



**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND CRIME
PANEL: 24 MARCH 2025**

**SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR PERFORMANCE OF LEICESTERSHIRE
POLICE CONCERNING RAPE CASES TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE –
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Police and Crime Panel to formally establish a Task and Finish group in order to provide additional scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's activity to improve the performance of Leicestershire Police when it comes to Rape cases, in terms of outcomes for victims.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. In line with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is responsible for supporting and challenging the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland in his role to hold the Chief Constable accountable for the performance of the force. The Panel is also responsible for Scrutinising the Police and Crime Plan and the PCC's Annual Report.
3. The Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 outlines a mission for Delivering for Victims and Witnesses with a particular commitment relating to Effective Criminal Justice. This includes improved outcomes for victims of crime, ensuring the system works for those who need it most.
4. The PCC's Annual report of 2023-24 outlined a particular focus on Force performance relating to making positive steps to not only reduce the volume of rape and sexual offences committed but also improve the outcomes for victims.
5. A report on rape offences was presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 2 December 2024. The Panel were concerned about the overall performance relating to rape outcomes and the traumatic impact this had on victims. The Panel have therefore requested additional scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioners activity to improve the performance of Leicestershire Police when it comes to Rape cases, in terms of outcomes for victims.

Background

6. The aim of the task and finish group is to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner's activity in improving the outcomes for victims of rape and to make

observations on whether the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is having the desired effect.

7. The Group will aim to identify blockages within the criminal justice process in which rape cases stop because investigations/prosecutions are not pursued and consider how the PCC could hold the Chief Constable to account, and work with partners, in order to address these blockages.
8. In addition to this, the group will examine the robustness of the reporting process and the effectiveness of victim support services to ensure that victims are supported in taking an investigation forward.
9. The Group will receive written and verbal evidence from the OPCC, Force leads, the Force and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), and relevant victim support services. The purpose of considering this evidence is not to hold to account the Force or CPS, but rather to scrutinise the work undertaken by the PCC.
10. Due to the sensitivity of the information being considered, members of the Panel will sign a confidentiality agreement, and all meetings will take place privately.
11. All recommendations of the Task and Finish Group will be directed to the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is intended that partners and stakeholders involved with this work will receive feedback from the Group and be provided with a copy of its final report.

Timeframe

12. The Group will aim to complete its work within a three month period. However, if there is not adequate time to complete the work within the specified timeframe, this period will be extended until the work can be completed.

Conclusions

13. Members of the Panel are asked to approve the scoping document in order to formally establish a Task and Finish group which will aim to provide additional scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner's activity to improve the performance of Leicestershire Police when it comes to Rape cases, in terms of outcomes for victims.

Background papers

14. Report to Police and Crime Panel, Rape Offences, 2 December 2025:
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1029&MId=7637&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

15. None

Equality Implications

16. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Human Rights Implications

17. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Appendices

Scoping Document - Performance of Leicestershire Police Concerning Rape Cases Task and Finish Group

Officer(s) to Contact

Damien Buckley
Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 0116 3050183
Email: damien.buckley@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank