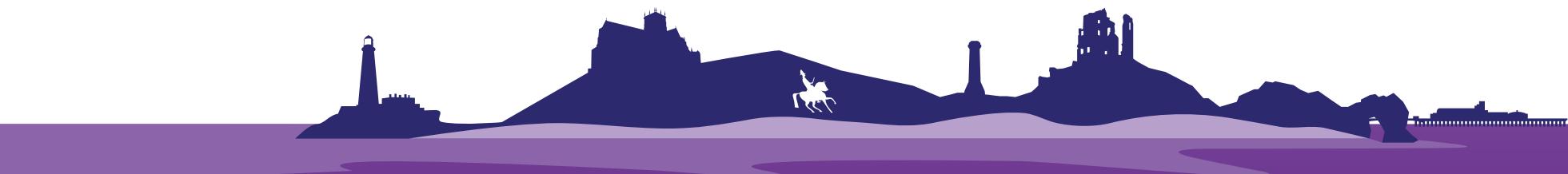




ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



MAKE **DORSET** THE SAFEST COUNTY

CONTENTS

Foreword from the Police and Crime Commissioner	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	8
Priority 3: Fight Violent Crime and High Harm	10
Priority 4: Fight Rural Crime	12
Priority 5: Put Victims and Communities First	14
Priority 6: Make Every Penny Count	16
Budget	17
Annual Engagement Report	18
Also This Year	19
Scrutiny	20



FOREWORD FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT SINCE BEING ELECTED AS DORSET'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, A ROLE THAT I AM PRIVILEGED AND HONOURED TO HOLD.



I hope that you find this document to be an informative and insightful summary of the work undertaken by myself and my team during the 2021/22 financial year.

My Police and Crime Plan was published in October 2021, several months ahead of schedule, and I am delighted with the progress that has been made against the six priorities in my Plan in the months since. This activity will be maintained across the remainder of my term as I continue to deliver on the commitments made within my Plan.

Aside from the launch of my new Police and Crime Plan, there have been a number of other big changes and developments in the last twelve months. Many of these are covered in more detail throughout this report, but I would like to highlight that there have been several senior appointments within Dorset Police since I took office, including a new Chief Constable, Scott Chilton. Chief Constable Chilton has recently launched a new vision for the Force - a safe county for everyone - and has set out a very clear purpose to be tough on crime, keep people safe, and put victims first. His vision dovetails perfectly with my Police and Crime Plan and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the coming years.

I would like to place on record my gratitude to all the officers, staff, PCSOs, Special Constables and volunteers within Dorset Police who show such commitment, professionalism, and skill in their service to the public. Thank you also to the staff and volunteers of my office - the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) - for being so welcoming and for their hard work in helping me to deliver my Plan. Thank you also to the public. I am your voice in policing, so please do continue sharing your views about crime and community safety.

Delivery of my Plan will continue at pace - with additional support for young people, improvements in police connectivity, and various rural crime initiatives among the key areas that will be progressed throughout the upcoming year. I look forward to sharing the successes with you in due course.

DAVID SIDWICK

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

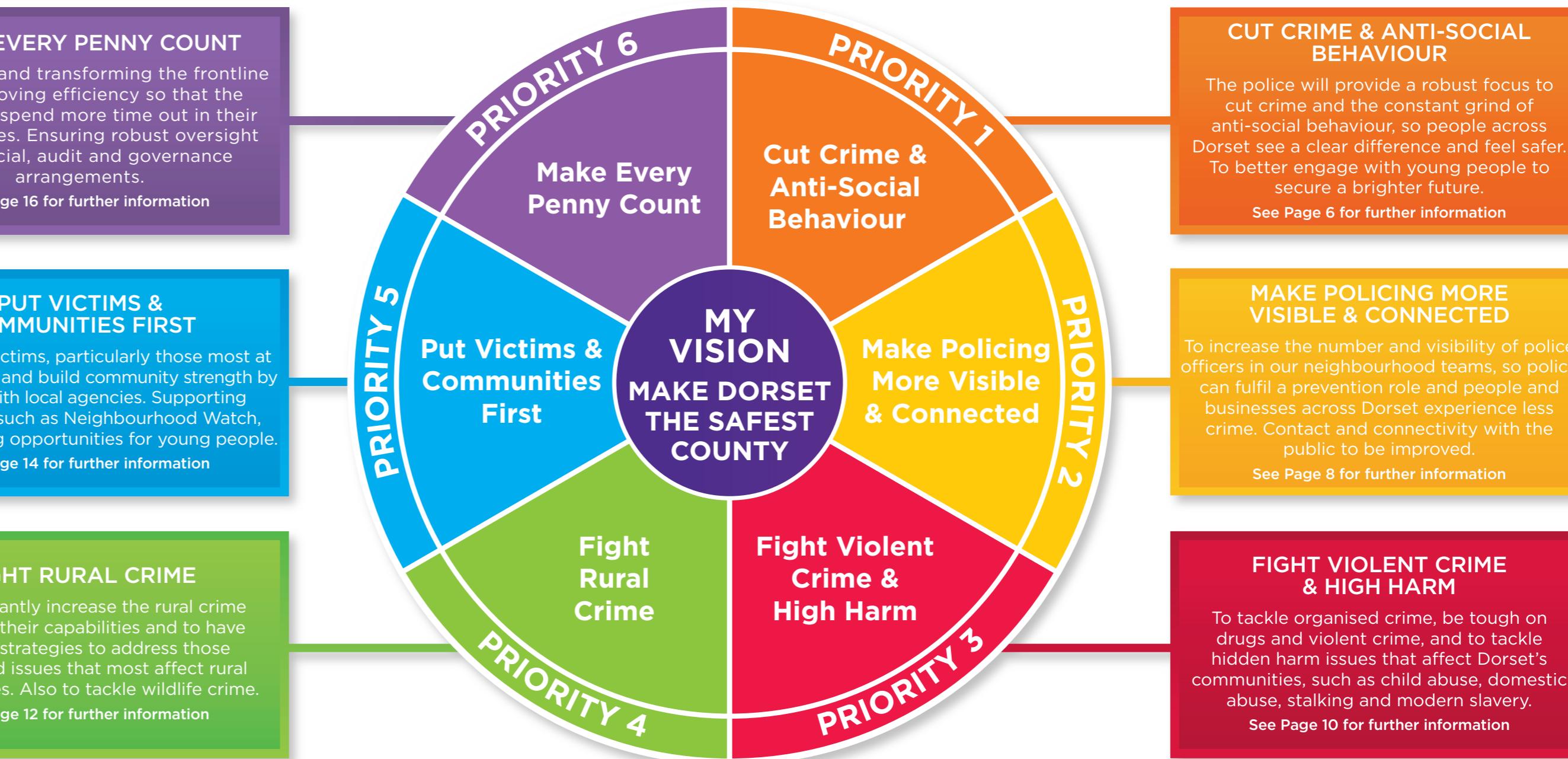
JUNE 2022

THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN

BETWEEN 2018 AND 2021, THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER CONSULTED WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PARTNER AGENCIES TO PUT IN PLACE HIS POLICE AND CRIME PLAN FOR DORSET.



That preparation and study ensured that the Plan's priorities are an accurate reflection of the policing, crime and safety issues that are most important to Dorset's communities.



PRIORITY 1

CUT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- Within his first 100 days in office, the PCC launched the Op Relentless Community Fund to offer the opportunity to local charities and community groups to apply for funding for initiatives that reduce ASB and the fear of ASB.
- Early into the PCC's term, and following close liaison with the Chief Constable, the Force launched an operation focused on ASB for the summer - Operation Relentless - see opposite.
- The PCC has made a number of visits to hotspot areas in Dorset - including parts of Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth - to discuss crime and ASB areas and agree ways in which agencies can work together to improve issues for local communities.

Support for Young People

- Soon after taking office, it was announced that the Dorset Police Cadet Scheme would be expanded to other areas, with the PCC welcoming two new units in Poole and Weymouth.

Road Safety

- The PCC has supported a number of campaigns and initiatives designed to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Dorset roads.
- The PCC has sought reassurance from the Force and other agencies about e-scooter enforcement and safe use. He has reminded members of the public about the relevant laws.

Fraud & Cyber Crime

- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has worked with the Southwest Cyber Resilience Centre to help develop greater awareness of these crimes.
- The PCC commissioned the printing and distribution of fraud leaflets to local community groups and community leaders to raise awareness of crime and offer prevention advice.

Burglary

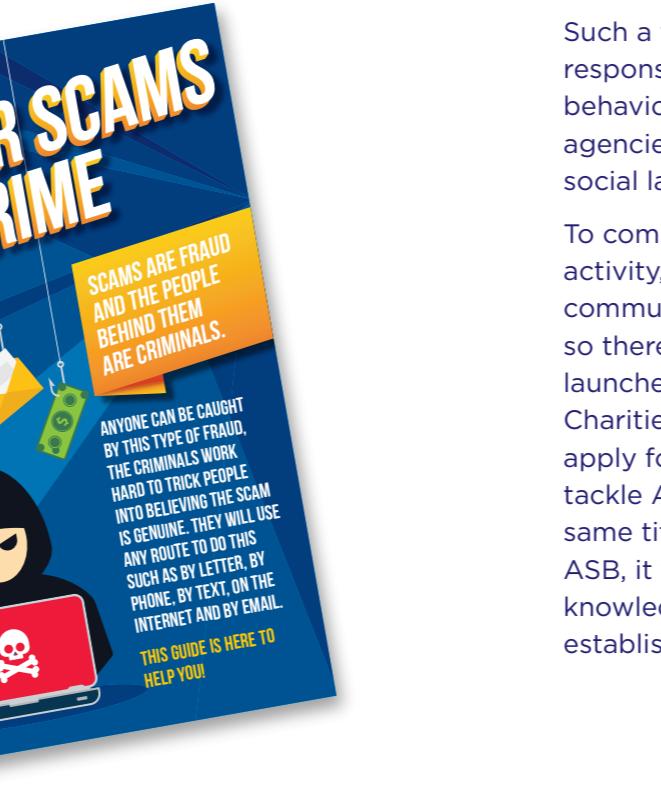
- The OPCC supported Dorset Council in their bid to the Home Office for the Safer Streets Fund. The council was subsequently awarded £379k for additional CCTV infrastructure, a stalking co-ordinator and bystander awareness training.
- The OPCC worked with partner agencies and local businesses to set up the Safer Dorset Business Partnership, which is discussed in further detail later in this document.

Pet Theft

- The PCC lobbied for pet theft to be taken more seriously prior to being elected. He blogged on the issue in June, issuing crime prevention advice. The Force now has designated leads for each local policing area to enhance the police response.

Community Trigger

- The OPCC worked with the Local Authorities to review the pan-Dorset Community Trigger procedures to ensure they're fit for purpose. This resulted in updates to the process to ensure ease of use for victims of ASB and published information on OPCC channels to make communities aware of how to report ASB.



FOCUS ON OPERATION RELENTLESS

Operation Relentless was launched in July 2021 to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) throughout Dorset.

The aim of the operation is to remind residents and visitors that Dorset Police takes a tough approach to ASB and send a clear message to those involved that it simply will not be tolerated.

Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of agencies, including the police, councils and social landlords.

To complement the Op Relentless policing activity, the PCC wished to encourage community empowerment and ownership also, so therefore, in his first 100 days in office, launched the Op Relentless Community Fund. Charities and community groups were invited to apply for funding to support initiatives that tackle ASB in their local area. By adopting the same title as Dorset Police's campaign to tackle ASB, it was able to further expand the knowledge of the scheme, making it more established within local communities.

The fund allowed charities and community groups to apply for up to £5,000 to undertake work and/or engage with communities to reduce ASB and the fear of ASB.

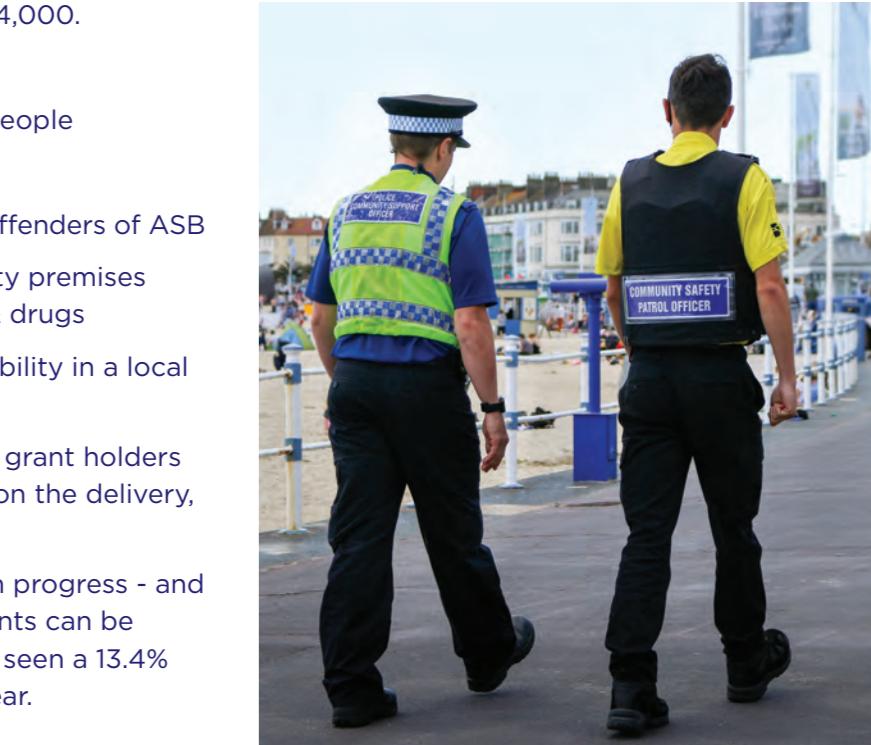
The opportunity was advertised on the PCC's website and published through social media and various other means. The PCC received 20 applications from across Dorset and, following an evaluation process, the decision was made to fund 10 initiatives totalling £34,000.

Initiatives were funded such as:

- Schemes to work with young people
- CCTV Schemes
- Schemes to work with repeat offenders of ASB
- Schemes to secure a community premises which is associated with ASB & drugs
- Schemes to improve Police visibility in a local community

The PCC has visited some of the grant holders and will endeavour to follow up on the delivery, evaluating the success.

While this area remains a work in progress - and the police know that improvements can be made - it is encouraging to have seen a 13.4% reduction in ASB over the last year.



PRIORITY 2

MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE AND CONNECTED

Customer Service

- An audit of the OPCC complaints review handling function was undertaken by the Southwest Audit Partnership. Following significant scrutiny, the report concluded that the auditors had received substantial assurance that the policies and procedures in place were effective and being adhered to in practice. No recommendations were made for improvement.
- It was agreed that Dorset Police would join the Single Online Home web platform, which has now been adopted by the majority of forces in England and Wales.



Engagement and Connectivity

- The PCC launched a survey to consult with the public on early drafts of the Police and Crime Plan. Following this consultation with the public and partner agencies, he published his Police and Crime Plan on 29 October 2021, several months ahead of schedule.
- The PCC and Chief Officers undertook a 'deep dive' of the Force's public contact and engagement to understand areas of strength and weakness. Following this piece of work Chief Officers committed to driving forward improvements in this area.
- Plans to modernise the police estate continue to progress. A key achievement has been the agreement of the architectural plans and successful planning application for the new Winfrith HQ, taking us a step closer to having a greener, and more cost-effective accommodation for our employees.
- The PCC launched a survey to consult with the public on the Precept - the responses were used to inform the decision-making process, with a clear majority of respondents supporting the proposed rise.

Visibility and Uplift

- Of the first tranche of police uplift, 44 out of 50 new police officers were posted to frontline community roles - in line with the public's request for more visible policing in their communities.
- The PCC and Chief Constable announced that Dorset Police is rolling out a new mobile toolkit that provides wireless access to policing systems to replace core paper forms and free up officer time. In other policing areas the introduction of the system, Pronto, is believed to have saved considerable officer time per shift.
- Soon after taking up office, the PCC secured reassurance from the Force that the uplift of new officers in Dorset would be used to maximise community policing and frontline deployment. Alongside this the Force agreed to increase the recruitment intakes for Special Constables by 25%.

Making police more visible and connected is a priority within the Police and Crime Plan.

The public have consistently told the PCC that this is an area of considerable importance to them and the PCC wants to ensure residents know their local police, see them around and can contact them when necessary.

The Estates Futures Programme will consider how police presence can be increased in local stations and behind front desks, as well as how the Force can think more flexibly about making sure officers are out and about, able to see and be seen by the public. This includes the consideration of new options in some of the county's more rural locations, where residents can be especially frustrated about how they can make face-to-face contact with police officers.

Alongside the effective use of the police uplift programme and better mobile technology, a key consideration for the PCC has been the Force estate. Like many forces, Dorset Police has a number of aging buildings, some of which have seen better days. Consequently, the PCC

FOCUS ON

IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY WITH THE PUBLIC

and Chief Constable have agreed a programme of investment in these buildings - Estates Futures. This programme covers both upgrades and improvements to local police stations, as well as the decision to replace the main Winfrith headquarters.

Making investments in local stations through the use of better technology, more lockers and flexible working spaces will help officers reduce their time in stations each shift and will also provide respite areas to help them deal with the aftermath of traumatic incidents.

The current 60-year-old headquarters building at Winfrith costs more to maintain than it would do to knock down and replace with a more energy efficient and sustainable building.

This work is well underway and the PCC looks forward to sharing further news and developments about the Estates Futures programme in the months to come.



PRIORITY 3

FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME AND HIGH HARM

Addiction and Substance Misuse

- The PCC is the joint national lead for the addiction and substance misuse portfolio. He is working with the PCC for Durham to review policy, lobby government and explore the new initiatives to reduce the harmful effects of substance misuse on victims and perpetrators of crime. He welcomed the Government's new strategy for tackling drugs.
 - The PCC has been working and continues to work with his counterparts across the Southwest who have identified addiction and substance misuse as a regional priority. This includes the launch of Op Scorpion, an initiative to make the region a hostile environment for anyone trying to deal drugs.
 - The PCC has challenged the Force on what more can be done to tackle addiction and substance misuse in Dorset.

Performance Reduction

- OPCC has lobbied government in an attempt to access additional funding for a new Violence Reduction Unit and work continues between the OPCC and Dorset Police to scope the requirements and feasibility of implementation.

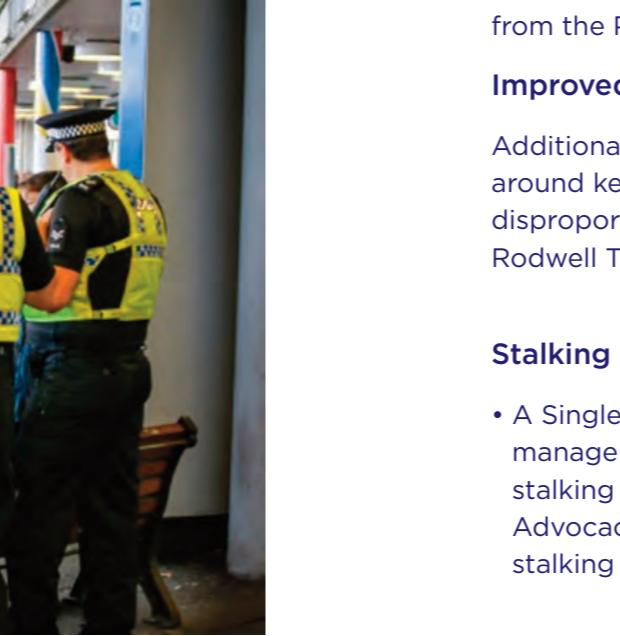
PCC sought reassurance that, after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, there would be a safe return to the night-time economy for women and girls. At his request, the Force undertook a pan-Dorset problem profile on the provision of safe spaces.

 - Op Encompass, which now facilitates the sharing of information with more than 100 agencies across Dorset to ensure that information is shared and that all those involved with the safety of women and girls are involved with the same information.

Domestic Abuse & Stalking

- PCC, in partnership with the local authorities, was successful in being awarded £104,000 for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes, also receiving a funding extension of £104,000 for the Drive Perpetrator programme, a programme which works with high-harm, high risk perpetrators to prevent their behaviours and protect victims.

- ceived PCC funding,
of safeguarding
n 300 schools
importance
ngst colleagues who
guarding of children.



US ON

ENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

er of 2021, the OPCC Community

Office Safer Streets Fund, launched to fund initiatives the prevention of crimes violence against women and misogyny, stalking, drink al assault, and rape.

to work around awareness and
identification of perpetrators.

submitted a bid, with approval
or:

Guardianship

/ infrastructure to be installed
s in Weymouth with
ely high crime rates, including the
d the town centre.

- of Contact to be recruited to
quiries and referrals for victims of
ne ndependent Stalking
eworker (ISAC) service and
i.

In the last year the OPCC also awarded 7-year contracts for our key services, The Shores (SARC), immediate crisis support and services for victims of sexual assault, Sexual Violence Advisor service in Dorset, which provides practical support for victims of sexual



PRIORITY 4

FIGHT RURAL CRIME

Rural Resources

- The PCC, as part of his first 100 days, was successful in gaining initial commitment from the Force to more than double the size of the Rural Crime Team. He and the Chief Constable have a shared ambition to significantly increase this further in the coming months and years.
- The PCC scheduled briefings with the local authorities to discuss unauthorised encampments and a closer working relationship now exists between enforcement authorities.



Country Watch

- The PCC has designed a recognisable Country Watch branding to be used when promoting rural crime initiatives. This will be used on measures, such as signage to deter crime and reassure residents and visitors that these crimes are a priority to the Police. This will be launched in the near future.
- The PCC held a Roundtable event to engage with rural community, including community leaders, police, farmers, rural businesses to establish key areas of priority and concern in relation to rural crime. Following this meeting the OPCC worked towards the implementation of the Rural Crime Reduction Board.

Fly Tipping

- The PCC has proposed to tackle fly-tipping as a theme in the Rural Crime Reduction Board and will explore a range of activities to increase reporting and target perpetrators.
- The partnership that brings together key public agencies, including the OPCC, representative bodies and conservation groups launched the SCRAP fly-tipping campaign.

Wildlife Crime

- The National Farmers Union coalition proposal was supported for tougher legislation to enhance police powers in order to deter and prevent illegal hare coursing. The PCC joined Dorset Police and officers from Wiltshire Police and Hampshire Police on Operation Galileo, a national operation aimed at making life even more difficult for hare coursers.
- The OPCC has worked with the Rural Crime Team to develop a series of rural podcasts, providing funding so that the team can highlight a range of topics, including awareness of wildlife crime issues and associated prevention advice.
- The PCC supported Dorset Police's approach to investigating wildlife crime - speaking out to reinforce that it was entirely appropriate for Force resource to be used to prevent and detect such offences.

The RCRB is attended by a range of agencies including Dorset Council, Dorset Police, Dorset Community Safety Partnership, The Environment Agency, Cornish Mutual, Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils and Association of Dorset Watches.

FOCUS ON

THE RURAL CRIME REDUCTION BOARD

The Rural Crime Reduction Board (RCRB) was implemented in early 2022, with an aim to make Dorset the safest county and lead the way in preventing and reducing rural crime.

The purpose of the Board is to oversee the delivery of the key actions to achieve the outcomes for Priority 4 of the Police and Crime Plan: Fight Rural Crime. The RCRB will act as a conduit for the integration of work with other strategic partnerships, boards, and groups – ensuring clarity of responsibilities and all key priorities are addressed. This will include the development of strategic themes and projects to tackle topical issues, e.g: the prevention of rural crime, rural theft, wildlife crime, fly tipping, and related organised crime, and plans to strengthen rural watch schemes.

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership provide the meeting with an update on their current work with a focus on prevention, sharing intelligence and partnership working to improve communication and engagement within rural communities.

The Board is to meet bi-annually and will work with an agreed action plan to progress the outstanding live actions and current work.

The meeting receives updates from Dorset Police in relation to the improvements made to resourcing the Rural Crime Team and increasing the knowledge base of all staff and officers working in rural localities throughout Dorset.

Updates are also given on regional operational level meetings in place to ensure joint operations, training and working through current trends in partnership.

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership provide the meeting with an update on their current work with a focus on prevention, sharing intelligence and partnership working to improve communication and engagement within rural communities.

The Board is to meet bi-annually and will work with an agreed action plan to progress the outstanding live actions and current work.



PRIORITY 5

PUT VICTIMS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice

- The OPCC completed open recruitment for members of a new over-arching scrutiny meeting – the Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel. This Panel, currently chaired by the PCC, helps to hold the police to account by considering key areas of policing activity and ensuring that actions taken were reasonable and proportionate.
- The OPCC continues to proactively manage the contract for restorative justice services, monitoring delivery and outcomes to ensure maximum value for money and effective support is provided to victims.



Business and Retail Crime

- The PCC is a #ShopKind Champion; taking a supportive role in promoting the joint Home Office and Crime Stoppers campaign that encourages kindness to retail workers. The PCC has promoted the campaign online and has written a blog detailing his plans to address business and retail crime in Dorset.
- The PCC held a Business Crime Roundtable to bring together statutory partners, Business Improvement Districts and local and national businesses to discuss crime, prevention and reporting. This has been developed into the Safer Dorset Business Partnership, as detailed opposite.

Hate Crime

- The PCC supported and provided funding for the Prejudice Free Dorset #No Place for Hate Conference in March 2022. A variety of speakers talked about their lived experiences of prejudice and the opportunity was taken to promote awareness of how to report hate crimes and incidents to Dorset Police.

Victims and Communities

- The PCC met with the Association of Dorset Watches, who co-ordinate neighbourhood watch schemes across the county to understand what they do and subsequently provided a grant to assist in the publication of a newsletter that offered safety and crime prevention advise and also to introduce new schemes across the county.
- The PCC agreed to the extension of the crucial victim services contract, securing the provision for an additional 24 months to 2024.

Vulnerability

- A new service has been set up to ensuring children and vulnerable adults receive the best possible support when being interviewed by the police. The Appropriate Adult Service is being funded by the PCC alongside key partners and is being credited with a clear improvement in this important, but not so visible, aspect of the criminal justice system.
- Through his work as co-lead of the Addiction and Substance Misuse Portfolio, a checklist on problem gambling has been circulated to all PCCs.

FOCUS ON

SAFER DORSET BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Business crime is a priority within the Police and Crime Plan as businesses are affected by a wide range of criminality such as: theft, ASB, cyber-crime and fraud, commercial burglary and violence against shopworkers.

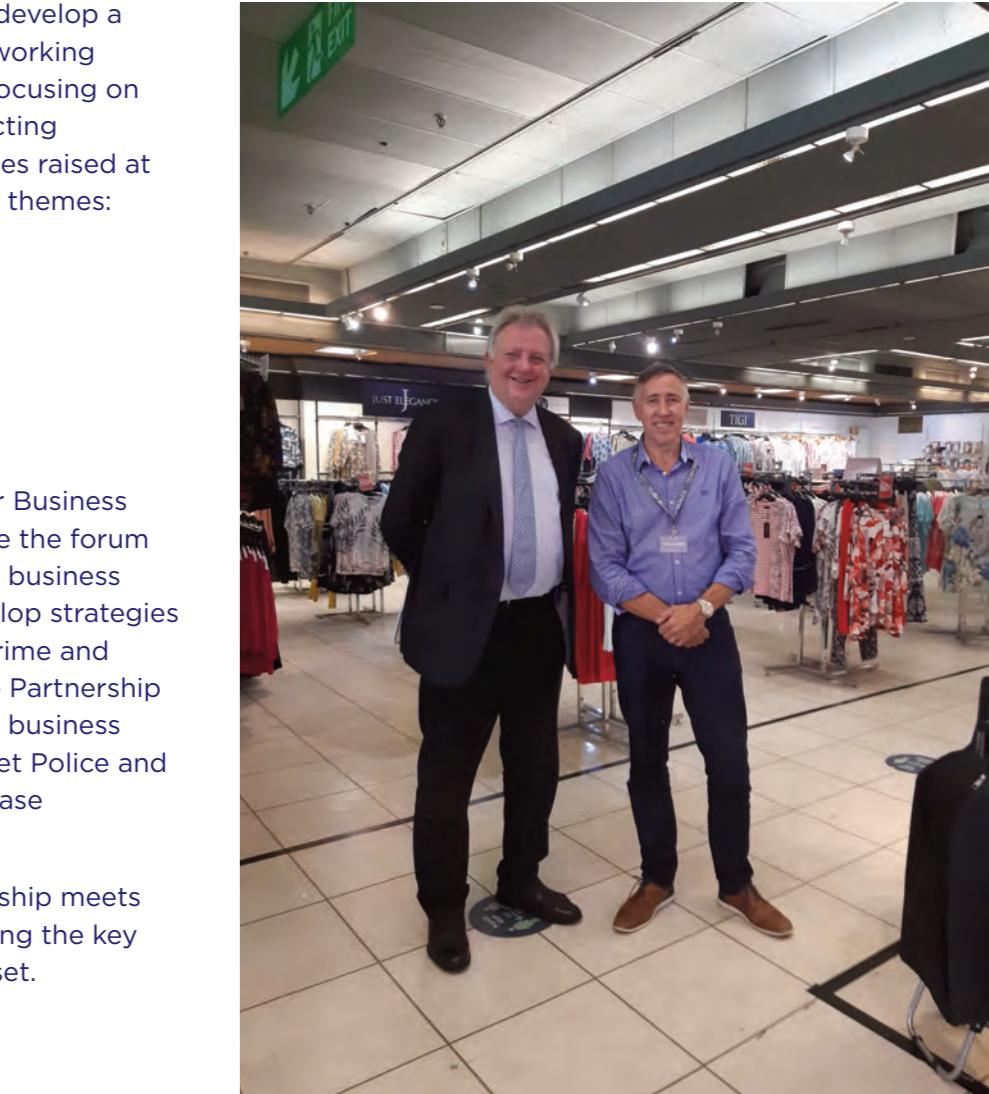
Since taking office, the PCC has engaged with businesses and has been consistently told that this is an area of considerable importance to them and requires improved focus, action and attention in Dorset.

In November 2021, the PCC held a roundtable, bringing him together with Dorset Police's strategic business crime lead, representatives of national and local business groups and local businesses. The roundtable was the first step to bring business leads together to share concerns, raise issues, discuss solutions and more importantly to develop a partnership approach to fighting business crime.

Fighting business crime requires a partnership approach and it is only by working together this can be achieved. Business crime is not a low priority and is not victimless.

The Dorset Safer Business Partnership meets quarterly with the focus on resolving the key issues affecting businesses in Dorset.

Photo:



PRIORITY 6

MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT

Funding

- The OPCC was successful in securing additional grant funding through competitive processes from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to the sum of £588,000.
- The PCC provided detailed briefings to local and national politicians regarding Dorset's funding – with particular focus on the demands caused by violence and drugs use.
- The OPCC completed a review of the existing governance and audit arrangements within the Force and OPCC. This was closely aligned to the recruitment of a new Chief Constable.

Philosophy and Co-operation

- The PCC and his office has worked in partnership with the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnerships to ensure good alignment between the PCC's Plan and the CSPs' strategies.
- The Devon & Cornwall and Dorset PCCs vowed to work closely together to tackle crime and ASB, agreeing to share ideas and best practice.

Efficiency

- The PCC recruited Scott Chilton as the new Chief Constable for Dorset Police, which was supported by the Police and Crime Panel, following the retirement of the previous Chief Constable.
- In partnership with the other regional PCCs, the PCC supported the recruitment of a Regional Policy Officer to work jointly across all areas to bring best practice, collaboration, and efficiencies.
- The Working Together Board was reconvened to ensure that there is good governance and direction for the Strategic Alliance between Dorset Police and Devon & Cornwall Police.

Evidence Based Policing

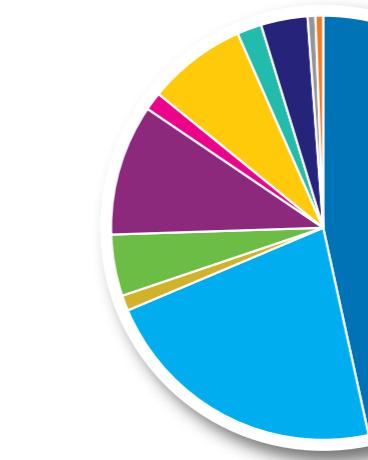
- The PCC has continued to support the Force Innovation Board, with the OPCC Chief Executive serving as Co-Chair on the Board, which provides funding and support to pilot new projects that bring about efficiencies, best practice, and long term cost savings, as devised by the workforce.



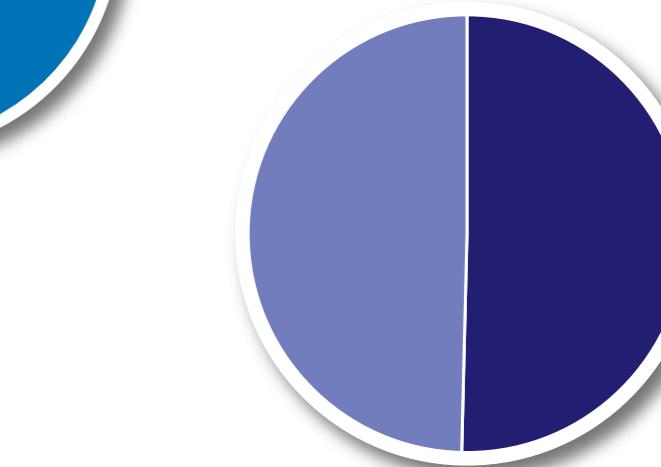
BUDGET

TOTAL NET BUDGET

	£m
Police Officer Pay and Allowances	80.2
Police Staff Pay and Allowances	37.8
Police Pension (Injury and Ill Health)	2.0
Training & Development	8.1
Premises	17.3
Transport	2.2
Supplies and Services (e.g. IT services, license fees...)	13.2
Capital and Borrowing Costs	3.0
Regional and National Collaborations	6.2
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	1.0
PCC Commissioning and Grant Funding	1.1
TOTAL	£172m
Specific Grants and Income	-23.6
Net Revenue Expenditure	£148.4



TOTAL FUNDING	£m
Government Core Grant	75.3
Council Tax Precept	73.1
TOTAL	£148.4



	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Proportion	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
2021/22 Charge	£170.39	£198.78	£227.18	£255.58	£312.38	£369.17	£425.97	£511.16
Annual Increase	£6.66	£7.78	£8.89	£10.00	£12.22	£14.45	£16.66	£20.00
2022/23 Charge	£177.05	£206.56	£236.07	£265.58	£324.60	£383.62	£442.63	£531.16

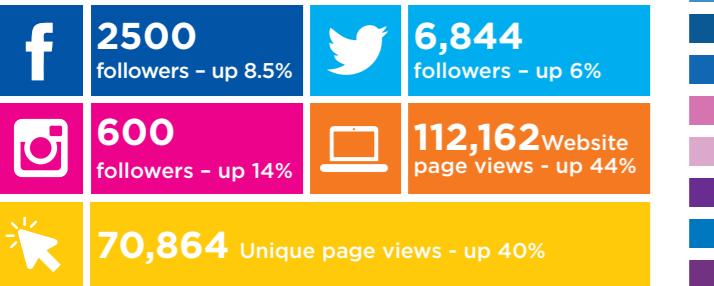
ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

This is the fifth 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 more effectively bring policing to the heart of all communities in Dorset.

The PCC acts as the representative and voice of local people and aims to ensure that the communities it serves receive dynamic and responsive policing. Various methods are adopted to consult and inform residents of Dorset that policing by the consent model that operates in the UK is being supported.

Communications and Engagement

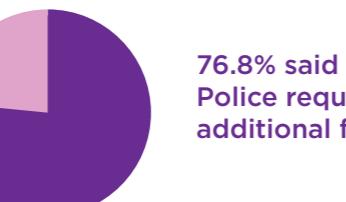
Over the last year we have conducted several surveys with Dorset's residents and communities including the Police and Crime Plan survey where 2073 people gave their opinions on the Plan and we have held surveys on Business Cyber Crime and Firearms Licensing as well as the annual Precept survey.



PRECEPT SURVEY 2022/23

1662 online responses to the survey

Do you agree that Dorset Police requires additional funding?



76.8% said that Dorset Police required additional funding

Are you willing to pay an extra 83p a month to help Dorset Police maintain and enhance its current service?

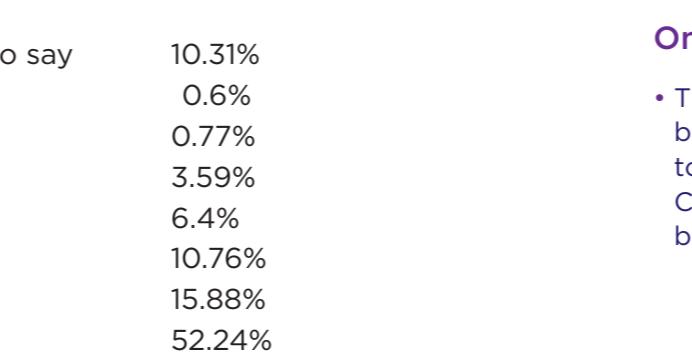


66.65% said that they would be prepared to pay 83p a month to maintain and enhance the current service provided by Dorset Police

AREA OF THOSE THAT TOOK THE SURVEY



AGES OF THOSE THAT TOOK THE SURVEY



ALSO THIS YEAR...



Events

- The Commissioner regularly attends community group meetings, conferences and events across the county to give residents and stakeholders opportunities to take part in Q&As and find out more about the work of the OPCC. Since being elected in May 2021 the PCC has attended 297 such events and been invited to be a guest speaker at 48 events.

News and Newsletters

- There have been 72 articles written on a wide variety of policing issues over the last year, all of which are available on the PCC's website and were sent out to all of our 8,756 Dorset Alert members.

Online

- The PCC joined members of Dorset Police to broadcast live-streamed engagement events to talk with members of the public about Cyber Crime, the Precept and policing in both the BCP and Dorset areas.

SCRUTINY

Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel

A new independent overarching scrutiny panel called the Use of Police Powers and Standards (UPPS) Scrutiny Panel has been set up. The new panel met for the first time in March 2022. The objective in establishing this new Panel is to shine a light on issues such as disproportionality of stop and search and use of force activity, public contact (101, 999 service) and complaints handling by Dorset Police. Its scrutiny includes case studies supported by Body Worn Video footage.

Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also administers the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel which meets quarterly and considers a sample of cases of Out of Court Disposals (OoCDs) to determine if they are appropriate. OoCDs allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low-level, often first-time offending including children, thus preventing their entry into the formal criminal justice system.

Feedback from both 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, who are security cleared and trained, from our local communities make unannounced visits to detainees held in police custody to ensure their rights have been given and check on their welfare. These visits can be at any time. During the 2021/22 year, there were 98 visits made and 305 detainees were spoken to.

Complaints Reviews

To ensure that the PCC is satisfied that Dorset Police are handling complaints appropriately, the OPCC has 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 2021/22 period, with 90% determined to have been dealt with appropriately.

PCC Challenge

The PCC issued formal challenges to the Chief Constable regarding the police use of stop and search powers in Dorset and the Force plans to tackle violence against women and girls. The Chief Constable has provided reassurance on both of these key matters.

Police and Crime Panel

Dorset Council have responsibility for the Dorset Police and Crime Panel held four times a year. The Panel members will primarily focus their attention on important strategic actions and decisions made by the PCC. In July 2021, this has also included confirming Scott Chilton as the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Constable.

Independent Audit Committee

The Independent Audit Committee meet on a quarterly basis and provide 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 will provide comments on any new or proposed PCC policies and 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 are publicly available on our website.

MAKE DORSET THE SAFEST COUNTY





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