



Protecting Communities
Fighting Crime



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING

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| REPORT TITLE | POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSISONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024 |
| REPORT OF | POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DERBYSHIRE |
| DATE | 26 th SEPTEMBER 2024 |

Important notice: this report was prepared to cover the period before the May 2024 election. Therefore, is covering the work relating to the previous Police and Crime Commissioner for the financial year 2023-2024.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the draft Annual Report (Appendix A) for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire for the period of 1st April 2023 to the 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011(PRSRA).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 12 of the PRSRA requires the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to produce an Annual Report on:

a) *the exercise of the body's functions in each financial year, and*

b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime plan objectives in the body's police and crime plan.

- 2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner must present the report to the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel), at a public meeting, and answer any questions the panel may pose.
- 2.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner must also respond to any report or recommendations the Panel may make and publish said response.
- 2.4 Police and Crime Commissioner's must then publish the Annual Report, in a manner they determine.

3. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Section 28(4) of the PRSRA outlines the Panel's responsibilities in relation to the Annual Report. It states that:

(4) A police and crime panel must -

- (a) arrange for a public meeting of the panel to be held as soon as practicable after the panel is sent an annual report under section 12,*
- (b) ask the police and crime commissioner, at the meeting, such questions about the annual report as the members of the panel think appropriate,*
- (c) review the annual report, and*
- (d) make a report or recommendations on the annual report to the commissioner*

4. PUBLICATION

- 4.1 Subject to the report or recommendations made by the Panel, the Commissioner intends to publish the Annual Report as a document on her website and in a printed form where necessary.
- 4.2 The PCC does not intend to produce large numbers of physical copies of the report.
- 4.3 Should a member of the public wish to receive a hard copy of the Annual Report the office will ensure that they are sent one.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 5.1 The PCC would like to thank former office holder, Angelique Foster, for her work and contributions to the Annual Report 2023-2024 and in her term, for implementing initiatives to enhance safety and provide support for the public and victims.
- 5.2 Additionally, she would like to thank the OPCC staff for their contributions made to support delivery, and for their continual efforts in helping make Derbyshire a safer and stronger place to live and work.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i That the panel receives the Annual Report 2023-2024.
- ii That panel members ask such questions, and make any recommendations, on the report as they think appropriate.
- iii That, subject to any report or recommendations by the Panel, the Annual Report is published via the Commissioner's website – www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

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|-------|---|
| Name: | Joe Rhodes-Orwin |
| Tel: | 0300 122 6000 |
| Email | pccoffice@derbyshire.police.uk |

ATTACHEMENTS

APPENDIX A – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

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The Police and Crime Plan 2021-25

Police and Crime Commissioners have a legislative duty to produce a Police and Crime Plan to set local policing priorities for their area. They hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering on these priorities and for providing an effective policing service to communities.

The Derbyshire plan sets out a series of strategic priorities that have been shaped by feedback from the public.

These key priorities include:

- Strong Local Policing
- Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Victim Support and Safeguarding
- Road Safety
- Rural Crime
- Driving Efficiencies

Significant Achievements

A summary of the key achievements relating to delivery against the Police and Crime Plan priorities and sub-points within 2023/24, are summarised below and throughout this report.

Priority 1 - Strong Local Policing

Sub point 1: Stronger, more effective neighbourhood policing teams to cut crime, bring more criminals to justice and keep law-abiding citizens safe

Problem solving training has continued to be delivered to frontline officers and staff during 23-24. Over 3,000 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) and Police Officers have been trained so far.

All Safer Neighbourhood Teams consult and engage with communities quarterly to set neighbourhood priorities following a review last year of the minimum standards of engagement.

Sub point 2: Having additional officers recruited as part of the Police Uplift Programme

The national Police Uplift Programme target was reached and exceeded in 2022/23, and in March 2024, Derbyshire Constabulary had 2078.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Police Officers, 3% above establishment.

Sub point 3: Increasing our volunteers, Special Constables and other Citizens in Policing who provide great support to the Force and increased visibility in communities.

The number of Special Constables in Derbyshire has begun to increase in recent months following a period of decline, largely due to a number of Specials leaving to become regular officers as a result of the Uplift recruitment programme. The Force have further cohorts planned for June and November 2024. A Police Support Volunteer (PSV) Coordinator has been recruited to improve and strengthen the support for PSVs.

Sub point 4: Ensuring officers have the training and support to use the powers that are available to them to keep themselves and the public safe (including effective and appropriate use of Stop and Search)

During the year, training has been delivered for Stop and Search, Conflict Management and De-escalation, Public and Personal Safety Training, and Emergency First Aid as part of the annual recertification process.

The College of Policing Personal Safety Training curriculum was introduced in April 2023. Training delivery is supported by the newly developed Organisational Learning Team and the Sergeant Toolkit has been put in place to support frontline supervisors.

Sub point 5: Providing officers with the right tools and technology so they can carry out their duty

The 2022 laptop refresh strategy, which saw approximately 2,000 laptops provided, was completed in April 2023. This enables more officers to make use of technology to conduct day to day tasks remotely.

Funding has been committed for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at eight new sites in Derby City, High Peak and South Derbyshire at a cost of £44k and investment has been provided to boost the county's ANPR coverage to target criminals who use the road network to carry out their activities, this includes additional police cars equipped with ANPR capabilities.

Sub point 6: Improving the 101 and 999 services but also digital and social media engagement
£4 million of investment was provided to improve and enhance technology within the Police Contact Centre. A further annual investment of £1.1 million was also committed each year, over the next 10 years to further improve the customer experience.

To improve accessibility to the 999 and 101 services for deaf people, the Contact Centre has introduced Deaf Text, Text Relay UK, and Sign Video which all aid hard of hearing and deaf people when they contact the force. This is supported by the improvements made to the online reporting portal making it easier to report crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Sub point 7: An effective engagement and communication strategy to make sure local communities are listened to and priority is given to the crimes they are most worried about

The Commissioner's annual 'Listening to You' survey was carried out, which seeks residents' views on crime and community safety to ensure that the policing priorities remain relevant to them. Over 3,000 responses were received.

Derbyshire Constabulary's Public Confidence and Engagement Strategies have been reviewed. A Community Cohesion Single Point of Contact has also been placed in each Local Policing Unit, with a dedicated Youth Engagement Team embedded into the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to ensure that all age groups are engaged with.

The Force have also restructured the fortnightly local policing tasking meetings to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Sub point 8: Creating greater public confidence in the police and an increase in the reporting of crime and issues of concern

The Derbyshire Alert messaging system is regularly used to keep residents informed of the latest updates and the work of the OPCC and the Force.

The Crime Survey for England & Wales (year ending March 2024) estimates overall levels of crime have decreased by 14% compared to the year ending March 2020 (pre-covid), whereas police recorded crime nationally has risen by 25% since March 2020 (excluding fraud) likely due to changes in and

improvements to recording practices and an increase in reporting of crime, including historical offences.

Sub point 9: Effective policing to recognise vulnerability and deal with it appropriately

Specific vulnerability training modules have been delivered to all Officers.

The Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Unit and the Serial, Repeat and Civil Orders Team were established, after funding was agreed in 2022/23 to provide an enhanced service to victims.

Sub point 10: Committing to deliver a Derbyshire Specific Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The first Derbyshire Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Partnership Conference was held in September 2023 to enable the Partnership to review action against the Derbyshire VAWG Strategy.

A follow up VAWG Survey was launched in October 2023 to further monitor women and girls' views since the last VAWG survey launched two years prior.

The third VAWG focused Performance Scrutiny Meeting took place in November 2023 to scrutinise the Force's work on VAWG against the Strategy and Police and Crime Plan.

Priority 2 - Neighbourhood Crime and ASB

Sub point 1: A proactive approach to monitor levels of crime and anti-social behaviour to identify "hot spots"

Over 3,000 additional patrol hours have been conducted in hotspot areas to tackle ASB across every district, borough, and the city since July last year as part of the Home Office ASB Hot Spot Policing Pilot. 225 Immediate Justice referrals have been made since July last year seeing perpetrators of ASB carry out reparative work in communities throughout Derbyshire.

Safer Streets Round Four delivery was completed, and additional funding was secured for Safer Streets Round Five to tackle ASB, VAWG and crime in the night-time economy.

Sub point 2: Improving the 101 non-emergency call handling performance

Staffing has been increased with departmental establishment now at 331.2 full time equivalent (FTE) compared to 275 in May 2023. There are now more call takers and despatchers as well as dedicated Performance and Demand Managers.

Sub point 3: The police and community safety partners working together to effectively drive down anti-social behaviour blighting communities

Safer Streets Round five saw £817,459.71 invested into High Peak, Amber Valley, Chesterfield, and Derby City to target ASB and neighbourhood crime.

A new Community Safety Partnership/OPCC Engagement Forum was introduced, with quarterly meetings to discuss current issues.

ASB Grant Round three saw £100k of grants given out to communities and groups in Derbyshire and Derby City to tackle and prevent ASB.

Sub point 4: The police and partners working together, using local intelligence, to tackle drug dealing and misuse of drugs

County Lines and Drugs Schools Engagement Events were held in April 2023 with Primary School Headteachers and Safeguarding Leads and facilitated communication between Police and Schools to better understand the landscape of young people and drugs.

The Commissioner continues to be a member of the Derby and Derbyshire Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership.

Sub point 5: The delivery of targeted activity designed to reduce burglary and theft

The Force have continued to deliver on Derbyshire's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Strategy consistent with National Neighbourhood Crime IOM Strategy.

Safer Streets Round five sees several projects receiving investment which are designed to reduce burglary and theft, including the purchase and distribution of over £80,000 worth of property marking and data-tagging equipment.

Sub point 6: Sustainable solutions to local issues, supporting and resourcing community initiatives that aim to cut crime

The OPCC has provided £25k to each of the eight Community Safety Partnerships across Derbyshire, and a further £50k for Derby City during the financial year. This funding has been used to invest into diversionary activities and work within ASB hot spot areas to create sustainable solutions to local issues in the effort to cut crime. The OPCC continued to provide the administration for the Safer Streets Fund and the Illegal Encampment Task Force.

The OPCC facilitated ASB awareness events in Cotmanhay, Erewash and Clay Cross, North East Derbyshire.

Sub point 7: Supporting the expansion of Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the county and city helping to keep local communities safe

The Neighbourhood Watch Support Fund was launched by the OPCC with £2500 allocated to further promote and enhance existing schemes throughout Derbyshire.

Sub point 8: Improve communication systems to keep residents better informed of issues and police response in their local area

Active promotion of the Derbyshire Alert scheme has continued and raises awareness of its ability to keep residents informed with the work the Police are doing in their area.

Monthly newsletters have been published to inform residents and Councillors of the work undertaken by the OPCC. This newsletter is sent directly to subscribers, as well as posted out on Derbyshire Alert and published on the OPCC website.

Sub point 9: Increasing community confidence in reporting crime and anti-social behaviour

The ASB Hotspot Patrol scheme which has been operating throughout Derbyshire has seen officers consistently engaging with businesses and the public each month aiming to increase reporting of ASB.

Events and social media were used to highlight the work taking place to combat ASB and the importance of reporting during ASB Awareness Week in July 2023.

Priority 3 - Road Safety

Sub point 1: A robust and efficiently resourced Roads Policing Unit

A Performance Scrutiny Meeting on Road Safety was held in May 2023 to hold the Chief Constable to account on Derbyshire Constabulary's work to tackle road safety.

The Roads Policing Unit has increased their drone capacity to support their operations on the roads.

Sub point 2: Supporting the Force to ensure pro-active speed enforcement activity is conducted on our road network

The Commissioner is an active member of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership.

RPU Officers now conduct 40 hours of speed enforcement each month and work with partners to identify hot spots, potential traffic calming measures and increase signage wherever possible.

Sub point 3: A tougher approach to dangerous driving

A number of named operations are designed to target enforcement to protect vulnerable or high-risk road users. The purchase of four off-road motorcycles and the collaborative working across borders by the Specialist ANPR Level 2 Crime Unit (SALCU) road crime team strengthened the capabilities of the Roads Policing Unit and enabled them to provide a tough and consistent approach to speeding around Derbyshire's borders.

Sub point 4: Creating campaigns with key partners designed to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Derbyshire's road network

The Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership's campaign calendar ensures that road safety remains at the forefront of people's minds throughout the calendar year. The key promotion of the annual Road Safety Awareness Week also supplements these efforts.

Funding was provided for 'Brake Packs' and to road safety charity BRAKE which supports bereaved families following a road traffic accident. Funding also provided for an extra 5-week social media campaign by the Force over the festive period, including the 'Don't Get Wrecked' impaired driving social media campaign. Supporting this work are the Mini Police schemes, which have been given road safety inputs in schools.

Sub point 5: Targeted initiatives, developed with the biking community, to keep bikers safe

Funding continued for the BikeSafe scheme, which has seen more than 570 people participating in BikeSafe workshops since 2022.

Support has continued for the Upright campaign, which is undertaken together with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the Biker Down Initiative.

The biking community are additionally supported with the recent expansion of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) Road Safety Scheme, which now includes funding for the Advanced Motorcyclist Course for all ages. Riders across Derbyshire can enrol in these courses for a reduced cost, encouraging participation.

Sub point 6: Increasing and supporting volunteer Community Speedwatch to support the work of the Force

Community Speed Watch (CSW) currently have a total of 653 members participating across 90 groups. The second annual CSW Conference was facilitated in September 2023, to enable best practice to be shared and to better shape how these volunteer groups can work.

The Force have implemented a mapping system to highlight gaps across the county which are not covered by a CSW group, and they also ensure that all new PCSOs receive CSW training to ensure that they facilitate local support for CSW, enhancing local communication and support at the same time.

Sub point 7: The use of intelligence from enforcement activity, including schemes such as Community Speedwatch, to inform the work of the Roads Policing Unit

The intelligence that is fed back from the CSW groups supports the work of the Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST) and the RPU and enables them to receive continuous intelligence and identify possible hot spot areas.

Further intelligence is gathered from the submissions to the Derbyshire Capture portal. Additional improvements have been made to the way data is recorded, including extending analysis to include cyclist submissions, and the introduction of the 'warning' and 'educational' letters.

Sub point 8: Work with partners to deliver community-based road safety programmes

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme was maintained for Parish and Town Councils to request funding for a SID to be installed in their local area where speeding is a concern but Highways' criteria for intervention are not met.

Op Walksafe has seen the enhancement of the 'Green Cross Code' campaign, as well as the Force working with the mini police, cadets, and other partners to promote the initiative.

Funding has been provided for IAM Advanced Driver Courses for young people and for Advanced Motorbike Courses for motorcyclists, encouraging more drivers and bikers to partake. This project was launched in February 2024, and provides accessible advanced road safety education to young drivers and motorbike users.

Sub point 9: Working with local partners to improve safety measures for vulnerable road users such as cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and bikers

Support has continued for the NPCC Vulnerable Road User campaigns, the Upright, Biker Down, and BikeSafe campaigns, as well as the annual drink driver awareness campaigns during the festive period.

Working with the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, the Op. Capture scheme supports efforts to improve safety for vulnerable road users and can increase accountability for dangerous and careless drivers and has seen increased submissions year on year. The Force is working with Council partners to increase and improve cycle lanes and consultations on proposed new schemes.

Priority 4 - Rural Crime

Sub point 1: Increasing the number of staff and officers trained to tackle the specific issues facing the rural communities of Derbyshire

In addition to the officers placed within the Rural Crime Team (RCT), 22 Officers have now been trained as Wildlife Crime Officers and 17 Police Officers across Safer Neighbourhood Teams are now Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) for rural issues.

To ensure that the additional vulnerabilities of living in a rural area are identified by data, Derbyshire's rural areas have been mapped across the Local Policing Units (LPU).

Training across the LPUs is being delivered by RCT Officers to ensure rural crime is understood across the force area.

Sub point 2: Commissioning services that understand and can respond to the needs of those living in a rural setting

The Commissioner's Office has built rural crime and rural communities into the commissioning framework, this ensures that grant recipients consider Derbyshire's rural residents. As speeding is often a blight on rural communities, the SID programme has been actively promoted in rural areas.

The Commissioner has developed and chairs the Derbyshire Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC), bringing together key rural-focused partners to tackle and prevent rural crime in the county.

Sub point 3: Commissioning crime prevention activities for rural communities to reduce crime, trespass, and theft

The existing £25k provided to Community Safety Partnerships, which includes rural areas, means investment into activities to prevent crime, trespass, and theft. Investment in a property marking scheme allows farmers and rural business owners to protect their vehicles, machinery, and equipment.

The Commissioner has continued to chair the Illegal Encampment Task Force which brings together key partners to address instances of trespass where an illegal encampment has been set up.

Sub point 4: Providing additional support for volunteer schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch Support Fund has provided £2500 in resources for groups throughout the county. The OPCC has also facilitated engagement events at several rural community events to promote Derbyshire Alert and Farm Watch, supported by the Force's Rural Crime PCSO.

There has also been an increase in Community Speed Watch groups in rural areas to tackle speeding.

Sub point 5: Doing effective, targeted work with partners to protect the unique and endangered wildlife of the county

As Chair of Peak Park Summit and the Derbyshire Partnership Against Rural Crime, the Commissioner has been able to ensure that partners focus on all areas of rural crime, including wildlife crime.

The Rural Crime Team attend the National Wildlife Crime Unit meetings and have had several successes in combatting this type of crime. Positive collaborative working between the RCT and partners meant that the RCT were able to support a Peregrine Falcon nesting site and successfully prosecute the perpetrator following an egg theft.

Sub point 6: Improving communication and engagement, using a wide variety of methods, with rural communities

A refresh of the Rural Crime Prevention Booklet has been distributed throughout 2023-24 at engagement events by the OPCC and the Force.

The Rural Crime Team has a strong social media presence, and they provide regular updates on their work through this platform. To supplement their social media work, RCT Officers carry out meet and greet events in rural areas.

The new Derbyshire Rural Crime Prevention Hub, launched in February 2024, creates a space to bring together all relevant information into an easily accessible platform for rural residents.

Sub point 7: Improving partnership work with Parish Councils and local champions

The Commissioner has held meetings with Parish Councils and residents in rural areas to discuss issues specifically from rural communities.

The Derbyshire Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC) brings together rural partners and stakeholders from across Derbyshire and the region to encourage greater partnership working. Quarterly board meetings are held and working groups facilitated to create a Strategy and Online Hub.

Sub point 8: Increasing confidence in reporting crime and vulnerability in rural communities

The Derbyshire Rural Crime Prevention Hub is designed to direct users to the appropriate reporting mechanism or support services related to rural crime and anti-social behaviour. Continued funding for the Willow Project with an aim to increase confidence and reach vulnerable communities, and to ensure residents are heard.

A dedicated Rural Crime Survey ran in July 2023 to explore rural residents' views on crime and anti-social behaviour. This has been used as part of the consultation work for the Derbyshire Rural Crime Strategy, launched in March 2024.

Priority 5 - Victim Support and Safeguarding

Sub point 1: All victims of crime, regardless of the type of crime and location, being treated fairly and to receive appropriate support from the Force

The development of a new mobile app 'Derbyshire Voice' enables victims of crime, including those of domestic abuse and sexual violence to provide personal testimonies of the support they received in the aftermath of an incident and how these services could be improved in the future.

Sub point 2: Improving support for, and communication with, all victims of crime - including improvement to 101 and 999 systems and online channels

In September 2023, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology was implemented in the Call Centre to more effectively intercept and resolve contacts that do not require the attention of an agent.

The Force has introduced a Most Appropriate Agency policy with partners that ensures service users receive the right care from the right agency, this policy has freed up around 1,000 officer hours every month.

The OPCC organised a Derbyshire Victim Services event in April 2023 which brought together key partners to share best practice.

Sub point 3: Commissioning appropriate top-quality services to support those who are victims of crime and help them to cope and recover

The OPCC contract monitors all the Commissioner's funded services for all victims of crime to ensure delivery against each grant agreement. These services are tendered for in an open marketplace where possible, and based on service specifications which rely on effective needs assessments, partnership work and value for money considerations which are built into the commissioning and procurement processes.

Sub point 4: Joint work with police and partners to prevent violence against women and girls

The first Derbyshire VAWG Partnership Conference was held in September 2023 to enable the partnership to review action against the Strategy and a follow up VAWG Survey was launched in October 2023 to further monitor women and girls' views since the last VAWG survey which was launched two years prior.

Safer Streets Round Five has seen a large investment into activities aimed at protecting women, especially in the night-time economy. Investments have included CCTV, lighting improvements and high visibility and undercover patrols.

Sub point 5: A targeted and sustained effort by the police and partners to tackle and reduce knife and violent crime

Over £1 million of additional grant funding was secured by the OPCC from the Home Office to tackle serious violence, including knife crime, across Derbyshire. These funds have supported the introduction of a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which was established in October 2023. The VRU will be co-ordinating a multi-agency action plan designed and developed by partners to tackle offending.

Funding has been invested to establish an intensive mentoring programme and schools programme aimed at supporting young people who may be at risk of being drawn into the criminal justice system.

Sub point 6: Having a partnership approach to safeguarding children and adults at risk of exploitation and abuse, including online criminality

The OPCC is represented at Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards and attend Derbyshire's Online and Cyber Crime Sub-Group as well as a subgroup focusing on exploitation of young and vulnerable people and education.

Continued investment has been provided to the I-Vengers digital leader programme which seeks to engage, educate and empower young explorers of digital technology and help them to make safer choices online.

Sub point 7: Providing help for all victims of domestic abuse and violence, sexual abuse and violence, harassment, and stalking, alongside a robust approach to protection for those at risk and the apprehension of those who commit these crimes

The Independent Stalking Advocates Service has seen at least 58 referrals in total across the City and County during the 23-24 period.

Derby Women's Centre have received grant funding to deliver a range of Domestic and Sexual Abuse related services, including a Domestic Abuse Support Worker and a trauma-informed 'Teen' support programme.

Sub point 8: Increasing engagement between the police, partners, and members of the public to provide reassurance and encourage the reporting of crime

The Victims Services Summit event was used to share best practice on what can be done to support all victims of crime and the OPCC has participated in and promoted annual awareness weeks, such as the ASB Awareness Week and Rural Crime Awareness Week.

The 'Derbyshire Voice' app enables victims of crime, including those of domestic abuse and sexual violence to provide personal testimonies of the support they received in the aftermath of an incident and how these services could be improved in the future.

The Derbyshire Partnership Against Rural Crime (DPARC) has a key priority to improve engagement with rural residents and to increase confidence in reporting. The Derbyshire Crime Prevention Hub provides a central online hub to access information and links to support services and reporting methods.

Sub point 9: Providing a proactive approach to reducing re-offending

The OPCC has increased funding for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes and Serious Violence Intervention funding of £160k has been invested into initiatives targeted at high-risk individuals who are susceptible to reoffending. Third sector charity Remedi are commissioned to provide Immediate Justice interventions aimed at offenders of anti-social behaviour to complete restorative activities.

A county-wide roll out of SmartWater has been funded by the OPCC. SmartWater shows up on skin for up to six weeks and on clothing for much longer, categorically linking the perpetrator to the specific batch of SmartWater that was used on places such as door handles, gates, and automatic traps.

Priority 6 - Driving Efficiencies

Sub point 1: A strong commitment to the provision of value for money for the taxpayer

The annual Budget Consultation for each financial year sees residents asked for their views on the police and the amount of council tax precept they wish to pay for the forthcoming year. In the 2023/24 Budget Consultation, 77% of respondents supported an increase in funding.

Sub point 2: Ensuring the efficient use of resources within the police service and preventing waste or duplication

There is regular finance reporting to the Finance Assurance Board and the Strategic Estates Board, which ensures that Police property assets remain fit for purpose.

Internal reporting on finance also takes place via Derbyshire Constabulary's Chief Finance Officer.

Sub point 3: Regular reviews of spending with frequent and timely performance monitoring

The Commissioner provides assurance through Joint Audit Risk and Assurance Committee (JARAC) meetings and regular finance monitoring is undertaken by the Commissioner's S151 Officer.

Sub point 4: Strong partnership work with other police forces, blue-light services, and partners to deliver increased efficiency

The Most Appropriate Agency Policy continues to ensure residents and victims of crime are getting the most appropriate agency attending calls.

A custody agreement with Gtr. Manchester Police has meant that Officers do not have to travel for long distances from the north of the county to the custodies further south.

Sub point 5: Developing collaboration and co-location opportunities wherever possible

A new partnership with Bolsover District Council has seen the local Safer Neighbourhood Team move into office accommodation at its contact centre on Cotton Street.

Sub point 6: Reviewing our police estate and working with the Chief Constable to deliver a fit-for-purpose police estate and infrastructure that aims to deliver long term efficiencies

The Commissioner is a member of the Strategic Estates Board, reviewing spending on the Police Estate. The police are improving the police estate with new and improved police bases.

New co-location opportunities also enable greater efficiency and increases partnership working. The OPCC has undertaken a review of capital financing for a significant capital build programme.

Sub point 7: Efficient and effective commissioning of services

Services are tendered for in an open marketplace, where possible, and based on service specifications which rely on effective needs assessments, partnership work and value for money considerations. Competition is introduced in both grant and contracting processes to ensure we achieve the best programmes and services for the funding envelope available.

Sub point 8: Ensuring our contracts are robust and managed effectively

All service contracts are managed through a strong process involving a minimum of quarterly contract meetings with providers of service. This process considers such aspects as good financial management, performance data, KPIs, outcomes reporting and the management of risks. Terms and conditions of all contracts and grants are clearly identified and providers are held to account on these aspects through regular meetings with partners and suppliers with the OPCC.

Sub point 9: Investment in technology to deliver long term efficiencies

In August 2023, a £20m contract with Saab Safe was agreed to improve communications and efficiency. This contract will see all the technology within the control room replaced with a state-of-the-art Command and Control System, telephony platform and call recording solution.

The 2022 laptop refresh was completed in April 2023, providing every Officer with a laptop to reduce travel time and allow them to stay within their communities.

Sub point 10: Recognising the contribution of all our volunteers and an effective attraction and retention strategy

To ensure effective attraction and retention, training is delivered to volunteers by national bodies to ensure they feel supported during their service. The Commissioner and Force have increased and enhanced promotion, including via social media, to promote volunteer recruitment.

In February 2024, quarterly volunteer meetings were launched with all volunteers from the Support Schemes, attended by representatives from the Force and supporting external agencies, like the Dog's Trust.

Sub point 11: Re-investing savings, wherever possible, to support and improve frontline policing, cutting crime and anti-social behaviour

The proceeds of selling seized property have been used to fund the purchase of e-bikes for Officers and CREST Speed Awareness funding has been used to recruit an Officer to support the Op Capture and BikeSafe initiatives.

Sub point 12: Improve communication and engagement with the public wherever possible

The Commissioner's Derbyshire Alert channel has seen a significant increase in subscribers.

During 2023/24 several surveys have run exploring residents' views on crime and community safety, ASB, Rural Crime, and Violence Against Women and Girls. The Commissioner has attended meetings with Parish Councillors, community groups, organisations, partners, and residents to take feedback on local views and issues. To communicate this with residents, the regularity of the Commissioner's newsletter was increased, published monthly from June 2023, reporting on that month's work.

Casework and Complaints

The Commissioner receives contact from the public either by post, in person, via the website or via third parties such as local MPs or local Councillors. It is appreciated when people take the time to get in touch directly, and every effort is made to help with any issues raised.

The office is, however, sometimes constrained in what it can do in relation to specific cases. The Commissioner is only allowed, in law, to deal with complaints against the Chief Constable; any complaints relating to other ranks must be dealt with by the Force.

The Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that the Force runs an effective complaints process and, to support this, closed complaints are dip-sampled. In addition, regular meetings are held with the Regional Director for the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

Derbyshire Constabulary continues to enjoy a good relationship with the IOPC and it continues to consider that Derbyshire Constabulary has good systems in place. However, there is no place for complacency and there is a continual drive to learn from emerging best practice from other police force areas.

The following table sets out the numbers of pieces of casework the office has received during the year April 2023 to March 2024. This can be through members of the public writing in, emailing or contacting the office by telephone or brought back to the office following public events and visits.

| | Derbyshire Constabulary | OPCC | Total |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | |
| Nature of Contact | | | |
| Complaint or Dissatisfaction | 101 | 9 | 110 |
| Crime Report | 18 | | 18 |
| General Enquiry | 178 | 146 | 324 |
| Feedback | 38 | 101 | 139 |
| Intelligence | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Not for Commissioner/ Constabulary | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Appreciation | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Indecipherable | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Total | 347 | 266 | 613 |

Consultation and Engagement

Police and Crime Commissioners have a statutory duty to consult with the public and victims around crime and policing matters. As part of the Commissioner’s ongoing engagement with the public, a number of consultation surveys were conducted during the financial year 2023-24. These surveys ensure that the public have a say in key matters such as setting the policing budget or providing local information around community safety.

Listening to You

Listening to You 23/24 was open throughout the financial year and received 3,589 responses. Increasing public confidence in policing is a key priority for the Commissioner and she will continue to scrutinise and monitor the Chief Constable and her Senior Leadership Team, to work to deliver on this agenda as well as continue to invest time and resources from the OPCC to build on this performance and continue to strengthen public perceptions of the force.

Breakdown of responses per local authority:

| Local Authority Area | Response Count |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Derby City | 715 |
| Derbyshire County Council area | 2,874 |
| Amber Valley | 514 |
| Bolsover | 398 |
| Chesterfield | 297 |
| Derbyshire Dales | 300 |
| Erewash | 354 |
| High Peak | 307 |
| North East Derbyshire | 404 |
| South Derbyshire | 300 |
| Total | 3,589 |

To view the full analysis of ‘Listening to You’ results for 2023-24, please visit the Commissioner’s website here:

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/taking-part/listening-to-you>

Budget Consultation

The Budget Survey was open from 14/11/2023 to 15/01/2024 and received 2,253 responses. A minimum of 150 responses were received from each local authority. Options ranged from a freeze in council tax through to an £18 yearly increase. 70.8% of respondents were in favour of an increase of £15 or more per year (based on a Band D property).

Violence Against Women and Girls Survey (VAWG)

The Survey was open from 25/10/23 to 12/03/24 and received 1,527 responses, including 1,454 from women and girls. Feelings of safety amongst women and girls have improved since the

previous survey conducted in 2021/22. The number of respondents who reported that they had been the victim of harassment in the past 12 months decreased from 16% in 2021/22 to 11% in 2023/24. Keeping to well-lit areas, avoiding particular areas and walking with someone were most likely to make women and girls feel safer, with more than 4 out of 5 women and girls agreeing to each of these.

Rural Crime Survey

The Commissioner’s Rural Crime Survey ran from 13/07/2023 to 01/09/2023 and received 301 responses. It was open to those living in a rural or a semi-rural area. Over 85% of respondents were concerned about crime and ASB in their area. When asked what concerned them most, over half of respondents were most worried about fly-tipping, burglary, theft of vehicles, littering, and inconsiderate or dangerous parking.

Immediate Justice Survey

The Immediate Justice Survey ran from 07/06/23 to 03/07/23 and received 1,144 responses, with responses received from across all local authorities in Derbyshire and Derby City. Over 80% of respondents said they were worried about ASB in their area. 97.4% of respondents supported offenders being held to account to undertake reparative activity to repair the damage they have inflicted and to give back to the community.

Engagements

The number of engagements undertaken by the Commissioner broken down by local authority area are listed below in the table.

| April 2023 - March 2024 | Visits |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Amber Valley | 11 |
| Bolsover | 9 |
| Chesterfield | 7 |
| Derby City | 17 |
| Derbyshire Dales | 14 |
| Erewash | 7 |
| High Peak | 6 |
| North East Derbyshire | 15 |
| South Derbyshire | 6 |
| Total | 92 |

Commissioner's Volunteer Schemes

Independent Custody Visitors Scheme

Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) is intended to counter any mistrust of the Police in the local community and reassure the public that people detained in Police custody are being given access to their rights, are detained in satisfactory conditions, and are having their health and well-being needs taken care of. The ICV volunteers perform an important independent role to ensure that when members of the public are held in custody, they are treated with dignity and respect. It is a statutory responsibility of Police and Crime Commissioners to have an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Members of the public from Derbyshire recruited by the Commissioner volunteer to make unannounced visits to Derbyshire Constabulary's custody suites, where they speak with people detained in police custody, raising any issues with custody staff.

At the end of 2023-24, the scheme in Derbyshire had 14 ICV volunteers in place.

The locations of the Custody suites in Derbyshire are Ripley and Derby. For the purposes of the ICV scheme, Derby is classed as the South area and Ripley as the North area. New ICV volunteers are allocated to visit either the North or South of the county when they join the scheme, the allocation being based on how close the custody suites are to their home address.

For more information concerning the scheme, please visit the Commissioner's website:

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/taking-part/custody-volunteers/>

Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel

The Commissioner's Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel is made up of representatives from the OPCC, Derbyshire Constabulary and 11 volunteers who are members of the public who reside in Derbyshire. The Panel is held to ensure fairness and equality to everyone who is stopped and searched by an officer.

The Stop and Search volunteers attend Panel meetings once a month. Their role is to review 10 random stop and search records from the previous month that have been undertaken across Derbyshire. Over a 12-month period, approximately 120 stop and searches are thoroughly scrutinised by the Panel.

When considering the stop search record, the Panel will make a determination as to whether the stop and search has passed scrutiny or not by reviewing the officers' reasons on the form submitted for stopping and searching the individual, along with any available body worn video footage. The Panel gives positive comments or any concerns to the Constabulary for them to review accordingly and to take appropriate action.

For more information concerning the Panel, please visit the Commissioner's website:

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/taking-part/stop-and-search-volunteer-scheme/>

Animal Welfare Scheme

The Animal Welfare Scheme was started following the death of a police dog, whilst in training, in Essex; and the subsequent prosecution of the officers involved. The scheme aims to maintain public confidence and ensure that Derbyshire Constabulary's procedures are ethical, humane and transparent.

Police Dog Visitors are members of the local community who observe, comment and report on the conditions in which the Constabulary's dogs are housed, trained and transported. Unannounced visits are made to the kennels at Force Headquarters or to the training facilities used.

As with the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, members of the Animal Welfare Scheme are volunteers who do not receive a salary but are reimbursed for any expenses incurred in making a visit. Full training is given.

Derbyshire currently has six Animal Welfare Volunteers.

Commissioning and Grants

An important role of Police and Crime Commissioners is to commission services in support of victims of crime; to support victims, to protect those most at risk in our communities and safeguard people from harm. The OPCC have developed a dedicated Commissioning Strategy which sets out the principles and framework that will be used to create a strong network of voluntary and community-based services to complement effective partnerships with statutory organisations in Derby and Derbyshire.

It is vital that high-standard services are commissioned that deliver good value for money for the taxpayer without compromising on delivery performance. It is particularly important that services are tailored to meet local needs and expectations. Such services must be demonstrably efficient and effective. The OPCC ensures that services are co-commissioned where this is the most appropriate solution, eliminating duplication and waste.

Some of the key highlights from the 2023-24 financial year relating to commissioning and grants are outlined below:

- **Immediate Justice** - £1m additional funding was awarded from the Home Office in 23-24 to develop a restorative, visible response to tackling ASB in communities. This is led through the OPCC and has two strands to the work: effective policing of ASB hotspot areas and referral of both young and adult ASB offenders into a commissioned service provided by third sector charity Remedi. This involves providing a range of visible reparative activities in communities which ASB offenders undertake to repair the damage they have caused. There have been over 280 successful referrals so far resulting in positive outcomes for the victims and communities concerned but also measurable change in the attitudes and behaviours of the offenders concerned.
- **ASB Fund** - The Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Grant scheme was launched in 2021 to increase investment in community-based preventative work and empower residents to take a proactive approach to resolving local issues. Since then, significant funds have been allocated to help partners take a stand against nuisance behaviour.
- **Safer Streets** - Funding has been provided by the Home Office to enable the Commissioner and partners to provide local crime prevention plans with the outcome of reducing and preventing one or more of the following: neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in public spaces, and to increase feelings of safety. Safer Streets Round five: £464,484.11 funding towards a range of interventions in the communities of Derby and Derbyshire.
- **Supporting Communities** - Supporting Communities (SC) has a mobile youth vehicle that has been specially designed to target youth anti-social behaviour in Derbyshire. The vehicle has various resources, including video and audio equipment, gaming consoles, and internet access and will travel to different areas of Derby and Derbyshire, where youth ASB is a known problem. The staff team work closely with the young people to build positive relationships and provide mentorship and guidance. By creating a positive environment and providing various activities and resources, the mobile youth vehicle aims to prevent anti-social behaviour in young people.
- **SIDS** - Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are a type of electronic vehicle activated sign used on the public highway. SIDs offer traffic management solutions in reducing vehicle speeds to create safer and cleaner roads. They are electric signs which display a message or speed when triggered

by vehicles travelling at excessive speeds. They are intended to supplement rather than replace the traditional signs and lines and are aimed at addressing specific road safety problem.

- **Serious Violence** - Funding has been provided by the Home Office to enable the Commissioner and partners subject to the Serious Violence Duty to provide an appropriate local response to serious violence. This has resulted in two key areas of delivery. The first has been the establishment of a local partnership Violence Reduction Unit, located within Derbyshire Constabulary to identify risks and emerging threats and provide appropriate responses. The second strand has been the commissioning of a range of appropriate interventions aimed at individuals and communities to intervene early and reduce the likelihood of offending. Examples include intensive mentoring for those at risk, bystander training and a range of other interventions identified as good practice. Serious Violence interventions: £160,000 of funding awarded to Remedi and £188,527.89 awarded to Derbyshire Constabulary.
- **Project Nova** - is provided by The Forces Employment Charity (RFEA) and has been funded through a previous grant round in Derbyshire. Project Nova supports veterans throughout the Criminal Justice System, including probation supervision, community sentences and released from Prison. Currently in Derbyshire, an automatic referral system has been implemented with Derbyshire Constabulary, meaning anyone who is arrested and declares they have previously served in the Armed Forces will automatically have their contact details sent to Project Nova. This amounts to £18,000 per year over a further 24-month period. This amount will contribute 23% of the running cost in Derbyshire with the current total cost of the project being £78,261.
- **ISVA/IDVA** - Funding has been provided by the Ministry Of Justice (MOJ) to enable the Commissioner to provide additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). ISVA/IDVA Fund = £676,730
- **DV/SV Uplift** - Funding has been provided by the MOJ to enable the Commissioner to provide additional funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence victim support services. MOJ - DV/SV Fund = £409,335
- **I-Vengers** - The I-Vengers project is a peer-led digital leader programme which seeks to engage, educate and empower young explorers of digital technology and help them to make safer choices online. The I-Vengers programme has enabled a sustainable approach to be developed in primary schools across Derbyshire through a supported programme of training and recruitment of digital champions year on year. Funding of Digital Leaders (I-Vengers) is a contribution of £32,000
- **Deaf-initely Women** - This project has filled a gap in service for a very vulnerable sector of the community by directly providing access to specialist support for victims of abuse who are deaf/hard of hearing and or deaf/blind. These victims have often been bullied, exploited, trolled and abused and traditionally would have struggled to access mainstream support services. Funding of Deaf-initely Women: £25,000
- **Pathways of Chesterfield** - A Volunteer and Activities Coordinator is employed to recruit and train volunteers and to oversee a peer mentor scheme which engages homeless people and rough sleepers in accessing and taking up support. Clients are provided with a safe space through which to explore new skills, increasing their self-esteem and amplify their support networks.
- **Perpetrator programmes** - A round of funding was made available by the Home Office to PCCs in December 2022 with some clear guidance around the next stages of delivering the government's national framework: Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan. A funding pot of £648,816.00 has been

secured to provide a service pathway for adult perpetrators across all risk levels in Derbyshire. This funding is in place until March 2025.

- **The Willow Project** - The challenges faced by victims of domestic abuse who live in the countryside can be quite different to those living in the town or city. The Willow Project delivers awareness training throughout Derbyshire. This will help people identify the signs of domestic abuse, give them the confidence to report it and also to challenge attitudes that perpetuate domestic abuse, particularly in rural areas.

Additional information concerning grants awarded by the OPCC in 2023-24 are available to view on our website: <https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/finance-grants/grants/>

A further breakdown of funding can be viewed in the OPCC statement of accounts: <https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/finance-grants/grants-finance-secondary/statement-of-accounts/>

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which included the addition of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as a national threat. The seven identified national threats are listed below:

- **Serious and Organised Crime**
- **Terrorism**
- **A national cyber security incident**
- **Child Sexual Abuse**
- **Public Disorder**
- **Civil Emergencies**
- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has provided due regard to these seven national threat areas identified through incorporation into the Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan and through her role in holding the Chief Constable to account. Violence Against Women and Girls, while not previously featuring in the SPR prior to 2023, nonetheless is a key issue that is reflected in the Commissioner's Plan across a number of strategic priorities. Additionally, during the annual review of the Commissioner's plan in November 2023, VAWG was added to the current list of national threats to ensure its prominence.

Transparency and Scrutiny

Financial Assurance Board

The Commissioner has pledged within her Police and Crime Plan to continually drive efficiencies within Derbyshire Constabulary. To enable the Commissioner to increase scrutiny of the Constabulary's finances, a new Financial Assurance Board has been formed to provide regular briefings to the Commissioner on key strategic financial issues including efficiencies which have been identified (both cashable and non-cashable). These boards take place monthly as part of the ongoing scrutiny work conducted by the Commissioner and her office.

Performance Scrutiny Meetings

Police and Crime Commissioners have a statutory responsibility to hold Chief Constables to account for delivering against their priorities set out in their Police and Crime Plan. To enable detailed and open scrutiny, the Commissioner has scheduled a series of subject-specific meetings called Performance Scrutiny Meetings (PSM) around each of the six priorities within the Plan.

Derbyshire Constabulary must provide evidence of the steps it is taking to address each priority and identify areas where further improvement is needed. The meetings provide an effective way for the Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable and her senior team to account for their performance on the Police and Crime Plan's specific priorities.

Complaint Reviews

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 and supporting regulations made significant changes to the police complaints and disciplinary systems. They introduced a number of changes designed to achieve a more customer-focused complaints system. Local accountability was enhanced through changes to the role of local policing bodies (Police and Crime Commissioners), where appeals were previously handled by either the Chief Officer or the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), the new right to apply for a review is to either the Police and Crime Commissioner or the IOPC. This change aimed to increase independence and transparency.

Where the complaint has been concluded by Derbyshire Constabulary and the complainant has received a complaint outcome letter from the Professional Standards Department, but the complainant remains dissatisfied with the outcome of their complaint, they have a right to apply for a review of that outcome, within 28 days, to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The review conducted by the Commissioner considers whether the outcome of the handling of a complaint has been dealt with in a reasonable and proportionate manner.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the Commissioner undertook 110 complaint reviews.

The Commissioner has produced an annual Complaint Review Report which provides further details concerning her role within the complaints process. This will be available on her website in autumn 2024.

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/public-information/reviews-and-complaints>

Finance

Statements of Accounts. The 2023/24 Statements of Accounts for the Chief Constable and the Commissioner/Group are available on the Commissioner's website:

Commissioner and Group Accounts

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/finance-grants/grants-finance-secondary/statement-of-accounts/>

Chief Constable Accounts

<https://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/finance-grants/grants-finance-secondary/statement-of-accounts/>