



PAPER AP21/52

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

A meeting of the Accountability and Performance Panel was held via Microsoft Teams at 09:30 on Friday 3 September 2021.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer), Sandra Graffham (Head of Communications and Engagement), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive), Anna Parkinson (EA to the PCC and CEO), Tim Passmore (PCC) and Vanessa Scott (Head of Policy and Performance).

Suffolk Constabulary

Eamonn Bridger (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable), Rob Jones (Assistant Chief Constable), Rachel Kearton (Deputy Chief Constable) and Kenneth Kilpatrick (Assistant Chief Officer).

In attendance for the public agenda

Katherine Bailey (Democratic Services, Suffolk County Council), John Burns (Member of Police and Crime Panel), Andrew Eley (Democratic Services, Suffolk County Council), Syed Hussain (Superintendent, West Midlands Police), Mark Jepson (Chair of Police and Crime Panel), Hugh May (Member of Suffolk Audit Committee) and Keith Welham (Member of Police and Crime Panel).

Apologies

Steve Jupp (Chief Constable)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1 Open minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2021 (Paper AP21/43)

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.
- 1.2 The actions were noted as complete / in hand as follows:

Action	Outcome
Stop and Search: Reduce the number of searches with no recorded outcome and report back to the PCC.	Work is underway to address this.

Stop and Search: PCC to be advised of the start date of behaviour detection training for the Kestrel Team.	Timings and costs being finalised.
Data Quality: Work in this area to be discussed further outside the meeting.	Work is progressing well and the corporate risk in this area is reducing.

2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring (Paper AP21/44)

- 2.1 The Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer presented this report.
- 2.2 It was noted that the Group is forecasting a revenue underspend of £0.281m – an underspend within the Constabulary of £0.270m and within the OPCC of £0.11m. The forecast capital position is an underspend of £0.777m. It is still relatively early in the financial year therefore these forecasts are subject to change.
- 2.3 In addition, the Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer said that they had been discussing the national police funding formula and what a review could mean for Suffolk. An input making Suffolk's case to the Home Office to submit when appropriate will be prepared alongside Home Office requirements on information submissions – and similarly for the National Police Chiefs' Council.

3 Performance Priorities Monitoring Report (Paper AP21/45)

- 3.1 DCC Kearton introduced this report, giving an overview of the current position. She emphasised that what is not presented explicitly in the report is the extent to which policing has been stretched not only due to the pandemic but also summer tourism and a number of protests. However, crime in Suffolk remains relatively low and the Force has continued to perform strongly in a few areas.

Performance Report: Performance Summary

- 3.2 DCC Kearton drew attention to the increase in solved rates in Child Sexual Abuse cases. This is particularly of note as, due to the pandemic, children have not been at school or attending youth groups etc and it is often the supervisors in these places who spot the signs of abuse. Therefore even without this extra "intelligence", solved rates have increased.
- 3.3 With regard to the increase in the number of hate crimes reported, DCC Kearton commented that she was encouraged by the number of victims feeling confident enough to report and this enabled the Force to have a clearer idea of the picture in Suffolk.
- 3.4 Concluding the Performance Summary, DCC Kearton was pleased to report that there has been an increase in victim satisfaction across all crime areas.

Performance Report: Domestic Abuse (DA)

- 3.5 DCC Kearton presented this report, highlighting the various initiatives being undertaken. She drew particular attention to and offered her thanks to Suffolk Libraries offering “Safe Spaces for victims of DA”, a scheme which was proving very successful.
- 3.6 An area of concern, particularly during periods of lockdown, is victims of DA in rural locations who cannot so easily access support services. Community Engagement Officers and The Kestrel teams have been utilised to raise awareness of the services available and also identify possible victims.
- 3.7 DCC Kearton stated the important of adapting services to reflect the changing times in which we live – for example the more widespread working from home meaning that abusers and victims may be in close proximity for significant periods of time.
- 3.8 T/ACC Bridger added that the pandemic had not caused the important partnership work in this area to diminish and at an operational level, contact was maintained every day.

Performance Report: Serious Sexual Offences (SSO)

- 3.9 DCC Kearton presented this report.
- 3.10 The PCC said he would like to understand further the reasons for victims not wanting to engage and support police investigations. An internship placement is working on a project aimed at understanding non-engagement with younger victims, the results of which – when available – DCC Kearton confirmed could be presented to the PCC outside the meeting.
ACTION: DCC Kearton to share the results of the internship project, when available, with the PCC.

Performance Reports: Emergency and Non-Emergency Call Handling

- 3.11 DCC Kearton presented these reports. The PCC was pleased to note the performance in these areas.

Performance Report: Traffic Offence Reports (TORs)

- 3.12 T/ACC Bridger presented this report.
- 3.13 The PCC noted the mention of offences involving agricultural vehicles and asked whether this is something that needed to be raised with the National Farmers Union (NFU). T/ACC Bridger said that he would find out further details of the offences and share them with the PCC to see whether a conversation with the NFU could be helpful.
ACTION: T/ACC Bridger to share further details of offences involving agricultural vehicles with the PCC.

Performance Report: Residential Burglary Dwelling

- 3.14 DCC Kearton presented this report, the content of which the PCC was pleased to note.

3.15 The Chief Executive asked, following recent news reports of Government Ministers wanting a police officer sent to the scene of every burglary to assist, whether this was practicable and something which Suffolk was considering.

3.16 DCC Kearton said that there was no simple answer to this. The Force's strong performance in this area shows that Suffolk already pays due attention and anything further would obviously depend on funding and resources.

3.17 ACC Jones added that prior to working in Suffolk, he had worked in a Force that indeed sent an officer to the scene of every burglary. He said that he did not feel there was a sufficient evidence base as yet to know if an officer visiting every incident would make a difference in terms of increasing public confidence in the police. He emphasised that officers always visit when there is a question of vulnerability in any event. In conclusion ACC Jones said that sending an officer to the scene of every burglary was not currently in the Force's plans but could be considered further as and when data emerges on which to make an evidence-based decision.

Performance Reports: Violence with Injury and Violence Without Injury

3.18 DCC Kearton presented these reports.

3.19 Broadly speaking, both of these crime types tend to be related to alcohol / the night time economy. Therefore levels of offences have fluctuated in accordance with periods of lockdown and varying levels of social restrictions. The trends in performance across both these areas are similar to those both regionally and nationally.

Performance Report: Robbery

3.20 DCC Kearton presented this report, the content of which the PCC was pleased to note.

Performance Report: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

3.21 ACC Jones presented this report. He emphasised that ASB was a very important issue in terms of people feeling safe and able to enjoy good quality of life.

3.21 Prior to 2020 there had been a downward trend in ASB. However, within a few months of the commencement of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, ASB began to increase.

3.22 ACC Jones stressed that addressing ASB is not just the responsibility of the police but also that of the county and district councils. A steering group involving all partners feeds into the Safer and Stronger Communities Board and this partnership work continues to deliver positive results.

Performance Report: Drug Trafficking

3.23 The PCC was pleased to note the performance by the Force in this area.

4 Suffolk Collaboration Report (Paper AP21/46)

- 4.1 DCC Kearton presented this report, giving an overview of the many collaborations in which Suffolk is involved.
- 4.2 The PCC asked whether the forthcoming implementation of the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) would jeopardise the local fast track detective entry scheme. DCC Kearton said that the Force was looking to bring in as many people as possible on the fast track scheme prior to the introduction of PEQF in April 2022. The scheme has proved successful in attracting people from different backgrounds and with different skillsets and the intention is to continue this for as long as possible due to the many benefits to the Force.

5 Children and Young People Update (Paper AP21/47)

- 5.1 ACC Jones presented this report, highlighting key areas. The PCC was pleased to note this very comprehensive report which illustrated well the amount of work being undertaken in this area.
- 5.2 The PCC asked about the work of the Exploitation and Online Safety Subgroup. ACC Jones explained that it considers a number of aspects, including inappropriate messaging between peers, perpetrators posing as children online and also how young people may be underestimating the risks they are exposing themselves to when using the technology available to them. There is now strong education in schools around these issues, led by Local Authorities rather than the police.
- 5.3 The PCC then asked how effective the recently reviewed and amended Vulnerability Assessment Tracker was proving to be. ACC Jones said that the practitioners who use it are finding it very useful. It provides a way for partners to look across a situation and identify how risk may be changing across agencies with regard to certain individuals. This enables more effective and timely decision making and identification of those at most risk of exploitation. ACC Jones added that the County Policing Commander has found the tracker to be of significant benefit.

6 Rural Crime Report (Paper AP21/48)

- 6.1 ACC Jones presented this report. He stated that the core Rural and Wildlife Officers were some of the most skilled and knowledgeable in the country and provided a considerable return on investment in this dedicated team.
- 6.2 ACC Jones then took the opportunity to highlight the work of the 24 Volunteers on Horseback who were among the first volunteers to return when COVID restrictions lifted enough to enable them to do so. They continually provide the police with intelligence due to what they see and who they speak to when out on horseback – opportunities that police officers would not routinely get.
- 6.3 The PCC then asked how what is and can be done with regard to people from outside the county coming into Suffolk, bringing dogs with them, to commit crime. Dogs are brought in to fight foxes, deer and other animals causing harm to the dog themselves as well as

destroying local wildlife. ACC Jones explained that officers now have increased skills in identifying the kind of scarring on dogs that indicates they are being used for these purposes. In addition, known offenders can be tracked using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which can inform targeted activity.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 There was no other business.

The open part of the meeting closed at 11:51 and members of the public left the meeting.

PRIVATE AGENDA

[A detailed account of the discussions and decision on the following items is contained in the confidential minutes]

8 Closed minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2021 (Paper AP21/49)

8.1 The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.

9 Protective Services Command Update (Paper AP21/50)

9.1 T/ACC Bridger presented this report.

10 Protective services CONTEST Update (Paper AP21/51)

10.1 T/ACC Bridger presented this report.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 12:23

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Owner
3.10	Serious Sexual Offences: DCC Kearton to share the results of the internship project, when available, with the PCC at a future Weekly Conference	DCC Kearton
3.13	Traffic Offence Reports: T/ACC Bridger to share further details of offences involving agricultural vehicles with the PCC.	T/ACC Bridger