

Making a Difference

Annual Report 2020-21



Foreword

Welcome

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2020-21. This document is intended to provide a summary of the key work undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and his office during the final, additional, year of 2016-2021 term. If you would like to find out further information about the activity carried out between 2016 and 2021, a comprehensive report can be found [here](#).

As was the case last year, COVID-19 continued to pose a significant challenge for policing. It was heartening to witness the way that Dorset Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) responded to a fast-moving and unprecedented set of circumstances.

For our part, the Office continued to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 and worked closely with partner agencies to ensure that vital services received the required direction and funding. Furthermore, following the Government's decision to postpone the PCC elections scheduled for May 2020, the PCC agreed to remain in post for an additional twelve months. With the delayed election having taken place in May 2021, the OPCC will be working with the new PCC to develop and launch his Police and Crime Plan before the year is out.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the officers, staff and volunteers of Dorset Police and the Dorset OPCC during this past challenging year. The dedication and selflessness shown by our frontline – often putting themselves in harms way – was especially inspirational to observe.

Simon Bullock
Chief Executive, Dorset OPCC

Protecting People at Risk of Harm



PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK
OF HARM

Vulnerability
Prevention
Early
Intervention

Mental Health
Drugs
Alcohol

National Issues
Local
Approaches

Police & Crime Plan:

“Protecting the public from harm is, and will always be, a core police duty. However, the demands placed on the police have shifted greatly in recent years and resources need to be effectively targeted on the basis of threat, risk and harm.”

Headlines:

- The Adult Early Intervention Interview service provided support for more than 800 people
- A review of the range of extracurricular support for schools was completed
- Funding was secured for the Drive Programme, an innovative scheme with a track record in reducing reoffending among domestic abuse perpetrators. This [launched](#) in February
- In mid-April, the PCC launched an extraordinary funding scheme to support charities affected by the COVID-19
- Funding provided for free mental health workshops aimed at emergency services personnel
- Action for Children mentoring project was extended until December 2020
- Release of BCP Citizens Advice Bureau Hate Crime reporting video, funded by the PCC Community Grant Scheme
- Total Commissioning Spend for this Pillar in 2020/21 = **£313k**

Making a Difference:

- People feeling safe in Dorset = 96%
- Increased public confidence in reporting hate crime, hate crime incidents, domestic abuse crime and domestic abuse incidents.

Focus On: Protecting Vulnerable People from Crime



The Chief Constable and PCC shared the ambition for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to class Dorset Police as 'outstanding' in their support of vulnerable people.

The PCC continued to work closely with the Force, central government, local councils, health, and the voluntary and charity sector to improve crime prevention and community safety services to the most vulnerable and at-risk groups in Dorset. This included providing support and funding to relevant schemes and initiatives.

In particular, the Force and OPCC worked together to deliver the Force Vulnerability Action Plan, which is a substantial programme focused on [improving police processes, services and outcomes to vulnerable people](#) across operational service delivery.

“Violence and particularly violence against vulnerable people remains among our highest priorities in Dorset.” **James Vaughan QPM, Chief Constable**

Focus On: Reducing the Incidence of Missing People

The Dorset Police Adult Early Intervention Team (AEIT) was set up in May 2020 with funding for the first year provided by the PCC. Such was the success of the team's work that the Force continued to provide funding thereafter.

The team contact adults who have been located by the police or have otherwise returned home after having been reported as missing. In depth interviews are carried out to understand the reason the person went missing, report any harm they experienced while they were missing, and help them address the issues behind the episode to reduce the chances of it happening again.

Complicated cases are kept under constant review and are referred to other organisations who can provide the necessary help, including access to mental health services.

The team has looked into 2,000 incidents of people who have gone missing and has intervened in more than 800 cases in which people were either at risk of attempting suicide or causing themselves harm.



Working with our Communities



WORKING WITH OUR
COMMUNITIES

Road Safety

Cyber-crime

Engagement

Problem
Solving

Police & Crime Plan:

"An essential part of the PCC's role involves acting as a link between the public and the police, and also as a facilitator in bringing local partners together to tackle shared priorities, issues and concerns. The OPCC continues to work with Dorset Police and other agencies... to keep our communities safe and to engage with community members to help them... tackle the issues most affecting them."

Headlines:

- The second [Bobby Van](#), having been kitted out accordingly and with a new operator appointed, became operational by the end of the financial year
- Continued work to raise awareness about [cyber-crime and staying safe online](#)
- Worked to [install CCTV equipment](#) in eight areas which have been directly affected by crime in Bournemouth has been implemented
- ASB survey was undertaken to understand the public's views of the current issues; with funding made available to address issues
- Published an [Annual Engagement Report](#) outlining consultation and engagement activity
- Continued work on the [Neighbourhood Engagement Contracts](#)
- Commissioning Spend for this Pillar in 2020/21 = **£442k**

Making a Difference:

- Total road casualties reduced in 2020 compared with the previous year.
- Over 9700 responses to PCC-led [public consultations](#)

Focus On: Making Streets Safer

In July 2020 the OPCC, supported by partners, won Home Office funding reduce acquisitive crime and burglary in disproportionately affected areas.

The funding was used in the Pokesdown and Boscombe area of Bournemouth, and covered three core areas:

The Bobby Van – which provides home security improvements, such as fitting new locks and additional lighting. The Operators also offer crime prevention advice and reassurance to vulnerable victims.

CCTV Infrastructure – CCTV can be hard to achieve outside of town centres, and so this scheme allowed BCP Council to install extra CCTV cameras on key routes.

Strengthening Communities – further neighbourhood watches have been implemented. These help improve community ownership and improve knowledge of crime prevention techniques among the community.



“The Bobby Van is an exciting service we offer to not only prevent repeat burglary offences, but also support those who have been victims.”

Simon Bullock, Chief Executive

Focus On: Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

In summer 2020 the PCC launched a consultation on ASB to establish local people's views. Almost 4,000 people responded to the survey, with around half providing comments – many referring to longstanding frustrations concerning issues such as car parking, dog fouling, noise complaints and littering.

Members of the public also reported concerns around drink and drug-related ASB, particularly in town centres.



In response to the survey, the PCC worked with Dorset Police and other agencies to introduce a range of new initiatives. This has included improved communication and signposting on the Force website, as well as extending funding to [Community Safety Accreditation Schemes](#) operating throughout Dorset. The PCC also made funding available for all of Dorset's Business Improvement Districts so that they could implement a wide range of measures within Dorset's retail areas.



Supporting Victims, Witnesses & Reducing Reoffending



SUPPORTING VICTIMS,
WITNESSES & REDUCING
REOFFENDING

Victims &
Witnesses

Offender
Management
Rehabilitation

Restorative
Justice

Police & Crime Plan:

“Support for victims and witnesses of crime was a priority between 2012 and 2016 and remains just as important now. The OPCC works with the Chief Constable to provide a policing service that is valued by people in Dorset and in particular by victims of crime. This theme also looks at offending and steps that can be taken to break the cycle of reoffending and rehabilitate our most prolific and regular offenders.”

Headlines:

- STARS Dorset were [awarded a seven-year contract](#) to provide an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service in the county
- Secured approximately £200,000 from the MOJ Extraordinary Victims Funding – providing emergency support to vital domestic abuse and sexual violence services in the county
- The contract for pan-Dorset Restorative Justice service was awarded
- Funding also agreed for a one-year contract to enhance offender tag provision in support of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team
- Compliance review progressed on the updated Victims Code of Practice
- Commissioning Spend for this Pillar in 2020/21 = **£1.7m**

Making a Difference:

- Approaching 16,000 support cases created by [Victim Support](#) in 2020/21
- At the same time, just under 34,000 contacts were made by the [Victims' Bureau](#)
- 71.7% victim satisfaction with their ‘whole experience’ after reporting a crime

Focus On: Restorative Justice

Having funded the Dorset Restorative Justice Service for over three and a half years, in late 2020 the service was re-tendered. Following the benchmarking of services in other areas, and consultation with stakeholders, the invitation to tender was published in December 2020.

The Dorset Restorative Justice Service supports victims of any crime committed by adults. All cases are considered on a case-by-case basis and regularly reassessed for risk. This service also provides a hate crime intervention for Dorset.

Restorative Solutions, who run restorative services in six other PCC areas, were successful and have been providing the new service in Dorset since May 2021.

The new service works with a wide range of partners to ensure appropriate support is provided to both victims and offenders, where needs are identified.



Case Study: Supporting Victims of Sexual Violence

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provide practical and emotional support, information and guidance to people in Dorset who have experienced any form of sexual violence, helping them make an informed decision about their options when everything can feel confusing and out of control.

PCCs co-commission ISVA contracts alongside NHS England, and arrangement with has existed for several years. This contract was expired in March 2021, having been extended by one year due to COVID-19.



Cllr Molly Rennie and STARS Manager Helen Stevens

In October 2020 the OPCC launched the opportunity for providers to bid for the ISVA contract and, following a detailed evaluation process, the new contract was awarded to [STARS Dorset](#) for seven years. The contract includes a service for adults, children and young people, and has a specific ISVA for male victims. The service is free and inclusive to all. STARS Dorset have facilities in Poole and Dorchester, but can also provide support to clients who cannot travel to these locations.

Transforming for the Future



TRANSFORMING FOR THE
FUTURE

Funding &
Resources

Technology

Innovation &
Service
Improvement

Police & Crime Plan:

“This theme looks at the PCC’s roles and responsibilities in ensuring that Dorset Police operates as efficiently and effectively as possible – both now and in the future. The main strands here are focused on: people; information and communication technology; innovation and improvement; and partnerships and collaboration.”

Headlines:

- Annual Council Tax Precept consultation undertaken
- The OPCC secured a [CoPaCC Transparency Award 2021](#) – being one of only 18 areas to be highly commended
- The PCC called for [early vaccination of police](#) and public sector workers. The OPCC also undertook a further extraordinary scrutiny process of fixed penalty notices
- Following a survey into residents’ views on ASB, the PCC provided funding for local initiatives designed to reduce crime and ASB in ‘hotspot’ areas
- Played an active part in Force health and wellbeing planning; new ways of working; and future agile working plans. Supported the national #unacceptable campaign

Making a Difference:

- [Independent Custody Visitors](#) continued to visit detainees throughout the pandemic
- OPCC [Scrutiny Panels](#) met 16 times in 2020/21; ongoing PCC scrutiny of Force performance, budget and finances, and Covid-19 response
- Inspectorate rates Dorset Police as [‘GOOD’ overall](#)

Focus On: Supporting National Forensics

Following a successful engagement and consultation process involving, the Home Office funded Forensics Capability Network (FCN) was launched in April 2020 to improve provision of forensic services in policing such as DNA and fingerprint evidence.

The FCN is hosted by Dorset, on behalf of the forces in England and Wales, and supports more than 4,000 forensic science specialists with critical technology, advice and services. The journey to setting up the FCN included the creation of the Transforming Forensics Programme under Dorset's previous Chief Constable Debbie Simpson. The Dorset PCC provided important governance and oversight of this extremely complex national portfolio of work.

“...in coordinating resources on a national basis (via the FCN), we are doing things once on behalf of the many, as well as advising on quality standards, and driving innovation.”

Chief Constable James Vaughan QPM

TRANSFORMING
RENSICS
Programme



Focus On: Support & Scrutiny of Force Covid-19 Response

As agreed with the Chief Constable, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with the assistance of the Independent Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel, scrutinised the fines that were issued by Dorset Police for breach of COVID-19 restrictions.

Two such scrutiny processes were undertaken – first in 2020 and again in February 2021.

This work identified that Dorset Police officers had acted reasonably and proportionately. The PCC was assured that, despite the rapid introduction of legislation, officers were using their powers in the way that had been intended.

Surveys undertaken by the PCC also highlighted that an overwhelming majority of Dorset residents supported the stance that the Force had taken to COVID-19 enforcement.



“Dorset Police welcome scrutiny of our policies, process and service delivery...”

Sam de Reya, Assistant Chief Constable

Focus On: 2020-21 Budget Outturn

NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE					
BUDGET V DRAFT OUTTURN 2020/21					
2020/21	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Draft Outturn	Variance fav / (adverse)	Ref
Chief Constable	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Income	(17,539)	(21,652)	(22,922)	1,270	R1
Pay & Employment costs	120,175	120,853	121,565	(712)	R2
Overheads	34,285	38,551	37,261	1,290	R3
Financing & Investment Income	2,349	2,778	3,226	(448)	R4
Total Chief Constable	139,270	140,530	139,130	1,400	
OPCC	2,212	2,257	2,020	237	
Total Net Revenue Expenditure	141,483	142,787	141,150	1,637	
Reserves	132	(1,172)	465	(1,637)	R5
Net Budget	141,615	141,615	141,615	0	

Revenue Forecast Commentary

R1. Three grants were either received late in March or notified after the year end but must be included within the accounts for the year. These include a Covid Grant of nearly £0.5m, a grant towards the costs of ESN both in the current year and future years totalling £0.3m and the Local Tax Income Guarantee Grant of £0.1m which is budgeted for in 2021/22. Most of these grants have been transferred to the Budget Management Reserve. The budget has been increased to reflect PFI income from Fire, offset by an increase in costs within Overheads. Previously these costs were netted off within Overheads.

R2. Pay costs ended the year 0.6% overbudget, primarily as a result of officer overtime which increased as a result of increased sickness and self isolation requirements from Covid 19 and the high levels of demand. The use of the Major Operations Reserve helped to offset some of the costs of operations during the year.

R3. Savings were achieved in supplies and services, transport and IT projects as a result of Covid. The budget has been increased for PFI costs and carry forwards from 19/20.

R4. There were additional contributions to the capital programme from the Uplift Grant to fund the purchase of vehicles and equipment.

R5. Additional grants and carry forward requests resulted in a net contribution to reserves instead of the budgeted use of reserves.

Further Information and Accessibility

You can find out more about our work by visiting our website at:

www.dorset.pcc.police.uk

Or use the quick links below for information on:

[Police & Crime Plan 2017-21](#)

[Budget, Finance & Annual Accounts](#)

[Scrutiny](#)

[Community Engagement](#)

[Dorset Police & Crime Panel](#) (scrutinising and holding the PCC to account)

If you would like a translation of any part of this document, please email us at translation@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Contact Us

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Force Headquarters, Winfrith, Dorset DT2 8DZ

01202 229084

pcc@dorset.pnn.police.uk

