

**AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT
17 MARCH 2022**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 1 February 2022. A summary of key highlights for consideration by Panel Members is set out below:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oversight / Scrutiny:

- **Covid 19:** changes to working arrangements to reflect removal of national restrictions, continued safety measures, multi-agency co-ordination stood down from end March.
- **Standing issues for Panel oversight:**
 - a) Uplift:** focus on retention to address challenge in leavers impacting on local stretch target; recruitment and training intakes increased to ensure that our final uplift target is achieved by March 2023;
 - b) Estates:** work on track in Lewis House (Bath); Trinity Road planning application in April addressing outstanding planning concerns; business case for Yeovil / South Somerset expected in September; scoping opportunities for fire colocation ongoing.
 - c) Fire Governance:** Fire Reform White Paper still awaited.

Delivery of Initial PCC Priorities:

- **Police & Crime Plan** – Final Plan published with updated medium term financial plan summary. Meetings have taken place with all Community Safety Partnership (CSP) areas and development of local plans is underway.
- **Key appointments** – Process to appoint substantive Chief Financial Officer underway; confirmation hearing for DPCC prior to this meeting.

OPCC Business Update:

- **Review of Disproportionality in the CJS in A&S:** report launch and communications plans, partners requested to respond to recommendations to start implementation;
- **Consultation & Engagement:** Engagement plans in development.
- **Partnerships & Commissioning:** Violence Reduction Units, Reducing Reoffending, & Criminal Justice updates; Victims Bill consultation submission.
- **Governance:** Scrutiny Panel findings, Complaints Overview.

National updates:

- **PCC National Economic & Cyber Portfolio** – PCC appearance at Justice Select Committee on Fraud & the Justice System; letter to all PCCs on prioritising policing of fraud; national media appearance to raise awareness of 'money flipping scams'; engagement in Online Safety Bill Working Group.
- **PCC Review** – Part 2 ongoing focusing on PCC role in partnership working; Specified Information Order – information on oversight of complaints in development. PCC Succession Plan to be brought to the Panel AGM for approval.

1. OVERSIGHT / SCRUTINY

COVID -19 - Oversight of the Constabulary position:

- **Overview:** Since the last update the force has maintained a more 'business as usual' approach in its response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, however, the high level Gold and Silver Covid Command arrangements have remained in place. The force have also continued to engage at both Strategic and Tactical Co-ordination levels to assist health colleagues with their winter pressures which have been contributed to by the Pandemic. All remaining Covid specific multi agency co-ordination has ended as of 2nd March and in force arrangements will be stood down by the end of March.
- **Changes to the Approach:** In response to the government decision to remove the remaining restrictions, Op Talla (national police co-ordination for Covid matters) have rescinded the Covid PPE levels for policing with the recommendation that forces now follow government advice and take local health and safety guidance. In light of these changes, from the 2nd March 2021, the force has removed remaining restrictions such as mask wearing, social distancing and one way systems in buildings. They will continue to have masks available for those that still choose to wear them and will encourage staff to continue to wear masks in certain situations (based on their own risk assessment) such as crowded confined spaces and when in close proximity with someone who has Covid.
- **Continuing Safe Measures:** The force will ensure that positive measures that have been embedded over the last two years will continue. They will continue to make available products that allow regular cleaning of work spaces, hand hygiene and will encourage ventilation of offices where possible. For the time being they will continue to encourage staff that have Covid to work from home and avoid close contact with others.
- **Covid Related Demand:** Calls to the force regarding Covid related issues have remained very low since the last update, with the last restrictions now being removed there is now no need to have Covid specific reporting mechanisms in place. Over the next week they will be removing Covid specific reporting mechanisms from the force website.
- **Covid related Absence:** Since the last update the force Covid absence rate has fallen and has continued to be significantly below the national police average.
- **Current Working Arrangements:** The force has continued with the policy to work from home unless operationally necessary. However, this is coming to an end with the move back to normality. During the pandemic the force has adopted a blended approach to work, this means that certain roles have been identified as suitable for majority home working. People in these roles will be returning to the office approximately two days a week. All staff that this applies to will have moved to this new way of working by 1st April. We therefore anticipate that all staff will be back in the work place by this date.

Operation Uplift – STANDING ITEM

The national target for March 2022 remains at 3,108, including the additional 2 CT officers previously advised. The trend of higher leaver numbers has continued, with 31 leavers in January, 6 more than the number for December. Leaver numbers are being monitored closely and further work is being done on retention strategies. We still remain confident of delivering the national target, but are anticipating that we will fall short of our local stretch target of 3,155 by March 2022. Recognising the increased leaver numbers, our PCDA and

DHEP intakes have been increased to ensure that our final uplift target of 3,291 is achieved by March 2023.

Estates – STANDING ITEM

- A new mandate for the Yeovil and South Somerset project was presented to the Estates Asset Management Board in March 2022. Following approval, it is anticipated that this will lead to an outline business case in September.
- In respect of Trinity Road, work has continued to address outstanding planning concerns and the Guinness Trust Partnership will now be submitting plans to council for consent in April.
- Works at Lewis House remain on track and on budget with occupation and formal opening scheduled for early April.
- Consultation and work in respect of the potential Fire and Ambulance Services collaboration and colocation have continued. Requirements have been established with sufficient clarity to engage design consultants to report back on feasibility options in March.

2. DELIVERY OF INITIAL PCC PRIORITIES

Local Police & Crime Plans

The OPCC have had meetings with all five Community Safety Partnership areas in February. These meetings included the CSP Chair, CSP local authority lead and Neighbourhood Policing senior officer as a minimum. All areas supported the approach and had started preparing for the process prior to the meeting. There is some variation in the proposed approaches but all areas have an agreed way forward. The plans will be drafted by CSP leads, supported by the policing leads. Most areas are aiming to have final local plans ready by June 2022.

Key Appointments

Work is almost complete on the PCC's key appointments:

- The process to appoint a permanent Chief Finance Officer went live on 1 February and closed on 28 February. 3 applications have been received and shortlisting took place on 4 March. Interviews will be held on 25 March. Two members of the PCP will observe the selection process.
- The current Interim CFO, Paul Butler is in post until the end of June 2022.
- The Deputy PCC confirmation hearing has been rescheduled for 17 March 2022. The original date for the confirmation hearing was cancelled due to Storm Eunice.

3. OPCC BUSINESS UPDATE

Review into Identifying Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in A&S

The report has now been finalised, with planned next steps as follows:

- Launch and ongoing communications and engagement:
 - A letter will go out from Independent Chair, Desmond Brown to heads of all agencies inviting formal response to recommendations

- There will then be a media launch later in March to which all partner heads will be invited.
- There are plans for stakeholder engagement through presentations at various Boards, partnership meetings and public engagement events going forward over the next 6 to 9 months.
- The PCC, in his capacity as Chair, will lead the ASCJB in its consideration of the report findings and recommendations and how best to monitor responses to the recommendations and implementation.
- The substantive response in relation to OPCC-specific recommendations is being led by the Deputy Chief of Staff.

Engagement

The team continue to focus on increasing engagement through developing a programme of events for 2022 and continuing to drive the weekly engagement plan. The team are working on raising awareness of the Police and Crime Plan as per the communications strategy presented to the Panel in December 2021.

The PCC continues to conduct engagement visits over two days a week - Thursdays to police teams and Fridays to public and partners as well as local political leaders in a geographical rotation of each of the Local Authority areas. This has enabled greater understanding of localised issues and, with the lifting of COVID restrictions, the team will be working with the PCC to capitalise on the hybrid engagement opportunities available through a mix of virtual and in person engagement activity.

Another priority area for the team is the launch of the Identifying Disproportionality in the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice System 2021 report. A media launch event is provisionally scheduled for the 29th March, and the OPCC are working with ASP to drive forward on the recommendations.

Engagement plans are aligned to our overall strategy of improving reach within particularly under-represented and vulnerable communities e.g. Black, Asian and minoritised communities, socio-economically deprived communities, women, young people, people with protected characteristics and those living in isolated rural areas.

Commissioning & Partnerships

Serious Violence

The central team (OPCC) has submitted the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and accompanying response recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed with the VRU partnership, they will be prioritised and utilised to help shape the 22/23+ VRU Home Office Bid, they can inform local violence response plans and they will act as a foundation for the 2022+ Strategic VRU 3 year Strategy.

Below is a summary of some of the key findings found from the SNA. These findings present us with an informed opportunity to keep an overview while focusing VRU work and commissioned interventions;

- **A greater understanding is required of those who are involved in serious violence**, both as a victim or perpetrator. Furthermore, understanding is also required in situations when the perpetrator may also be or become the victim, whether it be in high-risk conflict situations or when victim of hidden crimes such as exploitation. Gaps in demographic data are present and therefore understanding themes of disproportionality cannot be conclusive. Consequently, this makes the design and focus of interventions challenging.
- **More is required to understand who carries knives and why** in order to target interventions appropriately. Links can be drawn to the impact of peer influence, social media and a need to protect oneself.
- **The Night-time economy (NTE) is a significant driver on the volume of violence** that we see in Avon and Somerset. We need to consider what more can be done by VRUs to support work to address this.
- **Exclusion from education and unmet Special Educational Needs continue to present significant risk** factors for young people. Work driven by strategic VRU partners should continue to coordinate sustainable system change.

Home Office specialist interventions – additional funding

Trauma informed Avon and Somerset - £305k to be spent by 31/03/22

Training has now commenced with over 200 professionals across key partners (including Police) and 3rd sector organisations receiving trauma informed training by the provider Rockpool. A consultant is to be enlisted to work alongside the training and partners in receipt of this to embed and sustain such approaches in the workplace and its policies/approaches.

Education Inclusion project - £491k to be spent by 31/03/22

Each locality has adopted a slightly different model to suit their local need and resourcing but each area has Education Inclusion Manager / Coordinators (EIMs) who work closely with schools to look at their processes and responses to risk, EIMs work with school staff, the young person and their family to assess need. Where appropriate, young people are then referred to support workers (SW) for a minimum of 6 weeks of tailored support. Young people can also be referred on for additional interventions or linked into the VRU.

	Referrals to EIMS	Referrals to SW	Total number of children / YP supported
Q3 totals	224	154	161

Reducing Reoffending

The Reducing Reoffending partnership strategy was signed off at the Resolve board on January 31st. The main areas of focus for the next 12 months are:

- Substance misuse
- Accommodation
- Education and employment and;
- Having the right information at the right time.

The meeting is chaired by Marilyn Harrison from the probation service and are now undertaken on a quarterly basis, its aims to bring together/facilitate partners to tackle reoffending and will closely monitor our commissioned services in this area. Reducing reoffending data will be measured against these areas and discussions have taken place with probation about evidencing the success of reducing reoffending with a view about sharing a common data set with resolve partners and also locally at CSPs. The strategy is currently with our communications team for publication and will be shared as soon as possible with partners and made available on the OPCC website.

Victim Services

Victims Bill

The OPCC responded to the government’s recent consultation on the proposed Victims Bill which will build on the foundations provided by the Victims’ Code to substantially improve victims’ experiences of the criminal justice system. It aims to make a tangible difference to ensuring all victims of crime receive the support they need through and beyond the criminal justice process. The OPCC’s response focused on areas of core OPCC business. Some headline asks from the PCC included:

- Force level Criminal Justice scorecards
- Clearer national standards and guidelines for VCOP compliance scrutiny as well as data sets
- Longer term and greater local influence over PCC funding for victim services
- Clarity of expected roles and responsibilities for commissioners of services in the sexual violence therapeutic pathway
- Supportive of minimum standards for victim support roles

Sexual Violence pathways

The OPCC has been pushing for improvements to the coordination of the commissioning of therapeutic sexual assault support services for many years as survivors face excessive waiting times for support due to demand outstripping the capacity of the specialist sector. This has been supported by the publication of the South West HNA on Sexual Assault Therapeutic Services in 2021 and now the OPCC is working with NHSE, CCG and Local Authority commissioning colleagues along with the Public Sector Transformation Academy to seek to address this.

1. Additional Critical Fund (21/22) - MOJ

The MOJ offered the OPCC funding for additional funding for the remainder of FY 21/22 that fell within the Critical Support Fund Criteria needed to support SV/DA services which are at increased risk of delivery failure as a result of either increased demand and/or disruption due to Covid impacts. The OPCC prioritised funds according to original objectives for the critical fund (as outlined in our published OPCC approach document) and intelligence gathered before Christmas about pressures on services.

Provider	Amount
Womankind	1,000
Trauma Breakthrough	12,885.50

Opoka	3,600
SARSAS	7,011
Kinergy	3,120
The Greenhouse	3180.5
	<u>£30,797</u>

2. NHSEI in-year uplift via OPCC (21/22)

Additional non-recurrent sum of £70,000 has been secured as a contribution secured towards Covid-related recovery activity from valued partner NHSEI Health and Justice South West who the OPCC works closely with to commission services along the RASSO pathway.

Kinergy	Additional therapeutic sessions	£20,000
Southmead Project	Additional therapeutic sessions	£20,000
Womankind	Befriending service	£30,000

Future PCC funding for Victim Services

The Ministry of Justice have confirmed that the core PCC Victims grant for 22/23 will remain the same as 21/22 which is what funds the vast majority of OPCC victim services. However, intentions for additional funding secured by the MOJ in the 2021 budget have not yet been confirmed. We do however know that the overall MOJ budget for victim services nationally has increased. As noted in the PCC's response to the Victims Bill consultation, the lack of timely notification of local funding is a barrier to the efficient and effective commissioning of services.

Witness Service

The MoJ have announced up to £47,800,000 over four years to be paid via a contract to a selected service provider, or a consortium of bidders with a lead applicant, to deliver the Witness Service. The funding will be available from April 2023 up to and including 31 March 2027. The ongoing funding of a Witness Service, via this new contract, will ensure a continued national, free support service that offers face to face support in all criminal courts across England and Wales. It will also continue to offer additional tailored support to those witnesses who need it the most, including vulnerable and intimidated witnesses.

Criminal Justice

ASCJB

The A&S LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board), chaired by the PCC, will meet on 8 March. The Board will consider next steps in implementing recommendations of the Identifying Disproportionality in the Avon & Somerset Criminal Justice System report. A regional business plan, to allow greater oversight and consistency across the South West, will also be presented to the Board. The plan covers four priorities: VAWG, Performance, Victims and Witnesses, and Reducing Reoffending. The plan also includes local priorities, including the Identifying Disproportionality workstream.

Restorative Justice Action Plan

The OPCC is working with the commissioned RJ service, the Constabulary and criminal justice partners to strengthen referral to restorative justice where appropriate. Following publication of the APPG Inquiry into Restorative Justice Practices, published in September 2021, a local Action Plan has been developed to drive forward improvements in the following areas: compliance with entitlements under the Victims Code of Practice (relating to the offer of RJ by the police and consideration by all agencies through the criminal justice journey); referral rates and pathways; use of RJ across crime types including in complex and sensitive cases; communication, training and awareness; and capture of victim feedback. The inclusion of RJ as a local priority in the new Regional Criminal Justice Business Plan is very welcome in supporting this piece of work.

4. SCRUTINY PANELS

Independent Residents' Panel

The Independent Residents' Panel (IRP) scrutinise completed cases of complaints made by members of the public against Avon and Somerset Police. The panel is chaired and run by volunteers and they meet on a quarterly basis.

The December quarterly IRP report has been published on the OPCC website, the theme focuses on complaints against the police where Domestic &/or Gender Abuse feature in some capacity within the complaint.

The Panel held a planning meeting on the 20th January 2022 to discuss themes for the year ahead. These include cases reviewed by the IOPC or PCC, Discreditable Conduct and complaints against call handlers/comms staff. The panel will continue to top up the sample with Discrimination themes complaint cases as part of their ongoing commitment to assist PSD with the review of Discrimination complaint files.

A clear direction has now been agreed in conjunction with the OPCC Comms Team for the IRP Recruitment and opportunity to expand the Panel from 8 members. The aim is to launch a media campaign mid-April.

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the next IRP meeting on the 10th March 2022. The theme of the next meeting will be on complaint cases which have been reviewed by either the IOPC or the PCC. The panel will be welcoming presentations from colleagues from the IOPC.

The IRP's reports are published on the PCC's website at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/independent-residents-panel-reports/>

Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

Since the last quarterly online Panel meeting in December 2021 the Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel members have observed Personal Safety Training (PST) at the Clevedon Police Centre (3rd March), specifically for the Stop and Search session of the 2 days' Officer training. The Panel will also review a Special Case at an additional meeting (30th March) regarding an incident on a Bedminster bus in December 2020. There was considerable

community concern in the quality of policing service after social media posts and this case was initially highlighted by the Constabulary just after the incident and arrangements made for stakeholder to view Body Worn Video, including the Scrutiny Panel Chair and Vice Chairs. The incident has been subject to a complaint from the person on the bus and an IOPC independent complaint investigation recently determined that 'both officers should have training to improve their communication style'.

On 8th April the Panel Chair and one Vice Chair will be interviewed by HMICFRS Inspectorate regarding the super complaint around Stop and Search and section 60 (geographical area specific searches). Three s.60 authorisations have occurred in Avon and Somerset policing area since August 2019 but no one was actually searched under any of the authorisations. The quarterly Panel meeting on 20 April involves a selection of **60 cases** in the categories of Stop Search, Use of Force and Fingerprinting biometrics. As standard practice, the Constabulary is invited to comment on the themes, in particular: a) Whether the themes give rise to any organisational learnings and b) If there is organisational learning, what action will be taken. This is being tracked in the Panel's improved reporting template which is now more user-friendly and appealing to the public to read, aim for better community engagement.

Panel authorised Reports are published at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/scrutiny-police-powers-panel-reports/>

The PCC's Communications Team aim to launch a media campaign mid-April to advertise for new Panel members, increasing the Panel from 14 to up to a maximum of 20.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) continue with weekly, unannounced visits at each of the 3 Custody Units. The visits are predominately onsite but still some offsite/remote Custody Record reviews which are very useful 'check and test' monitoring 24/7 of Police (and other partner agency) safeguarding and welfare of detainees in custody, including checking each Detainee's Rights and Entitlements.

Oct-Dec 2021 (Quarter 3) statistics have already been provided to the Police and Crime Panel in the last Commissioner's update report, along with ICV quarterly training topics plus ICV highlighted good practice and causes for concern. Quarter 4 (Jan-Mar 2022) summaries will be provided in the next update Report. However, ICVs have been made aware of 3 recent HMICFRS Inspectorate Reports for Kent, Surrey and Warwickshire Police Custody. ICVs have also received training on Assertiveness.

The latest PCC visit to a Custody Unit was 25 February 2022 at Keynsham, including a tour and discussion about Neurodiversity training and the Autism-friendly cells with softer lighting added to the re-painted cells, the aim being as a de-escalate tool, to calm the situation for any detained person.

Out of Court Disposal Panel

The Panel met on 2 March to scrutinise cases on the theme of Violence Against Women and Girls (excluding domestic abuse, which was the theme of the last meeting). Terms of Reference for the Panel have been revised to allow for virtual meetings, and widen membership to include a restorative justice representative. Themes for the coming year are as follows:

- June: Disproportionality (focus on youth cases) and Hate Crime Conditional Caution (to feed into the pilot concluding in September)
- September: Assault on emergency workers – impact of the new intervention
- December: Domestic Abuse – annual scrutiny as required by DPP dispensation for use of Conditional Cautions in Domestic Abuse cases.

Panel Members have been invited to participate in MoJ research into the police use of out of court disposals to address health vulnerabilities.

The Force approach to out of court disposals has been highlighted as best practice in a national report both around transparency relating to our website and in the use of tailored diversions through our ASCEND team including for women. The report can be found at the following link:

The use of out-of-court disposals and diversion at the ‘front end’ | Crest Advisory

5. CONTACTS AND CONDUCT

Contacts/Complaints Oversight

The OPCC Contacts Team receive a varied amount of email and telephone calls per week internally and externally. These contacts range from members of the public seeking to invite the PCC to events, enquiries about funding and more complex matters such as complaints or community issues raised by MPs. 400 contacts were graded, recorded and actioned between 01/01/22 and 07/03/22.

No. of cases created and managed per month:

Month	2022	2021	-/+
January	182	149	+33
February	186	130	+56
March (up to 06/03)	32	35	-3

The OPCC average contact handling time for this period was 5 days. 72% of contacts were closed within 5 days or less.

High cases (these are cases that are higher complexity, risk, public impact or organisational reputation) continue to be higher in comparison to last year with 19% graded as high and a total of 75% of cases graded as high or medium over this period.

Month	High 2022	High 2021	Med 2022	Med 2021
January	29	16	105	95
February	44	13	94	79
March (up to 06/03)	3	2	24	26

Email is still the primary means of contacting the PCC with 67% of contact received via this medium.

We have seen a 27% increase in casework using year on year data for this period and a sustained increase in contact from local councillors and MPs. We continue to see a large amount of contact regarding complaints and dissatisfaction with ASP. Contact continues regarding the use and regulation of e-scooters and neighbourhood/ASB issues.

The above data also includes monitoring of complaints which is a statutory function for the PCC. Since Sept 2019 (when records started), the PCC has monitored 365 police complaints. The team continue to check complaints handling regularly to support timely resolution and are currently overseeing 37 live complaint cases sat with PSD on behalf of the PCC.

Complaint Reviews

The complaint review process allows the PCC to independently scrutinise the outcome of complaints (upon application by an involved party). The process determines whether the complaint was handled lawfully and correctly.

The complaint and review manager has handled 420 reviews to date. 20% of all reviews have been upheld and 68% not upheld. The remainder were classed as void. Recently released IOPC data shows that ASP received the most review applications outside the five largest metropolitan forces. This is despite ASP being only the 16th largest force. This can be interpreted in different ways – as an indicator of initial complaint handling quality, or an indication of confidence in the PCC. The sheer numbers of applications have resulted in difficulties for some forces, (the met reputedly have a backlog of 600) but our process remains efficient and cost effective with a turnaround of less than a month.

6. GOVERNANCE

HMICFRS

Since last reported one new response has been published:

- [*Joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders*](#)

There is one new publication requiring a response:

- [*A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape - Phase two: Post-charge*](#)

Inspections involving Avon and Somerset Police:

- ASP were recently inspected as part of a national thematic inspection on serious youth violence. The OPCC attended the hot debrief and are working with ACC Jon Reilly on that feedback.
- ASP will be inspected in April as part of a national thematic inspection on Digital Forensics.
- The ASP PEEL Inspection will conclude with a final evidence collection in force in October 2022. The report will then be published in February/March 2023.

Police Super-Complaints

Since last reported one new response has been submitted.

- *A duty to protect: Police use of protective measures in cases involving violence against women and girls*

There are currently three [super-complaints that have been assessed as eligible for investigation](#):

- *Force response to police perpetrated domestic abuse*
- *Police response to BAME victims of sexual abuse*
- *Police use of stop and search powers*

Police and Crime Board

Agendas and minutes of the Police and Crime Board are published at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/police-crime-board-reports/>

Key Decisions

There have been no formal decisions since the February Panel meeting. All decision notices and accompanying documents are published at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/decisions-log/>

National Updates

National Portfolio – Cyber / Economic Crime

As APCC National Portfolio lead for ECC, the PCC submitted a written response to the Justice Select Committee's inquiry into Fraud and the Justice System. The PCC also appeared in front of the parliamentary select committee to present evidence on 22nd Feb. The PCC identified the need for increased local policing resource to identify and tackle the threat from fraud. And, noted the need for clearer guidance from government concerning the roles and responsibilities local, regional and national forces investigating and pursuing fraud offences.

In January the ECC Portfolio leads sent a letter to all PCC's requesting they prioritise fraud and hold their Chief Constables to account on the policing of fraud. We have received positive responses from PCC colleagues who have in all cases shown fraud has been included within their police and crime plans.

The PCC appeared on BBC Radio 4 'You and Yours' programme, on 21st January, to discuss recent money flipping scams, carried out via Instagram, that two residents of Avon and Somerset had fallen victim. The PCC was able to raise awareness of this specific type of scam, the growing prevalence of fraud offences and share some protection advice. The PCC also referenced how the new Online Safety Bill should enhance the accountability of social media companies.

The PCC met with Avon and Somerset Police Complex Crime Unit (CCU). The CCU demonstrated the scope of the activity undertaken across the financial investigations Unit, fraud and Cyber Teams. Partnership working opportunities and areas of interest were discussed. PCC Office aims to support ASC with fraud related comms.

The first Online Safety Bill Working Group was held. This is a good opportunity to potentially influence the development of the Online Safety Bill and liaise directly with government. OPCC will be invited to attend any future working groups.

The Fraud prevention postcard has now been drafted with a media team and we are currently establishing the best way to get this out to our target audience of over 60s in the A&S area, working with local authority colleagues to understand the most efficient way to do this.

The team supporting the PCC in this national portfolio are now looking at the next victim group to focus on and will begin to research and develop ideas to support and promote prevention.

PCC Review Part 2

Part 2

An announcement was made on the outcomes of the PCC Review Part 2, on the role of the PCC in partnership working, as papers went to print. The Ministerial Statement can be found at the following link: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-07/hcws664>

Fire Governance – STANDING ITEM

We still await the Fire Reform White Paper which was anticipated July 2021.

Contact Officer – Alice Ripley, Chief of Staff