



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
For Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Police and Crime Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

December 2024

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners Update Report

Report Date	December 2024
Report Author	Rani Mahal, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Security Classification	Official

Purpose of Report

1. In his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Commissioner is able to delegate certain tasks and priorities to a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC).
2. The DPCC brings this report to outline for the Police and Crime Panel how she is fulfilling her delegated duties.

Request of the Panel

3. In their role to scrutinise the activity of the PCC and DPCC, the DPCC requests that the panel examines the contents of this report. She would specifically like to ask the panel their opinion on the following questions;
 - a. Is the Panel supportive of the work update provided by the DPCC?
 - b. Would the panel like to make any recommendations to the DPCC in relation to any of the work outlined within the report?

Summary

4. As described in the papers provided for the DPCC Confirmation Hearing, the Police and Crime Commissioner requested that I took responsibility for the portfolio of activity detailed below:
 - a. Victim Liaison, creation of a victims focus group programme that enables the voice of victims to feed into the Commissioners commissioned services.
 - b. Local prevention, development of a programme to engage local networks (parish councils, neighbourhood watch etc) in activity to prevent crime in their own area.
 - c. Development of activity that enables lived experience to be embedded through the OPCCs commissioning processes.
 - d. Due diligence activity on commissioned services.
 - e. Ensuring that the Ethics and Transparency Panel operates to the highest standard and that they consider matters of importance to the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland
 - f. Attendance at internal and external meetings and appearances as required by the PCC.
 - g. Liaison with the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the PCC's absence.

Portfolio Updates

Victim Liaison and Lived Experience

5. This project will inform and improve commissioned services which the OPCC provide. It is an opportunity to collaborate with other stakeholders and ensure the OPCC meets its statutory responsibility of the Victims Code of Practice, (VCOP). It is to deliver improved victim informed police led services and to meet with the priorities as set out within the Police and Crime Plan and the Strategic Priority Requirements. There will be a need to work across partnerships to better support the victims.
6. To date, working with the commissioning team we have scoped out the project which has been signed off and ready to be rolled out. This will take the form of a Victims/Lived Experience Forum, which will consist of up to ten members that will be recruited to feed their experiences into the OPCCs commissioning process. The output will be services that are more closely aligned to victim's needs.
7. The next steps are to work through the process of round tables and forums which will take place in the new year. Output and process will be reviewed in March 2025 at which point an update will be brought back to the panel.

Hyperlocal Engagement Activity Programme (HEAP)

8. The aim of this work is to tackle crime at a hyperlocal level. This is being achieved in a number of ways, earlier this year I have engaged with parish councils in a series of visits at locations closer to parish councils to make it easier for parish representatives to attend. Parishes are in rural areas and therefore some parishes representatives would have to travel long distance to come to the OPCC. We had invited them initially and many did attend the launch of HEAP programme back in February 2024.
9. So far, I have visited parishes personally, sent emails to encourage participation from parishes because this project is of mutual benefit to them as well as to the OPCC and Force. The benefits of the project will be a safer, more joined up and collaborative approach towards crime prevention at a local level.
10. A survey was sent out asking parishes to share with us what they deem to be the appropriate items to have in their parishes as they are far more aware of what works at a hyperlocal level. I have taken a recommendation to the Commissioner that a funding is made available from April 2025.
11. Parishes, and other organisations, will be able to bid for funds if they meet the criteria and depending on what items they choose from a shopping list toolkit. Guidance for applying for the grants will be provided however the long-term maintenance of crime prevention items will be the sole responsibility of the

parish councils. Organisations will be expected to liaise with Local Authorities if they decide to install any items which need any permission or licence. They will also be expected to ensure that their project has been brought to the awareness of the relevant Community Safety Partnership.

Due Diligence Activity Completed

12. The DPCC continued to carry out visits to projects funded via OPCC to talk about progress of project delivery. Throughout the Autumn visits have taken place to a number of funded initiatives, including, but not limited to, those summarised in Table One

Table One

Organisation	Area and Work	Funding	Output
5 th Sept Leicester Street Doctors	<p>Knife crime, and serious violence strategy shows that the under 25 year olds are the most likely group of individuals to get involved in gang culture and knife crime.</p> <p>Leicester Street Doctors tackle this via group workshops which are held in community venues that are safe drop-in centres and become a conduit to reach the very group of young people that need the support and training.</p>	£7,500	<p>Leicester Street Doctors is a preventative and proactive intervention as it diverts potential knife crime into positive action. Disengaged young people without a sense of purpose feel empowered and confident to provide first aid support until emergency services arrive.</p> <p>A better understanding of the impact of knife related crimes will reduce pressure and resources for the police and less victims of crime. This intervention will increase a feeling of safety, and trust in and a better engagement with the wider community. In addition, enhanced job prospects benefitting the wider community.</p>
5 th Sept At the Kitchen Table – Platform 31 Women's' Aid Online	<p>The project provided items of creative art to enable 'At the Kitchen Table' sessions to take place.</p> <p>This initiative enables facilitators to enable experienced Refuge workers teams to support women through therapeutic and holistic</p>	£9,941	<p>This initiative enables vulnerable women some relief from lived experiences that brought them to these communal settings (safe houses). Women who suffer from mental health or lack accommodation and</p>

	<p>approach through creative art sessions. These are women who live in communal settings who have experienced domestic abuse and fled from their homes.</p>		<p>isolation due to domestic abuse/violence settings build trust with and share their experiences, through informal approach, with refuge workers which would be impossible. This comes under the Victims support of Police and Crime Plan.</p>
<p>9th Sept WEN Helping Others Asylum/Hotels</p>	<p>Currently delivering services at Leicester City's Haymarket centre and prior to that at two locations Appleby Magna and Kegworth between January to June 2024. HMO's.</p> <p>The Founder of Women Empowerment Network delivered this project with the support of qualified educators and of the local NPA Commander and PC Tony Gallagher.</p>	<p>£9,974</p>	<p>Assimilation of asylum seekers into the wider community. Providing welfare support to integrate them into the community, qualified educators teaching them the basic life and social skills and upskilling them, so they become work ready and eventually disperse into society and benefit the wider community. This project would have a reduction in ASB, Mental Health issues and loneliness.</p>
<p>12th Sept Team Hub on the Streetz Project Jo Randall and Project Workers (Outreach) New College/</p>	<p>Aimed at supporting Children and Young People to reduce ASB/Violence The expected outcome of the project is that there will be a reduction through partnership with New College, Leicestershire Police and community members in response to an incident which occurred last year.</p> <p>The aim of project is to encourage youth to engage with youth provisions in the area. Young people who may leave schools without skills or what is known as NEET group of individuals.</p>	<p>£10,000</p>	<p>A diversionary project aimed at preventing knife crime/violent behaviour to enable students to remain in education and gain employment. An excellent take up of the project and reduction in crime as multi-agencies working in partnership, including the police.</p> <p>The students trust the Project Workers, who are local and known to them, and they are on hand to walk and talk and de-escalate any incidents thereby reducing the potential of ASB and violent incidents.</p>

			Reduction in crime figures were quoted to me which were impressive so clearly working.
21 st Sept GNG Football club	<p>This project is aimed at marginalised Children and Young (14-18 years old) who are at risk of ASB to give them a safe space and a sense of purpose.</p> <p>Sports football coaching across couple of pitches in Riverside Football Ground and surrounding area Braunstone area (Glenfield)</p> <p>Delivered at Cossington Park in Belgrave as a weekly 2-hour football session on Saturdays.</p>	£10,000	<p>The Club provides a diversionary project and works in partnership with others, encouraging teamwork, volunteering, development of transferable skills and personal development and leadership.</p> <p>Volunteer coaches who are successfully trained to become Football Association coaches have been retained by the Club to become volunteers and teach younger players.</p> <p>Engagement with Children and Young People is good with the opportunity of using transferable skills gained and developing personally into leadership roles.</p>
9 th Oct Restorative Justice – Dr Denis Tanfa	<p>Training given to police and various stakeholders - how to manage conflict and restore relationships. Links to the Criminal Justice System on the Police and Crime Plan. The projects aim is to empower people to resolve, manage and transform conflict/disputes within their neighbourhood.</p>	£9,995	<p>Basic awareness training on Restorative Justice is given and provide skills and tools to create peaceful solutions and restore community relationships and cohesion.</p> <p>The project delivers briefings, workshops and training to local stakeholders in the LLR including faith leaders, Police, housing staff etc.</p>
17 th Oct Den Project Zam Zam	<p>VRN & West Leicester This was in response to a hotspot for violence in West Leicester</p>	£10,000	<p>Activities aimed at increasing their confidence and social and</p>

	<p>where a high volume of suspected perpetrators of violence lives in West Leicester and Beaumont Leys being main areas. This addresses violence and ASB.</p>		<p>life skills to increase the feeling of safety in the community.</p> <p>Increased trust in adults and a sense of belonging in the community. The youngsters commented they felt safer and enjoyed meeting peers from other schools. Data should reflect a reduction in ASB.</p>
<p>24th Oct Keeping Young People Safe Somali Community Parents Association (SOCOPA)</p>	<p>Keeping young people in deprived areas away from crime and those who struggle to do studies, homelife affected by noise, no ability to complete homework at home. As a preventative measure to reduce ASB and help with integration into the wider community.</p>	<p>£9,995</p>	<p>During the summer diversionary outdoor sports activities took place with indoor board games in the library across the road from the Parents Association, which kept those who are at a high risk of criminality safe from criminality. Benefits of the project was teaching young people about the negatives of ASB by using peer mentoring to encourage positive behaviour. I'm confident this would have helped reduce ASB and increased the feeling of safety for the young people and their communities.</p>

Ethics and Transparency Panel

13. There was an Ethics and Transparency meeting on 26th September.
14. The main points of discussion were the Children's Commissioner, Strip Search (low in Leicestershire Police) and youth in custody amongst other emerging issues that the panel had brought forward as agenda items.
15. The panel, including four newly recruited members of the panel praised and thanked the force upon a good job done with regards to a specific issue recently

which was handled satisfactorily. The Terms of Reference to be updated to reflect this and due to be ready by the panel meeting of December. The four sub-scrutiny panels that report into the Ethics Transparency Panel are Review of Closed Complaints, Custody Detention Scrutiny, Out of Court Resolution and Hate Crime panel. The four sub-scrutiny panels will convene quarterly and will submit an annual report to the Ethics and Transparency Panel. During the last meeting one of the issues that transpired during discussions around custody detention suites was although there is a 50/50 representation custody officers at these custody suites however female custody sergeants are currently underrepresented.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

16. I attended the APCC general meeting on behalf of the PCC in October. I hear about all the issues affecting policing matters, networking with PCC's, DPCC's and other stakeholders/partners. I heard about the challenges for policing firstly whilst waiting for the long-awaited Budget and secondly for all the efficiencies they may have to make if they have not already started to do in their own police forces. It was shared how the Home Secretary's intention is to halve VAWG, Knife Crime and Criminal Justice System. Addictions/Drugs and Futures was mentioned. Procurement efficiencies was also mooted. Funding in areas such as MOJ is still to be determined and shared with PCCs.
17. I ensured that Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were heard by contributing and sharing best practice at the OPCC in LLR. I have brought back an update on what I heard at this meeting.
18. The main points of discussion relevant to LLR were Budget uncertainty, having to make efficiencies and challenges due to funding formula) day 2 started off with EGM, then onto Police Landscape Reform and a Thematics Workshop where PCCs were able to share ideas, suggestions and best practice. Concerns were raised around the Local, Regional and National Debate and devolution and where capabilities sit, how to ensure they are on a sustainable footing and the impact this will have on PCCs/CCs.

Additional Activity.

19. I also attended the Lord Mayor's civic service at Leicester Cathedral. The congregation made up of dignitaries from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland all came together to celebrate our city of Leicester and its diversity and to share in one another's traditions and faiths to deepen our respects for those with different stories to tell.
20. We were welcomed into the newly refurbished Cathedral building and refreshments were also laid on. The procession was made up of Freemen of the city of Leicester, the chairman of Leicestershire County Council, The High

Sheriff of Leicestershire, HM Vice Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and our own ACC Michaela Kerr and it made me so proud to see them all process in and out of the building during the service.

21. The Dean the Very Revd Karen Room, Dean of Leicester lead the service and welcomed the congregation. Some readings took place, the Choir sang and then when it came to the Anthem it was interesting to hear The Revd Canon Dr Sarah Siddique Gill, Canon Missioner, leading it as she translated the words of the Anthem at the same time. It would have been interesting for first time civic service attendees to watch the procession leaving and entering the building and learning. I know I always enjoy watching with great interest.
22. I had the privilege of attending the memorial service for Police Dog Zyla. It was an emotional gathering with an exceptional turnout. We will remember PD Zyla for her bravery.
23. I was pleased to be at the Community Open Day in Markfield on the 17th of August to have the opportunity, alongside the local beat team, to meet the local community and councillors. It is always a good opportunity to meet people in an informal setting to hear any concerns. I was able to have discussions with local leaders in the area such as MP, Councillors, Parish councillors, local small businesses, or organisations such as the WI.
24. On 25th October I was proud to attend the PCEP passing out parade. This is a chance to see the culmination of the 24 weeks programme this cohort followed and who passed with flying colours and to join Leicestershire Police as Police Officers. They will be posted across the county and city within days. Speaking to them during the parade I learnt they come from all different backgrounds but will have a common goal of representing Leicestershire Police Force and were eager to get started.

----- **End of Report** -----

This page is intentionally left blank