

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT
1 FEBRUARY 2023

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 8 December 2022. A summary of key highlights for consideration by Panel Members is set out below:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governance and Scrutiny:

- **New Scrutiny Arrangements:** Next Performance & Accountability Board on 7 February - Panel Members encouraged to join live or view recording.
- **Inspections Update:** links to PCC responses to recent inspections. Final PEEL report awaited.
- **Standing issues for Panel oversight:** a) Estates - no substantive changes since the last meeting; b) Recruitment and Retention – Targeted work to fill gaps in CID in South of Force; on track to exceed targets.

OPCC Business Update:

- **Tackling Disproportionality in the CJS in A&S:** co-located team established, initially at Police HQ, project initiation work and stakeholder mapping underway. Focus on establishing Steering Committee, delivery groups and Independent Scrutiny Group.
- **Consultation & Engagement:** PCC/Councillor Forum events ongoing (see dates below). Precept consultation and postal surveys launched. Volunteer recruitment campaign extended to 31 January - would welcome Panel support in disseminating.
- **Complaints & Contacts:** ICase system (case management for complaints) procured and due to go live in June.
- **Policy & Partnerships:** Serious Violence Duty next steps and funding; knife crime survey findings; future of Resolve Board and update on continuation of short-term funded projects; progress in development of needs assessments for local Combatting Drugs Partnerships; ASCJB and Restorative Justice Action Plan updates; update following initial meeting of Sexual Assault Pathway governance; extension of PCC-commissioned victim services to March 2025.
- **Scrutiny Panels:** summary of recent scrutiny panel meetings and work of OPCC panel members and Independent Custody Visitors.

National Updates:

- **PCC National Economic & Cyber Portfolio:** updates including action to tackle loan sharks; PCC-led session on local fraud initiatives at the APCC General Meeting; work to establish partnership with Local Authority Trading Standards teams and victim support to support victims of fraud.

1. GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY

New Scrutiny Arrangements

Performance and Accountability Board (PAB) – a quarterly meeting broadcast to the public live and recorded and accessible later online. The last meeting can be found at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SoFVIAFS4M&t=15s

The next public broadcast will take place on 7 February 2023. Members are encouraged to attend live or view the recording.

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 are held as 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/>

Inspections Update

HMICFRS

Since last reported there is one new publication requiring a response:

- [Digital forensics: An inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations](#)

Since last reported one new response has been published:

- [An inspection of vetting, misconduct, and misogyny in the police service](#)

Police Super-Complaints

Since last reported a new super-complaint has been assessed as eligible for investigation:

- [Police response to stalking](#)

Since last reported a new report has been published:

- [How the police respond to victims of sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse](#)

Standing Items:

Recruitment and Retention:

The Constabulary continue to work on a predicted leaver average of 25 per month (as advised by the Home Office Uplift Team) and this remains beneficial with 117 leavers in the last 6 months (Jul 22 – Dec 22) as opposed to the 150 forecasted. Police officer leaver numbers are reviewed and monitored as part of retention work ongoing including using the Career Aspiration Survey. Increasing engagement rates continue to help achieve a significant reduction in PCDA resignations. This reflects the improved level of support, engagement, and collaboration to enable individuals to succeed through the programme. Future PCDA and DHEP courses continue to be full with a total of 422 new starters across both courses up to March 2023. One area of focus for the talent team is targeted attraction within the south of the force as that is where a significant proportion of gaps currently are within CID. These efforts have seen an increase in candidates from the south of the force joining our pipelines, for example, within the March 2023 DHEP course, 54% of the candidates are from the south of the force area. The transferee embargo commences in January 2023 and will conclude by March 2023 where we have several courses already planned in for 23/24. If a leaver rate of 25 per month continues to be factored in, current projections will see the target exceeded against uplift establishment by 59. To assist the national programme to achieve uplift, the Constabulary has also proposed and expect to have funding agreed for an increase to the new temporary officer headcount as at 31st March 2023 to 3,371 which is 80 more than the permanent headcount of 3,291. This position is a significant achievement and the result of considerable efforts across the organisation to enable the unprecedented numbers to successfully join the organisation at such pace.

2. OPCC BUSINESS UPDATE

Tackling Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in A&S

Considerable work is underway to deliver the Tackling Disproportionality programme. Given its complexity, one of the key next steps was to co-locate the multi-agency portfolio team to provide the team with a transparent view of the work in train. In the first instance, the team is based at Police HQ where it will stay until the portfolio is properly set up and the material plotting the work and stating the outcomes has been agreed and produced. The team is developing community involvement, stakeholder mapping, communication channels and engagement opportunities. It is anticipated that the portfolio office will move out to a community space (may be a rolling venue TBD) from mid Feb onwards to facilitate this. To date a core team of three are working on the portfolio, with additional resources being sought. The current focus is on establishing the Steering Committee (SteerCo) and the associated project delivery groups across both OPCC/ASP and the multi-agency partners. The team is also working with leads from Commission on Racial Equality (CORE) and Desmond Brown (Local Chair of the Identifying Disproportionality in A&S report) to set up an Independent Scrutiny Group.

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.

The recruitment process for an Engagement and Events Manager before Christmas was unsuccessful. The role is to oversee the PCC and DPCCs programme of engagement to ensure strategic, effective and efficient management of engagement going forward. The job title will be changed to Community Engagement and Stakeholder Manager and a new advert went live on Monday January 16th.

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.

A series of PCC/Councillors forums in each local authority area are ongoing. 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 address some of the anti-social behaviour and crime issues faced by residents and businesses in Avon and Somerset. Remaining Forum events are on:

- 24 January, Somerset West and Taunton
- 1 February, Yeovil
- 8 February, North Somerset
- 15 February, Bath
- 28 February, Bristol

The annual statutory precept consultation was launched on December 19 following delays due to changes announced by the government increasing the upper limit on the precept cap. The survey was amended accordingly to ask survey participants their level of support, on a five point scale, for an increase of £15 for the average band D household. As of Friday 13 January, 1900 online responses have been received. The target is a minimum of 3,000. A postal delivery of 15,000 postal surveys were sent out on 3 January. The target set is a minimum return of 900 (6%) postal surveys. So far 350 have been received. The survey will close on 30 January.

As in previous years, and in line with our business and Police & Crime Plan, communications objectives have set specific targets and use tactics to further improve our responses from under-represented communities. The PCC Engagement and Consultation strategies are aligned to the OPCC objective of improving engagement, particularly within our under-represented and vulnerable communities, e.g. Black, Asian, mixed and minoritised communities, socio-economically deprived communities, women, young people, other groups with protected characteristics and those living in isolated rural areas.

A volunteer recruitment campaign launched in November, called Empower Your Community, aimed at recruiting much needed volunteers for the PCC Appropriate Adult and Independent Custody Visitors Schemes as well as our independent scrutiny panels focused on police complaints, use of police powers and use of out of court disposals. One of the key objectives of the campaign is to attract a more diverse range of applicants so the messages encouraging people to #challenge policing #change policing, as well as the tactics and channels being used to promote the campaign have focused on supporting this objective. The campaign has been extended and will close on 31 January. Further information can be found at the following link: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/apply-to-be-a-volunteer/

Contacts/Complaints Oversight

Due to an IT issue we have been unable to run the reporting for this period. Work is ongoing to fix this issue. This data will be rolled over to the next reporting period.

The Iken replacement procurement project has identified a suitable replacement. A system called I-Case has been purchased and go live is expected June 2023. The Scrutiny and Assurance team will use the new system to record and manage PCC contact and the system will offer enhanced reporting benefits and efficiency opportunities.

The OPCC team have worked closely with the ASP project team and colleagues in Legal Services and Professional Standards Department to ensure that the OPCC needs are captured and the system is fit for purpose.

The scrutiny of police complaint handling is a statutory function for the PCC. Since Sept 2019 (when records started), the PCC has monitored the handling of 466 police complaints through the 'keep in view' process. The team continue to check complaints handling regularly to support timely resolution and are currently overseeing 38 live complaint cases sat with PSD on behalf of the PCC. The team will be reviewing the 'keep in view' process to address the issues raised through last year's review of the OPCC.

Policy & Partnerships

Serious Violence

OPCC VRU hub update:

The long-awaited Serious Violence Duty guidance was launched on 31 January. Guidance leaves much of the shaping and development to local discretion, however Duty governance and grant allocation is to sit with PCCs. In A&S, some early scoping was undertaken with key partners (inclusive of the Duty Holders) around the potential model for delivery of the Duty, the consensus was that proposed outputs of the Duty are close to being met with the Hub and Spoke model in place for the VRU grant. Therefore, it is anticipated that each local authority will develop local serious violence problem profiles, which will feed into a wider A&S serious violence needs assessment, which in turn

will be the foundation for an A&S Serious Violence Strategy, the oversight of this is likely to sit under the Strategic VRU board that the Deputy PCC currently chairs. The Duty will provide a means to create a more comprehensive assessment of the problem and provide leverage for stronger collaboration between Duty Holders; collaboration is extremely good in places but there are new relationships to be built, for example with Fire.

Given that A&S is a VRU area, the further 'burden' funding available to us is not significant. The OPCC has submitted request to receive the funding available for the remainder of the financial year and 23/24-24-25. The amount available are as follows:

22/23 labour costs: £21,553.33, non-labour costs: £18,552.71

23/24 labour costs: £101,161.78, non-labour costs: £56,019.48

24/25 labour costs: £96,302.13, non-labour costs: £ 28,412.57

The Home Office do not require detail of spend for the funding as yet, however for the remainder of 22/23 the intention is to work with local partners and VRUs to establish how the non-labour costs can be best used against existing interventions and delivery of support. The labour costs are to be retained in the OPCC so to support the initial planning, coordination and delivery of the mandated documents. This has been supported by partners. Further discussion will take place at the next Strategic VRU Board on 31 January and it is anticipated a Duty working group will be set up to further this collaborative response.

The OPCC Hub team are currently refreshing the existing Serious Violence Needs Assessment. It will present a series of new and revised recommendations to carry into 2023 and beyond. This is due to be available to share by early February.

The OPCC hosted a public facing Knife crime survey which was open for responses from 22/08/22-21/11/22. Through significant efforts in communicating the survey and targeting to reach young people, we received an overwhelming 2,551 responses, 47% of whom were young people. The purpose of the survey was to provide a baseline of insight into how our local people felt knife crime impacted their local area and perceptions of fear and the scale of the problem. The survey was also used to explore what the public would like to see more of in terms of problem solving, as well as exploring reasons as to why people carry weapons. Here are some of the key findings so far:

- 40% agreed they were worried about knife crime in their local area.
- 35% agreed that they avoid going to certain local areas because of fear of knife crime.
- 44% were aware of knife surrender bins prior to the survey.
- Only 6% had seen a knife surrender bin in their local area.
- Two thirds were in favour of knife surrender bins in an effort to reduce knife crime.
- Two thirds would also support increasing the number of knife surrender bins in their local area.
- The places where people most thought the bins should be located were Community centres (61%), police stations (51%) and schools/colleges (50%).
- When asked what approach the police can take to prevent people from carrying knives, Knife surrender bins was selected by 59% of people. The top response selected was "Police officers and PCSOs work within schools and colleges to raise awareness about the risks and consequences of carrying knives and weapons" (69%).
- When asked what they thought they would do if they knew someone that carried a knife, half of people selected "give them advice to get rid of it". This was followed by "avoid them" (38%).
- When asked why they thought people chose to carry knives three quarters of people selected "for security or protection" and "to impress others or fit in".

Work is ongoing to further analyse the findings, which will then feed into considerations as to action and developments that will feed into both the VRU response but also the Constabulary Strategic

Knife crime response. After this, a communications response will be undertaken to feed the key findings and planned responses back to our communities.

Local VRU Spoke update

Delivery is well embedded for this year, key interventions taking place include work to reduce exclusions and a more inclusive education setting across the 5 areas. Detached youth work, which seeks to engage and divert young people away from risk. Targeted group work, including partners, girls and groups known to be in conflict. Mentoring and 1:1 bespoke support is key to the VRU support offer and is being delivered by a number of specialist providers across A&S.

The Constabulary have recently recruited a new Chief Inspector who will oversee the Early Intervention Police team (who work closely with the VRU spokes). There are plans to review the work being undertaken by this team and look at how greater consistency and clarity can be achieved. The team includes a newly recruited Serious Violence Business Analyst that will support developing a better understanding as to our strategic performance against serious violence but also enabling better intelligence and data insights of police data through to partners within the VRU spokes.

Reducing Reoffending

The Ready for Release project at HMP Bristol came to an end on 31 November 2022. This project resulted in an average number of 41 fewer men being recalled to prison, with the most recent recall rate being 12% which is considerably lower than the average of 46% for the UK prison population. The percentage of men having all their needs met has risen to 68% on release which is extremely positive given the challenges. Most elements of the scheme will be fulfilled by the new Probation resettlement model and some elements are being embedded as business as usual through Prison staff. The OPCC is assured that the monitoring of these two key successes will continue so we can evidence the difference in impact.

Court Up service at Bristol Magistrates Court is due to come to an end on 30 April 2023. The current provider is being supported to bid for MOJ funding to continue this work with expansion to Bath and North Somerset Courts in line with the [Female Offender Strategy](#) and the [Womens Concordat](#). The result of this funding bid has been delayed to 3 March 2023.

The OPCC has also supported Nelsons Trust to submit a bid to Ministry of Justice funds to recruit a dedicated post to establishing whole systems approach in line with the Concordat on women in or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System. The OPCC Reducing Reoffending lead is now a member of the APCC's Women in the Criminal Justice System working group as this continues to be a national focus.

Drive in South Gloucestershire is due to come to an end in 31 July 2023. The OPCC is supporting South Gloucestershire with a bid for Home Office funding to allow this service to continue with expansion into Bristol and North Somerset. The funding window is expected to open week commencing 9 January 2023 and will require match funding. Conversations continue with the Local Authorities and the Probation Service to be prepared for this.

The Resolve Board was an agenda item for the LCJB on 6 December 2022 where partners confirmed the importance of an LCJB forum focussed on reducing reoffending. ASC were able to identify a new Superintendent to take on the chairing responsibility and a steer was provided as to the purpose and remit of the refreshed board. Next steps are being discussed in line with this direction.

Combating Drugs Partnerships

The five local Combating Drugs Partnerships are progressing at different rates. The OPCC has had sight of the Somerset Needs Assessment and strategy for comment, and the North Somerset Needs Assessment. It is anticipated that Needs Assessments for the remaining 3 areas will be received in the New Year.

All Senior Responsible Officers are regularly coming together to share learning across the force area and to avoid duplication of tasks where possible.

The OPCC's intention is to view all the needs assessments to ensure proportionality, escalate any barriers and be a critical friend. However, this is proving to be a difficult task because the documents are being received at different times. The SRO's have been made aware of this challenge and implication that feedback may be delayed.

Criminal Justice

ASCJB

The A&S Local Criminal Justice Board (ASCJB), chaired by the PCC, met on 6 December. The Board focussed on the areas of the agreed ASCJB Business plan which include Performance, Violence Against Women and Girls, Victims and Witnesses, Reducing Reoffending, Tackling Disproportionality within the Criminal Justice System and Economic and Cyber Crime (including Fraud). As detailed in this report the ASCJB agreed the support for a renamed A&S Reducing Reoffending Board to focus on key areas including IOM. The next ASCJB will take place on 3 March 2023.

Restorative Justice Action Plan

Work continues to deliver the Restorative Justice (RJ) Action Plan. Following the workshop which took place on 11 November a working group has been established and will meet for the first time on 27 January. The Restorative Justice Joint Working Group is a multi-agency forum for statutory and non-statutory sector partners who are committed to embedding RJ and restorative approaches across Avon and Somerset. The group will be chaired by the PCC's RJ Lead as PCC's have responsibility for implementing RJ in their areas and the MOJ has made funding available for this purpose. As a result, the RJ Joint Working Group will be ultimately accountable to the PCC for Avon and Somerset for overall effectiveness of the implementation programme. In recognition of the fact that effective implementation of RJ requires coordinated action, and co-operation of, other criminal justice agencies, the ASCJB has agreed the RJ Joint Working Group will provide progress reports to, and in the first instance escalate issues or barriers to co-operation to the ASCJB.

Victim Services

Governance of the Sexual Assault Pathway

On the 22 November the DPCC chaired a meeting of senior stakeholders to discuss the sexual assault support pathway given a long-standing gap in governance against a backdrop of increasing demand and complexity of issues facing survivors and services. The group agreed to establish a quarterly Strategic Board and an accompanying Forum bringing together service commissioners. Terms of Reference are being developed. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 28 February 2023 and the first Commissioners Forum on 12 January 2023. Representatives at the first strategic meeting included:

- Avon & Somerset Constabulary
- South West Health and Justice, NHS England
- Bristol City Council
- North Somerset Council
- Somerset County Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- BANES Council

- BNSSG Integrated Care Board
- Somerset Integrated Care Board

Contract Extensions

The five core victim services¹ commissioned by the OPCC have now received contract extension notices for the full period (to end March 2025) and the OPCC is commencing work to look at the programme to recommission these services.

Scrutiny Panels

Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel (ISPCP)

The last panel meeting in December consisted of an end of year random sample of recently closed complaint cases where the complaint was a young person. As always the panel raised some probing and pertinent questions of Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Professional Standards Department (PSD). They also noted a common theme of property not being returned to complainants in a timely fashion by the police, raised questions around this and felt that this was a topic they might like to revisit in the future.

As part of PSD's handling of a specific complaint regarding an allegation of use of force on a young person, the Panel has requested a review by the ISPCP on the finalised complaint case. It is hoped this will provide reassurance to the family involved that there has been independent oversight over this particular complaint.

A planning meeting is scheduled for the 2 February to plan for the year ahead and to consider the thematic areas which the panel can focus on to establish any issues or trends, to drive real change in how complaint cases are handled. The theme for March 2023 will be Discrimination. Planned input is due to be delivered from Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Inclusion and Diversity Team and the Independent Office of Police Complaints (IOPC).

Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

Preparations are under way for the next panel meeting that is due to be held in person in February.

The OPCC have facilitated the identification of 60 randomly selected cases that fall under specific themes. All complaints relating to stop and search will be scrutinised by the panel.

The cases have been sent to ASP with a request for the body-worn footage to be prepared so that panel members can scrutinise in time for the February meeting. Work has also been undertaken to finalise and produce the ISOPPP yearly report.

The ISOPPP report into a high profile incident on a bus in Bedminster has been released. The press release resulted in media enquiries and interviews on BBC radio. The OPCC have subsequently received a public request to review a specific stop/search incident.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) have continued to conduct weekly, unannounced paired visits at each of the 3 Custody Units to check on detainees' rights, entitlements and wellbeing. ICVs have identified challenges with the new provider of nurses in custody. Following a change of contract the nurse provision appears to have declined. This has been raised with the contracts manager and

1 Practical and Emotional Support Service for adult victims of any crime or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB); Enhanced Adult Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB; Children and Young People Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB up to the age of 18 (or 25 where there are additional needs); Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service; Restorative Justice Service for victims of any crime or ASB.

custody management and reassurance has been provided. Issues in supply of anti-rip blankets reported to the last meeting have now been resolved.

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

[The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

Out of Court Disposals Panel

The theme of the December meeting was domestic abuse cases resolved by Conditional Caution and referral to Project CARA (Conditional Caution and Relationship Abuse). Avon and Somerset is one of ten Forces which have been granted dispensation by the Director of Public Prosecutions to enable use of Conditional Cautions in cases involving domestic abuse. Annual scrutiny is a requirement of dispensation. The Panel heard from the Project CARA intervention lead about the engagement of perpetrators in the programme, and discussed the feasibility of cohort tracking to monitor the impact in preventing further offending. The Panel was advised that national changes to be introduced in 2023 will mean that in future this disposal will no longer be available for use in 'medium' risk domestic abuse cases. Evaluation is underway across the Forces where Project CARA is in place to identify the impact of changes and make the case for its continued use in 'medium' risk cases.

Panel findings were as follows:

	Appropriate	Observations	Inappropriate
Community Remedy (Sexual Offences / Serious Violence)	1	1	-
Domestic Abuse (adult cases)	7	11	4
Domestic Abuse (youth cases)	2	5	-

Three of the cases considered inappropriate were felt to be too serious to be dealt with out of court. In one case, it was felt that no further action would have been more appropriate. Findings and recommendations will be published at the following link: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/out-court-disposals-reports/>

The Force Lead for Domestic Abuse provided an update on the impact of Domestic Abuse Matters training, commissioned to help front line staff understand the dynamics and behaviours involved in domestic abuse to improve the response and highlight the trauma experienced in attending incidents of this nature.

The Panel will meet on 1 March for a development session focusing on the new Out of Court Disposals national framework, a review of the panel Terms of Reference, and to scrutinise cases resolved by Community Resolution.

3. National Updates

Economic & Cyber Crime

The PCC continues to use his influence on the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service (FCCRAS) Board to ensure the works being proposed are efficient and effective. The PCC met with the FCCRAS Board Business Partner to discuss the engagement plan and how victim experience can influence service design.

In December, the APCC held an event on Illegal money lending, chaired by the PCC. The session brought together PCCs, MPs and parliamentarians to raise awareness of the growing prevalence of individuals turning to illegal loan sharks. The session signposted to support and investigatory services for anyone who has borrowed money from a loan shark and may now be facing unaffordable interest rates and/or threats of violence. The PCC encouraged all delegates to share this information with constituents and promote legitimate access to credit to avoid further people turning to loan sharks during cost-of-living pressures.

In November, the PCC supported Operation Emma which has a local focus on 'money muleing' as recent national trends show a sharp increase in the numbers of individuals channelling fraudulent funds through their bank accounts (known as money muleing). Lloyds TSB along with other high street banks and building societies have reported that the age profile of money mules is increasing, with more and more people in their 40's now transferring illegal funds through their accounts. Op Emma is a NECC coordinated operation in conjunction with the NCA, ROCUs and local police forces. The operation focuses on Protect & Pursue on 'money mules' and a month-long intensification pilot will be taking place in the South West region in the month of November. Further to this, the PCC supported a Black Friday and Cyber Monday online shopping fraud campaign led by the National Cyber Security Centre. Similar retail and online shopping scam communications were disseminated in the run-up to Christmas.

In October, the PCC also used his influence to raise awareness of the work of our regional Cyber Resilience Centre (SWCRC) and has written to all PCCs in the SW region to support the CRC's mission for growth. The letter outlined how PCCs should continue to support the growth of SWCRC to extend cyber support within the business community, and as such the PCC encouraged colleagues to share the work of SWCRC and make introductions with business contacts within their networks.

The PCC will chair a discussion at the APCC General Meeting on 25th and 26th January focusing on local fraud protect initiatives and encourage PCCs and Ministers to consider what more can be done at a local level to prevent fraud. A&S police will also be given an opportunity to promote their work at a national forum.

The OPCC has started work to develop a multi-agency forum to help support victims of fraud. This month the OPCC has met individually with all Local Authority Trading Standards teams to ensure representation within this forum. The first meeting will be held early in the new year and look to explore improving partnership working to support victims of fraud and preventing duplication of effort. The meeting will include representatives from A&S Constabulary, local Trading Standards teams and victim support services.

Contact Officer – Alice Ripley, Chief of Staff