



PAPER AP22/29

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

A meeting of the Accountability and Performance Panel was held via Microsoft Teams at 09:30 on Friday 13 May 2022.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Kate Boswell (Executive Assistant to the PCC and Chief Executive), Kate Fitzsimons (Support Officer), Sandra Graffham (Head of Communications and Engagement), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive), Tim Passmore (Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)), Vanessa Scott (Head of Policy and Performance)

Kenneth Kilpatrick (Assistant Chief Officer and Temporary PCC Chief Finance Officer)

Suffolk Constabulary

Eamonn Bridger (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable), Rob Jones (Assistant Chief Constable), Steve Jupp (Chief Constable)

In attendance for the Public Agenda

John Burns (Member of Police and Crime Panel), Peter Gardiner (Vice Chair of Police and Crime Panel), Mark Jepson (Chair of Police and Crime Panel), James Lay (Member of Police and Crime Panel), Debbie Richard (Member of Police and Crime Panel), Adriana Stapleton (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Michael Steward (Archant Publishing)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1 Public Question Time

1.1 There were no questions received in advance of the meeting from the public or from the audience.

2 Open minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2022 (Paper AP22/21)

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

2.2 The actions were noted as complete or in hand, and clarification of the acronym DAPU was given, meaning Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit.

3 Financial Monitoring (Paper AP22/22)

3.1 Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Kenneth Kilpatrick, presented this report.

3.2 The PCC raised concerns around the increase in inflation rates due to the global political situation and asked what the high-level implications for the Constabulary were. The ACO confirmed that the pay budget could be accommodated. However, an assumption of 4-5% non pay-related inflation costs had been budgeted for, but this will not cover the increase. Use of reserves will cover some of the cost increases coming through, such as fuel and energy. Use of reserves may offset some of the costs coming through in 2022/2023, and 2023/2024, and potentially reduce the saving targets we are asking budget holders to make.

3.3 The PCC asked the ACO for an update regarding the war in the Ukraine and attempts to ensure there are no Russian companies within our supply chain. The ACO confirmed that work has taken place both regionally and nationally looking at suppliers to ensure there are no links to Russian companies. This work is now taking a deeper look to ensure there are no ownership ties to Russian individuals, companies, or investment funds. Whilst the work is ongoing and looking to conclude shortly, no links have yet to been found.

4 Supporting Children and Young People (Paper AP22/23)

4.1 Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Rob Jones presented the report, and highlighting areas of good performance and risk.

4.1.1 He focused on the convictions for Child Sexual Abuse offences which highlighted the very significant prison sentences handed down, showing how the Police, CPS, Suffolk County Council, and its partners had successfully worked together.

4.1.2 The ACO also made reference to the positive work undertaken with young people as identified throughout the report.

4.1.3 He advised that risks include the cost-of-living crisis, which would make many children more vulnerable.

4.2 ACC Jones confirmed that regarding County Lines, operation Orochi has successfully identified the circulation of drugs and has led to high conviction rates.

4.3 ACC Jones confirmed that the increase in the number of referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) may appear high, but MASH referrals do enable visibility of the circumstances so that appropriate decisions can be made, in partnership, about how best to resolve/reduce the risk. The Chief Constable added that the last 2 years of data has been impacted by Covid-19 and as life starts to return to normal, with children returning to school and social settings, we will get a sense of any impact on crime levels but there does not appear to be an associated rise in crime rates at this point.

4.4 The PCC asked whether the levels of exclusion from schools were resulting in additional demand for the police. ACC Jones confirmed that the level of exclusion across Suffolk is low, but the Constabulary works closely with schools, and Pupil Referral Units and delivers input in schools. ACC Jones advised that the Philomena protocol has highlighted success around the use of debrief interviews with missing young people (a disproportionate number of which are living in care homes) and this supported a better understanding of how we can keep young people safe, whilst delivering the right level of policing. The PCC requested further information regarding the learning from these interviews, which ACC Jones advised he would share at the weekly conference meeting.

ACTION – ACC Jones to share learning from the interviews with the PCC at Weekly Conference.

4.5 The Chief Executive advised that from a governance perspective, it was positive to hear the force was in a strong position but would welcome some insight as to how that conclusion had been reached. ACC Jones reassured the Chief Executive that the force has reviewed the HMIC inspections conducted with other UK forces and ensured the findings had been incorporated into the Constabulary's own plans. In terms of operational governance, the responsibility for Children and Young People was well defined across three superintendents and are supported by strong partnerships. ACC Jones advised the Youth Engagement Team have been refocussed, Operation Encompass showed strong partnership working with schools and the voice of the child was being better understood in Domestic Abuse incidents. The forthcoming HMIC inspection on Child Protection was scheduled for July 2022 and he hoped the focussed work the Constabulary was doing would be recognised.

4.6 ACC Jones stated that there has been disappointment over the recent report citing a lack of progress with the standard of mental health provision in Suffolk. There are challenges for policing, including the lack of beds and secure accommodation available for young people with mental health concerns who are in police custody.

5 Neighbourhood Crime and ASB (Paper AP22/24)

5.1 Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Rob Jones presented this report.

5.1.2 Positive performance was reported particularly in relation to burglary and robbery. Effective use of forensics has particularly helped in identifying fingerprints and DNA at burglary scenes.

5.2 The PCC asked whether, in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB), partnership working was effective. ACC Jones advised that partnership working in this area is very good, particularly with more complex cases. He also responded to the PCC that in terms of the point in the report relating to the failure to follow ASB policies, work has been required to ensure initial calls reporting ASB were logged correctly, and victim-vulnerability is reflected within these reports. He explained that it can be difficult to classify ASB correctly based on the initial 101 call and improved processes had been introduced to the Control Room to aid consistency.

5.3 ACC Jones advised that burglary crime had reduced and compared well with Suffolk's Most Similar Force Group. He said the force had a dedicated team, which might not be present in all force areas, and had different strategies in place to deal with the threat in different areas of the county, this included a good relationship with neighbouring forces, use of ANPR and community intelligence.

5.4 The PCC asked about the links between organised crime and the theft of catalytic convertors. ACC Jones reassured the PCC that regarding vehicle crime, the forces intelligence is that Suffolk is seen as a hostile area. There are a range of tactics in use, including ANPR by the Sentinel teams, having a visible presence on our roads, and other preventative work within the Ipswich area.

6 Tackling Serious Violence (Paper AP22/25)

6.1 The Chief Constable presented this report, which covered a broad subject area, including grievous bodily harm (GBH) to actual bodily harm (ABH), robbery, drugs use and county lines. There has been a rise of nearly 3% in serious violent offences, linked to the return of the night-time economy as we exit the pandemic.

6.2 The force is in a strong position not only compared with other Most Similar forces but also in comparison to larger forces with more resource to tackle these issues. Shrewd management of the Constabulary's finances has enabled investment in alternative methods of delivery and technology.

6.3 The PCC advised that he was pleased that the National Drugs Prevention Strategy would bring funding to Suffolk, he also recognised there has been two successful bids to the Safer Street Fund for the Ipswich area, and another being prepared. However, he wanted to better understand the hot spots referenced in the report. The Chief Constable advised that the use of these initiatives, and partnership funding to support hotspots should be encouraged. He advised that primarily the volume was in the 3 main towns within the county, Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, and Lowestoft, but advised there were growing issues in other towns and there is a detailed analysis being undertaken.

6.4 The Chief Constable advised that the night-time economy is back to pre-pandemic levels, and the Constabulary is supporting this by flexing its operating model to ensure the level of service that the public requires is provided.

6.5 The PCC asked for more information about how the Force Robbery Plan is being reviewed? The Chief Constable reassured that the review was to consider intelligence provision, and the emergence of crime as we move into the summer months, and to support proactive use of patrolling activities. The Constabulary is aware that young people were, during the summer holiday period, more likely to be a victim of crime and that also some violent offending was due to criminals offending against other criminals. The PCC suggested he would be keen to discuss this further.

ACTION – Follow up discussion between the PCC and CC around criminal-on-criminal offending and the data to understand this.

6.6 The Chief Constable confirmed that in terms of Operation SCEPTRE, the force continues to work with school-based officers and partners within education, but sadly within society there is still an issue of young men carrying knives.

6.7 The Chief Constable confirmed that the analysis commissioned to better understand violent crime will be shared with the OPCC, and relevant findings included in the Accountability and Performance report in November 2022.

ACTION – Violent Crime analysis to be shared with the OPCC once prepared.

6.8 The Chief Executive questioned the effectiveness of the high number of partnerships (15) in place to take forward the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) work. The Chief Constable reassured that there is a good structure in place to ensure that the work undertaken is effective in terms of internal performance, how the force works with partners, and in response to the national requirements.

7 Any Other Business

7.1 There was no other business.

The open part of the meeting closed at 11:40 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 18 March 2022 (Paper AP22/26)

8.1 The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.

9 Protective Services Command Update (Paper AP22/27)

9.1 Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) Eamonn Bridger presented this report.

10 Protective Services Command – Strategic Policing Requirement (Paper AP22/28)

10.1 Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) Eamonn Bridger presented this report.

The meeting closed at 12:15

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Owner
4.4	Philomena Protocol: ACC Jones to share the learning from the interviews in relation to missing children with the PCC at weekly conference.	ACC Jones
6.5	Criminal on Criminal Offending Data: Follow up discussion between the PCC and CC around this data.	The Chief Constable / The PCC
6.7	Violent Crime Analysis: to be shared with the OPCC once prepared.	The Chief Constable