

**AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT
28 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 28 June 2022. A summary of key highlights for consideration by Panel Members is set out below:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governance and Scrutiny:

- **OPCC Office Review:** overview of new structure, presentation scheduled for December.
- **New Scrutiny Arrangements:** overview and link to August public broadcast.
- **Local Police & Crime Plans:** progress in development of local plans.
- **Inspections Update:** links to PCC responses to recent inspections.
- **Standing issues for Panel oversight:**
 - a) **Recruitment and Retention:** actions to support retention, on track to exceed recruitment target by March 2023.
 - b) **Estates:** update on Bathwick colocation, Trinity Road planning consent granted, Yeovil preferred Phase 1 to be delivered in Spring 2023.
 - c) **Fire Governance:** Consultation on Fire Reform White Paper closed in July. Awaiting government response.

OPCC Business Update:

- **Review of Disproportionality in the CJS in A&S:** appointment of consultant to lead delivery of recommendations and cultural change. Workshop planned for October.
- **Consultation & Engagement:** First PCC/Councillor forum to be held in B&NES in October; PCC Knife Crime survey live.
- **Complaints & Contacts:** Key themes for this period include concerns regarding e-scooters and police response times during the summer period.
- **Partnerships & Commissioning:** 3 year funding settlement for Violence Reduction Units, Reducing Reoffending & Criminal Justice updates; local partnership arrangements on Harm to Hope Drugs Strategy; additional Victims funding secured.
- **Scrutiny Panels:** summary of recent scrutiny panel meetings and work of OPCC panel members and Independent Custody Visitors.

National Updates:

- **PCC Review Part 1:** Home Office consultation on Policing Protocol closed in May, government response awaited; PCC Succession Plan approved at June Panel meeting.
- **PCC National Economic & Cyber Portfolio:** update on national and local activity including fraud prevention awareness initiative and National Fraud Safeguarding Conference.

1. GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY

OPCC Office Review

Panel Members will be aware that a review of the OPCC has been conducted as an early priority following the appointment of the Chief of Staff. The review was concluded in June 2022, followed by a consultation period with staff on a new structure and roles. Transition to the new structure commenced on 1 September, and appointments are under way where required. The new structure comprises four directorates: Communications & Engagement; Policy & Partnerships; Performance &

Accountability; Finance & Business Services. A presentation to the Panel on the outcomes of the review has been scheduled for the December meeting.

New Scrutiny Arrangements

Performance and Accountability Board (PAB) – a quarterly meeting broadcast to the public live and recorded and accessible later online. The meeting held on 4 August 2022 can be found at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/news/2022/08/pcc-mark-shelford-holds-second-performance-and-accountability-board/>

The next public broadcast will take place on 2 November.

Governance and Scrutiny Board (GSB) – a closed meeting held 8 times a year on the months where there is not a PAB. Additional GSB meetings will be held if required for decisions and oversight of finance and budgets. Agendas and minutes from the GSBs can be found at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/oversight-boards/>

Key Decisions

Key decisions published since the last meeting are available at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/decisions-log/>

DPCC Portfolio

Following the appointment of Claire Hiscott as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, DPCC portfolio areas have been agreed as follows:

- **Violence Reduction Units (Serious Violence)**
- **Violence against Women and Girls**
- **Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System**

In addition to supporting the PCC on these three business areas, Claire will be progressing cross-cutting aspects of her role including supporting community engagement on behalf of the PCC and adopting a strategic approach to mapping and understanding the concerns of the diverse communities across the area. A workplan has been developed for the next 6-12 months to focus on these key areas and how they support the Police and Crime Plan.

Local Police & Crime Plans

Progress in development of local plans is as follows:

- Bristol – plan is still being drafted; OPCC have been given early sight of progress and provided feedback.
- All other areas have finalised plans and are at various stages of approval from their Boards.
- OPCC will produce formatted versions of these plans suitable for publication.

Inspections Update

HMICFRS

Since last reported two new responses have been published:

- *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Criminal Justice System – a progress report*
- *Twenty years on, is MAPPA achieving its objectives?*

There is one new publication requiring a response:

- *The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime – Finding time for crime*

Police Super-Complaints

Since last reported an initial response was submitted to:

- *Force response to police perpetrated domestic abuse*

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

- *Police response to BAME victims of sexual abuse*
- *Police use of stop and search powers*

Standing issues for Panel oversight:

a) Recruitment and Retention:

On the advice of the Home Office Uplift Team, the Force is working on a predicted leaver average of 25 per month. This has already proven to be beneficial as we have seen only 120 leavers in the first 6 months (Mar-Aug 22) as opposed to the 150 forecasted for the same period. Leaver numbers are constantly monitored with work on retention strategies ongoing. An example includes the “Career Aspiration Survey” designed to proactively gain insight into officers’ ambitions and identify any potential issues that could result in resignations. There has been a 46% return rate to date, following the survey launch in April (initially to student officers only), it has helped successfully retain over 20 students in the job that were thinking of leaving thanks to great collaborative working with Learning, Patrol and Workforce Planning.

Concerns regarding August 2022 PCDA course numbers not being met were unfounded as the target of 54 candidates was hit. We are still on track to fill future courses with an expected 350 new starters planned to join up to March 2023. There is also a healthy pipeline of transferees joining the Force resulting in an additional course running in December 2022. If our average leaver rate continues at 20 per month and we successfully meet our target course numbers, the Force will be approx. 60 officers over the officer establishment aim of 3,291 by March 2023.

b) Estates:

Colocation with Avon Fire & Rescue and SWAST in Bathwick continues to be explored, although SWAST currently are unlikely to be a part of this due to their current strategic timetable. Options are therefore also being explored for a colocation approach between AF&R and ASP only, although these are likely to be proportionally more expensive to develop.

We were extremely pleased that Trinity Road finally received planning approval on the 24th August enabling this scheme to now move ahead. The Planning Committee unanimously agreed to support the scheme and there were some positive comments about the hard work undertaken by TGP to address concerns that had been presented. The level of ‘green’ investment in the scheme was also welcomed.

The South Somerset review is expected to deliver a preferred phase one option for Yeovil in spring 2023 with subsequent phases developing options for the remaining sites. These options are being developed in liaison with partners, including the new unitary authority.

c) Fire Governance:

The Fire Reform White Paper was published in May, setting out proposals that include future governance arrangements. It is proposed for the fire service to have one ‘democratic focus’, however does not mandate as to where that role should sit. The coterminosity challenges this would involve in the South-west of England are particularly highlighted in the paper. Consultation closed on 26 July, and the government response is awaited. The document can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service>

2. OPCC BUSINESS UPDATE

Tackling Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in A&S

Desmond Brown, Independent Chair of the Avon and Somerset Lammy Review provided an oversight report and presentation at the June AGM.

To support this work, the PCC and CC have sought the support of an independent transformational change consultant Jane Bates, who has been tasked to put in place the necessary structure, resources and governance required to successfully deliver the work and facilitate the early stages of delivery, so we create a deeper sense of ownership to the work and create momentum behind its delivery.

Jane steps to the table with a wealth of knowledge in the creation and delivery of strategic transformational change, coupled with significant experience of leadership development and coaching. She has a real passion for creating cultures where diverse talents can thrive and has worked with private and public sector organisations supporting their change portfolios over many years.

In the first instance Jane is meeting with a range of key stakeholders to explore levels of engagement around the work and seek to understand any disproportionality related work already completed to date in their respective organisations. This will give Jane invaluable help in preparing for our long-anticipated onboarding workshop which is scheduled for the 7th October 2022. Amongst other topics, Jane will also explore who will be the delivery team on the ground, how the work will be governed internally and will define and collate any risks and issues.

Consultation and Engagement

The Communications and Engagement Team continues to use the PCC's programme of engagement and events to support the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan.

As part of implementing the OPCC review, we are currently out to external recruitment for an Engagement and Events Manager to oversee the PCC and DPCCs programme of engagement to ensure strategic, effective and efficient management of engagement going forward.

In the next quarter, we will also recruit into our new Communications Apprenticeship role which will focus particularly on our youth engagement offering and develop our communications channels aimed at young people.

In the meantime, plans are now underway to hold a series of PCC/Councillors forums in each local authority area. The first scheduled to take place in the BaNES Local Authority area at the end of October. There will be a further two events in November, one in December, three in January 2023 and concluding with two in February.

This is a key deliverable for 2022/23, as part of the PCC's programme of engagement.

The aim is to help the PCC and local neighbourhood teams in Avon and Somerset Police to better understand the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that are being reported to local councillors. The PCC also wants to forge stronger relationships, and promote closer partnership working, to problem solve some of the anti-social behaviour and crime issues faced by residents and businesses in Avon and Somerset.

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. The team continue to work with the PCC to capitalise on the hybrid engagement opportunities available through a mix of virtual and in person engagement activity.

The team is also overseeing an engagement programme for the Deputy PCC that relates specifically to their portfolio areas of Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG), Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) and partner engagement. This is intended to support and enhance the engagement of the PCC.

We are currently running a consultation on Knife Crime, to support the work of our Violence Reduction Units.

The team is also now in the lead time to prepare for launch of our annual statutory precept consultation at the end of October. As in previous years, and in line with our business and P&C Plan, our communications objectives will set specific targets and use tactics to further improve our responses from under represented communities.

Our Engagement and Consultation strategies are aligned to the OPCC objective of improving reach, particularly within our under-represented and vulnerable communities, e.g. Black, Asian and minoritised communities, socio-economically deprived communities, women, young people, other groups with protected characteristics and those living in isolated rural areas.

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.

No. of cases created and managed per month:

Month	2022	2021	-/+
June	162	191	-29
July	135	195	-60
August (up to 24 th)	132	122	+10

The year on year data reflects the 2021 demand connected to the start of term for the new PCC which generated a surge in contact.

429 contacts were graded, recorded and actioned between 01/06/22 and 24/08/22. The OPCC average contact handling time for this period was 5.7 days. 75% of contacts were closed within 5 days or less. Cases assessed as having higher complexity, risk, public impact or organisational reputation continue to be high with 72% of cases graded as high or medium over this period.

Month	High 2022	High 2021	Med 2022	Med 2021
June	38	32	74	91
July	26	37	70	103
August (up to 24 th)	28	23	74	51

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

The PCC has received rich and varied contact over this reporting period and continues to receive contact from residents raising concerns with the policing response to e-scooters on roads and pavements. The team have handled multiple contacts relating to concerns around speeding in the Avon and Somerset area and has allowed for further scrutiny. A seasonal complaint theme has been identified around police response times and the PCC has worked to provide focussed scrutiny in this area.

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 the handling of 422 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.

Commissioning & Partnerships

Serious Violence

The Home Office VRU bid (submitted in May) was successful which will see a 3 year settlement for the force area to continue to deliver and sustain the work of the VRUs. This year A&S will receive just over £2million. £1.17million has been devolved to the 5 local authorities, the remainder has been retained within the OPCC to uplift the central 'hub' team and to also support strategic systems change work, the Strategic VRU board agreed to focus this systems change funding to drive data sharing.

The hub team lead the oversight of the 5 spokes and leading the strategic function will be expanding to include a VRU Support Officer and an Evaluation and Impact lead. Previously no funds have been retained from the grant centrally, OPCC resource has been from core budgets until now. However it was agreed with the Board that to continue to deliver this significant project well, as well as meet the Home Office mandates, additional resource and skill sets were required. Two roles have been recruited into and will be starting in mid-September.

The DPCC chaired her first Strategic VRU Board at the end of June. This saw agreement of the Board's priorities and approach to a strategic workplan aligned to the priorities. These include;

1. Leadership and system change
2. Intervention and prevention
3. Data, Evidence and Evaluation
4. Community and Youth Engagement
5. Risk identification and understanding need
6. Criminal Justice and Disruption

As part of priority 6 – there are actions relating to enhancing links to LCJB and other specific CJ led initiatives, including the Disproportionality report working group. The OPCC VRU lead will be taking this forward in the coming months.

The Serious Violence Duty is also anticipated to land with the final guidance in Oct/Nov 2022, the Strategic VRU Board have started some early discussions as to potential approaches to delivering the Duty. The OPCC VRU lead will be reaching out to key partners and Duty holders to scope this further.

22/23 Q1 VRU spoke delivery snapshot

Due to a delay in the Home Office process for bidding and grant receipt, delivery in some places has been significantly impacted in terms of spend, however VRU spokes have continued to deliver on their operational function of identifying individuals at risk of serious violence and working to develop their offer alongside key partners. Some of the offers this year include; specialist 1:1 mentoring (including mentoring with lived experience), sports based interventions and coaching, youth club investment, conflict resolution, education inclusion support, detached youth work, parent support, female group work and A&E pathways. In Q1 270 individuals were supported by VRU interventions and over 1600 people were reached by group awareness and targeted sessions.

Reducing Reoffending

Many of the OPCC Reducing Reoffending commissioned services have now been in operation for 12 months and we have been working with these services to both monitor performance and explore early outcome data with a view to supporting them to secure future funding avenues when the OPCC/Resolve pilot funding comes to an end.

Ready for Release performance meeting recently and I wanted to highlight some of the impact:

- **29% reduction** in the number of recalls between Q1 21/22 and Q1 2022/23. (**39 fewer men recalled** since the projects inception, saving a substantial cost to the CJ system)
- Accommodation remains the highest need of prisoners on induction to HMP Bristol at 66% but **34% of these men have this need addressed for their release**
- **An unprecedented increase in 16%** of men entering HMP Bristol in Q1 22/23 had **all their needs addressed** for release
- The Prison service are investing in reducing reoffending and are in the process of employing an Employment Lead, Banking & ID Administrator and Strategic Housing Specialist for HMP Bristol

The domestic abuse perpetrator programme Drive had a successful one-year celebration event and South Gloucestershire Local Authority are wanting the service to continue post July 2023 as well as Bristol City Council and North Somerset wanting to explore opportunities for expansion into their area.

Combating Drugs Partnerships

Following publication of the 'From Harm to Hope' 10 year Drug Strategy, work has continued at pace to develop leadership plans in terms of the footprints and SROs for the partnerships across the force area. All 5 Local Authority areas submitted proposals by the deadline of 1st August. It is intended that the OPCC attends all five partnerships to maintain oversight. We will be able to view all the needs assessments to ensure proportionality, escalate any barriers and be a critical friend. The existing regional OPCC forum will be used to identify themes, trends, barriers and concerns from across the South West region and escalate accordingly.

Criminal Justice

ASCJB

The A&S LCJB (Local Criminal Justice Board), chaired by the PCC, is meeting on the 15th of September. The Board will be focussing on the areas of the agreed LCJB Business plan which include Performance, Violence Against Women and Girls, Victims and Witnesses, Reducing Reoffending, Tackling Disproportionality within the Criminal Justice System as well as an update on Cyber & Economic Crime. Information on the Criminal Bar strike and its impact will be provided and there will be proposal for the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel to take forward recommendations of the Identifying Disproportionality report.

Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) Compliance

The Victims Governance Group met on 6 July to review VCOP compliance dip sampling, with a focus on Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) and Domestic Abuse cases. Observations and actions identified from the dip sample include:

- General observation on the importance of accuracy of recording in order to demonstrate compliance with VCOP. Gaps in consistent information capture were also identified, especially in relation to the offer, take up and use of Victim Personal Statements.
- Awaiting clarification in the Victims Bill on requirements for written confirmation of the crime by the police. Acknowledged differences in victim contact in domestic abuse cases for safety reasons.

- Example of delays due to a case being initially tasked as safeguarding, rather than flagged as a persistently targeted victim.
- Example of a letter which lacked empathy, and in which a Victim Right to Review was incorrectly offered. Discussed CPS quality assurance arrangements via the Victim Liaison Unit.
- Discussion on new processes introduced via Common Platform and work underway to modify the Hearing Record Sheet, to include a new section on whether VPS was read out in court on any amendments made.

The theme of the next meeting (5 October) is assault against emergency workers.

Restorative Justice Action Plan

Work continues to deliver the RJ Action Plan. A workshop will be taking place on 19/09/22 to understand how the Restorative Justice system can be improved in A&S. There will be an 'engine room' group established to drive the vision and action plan delivery. Work is also being undertaken to embed responsibilities and accountability across the partnership.

Victim Services

Victims Bill

Members will recall previous updates on the government's draft Victims Bill. The OPCC is contributing to discussions on the cost of the duty to collaborate in the commissioning of victim services. The draft bill has been scrutinised by the [Justice Committee](#) which included representation from the APCC (with OPCC input into their briefing). The Victims Bill includes proposals for an enhanced role for the PCC in relation to VCOP compliance. The Ministry of Justice has consulted OPCCs on proposed metrics for the new compliance model.

Additional Funding

The OPCC has secured an additional **£490,585.90** for 22/23 from the Ministry of Justice following a bidding process for domestic and sexual violence service funding. This will be used to support a range of local services with grants of up to £50k in line with MOJ requirements. Moreover, there has been an uplift to the OPCC's 22/23 core victims grant for all-crime services which is welcomed by the team and providers alike. It is hoped that these funding increases will continue to 24/25 in line with the government's Victim Funding Strategy. Members may wish to note that the cumulative impact of the various MOJ funding increases over recent years has seen the OPCC's investment in Avon and Somerset victim services double from £1.9m in 20/21 to over £4m in 22/23.

Sexual Violence Therapies

Following on from the Panel's Serious Violence Deep Dive, the OPCC can report progress in the commissioning of therapeutic services for survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Several design elements support recommendations made in the Panel's report:

1. The new service will bring together a range of existing contracts and grants into a pooled budget for the first time to make the commissioning **more efficient and effective**. The commissioners are:
 - NHS England (Lead)
 - OPCC
 - Bristol City Council
 - Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
 - Other local authorities and ICBs were invited to take part in the process. Specifically Somerset ICB has offered the following commitment and is actively supporting the process:

Somerset ICB is exploring the possibility of providing funding into the Avon and Somerset Therapies Service. They recognise the challenge of lengthy waiting lists and of the need to provide a timely therapeutic response to survivors. However, as part of their re-organisation as an ICB, parties have

had to review their current financial commitments before considering any possible contribution. It has been added to the consideration list for MHIS growth funding for 2023/24.

The Phoenix Project, Somerset, works alongside professionals and supports children, young people and their families affected by sexual abuse. It is funded by Somerset County Council, Somerset ICB and NHS England. It is out of scope of this commissioning exercise.

2. The new contract is due to commence in April 2023 and runs to March 2029 (**six years**).
3. The specification calls for significant innovation in the way services are delivered, broadening the 'menu' of interventions to best meet survivors' need and increase access (and therefore **improve waiting times**).
4. In terms of **pre-trial therapy** the service will be required to comply with the CPS vulnerable victims and witnesses guidance including pre-trial therapy protocol making use of resources from the Bluestar Project.
5. The contract envelope has **flexibility to allow for increased contributions** over the life of the contract.
6. The service will be required to collaborate with the separate Trauma Pathfinder Project which launched in Avon and Somerset in June 2022. This is a three-year project, funded by NHS England, to improve services for adult survivors with **the most complex trauma**. In Avon and Somerset, the Pathfinder will not only develop service provision for this cohort, but will work alongside services and service users to respond to the need to redesign the whole therapeutic pathway. It constitutes a key partner for the Providers of this contract.

Constabulary progress following the Panel's Serious Violence 'Deep Dive' is as follows:

- As the NPCC lead for RASSO, the Chief Constable is ensuring the A&S Constabulary take a leadership role in the national improvements to victims of sexual offences through Op Soteria and Op Bluestone. Similarly she has set out her clear ambition for our improvement and cultural change around the violence against women and girls agenda. It is therefore welcome that this has been acknowledged within the report. The recommendations have been reviewed. The Constabulary Domestic Abuse Matters Train the Trainers commenced last week prior to the programme being rolled out across the Force. The Constabulary has recently had the Lime Culture report to provide insight into the Force's response to sexual misconduct.
- The Constabulary has set control strategy priorities for crime data integrity, rape and serious sexual offences, investigative standards, response timeliness, victim contact and follow up and case file quality to ensure that we can provide governance to improvement work in key areas relating to the report recommendations at the Constabulary Management Board. The building of the Investigations Directorate has been identified as a critical element of future ambitions and has close oversight.
- The OPCC will work closely with the Constabulary to ensure that assurance work around the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan includes areas of the report and incorporates the recommendations. Updates will be provided to the Panel at future meetings.

Scrutiny Panels

Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel (ISPCP)

The last panel meeting in June focused on complaints relating to Discreditable Conduct. The panel were updated by Superintendent Jane Wigmore, Head of Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Professional Standards Department regarding training that is offered internally to frontline officers relating to this subject area. During this meeting we saw an excellent example of the panel making a real difference when one member's scrutiny of a case prompted a re-review of the complaint handling by PSD. The outcome was some really useful learning was identified for the Investigation Officer (IO) and department as a whole, about recognising in this instance; potential traffic offences

when handling complaints, something that was missed by the IO. Supt Wigmore intends to feed this learning back to the team.

The Annual ISPCP Report 2021 has now been published. In this report the panel chair looks back on what the panel have achieved in 2021.

In September the Panel will scrutinise complaints made against Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Communications Staff and will welcome a presentation for one of the call centre Managers.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the anticipated launch of a media campaign to advertise for new Panel member. It is hoped that we will advertise after the summer period.

The ISPCP'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

The March 2022 Panel review and Report of the media highlighted incident in Dec. 2020 of a black woman and child on a Bristol Bus has been responded to by the Constabulary, including the IOPC response to the Panel Chair's letter regarding the IOPC investigation outcome. The Report media launch occurred in August and the Channel 4 filming is likely to be a TV program broadcast before spring 2023.

The July Panel reviewed 64 selected cases (from Q4 Jan-Mar 2022) within the categories:

1. **Cases referred by the public** (2 received).
2. **Mobile fingerprinting** (no cases).
3. **Use of Force:** including Taser in Somerset West of Black and Asian people; Use of Force in Custody; Use of PAVA; and Use of Force on under 18s. Panel concern re: children treated as adults.
4. **Stop and Search:** including by Operation Remedy Officers; of under 18s; Seizure of phones during a drugs search; Strip Searches; Smell of cannabis ([Identifying Disproportionality Report \(IDR\)](#) Recommendation 2; Handcuffing at a Stop Search (Panel's concern/theme of compliant handcuffing); A Search after Section 163 Road Traffic Act vehicle stop; and ALL Stop & Search Complaints (IDR Recommendation 9).

The Panel identified **6 themes** for Constabulary response:

1. Smell of cannabis as the only ground for a Stop and Search.
2. BWV inadequate or not available. E.g., of the 9 complaint cases, 7 had no or inadequate BWV.
3. Compliant Handcuffing at a Stop and Search.
4. Officers showing good attitude and communication to establish a professional rapport.
5. Failure to provide a Stop and Search receipt.
6. Officers asking for personal information and/or detaining after a negative Stop and Search.

The Panel's suggested 'Police Organisational Learning' points are being tracked in Scrutiny Panel Reports which are published at this link:

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

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) weekly, unannounced paired visits at each of the 3 Custody Units continue to check on Detainees' Rights, Entitlements and wellbeing.

In April 2022 the ICV Association (ICVA) National Conference focussed on **disproportionality** in custody, including a presentation by Abimbola Johnson, a barrister, appointed in 2022 as Chair of the [Independent Scrutiny & Oversight Board](#), working on the Police Action Plan on Inclusion and Race.

Tony Maggs, a Police Inspector and Senior Policy Advisor to the College of Policing, spoke on custody design and how this can effect Detainee dignity (compliments to Keynsham Custody Unit for their neurodiversity-friendly cells and wall murals in the holding rooms and booking-in area).

In addition to the 2 ongoing major local ICV themes of: Continued **lack of Local Authority (statutory) accommodation for post-charge child detainees**; and **shortage of Places of Safety** for Detainees with mental ill health, the April-June 2022 (Quarter 1) ICV visits highlight these items:

Examples of good practice from forces

1. **Warrant-related arrested people are now taken directly to Court** as from 24 April 2022. This benefits the arrested person in bypassing Custody and also benefits the Custody unit too.
2. **A new NPCC Bidfood contract for meals/catering** supplies provides a long term solution to the previous issue of food and drink shortages, Custody Staff buying catering from local Supermarkets.
3. **Wider range of religious material** is being considered, in addition to bibles, qurans and prayer mats. For example Torah, Tipitaka and Guru Granth Sahib, liaising with local Religious Leaders.
4. **'Offer Culture'** is praised by ICVs rather than a 'Request Culture' in Custody. ICVs witness Detention Officers positively offering Healthcare Practitioners visits to Detainees.
5. Sleeping reviews: ICVs review Custody Records and welcome the recording of updates to Detainees asap when the Detainee is awake. A Niche system flag update has been suggested.

Causes for ICV concern: An ICV aborted visit due to lack of custody staff; also only free-text in the Detention log (not a mandatory field) to record a Female Hygiene Pack being offered and the response.

Examples of where ICVs have effected change: Painting the Exercise yards (still in planning); and time and cost saving suggested change from Solicitors directing Detention Officers to print Custody Records to alternative ways of working, such as Solicitors printing their own accessible copies or secure electronic copies provided to the Legal Service providers.

Additional information about the Scheme can be found at the following link:

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme | OPCC for Avon and Somerset (avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

Currently being considered by the PCC and SLT:

Demographic Data Collection regarding the thematic of anti-racism. The Criminal Justice Alliance have undertaken with ICVA, OPCC schemes and ICVs to review the effectiveness of ICVs monitoring race and gender in police custody. The CJA resultant report 'Just Visiting?' can be found at the following link: www.criminaljusticealliance.org/cja-resources/just-visiting/ Two of the main actions in the report relate to ICV scheme collation of demographic information of their ICVs and of detainees. This is also part of the achievement criteria for the Quality Assurance Framework.

Out of Court Disposals Panel

The September meeting (to be held after the publication date for this meeting) will focus on cases involving assault on emergency workers. The report will be published at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/out-court-disposals-reports/>

3. National Updates

PCC Review Part 1 – Progress in Responding to Recommendations

The proposed PCC Succession Plan for Avon and Somerset was approved at the last Panel meeting.

The Home Office has consulted on changes to the Policing Protocol Order 2011, taking forward recommendations of the PCC Review Part 1. Changes consulted on sought to clarify the respective roles, responsibilities and relationships between PCCs, Chief Officers, Police and Crime Panels, and

the Home Secretary, with the aim to support effective and constructive working relationships. Consultation closed in May and the government response is awaited.

Economic & Cyber Crime

As APCC National Portfolio lead for ECC, the PCC attended the House of Lords Select Committee on 16th June for the Oral evidence session on the Fraud Act 2006. The purpose of this inquiry was to ascertain what more needs to be done across both the public and private sector to stop fraud committed through digital services. The PCC's input was well received. The PCC is also using his influence on the FCCRAS Board to ensure the works being proposed are efficient and effective.

Fraud Prevention Awareness information in the form of an easy-reference 'postcard' has been circulated to over 60 post code areas across Avon and Somerset, which were identified as having a high density of individuals over the age of 60 years. This equates to 156,556 households. In addition, the postcard was distributed via several other communication channels supported by statutory and non-statutory partners and is available on the OPCC website. Further media campaigns are planned.

The PCC will be giving the Keynote Speech at the National Fraud Safeguarding Conference, which is being held in Bristol as the local Fraud Protect Team were able to secure this. The PCC is also supporting Avon & Somerset Police to launch a new initiative to protect vulnerable adults from falling victim to fraud. Working with Dementia UK, Avon and Somerset Police's Fraud Protect Officers have created a telephone prompt aimed at safeguarding those living with memory loss or learning disabilities who might not recognise a fraudulent situation or person when contacted via the phone.

The OPCC has appointed a Policy and Research Manager (fixed term) to support the PCC and his team to lead the national PCC approach to economic and cyber-crime.

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