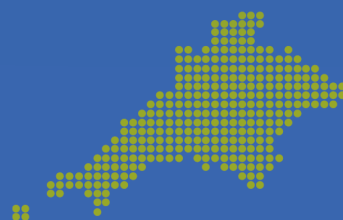


# Commissioning Intentions Plan 2025-26

How we spend money to  
prevent crime, help victims  
recover and support the  
policing of our communities



**PCC**

Office of the Police and  
Crime Commissioner  
Devon and Cornwall

# Strategic commissioning to achieve the Police and Crime Plan priorities

# Financial budget 2025-26

This document sets out the Police and Crime Commissioner's commissioning intentions to support the prevention and reduction of crime and help victims to cope and recover from the harm they have suffered.

It is a framework for how we intend to plan, buy, deliver, and evaluate services in 2025-26 that fit with the Police and Crime Plan priorities and meet the need of our communities in Devon and Cornwall.

The Commissioning Intentions Plan for 2025-26 details the range of commissioned services planned to support the delivery of the Commissioner's statutory duties and the priorities within the police and crime plan 2025-29.

Supporting victims to cope and recover remains the focus of all commissioning activity, however, commissioning investments also support core policing activity and priorities such as reducing reoffending and prevention.

In Devon and Cornwall, the Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 sets out a clear ambition for a crime-fighting police force that tackles...

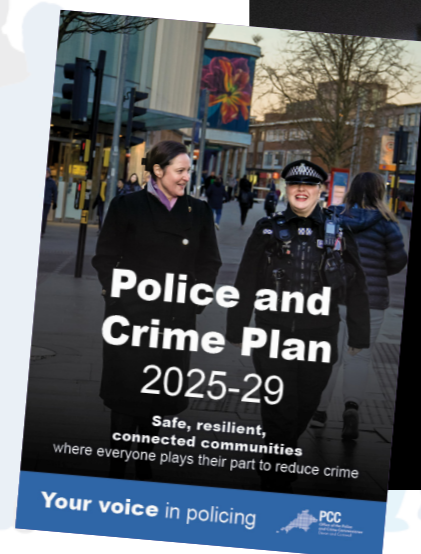
The term 'commissioning' is the cycle of assessing need and, where identified, designing, and securing the appropriate service or developing strategies and plans to respond.

This includes co-design and engagement with people who have been involved in or impacted by crime to support, shape and influence existing and future services.

To mirror good commissioning practice observed in other commissioning



...in our town and city centres, in our countryside and coastal communities, on our roads and in your homes and neighbourhoods.



authorities, the Commissioner is committed to reducing short term funding, in favour of longer-term sustainable funding which forms the basis of our commissioning framework.

The Commissioner also recognises that small grants make a difference to people, places, and communities.

They can support new ideas and the adaptation of existing ideas and can facilitate projects to mature into larger funding streams and longer-term contracts; to this end it will be important to ensure a balance of contracts and grants in 2025/6.

For the next financial year 2025-26, the total commissioning budget across the OPCC is **£9,343,789**.

The budget is made up of:

■ a **£5,578,100** commissioning grant allocated directly by the Commissioner for the purpose of commissioning services for the benefit of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This now includes investment in strategic interventions to reduce antisocial behaviour and violent crime.

■ Central Government funding consisting of **£3,665,689** from the MoJ Victim Services Grant, including additional funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence services.

■ **£100,000** funding from the Vision Zero South West Partnership to deliver a service to support people affected by a bereavement or serious injury on the road.

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Police and Crime Commissioner commissioning budget	£4,263,500 (Including a £200,000 uplift)*	£4,258,500	£5,578,100
MoJ Victim and Witness Grant (CSACSE Grant)	£3,635,657	£3,752,066	£3,665,689
Serious violence budget	£800,000	£600,000	
Home Office Serious Violence Duty funding	£359,107	£657,341	
Safer Streets	£464,999	£355,000**	
Vision Zero South West Partnership funding	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,623,263</b>	<b>£9,635,907</b>	<b>£9,343,789</b>

\* In 2023-24, the Commissioner has drawn down £200,000 from reserves to support the continuation of the domestic abuse perpetrator scheme.

\*\* In 2024-25, Safer Streets funding was reduced by the Home Office by £180,000.

# Commissioning achievements in 2024-25

## New Independent Sexual Violence Advisor 'Bridge Partnership' contract

A new £5million, five-year partnership contract has been awarded to provide support for survivors of rape and sexual assault across Devon and Cornwall.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly funds a number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) to work with people who have experienced rape and sexual assault.

The new partnership contract is being led by The Women's Centre

Cornwall and will see ISVAs working in Devon and Cornwall across a range of specialisms.

The Bridge Partnership brings together the collective expertise of six highly skilled local organisations: Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services, the Children's Society, Intercom Trust, West Cornwall Women's Aid, the Olive Project and Konnect Communities. Together, they are well placed to effectively serve every community across the peninsula.

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, said: "I am pleased to welcome the Women's Centre Cornwall who will be leading our new ISVA contract.



The new Bridge Partnership is a collective led by the Women's Centre Cornwall delivering an Independent Sexual Advisor service across Devon and Cornwall

"I am committed to ensuring victims of such traumatic crimes, which can be isolating and distressing, get the best possible support to cope and recover, and I am confident in the delivery of a long-term, robust and innovative service to those who need specialist support after experiencing rape or sexual violence."

Jackie May, chief executive of The Women's Centre Cornwall, said: "We are delighted to have been selected to deliver the ISVA service and are looking forward to working with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to ensure that survivors of sexual violence of all ages and genders receive excellent support."

**Anyone who feels they might need the support of an ISVA can call 0300 303 4626 or get further information at [sarchelp.co.uk](http://sarchelp.co.uk).**

## Spotlight: Serious Violence Programme

The Serious Violence Prevention Programme was developed following the launch of the National Serious Violence Strategy.

It was seen as an opportunity to strengthen Devon and Cornwall's commitment to tackling and preventing serious violence and to learn what could work in our area. Funding had been made available to introduce Violence Reduction Units in the higher crime areas of the UK.

Devon and Cornwall were not one of these areas, however the force had previously demonstrated a desire for innovative partnership working in this space with an investment in the Turning Corners programme and the force-led Pathfinder project.



Collectively, the Commissioner and Chief Constable agreed to fund a four-year programme to embed a public health to tackle serious violence and create opportunities to invest in preventing and tackling the forms of serious violence that were particularly relevant for local communities.

The Serious Violence Prevention

Programme is coming to a planned end this year and has been reviewed to identify lessons learned and identify ways in which the legacy of the programme can be carried forward into future activity to prevent serious violence.

Since its inception the serious violence duty came into effect in 2022 which now places stronger

leadership on local authorities and other partners.

Over the four years of the programme more than 27 projects across Devon and Cornwall have been funded, including 17 prevention initiatives delivered for young people by local partners. These included the innovative Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment (CAPI) project in Cornwall and Make Amends Restorative Justice Family Workers. The Serious Violence Prevention Programme focused on taking an evidence-based approach to preventing serious violence – and encouraged innovation and 'test and learn' pilots working against the Peninsula Theory of Change.

In the latter half of the programme, the focus was primarily on policing initiatives including funding the



development of a roadmap for trauma informed policing; and the piloting and then roll-out of shame sensitive training.

In addition, the Serious Violence Prevention Programme funded Project Vigilant. This tactic deploys officers both uniformed and non-uniformed officers into public spaces within the evening and night-time economy. The officers are specially trained to identify predatory behaviours like loitering, making unwanted contact, sexualised or misogynistic comments, harassing or stalking, officers will then intervene

and take appropriate action in regard to the individual.

In 2024-25 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has changed the way it delivers serious violence approaches, including embedding key roles into policing business as usual, and as a result a shared team is no longer the preferred delivery mechanism. The office will now take a combined policy and partnership approach to criminal justice and youth violence prevention, via a dedicated new office function under the Local Criminal Justice Board remit.

From within this context the Commissioner will continue to oversee the peninsula's strategic response to violence and ensure regional compliance with the national Serious Violence Duty.

# Commissioning achievements in 2024-25

## Make Amends Restorative Justice Service – Serious Violence Programme

Make Amends was specifically commissioned by the Serious Violence Prevention Programme to develop a restorative justice approach for young people, living or being educated in the Plymouth or Torquay area. Practitioners are supported to work in a way that considers the whole person, their story, family, social networks, environment, health, and wellbeing. The Make Amends Family Practitioner model consists of two restorative justice (RJ) practitioners actively promoting the benefits of restorative justice alongside providing RJ support to young people. Since the establishment of the Family Practitioner Team, the two case workers have expanded into several schools across Plymouth, Torbay and now Saltash in Cornwall due to demand. Practitioners continue to

**195+**  
families supported over three years

More than **854**  
hours of RJ contact with young people and adults over the past 12 months

**100%**  
satisfaction rate in 2023-24

work closely with schools, visit with pastoral staff, designated safeguarding leads and heads of year to speak about the project. The Commissioner's office also funds Make Amends through its strategic delivery partner to deliver RJ using restorative circles and a more standard restorative justice approach.

### Focusing on youth justice

A child-first approach has now been incorporated across the wider

The Commissioner funds restorative justice for young people living or studying in Plymouth, Torquay and Saltash

criminal justice partnership from both an offender and victim perspective.

It is understood that interventions, if delivered well, can be an effective crime reduction strategy keeping our children, their families and the community safe.

This work will be driven by a strategic lead from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) supported by key representatives from the criminal justice system who will seek to improve timeliness, quality of intervention and consider what good looks like for all children involved, whether a suspect or victim.



*I found this experience very positive and a way of safely apologising and engaging with the people who I had caused offence to. It has left me with a sense of peace and closure – able to move on knowing I have apologised and that my apology was accepted by those I had affected.*

*I was apprehensive and nervous as I wasn't sure how my letter would be received and if it was enough. Now I feel happy and at peace with a sense of closure and positivity. My needs have all been met and I was able to express everything I felt.*

**Make Amends harmer**

*I thought it was really good – the RJ workers were very friendly and open.*

*I can talk to my daughter more easily than I could before. I think it helped because we finally got people in that sat down and listened to both of us, instead of just one side.*

*We now have a few things in place, we write our worries in a diary, we walk away from arguments and go back when we've calmed down. It has improved communication between us.*

*They really prepared us for what to expect each step of the way.*

**Make Amends harmed**



A street marshal and Devon & Cornwall Police officer on a hotspot patrol in Bideford

## Case study: The hotspots patrol initiative

A 12-month hotspot patrol programme to target antisocial behaviour (ASB) and serious violence (SV) was launched in Devon and Cornwall in May 2024.

Using police data and input from Community Safety Partnerships, 16 hotspot areas were identified across Devon and Cornwall where we have implemented uniformed, highly visible patrols in ASB and SV hotspots delivered by police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs) and local authority street marshals.

Throughout Devon and Cornwall, the collaboration between police and local street marshals has led to exceptional outcomes, with residents expressing high

levels of satisfaction. From May 1 to September 30, 2024, the hotspots initiative delivered 9,128 foot patrols hours over 1,211 hotspot patrols; during the course of those patrols they engaged with 32,448 members of the public and visited 12,572 premises.

Our hotspots police officers have attended 726 ASB incidents, made 127 arrests, and seized 16 offensive weapons and 119 items of stolen property and drugs and/or alcohol.

Feedback from residents and business owners has been overwhelmingly positive with many reporting they have noticed a decrease in ASB in their communities and that they feel safer out and about in hotspot areas.

# Commissioning achievements in 2024-25



Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez visits the Victim Support office in Plymouth on the charity's 50th anniversary

## OPCC's strategic delivery partner - Victim Support

Through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)'s strategic delivery partner Victim Support the offer for all victims of crime continues to improve. This includes:

### Victim Support Adult multi-crime service

A dedicated support helpline is in place for victims of non-reported crime and independent advocates who support victims to cope and

## Commissioning in numbers

**£9,635,907**

Commissioning spend in 2024/5

**In the financial year 2023-24:**

**107,864** crimes were reported to Devon & Cornwall Police, up by 5% compared to the previous year.

**43,463** new referrals were received, and 18,652 victims were supported by Devon & Cornwall's Victim Care Unit in 23/4 (increase of approx. 14%)

**25,516** referrals were made to sexual violence and domestic abuse support services commissioned by the OPCC. This equates to 70 requests for support each day. (Includes SV, CSE/CSA and DA).

**23** community support services were available for victims through the OPCC's support network

**30,251** new victims were referred to or self-referred to these support services.

Assault with injury and Harassment were the main reasons why victims were seeking support in 2023/24.

**3,145** young people have been supported.

**78.4%** of victims receiving support were female and

**18.4%** were male.

**15,652** victims reported the crime to the police prior to engaging with a victim support service (increased by 45%)

**309** victims were supported by restorative justice services

\*Note: Councils, CSPs and NHS England are excluded in the definition of 'community support services'.

## Case Study: The Victim Care Unit

The Victim Care Unit (VCU) is within Devon & Cornwall Police but primarily funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).



A visit by the OPCC to the Victim Care Unit in 2024

It consists of 16 members of police staff who contact victims of reported crime to discuss how they have been affected and offer information, advice and support according to the victim's individual needs.

Over the past 12 months, the VCU has supported a total of 20,693 and referred 2,935 victims to support services on the Victim Care Network.

In the past six months, 3,406 priority victim surveys were completed, with 25.7% having had contact from the VCU.

Over 98% of individuals reported that they were communicated with clearly, treated with respect and that the member of VCU staff was polite. 89.3% of victims felt

the VCU were helpful in coping and recovering from the effects of the crime. Staff in the VCU are subject matter experts on victims' rights and supporting victims. Over the past 12 months, they have delivered numerous inputs to training courses and different business areas.

A key focus this year has been commencing the delivery of the improvements recommended by the Victim Pathway Project. This arose from an independent review of the victim journey commissioned by the OPCC. Recommendations include increasing awareness of victim rights and role of the VCU across the force, scoping automation to increase compliance with victims' rights and improving the Victim Care website.

recover. This is commissioned under contract via Victim Support.

### Continued development of the victim service to support traumatic grief suffered by people bereaved by road crashes.

July 2023 saw the start of a new three-year post collision care offer commissioned by our strategic delivery partner Victim Support and delivered by BRAKE.

Vision Zero South West agreed to fund £100,000 per year to support traumatic grief suffered by people bereaved by road crashes. In the 14 months since establishment of this contract, 149 people have been referred to BRAKE for support. Of these, 94 have involved fatal collisions where one or more person has died, 53 have been

referred following serious or life-changing injury collisions and six have accessed support after witnessing a collision. Through this contract, BRAKE have also engaged Roadpeace to provide a peer support function, and have also been working with specialist charities who provide support to children, to ensure they also receive appropriate support following a traumatic bereavement.

### The development of improved services for victims of domestic abuse through the co-commissioning of services in partnership with local authorities across Devon and Cornwall.

These developments aim to provide the 'right support' in the 'right places' for all victims across Devon and Cornwall whether or not you report the crime to the police.

*[I would like to thank them] for checking on the length of time the issue with my neighbours has been happening and identifying that the issue needed to be resolved. For recognising that what may seem minor issues to other people are having a significant effect on myself and my partner and our right to a peaceful home life.*

*[Victim Care Officer] is amazing, truly. She has been really compassionate, kind and has a real understanding of what a victim is going through and with such kindness. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. She has also been firm and given sound advice regarding fraud gangs and how they will persistently attack me, suggested ways to minimise this and actions I need to take, whilst offering continued support and listening attentively to all my tales of woe. I feel confident and supported.*

*I was exhausted with it. It's hard enough having it hanging over us so in my own mind having one less thing associated to the case is a bonus. [Victim Care Advocate assisted with CICA application.] Anyhow, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for myself and my family.*

# Police and Crime Plan commissioning priorities

Violent crime accounts for the largest crime type within Devon and Cornwall, comprising 44.3% of total recorded crime.

This priority covers serious violence and violence against women and girls, it spans a wide range of harm from harassment and psychological abuse (resulting in no physical harm) to life changing injuries or death.

In the 12 months to March 2024, 47,832 violent offences were recorded in Devon and Cornwall, a 6% increase compared with last year.

Violent crime has increased by 15% compared with 5 years ago.

Around a third of violent offences relate to domestic abuse.

Across the peninsula we are seeing some concerning trends in youth



violence and antisocial behaviour, alongside the continuing impacts of drug-related crime and alcohol, and the night-time economy.

Estimates from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual abuse suggest that around 15% of girls and 5% of boys have experienced or are experiencing some form of sexual abuse, equating to approximately 32,300 children in Devon and Cornwall.

The Commissioner continues to



Waiting lists for people who have experienced sexual harm continue to increase

## Spotlight: Circles South West: reducing re-offending

Circles South West works in partnership with statutory services to assist in risk management of those who have perpetrated sexual harm and/or are registered sex offenders by providing circles of support and accountability. Referred individuals will usually be living in the community, though in some areas they have capacity to offer support starting in prison.



working with those who have sexually offended/harmed, and comprises up to five volunteers and one "core member". Volunteers undergo mandatory training and vetting procedures to ensure suitability for this role.

They meet with the core member regularly (usually once a week at the start of the circle) for 12 to 18 months in a risk-assessed, confidential, community venue.

Circles South West's mission is "no more victims" and reducing reoffending is its objective.

A circle offers support and holds individuals to account for their behaviour, attitudes and thoughts. Each circle is designed in response to the individual's risk and needs according to an assessment made in conjunction with referrer and statutory partners. Each circle is managed by a qualified criminal justice professional experienced in

Volunteers will help the core member to reintegrate safely and responsibly into the community by addressing practical matters such as housing, employment, disclosure, self-management, distorted thinking and risky behaviours, and offering a 'safe', non-judgemental environment to meet and talk, build social skills, reduce isolation and increase confidence and self-esteem.

A commissioning process will be taken forward in 2025-26.

## Spotlight: Devon Rape Crisis

This year, Devon Rape Crisis welcomed 10 new volunteers, expanding their team to 23.

Their dedicated volunteers handled 264 helpline calls and 288 email support requests. This demonstrates that local demand for help is still needed despite the new national sexual violence helpline becoming more established.

Devon Rape Crisis Volunteers also promoted services in the community and engaged in initiatives to reach those beyond traditional referral routes.

In total, their volunteers contributed 1,240 hours, supported 594



people, and attended 10 events, generating an estimated £17,360 in social value.

In 2023-24, Devon Rape Crisis has made significant improvements to its service. Through its work with the Sexual Violence Trauma Pathfinder, it now helps those with current mental health challenges to access services through trauma stabilisation

*I have heard so many good things about the work of DRCSAS and I am so excited to be part of this community*

**Volunteer Trainee**

approaches. This is especially important as equality data reveals that many survivors experience mental ill health and need support to regulate their emotions and develop skills in managing this daily.

The new approach also offers flexibility in appointments, increases access for young people with more suitable times, and provides more accessible, private spaces for those with physical disabilities.

commit £3,804,356 funding to support services.

## Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

News coverage of the tragic murders of several women in the UK brought to the forefront public concerns about the safety of women and girls and their risk of experiencing violent crime in public spaces.

Women are also less likely to feel safe walking alone in public settings than men (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2022).

In February 2023, VAWG was included within the strategic policing requirement, which recognises the issue as a national

threat alongside terrorism and serious and organised crime.

Evidence from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), considered the most reliable data source for measuring the prevalence of VAWG, shows that women are more likely to be victims of sexual assault.

In the year ending March 2024, 26.9% of women and 5.7% of men reported experiencing sexual assault (including attempts) since the age of 16 (ONS, 2024). Police recorded sexual offences have increased by 23.6% compared with five years ago across Devon and Cornwall. In 2023-24, 25,516 referrals were made to

sexual violence and domestic abuse support services commissioned by the Commissioner's office. This equates to 70 requests for support each day.

Waiting lists for victims who have experience sexual assault or rape are high and continue to increase. Some are having to wait more than eight months for therapeutic support across the peninsula.

The Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Charter has been developed as part of Exeter, Falmouth and Torquay's commitment to keeping the city and towns a safe place, where women feel confident and safe at night.

# Police and Crime Plan commissioning priorities

In the 12 months to August 2024, 19,305 antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded by Devon & Cornwall Police, down by 3.7% compared to the previous year.

Police data doesn't always reflect the true extent of ASB experienced by communities due to under-reporting, but data tells us that there are ASB hotspots across our force area, particularly in our towns and city centres, such as Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay, Newquay and Truro.

ASB is one of the main issues reported by the public. When surveyed by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, residents of Devon and Cornwall consistently state that ASB is the policing issue that most needs addressing in their communities.

ASB is a recurring theme in the complaints, concerns and correspondence received by the Commissioner and is a frequent topic of discussion with members of the public during engagement events.

25.9% of survey respondents across the Devon and Cornwall force area have experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area (Crime Survey for England and Wales [CSEW] year to March 2024).

19.3% of survey respondents across the Devon and Cornwall force area disagree that police and local councils are dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter in their local area (CSEW year to March 2024).

In 2022, the OPCC commissioned a new ASB support service due to emerging need among communities. In the past year, 360 victims have been supported.



Antisocial behaviour (ASB) victims state that persistent and targeted ASB can result in people feeling at risk or harassed in their homes and neighbourhoods, and left unaddressed can seriously impact people's health, wellbeing and quality of life.

The Commissioner therefore continues to fund to support services: a youth ASB prevention service provided by DYS Space in collaboration with Young Devon, and Young People Cornwall, funding for ASB lawyers and an ASB victim support service provided by Victim Support. These services help to deliver the following objectives in the police and crime plan:

- Make our city, town and village centres more resilient to ASB.
- Ensure that victims of persistent and severe ASB in our communities are heard and know how to get help.
- Work with policing and partners to deliver a robust and targeted partnership approach, using the range of powers available to all partners.

In 2025-26 the Commissioner will provide match funding for projects in Plymouth (also covering Torbay) and Exeter to support young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation. Expanding the delivery model of



Street Focus Torquay aims to increase safety in the town centre

## Case study: Street Focus Torquay

The Commissioner launched Street Focus Torquay in June 2024 to tackle antisocial behaviour and improve safety in the town centre through a partnership approach.

Working with Devon & Cornwall Police, Torbay Council, SWISCo and Crimestoppers the project has achieved a number of successes.

A dedicated website promoting Street Focus has been launched, which gives information on reporting crime as well as offering residents a chance to submit ideas and feedback.

A window takeover of a prominent vacant unit in the Union Square Shopping Centre is also being used to promote the project and encourage crime reporting and branding of bins in the town centre was set to roll out in winter. Regular highly visible walkaround

sessions have been held with the Commissioner and the local policing team engaging with traders and residents and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's engagement van has been running sessions in Castle Circus gathering feedback and offering advice.

More than 60 businesses have been visited to raise awareness of the project and encourage sign-up to the Store Net and Night Net schemes.

A Crimestoppers zone was implemented in August 2024, promoting the option of reporting crime anonymously with a banner van, posters erected around the town, a social media campaign, and public engagement. In November 2024, the Commissioner funded a night bus service for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham to help people enjoying the nighttime economy get home safely between midnight

and 4am over the festive period. A similar scheme in North Devon resulted in a marked reduction in crime.

A Neighbourhood Watch project lead is covering Torquay town centre, working with traders to create a peer support network and encourage reporting of antisocial behaviour and retail crime.

The project has been supported with a robust communication plan, which has resulted in coverage on BBC Spotlight evening news.

Further work is underway including exploring Community Payback opportunities, and discussions with Arts Council England Southwest and a local theatre group around ways to work creatively in the town centre.

For more visit [street-focus.co.uk](http://street-focus.co.uk)

a current projects funded by the Premier League through the Premier League Charitable Fund. Premier League Kicks uses the power of football and sport to inspire young people to reach their potential, in some of the most high-need areas in England and Wales.

In 2025/6 a series of funded strategic interventions will support the reduction and disruption of ASB and crime across Devon and Cornwall, taking on the learning from this and other important work taken forward in 2024-25.

### DYS space Assertive Outreach – supporting communities with early intervention

Youth Outreach is designed to engage with young people in a community at risk of ASB and criminality. This is done by increasing

multi-agency work across youth services, the youth offending service, and the police. By doing this we are then able to better understand their needs.

Partners deliver an average of nine sessions a week across the South West peninsula year-round, with an

additional 18 sessions added during peak times of youth activity (eg summer holidays). There can be up to 27 sessions a week at peak times.

Staff deployment is mainly steered by referral requests from local police teams based on location 'hotspots' but also based on local insight and

intelligence. Youth workers attempt to develop relationships with young people at pace and ultimately aim to move them to a place of trust enough to undertake replacement 'risky' activities thereby diverting them from the urge to commit or be victims of ASB. Staff then move on to the next 'hot spot'.

## Case Study: Assertive Outreach, Newton Abbot

"Our presence has meant that young people were coming to youth workers during these times, they were expecting our presence on those days which diverted the attention when we were out.

"Youth workers also created connections to the youth service in the evenings and young people were accessing support from youth workers. It has been really positive to see the community observe a

presence of youth workers in town after school and young people engaging with us. The work we delivered was in an open area and visible to the public during this time.

"We worked closely with neighbourhood police teams to establish the group and areas. We communicated with the police closely throughout to receive updates and they also

updated us on changing dynamics, patterns of behaviour and new intelligence including the increase in vapes etc. This also supported curriculum discussions during sessions.

"Young people have begun engaging in our youth club session at the centre instead of being on the streets in the evenings."



# Police and Crime Plan commissioning priorities

In 2022-23, there were an estimated 384,000 incidents of violent crime where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol across England and Wales.

The victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in 38% of all violent incidents. The victim believed the offender(s) was under the influence of alcohol in 40% of all violent incidents with injury and 37% of all violent incidents without injury.

In the 2022-23 refresh of the Peninsula Strategic Assessment, alcohol was identified as a factor in 20% of all recorded crime.

Alcohol is an escalation factor in the severity of violence – with a higher proportion of alcohol-related crimes resulting in grievous bodily harm, particularly non-domestic crimes. Across the peninsula we are seeing some concerning trends in youth



violence and antisocial behaviour, alongside the continuing impacts of drug-related crime, and alcohol and the night-time economy.

As normal life has established after the pandemic, there have been rises in public space violence (where there is greater risk of harm) and violence among young people, particularly in urban areas.

Research commonly identifies key risk factors for being a victim of sexual violence, this includes using alcohol and drugs.

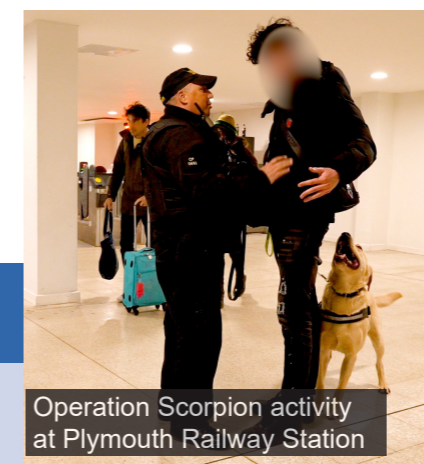


There has been a rise in public space disorder since the Covid-19 pandemic

A total of 239 victims were referred to victim services between January and March 2023 following an assault or public order offence. Many of these victims stated that these incidents involved people under the influence of alcohol.

In 2025-26 the Commissioner makes £424,067 available to support this priority. Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Devon

County Council and Torbay Council will continue to receive grant funding for treatment services based on the previous year's funding.



Operation Scorpion activity at Plymouth Railway Station

by drug dealers, such as in 'county lines' networks.

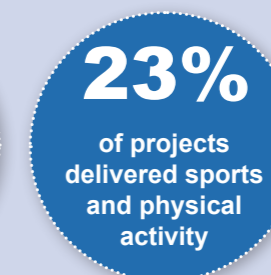
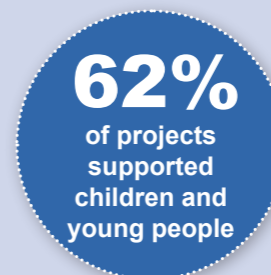
Across the five force areas, Operation Scorpion Round 10 (November 2024) resulted in the following regional results:

- 945 arrests
- More than 752 children and adults safeguarded
- More than £7.5 million worth of drugs seized

## Spotlight: The Police Property Act Fund Cornwall

The Commissioner makes £200,000 available for Community Grant schemes as well as the Property Act fund, the scheme aims to benefit smaller voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations whose work contributes to the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and

delivered in partnership with Devon Community Foundation and Cornwall Community Foundation. In addition, the Commissioner also allocates funds from the Police Property Act and this funding is available to support delivery of crime prevention in local communities.



## Case study: Resilient Lives CIC

Resilient Lives CIC received Commissioner Community Grant funding earlier this year for a skills and training programme created for people recovering from drug or alcohol addiction in Torbay.

"A key aspect of recovery is being able to move away from a previous life with confidence and hope," says CEO Simon Dyer, explaining the ethos behind a project which supports people out of addiction by teaching them how to make and sell pizza.

Participants learned to make and cook authentic sourdough pizzas, manage front-of-house, market and brand a business, advertise it and run a pop-up market stall in their community.

"I'm not aware of anything similar to this in the local recovery community," Simon said. "There is lots of meaningful occupation, but not much involving food and sales. We combine a very trauma-informed approach to recovery,

with knowledge of entrepreneurial practices, so we think this is quite unique locally."

Simon adds that, while there are lots of opportunities locally for those still using addiction support services, there seems to be a shortage of "move-on" options.

He describes the "overwhelm" people in recovery can experience when they try to move away from support services: "For many the fear of failure is enough to stop them trying; this leads to falling back into patterns of behaviour they're trying to leave behind."

The opportunity offered to develop skills in a safe, supported way also helps people to build the resilience required to imagine life away from addiction services. Simon gives the example of one participant who has started to make his own sourdough at home and is attending volunteering days at Resilient Lives' production kitchen in Totnes outside of the recovery groups.

## Spotlight: Operation Scorpion



To tackle drugs effectively it is important to address drug supply.

In October 2021, the Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables from the five forces in the South West committed to regional activity to make the region a hostile environment for drug dealing.

This collective commitment to work together to put a 'ring of steel' around the South West to prevent the trafficking and supply of drugs is called Operation Scorpion.

To the end of 2024, there had

been 10 iterations of Operation Scorpion, each focused on a different element of drugs supply or misuse, with each of the five forces taking turns to lead these operations.

The objectives of Operation Scorpion are:

- To focus on the 'ring of steel' concept using resources and partners to disrupt travel into the region for the purpose of supplying drugs.
- To focus on visible street dealing. To disrupt those who cause harm in

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communities through visible drug dealing and the associated crime. This may be linked to Clear, Hold, Build areas in some forces.

■ To have a proactive intelligence gathering campaign driven through a concerted communications strategy making best use of Crimestoppers and the Safer Streets App.

A major aim of the operation which has been present in all phases is the safeguarding vulnerable individuals or children who have been exploited



# Police and Crime Plan commissioning priorities

## Theft

Theft covers a range of offence categories ranging from burglary to shoplifting, all of which can have significant social and economic impacts on individuals, communities and businesses.

Theft offences account for 23.6% of total recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall and have increased by 11% in the past year.

During this period residential burglary has increased by 21%.

Theft from the person has increased by 45%.

Shoplifting has increased by 29%.

The cost-of-living crisis (economic pressures) directly or indirectly are believed to be driving the apparent increases of theft offences. This year, shoplifting offences recorded by police across England and

Wales have risen to the highest level in 20 years.

Organisations representing the retail industry indicate that the police recorded shoplifting offences represent a fraction of the true number of incidents.

The Rural Crime Report 2024 published by NFU Mutual in August estimates that the cost of rural crime increased by 4.3% year-on-year in 2023, to £52.8 million, as criminal gangs targeted farmyards and fields looking to cash in on continuing high inflation and ready resale markets domestically and overseas.

In 2025-26 the Commissioner makes £130,400 available to support this priority.

Residential burglaries increased by a fifth in Devon and Cornwall in the past year



## Core commissioning information

This Commissioning Intentions Plan sets out the Commissioner's approach for making decisions about which interventions will be commissioned, and how existing services will be updated or re-shaped to meet the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

The Commissioner is responsible for bringing agencies together to identify where it would be beneficial to share funding and create the best value we can for the services that we need to think differently about or finding new ways in which those services can be delivered effectively.

This includes considering services from every sector including voluntary and third sector, to play a part in responding to the outcomes our communities need.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is committed to supporting local service providers in exploring every option available to keep them sustainable, including taking advantage of national support and working with them and other partners to pursue funding opportunities. It further clarifies the available funding that is available to commission services and the

process we go through to identify the greatest need.

This Commissioning Intentions Plan is designed to ensure funding is allocated fairly and proportionately, with due regard to the competing demands on available funding to provide the most effective, fair and sustainable use of resources for specialised services.

To achieve this, the commissioning and partnerships team conducts an initial assessment of need, drawing together information from multiple sources of data available from partners, strategic assessments, national and local data sources, public surveys and the views of people who will use the service.

The Commissioner will not generally commission any services outside this plan. Where there is an emerging issue, this will be considered on its merits and a specific decision made and published. Likewise, the Commissioner will not provide direct grant funding to community initiatives from commissioning resources which are outside this plan.

Community organisations and initiatives will benefit from the

## Case Study: Crimestoppers

As part of the Commissioner's Community Grant Scheme, a regional Crimestoppers co-ordinator post is funded to support communication and co-ordination of our local Crimestoppers scheme.

There has been lots of activity so far this year, with existing Crimestopper zones showing an increase in reporting in Falmouth (23%), Truro 52% and Paignton 11%. In August 2024 a new Crimestoppers zone was launched in Torquay as part of the Street

Focus Torquay partnership activity with the police, Torbay Council and SWISCo. It included a stakeholder meeting, banner van activity, posters, and social media coverage. There was also a town centre walkaround engaging with local traders to encouraging crime reporting.

A new Coastal Crime campaign has seen activity across the south coast peninsula raising awareness and linking with local partners to empower communities to speak up when they suspect something is not right.



The Crimestoppers zone launch in Torquay town centre in August 2024



This plan sets out how the Commissioner will support the prevention and reduction of crime and help victims to cope and recover in Devon and Cornwall

community grant scheme which will be advertised each year, so organisations who wish to seek grant funding from the Commissioner will have a fair, equitable and transparent opportunity to receive funding. The details of grants made will be published each year on our website.

In addition, the Commissioner may also allocate funds from the Property Act using the Property Act Fund process and may allocate further funds to wider grant making organisations to support delivery of crime prevention in local communities. The Commissioner intends to make Property Act Funding available through Devon Community Foundation and Cornwall Community foundation to support the

sustainability of existing community groups working to prevent offending and keeping communities safe in 2025-26.

Decommissioning is an important part of our commissioning process. With the emergence of new areas of need and focus and recognising services are continually evolving and improving, it is inevitable that some services may be decommissioned at some stage.

Where priorities change in the Police and Crime Plan, or national funding is amended then decommissioning is considered to realign services provided. Services can also become underutilised due to changes in victims' needs, advances in

technology, and as approaches and techniques to meeting victims' needs change.

Ending services, and re-commissioning others where appropriate, is part of our continuous cycle of commissioning.

This may require stopping a service (or a significant part of it) or terminating or renegotiating a contract or grant with an existing service provider, where this is driven by needs.

Here are some examples of why existing provision of service may end:

- We may need to make space for a new and improved service/s

- To enable innovation in service provision

- To provide better value for money such as more effective achievement of the desired outcomes or more efficient delivery

- To ensure a better fit to the level of demand and needs

Our process for decommissioning follows the same principles as our commissioning approach alongside our clear rationale, good governance, and robust risk management.

## National services

There are many incredible national organisations working to support

policing and criminal justice matters in the United Kingdom.

Unfortunately, there is insufficient funding to support the number of requests the Commissioner receives each year.

To make our position fair and transparent the Commissioner will only fund national charitable organisations whose aims align with the national portfolios taken by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable or where there is a national agreement which identifies schemes which all Commissioners should make a financial contribution to. The commissioner has committed £14,916 to fund national services in 2025-26.

## Accessibility statement

Access to services, promoting equality and addressing inequalities are the focus of the Commissioning Intentions Plan.

Throughout the development of the service specifications and processes cited in this document, the OPCS has given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic (as cited under the Equality Act 2010) and those who do not share it.

# Detailed budget overview

This section provides a comprehensive break down of our commissioning spend, including new services and existing financial commitments

	Service	Budget
<b>Antisocial behaviour</b>	Antisocial behaviour victim support service	£200,000
	Antisocial behaviour youth outreach	£250,000
	Antisocial behaviour lawyers	£80,000
	Premier League Police Partnerships Pilot	£60,000
	Strategic interventions to disrupt and reduce antisocial behaviour	£500,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,090,000</b>
<b>Drugs &amp; alcohol</b>	Funding for drug treatment services for criminal justice cohort	£334,483
	Drug and alcohol intelligence	£89,584
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£424,067</b>
<b>Serious violence</b>	Specialist domestic abuse services	£906,435
	Specialist sexual violence services	£560,000
	Core Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service	£338,724
	Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services	£333,993
	Additional MoJ funding for domestic abuse / sexual violence	£1,085,205
	Children and young people's therapeutic support	£200,000
	Adult therapeutic support for people affected by sexual violence and abuse, and peer support	£200,000
	Reduce reoffending – sexual violence and domestic abuse	£160,000
	Strategic interventions to reduce violent crime	£500,000
	Knife crime	£20,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,304,357</b>

	Service	Budget
<b>Theft</b>	Crimestoppers capacity	£20,000
	Neighbourhood Watch capacity	£27,900
	Theft and business crime	£80,000
	National Rural Crime Network	£2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,400</b>
<b>Victim services</b>	Victim services	£1,315,480
	Restorative justice service	£306,745
	Children and young person / family victims service	£326,692
	Child exploitation service	£200,000
	Protected characteristics grants	£80,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,228,917</b>
<b>All police and crime plan priorities</b>	Mental health treatment requirements	£50,000
	National police services	£3,724
	Community grants	£200,000
	Youth justice services	£525,735
	Support for offenders while attending court	£60,000
	Crimestoppers anti-corruption line	£8,692
	Police museum	£160,000
	Emerging priorities	£157,897
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,166,048</b>
		<b>Overall total:</b>



# Victim of crime?

## you are not alone

**If you have been  
affected by crime,  
help is available to  
anyone of any age,  
24 hours a day,  
7 days a week**



**VictimCare**  
Devon • Cornwall • IoS

Free, independent, confidential support at

# [victimcare-dc.org](https://victimcare-dc.org)