

**NOTES OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2022
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 5, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.**

Present: Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
John Dwyer, Police & Crime Commissioner
David McNeilage, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Damon Taylor, Chief Executive
Claire Deignan, Principal Scrutiny and Planning Officer
Via Teams
Sam Baxter, Principal Engagement Officer
Jen Van Deursen, Communications Officer
Lez Cowen, Office Support Assistant

Cheshire Constabulary
Mark Roberts, Chief Constable (*via Teams*)
Chris Armit, Deputy Chief Constable
Julie Gill, Assistant Chief Officer (*via Teams*)
Paul Woods, Head of Planning and Performance
Zoe Bowden, Staff Officer

Public
Ian Parkin (*via Teams*)
Evan Morris, Chair of Police and Crime Panel

Apologies: Clare Hodgson, Chief Finance Officer
Matt Welsted, Assistant Chief Constable
Una Jennings, Assistant Chief Constable

1. COMMISSIONER'S OPENING COMMENT

The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. NOTE THE MINUTES FROM THE 27TH NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes from the 27th November 2022 meeting were noted.

3. REVIEW ACTION LOG

Progress against the following actions was noted:

Action 004 – Complete
Action 005 – Complete

Action 006 – Complete *[The PCC requested that this document presents 2-year data going forward]*.

Action 007 – Complete

Action 008 – Julie Gill to provide an update to this action.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN: SUMMARY PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Commissioner noted there had been improvements in response times for both emergency and prompt response incidents. Acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour offences have fallen which was attributed to pro-active work by neighbourhood policing teams. Operation Shield (a property marking campaign) is being used to good effect and has been delivered by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to households in their local areas.

Violent crime has remained static despite the resumption of the night-time economy after Covid19 restrictions were lifted. The Constabulary were targeting activity where known problem areas exist. Preventative activity included encouraging licenced premises to replace glass items with plastic, as well as stopping weapons being taken into venues.

Solving robbery offences was a challenge as they often occur between children (theft of cycles for example) in residential areas where there was likely to be evidential difficulties due to limited CCTV and few witnesses.

The Commissioner enquired what progress had been made since the last meeting in improving outcomes for rape victims. Despite the Constabulary performing better than others in its Most Similar Group, it was a force priority to continually improve, with changes being made to dedicated rape units making available dedicated officers who specialise in the investigation of rape, child abuse and other areas of sexual assault.

Solved rates should be positively impacted by the improved response times enabling evidence to be secured at the earliest opportunity. The Commissioner was reassured that Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) are deployed to all burglaries.

Cheshire Youth Commission reported that young people are not comfortable being searched by the Police and have made some recommendations that the Constabulary was considering. This would be discussed further at the Ethics Panel.

The Constabulary was asked to provide a more detailed analysis of road traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

The Constabulary has made significant investment in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) with increased staffing, digital capability and specialist training to protect vulnerable children from harm.

Domestic abuse arrests have increased significantly, with the Constabulary robustly dealing with perpetrators.

The Constabulary felt that victims were more confident in reporting stalking offences coupled with officers being able to identify it. Charging decisions remain a challenge but reassurance was given that victims were risk assessed with safeguarding put in place regardless of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decisions.

The rise in theft from person offences were likely to be due to events in June and July, such as Creamfields and shops re-opening after lockdown.

ACTION:

(1) The Constabulary to provide a breakdown of Stop & Search outcomes and a more detailed analysis of road traffic fatalities and serious injuries to the next meeting.

(2) 999/101 performance data to be included in the performance pack for the next meeting

4. PEOPLE STRATEGY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner considered the quarterly people services report for Quarter Three. The investment the Commissioner has put in place had enabled the Constabulary to invest in the public contact with improvements in 101 performance being seen already. The report highlighted that much sickness absence was attributed to stress, anxiety and depression. Whilst this was a societal issue and representative of where staff were drawn from, management had not lost sight of how police were continually dealing with stressful circumstances. Support and referral to services were available to officers and staff and the uptake of this offer was detailed in the report. Work was ongoing to address disproportionality, and this was an improving picture across the force, in particular recruiting more female officers.

The quarterly report was NOTED.

5. CRIME AND POLICING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The report was NOTED. The Commissioner thanked the Deputy Chief Constable on the improvements being made by the Constabulary.

6. COMPLAINTS, EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS AND GRIEVANCES: QUARTERLY REPORT

The report provided an overview of the nature, type and frequency of public complaints, relating to police officers and members of police staff, employment tribunals and grievances for the third quarter of the year.

The report was NOTED

The two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

**NOTES OF PART 2 OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2022 IN
OPCC CONFERENCE ROOM, CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD.**

PRIVATE ITEMS

The following matters were considered in private on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in accordance with the sections of the Act indicated below: -

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	
<i>Conduct Matters/IOPC Referrals</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Personal Information</i>

7. CONDUCT MATTERS/IOPC REFERRALS

The private report detailing conduct matters and referrals to IOPC was considered. The report provided further details on conduct matters, including a summary of allegations together with the outcome. There was also further detail set out on statutory and voluntary referrals to the IOPC.

The report be noted.