

Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Commissioner's Update Report: November 2025

Safe, Resilient and Connected Communities, Where Everyone Plays Their Part

The data included in this report covers the period from September 4, 2025, to November 6, 2025, unless otherwise stated.

1. Devon & Cornwall Police

1.1 Op Resolve: Strengthening the frontline

The Chief Constable James Vaughan QPM's plan to strengthen frontline policing is making good progress. In September Mr Vaughan set a deadline to improve frontline resilience by restoring patrol (previously known as response) design numbers by December 31, 2025. In other words, making sure the force is consistently able to fill all its patrol officer shifts.

In October the Deputy Chief Constable Jim Colwell announced plans to redeploy to patrol some officers who had been serving in specialist teams, as part of the so-called Operation Resolve strategy which is making this strengthening of the frontline possible.

When briefing officers and staff Mr Colwell said this had not been an easy decision, but that he was determined to move people and posts into patrol to strengthen the frontline.

The Rank Review previously announced by the Chief Constable is also part of Op Resolve. This has the aim of putting an extra sixty constables on the frontline by April 2026.

The force is also in the process of recruiting an extra one hundred police officers and PSCOs in neighbourhood policing roles as part of the Government's aim to increase community focused policing.

1.2 Custody review

As part of my Commissioner's Accountability Board process I have had discussions about a temporary closure of Torquay custody and although this is decision for the Chief Constable I have sought further assurance on the engagement and evaluation proposals.

This is part of a wider review of the custody model across the force, and it is a requirement of mine that any changes result in improvements to the safety of detainees and an increase in the wellbeing and performance of staff and officers.

In parallel to this my office has undertaken a scrutiny review of custody. The findings from the review will be used by my office to inform our decisions about future investment of taxpayers' money and to ensure buildings comply with safety regulations.

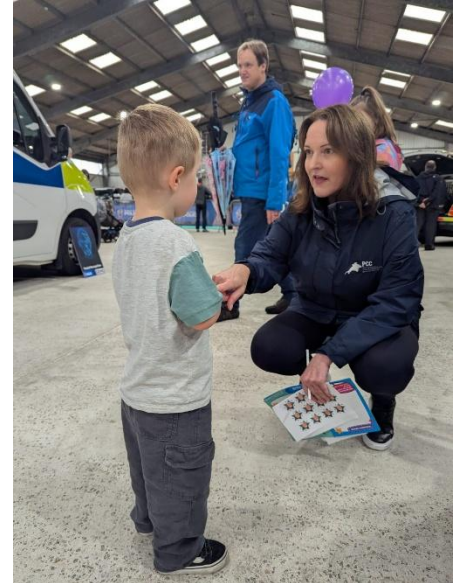
At the time of writing no final decision has been made.



1.3 Force Family Day

A third highly successful Force Family Day took place on September 20, 2025, at the Royal Cornwall Showground. Around 1,000 attendees joined the event, which provided an opportunity for police officers, staff, and their families to come together to celebrate their contribution to policing, enjoy family activities, and learn more about the wide range of roles across the force.

The event was supported for the first time by several sponsors, whose involvement not only helped offset costs but also enhanced the programme with additional attractions and interactive displays. Despite challenging weather conditions, the day was well attended and received extremely positive feedback from those who took part.



1.4 Outcome of court case (Trivet) against the Commissioner

On September 24, 2025, David Trivett appeared at Poole Magistrates' Court, where he entered a guilty plea to an offence of harassment without violence against me. The offence related to repeated unwanted correspondence and the sending out inappropriate material to me over a sustained period.

The court imposed a 12-week custodial sentence, to commence from time already served, and issued a five-year restraining order prohibiting all contact with me. A copy of the restraining order has been received by my office.

1.5 Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process

As part of achieving the savings required in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy the force have recently undertaken a PBB process covering most of the alliance functions with Dorset Police.

PBB is a recognised process in achieving budget savings. The process has three stages:

- First – An assessment of the service areas within a function along with a detailed description and the resources involved for the service area.
- Second – A review of the demand/productivity data to look at potential savings and costs.
- Third – a strategic decision around the service level required.

The results of the first phase are being assessed with level of savings achieved being significant.

The force will be undertaking a second phase of this process in early 2026 looking more closely at Devon and Cornwall functions.

1.6 National Police Memorial Day

On Sunday, September 28, 2025, policing colleagues across the United Kingdom came together to mark National Police Memorial Day, an important occasion dedicated to honouring officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Chief Constable James Vaughan QPM represented Devon & Cornwall Police and the national service in Coventry, joining families, serving officers, staff and representatives from force nationwide.



I attended the commemorative service at Middlemoor Police Headquarters on September 30 where wreaths were laid to honour fallen colleagues from across our force area.

The day provided a poignant opportunity to reflect on the courage, commitment and professionalism of those who serve, and to reaffirm our collective dedication to upholding their legacy. The memorial is also a reminder of the values that underpin policing – duty, integrity and compassion, and the importance of supporting the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives in service.

A Remembrance Day service was also held in Exeter on Sunday, November 9 where a wreath was laid from my office to honour members of the armed forces who have lost their lives in service of their country.

2. Police and Crime Plan Priority: Antisocial behaviour

2.1 Hotspot policing: A visible presence where antisocial behaviour occurs

Hotspot policing continues to form a core part of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, supporting the Commissioner's priorities to enhance visibility, public safety and community confidence. The initiative focuses on reducing antisocial behaviour, serious violence and knife crime across 15 identified town and city-centre hotspots within Devon and Cornwall, with funding of £1million from the Home Office and a further £300,000 invested by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



The Hotspot Policing launch in Bideford

The 15 town and city locations benefiting from hotspot policing patrols for 2025-26 are:

Barnstaple, Bideford, Bodmin, Camborne, Exeter, Exmouth, Newquay, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Penzance, Plymouth, St Austell, Tiverton, Torquay and Truro.

Delivery since April 2025 has been informed by evidence-based practice in collaboration with the Cambridge Centre for Evidence-Based Policing to test and refine hotspot methodology across three case-study towns. The approach has been further strengthened through full Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) accreditation for all Street Marshal providers and close partnership working with local authorities and Business Improvement Districts to coordinate visibility and response.

Between April and October 2025, more than 4,200 hours of additional police foot patrols and 3,800 hours of Street Marshal patrols were delivered. This activity resulted in 123 arrests, 181 stop and searches, 139 recoveries or seizures, 1,162 antisocial behaviour incidents attended and 1,227 intelligence submissions.

A new Hotspot Intelligence Dashboard and mobile application, developed jointly with Dorset Police, has been introduced to improve analysis, deployment tracking, and sustainability planning. Officers and partners have also benefited from a training and quality assurance webinar led by Debbie Simpson from the Cambridge Centre for Evidence-Based Policing.



Early feedback from residents, businesses and partners indicated improved perceptions of safety and visibility, with initial signs of reduced antisocial behaviour and serious violence in several hotspot areas.

Next steps include an analytical review of patrol and crime data to assess the correlation between deployment and outcomes, the co-production of a Hotspot Policing 101 training video, the development of CSAS guidance booklets for Street Marshals and the public, and completion of a comprehensive evaluation and sustainability business case to secure the continuation of hotspot policing beyond the current Home Office funding period.

A video about the hotspot policing project tackling graffiti in Exeter city centre can be watched on [this link](#).

2.2 Safer Streets Summer

September marked the conclusion of Devon and Cornwall Police's Safer Streets Summer activity, consolidating three months of targeted engagement, problem-solving, and visible policing across key town and city centres, which are often repeat locations from antisocial behaviour and crime, including violence against women and girls.

Building on the momentum from July and August, the focus in September shifted towards sustaining safer public spaces through prevention, education, and long-term deterrence. Efforts were underpinned by multi-agency collaboration, the expansion of innovative prevention measures, and enhanced community involvement, aligning strongly with the Home Office's Safer Streets priorities of visibility, partnership, and prevention.

Over the course of the Safer Streets Summer initiative Devon & Cornwall Police combined enforcement, prevention, and partnership work through more than 3,500 hours of hotspot patrols, plus extensive engagement with schools, businesses and community groups. My office has also funded street marshals to enhance the hotspot policing offer, with all marshals now accredited at all locations under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS).

Following on from this summer initiative my office will be supporting a Winter of Action in town centres from December 1 to January 31 to sustain the momentum of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and the Government's Plan for Change. This will deliver on shared priorities of tackling retail crime; street crime and antisocial behaviour; and improving safety in the nighttime economy and tackling violence against women and girls.

2.3 Street Focus

Street Focus is a partnership initiative led by my office in collaboration with Devon & Cornwall Police, local authorities and other partners to improve safety and address issues such as antisocial behaviour in town and city centres.

In **Torquay**, my office worked with partners including Torbay Council and the police to support a programme of community events and engagement designed to revitalise the town centre and strengthen local pride. One of the key activities was an Arts and Heritage festival *This is My Circus*, which took place from October 17 to 19 in Castle Circus.

The festival aimed to transform underused spaces into hubs of creativity and participation, bringing together residents, artists and local organisations. A highlight of the event was the creation of a new mural on the side of the Castle pub, designed and painted by local artist Szabotage with participants from Leonard Stocks homeless hostel, St Magdalene's Church and Endeavour House. The project



has been praised for its contribution to improving the appearance and vibrancy of the area and for strengthening links between community partners.

In **Camborne**, my office has followed up the initial visit made in August with a successful two-day Street Focus launch event on October 27 and 28. Partners and stakeholders shared examples of positive progress in improving safety in the town centre and my office shared its learning from the Torquay project. The visit also provided an opportunity to identify how my office could support the next phase of activity through youth engagement and community partnership. Discussions have already been initiated with Cornwall College Group, Cornwall Youth Services and Cornwall Council colleagues responsible for children in care, exploring opportunities for meaningful involvement of young people in local improvement initiatives.



The launch of the Street Focus project in Camborne

I am really pleased that my office has recently been shortlisted for a national ASB award for the Street Focus Torquay work in the Best Project category. The awards ceremony hosted by Resolve UK will take place on February 26 in Nottingham.

2.4 Night Bus

The Saturday night bus routes funded by my office have continued to operate successfully throughout the summer and into the autumn period. Since the start of the service in May 2024, a total of **6 routes have been active across Devon, 2 in Torbay, 2 in Plymouth and one in Cornwall.**

Between May 31 and October 25, the service carried 10,547 passengers; an average of 529 per Saturday night across all routes. Numbers for Devon indicate that if the same rate continues, more than 16,000 passengers will have used the services by the end of the year.

The Newquay night bus, which ran from May 24 to September 6, completed 16 Saturday nights of service, carrying 745 passengers; an average of 53 per night.

Area	Route	Passenger numbers up to 18 October
Torbay (2 routes)	Torquay	1186
	St Marychurch	842
Plymouth (2 routes)	Tavistock	1051
	Saltash	1109
Exeter	Cullompton	937



(4 routes)	Crediton	797
	Dawlish	534
	Exmouth	987
North Devon (2 routes)	Ilfracombe	1326
	Bideford	1778
Cornwall (1 route)	Newquay	745
	TOTAL	11,292

The **Plymouth Purple Flag** accreditation scheme has highlighted the night bus as a key contributor to ensuring a safe and well-managed evening and night-time economy in the city. In addition, the **Bideford night bus** and one of the **Torbay routes** are expected to become commercially viable from next year, with Stagecoach indicating its intention to fund these routes independently.

2.5 Isles of Scilly visit

In September members of my office went to the **Isles of Scilly** to spend time with the local neighbourhood policing team and listen directly to islanders about their public safety experience.

Feedback from residents on St Mary's underlined the importance of visibility and local relationships, and officers were praised for their approachability and willingness to engage with the community.

During the visit my team also met with Safer Scilly, the multi-agency partnership tasked with improving safety on the islands. Discussions focused on the potential of using antisocial behaviour escalation tools and ways to strengthen public safety communication across the community.

My office has produced a video showcasing the visit which can be viewed [here](#).



2.6 Councillor advocate seminar: Community safety

In September, I hosted a Councillor Advocate seminar on community safety, bringing together elected representatives, police colleagues and local partners to share updates on crime prevention initiatives and opportunities for collaboration across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The event opened with an update on the UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) business crime reduction initiative, which at the time of the event had more than 80 participating businesses and more than 4,000 sites engaged across the region. Delegates heard how the system enables retailers to share intelligence, report incidents and track repeat offenders more efficiently through a central digital platform.



The Commissioner and Chief Constable Vaughan at the Councillor Advocate seminar held in September

A presentation from Machaela O'Brien, legal advisor at Devon & Cornwall Police, provided insight into the use of enforcement powers available to address persistent antisocial behaviour. From September 2024 to September 2025, the force has secured 31 closure orders (including extensions), three youth civil injunctions, six civil injunction breach prosecutions, and five child abduction warning notices, in addition to advising on more than 40 Community Protection Warnings and Notices. These outcomes demonstrate the impact of targeted legal interventions in supporting communities affected by repeat nuisance and disorder.

Further updates were delivered by my office on the Street Focus initiative, highlighting how the Torquay project has provided a blueprint for coordinated partnership working to tackle antisocial behaviour and improve the environment in the town centre.

The seminar also covered an overview of my Commissioner's Community Grants, which provide small annual awards to voluntary and community sector organisations delivering place-based projects aligned to Police and Crime Plan priorities. Two funding streams were available (£200,000 for the Commissioner's Community Grants Fund and £115,300 from the Police Property Act Fund) and focused on prevention and reduction of burglary and shoplifting, including work addressing underlying causes such as antisocial behaviour and substance misuse. Both funding schemes have since closed, decision panels have been arranged for early December with successful bidders being notified by 8 December.

The seminar closed with a presentation from Chief Constable James Vaughan QPM, who gave an update on the hotspot policing project, action taken by the force to tackle retail crime and shoplifting, and outcomes of the June Operation Scorpion regional drugs intensification.

My next seminar is on the topics of drugs and alcohol and is being held in Plymouth on December 3.

2.7 CCTV improvements scheme launched September 2025

In September 2025, my office launched a new initiative to support councils to enhance their CCTV schemes to strengthen community safety and help the police identify offenders more effectively. CCTV plays an important role in both deterring crime and providing vital evidence to bring offenders to justice, particularly in areas that experience persistent antisocial behaviour or repeat offending.



This initiative directly supports my Police and Crime Plan priorities of tackling antisocial behaviour, drugs and alcohol, serious violence and theft. It is designed to help local communities take proactive steps to address these issues by improving surveillance coverage and supporting local problem-solving activity. The additional CCTV provision will not only enhance police capability to investigate and prevent crime but also provide reassurance to residents and businesses.

Over 60 parish and town councils (and their equivalents) and voluntary sector organisations applied to install or upgrade their CCTV infrastructure. The total fund available is £125,000, with a maximum of £10,000 per application to support equipment and infrastructure costs. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the decision-making panel in early December. There are clearly further opportunities to strengthen CCTV infrastructure beyond that which this fund will be able to deliver.

2.8 Antisocial vehicle noise cameras

Devon & Cornwall Police is developing a pilot of an Automatic Numberplate Recognition camera which, if successful, could totally revolutionise the response to persistent antisocial vehicle noise. I am supportive of the police working with councils to identify locations which would most benefit from the use of this technology to identify the most appropriate legislation for enforcement.

Advances in technology are already being used by Devon & Cornwall Police and the Vision Zero South West partnership to improve road safety including the world's first pilot of artificial intelligence camera systems designed to identify impaired drivers on the roads.

3. Police and Crime Plan Priority: Serious Violence

3.3 Disrupting violence against women and girls

Following the Disrupting Violence Against Women and Girls event I hosted in the summer, my office continues to explore opportunities to take forward initiatives that will explore new and radical ways of tackling this problematic and often criminal behaviour. Members of the public also contributed a range of suggestions through our public disruptive ideas survey.

Suggestions included a hard-hitting perpetrator awareness campaign, bystander training initiatives and development of a male network to concepts for online material and tools to support healthier relationships among young people. Other proposals included the development of new digital resources such as the Walking in Their Shoes empathy app, a Stalking Journal app, and an enhanced Holly Gazzard Extra safety app.

At a strategic level, long term, secure and diverse funding sources for organisations that provide incredible services to victims, and work with perpetrators to prevent escalating behaviour or reoffending emerged as a clear priority.

My office is now collating information on existing funding opportunities for victims, prevention and reoffending services across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We will host an online session for voluntary and community sector providers to support their access to external funding streams. Devon and Cornwall are one of the first Police and Crime Commissioner areas to provide this form of assistance, recognising the financial pressures faced by organisations delivering vital work to prevent violence and support recovery.

Another key area we are exploring is convening and amplifying the voices of male allies and strengthening the way in which the men of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly play the part they must in resetting male behaviour. We have several organisations that provide mentoring and intervention services, and widespread interest from men who are keen to play a more active role in



disrupting harmful behaviour, without diverting funding away from victim support services. The High Sheriff of Cornwall, Geraint Richards MVO, has already started to take this forward by convening a conversation on strengthening male allyship and healthy relationships within Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. My office is supporting this work and looking to extend allyship activity across Devon.

3.4 Sexual violence contracts

My office has recently repocured new sexual violence services to improve access, coordination and outcomes for children and adults who are victims of sexual violence across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in partnership with the following organisations:

- Cornwall Council,
- Plymouth City Council,
- Torbay Council,
- Devon County Council
- NHS England
- Devon & Cornwall ICB Cluster
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The new contracts represent a significant step forward in delivering more consistent, equitable and accessible services across the peninsula.

Four new contracts have now been awarded, providing services that cover **Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay**. They will provide a clearer, coordinated support offer within each local authority area, ensuring that victims and survivors are able to access the help they need quickly and effectively. The approach also strengthens alignment between referral and assessment processes, helping to reduce waiting times and remove unnecessary duplication between agencies.

3.5 Serious Violence Duty

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I have a convening role within the Serious Violence Duty, working closely with local authorities, other named parties and Community Safety Partnerships to coordinate activity that prevents and reduces the impact of serious violence. This statutory duty focuses on a wide range of behaviours identified through local evidence and need, encompassing harm against the person, sexual violence, substance misuse, domestic abuse, and issues arising within the night-time economy.

Across Devon and Cornwall, projects have been funded that support the prevention of serious violence through early years intervention, targeted work with families, and education-based programmes. During the second quarter of this year, these initiatives collectively reached:

- 1,579 children
- 70 adults
- 170 professionals

This has helped to strengthen awareness, build resilience, and reduce vulnerability.

My office is convening the specified authority duty leaders to work with Crest Advisory, who will provide consultancy support to develop clear standards for partnership roles and to strengthen cross-sector collaboration. The first workshop under this programme will take place on November 1, 2025, and will include participation from representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Devon & Cornwall Police, Youth Justice Services, Community Safety Partnerships, Probation, and Fire and Rescue Services.



3.6 Westcountry Women Awards

This year's Westcountry Women's Awards saw an exceptional level of nominations in the Combating Violence Against Women and Girls category, which I am proud to sponsor for a fourth year. A record number of outstanding women were put forward, underscoring the strength and commitment of individuals across Devon, Cornwall and the wider region working to make communities safer.

The finalists were announced at a celebratory afternoon tea at Powderham Castle near Exeter and will be joined by other nominees at the Grand Final Gala Dinner on November 2 in Plymouth, where the winner of the VAWG award will be revealed.



The finalists of the Westcountry Women Awards 2025 at Powderham Castle

The four finalists in the category each bring remarkable experience and dedication:

- **Sue Penna (Brixham)** has spent nearly three decades in the VAWG sector and founded the trauma-informed social enterprise Rock Pool, delivering training and recovery tools that have reached thousands of practitioners nationally.
- **Rebecca Hewitt (Teignbridge)** has driven major funding for youth- and community-facing projects, including securing more than £300,000 for interventions to keep young people safe and challenge culture change around misogyny.
- **Lucy Rhodes (Devon)** has developed *Is This Ok?* a specialist programme addressing harmful sexual behaviour among young people, with a strong evidence-informed approach and real-world impact in schools and town-centre environments.
- **Mel Sevieri (Plymouth)** is a survivor-advocate who, despite living with chronic illness, has campaigned tirelessly, raised funds for women's charities and revived public demonstrations such as Reclaim the Night march to raise awareness of VAWG.

I was also pleased to see two members of my office's staff among the finalists for other award categories. My Chief Executive Officer **Frances Hughes** is a finalist for the Director of the Year award, and Southwest Regional Specialist Programme Delivery Manager **Sophie Baker** is a finalist in the Women in Construction award for her work on the Prisoners Building Homes project.

3.7 Reducing harm on our roads

The Vision Zero South West partnership continues to deliver a comprehensive programme of road safety activity based on evidence, education and enforcement. The partnership's work is centred on reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads across Devon and Cornwall by 2030, with a focus on vulnerable road users and repeat collision sites identified through detailed data analysis.

At its September meeting, the Vision Zero South West Governance Board approved three new projects to be added to the road safety delivery plan:

- **Walkability**, is a child pedestrian training scheme that will be delivered to around 9,000 primary school pupils in Devon over the next two years.
- **Biker Down**, is a five-year funding programme designed to deliver motorcycle safety training to approximately 1,600 bikers across the region.



- **Heads Up AI camera system** will continue to utilise cutting-edge technology to identify seatbelt and mobile phone offences, addressing two of the Fatal Five common causes of collisions. So far, the portable system has identified more than 10,000 of these dangerous offences across the force area.

Several ongoing education and prevention projects are also being supported through the partnership.

Vision Zero South West has also supported national charity Brake's Road Safety Week, which took place from November 16 to 22. The theme of the week was Safer Vehicles and included messaging on maintenance, use of car seats, motorcycle checks and general road safety. A road safety engagement event was hosted at Falmouth University, Op Close Pass, a horse safety operation, took place in Hemyock, Devon, and Two Learn 2 Live events took place in Torquay and Exeter.

Learn 2 Live, a theatre-based road safety education programme aimed at young people aged 16 to 19, has recommenced for 2025-26. Each year between 12,000 and 14,000 students across the force area participate in the initiative, which uses real-life testimonies from emergency service personnel and collision survivors to reinforce key safety messages.

Work has also begun on a pilot project in **Plymouth** focused on improving pedestrian safety. The pilot will test new design approaches and data-led interventions, with a full launch planned for spring 2026.

The partnership is also expanding its campaign activity to address other high-risk road user groups, including older drivers and younger motorists. Initiatives include promoting seatbelt use, encouraging safer driving behaviours and extending the Lift Legend designated driver scheme to reduce drink-driving incidents during the festive period.

For more information about the partnership's road safety strategy, visit the Vision Zero South West website: [Documents | Vision Zero South West](#)

4. Police and Crime Plan Priority: Drugs & Alcohol

The next Councillor Advocate seminar will take place in Plymouth on December 3, 2025, and will focus on the theme of Drugs and Alcohol, reflecting one of the core priorities in my Police and Crime Plan. The event will bring together councillors, partner agencies and service providers to share updates on current initiatives and explore best practice.

The agenda will feature a series of presentations showcasing innovative local approaches to prevention, enforcement, treatment and community resilience.

Tess Dawe will present on the work of the Penzance Safe and Well Hub, highlighting its success in supporting vulnerable individuals through a partnership model that combines police, health and voluntary sector expertise. A presentation on the Plymouth Peer-to-Peer Naloxone Champion Programme will give an insight into the lifesaving opioid overdose intervention, and there will be an update on the Buvidal pilot in Torquay, outlining progress from this innovative opioid dependence treatment model.

Plymouth Argyle Community Trust will share its diversionary work with young people, there will be an update on Vision Zero South West's Lift Legend designated driver scheme, and regional ACC Andy Hill will provide a briefing on the Operation Scorpion regional drugs intensification.



5. Priority: Theft

5.1 Tackling shoplifting with business crime reporting partnerships

Retail crime and persistent shoplifting continue to present challenges for local businesses and communities across Devon and Cornwall. To help address this, my office has funded the business crime reduction partnership UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) which provides retailers with a secure digital platform to report, share and track offenders in real time. The system enables faster communication between businesses and the police, improving the efficiency of investigations and supporting the identification and prosecution of prolific offenders.

Further investment of £170,000 from my office has been committed to support the wider rollout of UKPAC across the force area. To date, more than 200 businesses have joined the scheme, including several major national retailers such as Superdrug, Spar, Matalan, B&M and the Fraser Group (which includes Sports Direct, House of Fraser, Evans Cycles and Jack Wills).

The partnership is already achieving positive outcomes, with five prosecutions secured against repeat offenders, including custodial sentences and compensation orders. These results demonstrate the value of collaborative working between businesses, the police and the wider criminal justice system to tackle shoplifting and reduce the impact of retail crime on local economies.

Representatives from my office also attended the Riviera Connect business expo in **Torquay**, supporting UKPAC in promoting the partnership to businesses from Torbay and the wider area.

As part of Safer Action Business (SaBA) week, (November 10-17), engagement is taking place with local businesses in **Torquay and Paignton** on November 13, including an evening session to launch UKPAC in **Newton Abbot**. This will further strengthen engagement with local businesses, an opportunity to increase member sign-ups and provide practical support to those affected by business-related crime.



The OPCC supported UKPAC at the Riviera Connect Business Expo in Torquay

The week coincides with the launch of Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) to offer a more collaborative and effective approach to reducing retail crime through a shared intelligence platform linking to neighbouring areas, access to regional analysis and police support for prolific offenders, and a stronger collective voice when engaging with large retail members and national partners.

Also, during this week, the Plymouth Against Retail Crime (PARC) initiative, funded by my office and supported by **Plymouth** City Council and Safer Plymouth, is being rolled out. This business-led crime reduction scheme is a great example of collaborative working and helps police build robust cases ready for prosecution, especially around prolific repeat offenders.



6. Strengthening the criminal justice system

6.1 LCJB planning day

As chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) I convened the annual planning day meeting at Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre on September 25, 2025.

The event brought together senior leaders from across the criminal justice partnership to review progress against our 2024-25 priorities and to agree collective focus areas for the year ahead.

The partnership reflected on significant progress made over the past 12 months, including improvements in the quality of case files submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service and enhanced collaboration between agencies in responding to complex and high-profile incidents such as the disorder in August 2024. Despite these positive developments, partners recognised there is still more to do to improve timeliness in youth justice cases and ensure that victims receive a consistently high standard of service across all stages of the system.

Over the next 12 months, the board will continue to develop workstreams that support out-of-court resolutions for appropriate cases and to strengthen the targeting of repeat prolific offenders. A key strand of this work will involve exploring alternative approaches to intensive supervision courts and identifying system-wide improvements to better support women within the criminal justice process.

This collaborative approach remains central to ensuring that Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly deliver a more effective and coordinated criminal justice system. I look forward to working with our partners in these priority areas and reporting back on the outcomes achieved over the coming year.



The Commissioner with Chief Constable Vaughan and criminal justice partners at the LCJB planning day

6.2 Presenting at the National Police Chief's Council Out of Court Resolution Conference

As joint national Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) lead for Criminal Justice, I was invited to speak at the National Out of Court Resolution Conference, hosted by the National Police Chiefs' Council.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight the work being undertaken by Devon & Cornwall Police in developing and delivering innovative approaches to Out of Court Resolutions.

During my presentation, I shared our local experience in establishing the Deferred Prosecution Scheme and the positive outcomes it has achieved for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria. I also outlined the expansion of this work through the introduction of a Deferred



The Commissioner presenting at the NPCC National Out of Court Resolution Conference



Charge option, enabling more tailored interventions for those willing to engage with rehabilitative pathways.

The conference also allowed me to showcase the *Criminal Justice and You* resource, which provides clear information to victims about what to expect when an offender received an Out of Court Resolution. I emphasised the importance of scrutiny in maintaining public confidence and explained how this is achieved locally through the LCJB and strong partnership engagement in Devon and Cornwall.

6.3 Criminal justice scrutiny

Scrutiny remains a key mechanism for ensuring accountability, transparency and improvement across the criminal justice system. Through scrutiny panels chaired by my office, partners collectively assess performance, compliance with national standards and the effectiveness of local practice.

Panels are held each month to review compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice (VCoP) and the use of Out of Court Resolutions (OoCRs). These sessions bring together representatives from policing, probation, youth justice, the Crown Prosecution Service and victim support services to identify learning and drive continuous improvement.

During the last quarter, a VCoP scrutiny panel examined cases of stalking and harassment, which also formed the theme for the OoCR scrutiny panel for adult cases in October. Both panels highlighted valuable areas of learning for the force and for the wider criminal justice partnership. In addition, a dedicated child OoCR panel was convened to review child sexual offence cases. Findings from all reports will be discussed at the next quarterly LCJB meeting on December 4, 2025, after which the full reports will be published on my website [here](#) for public transparency.

Additional scrutiny panels are scheduled for November and December, focusing on drug offences for child cases involving OoCRs and on compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice in relation to assaults on emergency workers. These reviews ensure that partners remain focused on delivering consistent, fair and victim-centred outcomes across all parts of the criminal justice system.

This collaborative approach to scrutiny continues to be well supported by stakeholders across the partnership and represents a model of constructive engagement. Through this work, agencies are collectively strengthening consistency, raising standards and improving outcomes for victims.

7. Partnerships

7.1 Prisoners Building Homes

The Prisoners Building Homes (PBH) programme continues to grow rapidly across the country, supported through initial investment from the five South West regional Police and Crime Commissioners and, more recently, funding from a further six PCCs alongside the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The initiative provides a unique opportunity to equip serving prisoners with construction skills while delivering much-needed affordable homes for local communities.

In Devon, there are currently two active PBH sites that can be shared in the public domain. The first, at **Somerlea in Willand**, is a seven-unit development of two-storey modular homes on land owned by Mid Devon District Council. The scheme is being delivered in partnership with housebuilder ZedPods, and modular installation is due to commence this month, with completion expected by March 2026. This project demonstrates the potential of the programme to deliver high-quality,



sustainable homes while supporting rehabilitation through skills development and employment pathways.

The second site, at **Watery Lane in Tiverton**, is a ten-unit development also being delivered by Mid Devon District Council in collaboration with ZedPods. Planning approval is in place and site preparation work is now under way, with a completion date to be confirmed in the coming months.

In addition to these Devon projects, discussions have recently taken place with the **Council of the Isles of Scilly** to explore potential opportunities for the PBH model to support housing delivery on the islands. The council faces significant challenges in meeting housing need due to the high cost of materials and transportation from the mainland, and the PBH team is assessing how the programme's modular approach could help address these barriers.

The continued expansion of the PBH programme illustrates the value of partnership working between criminal justice agencies, local authorities and the construction sector in delivering both social and rehabilitative outcomes.

The scheme has also been shortlisted for the Programme of the Year Award at the Civil Service Awards 2025 for the benefits it brings to prisoners, local communities, government, and the housing sector.

7.2 Operation Ragwort

Operation Ragwort continues to play an important role in tackling rural crime and supporting safer, more resilient rural communities across Devon and Cornwall. The operation brings together police officers with partners from the Driving Vehicle Standards Agency, Trading Standards, and local authorities to target offences linked to vehicle use, waste crime and organised theft affecting the rural economy.

In September, the force deployed pioneering drone technology to identify vehicles potentially involved in organised theft or the illegal movement of farm equipment. More than 200 vehicles were stopped and checked during the day of action, with officers identifying one vehicle with an expired MOT, one tachograph offence, one construction and use offence, and two commercial vehicles exceeding the weight limit.

As part of the engagement element of the operation, officers visited local agricultural suppliers to provide crime prevention advice and raise awareness of emerging trends in rural offending. These visits also offered an opportunity to reinforce links with the farming community and promote simple measures to prevent equipment theft and improve site security.

Operation Ragwort remains an example of effective multi-agency working, combining enforcement, education and technology to reduce harm and protect rural communities across the peninsula.

7.3 Youth justice

I continue to provide funding to the Youth Justice Services (YJS) within local authorities across Devon and Cornwall, which play a vital role in preventing and reducing offending and reoffending among children and young people, including cases linked to serious violence. My office works closely with the Youth Justice Services as active members of their strategic boards, supporting them to deliver best practice and to ensure that the needs of children in the justice system are fully represented.

Additional partnership work between my office and the YJS network includes supporting operational delivery, improving victim services, and sharing learning materials. We continue to ensure



collaboration across the region through multi-agency reviews of serious cases, identifying key lessons to help prevent similar incidents in the future. This ongoing joint approach strengthens early intervention and helps to divert young people away from offending behaviour, promoting better long-term outcomes for individuals and communities alike.

7.4 Victim Support

In 2024-25, a decision was made to conclude the external contract with Victim Support, and to bring elements of the service delivery back in-house to my office. This transition forms part of a broader strategy to strengthen local victim care provision and ensure the delivery of consistently high-quality support services across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The move to bring aspects of the service back under direct OPCC management allows for greater flexibility, improved oversight and closer alignment with Police and Crime Plan priorities. It also ensures that future commissioning decisions are better informed by local need and by direct engagement with victims and support providers.

8. Holding the police to account

8.1 Commissioner's Accountability Board

Holding our police to account on behalf of the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is my core responsibility.

I do this in several ways, including chairing the Commissioner's Accountability Board (CAB). This allows me to select specific areas of policing activity and performance to scrutinise in detail, requiring the Chief Constable and his team to explain current performance, and any plans for improvements.

A statement is then published on my office's website here, <https://devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/commissioners-accountability-board> describing the levels of assurance along with the agenda and attendance at each Board.

Since the last panel meeting, I have reviewed the force's delivery of the Serious Violence Police and Crime Plan priority, their use of the Community Safety Accredited Scheme (CSAS), and their ongoing review of custody via CAB.

I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that Devon & Cornwall Police deliver a service to our communities as effectively and efficiently as is possible and will continue to not only scrutinise and challenge robustly, but also to celebrate and champion whenever appropriate.

8.2 Gross misconduct hearings

My office continues to support the running of police officer misconduct hearings. Between July and September 2025, we supported 6 hearings to outcome, 4 of which led to the subsequent dismissal of a police officer.

We also supported a further 4 hearings; 1 of which was withdrawn, and 3 which were adjourned. Outcomes of misconduct hearings can be found on [this link](#).

My continued thanks go to the Independent Panel Members and Legally Qualified People employed by my office to support these hearings. It is with their hard work and dedication we ensure that only the right people work in policing.



8.3 Police complaint reviews

As Police and Crime Commissioner I have a statutory responsibility to undertake police complaint reviews. Where a member of the public is dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint they receive from Devon & Cornwall Police, they can apply to my office for an independent review.

In Quarter 2, July to Sept 2025, we received 43 requests to undertake police complaint reviews. During this period, 28 requests were concluded to outcome, including 20 valid complaint reviews. Of these valid reviews, 35% were upheld, meaning my Complaint Review Officers deemed the police's original handling of the complaint was not reasonable or proportionate.

As a result of the upheld complaints, 11 recommendations were issued to the police. These included requesting further enquiries to be undertaken, provision of additional outcome letters to complainants where appropriate, issuing apologies, and providing supplementary information and explanations. This ensures that complainants have a clear understanding of the decisions reached and that the police are held accountable for delivering proportionate and fair complaint handling.

8.4 Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I have a statutory duty to operate an Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme. This scheme relies on trained volunteers who make unannounced visits to police custody centres to check on the welfare of detainees and ensure their rights and entitlements are being respected. These visits provide independent assurance that custody facilities are operating safely and appropriately.

During quarter 2 2025-26, covering the period July 1 to September 30, a total of 33 visits were undertaken and 106 detainees visited across Devon and Cornwall, with no significant issues raised.

My team have recently run a successful recruitment process for the ICV scheme. The role advert was promoted on social media and shared with partners and universities, resulting in a high number of excellent candidates.

Following an interview process, 15 new ICVs have been appointed (subject to vetting) which doubles our current number of volunteers and will increase the number of visits that ICVs can make to each suite, ensuring robust scrutiny and providing greater assurance to both myself as Commissioner and the public, that detainees rights and entitlements are being met.

Following vetting and training, it is expected that we will have our full cohort of ICVs in place by February 2026.

8.5 Responding to HMICFRS inspection reports

I have a statutory responsibility to respond to all reports published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) that include recommendations or are otherwise relevant to Devon & Cornwall Police.

Since the last panel meeting, five inspection reports have been published which fall into this category. Two of these reports are joint criminal justice inspection reports, and one is HMICFRS Sir Andy Cooke QPM DL's annual assessment of policing:

- [Joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service: final report](#)
- [How effectively do the police record crime?](#)
- [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2024–25](#)



- [The effectiveness of diverting children from the criminal justice system: meeting needs, ensuring safety, and preventing reoffending](#)
- [Inspection of the effectiveness of police and law enforcement bodies' response to group-based child sexual exploitation: A progress report](#)

The responses to these reports, including the action taken or planned by the force in relation to the recommendations, are publicly available at <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk>

9. New police leadership commission

In October 2025, the Home Office announced the establishment of a new National Police Leadership Commission, created to strengthen strategic leadership and professional development across policing in England and Wales. The Commission will play a key role in supporting the government's police reform agenda, with a White Paper due to be published later this year, and will provide advice to ministers on leadership standards, succession planning, and the skills required for the next generation of senior officers.

While the aims of the Commission are welcomed, I have raised concerns regarding the absence of Police and Crime Commissioners from its membership. As PCCs are the statutory employers of Chief Constables and hold responsibility for their appointment, appraisal and, where necessary, removal, it is vital that Commissioners voice are represented in any national forum shaping police leadership to ensure recommendations are grounded in operational experience and democratic accountability.

I, along with other Police and Crime Commissioners, are being consulted on our insights and expertise to identify best practice and learning and I welcome the opportunity to engage with this process.

10. Police funding settlement

The Autumn Statement is expected on November 26, 2025, where it is hoped that further detail will be available around the 2026-27 Police Settlement along with indicative figures for the remaining two years of the Comprehensive Spending Review period.

The detail of the provisional settlement for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is expected in the latter half of December with the final date likely to be December 17, 2025. This will provide details of the provisional settlement of core grant along with any specific grant details.

All members of the Police and Crime Panel are invited to an online briefing from the OPCC Chief Executive and Treasurer about the implications for the precept on January 8, 2026, at 5pm.



11. Annual report

The annual report which sets out the work of my office in 2024-25 has now been finalised and formally published on my office's website. The report provides a detailed account of progress made against the priorities of the previous Police and Crime Plan, highlighting achievements across community safety, victim services, and organisational performance.

In preparing the report, my office explored options for producing both an easy-read and a youth-focused version to improve accessibility and engagement. However, the additional design and production costs were found to be prohibitive within existing budgets.

However, this year the report is available in an improved digital format, offering interactive navigation to help the reader easily find the required information. It includes a links to a range of video content to provide further detail on work undertaken by the office.

The annual report is published on the OPCC website here <https://bit.ly/3Lk9t5D>.



Alison Hernandez

Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

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