

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

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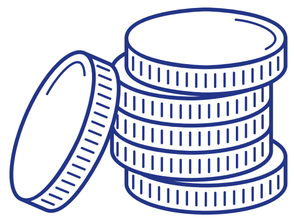
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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Misconduct hearings resulting in 31 days work for our independent panel members

£7.4mil secured a total of income for the force area in 2024/2025



237 community engagements



170 Complaint reviews completed

17 FOIs responded to

-13% reduction in recorded serious violence offences in the 5th year anniversary of our local VRN

593,800 Social Media reach



3,900 responses to surveys

£354k invested in community safety small grants

64 Crime prevention projects funded in partnership with the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

£1.4mil invested in victim support services



40,012 Neighbourhood Alert subscribers

87% of victims supported feel better able to cope and have enhance resilience to move on with daily life



942 volunteered hours

11,724 enquiries through the mailbox



97.5% Victim Satisfaction victim support service Catch 22

16,146 victims supported

FOREWORD

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I am proud to present this Annual Report for 2024–2025. It has been a year marked by a renewed commitment to making Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland safer for everyone. Following my re-election in May 2024, my primary focus has been the development of a bold new Police and Crime Plan for 2025–2029. The plan is not just a document, to be written then left to gather dust; it is a dynamic blueprint shaped by the voices of nearly 3,000 residents and over 1,100 partners and stakeholders that aims to deliver a safer Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Their insights and priorities have directly informed our three core missions: Delivering for Victims and Witnesses, Tackling and Preventing Crime and Harm, and Ensuring an Effective and Efficient Police Force. Contained within these core missions are 6 key priorities:

- Violence and Vulnerability
- Road Safety
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Neighbourhood Crime
- Business Crime
- Rural Crime

Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan is now well underway, and I look forward to reporting back to you over the course of my term of office the impact delivery is having upon our communities. I have made clear since I became PCC in 2021 my belief that prevention is better than cure. That's why, this year, I have invested over £400,000 in a joint OPCC and Police prevention hub, as well as redesigned our small grants process to put prevention at the heart of our commissioning work.

My Office have also launched innovative campaigns and educational programmes—such as "Check the Vibe" and the SHUSH (Speaking Honestly to Understand Sexual Harm) and SHARA (Sexual Harm and Recognising Abuse) packages—to address issues like violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, and online safety, particularly among young people.

Community engagement remains central to my approach. Over the course of 43 Community Days, as well as 130 additional engagements, I have listened directly to residents, businesses, and local representatives. Their feedback continues to drive real change—from funding body-worn cameras for shopkeepers to redesigning grant processes for local road safety initiatives. Above all else, I am your public servant, here to listen to your views. I will continue to be a community focused PCC and ensure that Leicestershire Police reflect your priorities.

This year also saw Leicestershire Police undergo a PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) inspection by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. I welcomed the findings of this latest inspection, which recognised many areas of strength within the Force, including outstanding work in disrupting serious and organised crime, and good performance in preventing and deterring crime, managing offenders, and treating the public fairly and respectfully.

While there are areas for improvement - such as responding to the public and investigating crime - I am working closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that all recommendations are acted upon swiftly. The overall positive outcome of the PEEL inspection is a testament to the dedication of our officers and staff, and I remain committed to driving further improvements in the year ahead.

Despite significant financial challenges, my Office has secured an additional £7.4 million in grant funding this year, supporting projects that have delivered measurable reductions in crime and increased public confidence. The financial picture overall remains challenging. I have continued my lobbying efforts to government to achieve fairer funding for police forces like Leicestershire and will not stop until change is delivered.

Looking ahead, I am excited to deliver on the objectives of my new Police and Crime Plan. With your continued support, and by working together with our communities and partners, I am confident we can build further on our successes and take an even more dynamic and innovative approach to tackling crime and harm across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

Rupert Matthews

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

COMMISSIONER IN THE NEWS

Harborough Mail

Leicestershire PCC welcomes increased scrutiny into the investigation of hate crimes

Melton Times

New safety features making Melton people safer

rayo

Young driver course aims to limit serious crashes in Rutland

Melton Times

£250K crime prevention project aims to make Melton safer

BBC

Police crackdown on car cruising issue

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging directly with the public I represent is incredibly important to me. As such I have continued with my rigorous community engagement schedule over the year since my re-election in May 2024. My 'Community Days' remain my main platform for engaging with communities, business and local representatives across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Over the course of 43 Community Days this year, I have completed a total of 134 engagements. Outside of my Community Days I have also undertaken a further 103 engagements across the City and two Counties, ensuring as many people as possible can engage with me as PCC and can share their views on crime and community safety.

I believe that my Community Day initiative, where I meet with local residents, businesses, elected and community representatives, provides a real insight into how communities feel on the ground. It also allows them to feedback to me their concerns, which I can then escalate as required. From this regular direct feedback, I have been able to shape my local policies and delivery, feedback, action and where appropriate escalate strategic themes and concerns to the Chief Constable throughout my 1-2-1's, which over the course of the year we have held over 25. A few examples of this in practice are detailed below:

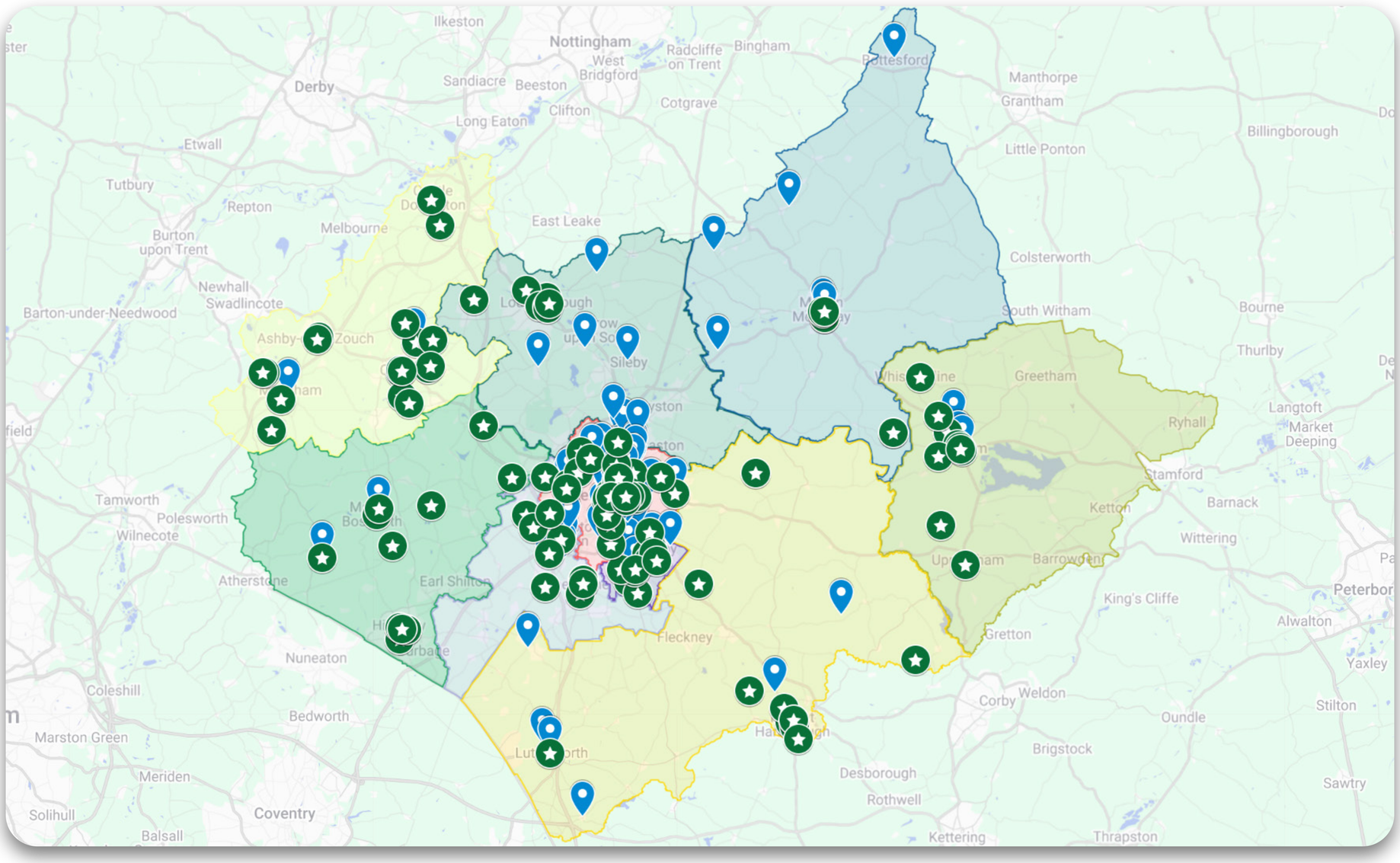
I have heard that Road Safety is a real concern around local residents in small villages and town centres and that there is a strong community interest in proactively working with local groups and authorities to introduce crime prevention items. To aid and support this local appetite to drive change, I have redesigned my grants processes to enable the funding to be more widely used to tackle local community concerns, aligned with my Police and Crime Plan where road safety is a key priority.

I have spent time with local shop owners and keepers around the City and two Counties to learn about their concerning experiences with verbal and physical assaults; a crime which I find completely abhorrent. Having witnessed the fear of being assaulted that some of these workers and owners have just going about their daily work, I have since funded the purchase of 110 body worn video cameras to be supplied to local businesses to increase the feelings of safety and act as a deterrent to these offences.



Community Day patchwalk with PCSO Sidiropoulos

Map of engagements for the year:



INFORMING THE PUBLIC

During the year I have continued to raise awareness of our work through multiple mediums, both digital and physical. Through the OPCC website, social media channels, regular published articles featured in local newspapers, as well as door-to-door publications, I have ensured our information has reached most households in the region. We always take the opportunity to inform the public on my work, the OPCC's work, local funding awards, and how we constantly work to improve community safety. To keep up to date with my work and the work of the PCC and OPCC, you can follow us these platforms:

Neighbourhood Link

CONSULTATION

We have a duty to consult the public and other stakeholders on key decisions, such as the Police and Crime Plan, annual Council Tax Precept, and policy matters. This year my main focus was on my Police and Crime Plan consultation, ensuring it delivered a blueprint that will deliver on the issues that matter most to residents and businesses. Almost 3,000 residents and more than 1,100 key partners and stakeholders completed my consultation, and their views directly shaped the Police and Crime Plan for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 2024-2028.

I also surveyed the public regarding the policing precept, which garnered almost 1,350 responses. The overwhelming majority of respondents supported a maximum increase in the policing precept. This allowed Leicestershire Police and I to set a balanced budget for 2025-26 and allow us to continue to deliver on the improvements and successes of recent years.

I am keen to keep building on our survey engagement and creating new opportunities for the public to directly feed into scrutiny processes.

OUR CAMPAIGNS

Throughout 2024-25 I ran multiple targeted campaigns to raise awareness of important issues relating to crime, community safety and key issues contained within my Police and Crime Plan. A number of campaigns covered are below:

- **National Rural Crime Week**
  Spotlight shines on the success of the force's Rural Crime Team in Rural Crime Action Week.

- **16 Days campaign**
  Social Media Campaign highlighting services available to those at risk or those who have suffered gender based violence.

- **Restorative justice week**
  PCC highlights positive work to create safe and prosperous communities in Restorative Justice Week.

- **ASB Awareness Week**
  PCC welcomes drop in serious violence and ASB as national campaign gets underway.

- **Safer Internet Day**
  New PCC-funded Virtual Reality project helps young people stay safe online.

The campaigns used strong imaging and messages on social media, press releases and media appearances where possible. Through partner agencies such as the Violence Reduction Network, the OPCC also funded campaigns designed to change behaviours and prevent crime.

DEVELOPING THE 2025 - 2029 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

Following my re-election in 2024, I spent the year developing my new Police & Crime Plan 2025-29. This plan outlines the three missions I will focus on during this next term of office.

To shape the plan for my next term I undertook a rigorous engagement exercise with both the public and stakeholders, this included a public survey that received over 3,000 responses, an external partner survey which received over 1,100 responses and a series of internal roundtables.

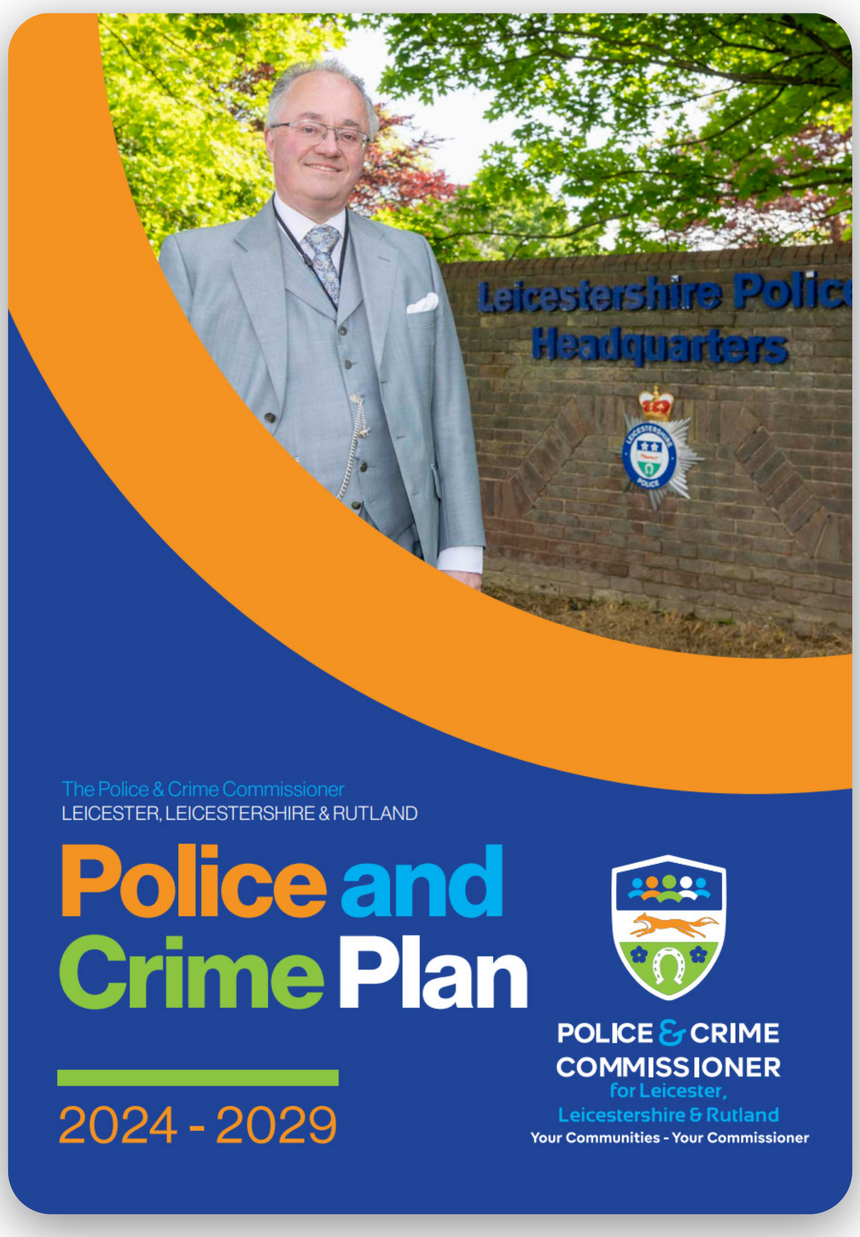
My vision is to see local communities, the police and partners working together to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland safer by delivering against my three missions:

1. Delivering for Victims and Witnesses.

2. Tackling and Preventing Crime and Harm.

3. Ensuring an Effective and Efficient Force.

My plan was taken to the Police and Crime panel on the 28th October where the panel were fully supportive of the 2025-29 Police and Crime Plan:





"The Panel were supportive of the work undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner and his team in developing the Police and Crime Plan. Overall, the Panel welcomed the contents of the Plan, particularly as most of the issues that were of concern to the Panel had been covered in it."
- Police and Crime Panel, October 2024

I listened to the public's views across the City and two Counties and these are reflected throughout the plan and delivery strategies. I have ensured that there is a golden thread of prevention activity throughout the new plan as I strongly believe that prevention is better than cure. In this first year whilst developing my new plan, I have already publicly advocated and invested both financially in prevention, investing over £400k in an OPCC and Police joint prevention hub and also re-designing my small grants process to ensure prevention activity is at the forefront of the commissioning work we do.

Over the next year, following the appointment of my deputy I am looking to strengthen the work we do around transparency and accessibility with you, the public. I am looking to further strengthen our independent scrutiny functions, increase the amount of information made available to you and also encourage public scrutiny of Force performance and my performance in relation to the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan.

I'm excited to deliver the plan with the support of my office over the coming years and reporting back to you the successes it brings through the Police and Crime panel, my social media and of course future annual reports.

COMMISSIONING AND PARTNERSHIPS

COMMISSIONING AND PARTNERSHIPS

I have a key role in the criminal justice and community safety landscape, and in leading 'public health' approaches to tackling the underlying causes of crime. Through bringing together community safety and criminal justice partners, I can help to ensure local priorities are joined up.

My commissioning budget for 2024-25 was £8.2m. This included £4.7m core commissioning and additional funding of £3.5m that had been secured through bids and applications.

COMMISSIONING

Over the last year, the office has been working on strengthening the monitoring frameworks across all of our commissioned services to ensure there is a consistent and proportionate approach. This is due to be rolled out to new contracts and services from 2025 onwards and will help us to closely monitor the delivery of our services, identify what is working well, areas for improvement and focus on the outcomes being delivered.

As PCC, I have a statutory responsibility to deliver a service that provides support to victims and witnesses of crime. For this service, I receive money from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to the value of £2.4million.

Locally, I commission these services out and the offer to victims is currently being delivered through a variety of different means such as Victim First, helpline services, target hardening for Burglary victims, Independent Sexual and Domestic Abuse Advisors (ISVA and IDVA), sexual abuse referral centres and therapy and support services.

I have also been working on developing a new Victim's pathway service to enhance the referral service into support services for victims. For this project I held a Victims with lived experience forum in February 2025, which included a group of people with lived experience of domestic abuse and sexual violence – this was to ensure the new victim pathway is victim centric and as streamlined as possible. This new service is due to be implemented in 2025/26.

Across all my victim support services over 16,000 victims have been supported in this period (April 2024-March 2025), with nearly 12,000 of these victims being new in year referrals. I provide this support to help victims be more able to cope and to build resilience to move forward with daily life, of all the victims supported and concluded support, 87% reported that we had achieved this. This amounts to over 8,500 victims with improved resilience and better coping mechanisms.



Visit to Pathfinder - Under 17 drivers course

INCOME GENERATION

Income generation is a key workstream of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, whereby my office seeks to source and apply for grant funding from central government or elsewhere and convene partners to bring in additional income into the area.

This past year, my office has generated and or secured an additional £7.4m in grant funding, this is including managing the existing £1.05m Violence Reduction Network (VRN) Grant and £1.3m core Victim Services grants.

A key example of this additional funding generated for the force area is the Safer Streets fund of which over £1m was generated for activity over three years. The office made 3 successful bid applications for activity targeting VAWG across the Force area, Neighbourhood Crime in Oadby and Wigston and ASB in Melton. Of the total amount generated, £0.6m of activity was delivered throughout 2024/25, the detail of which is on the next page.

For Melton Mowbray, the following interventions were delivered:

Proposed	Delivered
Three CCTV cameras and four fly tipping cameras for environmental crime.	Completed and installed during year 2 delivery in 2024.
12 solar lighting lamp posts to improve visibility within an area of concern (skate park).	Completed and installed during year 2 delivery in 2024.
One wireless CCTV Help Point system with dome camera.	Completed and installed during year 2 delivery in 2024.
Target Hardening of 130 homes with CCTV equipment including video doorbells and CCTV cameras.	Delivered during year 2 delivery in 2024 with 170 homes target hardened. Due to savings made with OPCC handling procurement and delivery, sufficient stock remains to potentially double this goal outside of the delivery window.
Streetvibe Youth Intervention: an outreach service that works in public spaces with young people to offer educational and diversionary activities.	Completed and delivered during year 2 delivery in 2024.
ASB Training for seven practitioners to upskill council and police staff to enable them to improve their ability and confidence in tackling ASB within Melton Mowbray.	Completed October 2024 with 17 staff trained across Melton Mowbray Council and Police staff, above intended target of 7. 7 people completed ASB training. 10 people completed mediation training.

For Oadby and Wigston, the Safer Street 5 grant focused on Neighbourhood Crime and delivered the following:

Proposed	Delivered
Target Hardening of 400 homes with CCTV cameras, video doorbells, window/door alarms and faraday pouches for keyless vehicles.	Completed November 2024 with 746 homes target hardened with items including CCTV cameras, video doorbells, window/door alarms and more.
Re-deployable CCTV upgrades including up to 60 lamp post conversions for mobile CCTV movement, assessments and structural testing and 10 mobile CCTV camera installations.	Completed November 2024 with all cameras up and functional with up to 60 lamp posts now available for mobile camera movements across the district.
Two fixed CCTV Columns: to allow for the use of mobile cameras within areas of concern that does not currently have coverage.	Completed October 2024.
Anti-burglary cocooning items for 1300 homes.	Completed November 2024, cocooning 1332 homes.



Handing over target hardening equipment such as video doorbells to residents as part of the Safer Streets 5 project.

Overwhelmingly, residents who received or benefited from these measures across both Oadby and Wigston and also Melton reported increased feelings of safety and increased confidence and trust in the police.

Melton:

- 91.6% increase in trust and cofidence in the police.
- 80.3% reduced fear of crime.

Oadby and Wigston:

- 73% increase in trust and cofidence in the police.
- 71.9% reduced fear of crime.

We have also seen significant reductions in crimes when compared to the -pre intervention baselines across all targeted offence types.

- -20% criminal damage rates in Melton
- -66% arson rates in Melton
- -6% burglary rates in Oadby and Wigston
- -20% theft from person rates in Oadby and Wigston

"As chair of CSP OWBC I can only say the input by our partners in achieving what they did in providing a service to our community is testament to their dedication & professional conduct throughout."

Cllr. Kevin Loydall, Oadby and Wigston Council CSP Chair.

The Safer Streets 5 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) funding was strategically utilised to address sexual violence prevention among young people aged 10–19. Efforts were focused within the targeted areas of Charnwood, Hinckley & Bosworth, and East and West Leicester.

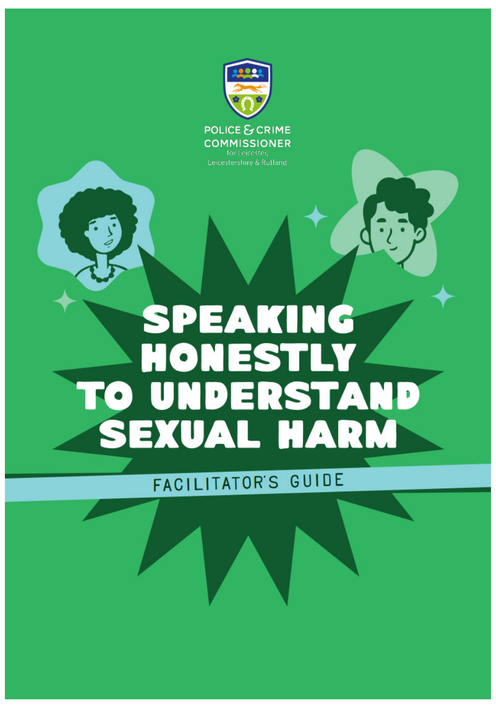
EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

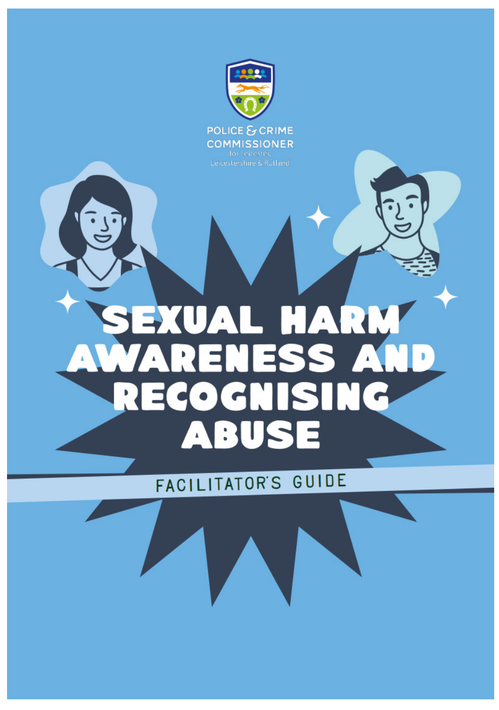
Two co-designed educational packages were developed in partnership with local young people:

SHUSH
(Speaking Honestly to Understand Sexual Harm)
Aimed at young people aged 10-15, this package explores the foundations of consent, boundaries, and understanding sexual harm.

SHARA
(Sexual Harm Awareness and Recognising Abuse)
Designed for those aged 16-19, SHARA delves deeper into recognising abusive behaviours, promoting respect in relationships, and seeking help.

Both packages were supported by accompanying resources to enhance delivery and understanding.





COMMUNITY DELIVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY

To embed these programmes sustainably within the community, community organisations were invited to apply for a grant of £3,252.17 to deliver the educational packages to young people and integrate these into their existing packages.

The organisations were provided with resources, access to materials for future use and training for staff.

In total, 23 organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) were awarded the grant and are now actively delivering the packages within their settings.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGN: CHECK THE VIBE

Alongside the educational initiatives, a youth-informed behaviour change campaign - Check the Vibe - was launched. This campaign focuses on:

- Emotional regulation
- Handling rejection appropriately
- Promoting healthy behaviours and respectful relationships

Also co-designed with young people from LLR, Check the Vibe is being rolled out as both a physical and digital campaign, targeting online spaces where young people are most active. Resources are being distributed to local organisations to extend the campaign's reach and impact.

"As a frontline youth work organisation, delivering support to young people directly, the opportunity to up-skill around VAWG themes has been highly valuable to us. More and more, we are finding the need to counteract the influence and impact of myths perpetuated by social media. We found the training around 'Misogyny and Masculinity' particularly interesting; it left us with some ideas for tangible activity we can deliver with the boys/ young men we provide mentoring to, helping us to feel more confident in challenging unhelpful and unhealthy attitudes."

Sav Vaid, Director, Go-Getta CIC

Looking ahead it is anticipated a further £8.8m grant income will be received 2025-26. This is helping to tackle and prevent crime, and improve services for local residents, victims and survivors and is additional funding bought into services across our force area. This includes £3m for the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, £1.5m for ASB Hotspot policing, £2.3m for Victims and Witnesses including victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and £1m for the Violence Reduction Network.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutory partnerships in each of our local authority areas. These partnerships are chaired by the local authority community safety teams and receive annual funding from my office for the delivery of crime prevention activities.

The breakdown of the annual funding available per CSP is shown below.

CSP Area	2024/2025 Allocation (including 2023/2024 underspend)
Leicester	£313,421.48
Charnwood	£103,233.23
North West Leicestershire	£62,006.76
Blaby	£60,726.49
Hinckley and Bosworth	£59,056.62
Harborough	£43,216.19
Oadby and Wigston	£37,537.20
Melton Mowbray	£36,131.82
Rutland	£22,250.25



Meeting Councillor Kevin Lloydall in South Wigston

The Office attends Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings across the local authority areas to share intelligence and look at better ways of working together across a range of agencies to tackle local issues.

The CSPs are responsible for ensuring their strategy and partnerships align with the Police and Crime Plan. Over the year (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025), 84 projects have been funded across the nine CSP areas. The next page shows some examples of how CSPs have spent their core funding during the year.

Hinckley and Bosworth CSP:
DISC Retail and Retail Radios - £5600 and £3452

This funding has supported the introduction of the DISC system and retail radios to target business crime and shoplifting.

There are 150 users registered on Hinckley BID's DISC scheme, representing a whole cross section of businesses. There are 50 plus Radio-Link radios allocated and operating on the Radio-Link scheme.

The BID have reported that detection rates are now three times the national average, thanks to DISC system, Retail Radio (BID), CCTV (HBBC) and the close relationship with our outstanding Town centre Police Beat Team.





Safer North West Leicester Partnership:
Celebrate Safely Project - £2000

This project is a funded campaign to reduce violence over the Christmas and NTE period which included; Licensing checks, Knife arches, drugs dogs, enhanced CCTV and more.
The results of the campaign is as follows;

- Test purchasing of licensed premises for underage sales (on and off licences). Eight premises were tested, three failed.
- SIA inspection of door staff - 18 security staff were spoken to and no breeches were found.
- Licensing premises inspections for compliance with licence conditions - 20 premises inspections were undertaken. 15 villages were visited and no major issues were found.
- Taxi vehicle inspections - 10 inspections were carried out and four minor faults were found.
- Knife arch deployed - no bladed articles were found.
- Police drink drive campaign - this resulted in five arrests across the district.
- Coalville and Ashby Street Wardens deployed – no serious incidents were reported.
- Coalville Rotary Club funded five bleed kits for Coalville and Whitwick.
- Ask Angela has been promoted in all town centre pubs.
- Leicestershire Police social media reached 289.5k.

Harborough CSP:
Youth Leisure Card - £1200

This scheme refers you people at risk of involvement of SV and ASB to leisure centres for gym memberships.

Four people were referred to the scheme by the community safety team, all at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

No re-offending has been committed by those entered into the scheme.

Harborough District
Community Safety Partnership

COMMISSIONER'S SAFETY FUND

The Commissioner's Safety Fund has had two general rounds in 2024/2025, offering grants towards the costs of community safety and crime reduction projects across the Force area. It has been designed to support community organisations to kick-start local projects that cut crime and anti-social behaviour and improve feelings of safety.

The Fund provided grants up to £10,000 that met the scheme criteria to be delivered within one year of receiving funding. The total value of funding available in 2024/2025 was £400,000. Funding was distributed via bidding Rounds across two rounds for any project that supported any of the Police and Crime Plan's priorities.

A wide range of projects were approved, from the training of street doctors and diversionary activities for young people through to domestic abuse support projects and reducing re-offending.

The Commissioner's Safety Fund in numbers:

15 projects funded in Round 2 to a total value of £148,422.68.

Over 50,000 participants are expected to be supported through funded projects.

Over 2,000 sessions are expected to be delivered.

144 applications received.

36 applications selected to a total value of £354,429.57.

21 projects funded in Round 1 to a total value of £206,006.89.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

My office, in collaboration with the VRN, ran the fourth cohort of the Community Leadership Programme (CLP). This provided 16 local community leaders with a fully funded 12-week course that enabled them to develop their leadership style, knowledge and skills and apply this to their work with the purpose of building stronger and safer communities.



Community Leadership Programme Showcase

Pre-and-post survey results show notable improvements across our key measures including 88% of leaders rated their awareness and understanding of the best ways to engage with different groups and communities as either 'good' or 'excellent', whilst 65% of leaders rated their awareness and understanding of the public health approach as either 'good' or 'excellent'.

In July 2024, we held a showcase event to celebrate the fourth cohort completing the programme. Participants delivered a presentation around their leadership journey to an audience, the showcase included keynote talks from local senior leaders and provided opportunities to network.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK

VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

I have continued to work closely with the Leicestershire Violence Reduction Network, aiming to prevent and reduce violent crime across Leicestershire.

The VRN brings together partners across policing, local government, education, health and a range of other organisations ensuring there is a collective effort to prevent and reduce violence in LLR.

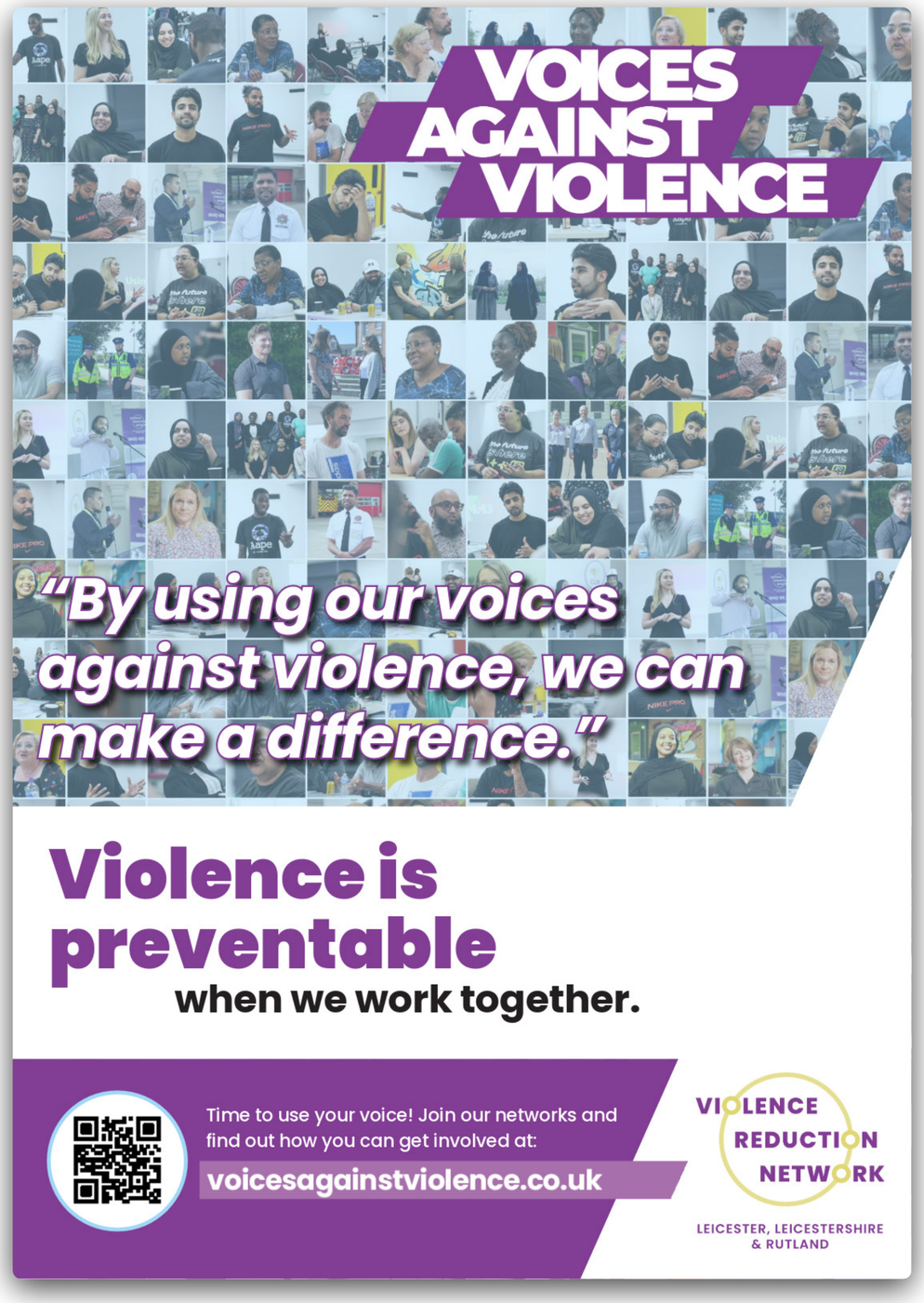
This year the VRN celebrated its fifth anniversary and whilst we can all celebrate the hard work of the VRN partnership to drive down serious violence, -13% reduction in all serious violence, it has also been a busy year for the partnership as they continued to extend their breadth and depth of their work.

Some of the highlights of the last 12 months include:

- 150 partners attending the annual Community Partnership Event focusing on 'with and for' young people.
- Provided 11 online and six face-to-face learning sessions for our communities.
- Supported over 500 young people through targeted interventions.
- Created a new anti-violence community campaign – "Voices against Violence".
- Co-hosted a regional Reimagining Policing Hope Hack with 25 young people representing our area.



The link to the VRN annual report for more information can be found here.



PEOPLE ZONES

The People Zones project has continued into its third year, since being relaunched in 2021, with a vision to empower communities to believe that they are the building blocks to positive change.

Some of the highlights and outcomes of the project include:

- 27 ongoing projects funded through specific grants rounds.
- 120 members of staff from schools across LLR to attend training on how to use virtual reality headsets and to receive training for the programme curriculum over eight events.
- CrimeStoppers campaign across all three areas targeting young people (for the diversion and prevention messaging), and everyone (for the awareness of reporting messaging), raising awareness of Crimestoppers and reporting crime anonymously, and the tailored campaign regarding ASB and nuisance motorbikes. This campaign reached over 22,000 people.
- Working in partnership with the Community Payback team in Probation to undertake two projects in Thringstone & Whitwick: Community Orchard and Forest Rock Wood.



Virtual Reality (VR) headsets

LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD



Leicester Crown Court

This year I appointed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC) Charlie Chirico to the role as Chair of the local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), bringing together criminal justice organisations at police force area level to support joint working and improve services. The purpose and vision of the LCJB is to reduce crime, harm and risk by increasing the efficiency and credibility of the Criminal Justice System and therefore ensuring better outcomes for victims. I have asked the DPCC to focus on bringing the local criminal justice board partners together over the next term to develop a local criminal justice partnership strategy and drive real improvements and change through this board.

"The people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland deserve the very best. Whilst most of us will be fortunate enough not to come into contact with the criminal justice system, it is important that if we do, our victims are fully empowered, kept up to date with timely and quality communications, properly supported, in a seamless and integrated manner. I hope to put my victim centric work at the heart of everything I do as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, supporting and delivering on the pledges in the Police and Crime Plan".

- Charlie Chirico, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

FINANCE

THE POLICING BUDGET

The work on the 2025-26 budget took place in 2024-25. This involved in-depth reviews of service budgets by budget holders, building in known factors, making prudent assumptions, and having discussions between the Chief Constable and other senior force representatives.

It should come as no surprise that the financial challenge facing Leicestershire Police for 2025-26 is greater than it has been for a number of years. While I welcome the fact the new Government increased the Government Grant for Policing by 4.8%, as expected, the outdated and inequitable police funding formula has meant that this has not been enough to cover costs for 2025-26.

Leicestershire Police were left facing a £9.2 million deficit in the wake of this announcement. Alongside this, the costs arising from the Government's changes to National Insurance Contributions have not been fully met, despite assurances that this would occur, resulting in an additional £0.3 million cost to the Force.

The future financial picture for Leicestershire is looking bleak, and this will not change unless a fundamental change is made to the way that Leicestershire Police are funded. The current funding settlement for example only spans one year. It is nigh on impossible to plan efficiently for the future without a multi-year settlement. That is why I have lobbied both the current and previous Governments on numerous occasions on this pressing issue. I look forward to the upcoming spending review in Spring where I sincerely hope the Government has the strength of its convictions to make an impactful and lasting change to whole system of police funding.

In the last three years alone, Leicestershire Police have made £14m of savings.

I continued to hold regular meetings with the Force to scrutinise force revenue and capital budgets throughout 2024/25. A further £9.3m was required to be found to close the deficit for 2025/26 and a further £8.5m over the medium-term financial plan (MTFP).



As central funding remains insufficient, difficult decisions have had to be made to ensure that the Force can deliver on its priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, Strategic Policing Requirements and Force Management Statement. The Force has reduced in size, removing 91 Police Staff Roles and 50 PCSOs over the last two years, with a further 35 needing to be removed in order to balance the budget for 2025/26.

I also fully scrutinised the OPCC budget and requested a full workforce planning exercise be undertaken to ensure the office is as lean as possible in order to fulfil its strategic responsibilities. As a result the OPCC budget was disaggregated to reflect the activity to enable better visibility and reporting.

In light of these financial pressures, I made the difficult decision to increase the Policing Precept paid by taxpayers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland by 4.89%, equivalent to a £14 per year or 27p per week increase for a Band D Property. This additional spending, alongside cost saving exercises within Leicestershire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, will result in £1.1 million deficit, which will be held as an in-year efficiency target.

The Police and Crime Panel unanimously voted, at their 5th February 2025 meeting in support of my proposals to increase to the policing element of the council tax in 2025-26.

Summary of the Budget Requirements

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Budget Requirement	264.0	265.5	274.7	280.7
Net Funding	254.7	262.6	270.7	279.1
Funding Gap / (Surplus)	**9.3**	**2.9**	**4.0**	**1.6**
Reductions:				
Savings Identified	-8.2			
Efficiency Savings Target	-1.1			
Revised Funding Gap / (Surplus)	**0**	**2.9**	**4.0**	**1.6**

Further information on the budgets of the Force and OPCC can be found ***here.***

SCRUTINY, ASSURANCE AND STATUTORY DUTIES

One of my key statutory responsibilities is to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force. Locally, this consists of 1-2-1 meetings with the Chief Constable and other senior force officers, a bi-monthly Governance Board (CGB meeting) and a suite of independent scrutiny functions and panels, including the Joint Audit Risk Assurance Panel (JARAP) and Ethics and Transparency Panel (ETP). As the public's voice in policing, it is equally important that I publish information so you can see how I am delivering effective scrutiny on your behalf.

Over the past 12 months, I have:

- Attended seven Police and Crime Panel meetings where members scrutinised and supported my work on behalf of the public.

- Held six formal Corporate Governance Board meetings where I questioned and challenged the Chief Constable and his Chief Officer Team.

Furthermore, on my behalf the Office held:

- Four Joint Audit Risk Assurance Panels (JARAP) meetings focusing on governance, audit and risk management.
- Three Ethics and transparency meetings focussing on Ethical and legitimate policing.
- Four custody detention review panels, the primary objectives of which is to independently assess and report on detention and custody processes.
- Three dip sampling sessions on police complaints to ensure they were investigated appropriately.
- Three Hate Crime Scrutiny panels to review close cases of hate crimes and incidents and identify areas of individual and organisational learning.
- Two Out of Court Resolution panels to review cases when out of court resolutions were applied to ensure they were applied appropriately.
- 158 ICV visits across Leicestershire's operational custody suites: Euston Street, Beaumont Leys and Keyham Lane by our Independent Custody Visitors during which 748 detainees were actively monitored for their well-being and conditions throughout their time in custody.

HMICFRS

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) assesses police force performance in England and Wales. Their programme of inspections, called PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) assessments, look at how well each of the 43 forces in England and Wales:

1. Provides value for money (Efficiency).

2. Cuts crime (Effectiveness).

3. Provides a service that is fair and treats people properly (Legitimacy).

4. Focuses on vulnerability.

Over the summer of 2024, the Force was subject to a PEEL inspection again as part of the 2023-25 programme.

While challenging in some areas, I welcomed the findings of this latest inspection, and I have held the Chief Constable and his team to account on the findings of the HMICFRS PEEL response in line with our Corporate Governance Framework.

Throughout the inspection, I was kept well informed with the anticipated findings, attended the de-brief provided by HMICFRS and received regular updates from the Chief Officer Team on their prompt response to the findings within the report. I will continue to work with them to ensure all recommendations are implemented and the Force continue to provide excellent service levels to the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Nationally, Forces have seen a downward trend in respect of the grades awarded from previous inspection cycles. There were only 5 Forces who were awarded more "outstanding" or "good grades" than Leicestershire, and I with the Force feel that as a benchmark, Leicestershire received an overall very positive PEEL inspection report.

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Tackling serious and organised crime	Police powers and treating the public fairly and respectfully	Protecting vulnerable people	Responding to the public	
	Preventing and deterring crime and anti-social behavious, and reducing vulnerability	Leadership and force management	Investigating crime	
	Managing offenders and suspects			
	Building, supporting and protecting the workforce			

STRATEGIC POLICING REQUIREMENT (SPR)

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) is the document by which the Home Secretary fulfils their statutory duty to set out what are the national threats, and the appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter those threats.

A review of the SPR commenced in October 2020 and the revised document was published on 20 February 2023.

The link to the above document can be found here: ***Strategic Policing Requirement***

The revision reconfirmed the existing six threats and added a seventh, Violence Against Women and Girls. The expectations on police forces have been set out in greater detail to provide clarity on the requirements the Home Office expects forces to meet. The seven threats are as follows: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Serious and Organised Crime, Terrorism, Child Sexual Abuse, Public Order, Civil Emergencies and National Cyber Event.

GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING

The monitoring of the requirements under the SPR are tracked through the Corporate Governance Board by way of an annual assessment. The Force maintain action trackers for each of the seven Strategic Policing Requirement areas, following an assessment of adherence to the required criteria.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am confident I have given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR in my Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 and in my role of holding my Chief Constable to account.

OTHER STATUTORY DUTIES

Additionally, business as usual for my office included a broad portfolio of activity including public correspondence, police complaint reviews, Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, Subject Access Requests (SARs), complaints about the Chief Constable, appointments to misconduct hearing panels and Decision Record management and information governance.

COMPLAINT REVIEWS

Reforms to police complaints legislation in 2020 sought to improve public confidence in policing by increasing transparency and independent local oversight. The reviews process completed by my office ensures assurance is provided to the complainant that the Force is providing a fair and accessible complaints service to everyone.

Accordingly, my office was the Review Body for the majority (98%) of complaints about Leicestershire Police, in addition to holding the role of mutual oversight body, which was shared with the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC). National statistics published by the IOPC during the year showed that Leicestershire continued to hold a positive position in terms of demand levels, outcomes and timeliness.

	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
Average number of working days to complete Local Policing Body reviews	27	43	50	48
Average number of working days to complete IOPC reviews	167	145	162	148

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

I am responsible for dealing with complaints, conduct matters, death and serious injury matters and non-police reform act misconduct or gross misconduct matters that involve the Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police, under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002. Through my Office, I take steps to resolve and where appropriate, investigate the complaint. When concluded, the complainant is informed of the outcome, along with a clear rationale as to how and why that decision has been reached. To ensure openness and transparency, the complainant is also advised of a right of appeal to the IOPC if they disagree with the outcome. In 2024/25 my office dealt with eight complaints against the Chief Constable – none of which were upheld or met the criteria to be investigated.

Appointment of Independent Panel to Misconduct Hearings:

I hold a statutory obligation to appoint a Legally Qualified Chair (LQC) and Independent Panel Member (IPM) for every misconduct hearing brought by Leicestershire Police - that is for misconduct investigations which meet a threshold of Gross Misconduct. Both nationally and locally there was a rise in cases during 2024-25. 2024-25 saw 16 Misconduct Hearings requiring independent panel appointments. This compared to 14 in 2023-24.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE

The OPCC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (UK-GDPR) and must share certain information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. In 2024-25, my office maintained a comprehensive set of published documents and responded to requests made under the Act. In the year, 17 valid FOI requests were made, 94% of which were responded to within the 28 working day statutory timescale.

Under Article 15 of the UK-GDPR, all data subjects have the right to be made aware if an organisation is processing their personal data, and to obtain a copy of it from the Data Controller. This is commonly known as a Subject Access Request (SAR). No requests were made within the financial year.



PCC Rupert Matthews with former Chief Constable Rob Nixon who retired in March 2025


POLICE

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

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