



DORSET
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
DAVID SIDWICK

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



MAKE **DORSET** THE SAFEST COUNTY

CONTENTS

Foreword	3
The Police and Crime Plan	4
Priority 1: Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	6
Priority 2: Make Policing More Visible and Connected	10
Priority 3: Fight Violent Crime and High Harm	12
Priority 4: Fight Rural Crime	16
Priority 5: Put Victims and Communities First	20
Priority 6: Make Every Penny Count	24
Budget	25
Annual Engagement Report	26
Also This Year	28
Scrutiny	30



FOREWORD

I hope that you find this document to be an informative and insightful summary of the work undertaken by me and my team during the 2024/25 financial year. Once again, we have been very busy working on your behalf to make Dorset a safer place to live, work and visit. I am pleased to report that progress has been made across all of the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan and this activity will be maintained throughout my tenure as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following meaningful progress across all areas of the Police and Crime Plan, the Plan was refreshed in 2024 after my re-election. However, the priorities in the plan remain the same and reflect the issues and concerns you have raised with me. These areas of focus have ensured Dorset remains one of the safest places in the country. To keep ranking in the top ten safest places to live, is testament to the hard work and dedication of all the officers, staff and volunteers in Dorset Police and the staff and volunteers in my Office, who work hard every day on your behalf to make a positive difference.

Overall, crime is falling, positive outcomes are on the rise and anti-social behaviour is at its lowest level since 2007/08 and as you read through this report, you will find more and more examples of similar achievements - the continuing success of Operation Scorpion and Operation Viper which continue to disrupt drugs supply in Dorset and across the South West, shutting down county lines and safeguarding vulnerable people, and the introduction by Dorset Police of the Enhanced Video Response initiative which gives victims of crime the chance to speak to an officer via a video call rather than in person. The initiative is victim-led, giving each victim greater choice in how they interact with Dorset Police.

These are just some of the high-impact examples of how we are making Dorset a safer place to live, work and visit.



And finally, a thank you to the residents and communities of Dorset. I am your voice in delivering this Plan, I am your voice in policing, so please do continue sharing your views with me about crime and community safety. You can find contact details for my office on the back cover of this report or on my office [website](#).

I look forward to another positive year ahead as we drive towards Dorset being the safest county.

DAVID SIDWICK
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner
JUNE 2025

THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

THROUGHOUT MY TENURE AS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, I HAVE CONTINUED TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PARTNER AGENCIES TO ENSURE MY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STAYS RELEVANT.

This ongoing exchange of information, has ensured that the priorities of the Plan continue to be an accurate reflection of policing, crime and safety issues that are the most important to Dorset’s communities.

In 2024, the Plan was refreshed upon my re-election, and a number of changes were made to recognise the work that had been done in my first term of office, for example, around supporting young people, and offering better visibility of initiatives to tackle violence against women and girls - making

greater strides into bringing forward more programmes and initiatives that address prevention, intervention and diversion.

The following pages detail the work undertaken for each priority.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary’s view, are the biggest threat to

public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs and Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

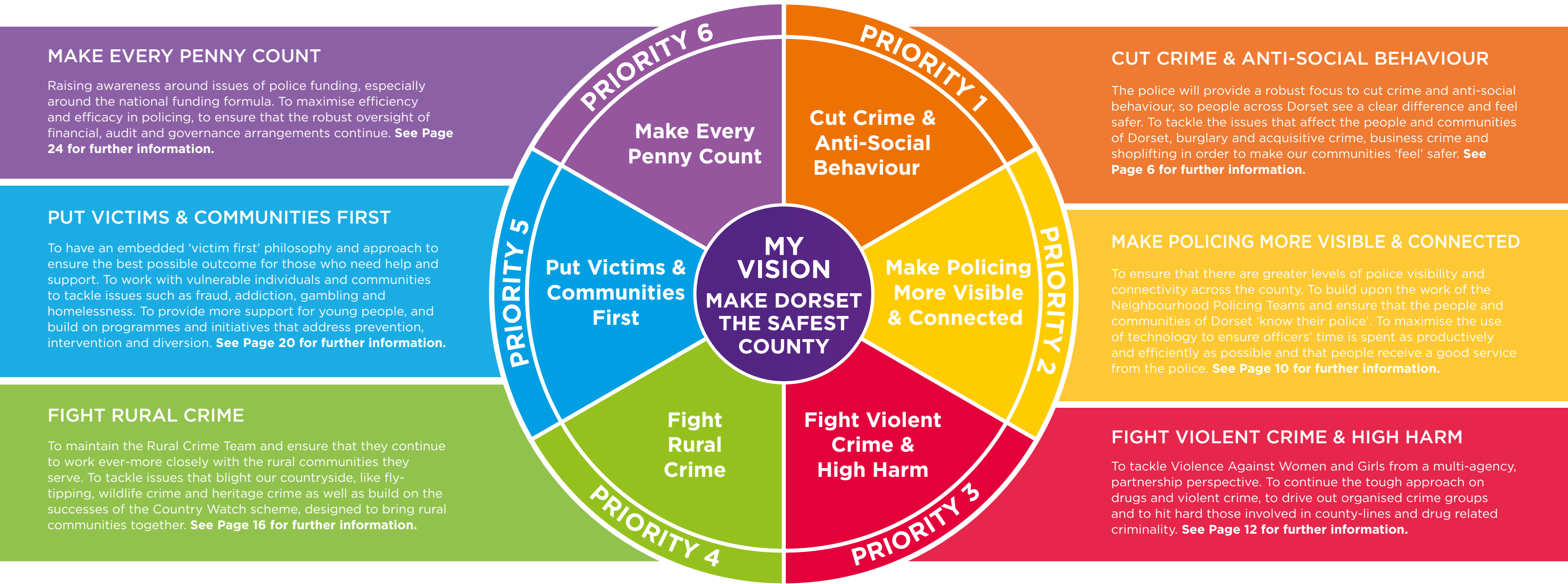
A revised version of the SPR was last published in 2023 – this set out seven identified national threats as follows: Serious and Organised Crime; Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder; Civil Emergencies; and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The PCC regularly seeks assurance that the Force has sufficient capacity and capability to meet these responsibilities. Information

relating to child abuse, cyber crime and VAWG is covered in more detail within this document and the Police and Crime Plan – though it is also important to highlight that the Force continues to deliver upon its VAWG action plan.

The Force continues to work alongside the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit to tackle drugs, fraud, cyber crime, and crime relating to organised immigration. Preparing for national incidents of public disorder and maintaining the required numbers of specially trained officers also continue to be an ongoing focus.

Equally, the Force works closely with the Local Resilience Forum to prepare for emergencies, participating in a programme of joint exercises and training to ensure SPR capabilities are met.



CUT CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

THE POLICE WILL PROVIDE A ROBUST FOCUS TO CUT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, SO PEOPLE ACROSS DORSET SEE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE AND FEEL SAFER. THEY WILL TACKLE THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF DORSET, INCLUDING BURGLARY AND ACQUISITIVE CRIME, BUSINESS CRIME AND SHOPLIFTING IN ORDER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES FEEL SAFER.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Focus

- Safer Streets Funding from the Government enabled licensed premises to scan the IDs of pub and club patrons to identify fake IDs, stop underage drinking and deter individuals who repeatedly cause issues from entering premises. The scanners are rotated on a needs basis to help safeguard our communities and provide some reassurance to the public in Dorset.
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of the PCC commissioned ASB mediation service in Dorset concluded that there were no further calls to the Police in 69 per cent of cases where mediation was delivered. The positive work by Restorative Solutions led to reduced pressure on frontline officers and call centre staff.
- The PCC launched a further round of the Operation Relentless Community Fund. A total of nine successful applicants were awarded funding totalling £39,554. The supported initiatives included; CCTV, security gates, diversionary activities for young vulnerable people, community clean-ups, and outreach programmes.
- The PCC provided an additional £100,000 funding to further enhance the existing frontline patrols. This resulted in additional summer patrols in Bournemouth town centre and targeted patrols in Weymouth town centre over the Christmas period.
- Dorset Police responded to the latest police inspectorate recommendations on ASB including delivering training to the

staff responsible for recording the reports of ASB and crime and officers working in communities. The monitoring of ASB and related crime has improved as a result.

Fraud and Cyber

- The PCC and Dorset Police continued to publish their cyber crime e-newsletter, informing businesses about preventative cyber security measures they can follow to better protect themselves from cyber offences such as hacking and phishing, with a further five issues shared this year to businesses in Dorset.
- Dorset Police welcomed a new Cyber Crime Protect and Prevention Officer who has spent time engaging with local businesses and building stronger relationships in the business community.
- The PCC worked with Age UK and Dorset Police to facilitate call blockers for vulnerable older people in Dorset. The project aims to protect vulnerable older individuals from the growing threat of fraudulent callers, a problem that often leaves victims feeling isolated, emotionally devastated, and financially exploited.

Burglary & Acquisitive Crime

- The PCC launched a home safety initiative, designing and printing home safety leaflets which were shared with estate agents for distribution when selling or letting properties to new homeowners. The leaflet includes Dorset Police advice and top tips for residents on how to keep their homes and property safe and secure.

- The OPCC secured funding through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to help secure the homes of vulnerable victims of burglary. In addition to the equipment, crime prevention leaflets were provided to neighbouring properties of a burglary, informing how to protect their property and the support available.

- Additionally, Victim Support have also received funding via the OPCC to deliver target hardening equipment and support to victims of burglary and vulnerable people.

Business & Retail Crime

- The PCC continued to chair the Dorset Safer Business Partnership (DSBP), which focused on increasing business crime reporting, police engagement and visibility, prevention and cyber crime awareness and training.
- The PCC continued to support and promote Operation Shopkeeper which targets high harm prolific offenders. Over the last 12-months, Op Shopkeeper targeted 32 prolific offenders, resulting in total custodial sentences of 12 years and 10 months, with three perpetrators receiving custodial sentences over two years. Furthermore, Op Shopkeeper secured long term prevention orders against shoplifting offenders to prevent re-offending, with orders totaling 29 years.
- The PCC continued to support Operation Spotter which is led by the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Bournemouth and involves dedicated officers carrying out targeted work in plain clothes to apprehend shoplifters.
- The PCC supported and promoted the ShopKind campaign and is a ShopKind Champion himself. The ShopKind campaign unites the retail sector to tackle violence and abuse against shopworkers by asking people to 'ShopKind' when in stores.
- The PCC continued to hold the Chief Constable to account to improve retail crime reporting to make it easier and quicker for businesses to report shoplifting. An automated solution is expected to be rolled out by summer 2025.

Road Safety

- Due to the efforts of Dorset Road Safe Partnership, over the past year there has been a positive reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in Dorset. In addition to this, the number of people injured remains on track for an overall 40 per cent casualty reduction by 2030, based on the 2015 - 2019 average.
- Dorset now has 86 Community Speed Watch (CSW) Teams, with around 1,300 volunteers helping to keep the county's roads safe. The PCC continued to support CSW and took time to visit many of the teams this year and promote their important contribution to road safety via social media and newsletters.
- The PCC continued to support the Force's summer and winter drink/drug drive campaigns. In support of the national drink and drug drive campaign Operation Limit, the PCC and Dorset Police encouraged communities to report a drink or drug driver and work together to prevent a collision happening in their area. During December, Dorset Police received over 300 calls concerning drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs, with officers attending 129 incidents, successfully locating reported vehicles 90 times and subsequently making 36 arrests.
- The PCC supported Operation Tramline, a week-long campaign using an HGV to identify mobile phone use and bad driving behaviour and raise road safety awareness.
- The PCC provided £7,625 funding to DocBike for 250 high security motorcycle locks to complement their 'NextGen Riders Course' with locks being awarded to candidates who completed the course. Stolen motorcycles are often used in criminal activity and are more likely to be involved in collisions where injury is caused.



FOCUS ON

HOTSPOT POLICING

FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL TO THE HOME OFFICE, £1MILLION WAS AWARDED TO DORSET FROM THE HOTSPOT RESPONSE FUND AND A FURTHER £1MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR 2025/26. THIS ORIGINALLY FORMED PART OF A NATIONAL HOME OFFICE PILOT WITH AN AIM TO INCREASE HIGH-VISIBILITY PATROLS THAT TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) AND VIOLENT CRIME ACROSS IDENTIFIED HOTSPOT AREAS IN THE COUNTY.

As a result of this funding, in April 2024 Dorset Police identified over 30 hotspots for targeted patrols and launched Operation Track within these areas, including Bournemouth, Weymouth and Poole. Hotspots were selected through analysis of data which showed persistently high levels of crime, and the patrols formed part of a strategy in reducing crime through resources and activities in the identified hotspots.

Over 6,000 patrol hours were completed, with a future aspiration of a further 9,000 hours for the coming year. As a result of the additional hotspot patrols, there have been 199 stop and searches, 159 arrests and 177 uses of ASB powers (Section 35 dispersal orders). In addition to the patrols, hotspots were supported by dedicated engagement events including Community Contact

Points, offering opportunities to speak to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and briefing communities on the project and other policing activity in the area.

Operation Track has seen positive results with 70 per cent of hotspots seeing reductions in serious violent crime and 67 per cent of hotspots seeing a reduction in ASB in 2024, compared with the previous year.

Moving forward, the patrols will expand to additional hotspots, identified by further data analysis, in Dorchester, Blandford, Swanage and Wimborne, and will also feature a higher focus on knife crime reduction as this initiative aims to help hit the Home Office's national target of halving knife crime during the next decade.



PRIORITY 2

MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE AND CONNECTED

TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE GREATER LEVELS OF POLICE VISIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNTY. TO BUILD UPON THE WORK OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS AND ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF DORSET 'KNOW THEIR POLICE'. TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ENSURE OFFICERS' TIME IS SPENT AS PRODUCTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT PEOPLE RECEIVE A GOOD SERVICE FROM THE POLICE.

Customer Service

- The OPCC created a Contact and Engagement leaflet for distribution to key stakeholders, which is hosted on the OPCC website and has been handed out at PCC engagement meetings. Signposting information was also given via numerous PCC Newsletters and guest blogs.

- Following a change in legislation and subsequent review, the OPCC took responsibility for the administration of complaints misconduct panels. The newly constituted panels are chaired by Chief Officers as opposed to a Legally Qualified Chair.

- A formal update was provided by the Force following the conclusion of the front counter pilot scheme. The pilot was delivered during peak summer months to offer the public the opportunity to use the front counter facility at Dorset's busiest time of the year. to use the front counter facility. The results of the pilot scheme showed that the front desks received only minimal use by residents and visitors, so it was concluded that other methods of public contact should be progressed and, therefore, plans to build upon the Community Contact Points and other mobile options were progressed.

Engagement and Connectivity

- The OPCC has reached out to specific communities, such as Age UK, Wessex Jewish News, rural groups and Dorset farmers to provide crime prevention advice and offer visibility and reassurance of the ongoing good work being delivered in Dorset.

- The Safer Schools and Communities Team continues to provide robust and engaging educational presentations about the risks of carrying knives and weapons.

- During a targeted week of national anti-knife crime campaigning, eight local secondary schools engaged with the Team and some 770 students were reached.

- Over the summer, the PCC and OPCC were present at, and engaged with, the public at eight different summer events across Dorset, including Bournemouth Air Festival, Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, Bourne Free and Dorset County Show, a Community Contact Point in Swanage, and Littledown Family Fun Day. This gave the Commissioner the opportunity to speak with members of the public, asking their views on policing and the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

- Over 2000 residents responded to our Annual Safety Survey and over 1000 face-to-face discussions took place with OPCC staff during this period. All the feedback, comments and concerns were recorded and have been used to shape the direction of communications and engagement from the OPCC.

Visibility and Uplift

- The PCC and Force provided updates regarding policing in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. This included a Facebook Live meeting and detailed a range of operations and initiatives designed to tackle criminality and improve police visibility.

For example, the Force's 100 days of summer patrols (as seen in the Dorset and BCP areas) and work of BCP Council's dedicated Community Safety Accreditation Scheme officers.

- The PCC and his senior management team scrutinised the Force's arrangements and mitigations following the Mutual Agreement Resignation Scheme (MARS) scheme to

ensure that there remained a focus on visible and community policing. Whilst the scheme was solely aimed at members of police staff and, so, police officer numbers are unaffected, the PCC was keen to ensure unnecessary administration and tasking was not passed to frontline officers as a result.

FOCUS ON

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE WAY IN WHICH FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT IS MADE WITH LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS HAS CHANGED OVER RECENT YEARS, AND THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS IS A RESPONSE TO HOW THE PUBLIC WANT TO ACCESS THE SERVICES DORSET POLICE PROVIDE.

Community Contact Points are run regularly by local Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county. These contact opportunities are drop-in events with local police teams where residents can raise concerns, report crime and discuss incidents face-to-face.

With each event advertised on the Dorset Police website and social media platforms, the process to find out when and where the next Community Contact Point is simple and completed by entering your postcode on the homepage of the Dorset Police website.

Posters are also put up in the locations where the Community Contact Points are held, so keep an eye out in shop windows and on local notice boards.

Over recent years, there has been a significant reduction in front counter use making them more expensive and inefficient to resource. Whereas Contact Points are held locally, in the places residents visit regularly, at local supermarkets, local libraries or in coffee shops, or coffee shops.

Contact Points are held where our residents are, meaning people can go and speak with those who police their local area without having to make a separate journey to a police station. Indeed, since 2023 police neighbourhood teams have engaged with 15,160 people via Community Contact Points and with more and more engagement happening online, changing the methods of contact and reacting to the way in which the public want to engage is vital if policing is to stay in-touch with those it serves.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams are the backbone of community policing and being able to engage with local officers and staff that work in the communities where you live and work is very important.

We would encourage residents to find out what your local Neighbourhood Engagement Commitment is, who is on your local policing team, what your local policing priorities are and when and where your next Community Contact Point is – all of which can be done simply by putting in your postcode or local area into the Dorset Police [website](#).

FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME & HIGH HARM

TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM A MULTI-AGENCY, PARTNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE. TO CONTINUE THE TOUGH APPROACH ON DRUGS AND VIOLENT CRIME, TO DRIVE OUT ORGANISED CRIME GROUPS AND TO HIT HARD THOSE INVOLVED IN COUNTY-LINES AND DRUG RELATED CRIMINALITY.

Addiction and Substance Misuse

- The PCC in his role as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Joint Chair of Addictions and Substance Misuse national portfolio, has continued to raise awareness of the dangers of addictive substances. This includes a series of press releases and blogs highlighting the damage of 'illicit gateway' drugs and he continues to lobby for change including supporting the reclassification of Ketamine from a Class B to a Class A drug. The PCC also continues to support prevention initiatives to educate young people on the dangers of illegal drugs.

- As chair of the Combating Drugs Partnership, the PCC continued driving forward the implementation of the Government's 'Harm to Hope' strategy in Dorset, focusing on three main ambitions – breaking supply chains, delivering a world class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift and downward demand for drugs.

- In Dorset, Operation Scorpion, the southwest regions border-less approach to tackling drug crime, continues to target illegal drugs and county lines in Dorset, with a focus on tackling visible street dealing, clear-out the drug gangs and deal with associated crime. Alongside Operation Viper, Dorset's own anti-drug crime initiative, have resulted in more suspected drug dealers facing consequences, illegal drugs taken off the streets, dangerous weapons being confiscated, vulnerable people safeguarded, and residents and communities being made safer.

- The PCC continues to endorse and support organisations who educate and help young people to stay safe by educating them on how child exploitation and grooming happens, and how it is linked to county lines and illegal drugs, lived experiences and education on alcohol, vaping and gambling. An example of this is our work with Talkabout

Trust to deliver education to schools around Dorset on the effects of drugs, alcohol and vaping.

- The PCC also holds the joint lead for Gambling Harm and, over the past year, progress has been made in addressing gambling-related issues with the PCC securing a meeting with the gambling minister to discuss government plans and how they can contribute. Additionally, a meeting was held with the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport to discuss introducing a gambling levy to provide recovery programmes and to emphasise the need for more to be done in the area of prevention.

- The PCC agreed a refreshed gambling checklist to assist in a greater understanding of the issue of gambling and related criminality, building gambling into plans, strategies, and commissioning activity to provide better access to training and treatment.

Violence Reduction

- The Violence Reduction and Prevention team has been established with the role of assessing the local needs related to serious violence, identifying gaps in provision and creating a strategy to drive forward a violence reduction approach which meets the needs of Dorset. The PCC has continued to lobby government for a Violence Reduction Unit which comes with additional funding for initiatives designed to reduce serious violence.

- The PCC has continued to work with key authorities in the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty to ensure partners are delivering the requirements, as well as scrutinise spend and interventions. The ongoing positive impact of the initiatives funded through the Serious Violence Duty has resulted in the full allocation being offered for the next financial year.

- Dorset has one of the lowest knife-crime rates in the country and has seen an 8 per cent reduction in knife offences during this period. Projects funded included the development of a resource for schools to support those engaged in sexually harmful behaviour, an awareness campaign on the dangers of carrying a knife, targeted youth worker support for young people who have experienced serious violence and prevention education initiatives in schools across the county.

Domestic Abuse & Stalking

- Due to the Victim Services contract coming to an end, a new service provider was sought in order to ensure that there was continuous support for the 'standard' risk victims of domestic abuse. Victim Support Dorset will now provide tailored emotional and practical support to victims of domestic abuse for the next five years.

- The PCC provided funding for the Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) until 2025/26 – the role supports those who are at risk and experiencing stalking behaviours, advocate on their behalf and provide safety planning as part of a risk-lead service. ISACs work closely with the Police, Probation Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, local authorities and other local support agencies.

- The OPCC continues to support, monitor and encourage schools and early years settings to adopt Op Encompass, which is a statutory obligation on police forces to share notifications when the police have attended a domestic abuse incident where a child is present.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- OPCC staff attended an Essential Insights event about honour based abuse and forced marriage. This event helped to raise awareness on the subject, dealt with issues around 'stereotyping' and gave advice on how to support victims. Work is ongoing with Dorset Police in relation to honour based violence.

- The OPCC held a VAWG conference in July 2024. The event was aimed at front line professionals, such as teachers, social workers, and other practitioners, and focused on those working in an 'early years' setting. Themes around appropriate behaviours, sexual violence, current trends and the work of various services that are available across Dorset were discussed and debated. Speakers at the event included professionals from key partners agencies, such as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and the Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS).

- The Home Office Safer Streets Fund saw additional CCTV installed in hotspot areas of Weymouth and Bournemouth. Bournemouth, covering areas that have a increased night-time economy. The fund also enabled the launch of the BCP Unity Promise, where businesses and organisations pledge to advocate for the safety of women and girls when out enjoying the local nightlife.

Rape & Serious Sexual Offences

- The OPCC worked closely with NHS England and Dorset Police to recommission the Dorset SARC Service. The new service will continue to deliver a high standard of care for victims of rape and sexual assault.

- In addition to the above, the OPCC continue to work with the SARC provider and NHS England in respect to the incoming new forensic standards required to be met by SARCs, with the PCC funding essential building works to ensure compliance can be achieved.

- The PCC continued the commissioning of Circles Southwest to deliver behaviour changing courses for prison leavers and young people on bail for sexual offences. This service also included providing training for professionals to identify and tackle harmful sexual behaviour.

Child Abuse

- The OPCC is continuing to fund a children's ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) through STARS Dorset. An ISVA is an adviser who works with people who have experienced rape and sexual assault, irrespective of whether they have reported to the police.

- The OPCC has been scrutinising Operation Encompass which is a statutory obligation on police forces to share notifications with schools and early years settings when the police have attended a domestic abuse incident where a child is present. This review group has included school and early years representation from both BCP and Dorset Councils as well as safeguarding leads from schools and nurseries. The review group has highlighted some examples of good practice and some opportunities to improve the Op Encompass process within Dorset, which will be implemented over the coming months.

Modern Slavery

- The OPCC has been working to better understand the local issues surrounding modern slavery, analysing available data both locally and nationally. Once complete the OPCC will explore opportunities to install initiatives, policies and processes to reduce risk and harm associated with modern slavery.

FOCUS ON

THE VAWG SCRUTINY PANEL

IN JULY 2023, THE PCC ESTABLISHED THE VAWG IMPROVEMENT PANEL TO SCRUTINISE DORSET POLICE RESPONSES TO VAWG CASES, EXPLORING AREAS SUCH AS, STALKING, HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC ABUSE, AND SEXUAL OFFENCES.

The panel is held quarterly chaired by the OPCC, with representatives from local authorities, independent victim services and volunteers, who carry out reviews of police contact related to VAWG incidents. Core members are representatives from BCP Council, Dorset Council, Victim Support, The Shores - SARC, OPCC volunteers, DA Forum representatives, You Trust, BCHA and STARS.

Each meeting, the members consider six cases and victim phone calls to Dorset Police addressing a certain crime type including Stalking and Harassment, Domestic Abuse, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) and Child Exploitation. The crime types are rotated on a quarterly basis.

Following review, the members provide constructive and critical feedback on the cases provided, with findings being utilised to inform and promote good practice, policy development, and identify training needs.

The panel members score the victim experience on a scale of 1 - 5 (1 - poor - 3 satisfactory - 5 excellent) and highlight areas they feel should be recognised as positive or share feedback on how they believe it could have been managed differently.

Since the panel's inception, six meetings have been held reviewing cases of RASSO, Stalking & Harassment, Domestic Abuse, Public Space and Tech Enabled crimes. To date, the findings have been mostly positive with the average outcome for the victim experience being scored 4 or 5, satisfactory or above. Positive feedback from the panel is shared in a monthly newsletter for frontline staff with critical learning points identified and reflected on by the Force VAWG lead, for reviewing systems and processes.

The panel will continue to aim to improve the best possible outcomes for VAWG victims in Dorset.



FIGHT RURAL CRIME

TO MAINTAIN THE RURAL CRIME TEAM (RCT) AND ENSURE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO WORK EVER-MORE CLOSELY WITH THE RURAL COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE. TO TACKLE ISSUES THAT BLIGHT OUR COUNTRYSIDE, LIKE FLY-TIPPING, WILDLIFE CRIME AND HERITAGE CRIME AS WELL AS BUILD ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE COUNTRY WATCH SCHEME, DESIGNED TO BRING RURAL COMMUNITIES TOGETHER.

Rural Resources

- Operation Ragwort was established by the five PCCs and five Chief Constables in the region to target serious organised crime in the rural community. A police operation was held in May 2024, where Dorset Police supported Wiltshire Police and the Environment Agency to target organised crime groups. In March 2025, the PCC attended a joint policing operation where police officers and the Environment Agency stopped vehicles suspected of being used in waste crime and metal theft.
- Operation Honeybun was run in relation to van breaks and tool thefts. The RCT led on it and worked in conjunction with Wiltshire Police and several other forces. There were approximately 50 incidents in total recorded. Three suspects were arrested with one person remanded in custody. This activity directly led to a significant series of vehicle theft and van breaks to stop. There are ongoing investigations across the forces, to seek prosecution.
- Over the past 12 months, the Rural Mounted Volunteers completed 837 hours of patrol over 311 duties. As a result of these patrols, volunteers submitted 27 intelligence reports, three potential poaching/hunting offences, 11 fly-tips were reported to the council, and 74 engagements with people in rural areas whilst on duty.

Country Watch Dorset

- The OPCC continued to utilise the Country Watch Dorset website to provide regular news updates and items to highlight rural crime issues and prevention advice including articles on the work of the Dorset Partnership

Against Rural Crime (PARC). Updates included articles published during Rural Crime Action Week 2024, on waste crime operations, fly-tipping prevention resources, duty of care requirements for the disposal of waste, livestock worrying and successful investigations and arrests.

- In June 2024, the OPCC produced a Rural Crime Prevention leaflet which offered advice on crime prevention and how to share intelligence and report rural crime, especially for farmers and those living in rural areas. The leaflets have been distributed by Dorset Police, the OPCC and the members of the Dorset PARC at various rural shows and events. The leaflet is available to download on the news page of the [Country Watch Dorset](#) website.
- The PCC became a board member of the National Rural Crime Network (NCRN) whose purpose is to highlight that the scale, cost, and social impact and effects of rural crime are underestimated and not fully understood. The network includes a wide range of member agencies including NFU, CLA, CrimeStoppers, Rural Services Network, and other rural PCCs. The PCC has both supported and suggested campaigns and has lobbied for and promoted the need for any power tools over the value of £300 to be forensically marked when they are sold.

Waste Crime & Fly-tipping

- The PCC worked with partners to tackle waste crime and fly-tipping as part of the Dorset PARC. He attended a joint operation in March 2025 which ensured that those who handle or transport waste have the correct licences and permits to do so. This resulted in 30 vehicles being stopped, four enforcement actions taken, plus intelligence gathered and

education/information given to the public to increase awareness of metal theft.

- The PCC lobbied local MPs and the National Rural Crime Network to recognise the need for greater resources to target organised criminals involved in waste crime.
- The OPCC secured funding via the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to purchase 950 Theft and Burglary Prevention packs to be distributed across rural areas across Dorset. These packs have been distributed in person via Dorset Police to rural properties, such as farms and riding stables, with the aim to reduce the risk of burglary and theft. Residents were also provided with crime prevention advice and given 'SelectaDNA' kits to enable them to mark up to 50 items of their property, keep it protected and make it easier to identify and recover if stolen. Through this funding, 100 signs have also been purchased and installed in rural areas marked with the 'SelectaDNA' equipment to act as a deterrent against burglary and theft.

Wildlife Crime

- The Dorset PARC held a meeting in September 2024 focussed on how to raise awareness and target wildlife crime. Partners agreed to focus on reducing the risk of members of the public inadvertently harming wildlife through leisure activities such as landing kayaks on beaches where seals are resting or letting dogs off the lead where they disturb ground-nesting birds on protected sites.
- The Dorset Rural Crime Team had a successful court outcome, the first of its kind in Dorset where new legislation was used to prosecute an offender who was found guilty of the offence of 'trespassing with the intent to pursue hares with dogs'. Dorset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner were pleased to note that the offender received a significant fine and a criminal record.
- The PCC has responded to the consultation by the Sentencing Council on hare coursing guidelines highlighting the need for changes to the outdated legislation including higher levels of harm factors for impact on victims as well as the wildlife, higher sentence levels, additional aggravating factors, and the use of ancillary orders such as dog disqualification orders.

Heritage Crime

- The PCC added Heritage Crime to the Police and Crime Plan as a priority area in the refreshed Police and Crime Plan. The PCC lobbied local MPs to raise the need for Historic England to be recognised as a statutory body in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Historic England is the government's statutory adviser on the historic environment; championing historic places and helping people to understand, value and care for them – including introducing and promoting the prevention of heritage crime.
- Through the PARC, Dorset Police have begun to work with Historic England to improve the flagging and monitoring of heritage crime offences.



FOCUS ON

FLY-TIPPING

THROUGH THE DORSET PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME (PARC), THE OPCC WORK TOGETHER WITH A RANGE OF AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING BCP AND DORSET COUNCILS, DORSET POLICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, TO TARGET AND REDUCE FLY-TIPPING AND THE ASSOCIATED CHALLENGES THAT CAUSE HARM TO WILDLIFE.

Fly-tipping is the illegal disposal of household, industrial, commercial or other 'controlled' waste - which includes garden refuse and larger domestic items such as fridges and mattresses.

In April 2024, the OPCC co-funded an Assistant Enforcement Officer (AEO) role within Dorset Council to attend incidents of fly-tips, obtain evidence, investigate and make a case for a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to be issued. Investigations have also led to vital intelligence being gathered and vehicles used in offending being seized and destroyed. The AEO post has enabled a more proactive approach to environmental crime because there are now greater evidence gathering opportunities that were not possible before.

There are a number of priorities for the PARC including, targeting resources effectively to enable landowners and farmers to reduce risks of fly-tipping and promote awareness of advice and support. The AEO has worked to establish connections with private landowners such as Lulworth Estate, Gascoyne and Ilchester Estates, the National Trust and is working closely with their teams, issuing signage and informing them of how the AEO can assist partners in driving down incidents of fly-tipping.

Since the introduction of the AEO role, there has been a significant increase in the number of reports of fly-tipping due to increased awareness on how to report. Also,

as a result of the work, there has been a 78 per cent increase in FPN's issued and a large increase for household waste duty of care applications. This post has been a great asset in tackling fly-tipping and the OPCC has agreed to continue the funding for another year to ensure further development and improvements in this area. The OPCC will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the post and the work being carried out.



PRIORITY 5

PUT VICTIMS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

TO HAVE AN EMBEDDED 'VICTIM FIRST' PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOME FOR THOSE WHO NEED HELP AND SUPPORT. TO WORK WITH VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE ISSUES SUCH AS FRAUD, ADDICTION, GAMBLING AND HOMELESSNESS. TO PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND BUILD ON PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES THAT ADDRESS PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION.

Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice

- In January 2025, a new service provider for the restorative justice contact was sought. Restorative Solutions will be providing help and advice to victims of crime later in 2025.
- As well as restorative justice cases, for post-conviction serious crimes, the current service has delivered a range of awareness raising courses on topics such as retail crime, hate crime, and assaults on emergency workers for lower-level offences through referrals via the Force's adult out of court resolution route.

Hate Crime

- The OPCC senior management team became members of a Dorset Police working group to deliver the Police Race Action Plan.
- Following the Chief Constable's acceptance of Institutional Racism, the OPCC became members of the Police Race Action Plan working group, the purposes of which, in line with the national plan, is to help build a police service that is anti-racist and trusted by Black people. This local (and national) focus is because Black people are over-policed, under-protected, under-represented and have more negative experiences of policing in Dorset both internally and externally, and Dorset Police is unable to explain why. The working group is helping to drive through a programme of work, further detail of which can be found on the [Dorset Police website](#).

- The OPCC continue to work with Dorset Police to build connections with community groups. The PCC and representatives from the OPCC met with Community Action Network and Dorset Police to discuss outcomes from focus groups held during 2024 and ideas for initiatives and collaboration going forward to reduce offending and support victims.
- The OPCC continue to work with the People First Forum and jointly fund, along with BCP, the Independent Learning Disability Advisor and Witness Preparation and Profiling Service. This service provides appropriate support and guidance to enable individuals with learning disabilities that have been impacted by crime and anti-social behaviour to access the justice system, give their best evidence in court and feel safer within their communities.

- After a period of review, the Hate Crime Awareness Course, offered as an out of court resolution through the OPCC Restorative Justice contract with Restorative Solutions, continued this year. This course is based on restorative principles and works with offenders to reflect on their actions and understand the consequences of their behaviour with a view to reducing further offending.

Victims and Communities First Philosophy

- New commissioned services have been put in place in order to support victims of crime, with carefully chosen expert providers. The work of Victim Support has been secured to give tailored, practical support to those in need for the next five years.

- The OPCC continued to work with the Police, Ministry of Justice and other criminal justice partners to ensure the best possible service is provided to victims of crime, in line with the Code of Practice to Victims of Crime and the 12 rights that victims are entitled to under the Victims and Prisoners Law 2024.

- The OPCC provided updates on the Use of Police and Powers Scrutiny Panel to Dorset Police for review and action, as required, ensuring learning is taken on board and appropriate action taken.

Support for Young People

- The PCC contributed £81,927 to the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. This funding has enabled the delivery of interventions to prevent young people reoffending. The OPCC has continued to be an active member of the Youth Justice Board which has oversight of the Youth Justice Service, ensuring the best possible outcomes for the children and young people supported by this service.
- The PCC continues to fund prevention education initiatives for the children and young people of Dorset. This has included education provided by the Safer Schools Team, Talk about Trust who have delivered education related to addiction and substance use, and STAR's who have provided education on consent.

Vulnerability

- The OPCC jointly funded an interactive 'Keeping Safe' event for adults and young people with learning disabilities. The event

covered a range of topics including safe places, hate crime and how to recognise fraud, the role of a PCSO, Police and the use of drones as well as a visit from the local Fire and Rescue Service.

- OPCC funded an awareness raising film for the 'Herbert Protocol', particularly focused on helping police find individuals with dementia or other cognitive conditions who have gone missing. The Herbert Protocol involves carers and family members completing a form in advance with detailed information about the person, which can be readily provided to the police if a missing person situation arises. This pre-gathered information helps expedite the search and locate the person more efficiently.

- The National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person has been fully implemented by Dorset Police. It is a framework for how the police and health services should improve the response to people with mental health needs. Dorset Police has agreed with local health partners the process to deliver this in Dorset and all four phases have been implemented.

- The PCC provided a funding contribution of £25,000 a year, for two years for Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTRs). MHTRs are one of three types of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements used by the courts with offenders, the other two are Alcohol treatment Requirements and Drug rehabilitation requirements and either of these can be combined with a MHTR to support the offenders needs and reduce the risk of reoffending.





FOCUS ON

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

AS PART OF THE PCC'S COMMITMENT TO PROACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND LISTENING TO THEIR VIEWS, A YOUTH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. THIS STRATEGY OUTLINES THE PCC'S COMMITMENT TO CO-CREATE SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND HELPS TO EMBED THE NATIONAL CHILD CENTRED POLICING STRATEGY.

This strategy sets out a three-year plan to build on existing, well-established structures which support decision makers to listen to the voice of children and young people across Dorset. We are committed to getting things right so we will ensure we grow our approach, allowing time for regular evaluations and improvements.

We have worked with partners to create a strategy which works with well-established groups who are already creating safe spaces for young people to share their voice with trusted adults. This approach helps us to

listen to a wider breadth of voice and the voice of marginalised young people who may not normally feel safe to share their views with policing bodies.

To ensure the OPCC's **Youth Participation Strategy** is meaningful for young people, voice is not enough. We will strive to facilitate a two-way ongoing conversation where young people see their influence on decision making. As part of our approach, the PCC has committed to creating a feedback loop by responding to children and young people through regular "You Said, We did" updates.



PRIORITY 6

MAKING EVERY PENNY COUNT

RAISING AWARENESS AROUND ISSUES OF POLICE FUNDING, ESPECIALLY AROUND THE NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA. TO MAXIMISE EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY IN POLICING, TO ENSURE THAT THE ROBUST OVERSIGHT OF FINANCIAL, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS CONTINUE.

Funding

- The OPCC was successfully awarded funding totalling £560,000 from the Home Office to deliver year 2 of the Immediate Justice Scheme and expand the remit to wider cohorts, including young people, through partnership with the Dorset Youth Justice Service.
- The OPCC continued working with local authorities to deliver successful initiatives under the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, with year 2 funding totalling £319,000. The OPCC originally bid in partnership with the local authorities to enable us to deliver a wide range of preventative initiatives to help keep woman and girls safe within the night-time economy.
- In partnership with Dorset Police the OPCC was awarded £1million from the Home Office Hotspot Policing Fund. This fund saw targeted patrols delivered in hotspot areas identified through data analysis.
- The PCC spoke with Dorset's MPs and issued a public statement outlining the challenges that the outdated police funding formula caused Dorset. Force and OPCC Executive also raised concerns that the anticipated use of the funding formula to cover mandated national insurance increases would result in further shortfalls for Dorset.

Efficiency

- Following the completion of the new Police HQ building, the OPCC Treasurer reviewed and updated the Capital Receipts Strategy, allowing the method of paying back its capital borrowing to better recognise the

significantly longer life of this notable asset rather than follow the normal asset lifespan projection of 10 years.

EVR

- Dorset Police's Enhanced Video Response (EVR) initiative, which allows victims to speak to Dorset Police officers via video chat, has led to quicker arrests and higher positive outcome rates since being launched. Since being trialled in 2023 and its formal launch the following year, 11,254 victims have requested to use EVR, which gives the public greater choice in how they would like to interact with Dorset Police. This is particularly important for some victims, who may not want a police officer or marked police car at their home.

Philosophy and Co-operation

- Following re-election, the PCC undertook a review of the Police and Crime Plan to ensure it still represents his strategic direction and is reflective of the concerns of the communities we serve. Updates to the Plan included, specific areas for key topical issues, such as; Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Heritage Crime, and updates relating to the work surrounding substance misuse.
- The PCC and members of the OPCC Senior Management Team attended the annual Southwest Police Collaboration planning day. At this event, PCCs across the region discussed how collaboration and sharing of intelligence is not only tackling complex cross-border issues, and building safer communities, it is providing opportunities to work together to deal with topical local and national issues.

FOCUS ON

BUDGET OUTTURN

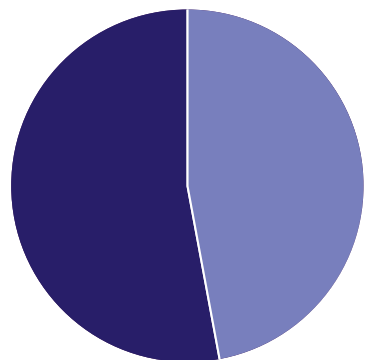
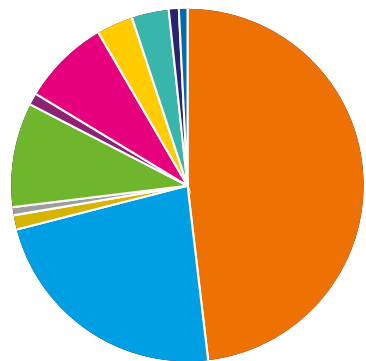
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £m

Police Officer Pay & Allowances	103.4
Police Staff Pay & Allowances	51.4
Police Pension (Injury and Ill Health)	2.6
Training & Development	1.6
Premises	20.8
Transport	2.4
Supplies & Services (e.g. IT services, licence fees, equipment, uniform and other office costs)	17.3
Capital & Borrowing Costs, contribution to reserves	7.1
Regional and National Collaborations	7.5
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	1.8
PCC Commissioning and Grant Funding	1.6
Total Expenditure	217.5
Specific Grants and Income	-34.8
TOTAL	£182.7

FUNDING SOURCES £m

Government Core Grant	86
Council Tax Precept	96.7

Net Revenue Budget £182.7



	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
2024/25 Charge	£195.72	£228.34	£260.96	£293.58	£358.82	£424.06	£489.30	£587.16
Annual Increase	£9.33	£10.89	£12.44	£14.00	£17.11	£20.22	£23.33	£28.00
2025/26 Charge	£205.05	£239.23	£273.40	£307.58	£375.93	£444.28	£512.63	£615.16

ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

THIS IS THE EIGHTH ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT, DESIGNED TO ALLOW GREATER TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF THE PCC'S CURRENT ENGAGEMENT APPROACH, EMPOWERING RESIDENTS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN GENERATING NEW IDEAS TO BRING POLICING MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE HEART OF ALL COMMUNITIES IN DORSET.

The PCC acts as the representative and voice of local people and aims to ensure that communities receive a dynamic and responsive police service. Various methods are adopted to engage, consult and inform residents that the policing by consent model operating in Dorset, and across the UK, is supported by both the PCC and his office.

What did we do in 2024/25?






Over the last year we have conducted several surveys with Dorset's residents and communities including Precept, Violence Against Women and Girls and our Annual Community Safety survey. Responses to surveys have helped guide OPCC investments in tackling anti-social behaviour, with Operation Track, and shoplifting with the creation of Operation Shopkeeper, which has seen a dedicated police unit created to target

persistent, prolific thieves as well as ensure undercover operations take place in hotspot areas to catch offenders in action.

Those who engage with the OPCC have also been able to influence work being done to help protect women and girls from violence ensuring that funding secured by the OPCC under the Safer Streets scheme has been put into education and training, CCTV in popular night-time economy areas and ID scanners to increase the detection of fake IDs, to help stop underage drinking.

The Commissioner regularly attends community group meetings, conferences, face-to-face meetings and events across the county and directly engages with residents and stakeholders to ensure there are opportunities to find out more about the work of the OPCC.

Our Social Media

 2,900 FOLLOWERS	 118,549 WEBSITE VIEWS
 6,700 FOLLOWERS	 OVER 9,000 local residents receive regular news and newsletters via the Dorset Alert system. You can sign up here .
 842 FOLLOWERS	

ALSO THIS YEAR

Our Engagement

- There have been eight scrutiny panels held. These panels are administered by the OPCC and attended by independent members of the public, to help the PCC hold Dorset Police to account. With residents being actively involved and participating in the process, it ensures scrutiny is thorough and takes into account the experiences of diverse groups across Dorset.
- Residents can engage directly with the OPCC via telephone, website contact forms and by post. In 2024/25, the OPCC was contacted 3686 times by members of the public. The nature of public correspondence received is wide-ranging, from general comments to requests for information.
- There have been 85 PCC newsletters written and dozens of press articles, comments and opinion pieces written on a wide variety of policing issues over the last year. All of the newsletters are available on the PCC's website and were sent out to almost 9,000 Dorset Alert members. The PCC has also appeared in over 20 videos talking about a range of policing issues.
- The PCC joined members of Dorset Police to broadcast live-streamed engagement events

to talk with members of the public about the precept, and policing in both the BCP and Dorset areas. The PCC also led a scrutiny/feedback group session with Dorset Alert members to discuss precept and policing in 2025.

- The OPCC has grown and improved its social media reach this year by joining more Facebook community groups and sharing information about surveys and funding opportunities with the aim of reaching beyond our most engaged with audiences.
- Our engagement, in all its forms, helps the PCC to raise the issues that are important to the public directly with the chief constable. Indeed, all of our communications in 2025 will take inspiration from the top five issues our residents and communities have told us are priorities for them namely, anti-social behaviour, illegal drug use and associated crime, burglary and theft, knife crime, violent crime and VAWG/sexual assault/rape/stalking.
- The feedback we receive has led to changes in force systems and processes, as well as investment and resourcing in areas of policing that matter to the residents and communities of Dorset.



GOVERNANCE & SCRUTINY

Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel

- The Use of Police Powers and Standards (UPPS) Scrutiny Panel has been established as the independent overarching scrutiny panel. The panel meets quarterly to discuss issues such as the disproportionality of stop and search and use of force activity, public contact through the 101 and 999 service, and complaints handling by Dorset Police.
- The Force has its own Independent Scrutiny Panel which reports into UPPS on the outcome of their review and independent scoring of Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of stop and search and use of force cases. A member of the UPPS is also a member of this panel. This provides the panel with additional assurance. Additionally, a sub-group of panel members independently dip sample complaints against the Force on a quarterly basis, with feedback from this group contributed to the decision by Dorset Police to increase resource in the Professional Standards Department focussing on making customer service improvements.
- The Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Sub-Group also reports into the UPPS panel. The group comprising partners working in the field as well as OPCC volunteers scrutinises a dip sample of 101/999 calls and scores these based on how they feel the member of the public has been treated.

Out of Courts Resolution (OOCR) Scrutiny Panel

- The OPCC also administers the Out of Court Resolutions (previously Out of Courts Disposals) Scrutiny Panel which meets quarterly and considers a sample of cases of Out of Court Resolutions to determine if they are appropriate. OOCRs allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offences including child offenders, thus preventing their entry into the formal criminal justice system.
- The panel has continued to follow best

practice by scrutinising cases on themes agreed by members beforehand, such as cases involving women and ethnically diverse individuals, cases involving possession of weapons, assaults of emergency service workers and cases involving Restorative Justice.

- The panel will also consider cases selected at random to ensure clear objectivity. Over the past 12 months the panel had been pleased to note the improvements in the Performance Update reports.

- Feedback from both the UPPS and OOCR Scrutiny Panels helps to inform how Dorset Police might further improve the service it provides and helps to increase transparency and public confidence in the police.

Independent Custody Visiting Panel

- It is a statutory duty for every PCC to have an Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Panel. Volunteers from local communities, who are security cleared and trained, make unannounced visits to detainees held in police custody to ensure their rights have been given and to check on their welfare. These visits can take place at any time, day or night. During the 2024/25 year, there have been 104 visits made, with 18 per cent taking place between the hours of 21:00 and 09:00. During the visits 303 detainees were spoken to.
- The past year has seen two refresher training sessions provided to ICVs as well as delivery of an induction session for six new ICVs.

Complaint Reviews

- To ensure the PCC is satisfied Dorset Police are handling complaints appropriately, the OPCC commissions the service of a Complaints Review Officer who has responsibility for reviewing complaints if the complainant is dissatisfied once the case has been closed by Dorset Police.

There has been a total of 105 complaint review requests during the 2024/25 period, with 75 per cent determined to have been dealt with appropriately. In those cases that are determined not to have been dealt with appropriately, recommendations are made to the Force so that the correct steps can be taken.

- Feedback from the complaint reviews contributed to the decision by the Force to introduce further resource into the Professional Standards Department to focus on making improvements to customer service.

PCC Challenge

- The PCC continues to receive updates on performance relating to a previous challenge issued to the Chief Constable regarding stop and search disproportionality. This year the Chief Constable acknowledged institutional racism within Dorset Police and launched the Dorset Police Race Action Plan, which was co-designed with both internal and external Black communities, demonstrating their commitment to deliver positive change.
- This decision was based on a broad evidence base, including the examination of data, listening to what had been shared in focus groups, learning about the experiences of ethnically diverse colleagues and hearing

what Dorset's Black communities have said. The PCC and the OPCC team will continue to monitor progress being made against the Race Action Plan.

Police and Crime Panel

- Dorset Council has responsibility for the Dorset Police and Crime Panel held four times a year. The panel members primarily focus their attention on important strategic actions and decisions made by the PCC. In February 2025, the panel approved plans for this year's policing precept.

Independent Audit Committee

- The Independent Audit Committee meets on a quarterly basis and provides comment, advice and assurance on matters relating to the internal control environment of the Force and the OPCC. It has oversight of general governance matters and comments on any new or proposed PCC policies, strategies or changes to existing relevant policies and strategies which, in the opinion of the Chief Financial Officers, are significant with regards to financial risk and probity. The Committee is comprised of five independent members recruited for their skills and expertise in the area. The reports made to each committee meeting are publicly available on our [website](#).





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