

## **Accountability and Performance Panel**

**Meeting Date:** Friday 22 May 2026 | 09:30-10:48

**Meeting Location:** Police Headquarters, Martlesham, and via Microsoft Teams

### **Present:**

#### **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Tim Passmore (Police and Crime Commissioner)

Darren Horsman (Chief Executive)

Colette Batson (Chief Finance Officer)

Fraser Cooper (Head of Policy and Performance)

Kate Fitzsimons (Policy and Performance Officer)

Kate Boswell (Executive Assistant)

#### **Suffolk Constabulary**

Rachel Kearton (Chief Constable)

Kenneth Kilpatrick (Assistant Chief Officer)

Julie Dean (Assistant Chief Constable – via teams)

Janine Wratten (Chief Superintendent)

### **Apologies**

Dan Vajzovic (Deputy Chief Constable)

Alice Scott (Assistant Chief Constable)

## **Public Agenda**

### **1      Public Question Time**

1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Tim Passmore, welcomed attendees and invited introductions from the Constabulary and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) representatives.

1.2 The PCC advised that a public question had been received in advance of the meeting from Councillor Mike Chester:

*"My question to the Chief Constable relates to dangerous dogs, the law as it stands and The Suffolk Police Force's priorities and responses in dealing with dogs that have attacked and injured a person. A lady within the village where I live and where I also serve as Councillor was attacked by two dogs whilst she was walking alone on a public footpath, her injuries required hospital treatment. Police involvement eventually led to the dogs being seized and to the best of my knowledge, a prosecution is pending. My concerns are that given the photographic evidence and the victim statement that the lengthy timescale taken in seizing the offending dogs allowed other attacks to take place which could have been prevented. The dog attack happened on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the dogs were seized on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seven weeks after the event. I therefore ask, was the timescale, from the attack to the seizing of the dogs acceptable?"*

1.3 Chief Supt Wratten explained that the seven week delay in seizing the dog was due to complexities in the case, including identifying the multiple dogs involved. While seizures are normally faster, charges have now been brought, and steps taken to improve response times. The PCC noted that any further discussion should occur outside the meeting due to the ongoing prosecution. **ACTION:** Chief Supt Wratten to contact Cllr Chester separately.

## **2 Open minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2026** (Paper AP26/19)

2.1 The minutes have been approved for the meeting held on 6 March 2026, with the PCC noting the Health and Wellbeing Board action will be addressed at the next meeting once the new chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board has been confirmed.

## **3 Financial Monitoring Update** (Paper AP26/20)

3.1 **Financial update:** The Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) presented the final 2025/26 financial outturn, highlighting a positive position due to strong financial management. Higher than expected income during the year resulted in a more positive end-of-year position than anticipated with this additional income transferred to reserves. At the end of the year there was an overall underspend of approximately £2.8m, which included additional funding from the Home Office to reimburse the higher than anticipated pay award. The capital underspend was mainly due to delays and slippage into 2026/27, including the Landmark House purchase.

- 3.2 The OPCC reported a small underspend of £3k. This included the return of £1K from the Commissioning budget to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), reflecting a strong financial position overall.
- 3.3 The PCC queried the Constabulary's underspend figure, believing it should be £7m, and raised concerns about increased audit fees. The ACO clarified the operational underspend is £2.8m, calculated from operating expenditure variances (such as pay and third-party costs), with the higher figure including separate financing and income elements.
- 3.4 The purchased of Landmark House was completed just after the end of the financial year and this project is now progressing well. Reserves have increased by 13%, all of which are earmarked.
- 3.5 The CEO queried the £179k slippage noted on p.15 for firearms. **ACTION:** ACO to provide an explanation of these figures.

#### **4 Supporting Children and Young People Report** (Paper AP26/21)

- 4.1 **Performance update:** Chief Supt Wratten advised strong delivery continues, particularly within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), with effective prevention work reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of children and supporting targeted interventions for those at high risk of exploitation. Safeguarding is becoming increasingly complex, especially within the MASH, with increasing online child abuse investigations placing pressure on specialist resources. The Home Office Family First programme is set to be implemented from April 2027.
- 4.2 **Family First & CYP discussion:** The PCC queried delivery of the Family First programme; Chief Supt Wratten confirmed it is partner-led with police input to ensure alignment. The PCC also asked about CYP opportunities—these align to the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) national strategy, adapted locally for Suffolk. The PCC asked if the table at 2.2 is showing only children. **ACTION:** Chief Supt Wratten to confirm.
- 4.3 **Inspection, demand & victim support:** The Policy and Performance Officer queried how increased demand from partner referrals is managed. Chief Supt Wratten confirmed this is overseen by the Head of Crime & Safeguarding and managed through flexible resourcing. There is a review planned next year to better understand demand. A further query on iCAIT referral demand and sustainability; risk assessment and mitigation to be clarified. **ACTION:** Chief Supt Wratten to confirm.  
On victim support, it was confirmed the police focus on tackling crime and responding to victims, while wider support is provided through MASH partners to ensure a comprehensive, wraparound approach.

- 4.4 **Return to Home Interviews (2.31–2.37):** The PCC queried the analysis and causes identified in the paper. Chief Supt Wratten explained the information helps identify and address child exploitation risks, which is positive as it enables intervention, with a high number of out-of-area children in Suffolk remaining a factor. Indicators can include unexplained items (e.g. new phones or clothes not provided by carers), but no consistent trends have been identified from the interviews. The PCC requested that additional information showing the themes from these interviews are added to future papers. **Action:** Chief Supt Wratten to add the themes from return to home interviews in the next paper.
- 4.5 **Operating model review (2.48):** The PCC asked what improvements are being targeted in the current operating model review. **Action:** Chief Supt Wratten to confirm.
- 4.6 **Child sex offender disclosure demand:** The Head of Policy and Performance queried whether demand for the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme remains high as outlined in the previous report. **Action:** Chief Supt Wratten to provide details. The Chief Constable noted this information could be included in future reports, subject to reprioritising content if specifically requested within the report briefing note.

## 5 **Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** (Paper AP26/22)

- 5.1 **Performance update:** Chief Supt Wratten advised that overall performance remains stable. ASB has slightly increased but is still below the long-term average. Data driven targeted activity and hotspot policing have delivered tangible results, with visible policing proving effective and set to continue as business as usual. Neighbourhood crime prevention remains strong compared to other forces, with relatively low burglary, robbery and retail crime. The PCC noted his disappointment at the loss of government funding for hotspot policing.
- 5.2 **Workforce query:** The PCC asked about proportions of new officer vs relocation. Chief Supt Wratten noted some roles have been civilianised and recategorised. **Action:** Chief Supt Wratten to confirm accurate figures.
- 5.3 **ASB data accuracy:** The Head of Policy and Performance queried whether appointing a Sergeant for ASB orders will improve data accuracy and when this is expected to be seen (from 2.44 onwards). Chief Supt Wratten advised data is being tracked via Power BI, but this may not increase numbers—lower figures could indicate more effective, targeted use of orders for the right individuals over longer periods.
- 5.4 **Retail theft & burglary performance:** The PCC queried whether the rise in retail theft (6.6) reflects reporting changes or increased offending. Chief Supt Wratten advised it is partly due to more retailers reporting (particularly smaller ones), while larger retailers already have established systems. The PCC also asked about

collaboration with Boots; it was confirmed they are part of the local initiative, with potential involvement in a national retail crime pilot if Suffolk's bid is successful. On residential burglary (3.4), the PCC queried a decline in solve rates. The Chief Constable noted Suffolk still ranks highly nationally, and small changes in unsolved cases can significantly affect percentages.

## **6     Tackling Serious Violence (Paper AP26/23)**

- 6.1     **Performance update:** Chief Supt Wratten advised performance is consistently above national benchmarks, with sustained long-term reductions in violence. Strengths include a mature partnership approach and delivery of the Serious Violence Duty, focusing on targeted individuals and early intervention. Additional proactive activity includes targeted operations in Suffolk and biannual Operation Sceptre activity.
- 6.2     **CHB & knife crime strategy:** The Policy and Performance Officer asked whether CHB (Clear Hold Build) insights are informing strategy and improving outcomes. Chief Supt Wratten confirmed the new knife crime strategy adopts relevant national approaches tailored to Suffolk. Ipswich is the fourth CHB site, with enhanced data analysis underway through the Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics (SODA) and a full evaluation planned. Learnings and best practice will inform future sites and strategy development.
- 6.3     **Knife crime (ONS increase):** The Head of Policy and Performance queried the rise in knife crime. Chief Supt Wratten advised this is under review, with some of the increase attributed to proactive policing activity leading to higher reporting levels.
- 6.4     **Strategy & county lines update:** The PCC queried the violence reduction strategy and timeline. Chief Supt Wratten advised details are still being finalised but will follow the 4Ps approach (Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue), including delivery in communities and schools with a strong focus on diversion. **Action:** The PCC to be provided regular updates via Weekly Conference. With county lines, there has been a reduction in active lines, with effective intelligence enabling early disruption before escalation. Notably, there are currently no tier three (highest harm) lines, a significant improvement from previous years.
- 6.5     **Highpoint prison:** Strong partnership working is in place via a dedicated liaison officer, supporting proactive management of risks. Crimes linked to drugs entering the prison are recorded locally, as offenders are classed as resident in the county.

## **7     Rural, Wild and Heritage Crime (Paper AP26/24)**

- 7.1     **Rural policing update:** Chief Supt Wratten advised that the strong intelligence-led, community-focused response continues across rural Suffolk,

with good relationships improving visibility and trust. Effective enforcement is delivering results, particularly in tackling hare coursing and illegal hunting, while remaining alert to emerging risks seen in other areas.

- 7.2 **Rural crime & community concerns:** The PCC raised concerns about catapult attacks on birds circulating on social media. Chief Supt Wratten confirmed the Rural Crime team can be supported by the Community Policing teams if additional capacity is required, noting it is currently more prevalent in Essex. For plant machinery theft, collaboration with NAVCIS forms part of investigations. No increasing trend has been identified with “chop shops” locally, though vigilance and public reporting are encouraged. Finally, a multi-agency initiative is in place to tackle fly-tipping. A signed MOU to coordinate action has been developed. The PCC suggested this should be publicised.

## 8 **Workforce Report** (Paper AP26/25)

- 8.1 **Workforce report overview:** The Chief Constable advised that the report covers recruitment, retention, and workforce strength in line with the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. Workforce diversity is gradually improving, with increased confidence among staff to disclose hidden characteristics such as LGBTQ+ status and disabilities.
- 8.2 **Retirees:** The PCC queried whether the 105 leavers include retirees and if their post-retirement employment is known. The Chief Constable confirmed retirees are included, though onward employment is not always known. **Action:** Chief Constable to provide further data on retirement figures to the PCC.
- 8.3 **Stay & Say Interviews:** The PCC noted no “Stay and Say” interviews have been conducted this year. **Action:** Chief Constable to follow up with HR.
- 8.4 **Detective Numbers:** The PCC asked about declining detective numbers. **Action:** Chief Constable to provide further details.
- 8.5 **Workforce metrics & performance:** The Head of Policy and Performance queried whether the workforce figure exceeding Home Office targets should be 22 or 32. The Chief Constable explained fluctuations occur due to intake timing (linked to Anglia Ruskin University training capacity) and transfers, with peaks and troughs across the year. The key focus is meeting annual targets and affordability. On Personal Development Records (PDRs), further work is needed; this was highlighted in HMICFRS feedback. Metrics are being developed and may be included in future reports.

## 9 **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 No further business.

## Summary of Actions

| Item / Paper                           | Action                                                                                                                          | Owner              |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1.3 Public Questions                   | Chief Supt Wratten to contact Cllr Chester separately.                                                                          | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 3.5 Financial Monitoring               | The ACO to confirm the firearms slippage figure of £179k as noted on p.15.                                                      | ACO                |
| 4.2 Supporting Children & Young People | Chief Supt Wratten to confirm if the table at 2.2 shows figures for children only.                                              | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 4.3 Supporting Children & Young People | Chief Supt Wratten to provide clarity on iCAIT referral demand and sustainability; risk assessment and mitigation.              | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 4.4 Supporting Children & Young People | Chief Supt Wratten to add the themes from return to home interviews in the next paper.                                          | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 4.5 Supporting Children & Young People | Chief Supt Wratten to confirm what improvements are being targeted in the review of the operating model.                        | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 4.6 Supporting Children & Young People | Chief Supt Wratten to provide an update to the OPCC on the demand review for Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme.              | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 5.2 Neighbourhood Crime & ASB          | Chief Supt Wratten to confirm the figures to the PCC for new officer vs relocation within the workforce recategorisation.       | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 6.4 Tackling Serious Violence          | Chief Supt Wratten to keep the PCC updated on the new Violence Reduction Strategy.                                              | Chief Supt Wratten |
| 8.2 Workforce                          | Chief Constable to confirm known retiree figures to the PCC and any details of those taking up employment following retirement. | Chief Constable    |
| 8.3 Workforce                          | Chief Constable to follow up with HR about no “stay & say” interviews having been conducted this year.                          | Chief Constable    |
| 8.4 Workforce                          | Chief Constable to update the PCC on the decline in detective numbers.                                                          | Chief Constable    |