



## Police and Crime Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

***9th June 2025***

### ***Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report***

<b>Report Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Report Author</b>	Lizzie Starr, Director of Governance and Performance
<b>Security Classification</b>	Official

## **Purpose of Report**

1. In his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Commissioner is required to establish a Police and Crime Plan and deliver such a plan and bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are joined up.
2. The PCC brings this report to outline for the Police and Crime Panel how he is fulfilling his duty through his work or the work of his deputy and office throughout January to March 2025.

## **Request of the Panel**

3. In their role to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC, the Commissioner requests that the Panel examines the contents of this report. He 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 PCC?
  - b. Would the Panel like to make any recommendations to the PCC in relation to any of the work outlined within the report?

## **Summary**

4. It is the continued opinion of the PCC that there is good progress being made against a key number of workstreams within the office. The PCC receives regular oversight of the workload through weekly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer, Bi-monthly briefings with the Senior Management Team and other briefings as appropriate. During this period the PCC has been concentrating his offices activity on engaging with the public and stakeholders and carrying out research to enable the formation of a new Police and Crime Plan.

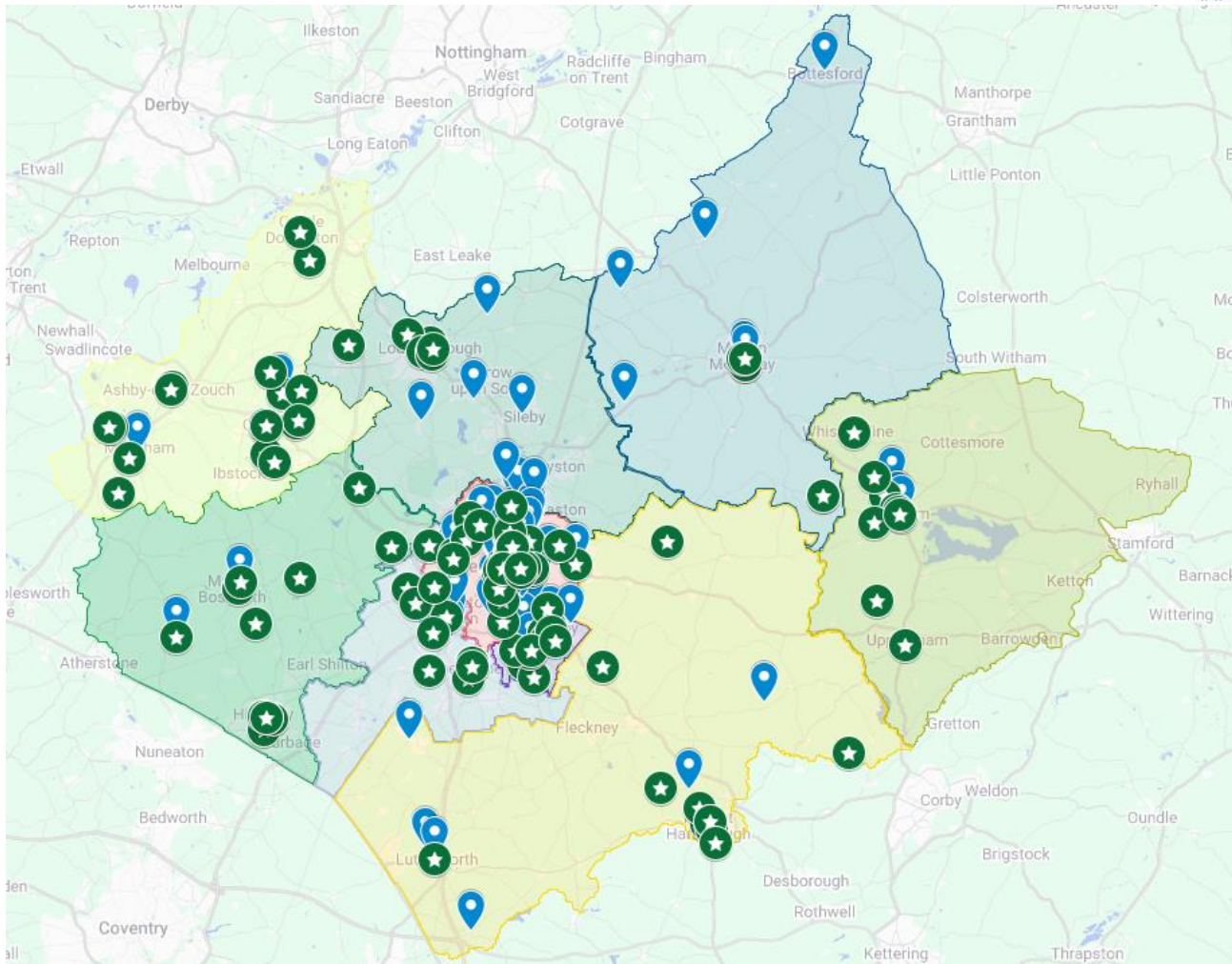
## **Section 1 - Community consultation and engagement (PCC)**

5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) places a statutory duty on the Police and Crime Commissioner to regularly engage and consult with the public. This has been a key priority for the Commissioner, and to that end he has created dedicated 'Community Days', enabling him listening to the views of local people.
6. This report covers engagement activity from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

7. The Commissioner undertook a total of 74 engagements in this time period.
8. The engagements of the Commissioner are categorised as 'community day engagements' and 'other engagements' classes as any engagement outside of a community day.
9. The engagements are cumulatively tracked on a monthly basis by the OPCC team to ensure the Commissioner is undertaking various engagements across the city and two counties and engaging with a variety of different communities and demographics across the course of a year.
10. The total engagements since the start of the 2024/25 financial year (April – March) is shown below broken down by the local authority areas.

Local Authority	Total Engagements since May 2024	Total Community Day Engagements since May 2024	Any Other Engagements since May 2024
<b>Blaby</b>	19	14	5
<b>Charnwood</b>	17	8	9
<b>Harborough</b>	19	13	6
<b>Hinckley and Bosworth</b>	15	13	2
<b>Leicester City</b>	105	40	65
<b>Melton</b>	21	14	7
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	20	18	2
<b>Oadby and Wigston</b>	18	12	6
<b>Rutland</b>	15	11	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>106</b>

11. This table shows that over the course of the year, the Commissioner has completed over 200 engagements and that this is spread across the local authority areas.
12. The same information is shown visually on the map below. The community day engagements are shown as stars and the other community engagements shown as pin drops.



13. The themes that have come out of the PCCs Community Days during the time period of the report are:

- ASB
- Business Crime
- E-scooters

14. The Commissioner has passed on any local intelligence to the local Neighbourhood Area Commanders; he has also requested that E-scooters and ASB relating to them are included in the Force's plans for the local safer summer streets initiative.

15. The Commissioner has visited a number of commissioned services and projects over the time period. This is outlined in the table below;

Organisation	Area and Work	Funding	Output
Young Futures (Highfields Community Centre)	CSF	£19,959  100% OPCC Funding	PCC with Fatima Li. Discussed the positive impact that the centre is having on the local community. Currently running FAB Leicester campaign (Fashion Advice Bureau) to support people working in fashion industry who may be underpaid or working in poor conditions. They are also building a roof garden which will be ready in summer, on top of the community centre. Future visit to be planned once roof garden complete.
Safer Families	CSF	£10,000  100% OPCC Funding	PCC met with Felicity from Safer Families. Discussed project that works with young people leaving care. First project of its kind in LLR.
Coalville CSP meeting with Andy Cooper	CSP	N/A	PCC met with Andy Cooper (team manager for Environmental health and Community Safety at NWL CSP). The relationship between CSP, Police and Belvoir Centre security is good. Discussions surrounding funding. PCC offered to go out with youth intervention workers/ youth rangers one evening. PCC requested data to support CSP claims on their work being great.
Hinckley CSP meeting	CSP	N/A	PCC met with Hinckley CSP, Police and BID to discuss DISC. BID has partially match funded by paying April 1 <sup>st</sup> to July 2024.

## Section 2 - Commissioning and Partnership Activity

### Contracts:

16. The OPCC commissions Freeva to deliver Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) services through the Helpline and Engagement Service HES) and specialist SV and children's SV advocates based at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).
17. The service employs ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) who support victim/survivors based on their need and through the Criminal Justice System (CJS).
18. End of year reporting from Freeva shows that in 24/25:
  - a. The service supported 1,748 victim/survivors of sexual violence and 1,576 victim/survivors of domestic abuse.
  - b. The average number of days victim/survivors engaged with support was 65 for domestic abuse and 640 for sexual violence
  - c. 4.6% of victim/survivors of domestic abuse and 14% of victim/survivors of sexual violence withdrew from engaging with the CJS despite the support available.
  - d. Reasons given for withdrawing include multiple adjournments and length of wait until new court date listings (adjournments/next listing date now being listed for 2027). One child sexual violence case has been adjourned 10 times; multiple others 3 plus adjournments resulting in ISVA/CHISVAs holding cases for considerable periods, longest to date 2,488 days (still open).
  - e. Other reasons given include poor outcomes at court, treatment of victims in sexual violence cases in court by Defence using consent as a defence and victim's having to make a choice between a substantial wait for potential justice vs a focus on their own emotional wellbeing & recovery.
  - f. There are multiple reports of loss of faith in the Criminal Justice System in particular the Judiciary.
19. Due to the 4.2% cut in funding for the Victims Grant the PCC has regrettably had to conclude ten projects on their end date of 31/03/2025. These include projects that provide onward counselling and support to specific groups such as men affected by Domestic Abuse.
20. In ceasing these projects, the PCC has prioritised the remaining funding to IDVA, ISVA and CHISVA services (Independent Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Children's Advocates). The MoJ are currently undergoing a spending review, results of which should be known later this year, until then Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence delivery that sits outside core commissioned services remains on one year funding.
21. SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) for adults has started a pilot programme that offers real time interventions between SARC Crisis Workers and



victim/survivors while police responders are at the crime location through the GoodSam app.

22. This works similarly to WhatsApp but requires no data for the user and leaves no trace on the recipients' phone and can be translated to over 200 languages. Prior to this pilot if a victim/survivor did not want to attend SARC no other interventions could be offered as a needs assessment could not be made.

23. In the first 6 weeks 20 contacts have been made resulting in:

- a. 7 x Victim Attended the SARC within timescales
- b. 3 x Appointment book for Victim to attend the SARC at a later time
- c. 3 x Didn't attend SARC but referrals made
- d. 1 x Juniper Lodge\* offered, but declined
- e. 3 x SARC not applicable in this instance
- f. 1 x Victim was not able to engage
- g. 4 x Support Given

\*Juniper Lodge is the custom-built centre that houses the adult sexual assault referral centre for LLR. Alongside forensic examination suites, Juniper Lodge provides access to specially trained Crisis Workers, Independent Sexual Violence Advocates, police standard video enhanced interview rooms and a court approved Video Evidence Suite (VES) where victim/survivors can give evidence in court without having to attend and confront the accused. The VES is can also be used for other vulnerable adults to give evidence.

24. In summary this pilot has enabled 3 victim/survivors to avoid an unnecessary SARC attendance, 3 were able to attend in a timeframe that supported them, 3 didn't attend but were referred onwards to support (not available prior to the pilot) and 4 victim/survivors were given direct support.

25. The OPCC will continue to monitor the success and efficacy of this project.

#### Community Based Commissioning:

26. For 2024-25, across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, the OPCC has funded 84 different projects or works to date via Community Safety Partnership funding with the majority of CSPs having used all their budget by March 31st, 2025.

27. As the end of the financial year approached, approximately £28,000.00 was given to Charnwood Council for the implementation of ECINS case management system out of the LLR wide underspend which resulted in the amounts below and a total of £11,268.50 remaining across LLR.

28. The allocations for each CSP area is outlined in the table below, these figures include the underspend top-up that was granted to their overall budget from savings made in the 23/24 financial year and is accurate as of 16/01/2025.

CSP Area	24/25 Allocation (including 23/24 underspend)	Expenditure	Remaining
Leicester	£313,421.48	£305,327.80	£8,093.68
Charnwood	£103,233.23	£103,233.23	Nil
SNWLP	£62,006.76	£61,984.07	£22.69
Blaby	£60,726.49	£57,671.50	£3,054.99
Hinckley and Bosworth	£59,056.62	£59,056.62	Nil
Harborough	£43,216.19	£43,181.25	£34.94
Oadby and Wigston	£37,537.20	£37,475.00	£62.20
Melton Mowbray	£36,131.82	£36,131.82	Nil
Rutland	£22,250.25	£22,250.25	Nil
<b>Total</b>			<b>£11,268.50</b>

29. Contributions from Community Safety Partnership budgets for ECINS implementation were as follows:

Leicester City CSP	£20,000.00
SNWLP	£800.00
Blaby	£6300.00
Oadby and Wigston	£900
Total	£28,000.00

30. £11,268.50 was left and of this remaining amount, £6450.00 was given to Leicestershire County Council to help deliver 3 additional streams of work that would benefit LLR wide. These 3 streams were ASB training, Ask for Angela resources and IDVA training.

31. Approximately £4,818.15 therefore remains although this may decrease further imminently with requests from the Force for equipment (Rural Crime Team AirTag kits).

32. For 2025-26 the funding amounts CSPs will receive will return to their base levels as follows:

CSP Area	CSP Allocation for 2025/26
Leicester	£271,818.47
Charnwood	£89,530.24
SNWLP	£53,776.10
Blaby	£52,665.76
Hinckley and Bosworth	£51,217.55
Harborough	£37,479.75



Oadby and Wigston	£32,554.58
Melton Mowbray	£31,335.75
Rutland	£19,296.80

33. The focus for the commissioning team during January and February has been on round 2 of the Commissioner's Safety Fund for 24/25. Round 2 opened on 2nd December 2024 and closed on 6th January 2025. The amount of funding available for this round is £193,993.11. This is a general round where applicants can bid for up to £10,000 for projects that support priorities within the Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029.
34. 57 applications were submitted in this round. Due diligence checks were undertaken against each applicant and a panel of five OPCC staff individually marked and scored the applications, later coming together to moderate and agree overall scores. A recommendation paper was presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner and senior management team highlighting the threshold and proposed successful applicants.
35. Whilst awaiting a decision on round 2 (24/25), the Commissioning Team have prepared all relevant correspondence and documentation and have also reviewed all monitoring returns for previous funding rounds (round 2 and round 3 of 23/24).
36. The focus for February and March has been on finalising the grant documentation for Round 2 of the Commissioner's Safety Fund, ready for projects to start on the 1st May 2025. The website has also been updated to include details of who secured funding and summaries of their projects.
37. Alongside this, planning and preparation has taken place to create and propose a timeline for the upcoming Commissioner's Safety Fund rounds for the financial year 2025-2026.

### People Zones:

38. The team has been working on the final round of the 2024/2025 financial year grant funding for People Zones. The round closed at the beginning of February, and 11 applications were received, totalling just over £70k. From the scoring the Commissioner was recommended to fund 6 projects at just over £40k.
39. The full list of projects funded has been uploaded to the website.
40. Work has begun to film a celebration video with community leaders, residents and grassroot organisations in the New Parks People Zone. This video features key projects within the area that have been funded through the People Zones initiative, as well as hearing all about how the People Zones project has supported the New Parks community.

41. The video is being edited by our videographer who was commissioned for this project and will be launched through a 'Celebration Event' of New Parks in Summer 2025. This event will be organised by the New Parks People Zone steering group and will feature the first viewing of the celebration film.
42. In April 2025, the fifth cohort of the Community Leadership Programme commenced, in partnership with the VRN and Jones Consulting LTD. There are 20 Community Leaders taking part. This cohort takes more of a collaborative approach where the VRN and OPCC will deliver some of the sessions to leaders. During the course, leaders will learn about:
- a. Leadership definitions and styles
  - b. Leading self and others
  - c. Leadership in Partnership
  - d. Empowering communities, being trauma informed and adverse community experiences
  - e. Trauma informed leadership – leaving with love and kindness.
  - f. Developing your organisation
  - g. Project management
  - h. Developing new projects
  - i. Fundraising and Bid writing
  - j. Building, managing and motivating teams
  - k. Public speaking
  - l. Communication styles
  - m. Celebration event

#### Violence Reduction Network:

43. The Home Office has approved two applications for funding (VRU core grant and Serious violence duty funding).
44. This year, the VRN has a new requirement to pilot the Young Futures Prevention Panels. These will provide a mechanism to identify and ensure earlier, preventative support is offered to children who are at risk of involvement in ASB and violence. Local activity already occurs in relation to this cohort of children so the partnership will need to consider how this can be aligned and strengthened through the new panels. The Strategic Partnership Board Executive will be considering initial steps in June.
45. Investment in the Violence Intervention Project (in A&E and custody), the Phoenix Programme for perpetrators of serious violence and our specialist Education, Training and Employment (ETE) service will continue throughout 2025/2026. Youth Endowment Funding for the Reach Programme in schools will come to an end on 30 June 2025 but delivery partners are continuing with elements of the programme through alternative funding. The team also continue to support primary and secondary schools to run the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme.

46. The VRN's Annual Report has been drawn up and approved by Core Members. This is appended to the report.
47. The VRN's annual Community Partnership Event took place on 27 February with a focus on 'With and For Young People'. Young people hosted the event and presented in the workshops and 150 partners attended. The outputs will be used to strengthen the VRN partnership's co-production with children and young people.
48. The new community-based 'Voices Against Violence' campaign is in the final stage of design wherein material is being tailored to each local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The campaign will be rolled out centrally in July with a toolkit which can be used by CSP partners.
49. The VRN team presented at the national YEF Focussed Deterrence Conference on our local design and implementation of a programme (Phoenix) with a particular focus on partnership working and involving communities. Members of the team also featured on a series of films providing insights on how to set up a programme locally. The team has since had multiple enquires from police forces across England.
50. The Team has completed work with NHS Leicestershire Partnership Trust on the production of audios/videos featuring different partners/members of the community talking about knife crime and its impact. These will be hosted on the LiveSafe website for young people and parents/carers.

### Section 3 - Scrutiny and Governance Activity

51. The PCC has set a locally agreed target of a minimum of one custody visit per week per operational custody suite. The Independent Custody Visitor's continue to achieve this and have completed 100% of scheduled ICV Visits equating to twenty-six visits between January and March 2025.
52. No serious issues have been observed during these visits. One issue raised was regarding the bright lighting at Keyham Lane and the Inspector spoke to the detainee and resolved the issue in person.
53. Leicestershire's ICV scheme will be participating in ICVA's pilot reviewing the treatment of Immigration detainees in police custody. The pilot is due to commence in April 2025.
54. The PCC has set a locally agreed target of a minimum of one visit per month to the Dog Unit Kennels at Leicestershire Police Headquarters. This has been achieved and a total of 3 visits were completed between January and March 2025.
55. Seven new volunteers have expressed an interest in joining the Animal Welfare Scheme, bringing the total number to 11 Animal Welfare Scheme Visitors.

56. Training for the new AWS visitors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10th June 2025.
57. The Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (CSDP) met on Tuesday 18th February 2025. A total of 20 custody records were reviewed and 7 recommendations were provided to the Custody Inspector. The work and recommendations of this panel are fed up to the Ethics and Transparency Panel.
58. The Out of Court Resolutions meeting was held on 13th March 2025. 15 youth cases reviewed with 6 cases being identified as appropriate with observations and a further 4 cases being identified as inappropriate and inconsistent with Police policies and/or the CSP Code for Crown prosecutors.
59. The findings from this panel are fed directly back to individual officers and senior police leads with oversight in this area. Similarly, the themes from this panel are highlighted and escalated to the Ethics and Transparency panel.
60. Forty complaint reviews were received by the OPCC in the period January – March 2025, with 35 being closed within the same period. Two pieces of learning from these reviews have been fed back to the force for action.
61. The Team have been preparing for commencement of a new area of work that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will be undertaking from the New Year. In January 2024, the Minister for State for Crime, Policing and Fire wrote to all Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to emphasise the government's intention to improve standards in Policing.
62. The Team's work around pension forfeitures has continued since the last update, with regular meetings being held between the OPCC and the Force's professional standards department to ensure intelligence around upcoming possible pension forfeitures is shared.
63. A paper was also presented to the Ethics and Transparency panel on the process.
64. Recruitment has commenced for a new Chair and Member for the Joint Audit, Risk and Assurance Panel. The current chair and a member are coming to the end of their tenure in November, therefore succession planning has commenced. The advert link can be found here (<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/About-Us/Vacancies-and-Tenders/Vacancies/Vacancies.aspx> )

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