



**LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY
BOARD**

20th JUNE 2025

**LRSCSB UPDATE: OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Background

1. The Executive team supporting the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Leicestershire is known as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). This team has been put together specifically to enable the PCC to successfully carry out his duties. The OPCC is led by a Chief Executive, whose responsibility is to manage the staff team and provide a monitoring role to ensure that standards remain high. The team also includes a Chief Finance Officer to advise the PCC on financial matters and the impact of any decisions regarding the budget, spending and commissioning. Other specialist staff provide support on key areas of business and manage the administrative functions of the OPCC.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

2. Community Safety Partnership funding is a discretionary grant by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the different Community Safety Partnerships ('CSPs') to help mobilise them to address local priorities and contribute towards the Police and Crime Plan. There is an application process by each CSP to access their designated budget which is done in collaboration with the other statutory partners at their CSP. This has been renewed for 2025/26. The amounts each CSP area will be receiving is as follows:

CSP Area	Allocation 25/26
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

3. We ask our Council partners to return their signed contracts as soon as possible please as at the time of writing, some have not done so and will eat into their delivery times which must be within the financial year.
4. The CSP funding we have been granting will be reviewed at the end of this financial year and could be subject to change subject to an overall budget review. I am advised to let partners know that there is a possibility of changes.
5. The Police and Crime Commissioner's role involves aiding in the appointment of a Chief Constable. This process began after the previous Chief Constable Rob Nixon announced in January 2025 that he intended to retire at the end of March 2025. Despite an extensive interview process a new Chief Constable appointment has not yet been made. Temporary Chief Constable David Sandall has currently agreed to continue the role in the meantime. A communication from the PCC Rupert Mathews regarding the situation is set out below:

"Dear Colleagues,

Following an extensive interview process held over two days, an appointment has not been made.

I am committed to appointing a Chief Constable who will build on the legacy of success that has been achieved under Mr Nixon's tenure and will work with me to deliver the public's top priorities through my Police and Crime Plan.

This week, we interviewed two very capable individuals. However, I am determined to find a candidate that has just the right mix of skills and is the right fit for our force, partners and communities. I am determined to appoint a new leader who will provide the strength and stewardship to build confidence and trust in our communities and deliver a first-class service to those they serve. My plan is based on the views of local people, and I promise to leave no stone unturned in delivering a Chief Constable who will drive these ambitions and improvements to fruition.

With Leicestershire Police in such a strong position with regards to performance, it is imperative we identify the right individual to lead the force through the next chapter to achieve further progress.

I would like to thank all partners, staff and officers who have been involved over the past few days, for making it such a robust process.

The role will be advertised again in due course. Until then I am very pleased that Temporary Chief Constable David Sandall has agreed to continue in the role for as long as is necessary.

Rupert Matthews, Police and Crime Commissioner"

6. The Home Secretary sent a letter ('Keeping Town Centres Safe This Summer') urging areas to collaborate to tackle specific crimes during the summer period between 30th June to end of September 2025. The focus primarily is on 3 crime types such as **retail crime**, **street crime** and **ASB**. Areas of concern within LLR have been identified by the HO. This has been collated as of May 30th 2025 with fantastic collaboration and feedback across LLR and we are currently reviewing the final draft. A draft version has been sent to SPB members for review and comment by the OPCC CEO.
7. In April 2025, we commenced the fifth cohort of the Community Leadership Programme, in partnership with the VRN and Jones Consulting LTD. We have 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:
- Leadership definitions and styles;
 - Leading self and others;
 - Leadership in Partnership;
 - Empowering communities, being trauma informed and adverse community experiences;
 - Trauma informed leadership – leaving with love and kindness;
 - Developing your organisation;
 - Project management;
 - Developing new projects;
 - Fundraising and Bid writing;
 - Building, managing and motivating teams;
 - Public speaking;
 - Communication styles;
 - Celebration event.
8. We have just closed Round 3 of the 2024/2025 financial year grant funding for People Zones. The People Zone initiative is designed to build on the positivity and skills of communities around Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to make these areas safer for everyone. There are currently 3 People Zones which are New Parks (Leicester City), Thringstone and Whitwick (Coalville) and Bell Foundry (Charnwood). Please see below a table of the 6 funded projects for this round:

Organisation	Project	Brief	Sum
Love4Life	New Parks Group	This project offers a safe space to girls that have been identified as vulnerable to support them to feel good about themselves and make positive choices. Sessions deliver support around vital topics such as difficulties at school, struggles with friendships, unhealthy relationships, involvement in crime	£3,451.50

		and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and sex.	
New Parks Adventure Playground	Thursday@TheVenny	This project will allow local children/young people to have the opportunity to access a range of activities including but not limited to sports, games, free play, safe space to chill and hang with their friends and take part in Snack & chat sessions where topics /issues are discussed in an age-appropriate way.	£9,998.25
Team Hub CIC	Nature Works	Nature Works is a new programme initially identified for four boys who have attended the Boy Zone programme at Team Hub. They have been identified as needing further support and mentoring for their development in self-esteem and confidence to progress.	£3,960.20
Soft Touch Arts	Summer 25	A series of outreach, street-based art and music sessions from the Aikman Avenue Flats over the school summer break. The primary aim of the project is to secure engagement but there is scope to be responsive to community need and deliver a tangible, visible creative output from these sessions.	£4,904.82
GNR8 Academy	Access to Fitness Scholarship	This project aims to provide 20 young people with free year-long boxing memberships, granting them access to two sessions per week. These sessions will consist of boxing, circuits, and fitness activities designed to improve their physical health, discipline, and overall well-being. Alongside the free memberships, GNR8 Academy will self-fund an additional 20 memberships, effectively doubling outreach to 40 participants.	£8,160
Social Training and Recreational Sports (STARS)	Supporting Vulnerable Young People	This project aims to provide a smooth transition from pre 16 to post 16 through college, employment or apprenticeship progression for young people most at risk of becoming NEET.	£10,000

Total funding: £40,474.77

9. We have recently closed Round 2 of the Commissioners Safety Fund and several organisations have been given up to £10k to tackle priorities within the Police and Crime Plan. You can find the full details here under Round 2: <https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Commissioning/Current-Funding-Available/Commissioners-Safety-Fund-2024-2025.aspx#Round2General>
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

Coming Year

14. The Home Office has approved two applications for funding (VRU core grant and Serious violence duty funding).
15. The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is one of 21 Violent Reduction Units across the United Kingdom that are part of each OPCC and receive funding from the Home Office and the relevant OPCC. Their work is focused on preventing and reducing serious violence within LLR. 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 Anti-Social Behaviour 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.
16. 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.

17. One of the duties of the Police and Crime Commissioner, is to run a Custody Visiting Process. This is known as the Independent Custody Visitors scheme. Section 51(1) to the Police Reform Act 2002 placed independent custody visiting on a statutory basis with responsibility for schemes lying with then Police Authorities and now Police and Crime Commissioners. As such, the Home Office produced a Code of Practice on the delivery of schemes and National Standards were introduced by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA). The PCC has set the locally agreed target to visit each custody suite a minimum of once per week, this had been achieved and 100% of scheduled visits were completed. The Independent Custody Visitor's continue to achieve this and have completed 100% of scheduled ICV Visits. Between April 2024 and March 2025 a total of 103 visits were completed.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Seven new volunteers have expressed an interest in joining the Animal Welfare Scheme, bringing the total number to 11 Animal Welfare Scheme Visitors.
22. Training for the new Animal Welfare Scheme visitors is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 10th June 2025.

Recommendations for the Board

23. This report is for the board to note.

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