

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting:	30 November 2021
Report of:	Commissioner Henry (PCC)
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Agenda Item:	13

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (Commissioner) activity in fulfilling her statutory duties¹ since September 2021 and progress in developing and delivering her Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24.
- 1.2 The report also includes an overview of delivery against the Police and Crime Plan performance framework (appendix A), latest revenue and capital forecast outturn positions for 2021/22 (appendices B and C) and a summary of key OPCC and force decisions made over the latest planning period (Appendix D).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of this report and seek assurance on any specific areas of concern. The Panel is also invited to request further information where required and make relevant observations and recommendations within the scope of their role².
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel has a statutory duty³ to scrutinise performance and delivery against the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan and of the Commissioner in fulfilling her statutory duties (Section 14 of the Policing Protocol 2011). This update report is designed to assist the Police and Crime Panel in fulfilling these responsibilities.

¹ Section 13 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PR&SR) Act 2011 requires the Commissioner to, subject to certain restrictions, provide the Panel with any information which they may reasonably require in order to carry out their functions, and any other information which the Commissioner considers appropriate

² [Police and Crime Panels: A Guide to Scrutiny](#), Local Government Association (Updated 2016)

³ Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

3. Activities of the Commissioner

3.1 The Commissioner's extensive programme of consultation and engagement has continued throughout September and October 2021, with feedback and insight being used to inform the development of the draft Police and Crime Plan for Nottinghamshire. Community and stakeholder engagement undertaken during this period are detailed in the accompanying Police and Crime Plan covering report and have included:-

- County and City Health and Wellbeing Boards (1, 29 September 2021)
- HM Courts Service (3 September 2021)
- Violence Reduction stakeholder event (8 September 2021)
- Ashfield 'Have Your Say' (14 September 2021)
- Nottingham 'Have Your Say' (16 September 2021)
- University of Nottingham Fresher's event (20 September 2021)
- Rushcliffe 'Have Your Say' (29 September 2021)
- Newark and Sherwood 'Have Your Say' (30 September 2021)
- Gedling 'Have Your Say' (7 October 2021)
- Mansfield 'Have Your Say' (14 October 2021)
- Victims of Crime stakeholder event (19 October 2021)
- Broxtowe 'Have Your Say' (21 October 2021)
- Nottinghamshire Chiefs and Chairs Meeting (2 November 2021)

3.2 Other notable engagements undertaken by the PCC during this period have included: the North Nottinghamshire Business Crime Reduction Partnership (15 September), Nottingham CDP Board (20 September), #StopViolence social media launch (20 September), National Crime Agency open day (22 September), Violence Reduction Unit Strategic Board (23 September), Nottinghamshire Fire Authority (24 September), Local Criminal Justice Board Chairs (30 September), Police Bravery Awards (12 October) and the APCC General Meeting (13-14 October), Operation Guardian visit to observe police response to drug dealing and violence in the night time economy (23 October).

3.3 The Commissioner confirmed her intention to halt the proposed relocation of Newark Police station on 22 September 2021, after reviewing the proposal and listening to the views of local residents. A range of alternative options are now being considered to maximise use of the existing Queens Road site.

3.4 The Commissioner and Violence Reduction Unit launched 'Our Youth Charter' on 3 November 2021 at the National Youth Agency Summit at Parliament, which was been produced by young people from the City and County, setting out their vision and expectations for high quality youth work provision.

- 3.5 The Commissioner is now finalising her draft plan and intends to launch a formal consultation on the document following its consideration by the Police and Crime Panel on 15 November 2021. An annual delivery plan is now being developed for 2022/23 in line with the Commissioner's budget setting and commissioning cycle. This will be published in February 2022 and set out specific planned activity for the financial year that will support delivery of the statutory plan.
- 3.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is making arrangement to relocate to the joint Police and Fire and Rescue Service headquarters in early 2022 as part of plans which will drive efficiencies and improve ways of working. An independent review of the OPCC structure, functions and capabilities shortly due to report its conclusions.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PERFORMANCE (2021-24)

4.1 A performance framework to underpin the 2021-24 Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan is currently in development. The Commissioner has, however, continued to track performance trends and outcomes via weekly briefings and the quarterly Performance and Insight report (Appendix B). These are used as a basis for scrutiny and holding the Chief Constable to account via the Commissioner's Strategic Resources and Performance meetings and weekly 1:1 meetings. Notable headlines from the latest Performance and Insight report include:-

4.2 Preventing crime and protecting people from harm

- An 8% reduction in victim based crime over the last year, largely driven by significant reductions in serious acquisitive crimes such as residential burglary (-28%, -1,312), vehicle crime (-26%, -1,681) and robbery (-23%, -210). These reductions have been largely sustained following the easing of Coronavirus lockdown restrictions. The Commissioner has committed to supporting targeted crime prevention activity in hotspot localities and an ongoing focus on integrated offender management during her term in office with a view to sustaining these positive reductions.
- Levels of violent knife crime have fallen by a further 9% (-71) over the last year, continuing the downward trend seen since March 2018. The number of first time entrants into the youth justice system in the city (126) has increased over the last year, but saw a marginal reduction in the latest quarter and remains significantly lower than levels recorded in the year to June 2019

(160). The overall level of crime severity / crime harm recorded in Nottinghamshire⁴ has remained relatively stable over the last year.

- Average reductions in re-offending risk among those subject to Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements have seen significant improvements over the last year, rising from -56% to -69%. The IOM scheme is now focussed primarily on a cohort of serious acquisitive offenders following recommendations from the National IOM Review.

4.3 **Responding to local need**

- Nottinghamshire Police are maintaining strong call handling performance, with abandonment rates for the 999 service remaining low and falling (-0.6% pts), despite increasing demand (+11,522 calls). Grade 1 and Grade 2 response times have also increased steadily over the last year.
- The proportion of residents reporting that the police are effective in dealing with the issues that matter most to communities has risen steadily throughout the year, which is likely to have been impacted in part by the roll out of Operation Reacher to all neighbourhoods. In particular, the force has seen reductions in the proportion of residents citing drug use and dealing as an issue that they would like to see the police do more to tackle in their area (down from 50% to 29% since March 2019). The proportion of residents reporting experience of drug use and dealing in their area has fallen from 24.6% to 22.1% over the last year, alongside reductions in the frequency of this occurring – with the proportion stating that this happens most weeks having fallen from 71% to 65%.
- The proportion of recorded crimes resulting in a positive outcome⁵ has reduced steadily during 2021, including reductions in the positive outcome rate for domestic abuse. Furthermore, the proportion of crimes in which a suspect is identified has also fallen from 39.9% to 36.1% since December 2020. Trends in these areas will continue to be monitored over the coming quarter.

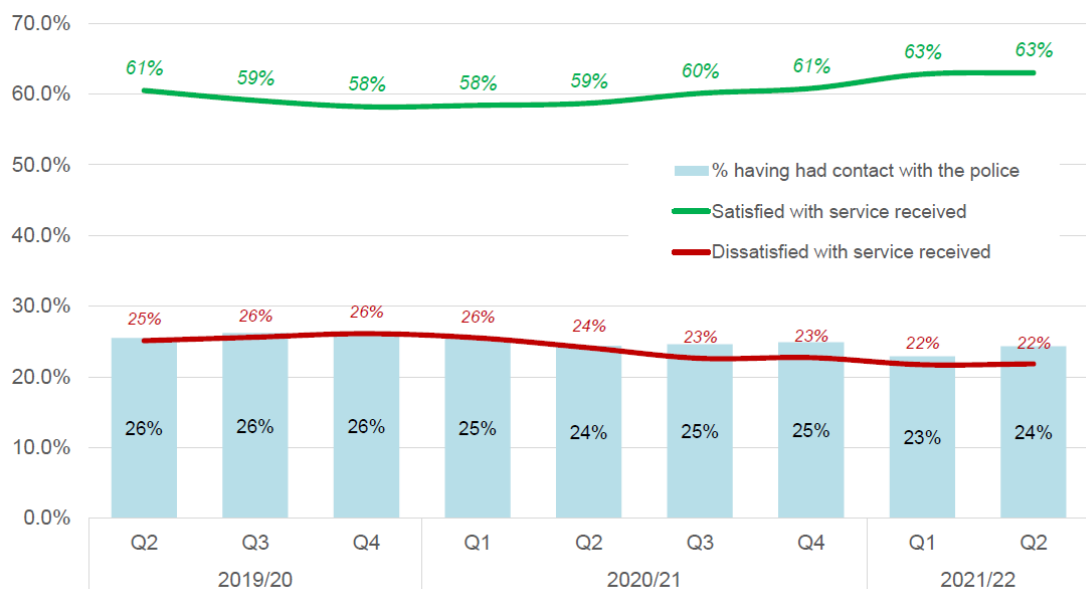
⁴ As calculated using the ONS Crime Harm Index

⁵ Positive crime outcomes include a Charge or Summons, Caution, Fixed Penalty Notice, Cannabis Warning, Community Resolution or offence Taken into Consideration (Crime outcomes 1-4 and 6-8)

4.4 Supporting victims, survivors and communities

- Force compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice has increased from 91.8% to 95.1% over the last year, providing assurance that the care needs of victims are being routinely considered and that victims are being offered support and referral to available victim service providers.
- The proportion of respondents to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Survey that feel that they 'have confidence in the police in their area' and that the police 'do a good job' has risen by 2.5% pts and 3.5% pts respectively over the last year. Levels of satisfaction with the police, meanwhile, has increased by 4.4% pts. Whilst this marks a positive trajectory, it should be noted that the latest quarter saw no change in overall confidence and satisfaction rates, indicating that the rise may now be plateauing.

Figure 1. Service satisfaction among respondents having had contact with the police Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Survey, Base 4,167 to 4,251 per year



- The Police and Crime Survey indicates that the proportion of self-reported experience that went on to be reported to the police has fallen from 49.7% to 46.9% over the last year. Further analysis is underway to explore the changing profile of crime reporting and the reasons respondents chose not to report their victimisation. The Police and Crime Survey also identified a reduction in the level of anti-social behaviour going on to be reported to local authorities over the last year – falling from 17.4% to 15.2%.

5. Grants and Commissioning

5.1 The Commissioner continued to identify and secure opportunities for investment in the delivery of her Police and Crime Plan priorities for 2021-24.

5.2 **Make Notts Safe Fund:** The Commissioner made over £131k available to third sector community based organisations in October 2021 to enable the delivery of projects which support the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. Successful project receiving a share of the funding have included:-

- £95k to support youth outreach, diversion, mentoring across Nottinghamshire through projects such as 'Growing Young Leaders' (Dunkirk, Lenton Abbey), 'Be the Change' (Top Valley / Bestwood), 'Community Kickboxing' (St Ann's / Sneinton), 'Bulwell Outreach' (Bulwell Town Centre), 'Life Skills' (Stapleford), 'Think Forward' (Stonebridge City Farm), 'Redthread' (Kingsmill Hospital knife crime intervention), 'Support Through Sport' (Mansfield, Sutton in Ashfield and Stapleford), 'Warsop Youth Club' (Warsop), 'Support and Outreach for NEET young people' (Newark).
- £28k to support women's projects, which include the 'Not on our watch' project in Broxtowe to explore survivor experience of abuse (Broxtowe Women's Project), 'Outreach and Support' offering support and signposting for women involved in street prostitution (Jericho Road), 'Engage, Inform, Empower' which provides awareness raising and advice for women on health relationships, abuse and exploitation (Nottingham Muslim Women's Network)
- The fund is also supporting the 'Let's Talk' project which provides workshops in secondary schools which explore difficult conversations around disability and hate crime and the 'Second Chance' project which will provide insight into the relationship between addiction, stigma and criminality in BAME communities.

5.3 **Home Office Safer Streets Fund:** The Commissioner was successful in securing an additional £1.1m funding to improve safety and feelings of safety for women and girls in Worksop South (£550k) and Sutton in Ashfield (£550k) as part of round 3 of the Home Office Safer Streets Fund in October 2021. The Commissioner is also awaiting confirmation of a further bid to the 'Safety of Women at Night' (SWaN) fund to improve safety and feelings of safety in Nottingham City Centre. If successful, this would bring the total amount of Home Office funding secured for Nottinghamshire as part of the Safer Streets programme to £2.8m during the 2021/22 financial year and represents a significant investment in prevention, security and safety improvements for the area.

- 5.4 **Youth Endowment Fund:** The Commissioner and Violence Reduction Unit received confirmation of new funding from the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) in October 2021. This will be used to support targeted custody diversion activity that will help to reduce first time entrants into the youth justice system and youth recidivism rates. The grant takes the total awarded for custody diversion in Nottinghamshire to more than £1.6m over the next three years.
- 5.5 The Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan highlights a number of new funding streams for 2021-24, which includes:-
- An annual £250,000 Make Notts Safe Fund for community-led organisations to take action to address the community safety issues they face;
 - A dedicated £100,000 crime prevention fund to increase neighbourhood safety in vulnerable and hotspot locations across Nottinghamshire and;
 - Investing £400,000 from the Late Night Levy to sustain 'Operation Guardian' in the city and bolster other crime prevention activity, with a particular focus on improving safety and feelings of safety among women and girls
 - Invest a further £80,000 to bolster our rural crime offer through the provision of additional resources and equipment

6. National Developments

- 6.1 The PCC submitted a response to the government's consultation on part two of the **review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners** in September 2021. The review will focus on Local Criminal Justice Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and Violence Reduction Units, and the PCC role in implementing an effective community trigger process. The review team are due to report to the Home Secretary on part 2 by November 2021, allowing the government to plan for any legislative changes which will need to be made to embed recommendations from part 1 and 2 of the review.
- 6.2 HMICFRS report⁶ on the **police response to violence against women and girls** (VAWG) was published on 17 September 2021. The report found that the police had made vast improvements in the response to VAWG over the last decade, including better identification of repeat victims and improved safeguarding measures. The does, however, make an number of key recommendations which include:-

⁶ [Police response to violence against women and girls – Final inspection report - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

- Government should legislate to create a new statutory duty for all partner agencies to work together to protect women and girls.
- Implementation of a national policing strategy to coordinate the response to VAWG, aligned to the '4Ps' of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue
- Further work by forces to address the number of VAWG cases closed without charge, with the 'relentless pursuit and disruption of adult perpetrators' being a national priority for the police
- Structures and funding should be put in place to make sure victims receive tailored and consistent support.
- Chief constables should immediately review and ensure that there are consistently high standards in their forces' responses to VAWG and should be supported in doing so by national standards and data
- There should be an immediate review of use of outcomes 15 (evidential difficulties) and outcome 16 (victim does not support further action) in VAWG offences

6.3 The Home Office has published its response⁷ to the consultation on **pre-charge bail** on 6 September, setting out key legislative aims to redress the balance between the rights and freedoms of suspects and the need to best protect victims and witnesses. The Government recognises that the existing timescales and authorisation levels do not properly reflect the operational realities faced by the police and other law enforcement bodies, and will therefore legislate to place a new model of operation on statutory footing. Police use of 'Release Under Investigation' is expected to reduce significantly following these reforms. The government is also considering options on how to better share information relating to victims and vulnerable people across police and partner agencies.

7. Decisions

- 7.1 The Commissioner has the sole legal authority to make a decision as the result of a discussion or based on information provided to her by the public, partner organisations, Members of staff from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) or Chief Constable. The Commissioner's web site provides details of all significant public interest decisions.⁸
- 7.2 Panel Members have previously requested that the Commissioner provide a list of all forthcoming decisions (Forward Plan) rather than those already made. This Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force has been updated and is shown at **Appendix D**.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/police-powers-pre-charge-bail>

⁸ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

8. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 8.1 The Commissioner's Strategic Resources and Performance meetings (SSRP) provide a formal mechanism for holding the Chief Constable to account. At this meeting the Chief Constable submits a number of financial reports for scrutiny.
- 8.2 The 2021/22 forecasted outturn position for revenue expenditure currently shows a forecasted £31k underspend for the Nottinghamshire Police and an on budget position for the OPCC.

Nottinghamshire Police – Forecasted 2021/22 Revenue Outturn as at Q2 21/22

Expenditure Type	Total Base £'000	Virements £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Q2 Outturn £'000	Variance Over/(Under) £'000
Employee	151,995	855	152,849	154,132	1,282
Premises	6,986	354	7,340	7,647	307
Transport	6,728	(2,046)	4,682	4,315	(367)
Comms & Computing	8,836	184	9,019	10,187	1,168
Supplies & Services	10,483	(635)	9,848	10,845	997
Agency & Contract Services	22,075	1,369	23,444	23,071	(373)
Pension	37,177	141	37,318	37,058	(259)
Capital Financing	10,258	(2,043)	8,215	7,862	(353)
Income	(21,238)	1,821	(19,417)	(21,848)	(2,431)
Grand Total	233,299	-	233,299	233,268	(31)

Overspends shown as positive numbers, under-spends shown as () numbers.

- 8.3 The most significant forecast overspend is in relation to employee costs (£1,282k), of which £2,072k relates to officer overtime which has been offset with mutual aid, seconded and grant income. There are indications that overtime has been increasing as lockdown restrictions have eased, with an expectation that this trend is likely to continue. The force is expecting to see an increase in transferees to meet the uplift forecast, which in turn, will help to ensure that more experienced officers are available as new recruits become fully operational.
- 8.4 Communications and computing costs are currently forecast an overspend of £1,047k on account of various contract renewals being higher than anticipated (£552k) and the increase in demand for mobile phone services and data storage as a result of the increase in officer numbers (£212k).
- 8.5 Income, however, is forecast to increase by £2,431k, largely on account of additional grant income secured for knife crime, armed response and cybercrime – in addition to income generation for training courses and the secondment of officers to other organisations. This year also sees the first full financial year of in-house vehicle management as the force moved away from

the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) contractor. This change has already generated savings in excess of (£400k).

8.6 A capital expenditure budget of £17,793k was set for 2021/22 which has since seen variance on account of an increase in planned expenditure on the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (+£342k) and a reduction in planned expenditure on the Custody New Build (-£600k). Slippage of £8,636k from 2020/21 has also been to the Capital budget (£26,471). Three estates projects, namely the Nottingham Custody Suite, new Joint HQ Build and the Sexual Adult Referral Centre, account for a combined budget of £15,556k.

8.7 The review of capital expenditure shows a forecasted outturn position of £21,913k – representing a forecast underspend of £2,825k and anticipated slippage of £1,733k. The forecasted underspend is largely a result of the £1,360k budget allocated for the replacement of IT systems via the Multi-Force Shared Service Centre no longer being required – with the costs now being met from the revenue budget. Further slippage of around £800k is expected in relation to the national Emergency Services Network (ESN) programme to replace the current airwave service. It is expected that the budget for this programme will slip into 2023/24 or beyond.

Forecasted 2021/22 Capital Projects Outturn as at Q2 2021/22

Project	2021/22 Budget + Virement £000's	Outturn £000's	Underspend £000's	Slippage £000's
Joint FHQ New Build	11,368	11,368	-	-
Nottm Custody Suite	2,432	1,949	(483)	-
Building Condition & Capital Mtn works	2,253	1,912	(71)	(270)
SARC New Build	1,757	1,393	-	(363)
Custody Improvements	989	709	(280)	-
Newark Castle House Extension	600	-	(600)	-
Estates Improvements	537	537	-	-
Nothern Control Room	393	93	-	(300)
Operation Uplift	142	112	(30)	-
	20,469	18,072	(1,464)	(933)
Replacement Vehicle Management process	1,600	1,600	-	-
Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Programme	661	661	-	-
Operation Uplift Fleet	400	400	-	-
	2,661	2,661	-	-
New Systems	1,360	-	(1,360)	-
ESN	800	-	-	(800)
Tech. Refresh and Upgrades	582	581	(1)	-
Operation Uplift	500	500	-	-
ANPR Replacements	99	99	-	-
	3,341	1,180	(1,361)	(800)
	26,471	21,913	(2,825)	(1,733)

8.8 The custody project is a multiyear project to deliver a new Nottingham Custody Suite at a new location within the City, the site became operational at the end of September 2021. Final costs are expected to be completed within the next quarter with early indications of a £483k underspend being realised.

8.9 The multi-year FHQ build is providing a new headquarters for Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue and is expected to be completed in early 2022. Works on the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre commenced in summer 2021.

8.10 **Appendices B and C** contain the full finance revenue and capital reports to September 2021.

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 None - this is an information report.

10. Equality Implications

10.1 None

11. Risk Management

11.1 Risks to performance are identified in the main body of the report together with information on how risks are being mitigated.

12. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

12.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Police and Crime Plan.

13. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

13.1 The Commissioner undertakes routine horizon scanning of emerging legislation, government publications, audits and inspections and significant consultations, statistics and research findings in order to help inform local strategic planning and decision making.

13.2 The [Elected Local Policing Bodies \(Specified Information\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#) came into force on 31 May 2021 requiring Police and Crime Commissioners to publish on their websites:

- A statement on how their force is performing in relation to key national priorities for policing;
- Copies of HMICFRS PEEL inspection reports, and a summary assessment of the force's performance; and
- Copies of IOPC data on force complaints, and a statement on how the PCC (or Mayor's Office) is exercising its complaints-handling functions under the Police Reform Act 2002.

13.3 The Commissioner has taken steps to ensure compliance with the amended legislation and will be publishing a statement on how the force is performing in relation to the national police outcomes framework when publishing her statutory Police and Crime Plan.

14. Details of outcome of consultation

14.1 The Chief Constable has been sent a copy of this report.

15. Appendices

- A. Nottinghamshire Performance and Insight report to September 2021
- B. Quarter 2 2021/22 Revenue forecast financial outturn position
- C. Quarter 2 2021/22 Capital forecast financial outturn position
- D. Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the OPCC and the Force to October 2021

16. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

[Police and Crime Plan 2018-2021](#)

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