



PAPER AP23/01

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

A meeting of the Accountability and Performance Panel was held at Police Headquarters Martlesham, and via Microsoft Teams at 09:30 on Friday 18 November 2022.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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

Suffolk Constabulary

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

In attendance for the Public Agenda in person

John Burns (Member of the Police and Crime Panel)

In attendance for the Public Agenda via Teams

Mark Jepson (Chair of the Police and Crime Panel), Sarah Mansel (Member of the Police and Crime Panel), Adriana Stapleton (Senior Democratic Services Officer, Suffolk County Council)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1 Public Question Time

- 1.1 No public questions were received in advance of the meeting. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) welcomed and introduced everyone and opened the meeting.
- 1.2 The PCC invited Rachel Kearton, as the PCC's proposed new Chief Constable, for comments and an overview on the role over the past 2-3 months. The Chief Constable took the opportunity to thank the PCC for nomination for the role, confirming she had been acting in the role since the beginning of September, which had allowed her the opportunity to get a sense of the position and to look ahead at the needs of the organisation in the future. Suffolk Constabulary are a strong performing force, with one of the best HMIC inspection

reports nationally in recent times. There are opportunities to develop collaboration with local Suffolk partners, whilst developing public confidence. There is a need to maximise the resources into policing whilst also delivering an improved service. The Police and Crime Plan is key as well as a new strategic plan for the Constabulary which is being prepared with colleagues to help navigate the difficult years ahead.

2 Open minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2022 (Paper AP22/48)

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.
- 2.2 All actions were noted as complete or in hand.

3 Financial Monitoring (Paper AP22/49)

- 3.1 Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Kenneth Kilpatrick, presented this report.
- 3.2 The forecast underspend stands at £1.8M, with the forecast capital underspend figure of just under half a million pounds at the end of September 2022. Areas that are performing well and within budget include management of the pay awards and inflationary cost pressures, with the underspend largely being driven by staff vacancies. Officer uplift targets are forecast to be met by end of this year.
- 3.3 The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) queried how, in the context of the current cost of living crisis and possibility that vacancies were not being filled, the Force was proposing budgeting for vacancies for next year. The ACO confirmed that the Constabulary plans include the details on planned attrition due to retirement but would look to manage this differently in 2024 as the Force would like to have staff filling the vacant roles. If unemployment increased as a result of the current economic climate, the Force may be more attractive as a stable employer.
ACTION – The ACO and CFO to liaise regarding vacancies figures across the Constabulary to help with budget planning.
- 3.4 The PCC noted that Operational Figures for September were higher than the budget, and asked if this was caused by inflation. The ACO responded that this was the case and that more inflationary cost increases are starting to be seen.
- 3.5 The PCC asked for clarification over the forecast overspend for fuel and car allowances. The ACO considered this to be an expenditure line within the budget, and that there had been no change to the scope of car allowances.
- 3.6 The PCC requested additional information regarding the budget line around Beccles Council funded ANPR cameras and any associated costs related to this. The ACO confirmed there was a grant in place for the ANPR cameras, which the Constabularies had purchased, with funds then claimed back from the Council. Clarity regarding the figures for both the associated costs and total costs, would be advised directly to the PCC.
ACTION – Suffolk Constabulary to get full details on the total costs for ANPPR in Beccles to the PCC, and to include the following; when it occurred, when it was publicised, and who decided it.

4 Supporting Children and Young People (Paper AP22/50)

- 4.1 Temporary Deputy Chief Constable (T/DCC) Jones presented this report.
- 4.2 ACC Jones highlighted the areas of strength within this report, which included the partnership work across Suffolk. There are long-standing safeguarding arrangement panels that work well, with a change in focus for one of the subgroups to forensically address online threats. The cadet core is another strong area, where there has been an increase in the national standards around safety and checks, with the programme leaders having the right level of assurances in place, and with a significant reduction in waiting list time to join the programme. Finally, the Suffolk Hope Awards continue to highlight the young people overcoming challenges and adversity locally, with the panel scheduled to meet in March 2023 to identify the next award recipients.
- 4.3 An area of challenge within this report relates to information-sharing ensuring that the right information goes to the right agencies to be able to support families in difficulty, and which includes missing young people and young people in care. There is progress being made due to the Philomena protocol. This will be reviewed in December 2022 with the findings brought back to a future Accountability and Performance Panel (APP) meeting.
- 4.4 The other main area of challenge to highlight is the work of the small team of 4 specially trained investigators that deal with the referrals for the work into indecent images of children. Due to demand there is now an additional 4 people working in this area which is being examined with a view to making it permanent, and which provides further intelligence and support.
- 4.5 The PCC sought clarification regarding the changes mentioned concerning the exploitation and online safety group, and further with regard to their roles the difference they made, and how they were working with partners. T/DCC Jones confirmed that the reason behind the change was to reduce the areas of repetition, with the changes allowing more emphasis on online problems. Data is analysed from different organisations which allows trends in vulnerabilities to be identified. This will then be developed into education campaigns, delivering the messages to families, into schools, and increasing safety standards within social media. The recent HMICFRS report highlights the ongoing work in this area as good, with the police being the single biggest contributor in terms of intelligence received.
ACTION – The PCC requested further information on the ongoing work in the area of online safety groups and how the OPCC could be involved in its promotion.
- 4.6 The PCC raised who was responsible for children excluded from school regarding the safeguarding board. T/DCC Jones confirmed that school exclusions were considered by the board, and the Child Exploitation and Gangs team also looked at them. The rates of exclusion within Suffolk are quite low, but there are targets to work with specific schools to help to keep children and young people safe.
ACTION – The PCC requested further information from the Safeguarding Board for ideas as to how severe gaps regarding children excluded from schools can be supported.
- 4.7 The OPCC asked whether as the report showed that the majority of children going missing are not children in care, there was an approach for dealing with parents and guardians within this cohort, different to those in care. T/DCC Jones responded that with every young

missing person the Force looked at the reasons why they are going missing, and it prioritised the high risk cases. The Constabulary has success in this area, and for future papers could include more examples of how this works in practice. It was important to be aware that of the children who go missing, a large proportion are already engaged with Children and Youth services.

- 4.8 The PCC asked whether regarding the return-to-home interviews, there were trends being identified and whether other agencies doing the necessary work required as it was not just a police responsibility. T/DCC Jones advised he would provide the information separately for further discussion with the PCC.

ACTION – T/DCC Jones to provide the PCC with the information regarding the return-to-home interviews.

- 4.9 The PCC asked regarding Child Exploitation, what the references to diversion meant. T/DCC Jones advised that there was strong research showing that as soon as a young person becomes involved in the criminal justice system, the way the police respond has a large impact on their future lives, with approximately 80% of young people who are detained never returning. The Constabulary works to try and identify diversionary schemes to help young people.

ACTION – T/DCC Jones to provide figures to the PCC on the effectiveness of the diversionary schemes.

- 4.10 The Chief Executive asked whether regarding Safeguarding Children, there were any areas of deficiency or was the Force comfortable with what is being delivered. T/DCC Jones responded that Suffolk has had the most recent Child Safeguarding HMICFRS inspection, and doesn't feel that any areas are deficient but there are areas for improvement. Suffolk Constabulary is in a strong position compared nationally.

5 Neighbourhood Crime and ASB (Paper AP22/51)

- 5.1 Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) Bridger presented this report.

- 5.2 Suffolk Constabulary continue to prioritise the area of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), which has seen an overall reduction of 6% over the past 3 years. Work has been commissioned to analyse and interpret this ASB data fully. Information sharing with partners continues to work well, particularly with regards to the recognition that ASB isn't just a policing issue.

- 5.3 For the recording and reporting of burglaries, robbery and larceny, they are split into residential, residential non-dwelling, and commercial categories. For the residential category Suffolk Constabulary had an exceptional level when compared to other police forces, with low rates of burglary, and a solved rate of approximately 13% compared to the national average which is just 5%. The Constabulary has seen a reduction in burglary rates post covid, with more people working from home, and adopters of using technology such as Ring doorbells which help with burglary investigations.

- 5.4 Whilst there is a 21% reduction in theft of motor vehicles, crime rates are stable and reflect a similar position across the country. There are very low rates of robbery in shops and businesses within the county, with a tendency to see more personal robberies.

- 5.5 The PCC commented that as prevention is better than cure, do the planners make use of the Design Out Crime Officers in the larger housing developments. T/ACC Bridger commented that use of these officer was a valuable resource for Suffolk, and the capacity to influence more in terms of new housing developments would be a positive.
ACTION – The PCC and CC to follow up at Public Sector Leaders meeting regarding the use of Design Out Crime Officers and their involvement with new housing developments.
- 5.6 The Chief Executive asked whether in the current economic crisis, the Force was expecting to see an increase in crime and how this can be addressed. T/ACC Bridger confirmed that this has been seen historically and the Force is therefore expecting an increase in crime. The Constabulary will remain flexible in tackling the issue as it presents itself. The Chief Constable added that it will be interesting to see how the recession manifests itself differently for crime compared to previous recessions, for example will there be more ASB or burglary crimes, or more of focus towards cybercrimes.
- 5.7 The Chief Executive requested comment on if any public messages are communicated by the Constabulary with regards to protecting people from instances of robbery. T/ACC Bridger replied that tactically and strategically we do look at crime rates in areas and trends for Suffolk. There is a careful line to tread between offering advice and increasing the fear of crime, so the tendency is not to do county-wide communications and target specific areas where required.

6 Tackling Serious Violence (Paper AP22/52)

- 6.1 The Temporary Chief Constable presented this report, pointing out that this report does not cover violence against women and girls, rape and sexual offences, as these are covered elsewhere.
- 6.2 Suffolk Constabulary when compared to the National Office of Statistics, from October 2021, for Knife Crime, came out top against this statistic. As a reflection of the Forces' activity there has been a 33% reduction in knife crime, with rates lower than they were pre-Covid in relation to violence figures.
- 6.3 An area of concern for the future, is a potential increase in crime due to the stresses from the cost of living crisis. However the Force was in a good position in terms of county lines. One further area of risk involves levels of specialist trained detectives. Discussions are taking place to look at methods to help develop experience.
- 6.4 Action being taken includes a wider training package across Domestic Abuse (DA) crimes, which includes a number of targeted operations, showcasing success stories, in particular Operation Hull. The use of civil orders were highlighted, as having a more immediate effect and helping to relieve some of the pressures on the criminal justice system. T/ACC Bridger added that by using Civil Orders intelligently and applying them in the right circumstances they are successful, having been particularly effective with DA and non-molestation orders, helping to increase policing powers.
- 6.5 Regarding the 6.4% increase in knife crime the Temporary Chief Constable responded that there could be a number of reasons for the increase. Whilst this is potentially caused by more offence being committed, but equally it could arise from the police being more proactive together with greater confidence from the public in coming forward to report this

type of offence. Reporting channels through Accident and Emergency (A&E) are much stronger now with reports being received immediately from those working in Heath. Operation Sceptre has again been run nationally, which is an operation to take knives off the street, and to ensure they are safely disposed of. The PCC emphasised that the education message needs to be raised now in Primary Schools, and the Temporary Chief Constable confirmed that schools do have these programmes in place to educate. T/ACC Bridger added that knife crime features highly within DA crimes.

- 6.6 The PCC asked about the introduction of DG6 from the Director or Public Prosecution, in terms of the problems and challenges are being faced due to this. T/ACC Dean commented that as a result of the Allen case, failings were identified in the materials that were examined pre-trial, which resulted in some changes from DG6. The main increase in work for officers is around redaction principles. This is the right thing to do from a trial perspective, but it places increased workload onto officers.

7 Joint Custody Services, Service Delivery and Performance Update (Paper AP22/53)

- 7.1 Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) Dean presented this report.
- 7.2 The report gave an update across the Custody Command, which is a collaborated command with Norfolk. Of the 6 Police Investigation Centres (PIC), 2 are based in Suffolk (Martlesham and Bury St Edmunds). From a custody perspective the team are responsible for those that are detained both through arrest and via voluntary attendance. Throughput figures have increased since Covid; 92% are adults, 8% are children and young people.
- 7.3 The report highlighted areas of success, which included the introduction of biometrics, drugs testing on arrest, and where rehabilitation can be put in place via drug referral pathways to help reduce reoffending. The primary aim is to support and divert people away from offending. The roll out of Out of Court Disposals across Suffolk was completed in a phased approach, and work is now looking at pathways out of offending and rehabilitation for adults that come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- 7.3 The risks within the custody arena include the ending of the virtual courts offering during the summer. The rationale behind this was in relation to the funding and the challenge of continually funding this service. The funding behind this fell solely to the Constabulary, so in-person hearings have now resumed, with transportation to and from the PIC provided by the Courts. The initial monitoring reports on this highlight an issue with cell capacity at Ipswich Crown Court, with any potential impacts related to this being assessed.
- 7.4 A secondary risk area is around mental health detentions, which involves people who are sectioned following an arrest being held in custody at the PIC for extended periods, rather than in a specialised mental health provision. This is a challenge facing the whole country. Instances of these cases as escalated through the Constabulary to the Mental Health Foundation Trust at Director Level.
- 7.5 The final risk is the issue of beds for children and young people that are remanded. The report indicates that there have been 31 instances during the reporting timeframe. Each incident is reviewed from a local authority perspective via partnership meetings, however there is a lack of provision in place to support with this.

7.6 The PCC expressed concern around the removal of the courts video link, feeling it is regrettable that the courts system has not taken on sharing the financial responsibility for this service. For the Norfolk Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT), a question hangs over the recovery plan for dealing with the need to provide mental health beds, and that a solution is urgently required.

ACTION – The PCC to be kept updated on the position of mental health beds by the NSFT.

7.7 The Chief Executive said that the report highlights situations where the police are being adversely impacted by the failings of other agencies, with the policing having to get involved in transporting detainees to court and providing beds in custody rather than mental health provision being provided. T/ACC Dean said that all custody staff are trained to the national level for custody, but this may not be to the level of a mental health trained individual.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

The open part of the meeting closed at 12:05 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]

9 Closed minutes of the meeting held on 16 September (Paper AP22/54)

9.1 The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.

10 Protective Services Command Update (Paper AP22/55)

10.1 Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) Dean presented this report

11 Risk Register / Chief Officer Risk Report (Paper AP22/56)

12.1 The Chief Constable presented this report.

The meeting closed at 12:17

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Owner
3.3	The ACO and CFO to liaise regarding vacancies figures across the Constabulary to help with budget planning.	Kenneth Kilpatrick
3.6	Suffolk Constabulary to get full details on the total costs for ANPPR in Beccles to the PCC, and to include the following; when it occurred, when it was publicised, and who decided it.	Kenneth Kilpatrick
4.5	The PCC requested further information on the ongoing work in the area of online safety groups and how the OPCC could be involved in its promotion.	T/DCC Jones
4.6	The PCC requested further information from the Safeguarding Board for ideas as to how severe gaps regarding children excluded from schools can be supported.	T/DCC Jones
4.8	T/DCC Jones to provide the PCC with the information regarding the return-to-home interviews.	T/DCC Jones
4.9	T/DCC Jones to provide figures to the PCC on the effectiveness of the diversionary schemes.	T/DCC Jones
5.5	The PCC and CC to follow up at Public Sector Leaders meeting regarding the use of design out crime officers and their involvement with new housing developments.	PCC and CC
7.6	The PCC to be kept updated on the position of mental health beds by the NSFT.	T/ACC Dean