



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

22nd November 2024

Draft Police and Crime Plan 2025 to 2029

This paper provides a briefing to the Police and Crime Panel on the development of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for 2025 to 2029. The paper seeks the comments of the Panel in the form of a report and/or recommendations on the draft plan, in line with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Police and Crime Plan is a statutory requirement for all police force areas introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Plan is both a planning tool for Police and Crime Commissioners and an important mechanism for communicating the Commissioner's intentions to the public, police, partner agencies, Police and Crime Panel and other stakeholders. Through extensive consultation and analysis, the Plan reflects the voice of the people, and includes measures as to how the Commissioner will hold the Chief Constable to account for the police's delivery of the Plan.
- 1.2. The Plan must determine, direct and communicate the Commissioner's priorities during their period in office. It must set out:
 - the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for the area
 - the policing of the police area which the Chief Constable is to provide
 - the financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable
 - the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing
 - the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured.
- 1.3. Following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2024, the Commissioner has developed a new Police and Crime Plan. This is the fourth Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and the third published by the current Commissioner. This Plan builds on the

successes of the previous plans, and also provides a revised focus on a number of key areas that the public, and the supporting evidence have identified as priorities. The draft Plan is attached at **annex A**.

1.4. As required in statute, the draft Plan covers the period up to 31st March 2029, (the next Police and Crime Commissioner elections are scheduled for May 2028).

1.5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police and Crime Commissioner to:

- prepare a draft of the plan
- consult the Chief Constable in preparing the Plan
- send the draft Plan to the Police and Crime Panel
- have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft Plan
- give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
- publish any such response.

1.6. The Commissioner is also required to seek the views of people and victims of crime in Devon and Cornwall on the draft Plan before it is published. This paper outlines the process undertaken to develop the Plan, the content of the Plan, the feedback gathered from stakeholders and partners, the public and victims of crime, and the next steps which the Commissioner will undertake to finalise the Plan.

2. Developing the Plan

2.1. The draft Plan has been developed by:

- Reviewing data and intelligence from a wide range of sources
- Securing the voice of the public including in person at engagement events, and by securing learning from previous surveys, such as the Budget engagement survey 2024
- Having due regard to the national Strategic Policing Requirement
- Reviewing and integrating with existing regional strategies and plans such as the Peninsula Strategic Assessment
- Engaging with partners and key stakeholders
- The undertaking of wider public engagement exercises.

2.2. Analysis of data and evidence identified a need to focus on antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, violence, and theft. This was further supported by the Budget engagement survey 2024 which highlighted drugs, anti-social behaviour and violence as public priorities.

2.3. Exercises to secure stakeholder feedback were undertaken from August through to October 2024. In addition to working closely with Devon and

Cornwall Police's Force Executive, a number of stakeholder groups were consulted including the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Victim Support, Councillor Advocates, Fire and Rescue, Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) subgroups, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), representatives of business and rural communities and representatives of minority groups.

2.4. Following analysis of the data and feedback from stakeholders, further detail of which is included in paragraph 4 below, a draft Plan was developed. This Plan focuses on delivering the vision of '**Safe, Resilient and Connected communities, where everyone plays their part to reduce crime**'.

2.5. The draft Plan has:

- Two overarching themes:
 - **Improving your policing and crime services**, and
 - **Working together to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour**

- Four priorities:
 - **Antisocial behaviour**
 - **Drugs and alcohol**
 - **Serious violence**, and
 - **Theft**

2.6. A breakdown including further detail of how each of the four priorities – **antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, serious violence, and theft** – will be addressed in four discrete areas:

- **In our towns and city centres**
- **In our countryside and coastal areas**
- **On our roads**, and
- **In our homes and neighbourhoods.**

3. Data and evidence

3.1. The Plan's four priorities were identified through an evidence-based approach which included the following:

- Devon and Cornwall Police's crime data
- The force's wider performance data and information, to include risk assessments, key partnership documentation and force control strategy
- Victim referrals, to best understand the services required by victims of crime
- An analysis of data and information secured and held by the Commissioner, to include direct correspondence, public surveys and the OPCC's analysis of force performance
- Information from stakeholders and partners, including the Strategic Peninsula Assessment (PSA)

- Feedback and information from external audits of the force's performance, to include HMICFRS inspection data (such as the Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) publications), and reports from the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IoPC).

3.2. Antisocial behaviour. ASB covers a wide range of unacceptable activity and blights the lives of too many people.

- In the 12 months up to Aug 2024 there were over 19,300 recorded incidents of ASB.
- Antisocial behaviour is a consistent area of concern arising from public consultation, with ASB regularly being the number one priority in OPCC public surveys.
- ASB is a recurring, enduring issue raised by complainants writing to the OPCC, both in general correspondence and in statutory complaint review applications.
- 25.9% of correspondents to the OPCC stated that they had witnessed ASB in their local area, with 19.3% survey respondents stating that they were not satisfied that the police and local councils were dealing with ASB effectively.
- Antisocial behaviour often includes young people, and it is particularly important to prevent young people being drawn into ASB as this can lead to wider involvement in violence and criminality.

3.3. Drugs and alcohol. Substance misuse is one of the key drivers of crime, and preventing this misuse, and reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol, is a necessary priority, overlapping with other priority areas, such as violence and ASB.

- Analysis indicates that drugs is one of the key drivers of crime, resulting in harm to both individuals and communities.
- National estimates are that drugs are a factor in 50% of all homicides.
- The Peninsula Strategic Assessment (PSA) 2023/24 identified alcohol as contributing to a wide range of crime types, and is a significant factor in offences involving harm to the person.
- The PSA identified that alcohol was a factor in 20% of all crime in 2022/23.

3.4. Serious violence. Violence covers a broad spectrum of crime types and accounts for around 44.3% of all recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall.

- In the 12 months to March 2024, 47,800 violent crimes were recorded in Devon and Cornwall, a 6% increase on the previous year.
- Crimes of violence include violence against women and girls, and domestic abuse. Violence against women and girls is a particular area of focus, be it in our towns – particularly in our night-time economy – or in our homes. In 2023/24, over 25,000 requests for support by victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse were received by OPCC-commissioned services.

- Approximately 33% of recorded crimes of violence relate to domestic abuse. Sexual offences have increased by nearly 25% since 2019.

3.5. **Theft.** Theft is an issue that affects everybody across the region. From shoplifting to rural crime, to dwelling burglaries and to the damage caused by serious and organised crime groups, theft has a significant impact upon all of our communities and the approaches to tackle this need to be creative and wide-ranging.

- Theft accounts for nearly 25% of all total recorded crime across Devon and Cornwall.
- In 2023/24, theft offences increased by 11% compared to the previous year, rising to a total of 25,400 recorded offences.
- Reported retail theft – shoplifting – has now risen to the highest level in 20 years across England and Wales, with research indicating that the true crime rate is higher, with a significant proportion of shoplifting offences not being reported to the police.
- In the NFU’s Rural Crime Report 2023/24, it was estimated that rural crime has increased 4.3% year-on-year, and now costs in the region of £53million per year. Intelligence suggests that farms and agricultural properties are a particular focus from serious and organised crime groups.

4. The voice of the people

4.1. In August 2024, the OPCC undertook public engagement exercises to inform the development of the new Police and Crime Plan. Various exercises ran from August to October 2024 including an online survey. This survey asked members of the public for feedback on key aspects of the Plan, including:

- The vision of having Safe, Resilient and Connected communities where everyone plays their part.
- The overarching focus of ‘Improving your policing and crime services’.
- The four supporting priorities of antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, violence, and theft.

4.2. In total the survey received 588 responses. Overall, results show that the Commissioner’s objectives were supported by the public, with most respondents stating that they were either ‘strongly’ or ‘fairly’ supportive of a focus on the four priorities. Of the four priorities, a focus on violence was supported by 91% of the public, ASB 89%, theft 88% and drugs and alcohol 86%. A summary of the survey analysis is included at **annex B**.

4.3. Detailed analysis of the OPCC’s correspondence from members of the public was also undertaken, with themes arising being fed into and being considered as part of the wider priority-setting exercise.

4.4. Alongside the public survey, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) engaged with a range of stakeholders and partners during the consultation period. Stakeholder feedback has been carefully considered and has been taken into account in the development and drafting of the Plan.

5. Performance measures and oversight

5.1. To facilitate appropriate scrutiny by the Police and Crime Panel, the Commissioner's performance reporting pack has been revised, to ensure relevance and enable optimal transparency and ease of understanding. This full performance reporting pack will be presented to Panel in January 2025, however an overview of how the Commissioner will monitor success against 'Improving your police and crime services' is attached at **annex C**.

6. Finalisation of the Police and Crime Plan

6.1. Representations are sought from the Police and Crime Panel on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029. In line with Section 5E(6)(d) of the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Commissioner will have regard for any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft Plan and give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations.

6.2. The Commissioner requests that feedback is provided to her following the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 22nd November 2024. The Commissioner will review and consider feedback and provide a response to the Panel, with the intention of publishing the Police and Crime Plan in December 2024.

Annexes

Annex A: Draft Police and Crime Plan

Annex B: Consultation analysis

Annex C: Draft Performance Scorecard

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