



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO: AP25/47**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
21 NOVEMBER 2025**

**SUBJECT: NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)**

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report will explain the Constabulary's approach to Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). It details the current performance, demand, and activity with the inclusion of statistical information where relevant.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is asked to consider the progress made by the Constabulary and raise issues with the Chief Constable as appropriate to the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) remain as priorities for Suffolk Constabulary. In the 2023-2025 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) report by HMICFRS, Suffolk were rated 'Good' in the area of 'Preventing and deterring crime and antisocial behaviour and reducing vulnerability'.
- 1.2 Suffolk are committed to maintaining this standard by working with partners on a local and national level, using best practice to ensure victims and communities receive the highest level of service.
- 1.3 This paper is underpinned by objective 1 and 2 of the Police and Crime Plan, which states the Constabulary will:
- Prevent and tackle ASB, neighbourhood crime and disorder (with focussed patrol activity in geographic hot spots – Objective 1).
  - Support a partnership problem solving approach to preventing Anti-Social Behaviour and crime. (*alongside other agencies compelled by the ASB, Crime and Policing Act and through commitment to the Countywide ASB Steering Group*) – Objective 2.
- 1.4 ASB is the responsibility of the County Policing Command (CPC). The portfolio is held by the County Partnership and Prevention Hub (CPPH) Superintendent with oversight from the CPC Commander. The CPPH will ensure that partnership and problem-solving approaches are used to prevent and resolve ASB in the most effective and enduring way, with tactical delivery falling to the Community Policing Teams (CPTs) on each area.

- 1.5 The Crime, Safeguarding and Investigation Management Department (CSIM) are the owners of burglary and robbery offences but rely on a one team approach with CPC colleagues to focus on the prevention, detection and long-term problem solving for these and other crime types.

## 2. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 2.1 As seen in table 1 below Suffolk has seen a reduction in the volume of ASB Personal calls within the East and West and a slight increase in the last 12 months in the South. Overall, there still remains a reduction of **7.78%** in the last 12 months and a **26.9% reduction over the long-term average**.

District	Last 12 months	Previous 12 months	Long Term Average	Last 12 vs Previous 12	Last 12 vs Long Term Avg
East	313	409	462	-23.47%	-32.25%
South	449	418	579	+7.42%	-22.45%
West	412	446	564	-7.62%	-26.95%
<b>SUFFOLK</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1273</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>-7.78%</b>	<b>-26.90%</b>

**Table 1 – ASB Personal reports Suffolk**

- 2.2 Single Online Home (SOH) continues to effectively divert unnecessary reporting through police to other agencies including the local authority and provides an effective filter for nominating the lead agency. This good practice has been replicated into a new Open Call Script function within the Contact and Control Room (CCR).
- 2.3 Whilst hard to conclusively evidence, these reductions are likely also a result of the success of the current policing model that allows Community Policing Teams (CPTs) to focus on problem solving and prevention, particularly in relation to ASB, and the benefits of Op Spotlight (further details below) and effective, evidence led hotspot policing.
- 2.4 The government was due to be changing ASB classifications in 2024 but since the General Election there has been no update on this. Suffolk continue to work with the 3 classifications, but with a focus on ASB personal as per government direction. Should classification changes be implemented in future this will require amendments to all our ASB processes including Single Online Home, Contact and Control Room (CCR) triage and crime recording.
- 2.5 Governance**
- 2.6 The ASB portfolio is held by the County Partnership and Prevention Hub. The ‘Hub’ promotes, supports and directs the tactical delivery of each area’s Community Policing Team’s to problem solve and effectively resolve ASB incidents, based on national strategy and best practice.
- 2.7 The Neighbourhood Policing Delivery Group is a newly formed group as a result of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee set by the home office. This is chaired by the Western Area Commander (Superintendent). The objectives include the effective delivery of NPG pillars including uplift of Community Police Officers, ‘Police back on the beat’, ‘Community-led Policing’ (Neighbourhood Alert), ‘Clear performance standards and professional excellence’.
- 2.8 The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee Operational Group (NPG) formerly known as the Neighbourhood Policing Working Group is now chaired by CPPH Chief Inspector on a monthly basis. It is attended by each area CPT Inspector and each area Chief Inspector along with stakeholders including CPPH and Corporate Communications Team. Objectives of the group include effective operational delivery of NPG pillars specifically ‘Safer town centres’ and ‘Crackdown on anti-social behaviour’. The CPPH Chief Inspector reports to NPG Delivery Group chair as a result.
- 2.9 The ASB Team within the County Partnership and Prevention Hub (CPPH) provide ongoing support to practitioners, through training, feedback, advice and review of best practice and internal processes to drive improvement. They also monitor compliance and delivery with the National Recording Standards through daily auditing and dip sampling, addressing repeat and non-compliance.
- 2.10 The County ASB Steering Group exists to ensure a partnership approach is taken to tackle ASB in a consistent way across the whole county. The group is currently chaired by CPPH Superintendent, but membership includes all district, borough and county councils, youth justice services, health, crown prosecution service and adult and children social service representatives. This steering group feeds into and is accountable to the Suffolk Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB).

## 2.11 Key Areas of Work

2.11.1 **Performance Packs** - A quarterly performance pack produced by colleagues in the Strategic Business and Operational Service (SBOS) allows ASB performance across the county to be reviewed and improvement requirements identified.

Compliance with the Suffolk ASB policy as well as National Reporting Standards is checked bi-annually through auditing both by the Performance Improvement Unit and the Crime Data Integrity Team.

Additionally, the ASB Team are able to monitor effective performance and delivery through a PowerBi Dashboard. This allows CPPH to provide the Neighbourhood Policing Working Group with regular ASB reports highlighting area performance against policy and to tailor resources to improve and simplify the guidance on processes around ASB recording and finalisation to assist CPT and Response Investigation Team (RIT) colleagues.

2.11.2 **Intervention and Feedback** – ASB Officers conduct daily reviews of new ASB investigations providing early advice to the Officer in Charge (OIC). The ASB Officers perform a secondary review of the investigation for potential missed crime, vulnerability and policy non-compliance taking intervention action with the OIC and Supervisor to drive improvement and learning.

A new ASB Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Closure Checklist has been introduced in Control Room which is designed to prevent ASB CADs being closed without policy compliance such as the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) or Athena completion. This is aimed at getting it right at the start rather than reliance on audit.

2.11.3 **HMICFRS and the PEEL Inspection** – His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) in the reporting period 2023-2025 have rated the Constabulary 'Good' at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) report. Whilst recognising the significant work the Constabulary have undertaken to understand ASB demand, they identified that improvement was needed in how we identify and record crime when ASB 'personal' is being reported and as a result the following work has been undertaken to realise improvement in this area:

1. All investigations go through a QA process by the Investigation Management Unit (IMU) who will identify missed crime opportunities and set actions for the OIC. Similarly, the ASB Team when reviewing new ASB investigations will set an action if a potential crime has been missed for recording or negation.
2. To assist with National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) Athena action data monitoring, the ASB Team introduced the use of the "NCRS Requirements – Complete" subcategory to make Athena researchable to find investigations that have an NCRS action and its status.
3. Training delivery to Contact and Control Room (CCR), Community Policing Teams (CPT), Supervisors (including new promotions) to improve ASB awareness and procedure. Training includes understanding ASB and identification of crime within ASB amongst other important topics such as risk assessment. Intentions are to eventually train all RIT Officers and Learning and Development are developing training for new recruits.
4. ASB guidance has been improved and available 24/7 via the ASB Intranet Hub. This includes information on recognising crime within ASB. Pocket Notebook sized ASB guides were produced and circulated to all.

5. An ASB CAD Open Call Script was developed and embedded within SmartStorm that provides guidance to the CCR operator to consider whether there is a potential substantive crime. If so, it will guide the operator to open the CAD as a crime rather than ASB opening code. This will act as a nudge to attending officers to have the mindset of potential crime to record. In March 2025 an upgraded version of this was launched which is simpler to complete but provides improved guidance and flagging of important information. The script aims are Crime Consideration, consistency with SOH, highlighting vulnerability, highlights repeat victims, ASB Case Review prompt and correct opening codes.
6. Eight Point Plans (8PP) were introduced to improve ASB investigation and to encourage officers to see all ASB as an investigation, whether crime or non-crime. Work is ongoing for IMU to include 8PP as a QA check.
7. The Digital Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) will improve the way officers can record details from a victim. It improves risk identification, speeds up safeguarding, saves officer time and supports data-driven decisions for tackling anti-social behaviour. Upon completion the officer and their supervisor will receive an email containing the RAM, policy guidance for that risk and guidance around considering substantive crime recording.
8. ASB Performance packs are delivered to CPC Area Chief Inspectors monthly to discuss within area performance meetings. Chief Inspectors hold local Inspectors to account where poor performance is experienced. This pack focusses on the key issues likely to be identified by the HMIC i.e. ASB crime recording and completion of risk assessments
9. A new, revised version of the ASB Scrutiny panel has been launched which invites OICs and practitioners to review ASB incidents within their area and provide feedback on what went well and what they feel could be improved. This process reviews an ASB incident from cradle to grave and provides two-way dialogue between those dealing with ASB incidents and the CPPH who are providing the governance and structure to support the delivery.
10. The CPPH ASB team review 100% of ASB recorded on Athena. This review takes a holistic approach to the recording, ensuring considerations of National Crime Recording Standards are met and force policy is adhered to. Where clarification or rectification is required the ASB Team task the officer directly to rectify. This ensures the best possible service is provided to the ASB victim in a timely manner. Where required escalation of tasking is delivered through first and second line management. Data and tasking feed into a dashboard which is used for reporting into the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee Operational Group.
11. The CPPH ASB team also scrutinise ASB Personal classified CADs that are closed without receiving an Athena reference. These would seemingly be CADs whereby the risk is so low, the reporting person is not vulnerable nor repeatedly targeted that do not justify the recording onto Athena. The purpose of the ASB review is to identify any missed opportunity to safeguard a potential victim or missed compliance with statutory requirements (crime recording). These equates on average to 150 CADs per month and the audit is carried out by the ASB team.

### **3. ASB CASE REVIEWS**

- 3.1 All ASB Case Reviews are raised via the relevant District Councils with appeals being heard by Suffolk County Council. Suffolk Constabulary provide ongoing support by attending and/or chairing ASB Case Review meetings when appropriate. The ASB Team have worked with the

CCR to maximise opportunity to inform victims of the Case Review process at the earliest opportunity.

- 3.2 This has involved training for all CCR teams to improve call taker awareness of the ASB Case Review. The improved ASB CAD Open Script that went live on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March includes Repeat Victimization flagging and prompt to inform the victim of the ASB Case Review Process and offer of sending further information. We have also embedded into SmartStorm the ability for Call Takers to send a text message to the caller with a hyperlink to the Suffolk Police webpage which contains more info on the case review process and links to the application forms.
- 3.3 The year to date (17/10/25) compliance of using the Opening Call Script is 83.38%. A small dip sample analysis conducted in 2025 identified that when the ASB Opening Call Script is used within the CCR, policy compliance for ASB recording increased to approximately 95%. Compliance monitoring is maintained via CCR's internal performance management mechanisms. Between April 2025 and end of September 2025 the ASB Repeat Victims tag has been identified 579 times, this equates to 18.2% of ASB demand being repeat. This is in contrast to 2022 where it was identified that repeat ASB demand accounted for over 30% of ASB demand.
- 3.4 When the Digital RAM project is completed, it will also include the functionality to automatically send an email to the victim which contains information – including ASB Case Review info.
- 3.5 **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders**
- 3.6 Used effectively, these orders can have an instant positive impact on offender behaviour. As an early intervention tool, community protection warning letters and full community protection notices prevent situations escalating and can be issued either in addition to criminal sanctions or in situations where criminal behaviour is yet to occur. Where a perpetrator continues to commit serious, persistent criminal offences of an anti-social nature courts can issue criminal behaviour orders upon conviction to further restrict that person's ability to commit further anti-social behaviour. Similarly, injunctions can have the same effect by targeting those responsible and prohibiting them from conducting further activities to prevent repeat offending.
- 3.7 Table 2 below provides a summary of the number of recorded orders issued compared to the previous reporting period:

<b>ASB Orders Summary</b>	<b>Oct 23-Apr 24</b>	<b>Apr 24 – Oct 24</b>	<b>Oct 24 – April 25</b>	<b>April 25 – Oct 25</b>
Community Protection Notice Warning Letters (CPNWL)	70	172	193	183
Community Protection Notice (CPN)	24	77	87	80
Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)	7	26	20	27

Injunctions	1	0	0	5
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**Table 2- summary of the number of recorded orders issued compared to the previous reporting period:**

- 3.8 The data is taken from a newly created dashboard however this will only be accurate where officers have recorded the order against the persons iteration, therefore the data needs to take this into account. A new preventative orders Sergeant role has recently been agreed which will support the accuracy of this data in the future along with providing a forcewide coordination and focus on preventative orders, their application, monitoring and outcomes. The role profile is still being worked through. The ASB team continue to engage with our frontline officers delivering training and ongoing Continuing professional development (CPD) to increase awareness and to enhance confidence in their ability to pursue early preventative intervention.
- 3.9 The ASB and Prevention Teams are working even closer with officers and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to support the quality completion of orders such as Community Protection Notices (CPN), Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO), Closure Powers and Injunctions to improve application success. There are still challenges seen within the Criminal Justice Service (CJS) whereby CBO applications are not being heard in Court, this is a challenge shared by many forces.
- 3.10 The ASB Team have implemented an escalation ladder to improve positive outcomes with ASB. This will provide an improved structure hopefully reducing demand whilst also increasing court order application success through improved evidenced failed early interventions. Improved resources for early interventions are now available with easily accessible templates and guidance. Working with Op Divert there is now restorative justice options for perpetrators of ASB.
- 3.11 ASB Hotspot Policing**
- 3.12 Operation Spotlight was launched in April 2024 to coordinate Suffolk Constabulary's response to delivering Hotspot Policing following award of a national grant of £1m from the Home Office. The aim of the Hotspot based project was to ensure an enhanced uniformed presence in 16 identified ASB hotspot areas, following detailed analytical mapping of ASB demand across Suffolk. Suffolk Constabulary committed to provide an additional 9,000 police patrol hours across the 16 hotspots, as well as developing initiatives with partners to prevent, deter and educate those who commit ASB.
- 3.13 Operation Spotlight in 2024-25 has been a great success, delivering over 11,500 extra patrol hours across the hotspots, assisting in delivering a number of targeted operations and working with a number of partner organisations to help deliver diversionary activity. This not only contributed significantly to a 54.6% reduction in ASB incidents in hotspot compared to forecast figures, but helped us try new innovative things, helped to build public confidence and embed sustainable problem-solving activities across the communities most in need of our support.
- 3.14 Operation Spotlight was refreshed in April 2025 following the extension of the Home Office grant for 12 months, with refreshed data used and improved technological capabilities allowing more precise hotspots to be identified, with 26 hotspots throughout Suffolk this year.

From Op Spotlight patrols and supported operations, starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> October, there has been 5329 hours of visible patrols in hotspots with 133 arrests made, 54 positive stop searches, 120 negative stop searches, and 9 weapons seized. There has been extremely positive feedback received from members of the public including emails being sent to the Operation Spotlight team.

- 3.15 One key area of Operation Spotlight has been Project Vigilant where deployments have taken place within the night-time economy, targeting the busiest locations at peak times to tackle sexual offending and predatory behaviour. This approach uses proven tactics to identify and disrupt predatory behaviour, ensuring public safety when and where it's most needed.
- 3.16 In addition to achieving in excess of 9,000 hours of additional patrol, other highlights for 2025 include:

**Live Facial Recognition** -Trialled the use of Live Facial Recognition technology, in Ipswich Town Centre. This activity resulted in 5 arrests.

**Operation Mapleton** - This saw nighttime drug testing in BSE, in total throughout the night with 357 persons engaged with

Funded Roads and Armed Policing Teams Day of Actions across county to target travelling criminality and anti-social use of vehicles

**Project Vigilant** - Nighttime economy deployments to tackle sexual offending and predatory behaviour which saw various deployments and between May and October 2025 resulted in:

- 36 interventions
- 9 stop searches
- 15 S35 dispersals
- 5 Arrests

**Partnership Working**– funding of a variety of initiatives aimed at addressing behaviours associated with ASB

**Social Media Campaign** - we launched a multi-platform digital and out-of-home advertising campaign that aimed to engage and educate our target audiences (14–25-year-olds). Platforms including TikTok and YouTube were at the forefront of our strategy, complemented by Instagram to maintain our strong presence with existing followers. This cross-platform approach allowed us to maximise engagement and expand our reach. The media campaign was viewed over 1 million times.

#### **4. NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME – RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- 4.1 Residential Burglary crime classification was changed in April 2023. Residential Burglary is split into subcategories of Residential Burglary of a home which CSIM retains responsibility for, and Residential Burglary of a non-connected Building such as a shed or garage which sit with Response Investigation Team or CCC (Crime Coordination Centre). Trends, series offences and identified prolific offenders continue to be managed through the force daily local meetings, force tasking and co-ordination, and performance management structures.

- 4.2 As shown in Table 3 below, Residential burglary has largely stabilised with year-on-year reporting remaining relatively low and stable, this can partly be attributed to increased numbers of employees working from home. 1084 offences were recorded in the last 12 months, this is a 6.2% reduction on the long-term average and a 1% increase on the previous 12 months.
- 4.3 The solved rate was 7.5% for the last 12 months, this represents 81 solved offences. This is a decrease in solved rates when compared to the long-term average. The decrease has been largely linked to the reduction of available Op Converter officers to utilise the TIC process to detect dwelling burglaries. Op Converter is a small team of three officers who have all been utilised on Joint Major Investigation Team (JMIT) investigations since August 2024, they have now returned (June 2025). Due to this abstraction, the detection opportunities have been limited to charging offenders. The solved rate it should be noted sits higher when you separate Dwelling Offences which sit at 12.75%.
- 4.4 Due to the classification change the Solved rate again long-term average should not be considered accurate.

Residential Burglary	Last 12 months	Long-term Average	Different against long-term average	Previous 12 months	Difference against previous 12 months
No of Burglary Residential	1084	1155	-6.2%	1095	-1.0%
Solved No.	81	127	-36.5%	132	-38.6%
% Solved	7.5%	11.1%	-3.6%	12.1%	-4.6%

**Table 3 – Residential burglary reporting and solved Suffolk**

## 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME – ROBBERY

- 5.1 Table 4 shows there has been a small increase in overall reported robbery offences compared to the previous 12 months however this is still in line with the long term. Robbery has also seen a classification change to now include shoplifting when violence has been used. There have been 242 offences recorded in the last 12 months; this is an increase from 209 the previous year. This represents an 15.8% increase on the previous 12 months but only a 0.8 % increase on the long-term average. If you separate Robbery of Business property (which includes Shoplifting with violence) the increase is only 1 offence on the previous year.
- 5.2 The Constabulary maintains a low robbery reporting rate compared to both the Most Similar Group (MSG) and wider forces. A focus on both personal and business robberies has ensured these offences are robustly dealt with by CSIM investigators and a strong community message is delivered.

- 5.3 Due to the low recorded number and high solved rate, there has been no specific changes in the Constabulary approach to Robbery. The current approach and governance have seen year on year positive performance. This will need to be monitored going forward when the crime classification change will show fully in the next 6-month return.

Robbery	Last 12 months	Long-term Average	Different against long-term average	Previous 12 months	Difference against previous 12 months
No of Robbery	242	240	0.8%	209	15.8%
Solved No.	48	48	-1.3%	48	0%
% Solved	19.38%	20.84%	-0.6%	22.9%	-3.1%

**Table 4 – Robbery reporting and solved Suffolk**

## 6. NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME – THEFT OF AND THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

- 6.1 As demonstrated in Table 5 and Table 6 there has been a decrease in the number of offences of theft of motor vehicle (496 down from 545) and a small decrease in theft from motor vehicle (1,057 down from 1,064) in the last 12 months.
- 6.2 The solved rate for theft from motor vehicle has decreased slightly by 0.2% and theft of motor vehicle increased by 1.3%.

**Table 5 – Theft of Motor vehicle reporting and solved Suffolk**

Theft of MV	Last 12 months	Long-term Average	Different against long-term average	Previous 12 months	Difference against previous 12 months
No theft of MV	496	545	-9.0%	625	-20.6%
Solved No.	36	48	-25.4%	37	-2.7%
% Solved	7.26%	9.00%	-1.7%	5.92%	1.3%

**Table 6 – Theft from Motor vehicle reporting and solved Suffolk**

Theft from MV	Last 12 months	Long-term Average	Different against long-term average	Previous 12 months	Difference against previous 12 months
No theft from MV	1057	1160	-8.9%	1064	-0.7%
Solved No.	53	54	-2.0%	55	-3.5%
% Solved	5 %	4.7%	0.3%	5.2%	-0.2%

- 6.3 Theft of Motor vehicle is generally dealt with via the Crime Co-ordination Centre (desk-based recording and allocation to resources where evidential opportunities are identified) or via the Response Investigation Teams. Improving outcomes and the standards of investigations is a Constabulary priority and subject to governance at Chief Officer (Assistant Chief Constable) level. Significant effort has taken place and is planned with front facing police officers to improve the standards of their investigations and given them tools to help them achieve better outcomes for victims.
- 6.4 The Roads and Armed Policing Team and Sentinel Teams continue to support operations and utilise Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) on the main roads into and out of the County, this is through the use of both Hotlists and specific taskings through daily management meetings.

## 7. NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME – RETAIL THEFT/SHOPLIFTING

- 7.1 The Constabulary has an appointed strategic lead for retail crime, which includes retail theft and shop lifting, who holds responsibility for delivery against the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Retail Crime Action Plan monitored through the Local Policing Board.
- 7.2 The Constabulary is an active member of the National Retail Crime Action Group (RCAG) and, in support of local delivery, Suffolk Constabulary chairs a Business Improvement Districts (BID) working group and internal Retail Crime Working Group (RCWG) to support portfolio delivery. Oversight of the Retail Crime Action Plan is currently through the RCWG and reports to the Local Policing Board.
- 7.3 Whilst Retail Crime continues to be under-reported against figures held by individual retailers, we are continuing to see an increase in reporting locally and nationally versus historic averages. This was and continues to be anticipated based on changes to reporting mechanisms and awareness amongst retailers, particularly regarding Single Online Home and changes to individual policies.
- 7.4 As shown in table 7 which reflect to the end of August 2025, Suffolk recorded the third lowest volume of shoplifting offences per 1000 of population in the most recent ONS data (March 2025) and continues to be the lowest in its most similar group and remains significantly lower

than the national average. The Constabulary continues to maintain a high detection rate for retail theft, when considered against other offence types.

Shoplifting	Last 12 months	Long-term Average	Different against long-term average	Previous 12 months	Difference against previous 12 months
No of Shoplifting	3825	3523	8.6%	3635	5.2%
Solved No.	1167	1250	-6.7%	1334	-12.5%
% Solved	30.5%	35.6%	-5.1%	36.7%	6.2%

**Table 7 – Retail Theft reporting and solved Suffolk**

- 7.5 The number of recorded offences in Suffolk has seen an 5.2% increase in the last 12 months, versus the previous. This is significantly lower than the national increase of 19.5% recorded by the most recent ONS data. This increase has largely been attributed by retailers, police and partners to changing reporting process, rather than an increase in offending. For example, one major retail outlet has increased reporting from three crimes a year to over one hundred. The increase in reporting has seen a slight reduction in detection rates.
- 7.6 Analysis shows that Clothing, Alcohol and Food stuffs are the top three items stolen and that Wednesday is now the peak day for offending. Activity over weekends has seen a positive reduction in offending, with Mid-week now being the preference. Less than 9% of offenders were aged under 18, with the vast majority of offenders being aged between 30-39. Offenders are often engaged in street drinking or ASB and as such are now also subject to a number of commissioned and targeted operations across the force, utilising Community Protection Notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- 7.7 Evidential capture and quality between different retailers and businesses continues to be a significant challenge and a major contributor towards the detection of offenders. The provision of CCTV and statements from reporting persons continue to be a challenge and Suffolk Constabulary is working closely with BIDs, National Retailers and other forces to improve evidential packages and agree minimum standards. This includes working with digital systems providers to support the transfer of evidence.
- 7.8 Suffolk Constabulary has now agreed Information Sharing Agreements with all major BIDs within Suffolk (or their representatives) and is working on direct access to their crime recording platforms for information and intelligence sharing purposes.
- 7.9 Suffolk Constabulary continues to work closely with the NPCC National Business Crime Centre and is an active partner in Safer Business Action Days and Weeks, of which our work has been shared with other forces and considered demonstrative of good practice.

- 7.9 The Constabulary has used and continues to pursue Criminal Behaviour Orders to target prolific offenders and has established a Retail Crime Dashboard to support local teams in identifying individuals and targeting activity. Retail Crime SPoCs have now been established for each of the area commands to drive forward key workstreams.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None identified.

**9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

- 9.1 None identified.

**10. CHIEF OFFICER CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Suffolk Constabulary continues to deliver a robust and community-focused response to neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), underpinned by strong governance, partnership working, and evidence-led policing. The latest performance data shows encouraging reductions in ASB, with a 7.8% decrease over the past year and a 26.9% reduction against the long-term average.
- 10.2 Operation Spotlight has been a key success, delivering significant additional patrol hours in ASB hotspots, contributing to reductions in incidents. The Constabulary's innovative use of technology, targeted interventions, and community engagement, such as Project Vigilant and digital campaigns have strengthened public confidence and improved outcomes.
- 10.3 Neighbourhood crime remains a priority, with residential burglary and vehicle crime showing stable or reduced volumes. Retail crime reporting has increased, reflecting improved engagement with businesses, and Suffolk maintains one of the lowest shoplifting rates nationally.
- 10.4 The Constabulary's approach is aligned with national strategies and demonstrates a clear commitment to prevention, early intervention, and victim-focused policing. We continue to invest in frontline capability, data-driven decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving to keep Suffolk's communities safe.