



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

25th SEPTEMBER 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

The Community Action Programme

2. The Community Action Programme is a newly established initiative designed to bring together a range of resources and support under one framework. Its purpose is to empower local organisations to take meaningful and sustainable action within their communities.
3. This strategic approach is underpinned by several key pillars including:
 - **Public Crime Prevention Advice** – Accessible guidance to help individuals and communities stay safe.
 - **Crime Prevention Toolkit** – A practical resource offering tested initiatives and advice to help groups identify and address local issues. (Currently in development, expected to launch in 2026)
 - **Co-produced initiatives** – Including People Zones and SHUSH/SHARA which invests in the priorities of local communities.

- **Community Action Fund** – Replacing the Commissioners Safety Fund to offer a more targeted approach to making a real difference where it matters.

About the Community Action Fund

4. The OPCC has opened a stream of funding known as the Community Action Fund ('CAF') which has taken over from the Commissioners Safety Fund (CSF). The Community Action Fund is one of the key pillars within The Community Action Programme which provides targeted funding to smaller organisations and community groups, enabling them to deliver local solutions to local challenges.
5. There are 6 themed grant rounds in total which will open throughout 2025 / 2026. The themes for this fund are based on the six delivery strategies within the Police and Crime Plan. These rounds include:
 - Rural Crime
 - Road Safety
 - Violence and Vulnerability
 - Business Crime
 - Neighbourhood Crime
 - Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
6. Eligible applicants include community groups, charities, voluntary groups, grassroot organisations, schools, parish councils and constituted groups can apply for up to £10,000 to support their crime prevention initiative. To ensure fairness, organisations with more than 30 full time staff are not eligible (schools and volunteers are not included in this number)
7. Applicants are welcome to apply to multiple grant rounds and remain eligible for funding regardless of any previous funds received, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Upcoming grant rounds

8. The first three grant rounds will be open on the following dates:
 - Rural Crime – 1st September 2025 – 17th October 2025;
 - Road Safety – 17th November 2025 – 12th January 2026;
 - Violence and Vulnerability – 1st December 2025 – 31st March 2026.
9. The remaining three grant rounds; Business Crime, Neighbourhood Crime and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) will open in 2026 with dates to be confirmed. More information can be found here on the OPCC website:

<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Planning-and-Money/Commissioning/Current-Funding-Available/Community-Action-Fund/Community-Action-Fund.aspx>

Safer Street Summers

10. The Safer Street Summers work is currently underway. This focuses on proactive efforts primarily from Local authorities and Leicestershire Police to address 3 crime types; Street Crime, Retail Crime and ASB over the summer months including July, August and September 2025. The Home Office has asked the OPCC to collate updates against this work on behalf of partners and report this back by the 14th of the following month. The first submission was sent on 14th August for July 2025. The next submission is due on 14th September 2025. We ask partners to continue in their excellent support in providing timely updates to ensure this deadline is achieved and thank them for their support.
11. There is a request from the OPCC to all Community Safety Partnership (CSP) funded partners to give particular focus on Rural Crime and using funding towards this where appropriate. This has been highlighted as a specific priority based on the Police and Crime Plan. We are actively asking partners to use CSP funding to address this priority for their area based on their known issues. I have made a request to CSPs to give us an indication of what work they may propose towards this by November 2025.
12. We note some CSPs have not drawn down their funding for any works through quarter 1. Please ensure your funding is utilised in full by the end of February 2026 as access to budgets will close by this point and any underspend recouped by the OPCC.
13. 110 Body Worn Video cameras have been distributed to the following successful grant applicants as part of the PCC's focus on tackling Business Crime. We are currently supporting them in their rollout with distribution as follows:

Organisation	BWV
Ashby BID	17
BID Leicester	25
Oadby & Wigston CSP	10
Love Loughborough BID Ltd	20
Hinckley Town Centre BID	20
Melton BID	18

Engagement

14. 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.
15. This following engagement report for his Community Days covers engagement activity from 1st January 2025 – 31st March 2025.

16. The Commissioner undertook a total of 74 engagements in this time period.

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

17. The main themes that have come out of the PCC's Community Days during the time period of the report above are as follows:

- ASB;
- Business Crime;
- E-Scooters.

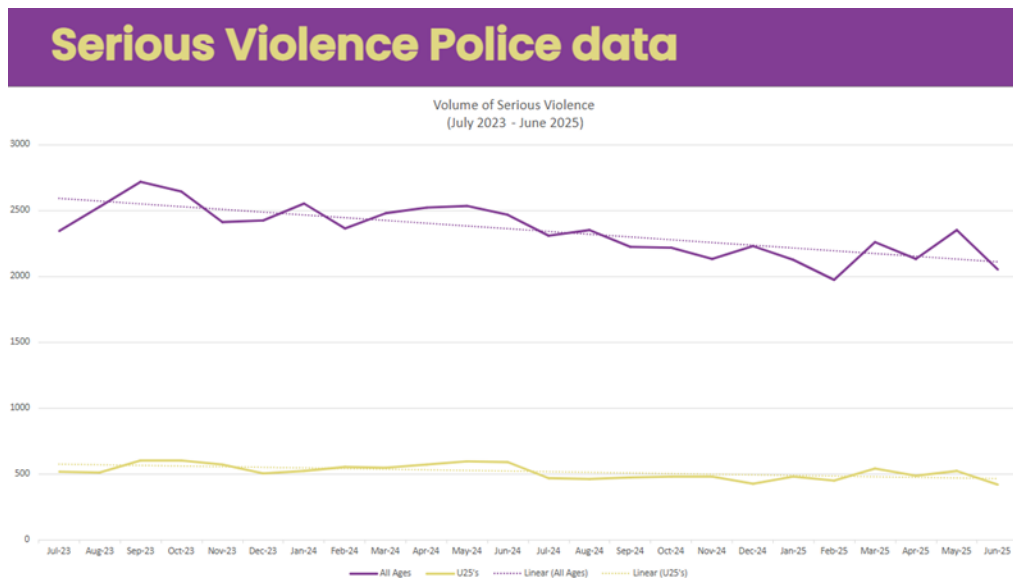
18. A request is made for these 3 priorities to be considered by partners when addressing local community issues given this appears to be the most frequently fed back priorities from residents.

19. The fifth cohort of the Community Leadership Programme concluded in Summer 2025 with 18 community leaders successfully graduating. These leaders will now join the Community Leaders Network, connecting with participants from the previous four cohorts. This cohort was delivered through a more collaborative approach, featuring a wide range of expert speakers covering specialist subjects. Survey results showed strong outcomes, with participants reporting increased confidence in writing funding bids, leading community initiatives, and applying tools such as theories of change. All respondents rated their post-programme abilities as 'good' or 'very good', and many have already begun applying their learning in practice.

20. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with participants praising the programme's structure, delivery, and impact. The success of Cohort 5 reinforces the programme's value and its role in empowering community leaders across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

21. The OPCC is gradually stepping back from direct involvement in the current People Zones to enable the expansion of the model to new areas across LLR. This transition will continue until the end of the financial year, during which time support will remain in place to sustain existing projects and partnerships.

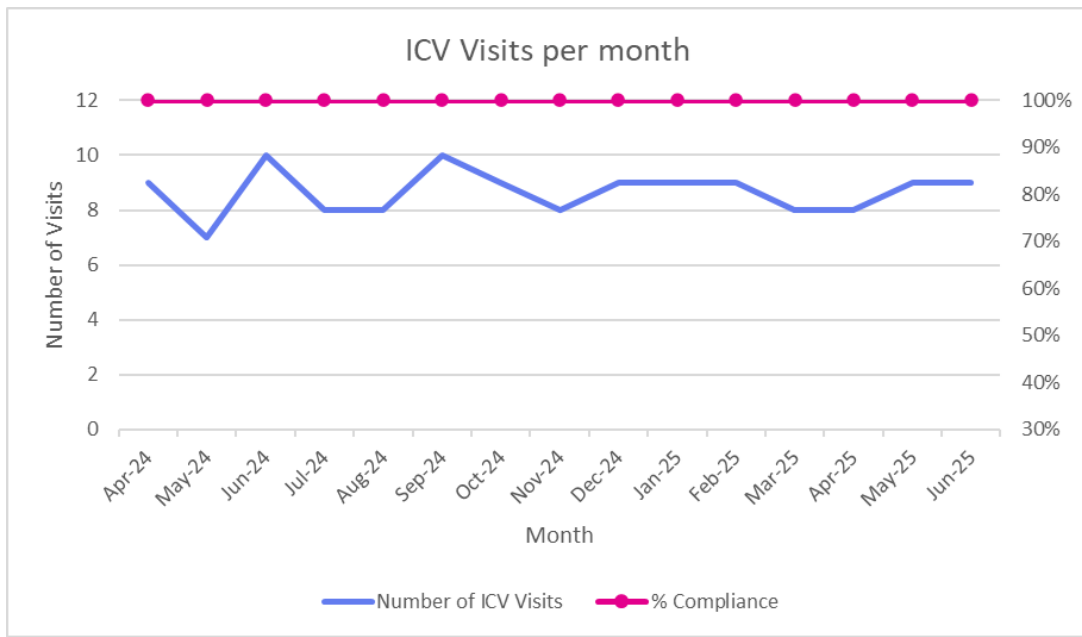
22. A refreshed People Zones model is being developed, building on the original principles of asset-based community development (ABCD) and co-production. The new approach will be used as a problem-solving framework, identifying areas of need through data and insight, particularly via the new ECINS system, and working collaboratively with communities to design locally owned solutions.
23. With regards to an update from the Violence Reduction Network, headline performance continues to show a downward trend in serious violence:



- Serious violence volumes in June represent a decrease of 13% compared to May for all ages, and a larger decrease of 20% for under 25's.
- When comparing this June-to-June last year, volumes were 17% lower for all ages, and 29% lower for under 25's.
- Both also have observed downward trends compared to the start of the graph in July 2023, with all ages 13% lower last month, and under 25's 19% lower.

Custody visiting

24. The PCC has set a locally agreed target of a minimum of one custody visit per week per operational custody suite for Independent Custody Visitors ('ICVs'). The Independent Custody Visitor's continue to achieve this and have completed 100% of scheduled ICV Visits equating to twenty-six visits between Q1, April and June 2025.



Recommendations for the Board

25. This report is for the board to note.

Report Author

Sajan Devshi
 Performance & Assurance / Commissioning Team
 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Tel: 0116 2298980

Email: sajan.devshi@leics.police.uk