Task and Finish Group of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel

REVIEW TOPIC	**Performance of Leicestershire Police Concerning Rape Cases**
RATIONALE	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. 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. 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. 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 Commissioner's activity to improve the performance of Leicestershire Police when it comes to Rape cases in terms of outcomes for victims.
PURPOSE OF REVIEW /OBJECTIVES	(a) Scrutinise the PCCs activity to improve the outcomes for victims of rape and make observations on whether the work of the OPCC is having the desired effect. (b) 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. (c) 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.
MEMBERSHIP	Cllr Les Phillimore Cllr Liz Blackshaw Cllr Sarah Cox Cllr Kevin Loydall Cllr Ellie Cutkelvin
TIMESCALE	Three-month period.

METHODOLOGY/ APPROACH	To receive written and verbal evidence relating to the criminal justice process concerning rape cases from: • Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner • Force leads • The Force and Crown Prosecution Service • Victim Support Service Due to the sensitivity of the information being considered, members of the Panel will sign a confidentiality agreement.	
PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR ACTIVITY	Early March	Initiation
		OPCC provide written evidence outlining the type of data it holds
	March - April	Meet with Force Leads
		Meet with Force and
		CPS Meet with victim support service
		Meet with OPCC
	May	Provide feedback to PCC
		Provide feedback to stakeholders
		Final report
	9 June	Final report presented at a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel. Conclusion
OUTCOMES	(a) The Panel receives adequate assurances that the Police and Crime Commissioner is delivering on his commitment for improved outcomes for victims. (b) The Panel is satisfied with the robustness of the reporting process and that correct victim support services are being commissioned in order to ensure that victims are supported in taking an investigation forward.	
RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS	All recommendations will be directed to the Police and Crime Commissioner.	
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	• Police and Crime Panel • OPCC for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland • Leicestershire Police • Crown Prosecution Service • Victim Support Service	
PUBLICITY	A report will be prepared and published as part of the Panel's papers on the County Council's website.	
Risks	That there is not adequate time to complete the work within the specified timeframe.	