit monthly and review 10 randomly selected searches. These groups also have access to unedited BWV. In addition to this the force also run

external Youth Scrutiny panels in a similar manner. Any concerns raised are escalated and feedback is provided, and necessary training delivered.

Accountability for stop and search internally is through both the Stop and Search Steering group which sits quarterly and is chaired by the ACC and the Trust and Legitimacy Board, which sits above this and is chaired by the DCC. These boards review and understand disproportionality, outcome rates and strip search outcome rates along with providing accountability for compliance against HMICFRS/IOPC recommendations and the governments Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS). Derbyshire have also commenced a trauma-informed approach to stop and search within their stop and search training to all staff which was a recommendation from the IOPC National stop and search learning report in April 2022.

Question 2: from Cllr Alan Barrow

Last week, the PCC announced through a press release and social media that Derbyshire Police had recruited 158 more Police Officers. Can the PCC clarify what 'more' means? How many of these were to replace existing vacancies and how many were additional posts related to the 'Uplift'. Can she also inform the PCP what was the gender and ethnicity make of these recruits, please?

PCC Response:

Through PUP the force is increasing its total number of officers by 283 over the three-year period, the force is now in the final year of this. Any numbers where increases are spoken about relates to new additional officers and not simply vacancies for those who have retired for example. In this current year the force are recruiting 125 new officers and are recruiting somewhere between 300 and 350 in total, which includes the 125 additional officers and replacing those who are retiring / leaving.

Derbyshire Constabulary is monitored nationally through the PUP Team in relation to numbers delivered, plans to deliver the Uplift and also the breakdown of officers by gender and ethnicity. Derbyshire is a leading force for the recruitment of female officers. From the start of Uplift counting to end of July 2022 the force have recruited 493 police officers, of which 237 (48%) are female officers and 18 (3.75%) have stated their ethnicity as B.A.M.E. There are significant plans in place to increase the number of black and minority applicants. The force monitors all of this closely to look at any adverse impact in the processes and utilise positive action officers to try to improve attraction recruitment in this area.

At the end of July 2022, the proportion of female officers was 39% and the proportion of black and minority officers was 3.2%

Question 3: from Cllr Alan Barrow

On the 11th August HMIC &FRS, Andy Cooke, published a report which he called the current low charge rate ‘unacceptable and unsustainable’. According to his inspection report (2020-2021) some Forces tackle this well – but many others do not. He gave examples of the poor performance:

- ***miss opportunities to identify and catch offenders, at all stages from when a crime is first reported***
- ***fail to give victims advice on crime-scene preservation during the initial call - in 71% of the cases examined***
- ***lack of investigative capacity and experience, made worse by a national detective shortage***
- ***fail to supervise investigations properly - in a third of cases***

The report comes soon after [the most recent Home Office figures](#) showed just 6.3% of robbery offences and 4.1% of thefts in England and Wales resulted in charges, in the year to March.

Can the PCC tell the PCP what is the performance of Derbyshire Police on these areas of concern highlighted by Andy Cooke?.

PCC Response:

The Force has improved the standards of investigation through the Achieving Excellence in Investigations Board and associated workstreams chaired by a Chief Superintendent lead. A performance framework is in place which is reported into to the Fighting Crime Board chaired by an ACC. This work is now being taken forward under the Investigation Standards strand of the new Serious Crime and Intelligence Directorate under the leadership of the Head of Crime, placing a greater focus on the management of offenders across all crime types and incorporating learning from other forces to improve standards further. A new crime allocation model will ensure that investigations are undertaken by suitably trained investigators depending on severity and type. Standards of investigation, alongside vulnerability continues to be a force training priority, including training call takers in crime prevention to allow them to provide relevant advice to the public at first point of contact.

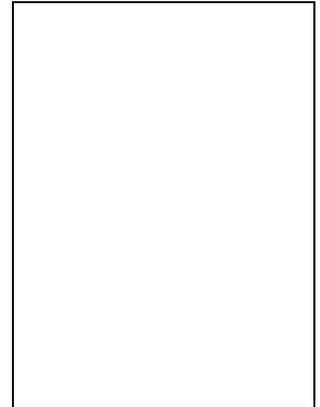
In terms of the Forces performance with regards to these areas of concern, the Achieving Excellence in Investigations Board utilise a robust quality assurance approach, which seeks to review our investigative performance against a number of key performance indicators.

Approximately 150 investigations have been reviewed against the key elements expected within a high-quality investigation. This has resulted in a gradual improvement in the forces performance over the last two years and for July the average figures can be seen below:

- Overall Quality of Investigation – 93%
- THRiVE considered – 73%
- Investigation plan in place - 73%
- Evidence led prosecution considered – 96%
- Supervisor direction – 76%
- BWV used and considered - 90%

The national Criminal Justice Scorecard shows that for the first quarter of 2022 national successful outcomes were recorded at 8%, whereas Derbyshire's is 11%. The force has worked with the CPS and charging was authorised for 705 suspects, which is in line with the average in the region. This does not include suspects charged by the police without CPS review. During this quarter the force charged more suspects of Rape than the rest of the region.

END



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING

REPORT TITLE	INTERIM DELIVERY REPORT
REPORT OF	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DERBYSHIRE
DATE	8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

1. PUPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a summary of work conducted by the Commissioner in the delivery of the Derbyshire Police & Crime Plan 2021-25, since the last Panel meeting, which was held on 23rd June 2022.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Police and Crime Plans are a statutory requirement for all police force areas and were introduced as part of Section 11(1) and (2) of The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

- 2.2 The Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-25 was launched on 15th November 2021.
- 2.3 This paper provides an overview of key work undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to her Police & Crime Plan from 23rd June until 31st August 2022.

3. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

INTERIM DELIVERY AGAINST THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN (23rd JUNE 2022 TO 31st AUGUST 2022)

3.1 Outcome of second Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention (ASB) Grant

The Commissioner launched a second ASB grant round on 1st June 2022 following the success of the previous round, which was first launched in November 2021.

A total of 15 organisations have successfully applied for grants totalling £60k from the Commissioner's Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Grant scheme, as part of her plan to get tough on nuisance behaviour and the neighbourhood crimes that impact local people.

The funding has been shared across the county and invested into activities and programmes that channel young people's energy into positive pursuits including sport.

In addition, funding has been injected into schemes that promote self-esteem and confidence. Other projects aim to boost the security of community land and premises with new CCTV and other safety measures.

3.2 Investment in new digital evidence management system

The Commissioner has invested in a new digital evidence management system (DEMS) to enhance Derbyshire Constabulary's ability to collect, store and share evidence.

The contract, worth nearly £2.2m, will be delivered by Axon over a five-year period. The Commissioner's decision to award the contract followed a robust procurement process.

The DEMS system will speed up investigations, reduce the amount of officer time involved, enable easier and shared access to files which ultimately will provide victims with a better service.

3.3 Neighbourhood Policing Charter

The Commissioner helped draft a new Neighbourhood Policing Charter which was launched in late July and produced as part of the force's strategy to deliver strong local policing across the City and the County, in line with the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

One of the Commissioner's key priorities is to see strong local policing in every area of Derbyshire. This includes visible and identifiable Neighbourhood Policing Teams tackling the issues that matter most to the public including drug crime, burglaries, speeding and anti-social behaviour. It also includes improved engagement and communication from the force with the community they serve and an increase in public confidence.

Through the Commissioner's ongoing engagement with the public, feedback indicates that residents want to know who their local officers are and how to contact them. They want to feel better supported, with more confidence that the police will be there when necessary. The charter publicly addresses these issues and provides a number of pledges from Derbyshire Constabulary relevant to all

communities across the county which are underpinned by a comprehensive strategy.

3.4 Securing an additional £1.4 million from the Home Office 'Safer Streets' initiative

The Commissioner has secured over £1.4 million to tackle Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, improve safety and reduce the fear of crime across communities.

The Commissioner was successful in obtaining a bid from the Home Office's Safer Streets (round 4) Fund, being awarded over £401k to reduce crime in the Ilkeston town and Cotmanhay village areas of Erewash.

Additionally, the Commissioner endorsed two separate bids being led by Derby City Council and North East Derbyshire District Council, which were successful.

The funding will be spent on a mixture of practical interventions, including home security and CCTV/Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, and diversionary activities for young people. These interventions will help to strengthen the Commissioner's plans to protect law-abiding people and support police efforts to crackdown on the issues that impact on community life and public confidence.

The bid in Erewash being led by the Commissioner and her office will focus on burglary, robbery, vehicle crime (particularly motorbikes) and anti-social behaviour with drug-related crime a secondary target.

3.5 Securing over £1m to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence

The Commissioner was successful in her bid to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to fund new IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) and ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors) to support victims recovering from abuse

and sexual violence over the next three years. The investment amounts to more than £1m per annum between 2022-23 and 2024-25.

The funding, together with additional investment by the Commissioner, will be used to help provide a Stalking Advocate position for the County and a Stalking Advocate post based in the City.

Demand for domestic abuse and sexual violence services is high across the county and these new positions will allow us to adapt our support to meet the individual needs of victims, specifically children, young people and male victims. The grant will also fund a dedicated Family and Civil Court IDVA, hosted by support charity Glow, to provide specialist practical and emotional support for survivors of abuse going through the family court process.

A further IDVA post will be managed by domestic abuse charity Salcare and will specialise in providing support to children and young people impacted by domestic abuse. The Children and Young People IDVA will support existing victims and new referrals, reducing waiting list times and increasing the speed at which young people can access support.

Derbyshire-based charity SV2 will recruit a specialist ISVA to support male victims and survivors of sexual violence.

3.6 Stalking Advocates

The Commissioner provided the resources for an internal Stalking Co-ordinator for Derbyshire Constabulary through her policing budget earlier this year. This position, which has now been filled, is a key part of the Commissioner's pledge to ensure all victims of crime receive appropriate support.

In addition, two new Stalking Advocate posts have been funded for three years. One of the advocate posts will sit within the provision currently provided by domestic abuse support charity Glow, and will focus on the City, while the second

role will be delivered in the rest of the County by Crossroads Derbyshire. Both roles represent a total investment of around £90k per year over the next three years.

The advocates will provide support for individuals with a holistic package including emotional help, assistance to report experiences to the police, housing advice, increased home security, safety planning and support through the legal process, gathering evidence and obtaining legal orders including Stalking Prevention Orders/Restraining Orders. They will also provide access to counselling services to help victims recover, and will work closely with the force's Stalking Co-ordinator to support efforts to protect the quality of investigations across the force.

The new posts aim to provide better support for male and female victims in a domestic abuse situation and to increase referrals from those where the stalker is not a current or former intimate partner or family member.

3.7 Illegal Encampment Taskforce

In response to local concerns, the Commissioner has created a rapid reaction taskforce model to ensure a swift and joint approach to tackling illegal encampments within a participating local authorities' area.

Earlier this year, a joint protocol was agreed with North East Derbyshire District Council, which sets out how and when the new taskforce will be mobilised within a District community once an illegal encampment has been reported. There has been a number of successes in this first pilot area.

Following a meeting in August, Derbyshire Dales District Council have now become the second Local Authority within Derbyshire to agree the creation of a local taskforce for their respective area.

By having this taskforce in place, it will ensure that meetings can be mobilised in quick succession following reports of an illegal encampment. The meetings will be

chaired by the Commissioner and attended by key stakeholders including elected members and key officers within the authority.

3.8 Performance Scrutiny Meeting (PSM)

Performance Scrutiny Meetings have been created by the Commissioner to drill-down into the force's delivery against each of the six Police and Crime Plan priorities listed within the Commissioner's Plan. They are one of the ways the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account on the force's performance around each priority on behalf of the public.

A PSM was held on the 6th July which focused on the Victim Support and Safeguarding priority within the Police and Crime Plan.

The Chief Constable and her Senior Leadership Team presented a detailed report which delved into each specific sub-point within the priority and provided evidence against delivery including discussions surrounding performance.

In addition to the main report, several questions were received from members of the public relating to victim support and safeguarding which were answered during the meeting.

To ensure complete transparency, a copy of the report, a transcript of the questions from the public and responses from the Chief Constable and a video recording of the meeting are available to view on the Commissioner's website. These can be viewed here: <https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/public-information/public-assurance-meetings/performance-scrutiny-meeting-focusing-on-victim-support-and-safeguarding-6-july-2022/>

3.9 Summary of Engagement – (23rd June 2022 to 31st August 2022)

The Commissioner regularly attends a variety of public meetings, in addition to meeting organisations and local residents situated across Derbyshire on a regular basis.

The below summary highlights some of the public engagements undertaken by the Commissioner between the period 23rd June 2022 and 31st August 2022.

In addition to the engagements provided below, the Commissioner periodically attends a number of other engagements which primarily have been to visit police stations and meet local Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) across the county along with attending numerous attestations, to support new officers/staff/volunteers who have commenced employment within Derbyshire Constabulary.

Bolsover - Street stall in support of 'Listening to You' in Bolsover. The Commissioner held a market stall in Bolsover Market where members of the public were able to speak to their local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers and share their views on how safe they feel in their local area and what their policing priorities are.

Chesterfield - Meeting with Neighbourhood Watch in Walton. The Commissioner met with members of the newly formed Neighbourhood Watch in Walton. The group had received funding from the Commissioner's Neighbourhood Watch Fund and had utilised the money to promote the scheme in the local area.

Erewash - Meeting with Council Leader in Ilkeston. The Commissioner met with the Leader of Erewash Borough Council to discuss the Ilkeston & Cotmonhay bid to the Safer Streets Round 4 including interventions to tackle Neighbourhood Crime and ASB.

Derbyshire Dales - Meeting with Parish Councillors in Darley Dale. The Commissioner hosted a meeting as part of a series of engagement events designed specifically for Parish and Town Councillors in each of the Districts. The meeting was attended by Parish councillors from across Derbyshire Dales to discuss her Police and Crime Plan. Discussions at the event also included rural crime, speeding and illegal encampments.

North East Derbyshire - Launch of a new Neighbourhood Watch in Eckington. The Commissioner joined local residents and members of Eckington Parish council to launch the new group in Eckington and to encourage members of the public to join the group.

Amber Valley - Meeting with Parish Councillors in Ripley. The Commissioner hosted a meeting as part of a series of engagement events designed specifically for Parish and Town Councillors in each of the Districts. This meeting was attended by Parish Councillors from across Amber Valley to discuss her Police and Crime Plan. Discussions at the event included road safety, rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

Derbyshire Dales - Stall in Ashbourne as part of ASB Awareness Week. The Commissioner hosted a stall at the event organised by Derbyshire Dales District Council. The Commissioner advertised the ASB hub and also surveyed residents on their views regarding crime and ASB through the 'Listening to You' survey.

Chesterfield - Pride in Chesterfield. The Commissioner joined the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) in Chesterfield to talk with local residents about the key issues currently affecting the LGBT+ community.

Chesterfield - Meeting with Parish & Town Councillors in Chesterfield. The Commissioner hosted a meeting as part of a series of engagement events designed specifically for Parish and Town Councillors in each of the Districts. This was arranged to include Parish councillors from across North East Derbyshire & Chesterfield to discuss her Police and Crime Plan. Discussions at the event focussed on road safety, rural crime and the 101 service.

High Peak - Meeting with the Member of Parliament for High Peak. The Commissioner met with the High Peak MP to discuss key issues raised by residents throughout the High Peak, including speeding, car thefts and illegal encampments.

High Peak - Meeting with High Peak Borough Council Leader. The Commissioner met with the Leader of High Peak Borough Council to discuss collaborative work on

Community Safety Partnership issues, including rural crime, vehicle theft and anti-social behaviour.

Derbyshire Dales - Meeting with Neighbourhood Watch in Thorpe, Derbyshire Dales. The Commissioner met with members of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Watch group to discuss how the group utilised funding secured from the Commissioner's Neighbourhood Watch Fund.

Erewash - Attended a Youth Club in Sawley. The Commissioner met members of the Sawley Youth Club, to see the good work being done to support young people, and to tackle anti-social behaviour.

North East Derbyshire - Stall at Ashover Show. The Commissioner hosted a stall at Ashover Show, focussing on the 'Listening to You' survey, and speaking to members of the public about their concerns regarding rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

RECOMMENDATION

- i That the Panel receives the interim update in relation to progress against the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

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