



Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

A meeting of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel will be held at the Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall, Northampton NN1 1DE on Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 10.00 am

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Appointment of the Panel Chair for 2022/23
3.	Appointment of the Panel Deputy Chair for 2022/23
4.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
5.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
6.	Minutes (Pages 5 - 18) To confirm the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 14 th April 2022.
SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER	
7.	Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's Annual Report for 2021/22 Guide time: 10.15 – 11.00am

a)	Police, Fire & Crime Panel statutory responsibilities (Pages 19 - 22)
b)	Annual Report (Pages 23 - 46)
8.	Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 Guide time: 11.00 – 11.45am
a)	Police, Fire & Crime Panel statutory responsibilities (Pages 47 - 50)
b)	Fire & Rescue Statement (Pages 51 - 60)
PANEL OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT	
9.	Police, Fire & Crime Panel Work Programme 2022/23 and operating arrangements (Pages 61 - 70) Guide time: 11.45am – 12.15pm
10.	Appointments to the Police, Fire & Crime Panel Complaints Sub Committee for 2022/23 (Pages 71 - 80) Guide time: 12.15 – 12.30pm
11.	Urgent Business The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
12.	Exclusion of Press and Public In respect of the following items the Chair may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Panel is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them."

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Members:

Councillor Gill Mercer

Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage

Councillor Adam Brown

Councillor Jon-Paul Carr

Councillor Dorothy Maxwell

Councillor Zoe McGhee

Councillor Russell Roberts

Councillor Ken Pritchard

Councillor David Smith

Councillor Winston Strachan

Mrs Anita Shields

Miss Pauline Woodhouse

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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If you have any queries about this agenda please contact James Edmunds, Democratic Services via the following:

Tel:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of a meeting of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel held at Maybin Room, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED on Thursday 14 April 2022 at 1.00 pm.

Present Councillor Gill Mercer (Chair)
 Councillor Jon-Paul Carr [to item 55]
 Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
 Councillor Zoe McGhee
 Councillor Russell Roberts
 Councillor Ken Pritchard [to item 55]
 Councillor David Smith [to item 55]
 Councillor Winston Strachan [from item 52]
 Mrs Anita Shields

Also in attendance Stephen Mold, Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Lauren Adams, Family Support Worker, Early Intervention Family Support Team, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Gemma Childs, Domestic Abuse Specialist & Family Support Worker, Early Intervention Family Support Team, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council
 Shaun Hallam, Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Risk, Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service
 Jackie Jones, Early Intervention Services Manager, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Helen King, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Nicci Marzec, Director for Early Intervention, Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Stuart McCartney, Governance & Accountability Manager, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Scott Richards, Fire Protection Manager, Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service
 Augusta Ryan, Senior Practitioner, Early Intervention Family Support Team, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
 Claire Smith, Senior Practitioner, Early Intervention Family Support Team, Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

There was also one member of the public in attendance.

47. **Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Gonzalez De Savage and King and from Miss Woodhouse. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Strachan.

48. **Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting**

None received.

49. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

50. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and made the following points:

- Panel members had been sent information on various recent developments relating to Police & Crime commissioners and panels, including the recommendations from part two of the Home Office review of commissioners.
- The Chair had drafted a response to consultation on potential changes to the Policing Protocol, which had been circulated to Panel members for their comments.
- The Chair and the Democratic Services Assistant Manager had attended the latest meeting of the East Midlands Police, Fire & Crime Panels Network on 24th March 2022, which had been useful. The proposed date for the 2022 annual conference of Police, Fire & Crime panels was currently being identified.

51. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that: the minutes of the Police, Fire & Crime Panel meeting held on 3rd February 2022 be approved.

52. **Priorities in Northamptonshire for managing fire safety risks in residential properties, including houses in multiple occupation**

The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) introduced the report. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Risk and the Fire Protection Manager went on to present an overview of priorities, activity and challenges in Northamptonshire, highlighting the following points:

- Fires in the home had an effect on the household concerned but also on the local community and economy.
- Residential fires could occur anywhere and at any time of day. In practice, they were most likely to occur in urban areas, which had a higher population density and more business premises; during the evening; and in the kitchen.
- Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) had adopted a Prevention Strategy that set out priorities designed to reduce the risks from fire in residential properties identified in its Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). A person-centred approach was taken to judging risks.
- NFRS used a tiered approach consisting of a universal offer, targeted activity and specialist support to get most benefit from overall resources. Targeted activity could be delivered by regular personnel as well as specialists: for example, all stations had targets relating to fire safety visits. The PFCC had invested in

specialist prevention activity and there was good evidence that this helped to change public behaviour to support safety.

- 37% of home safety visits (HSVs) were carried out by specialist support officers. 76% of HSVs involved people in the high or very high risk customer profile. NFRS had needed to change its approach to HSVs during the COVID-19 pandemic but had still done in-person visits in high risk cases.
- NFRS did well at getting referrals from partners for HSVs.
- NFRS carried out outreach and prevention activity in the surrounding area following a serious fire. This approach helped to make contact with people who might not engage in normal circumstances.
- NFRS aimed to carry out around 5,000 HSVs per year. It was now carrying out around 4,500 following the pandemic.
- There were significant fire risks connected with houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) due to the way that these properties were used. HMOs represented 5% of houses but accounted for 34% of fire deaths and 40% of fires. There were over 2,000 HMOs in Northamptonshire, both licensed and un-licensed. The establishment of HMOs in the county was slowing.
- Local housing authorities were primarily responsible for enforcing legislation relating to HMOs. NFRS had a more specific role in reducing fire risks, although it worked closely with local authority housing teams as part of this.
- NFRS operated a risk-based inspection programme of HMOs that prioritised overall capacity to have the most impact. 1,721 premises in the county were currently identified as higher risk. This included any premises previously subject to enforcement action and new HMOs identified each year.
- NFRS had developed a training package for regular crews during the pandemic assisting them to carry out checks on HMOs that had been visited in the past. This approach also took advantage of local fire crews' existing connection with the surrounding community.
- The legislative requirements relating to fire safety in HMOs only applied to communal areas. This brought home the need for NFRS to engage and work with members of the public in carrying out its role.

[Councillor Strachan entered the meeting during the preceding discussion].

The Panel considered the report and presentation. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Risk and the Fire Protection Manager provided additional information in response to points raised by Panel members during the course of discussion as follows:

- If NFRS identified a significant fire risk when inspecting an HMO it was able to issue an immediate prohibition notice on the property. The occupants would be required to leave. NFRS had arrangements in place with local authorities to accommodate any people displaced from an HMO in this way.
- NFRS was able to give out free smoke alarms to owner-occupiers when it carried out HSVs. Landlords were responsible for providing working smoke alarms in

rented properties at the point when they were let. Local authorities enforced this requirement.

- NFRS worked with landlords who approached it for advice and also attended local landlords forum meetings. This relationship led good landlords to provide intelligence about bad ones. NFRS made use of intelligence from local crews and partner agencies as well as running media campaigns to encourage members of the public to report bad landlords. NFRS was happy to receive intelligence from local councillors.
- Residents were permitted to use gas cookers in HMOs or flats. The gas supply to a building was more of a risk factor than the actual cooker.
- Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) was used safely to power many houses in the county. NFRS did horizon scanning to identify new fire risks. This could help to show if there was an issue with LPG being used unsafely in the home.
- NFRS was able to investigate the person responsible for an HMO, whether this was the owner, an agent or someone else with control over the property.
- The transfer of responsibility for the governance of NFRS to the PFCC had given it access to a bigger communications team. This put NFRS in a better position to run media and social media campaigns on issues such as home fire safety.

The PFCC made the following points during the course of discussion:

- NFRS was held to account by the PFCC on behalf of Northamptonshire residents. This included for its performance and how well resources were used for home fire safety as for other functions.
- All residents were encouraged to check that the smoke alarms in their homes.
- Public bodies sharing information relating to home fire safety only benefited members of the public.

Panel members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The approach taken in Northamptonshire was impressive. HMOs could have a significant impact on the surrounding area.
- It was questioned how NFRS dealt with landlords who could not be contacted.
- Bad landlords should be encouraged to see how their tenants were living.
- NFRS had previously made good use of social media to provide information on issues like fire safety and water safety. This was a very helpful, interactive approach.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the overview of priorities and activity in Northamptonshire.

53. **Activity on Early Intervention and Adverse Childhood Experiences in Northamptonshire**

The PFCC introduced the report, highlighting the following points:

- Early intervention (EI) was a priority area and a focus for work by the Office of the PFCC (OPFCC).
- The dedicated Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS) Team established in 2019 provided specialist support in Northamptonshire.
- The value of EI activity was undeniable as it prevented young people from entering the criminal justice system and helped them to lead more fulfilling lives.

The Director for Early Intervention advised that the EIFS Team focussed on interventions at a tier 2 targeted services level, working with people before they reached the threshold for statutory services. It had three main focus areas: general family support; young people involved in knife crime and gang-related activity; and families referred for support as a result of domestic abuse incidents.

The PFCC then introduced members of the EIFS Team who commented on their roles and gave examples of the types of support provided to young people.

Augusta Ryan outlined the case of a young person referred to the EIFS Team as they were at risk of becoming involved in knife crime and had been excluded from school and alternative provision. Dealing with the Team rather than a police officer had helped the young person to engage with available support. They had subsequently received individual mentoring, family support and support for anger management. A new education setting for the young person had been identified and they had been able to access training opportunities in a field that interested them. This had prevented a real risk of them becoming involved in serious violence.

Lauren Adams outlined the case of a young person referred to the EIFS Team by their school safeguarding lead after taking an overdose, who had mental health issues, was demonstrating risky behaviour and was missing school. Work by the Team had identified that the young person would benefit from support about protective behaviours and personal safety. This had helped the young person to stop self-harming, to attend school and to build better relationships with their parent and peers.

Gemma Childs outlined the case of a family affected by domestic violence, debt and housing issues, with children who also needed support for additional needs and school attendance. The EIFS Team had helped to improve co-ordination between different professionals involved in the case. The mother's wellbeing had been improved by getting their partner to leave the home; fire safety issues in their home had been addressed; they had been given support on healthy relationships; and support from Community Law on debt. This was an example of work by the Team with a family who might not otherwise had received intervention.

The Panel considered the report. The EIFS Team members present provided additional information in response to points raised by Panel members during the course of discussion as follows:

- There were pressures on the capacity of local services: for example, longer waiting times for referrals to Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were a reflection of staff numbers.

- Schools were responsible for educational psychology. It was useful to have an in-house service available as had been the case in the past in Northamptonshire. However, local schools were still in a position to be able to offer this service to young people when needed.
- Family support referrals could be made directly to the EIFS Team by anyone, including self-referrals. This approach had been introduced one month ago: previously, referrals had come via a local authority. Referrals connected with domestic abuse tended to come from police Public Protection Notices (PPNs).
- Schools could make referrals to the EIFS Team. The Team had been contacted by Northampton International Academy (NIA) regarding particular issues affecting the school. The Team was responding to family support referrals and NIA had also been offered support by the OPFCC's Targeted Youth Team. The neighbourhood police team was working on local anti-social behaviour issues.
- The EIFS Team had created a 'non-engagement' pathway for working with young people who would not engage with the police in connection with anti-social behaviour.
- EI work was intended to provide support to young people before they reached the point of coming into contact with magistrates courts.
- Some schools operated a zero tolerance policy regarding young people found to have a knife or drugs at school. Work was being in Northamptonshire to enable a more nuanced approach to be taken in conjunction with the provision of additional support for young people concerned.

The Director for Early Intervention made the following additional points during the course of discussion:

- The OPFCC was continually looking to expand the EIFS Team and it was already three times larger than when it had been established.
- Safeguarding young people was a collective responsibility not one that sat with a single agency. The approach taken in Northamptonshire should reflect this. There were opportunities to address structural issues to make better use of overall resources, for example by improving the link between children's and adult social care services.
- Information-sharing between partners was another key area for attention. Organisations should not let information-sharing agreements become counterproductive, as there was a very low risk of action being taken in cases when sharing information produced a positive outcome. The Integrated Care System model might provide further opportunities to improve information-sharing and the use of common systems.
- As much as possible should be done to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time. There was scope to consider what further action might usefully be taken in Northamptonshire. An example of this was a potential piece of work on how young people were affected by legal advice to give 'no comment' answers when interviewed by the police. This approach could require a case to go to court and reduce the opportunity to provide a young person with other types of support.

- Expectations about the level of support that schools could provide to young people needed to be realistic. Schools were only one of the agencies involved in safeguarding young people.

Panel members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The work of the EIFS Team was generally commended.
- It was questioned how many families had been helped by the EIFS Team in the current year compared to the previous one. This information was needed to judge its success.
- Cases coming to the magistrates courts provided examples of young people who could have been diverted from crime by prevention activity.
- Effective prevention saved money by reducing demand on higher level services. Northamptonshire needed to rise to this challenge.
- The introduction of direct referrals was welcome. Ease of access was very important for services at the tier 2 level.
- The focus on the whole family within the work of the EIFS Team was positive.
- People working in frontline roles were well-placed to spot signs of danger. They needed to be supported to act on these and to have access to good information about relevant services available.

The PFCC made the following points:

- Everyone who got involved in public service did so to make a difference. The EI work being done in Northamptonshire had helped a large number of families.
- It was important that the EIFS Team employed the right people and future growth would be at a pace to support this.
- Partner organisations involved in EI work needed to take a sensible approach to data sharing. He encouraged councillor members of the Panel to take this point back to their respective local authorities.
- He agreed that there was a significant opportunity for local organisations to work together on EI to produce good outcomes. The OPFCC put a lot of effort into trying to demonstrate the benefit of EI work, which was difficult as the effect of not taking action could not be demonstrated. However, as PFCC he believed in the value of EI work.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel requests to be provided with confirmation of the number of families supported by the Early Intervention Family Support Team in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21.**
- b) The Panel congratulates the Early Intervention Family Support Team on its work so far.**

54. **Fire & Rescue Plan Delivery Update**

The PFCC presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- Darren Dovey was due to retire as Chief Fire Officer in October 2022. The PFCC expressed this thanks to Mr Dovey for all his work in the role, noting that Northamptonshire was a safer place because of him.
- A new CRMP for the next three years was currently being developed. This set out three major projects intended to help to meet future pressures, which focussed on the green agenda, digital and technology and a review of emergency cover. The PFCC was confident that NFRS would continue to build on Mr Dovey's legacy into the future.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- Mr Dovey had done an outstanding job in difficult times and it was sad to see him leave. NFRS was in a stronger position than when he had taken the role.
- Mr Dovey was commended for his contribution to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as chair of the Local Resilience Forum and to rebuilding NFRS using the resources made available by the PFCC.
- The PFCC was questioned about whether he was satisfied with the progress being made by NFRS towards having a workforce that reflected the community it served.
- The PFCC was questioned whether it was planned that Mr Dovey and the candidate appointed as the new Chief Fire Officer would work together during a handover period.

The PFCC made the following additional points during the course of discussion in response to points raised by members:

- Strengthening NFRS had been a team effort and the Chief Finance Officer had been very successful at securing additional resources from the government.
- NFRS was in a relatively good position now but would continue to face challenges. This added to the importance of appointing the right person to lead it into the future.
- He still had some concerns about progress with the development of operational interoperability between the force and NFRS but was more reassured than when this had been discussed at the Fire Accountability Board in February 2022. Significant progress had been made on back-office interoperability. Northamptonshire would learn from good practice elsewhere. He was keen to pilot a community warden project.
- He was interested to see the Fire Reform White Paper but anticipated that it would not affect Northamptonshire as much as other areas, as it was already ahead on some issues.
- Consideration of how representative NFRS's workforce was of the local community needed to take into account that it had not been able to recruit for 10 years prior to the governance transfer. He was committed to making NFRS more

representative but this needed to be balanced with keeping the county safe. The new Chief Fire Officer would need to be in-post for several years to take forward current work and achieve a step change in NFRS' overall position.

- The process of recruiting the next Chief Fire Officer would start shortly. The PFCC was able to make a good offer but would also have to face challenges, including the situation affecting chief fire officers' pensions following the McCloud judgement.
- The increased rate of short term sickness discussed at the Fire Accountability Board in March 2022 reflected that officers were correctly self-isolating after testing positive for COVID-19. Current recruitment would assist with managing overall capacity once it came on-stream.
- A chief constable could confer Police Community Supporter Officer (PCSO)-type powers on an appropriate individual. This created the opportunity to have an officer who could be a trained firefighter, a paramedic and equipped with PCSO powers. Cornwall was taking this approach. The PCSO was interested in exploring it but would take care about applying it in Northamptonshire.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

55. **Police & Crime Plan Delivery Update**

The PFCC presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- The recent visit by the Prime Minister to Northamptonshire represented further recognition at national level of innovative work being done in the county. The PFCC also took the opportunity provided by all ministerial visits to highlight historical underfunding of the force and NFRS.
- The OPFCC had secured over £2m funding from the Home Office in the last 18 months for Safer Streets activity.
- The Knife Angel would be on display in Northamptonshire in the next month.
- He proposed to present a combined Delivery Update report to the Panel in future to reflect the move to a Police, Fire & Crime Plan.

The Panel considered the report and members made the following points during the course of discussion:

- Concern was raised about the continuing backlog of court cases. Reassurance was sought that the PFCC was highlighting this issue at national government level.
- Concern was raised that 134 families who had been the subject of a PPN could not be contacted due to incorrect contact information being recorded.
- The PFCC was challenged whether the higher number of PPNs issued in Northampton compared to other parts of the county reflected that it had a larger population, rather than demonstrating more successful early intervention activity.
- The PFCC was questioned as to how the effectiveness of the Safer Nights Out (SNO) van project was quantified.

- The PFCC was challenged as to how significant resources being put into safety for women and girls, including in relation to the night-time economy, would help to protect a woman in a club experiencing inappropriate behaviour.
- There were examples of good practice regarding women's safety in venues in Northampton, such as The Roadmender.
- It was questioned whether the force was able to deploy female officers to respond to an incident involving violence towards a woman, given that a victim may not be comfortable or able to deal with a male officer in the immediate aftermath.

The PFCC made the following additional points during the course of discussion in response to points raised by members:

- He and his counterparts had made representations to the Prime Minister concerning the backlog in the courts. Their case had seemed to be well received, but the PFCC remained concerned about this issue.
- He had looked at the use of PPNs and had identified the need to improve recording of contact information, which was why this was highlighted in the report.
- The higher number of PPNs issued in Northampton should in part reflect a more effective neighbourhood policing offer and greater consideration being given in the county to the best way of responding to different issues.
- The SNOvan was still in the trial phase, although North Northamptonshire Council had already asked for one to be deployed in the authority. The PFCC would make an informed assessment of the project and could share this with the Panel. It was difficult to demonstrate that a negative outcome would have occurred in the absence of action taken. Against this, the SNOvan had a relatively modest cost.
- Work on safety for women and girls including training for staff at night-time venues on intervening in situations where someone was behaving inappropriately. The 'It Only Takes One' campaign involved measures including encouraging men to speak about attitudes towards women and call out harassing behaviour. Undercover officers were also deployed in the night-time economy.
- The local authorities in Northamptonshire were responsible for the local trials of e-scooters. He suspected that they would become part of normal life but it would be necessary to ensure that they were used safely. The force engaged with Voi Technology on issues connected with e-scooters, particularly the risk of fatal accidents.
- The force considered the most appropriate response to make to an incident as far as possible. A female officer would be deployed if available in cases involving violence towards women, but the force would not hold back from deploying a male officer to respond otherwise. It was always possible to do more on this issue.
- He sought assurance using both internal and external information about how effectively the force responded to female victims of crime. The Professional Standards Department helped to support effectiveness in this regard both by addressing bad practice by individual officers and ensuring that cases where it was found that officers had acted correctly were resolved promptly.

[Councillors Carr, Pritchard and Smith left the meeting during the preceding discussion].

A Panel member subsequently challenged the PFCC about the overall effectiveness of Northamptonshire Police compared to other forces, in light of the number of 'requires improvement' ratings given by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services in the last PEEL assessment of the force. The PFCC was challenged about whether 'good' ratings would be achieved in the next PEEL assessment to provide real evidence of improvement.

The PFCC made the following points:

- The point that had been made was not based on a complete view of the force's current position. The latest PEEL assessment stated that the force had made significant improvements. It was no longer close to being in the equivalent of special measures and was performing better than in the past. Comparisons with higher rated forces also needed to recognise when they were funded better than Northamptonshire.
- He was not satisfied with the force's current position and held the Chief Constable to account robustly for its performance and development. This was informed by awareness of good practice in other areas as well as support from the College of Policing. There would need to be significant action if the PFCC did not see 'good' ratings in the next PEEL assessment.
- He had consistently said that the force was on an improvement journey and the Panel needed to take a fully contextualised view of its current position. He also thought that the latest PEEL assessment did not reflect some improvements that had already been made. The force was not where it needed to be but was moving in the right direction. The PFCC needed to provide the right environment to support improvement: continually criticising the force's senior leadership would not represent an effective approach.

A Panel member commented that 'requires improvement' ratings meant that the force was in a better position than in the past. All wanted it to achieve outstanding performance and the challenge was to move towards this with the appropriate level of urgency. Panel members emphasised that the Panel should be kept in touch with continuing progress in this regard.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel notes the report.**
- b) The Panel requests that the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner continues to update the Panel in future on progress with performance improvement by Northamptonshire Police.**

56. **Fire & Rescue Authority Budget Update**

The PFCC presented the report, which set out a forecast underspend of £71,000. The budget update reports were shorter than the standard updates as the Panel had requested for the current meeting.

The Panel considered the report. In response to a question the PFCC stated that there were no plans at the current time to close any of the fire stations in the county. NFRS would benefit from moving some stations, such as the one in Kettering. Ultimately, stations needed be located in the best way to meet the needs of a growing county.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

57. **Policing Budget Update**

The PFCC presented the report, highlighting the following points:

- The latest forecast position was for an underspend of £1.63m, made up of £1.59m on budgets managed by the PFCC and £35K for budgets managed by the Chief Constable.
- The forecast underspend on budgets managed by the PFCC included underspends relating to the timing of recruitment to posts in the EI & Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) team and to investment in reducing reoffending now being funded by the Ministry of Justice.

The Panel considered the report. The Chief Finance Officer provided additional information in response to points raised by members during the course of discussion as follows:

- The devolved operation budgets managed by the Chief Constable could cover a range of units and costs, including staffing, equipment and overtime. Further information could be provided on this matter if requested.
- The PFCC had asked the Chief Constable for further information on the reasons for overtime costs for the control room being higher than expected. COVID-19 related absences could require overtime cover from additional staff members.
- Reducing re-offending was a new area of work that had been built into the budget for 2021/22. However, it had become clear during the year that the Ministry of Justice would actually fund it.
- Agency staff had been used to cover a vacancy in the OPFCC supporting the Safer Streets initiative to enable projects to continue whilst a permanent staff member was being recruited. This had now been done.

The PFCC subsequently advised in response to a question that the Youth Team was able to respond to issues arising in particular areas within the county. However, prioritisation was based on the needs of the county as a whole.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The Panel requests that the Policing Budget Update report covering the final outturn for 2021/22 includes a breakdown of the devolved operational budgets managed by the Chief Constable.**
- b) The Panel notes the report.**

58. **Police, Fire & Crime Panel Work Programme**

The Democratic Services Assistant Manager presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- The report was intended to enable the Panel both to review its existing work programme and to identify any matters that it wished to highlight for potential inclusion in the outline work programme for 2022/23.
- The OPFCC had identified further possible dates for a Panel members briefing session with the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer and a visit to Darby House. These could be circulated to all Panel members following the meeting.

The Chair thanked all Panel members for their work during 2021/22.

The Panel considered the report and members discussed how further work on early intervention might be incorporated into the Panel's future work programme. It was suggested that the Panel could seek to bring together relevant parties to look at opportunities to make better use of overall resources available to support early intervention in Northamptonshire. Panel members encouraged that this issue be pursued, although it was also recognised that the Panel appointed for 2022/23 would set the final work programme.

RESOLVED that: the Panel identifies task and finish work on early intervention as a suggested topic for inclusion in the Panel's work programme for 2022/23, to have the following focus areas:

- **How well relevant partners work together to support and build on early intervention activity in Northamptonshire**
- **The barriers that can prevent effective partnership working on early intervention and how these can be overcome.**

59. **Complaints and Conduct Matters Update**

The Chair introduced the report, which advised that one new complaint about the PFCC had been recorded during the period September 2021 – March 2022 and was due to be considered by the Complaints Sub Committee in accordance with the Informal Resolution Protocol.

The Panel considered the report. In response to a question the Democratic Services Assistant Manager advised that it was aimed to convene the Complaints Sub Committee in May 2022 before local authorities' annual general meetings. Training on the complaints function would be provided to Sub Committee members.

Panel members commented that a recent Home Office webinar on complaints had highlighted the scope for panels to publish a flow chart setting out how the complaints process operated.

RESOLVED that: the Panel notes the report.

60. **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

19 JULY 2022

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to review of the Annual Report for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
Report Author	James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council James.edmunds@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	05/07/2022
West S151 (for West and joint papers)	Martin Henry	07/07/2022

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to set out the statutory requirements on the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to review the Annual Report for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to reviewing and making a report on the Annual Report for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. This Annual Report appears on the agenda for the current Panel meeting as the next item of business.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel reviews the Annual Report for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendation is intended to enable the Panel to carry out its statutory responsibilities relating to scrutiny of the Annual Report effectively at the current meeting.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 (sections 12 and 28) states that a Police & Crime Commissioner must produce an “annual report”.
- 4.2 The annual report must report on:
- a) the exercise of the Police & Crime Commissioner’s functions in the financial year, and
 - b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the police and crime plan.
- 4.3 The annual report must be sent to the relevant Police & Crime Panel as soon as practicable following its publication by the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- 4.4 The Police & Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the annual report.
- 4.5 The Police & Crime Commissioner must attend the relevant meeting of the Panel to present the report and to answer such questions from the Panel about the report as the Panel members think appropriate.
- 4.6 The Police & Crime Panel must then review the annual report and make a report outlining any recommendations to the Police & Crime Commissioner. The report or recommendations of the Panel must also be published.
- 4.7 The Police & Crime Commissioner must provide a response to the panel and must also publish that response.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has now produced an Annual Report for 2021/22. This has been sent to the Panel to review, reflecting the requirements summarised in section 4 of this report.
- 5.2 Reviewing and reporting on this Annual Report is a mandatory task for the Panel. Local Government Association guidance for panels on policing and fire governance gives the following advice on good practice in this regard:

Scrutiny of the annual report should focus on:

- *understanding whether the objectives set out in the police and crime plan have been met*
- *using panel members' own insight and independently gathered evidence to evaluate whether the commissioner's conclusions on this matter are robust, and*
- *supporting the commissioner to hold the chief constable to account on operational delivery.*

An effective panel annual report session should use the report as a tool to carry out an annual review of the commissioner's activities, looking back at the last year's successes and challenges, and forward to the next year's opportunities and priorities.

A less beneficial session could involve the panel highlighting apparent factual inaccuracies in the annual report, asking for additional narrative information on details or pointing out typographical or grammatical errors. None of these would add value to the effective scrutiny of the commissioner and all of them would represent a poor use of time for everyone involved.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposal.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendation in this report.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Terms of Reference.

Policing and fire governance – Local Government Association guidance for police and crime panels (2019)

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2021-2022



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Stephen Mold

Annual Report





Contact

Call
01604 888113

Email
commissioner@northantspfcc.gov.uk

Write
**Darby House, Darby Close, Park Farm
Industrial Estate, Wellingborough, NN8 6GS**

www.northantspfcc.org.uk

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Scan the QR code to view my Police, Fire and Crime Plan



Introduction

2021-22 has been another challenging and difficult year, however with the end of the covid pandemic and society starting to return to normal, we can look ahead with optimism that the worst is now behind us.



Throughout the pandemic, our emergency services have played a vital role in helping to keep us safe and supporting vulnerable people across Northamptonshire. We can all be proud of their work and as the PFCC, I will ensure that all lessons are learnt so that we can continue to improve and enhance how we keep the public safe.

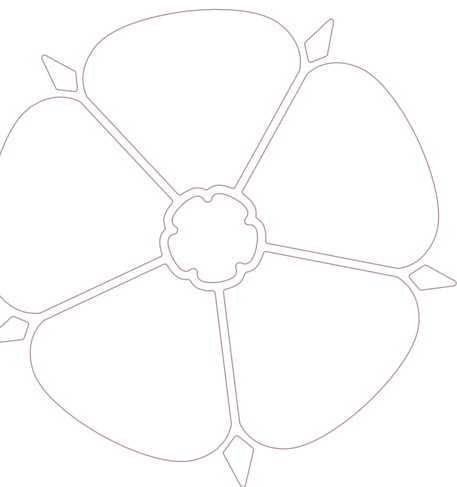
I have also been very proud of the work the OPFCC has been able to deliver, especially during the ongoing restrictions and lockdowns. For example, we have been immensely successful in securing more than £2.5 million government funding from the Safer Streets Fund. This money is already making a real difference to local residents and will also to support our work in preventing violence against women and girls. Our work was praised by the Minister for Crime and Policing when he visited the Hemmingwell estate in Wellingborough to get a closer look at how the Safer Streets scheme is improving the lives of residents in the area.

This report sets out what we have achieved against my previous Police and Crime Plan and will be the last time I present it in this format. This year I published my first Police, Fire and Crime Plan which sets out my priorities for Policing and Fire and Rescue and how they can, individually and jointly, improve and front-line services and the safety of our community.

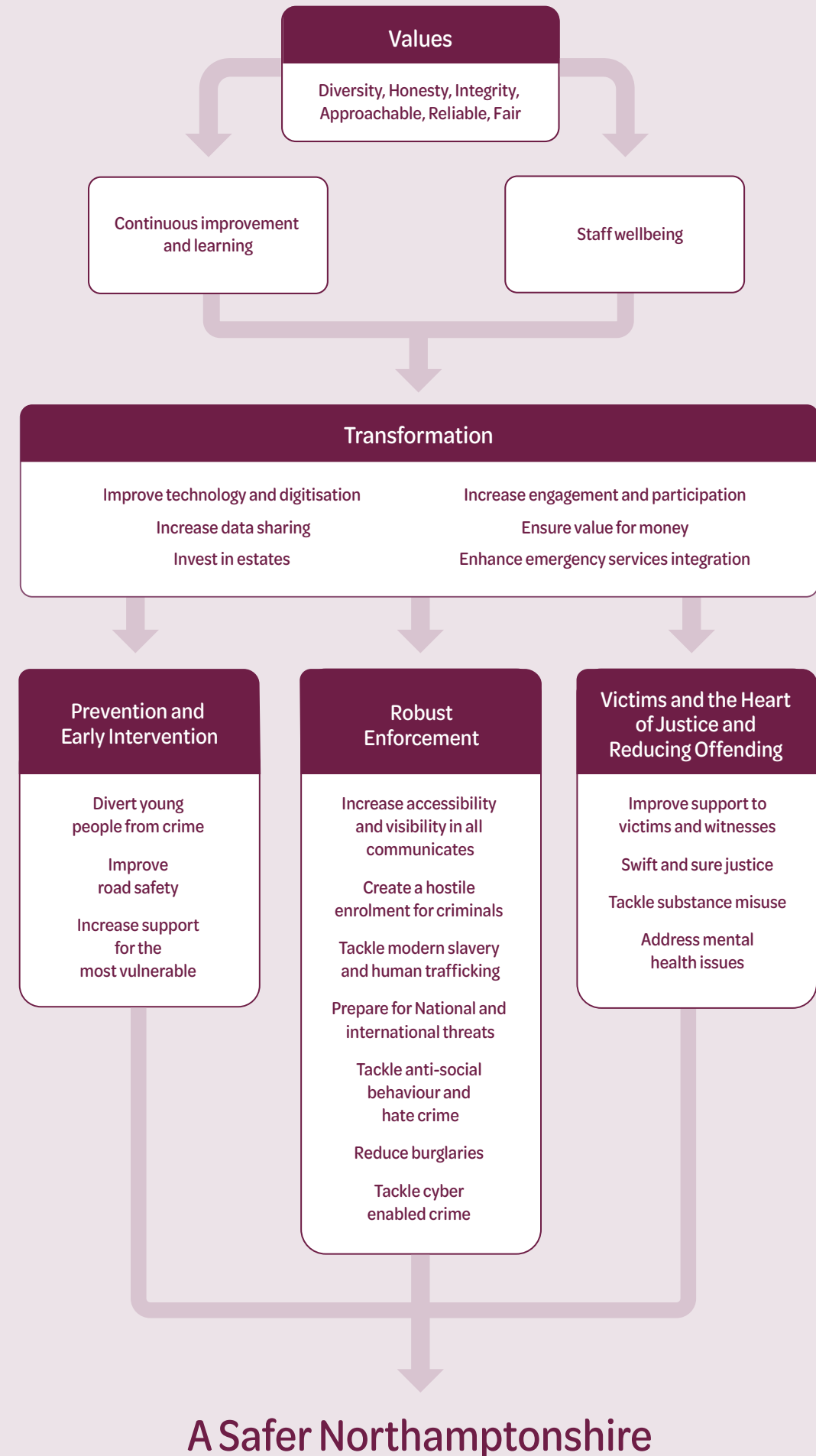
A copy of the plan can be downloaded at: www.northantspfcc.org.uk/police-fire-and-crime-plan-2021-2026/

The work we have delivered has been praised by central government, who have seen at first hand the difference we have made to front line policing across Northamptonshire, including in our rural areas. I am confident that police and fire services in Northamptonshire have improved significantly over recent years: now I want to raise the bar and challenge Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to aim for the best.

Stephen Mold
Police, Fire and
Crime Commissioner



Plan on a Page



Prevention and Early Intervention



Early Intervention

Early intervention, which helps to keep people out of the criminal justice system and provides support, is a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan. The Senior Practitioner team are now in place, and their primary role is to support the Family Support Workers to effectively manage cases, safeguard children and young people and ensure referrals to the team meet the service criteria for early intervention.

The Family Support team works with children, young people and their families for up to 12 weeks and have supported 240 families with 425 children and young people. Many of the referrals request support with child behavioural issues, alongside mental health and emotional wellbeing issues. The team can provide help to the entire family, empowering them to use the skills they have learned when professional support ends.

Supporting

240
families

with

425
children

for up to
12 weeks

In addition to the advice, guidance and direct family support, the team is providing parents with online workshops covering parenting support, emotional wellbeing and information on domestic abuse and the impact on children and young people. They also offer early intervention and prevention support work to the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) project.

The team members have excellent engagement skills and have been able to encourage hard to reach young people on to the CIRV project or for support through the Youth Offending Services Prevention and Diversion Scheme. The two Family Support workers have engaged 350 young people, referred for concerns around suspected gang activity, crime and antisocial behaviour. They have also worked alongside the Northamptonshire Police and the Youth Offending Service, identifying teachable and reachable moments when a young person has been taken into custody. For those young people where they have had no previous involvement with the criminal justice system, the family Support Workers will meet with the young person and complete a follow up visit to the home, encouraging the family to engage in support to reduce the likelihood of further arrests.

The team has started to offer early intervention and prevention awareness raising in schools across the county, providing information on the impact of childhood trauma and how identifying support at the earliest opportunity and making a referral to the Early Intervention Service.

Families who have received support were invited to feedback on their experiences. From the 94 families who responded, 69 families felt their circumstances had improved as a result of the intervention.

The Early Intervention team has specialist domestic abuse workers who actively contact families who have had Police contact for a domestic incident where children were present. These incidents are not categorised as a crime and before the team were in place, no follow up would take place. During the year, 917 Public Protection Notifications (PPNs) which is an information sharing document which allows officers to record safeguarding concerns when identified were recorded which led to 1566 children and young people have receiving some help from the team.

Youth Service

The Targeted Youth Service was established in January 2020 and supports vulnerable children and young people across Northamptonshire identified as being at risk of exploitation and of entering the criminal justice system. The team has developed positive networks with the Northamptonshire Police, partner agencies and within our communities and actively works to help ensure provision is in place and support is available to vulnerable children and young people across Northamptonshire identified as being at risk of exploitation and of entering the criminal justice system.

During the last 12 months the team has had 2524 contacts with children and young people through 352 individual detached/street based youthwork sessions in Kettering, Wellingborough, Northampton, Daventry, and Corby. These sessions are designed to address the underlying causes of offending, steering children and young people away from criminality in the community. The Youth Service offers bespoke groupwork packages which typically consist of sessions with young people on issues identified by referrers or by children and young people themselves.

The lifting of covid restrictions has created the opportunity to deliver face to face Youth Worker support. School based groupwork and 1:1 work was reduced in late winter because of Covid

“

In 2021/22 the team delivered an informal education session to **2275** young people

restrictions in schools. However, the Team were able to resume support programmes within schools from January around the county, enabling sessions to 248 young people and 1:1 sessions within the community with 127 young people.

In 2021/22 the team delivered an informal education session to 2275 young people, highlighting their vulnerabilities to exploitation from gangs, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. The groups have been set up to support schools within localities to come together with partner agencies to address contextual concerns with young people who are showing vulnerabilities towards being groomed into child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. Working collectively to address the emerging needs and risks earlier to avoid further escalation into specialist services.

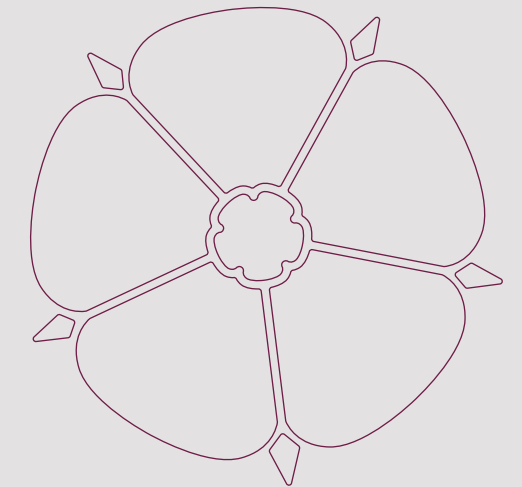
The team use the ‘Outcomes Star’ which is a nationally recognised assessment framework to measure progress and reduction in the likelihood of further difficulties. The end of Q4 21/22 saw 375 young people reaching their final ‘progress point’ which demonstrates they were making positive progress in their lives. Details of the scheme can be found at:

www.outcomesstar.org.uk/about-the-star/

Finally, the Youth Service was commended by Northamptonshire Police for its work with young people in the north of the county. The team led on engagement work in Operation Revive, which was a multi-partnership project addressing the issue of rising violence and anti-social behaviour in Wellingborough. The work delivered by the team helped to build trust between young people and the police and address neighbourhood issues in North Northamptonshire.

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission members have met with stakeholders to build their knowledge on water safety and healthy relationships. From these meetings, surveys were constructed by the commission and 3042 were completed by young people in secondary schools across Northamptonshire. A high volume of responses to both surveys were received and these will be analysed by the Commission to provide recommendations.



Robust Enforcement



“

We are also on track to have over 1500 police officers in the county for the first time ever by the end of March 2023.

More neighbourhood police constables

Northamptonshire now has more police officers than ever before, and I am committed to making sure that they provide high quality services that keep Northamptonshire safe and make its residents feel safer than ever. I have worked with the Chief Constable to ensure there is an increased focus on neighbourhood policing, with named officers in all rural and urban communities and a greater focus on community safety activity.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

94 Police Constables

83 PCSOS

20 Sergeants

4 Inspectors

The renewed focus on neighbourhood policing has taken a step forward, with 94 Police Constables, 83 PCSOS, almost 20 Sergeants and four Inspectors on our Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This is effectively a doubling of the neighbourhood team resource in the past year. New liveried vehicles have been introduced to help teams become more visible and accessible in their local communities. The additional officers and new vehicles are part of the new focus on local policing I announced earlier in the year, which will see the number of neighbourhood constables increase from 50 to 100 by mid-2022, with the ambition for a further 60 by 2023. The increase in officer numbers means a cohort of new recruits will now begin their policing career in a neighbourhood team.

I know how important it is to people that their police are truly local – visible, accessible and focussing on the crime that matters to them where they live and work. We have the benefit of more than 200 extra officers in the past four years, with more than 100 still to be recruited by 2023 and I am determined that we now make the most of this and get more police out on the beat and into the heart of the community. We are also on track to have over 1500 police officers in the county for the first time ever by the end of March 2023.



Beat Buses

Local policing teams are now taking to the roads in two new Neighbourhood Beat Buses, helping to boost police visibility and provide easier access to local officers in towns and villages across Northamptonshire. The dedicated neighbourhood vehicles will be used for regular surgeries and community visits across the county, with a Beat Bus in both the North and West Local Policing Areas. The investment in the new beat buses is part of the wider investment in local policing which will see the number of neighbourhood constables more than double in 2022-23.

Rolling out ANPR Technology

The doubling of Northamptonshire's ANPR network has resulted in numerous arrests, serious criminals thwarted, and a clear message that this county is a hostile place for criminals. ANPR – Automatic Number Plate Recognition – reads the registration of passing vehicles and checks them across several databases, raising the alert if a vehicle is stolen or linked to crime. In December 2020, we announced that 150 new camera sites would be installed across Northamptonshire to increase coverage across rural areas and major towns as well as on the county borders.

The **£1.3 million** investment has achieved significant success, with

- **3618** vehicle stops,
 - **753** arrests,
 - **2226** traffic offences,
 - **730** searches and
 - **1431** vehicle recoveries;
- all from ANPR stops in Northants.



ANPR figures

Some highlights include:



£78m

of drugs seized in November were found as a direct result of ANPR



Op Jaguar

was a high intensity 3-day ANPR operation which saw 143 vehicles stopped, 26 arrests and 44 vehicles seized.



94%

increase in the number of vehicles of interest being sighted by police ANPR as a direct result of new cameras from expansion project



Op Opus

was a sustained ANPR Op in March 2022 which saw 100 vehicles seized and 19 arrests for various offences including recall to prison, burglary, robbery, GBH, theft, disqualified and drug driving



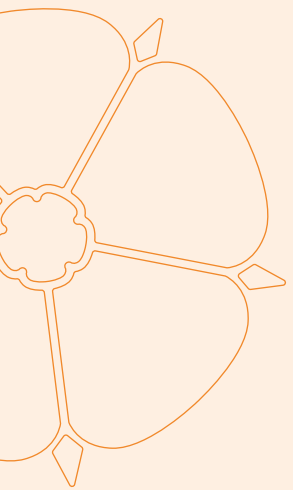
880

Plates identified by ANPR Intel team linked to crime investigation and intelligence that police would not have known about otherwise



439

cloned vehicles identified by ANPR Intel Team through data analysis alone since July 2021 – Vehicle Registration Mark not previously known to police



Safer Streets Fund

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner successfully bid for more than £400,000 from the second round of Safer Streets funding provided by the Home Office. This was to deliver a scheme to enhance security across the Hemmingwell estate in Wellingborough with work commencing in autumn 2021. Much of the work focused on new and more secure doors being fitted at more than 300 properties on the estate, in partnership with Greatwell Homes. The investment means the majority of properties on Gannet Lane and Fulmar Lane have benefitted from new front and back doors.

In addition to this, more than £40,000 worth of home security products – including bike locks, timer switches and shed alarms – were handed out to residents who attended five community events in 2021. This is on top of 10 new CCTV cameras that have been added to extend coverage in the area, as well as several environmental improvements such as the removal of derelict garage blocks and cutting back trees to improve visibility. The feedback from residents has been very positive and they have told us that they are so glad that the estate has been invested in. We've now invested more than £2.5 million of Safer Streets funding in Northamptonshire over the last two years, and it's made a real difference for the communities that have received it.

“
...work focused on new and more secure doors being fitted at more than **300** properties on the estate

Extra security for rural Northamptonshire businesses

Rural businesses have been given a helping hand to combat crime thanks to a trial funded by the OPFCC which allows businesses to borrow VideoGuard 360 cameras – which are being rented from security firm PID Systems. The machines boast three HD cameras and give out warning messages against committing criminal behaviour should a sensor be triggered. They are also fully mobile, meaning they can be placed in any area that could be determined vulnerable. Footage captured by the VideoGuard 360 is then sent to a PID Systems control room where staff will assess the footage and see if it's a genuine security threat. If this is deemed the case then PID Systems will liaise with the Northamptonshire Police control room, who will designate it as an emergency incident. As well as setting aside £5,000 to rent the VideoGuard 360s for affected businesses, the OPFCC has also funded signage warning potential criminals that their every step is now being watched where the cameras are in place. Northamptonshire is a largely rural county, and we want to make sure that businesses in rural areas are given as much help as they can be to remain safe and successful.

Violence against Women and Girls

Several initiatives are underway to help improve the safety of women and girls across the county, particularly in the night-time economy. The OPFCC is working alongside local authorities and Northamptonshire Police among others, on projects that are together supported by more than £800,000 from the Home Office Safety of Women at Night Fund and the Safer Streets 3 fund. Schemes underway will see West Northamptonshire Council improving lighting and CCTV on the Racecourse and Becket's Park

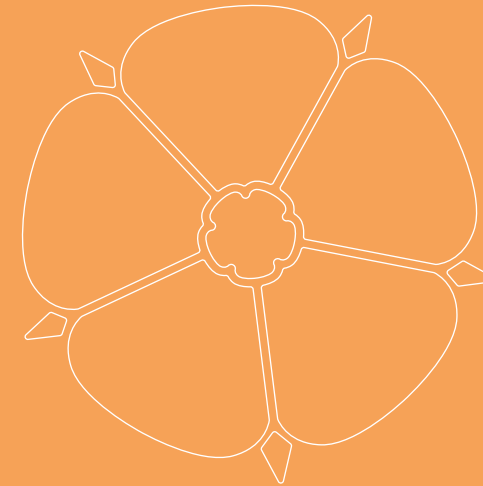
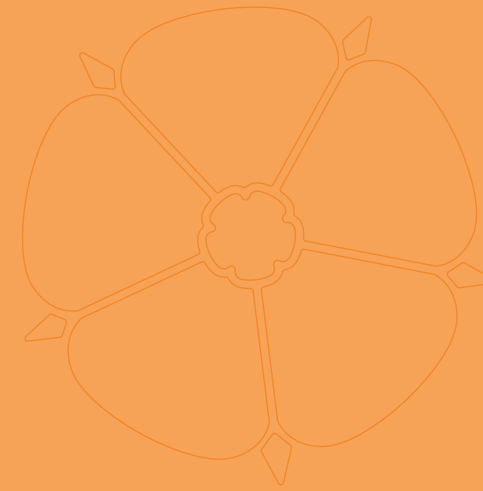
in Northampton, as well as additional Help Points across the town centre. As well as physical crime prevention measures, we'll be working to raise awareness of the kind of behaviours that make women uncomfortable, and the Police will be targeting offenders who prey on women out at night. The OPFCC funded SNO van (Safer nights out) is being utilised by the voluntary sector to engage with vulnerable people and used as a help point to keep revellers, particularly women safer.

OPFCC funded investigator to tackle retail crime

A newly appointed retail crime investigator will help Northamptonshire businesses receive extra support to bring persistent shoplifters to justice. This pilot scheme, started at the beginning of October 2021, gives retailers additional specialist assistance when they have been targeted and will focus on persistent and violent shoplifters who cause harm to retailers, their staff, and their communities. I was concerned about the increase in violence or threats that staff employed in this sector have been suffering nationally, and this is wholly unacceptable. The new retail crime investigator will work within the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP) and will link in with the Initial Investigation Team (IIT) at Northamptonshire Police to provide evidence on lines of investigation. Northamptonshire Police has reviewed the service that is given to retailers reporting shoplifting, and the pilot scheme will support the new direction it is taking.

Operation Repeat

Fraud and online fraud are increasing in number and are crimes that can be traumatic and undermine the confidence of victims, especially if they are elderly. The OPFCC has funded a new scheme, called Operation Repeat, that has trained carers and health staff how to speak to, warn and support the elderly people in their care and help them avoid falling for scammers. Between September and December 2021, Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Trading Standards ran 12 training sessions for health and social care staff, so that they can recognise and help prevent crimes against vulnerable people. Health and care workers are trusted by the people they work with, and so well placed to pass on advice and to spot the signs if someone they work with is being scammed. The training supports the safeguarding responsibilities that health and social care workers already have – research suggests 80% of all such victims are already receiving health and social care services. This has been well received to the extent that we shall be committing to this for the next 2 years, with the support of Cadent Gas and Anglian Water.



Victims at the Heart of Justice



Local Criminal Justice Board

I continue to chair the Local Criminal Justice Board, which has been drawing criminal justice agencies together to respond to the impact of Covid on the operation of the local criminal justice system. I have continued to both support and challenge Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) to work differently, to reduce the backlog of court cases which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Although the situation is easing, the backlog is still impacting upon victims and witnesses, who are facing long waiting times for their cases to be heard. For this reason, I have increased funding to the Witness Care Unit.

Reducing Reoffending Board

This year I re-established the Northants Reducing Reoffending Board, which has a singular focus to help deal with the key factors which contribute to the bulk of offending in Northamptonshire. The Board priorities include improving offender access to accommodation, substance misuse treatment, developing services for young offenders, female offenders and widening the availability of restorative justice across the county. I have made a substantial investment in refreshing the Integrated Offender Management scheme in Northampton. This is a multi-agency project involving Northamptonshire Police, Probation, the Third Sector, and both local authorities, which aims to support to those prolific offenders who wish to change whilst tightly monitoring and 'gripping' those who do not. I am pleased that the scheme has attracted significant partnership support. We have also engaged with the Director and other senior staff at HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough, which opened in February 2022.

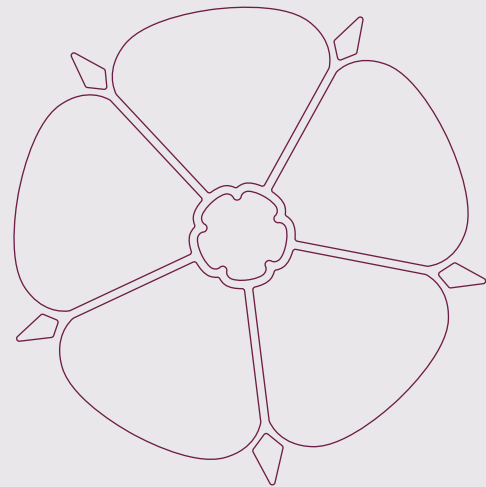
“...conduct a review of treatment services in the county later this year with a view to recommissioning the services in 2023

Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Services

A further £240,000 was allocated towards Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Services this year. These funds are pooled with the local authority treatment budget which is administered by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) on behalf of the whole county. In addition, Northamptonshire has been awarded additional Home Office Grant funding, including funds to help tackle substance misuse amongst our local homeless population. Probation have also received a funding uplift and now looking forward, we will conduct a review of treatment services in the county later this year with a view to recommissioning the services in 2023. The OPFCC has been instrumental in commissioning a range of out of court disposals for low level offenders, ensuring that appropriate offenders can be conditionally cautioned to attend a rehabilitative programme, for example for domestic abuse offending, drug or alcohol offending and a special programme for female offenders. COVID has meant that some providers of these programmes have had to change their delivery model, to online rather than face to face courses, but these are now returning to normal.

Victims' Organisations

Organisations working with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence applied, with the assistance of the OPFCC, for another tranche of funding made available by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) this year. All the local bids were successful and our total MOJ grant funding for 2021 to 2022 is outlined in the table below. MOJ funding has enabled me to fund Voice, so it continues to deliver services to a wide range of victims and witnesses. The domestic abuse uplift has allowed Voice to recruit 3.5 additional, specialist, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates, who work with some of the most vulnerable and difficult to reach victims in the county.



Funding Core Victim Services and Child Sexual Abuse	
Victim Services	£813,336
Child Sexual Abuse Uplift	£60,592
Additional Needs Based Funding	
Sexual Violence Uplift	£54,901
Domestic Abuse Uplift	£116,971
Additional Funding Expression of Interest	
Existing ISVA Award	£48,500
New ISVA Award	£0
New IDVA Award	£107,956
TOTAL	£1,202,256

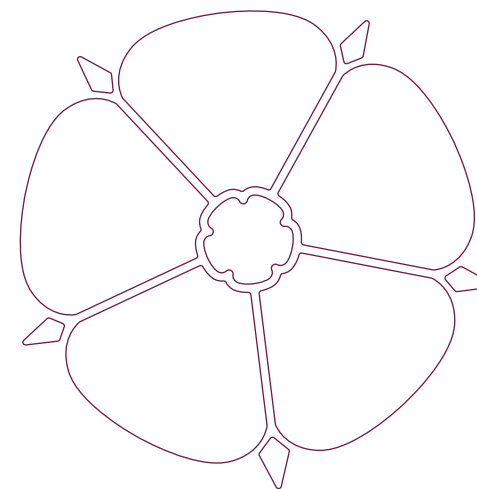
Project NOVA

The OPFCC provided 12 months' funding for a coordinator working for RFEA, The Forces Employment Charity to work with Northamptonshire Police to identify detainees who were military veterans. During that time, RFEA worked with 34 identified veterans, supporting them, on a voluntary basis, with issues such as accommodation and employment. Although Project NOVA itself has come to an end, we are now looking at other ways that the OPFCC can support RFEA.



Mental Health Treatment Requirements

Criminal justice agencies are increasingly aware of the complex needs of offenders. Northamptonshire was a successful test bed site for Mental Health Treatment Requirements, and the innovative work undertaken here has gone on to shape what is now a national scheme designed to deliver mental health (and subsequently other) treatment as part of a court order. The OPFCC provided additional funding to support and enhance this scheme and early evaluations of this work have identified very significant positive outcomes. The OPFCC also provided additional investment this year in Op Alloy, which will see mental health nurses working closely with Northamptonshire Police, providing advice and support both in the Force Control Room and in response vehicles. This has substantially increased the capacity and extended the service to 3am, improving the quality and appropriateness of the response to those with mental health needs



Transformation



Estates Strategy

The delivery of our Estates Strategy is continuing to revolutionise and enhance the way we work collaboratively. Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service now share buildings wherever possible, and they already share some support teams and the move to joint buildings will encourage even closer working and strengthen support to the front line.

A new, joint garage workshop has been purchased in Earls Barton that will be the base for a joint police and fire fleet team and will open the way for further streamlining. Staff have also now moved into the landmark joint police and fire building in Wellingborough, which will free up other police and fire buildings for disposal.

The economic shock of the pandemic shows more than ever that we need to be prudent, to make sure our buildings are affordable and provide best value for the public's money. The pandemic has also shown that officers and staff are more able to work away from an office setting than they ever have been, and we have a blend of remote working, with a shared building that enables police and fire to work together in a good quality business environment.

Enabling Services

The delivery of our Estates Strategy is continuing to revolutionise and enhance the way we work collaboratively. Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service now share buildings wherever possible, and they already share some support teams and the move to joint buildings will encourage even closer working and strengthen support to the front line.



Programme UniTy

Thanks to investment, the OPFCC has worked closely with Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service to bring together our IT teams into one new joint team, the Digital and Technology Department. This significant investment acknowledges the critical role of IT to both services and recognises the need to ensure a strong, innovative and forward-thinking digital team. As part of the new joined up approach to IT, Programme UniTy was established to deliver the wider changes, which include recruiting an additional 40 IT specialists to join existing IT staff as part of the new joint team. Although still in the early stages, work on the new structure and staffing has begun and planning for the other workstreams is underway. This programme is due to complete in September 2022.



Complaints Against Northamptonshire Police

The OPFCC Customer Service Team is responsible for the receipt and recording of complaints against Northamptonshire Police, the informal resolution of low-level complaints and for ensuring that all reviews are appropriately processed and considered. By taking responsibility for recording complaints, I have a clearer overview of the issues that are causing concern to the public. Any lessons to learn are now captured on a forcewide basis and passed to the Chief Constable to support on-going improvements.



Since the implementation of the Customer Service Team in February 2020, we have seen a significant increase in the number of complaints received. In February 2020, the Customer Service Team dealt with 96 pieces of correspondence in total compared to 148 in February 2022. The Customer Service Team has worked hard to increase the number of that are resolved to the complainant's satisfaction. The monthly target is 60%, a figure which is now consistently met and sometimes exceeded.

The team deals with two types of complaints, which are referred to as 'Service Recovery' and 'Schedule 3 complaints'. For those complaints classed as Service Recovery, the Customer Service team will contact complainants within two days to discuss their concerns and try to resolve it to their satisfaction. This will avoid the lengthy

statutory complaints process. However, if the complainant is not happy with the outcome, the Customer Service Team will deal with it as a formal complaint (known as Schedule 3) which are referred directly to Northamptonshire Police's Professional Standards Department (PSD) for them to assess and investigate where appropriate.

Looking ahead for the next year, the Customer Service Team will be focussing on maintaining high levels of Service Recovery, implementing a new process for Fire and Rescue Service Complaints and implementing a new process to ensure that all learning and feedback identified by the Customer Service Team used to continue to improve the service Northamptonshire Police provides.

Complaints Received

	Service Recovery	Schedule 3	Other	Reviews	Total
Feb 21	35 (50%)	35	56	5	131
March 21	48 (49%)	49	115	5	217
Apr 21	42 (53%)	36	92	2	173
May 21	27 (46%)	32	91	9	159
June 21	30 (52%)	28	115	6	179
July 21	47 (61%)	29	96	13	185
Aug 21	60 (72%)	22	71	3	155
Sep 21	54 (65%)	29	62	6	97
Oct 21	43 (56%)	33	104	3	140
Nov 21	30 (63%)	18	87	4	109
Dec 21	24 (60%)	16	98	6	120
Jan 22	27 (59%)	18	97	13	128
Feb 22	37 (69%)	17	86	10	113
Mar 22	52 (67%)	26	119	3	200

“

The monthly target is **60%**, a figure which is now consistently met and sometimes exceeded.

OPFCC Grants Schemes

Making Northamptonshire Safer Fund

This fund, provided by the Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, provides grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 for initiatives that support the aims of the Police and Crime Plan. Grants awarded in 2021-22 are as follows:



CSD Activity Camps

Kingswood Activity Camps – Project designed to deter children and young people that access the activity camps away from crime, specifically ASB

Amount granted **£9,993**

Frank Bruno Foundation

Youth Fitness Training – Project designed to deter young people away from crime

Amount granted **£4,250**

Goodwill solutions CIC

#CITADEL/ GWS journey to work programme - Project designed to deter people from repeat offending or criminality

Amount granted **£7,579**

Kingswood Community Cooperative

Kingswood Community Support - This project is designed to increase confidence and relationships between police and community. Working in partnership with both officers and PSCO assigned to the Kingswood estate.

Amount granted **£10,000**

Cherwell Theatre Group

Do you accept? E Safety Workshops - This project is designed to raise awareness to the children about the dangers of sharing information online with strangers

Amount granted **£6,300**

Small Grants Scheme

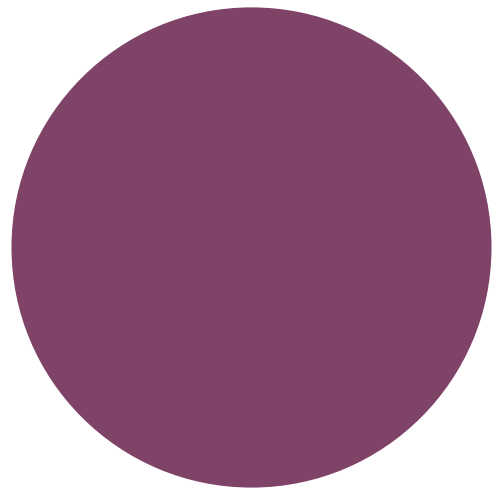
A Small Grants Scheme for bids under £3,000 (from £500) will give groups even more options when seeking funding. The Small Grants panel meets on a monthly basis to assess the bids, which can be applied for all year round. Grants awarded in 2021-22 are as follows:



Rotary Club of Rushden

Crime and Safety Awareness Day which will help to awareness amongst young people of the consequences of following a life of crime.

Amount granted **£1,500**

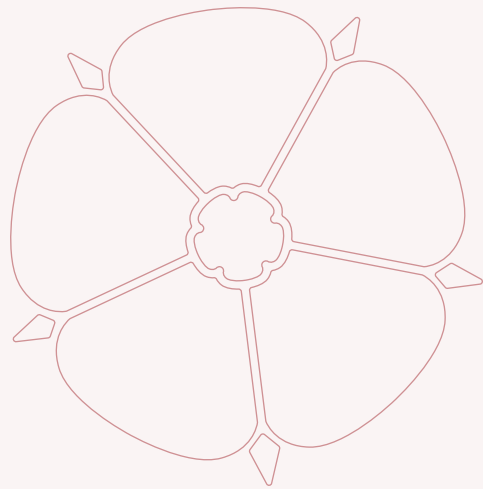


Road Safety Community Fund

This fund which is supported by the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance, awards grants of between £500 and £5,000 that help to support the Northamptonshire Strategic Road Safety Plan. Grants awarded in 2021-22 are as follows:

		Amount granted
Newnham Parish Council	Vehicle Activated Sign indicator purchase	£4,686
Grange Primary Academy	Golden ST:EPS – Which aims to promote active travel and road safety for children	£2,999
Cottingham Parish Council on behalf of Cottingham C of E Primary School	School 20mph speed signs	£4,265
Cranford Parish Council	The Tufty Project which is designed to re-duce speed	£4,414
Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council	Speed Display Signs	£5,000
Oundle Town Council	Purchase portable speed indication device	£2,340
Scaldwell Parish Council	Speed Sign Project	£2,048
Woodnewton Parish Council	Speed Awareness Project	£5,000
Welford Parish Council	Speed Indication Device Purchase	£2,310
Rothwell Town Council	Educational initiatives leading to positive behaviour change	£1,181
Yelvertoft Parish Council	VAS Solar Speed Sign	£3,434
Our Lady's Primary School	Our Lady's Safety Heroes which promotes active travel and road safety for children	£1,950
Woodford cum Membris Parish Council	Highways safety – Purchase and install two speed indicator devices	£5,000
Nassington Parish Council	Nassington Speed Reduction – Purchase and install speed indicator device	£2,250
Warmington Parish Council	Warmington Speed Reduction	£3000
Thornby Parish Council	Thornby Speed Reduction	£5,000
Great Addington Parish Council	Gateways which prompt drivers to reduce speed	£4,512

Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service



Working towards financial stability

Since January 2019, when Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service moved to the governance of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, the service has worked to tackle the challenges faced from years of County Council under-investment, and towards building financial stability.

The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the financial position, so the challenge of building a resilient and sustainable financial position increased across the financial year 2021/22. The Commissioner and the Chief Fire Officer lobbied with the support of the local MP's the county's MPs and the government departments, explaining that Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has the second lowest council tax in the country, the lowest reserves and the lowest total spending power of any fire and rescue service. The Service was in a position where the likely increase in costs for the financial year was greater than the expected increase in funding, further increasing the gap.

In January 2022, following sustained lobbying, the Government gave Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service the flexibility to ask for an increase of £5 in the fire service precept – the element of local council tax that goes to NFRS. The Government also gave NFRS a grant of £500,000 to support capital projects and modernisation.

That brought some stability from which the service can modernise and extend the work that firefighters and staff carry out to make the community safer. Other measures to ensure efficiency will also continue: Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service already share buildings and support functions wherever they can, and NFRS continues to review its practices to ensure it is as efficient as possible.

“

Eighteen new firefighters joined NFRS in March 2022 following a successful recruitment campaign at the end of 2021



Offering Check to HMO Landlords

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service asked landlords who own or manage houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) to get involved in a pilot scheme to help improve safety in the private rented sector as well as offering invaluable opportunities to extend the skills and capacity of firefighters in the areas of fire prevention and protection. HMOs are buildings that are occupied by at least three unrelated people in rented out rooms. During a trial period, firefighters visited landlords at several HMOs to carry out compliance checks - backed by fully warranted, specialist Fire Protection Officers from NFRS. The aim was to increase the involvement of fire crews in this important work, giving greater capacity to target risk and make the community safer. Fire Protection Officers will then focus on the more complex work in sectors of even higher risk around the county. And alongside this, landlords would be supported to ensure they are providing a well-run and safer home for their tenants and that tenants understand how to reduce the risk of fire, too. Training of fire crews has now been completed and checks are now being organised at appropriate premises.

HMICFRS Inspection

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service underwent its second inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire and Rescue Services in February. This is the first inspection that has taken place since NFRS moved to the governance of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The structured inspection looks at any changes that have taken place in the organisation, at how NFRS responded to the causes of concern outlined in its first inspection, and at its 'effectiveness, efficiency and people'. Two causes for concern had arisen during the first inspection – around the availability of fire appliances and about the recording of risk critical training. Both of these were tackled and discharged within months of that inspection in 2019.

The results of this year's inspection are expected to be published in July 2022 and early indications are that there has been much change and many improvements. There is an acknowledgement that there is still much work to do in some areas however, and the improvement agenda continues.

Water safety and new throw lines

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service holds the Chair to the County Water Safety Forum and identified high risk sites for water safety in the county. In the last 12 months, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner helped to fund the delivery of 10 additional safety throw lines to be placed at key sites in the county. This programme was backed by the Waterside Responder Initiative where NFRS, working with the RNLI, delivers training to the staff of waterside venues such as bars and restaurants, so that they could intervene safely to help rescue someone in difficulty in the water.

New Recruits

Eighteen new firefighters joined NFRS in March 2022 following a successful recruitment campaign at the end of 2021. Four of the new recruits were already familiar with Northamptonshire, having been on-call with the Service and opting to make the role their full-time job. The remaining 14 were new to firefighting and underwent an eight-week training course at the Fire Service College before returning to Northamptonshire for a further two weeks of training before joining their stations. The new firefighters will do far more than fight fires, being expected to play an important role in fire prevention and wider community safety.

//

In the last 12 months, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner helped to fund the delivery of **10 additional safety throw lines** to be placed at key sites in the county.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service employ the country's first accredited fire service wellbeing dog

The wellbeing – mental as well as physical – of firefighters and staff is a key priority for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. This year, NFRS welcomed the first accredited, fire service wellbeing dog to help the mental resilience of the organisation's people. Firefighters and staff often face challenging and traumatic situations, but no fire service in the UK had previously employed an Oscar Kilo 9 accredited wellbeing dog. Olive, a cocker spaniel, took up her new position within Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service's Wellbeing Team, who already offer a range of services and support to colleagues. Olive can now be called upon to spend time with colleagues who have attended a difficult job or are suffering from stress or trauma.

Joint Independent Audit Committee

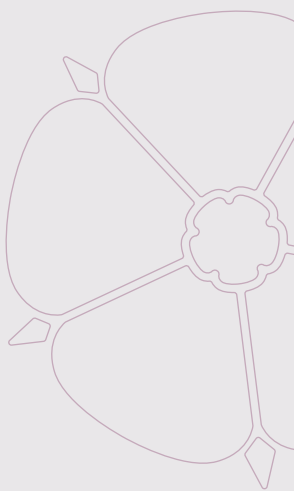
The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) was established to support the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to discharge their responsibilities by providing independent assurance on the adequacy of their corporate governance, risk management arrangements and the associated control environments and the integrity of financial statements and reporting. Following the governance change, the JIAC was extended to include Northamptonshire Fire.

The JIAC covers three organisations: the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), Northamptonshire Police and the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Authority (NFRA). The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) is provided by NFRA.

The Committee continued to gain significant assurance from both the reports and officers and appreciated the openness of the officers to discuss all areas of the business and willingness to respond to questions.

The JIAC produce an annual report and a copy can be downloaded after the JIAC's July 2022 meeting from the OPFCC website at:

www.northantspfcc.org.uk/our-information/jiac/



Holding the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to Account

The Police and Fire and Rescue Accountability Boards support the PFCC in exercising the statutory duties of holding the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to account and form part of a wider ranging programme of assurance across the breadth of Policing and Fire and Rescue activities.

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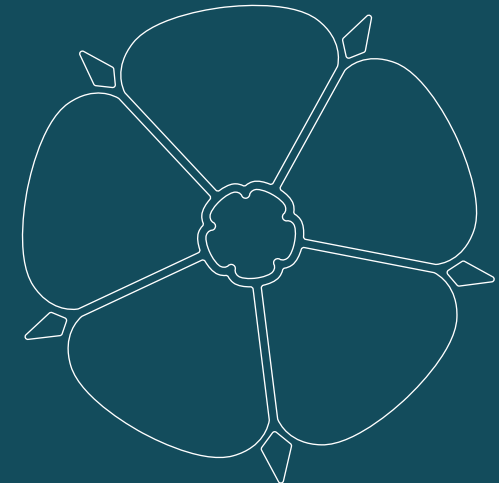
Records of these meetings and key decisions made are taken and published on our website

The business of the Boards covers:

- A focus on areas of concern in performance and service delivery at a strategic level
- Discussions between police/fire and rescue service and OPFCC in respect of strategic budget setting, medium term financial planning and other matters requiring ongoing levels of assurance
- Strategic consideration of key identified corporate level risks
- Strategic consideration relating to PFCC scrutiny activity

Accountability Board meetings are held monthly and are administered by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Records of these meetings and key decisions made are taken and published on our website at:

www.northantspfcc.org.uk/police-fire-accountability-boards/



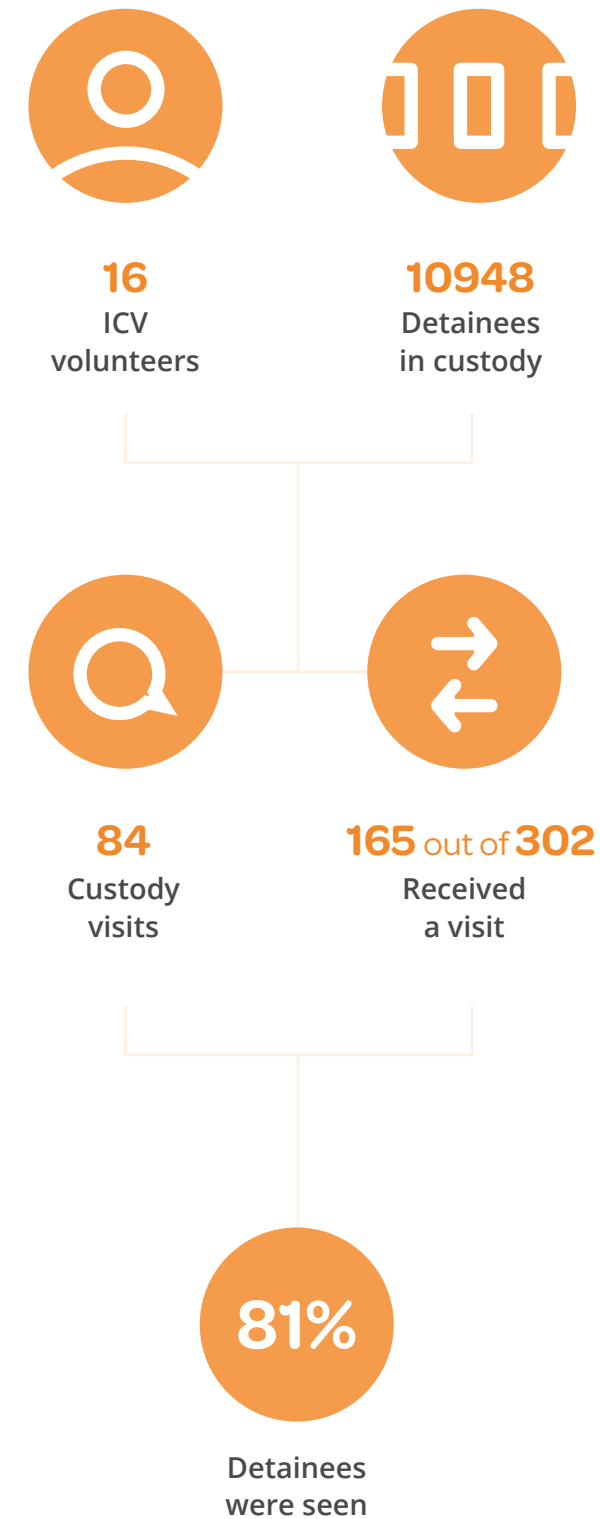
Independent Custody Visitors Scheme

The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to operate an effective Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme in the county. The scheme allows for volunteers to visit detainees in custody to check on their welfare and that they are receiving their rights and entitlements. It offers mutual protection to detainees and Custody staff by providing independent scrutiny of the treatment of detainees and the conditions they are being held in.

There are currently 16 ICV volunteers in the Northamptonshire scheme. ICVs visit the Criminal Justice Centre and the Weekley Woods Justice Centre once a week, and they always visit in pairs. Issues and praise raised by ICVs are fed back to the Scheme Manager in the PFCC's office via an electronic report form. The majority of issues are resolved by staff on duty at the time of visit and issues that ICVs could not resolve within the visit are escalated to the Custody Inspector to resolve. Thematic and serious issues are raised by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner with the Chief Constable and issues are shared with the East Midlands Criminal Justice Board, the Regional ICV Managers' network and the National Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA).

ICVs, the Scheme Manager and the Custody Inspector come together every three months at a panel meeting to discuss findings and provide any updates. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, 10948 detainees were held in custody in Northamptonshire in the two centres. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, ICVs carried out a total of 84 custody visits. Of the 302 detainees in custody at the time of their visits, ICVs spoke to 165 detainees. 98 detainees were not available to receive a visit (either they were in interview, asleep, intoxicated, seeing the Doctor or their Solicitor) and 39 refused a visit when offered. Of the detainees available to receive a visit, 81% were seen.

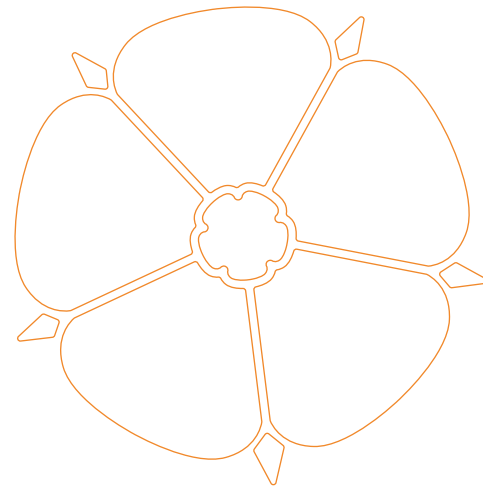
It offers mutual protection to detainees and Custody staff by providing independent scrutiny of the treatment of detainees and the conditions they are being held in.



1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, between two centres in Northamptonshire

Voice for Victims and Witnesses

The Office of Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner assumed the statutory responsibilities for commissioning support for Victims and Witnesses of Crime in October 2014. Voice has been the brand for victim and witness services in Northamptonshire since 2014 and the services were delivered under a series of contracts; the first two with Victim Support and Restorative Solutions ended in 2017. In January 2017, the decision was taken to not seek a new contract for the provision of services but instead to create a wholly owned company, Voice for Victims and Witnesses Ltd, to provide services to victims and witnesses. I commission Voice to deliver victim services across the county and it is my responsibility to hold them to account on behalf of council taxpayers of Northamptonshire, to ensure that the services they deliver offer best value for money. My role also involves working with local criminal justice partners to provide an efficient and effective service, and victims should be at the heart of this. It is vital that victims' voices are heard so that their feedback informs future service delivery and so that they are confident in those services. I will therefore work with Voice to increase the opportunities for victims to be involved, and to ensure victim's feedback informs the service that is provided by Voice and the wider criminal justice system.

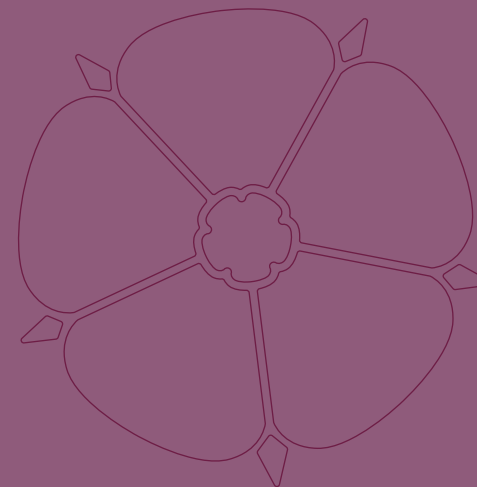


More details about the work of Voice can be found at:

www.voicenorthants.org/about-voice-northants/



Budget and Financial Outturn 2021-22



The PFCC is the recipient of all funding for both Fire and Policing. This includes all the grant funding from the government for Policing and the Fire and Rescue Service, Business Rates for the Fire Service and funding raised by the Council Tax precept.

One precept is set for Fire and one is set for Policing as under current legislation, Fire and Rescue and Police have separate funding streams and budgets.

How this money is allocated in each service is a matter for the PFCC, except in relation to a small number of specific grants. The PFCC consults the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer when setting his budgets and they provide professional advice and recommendations.

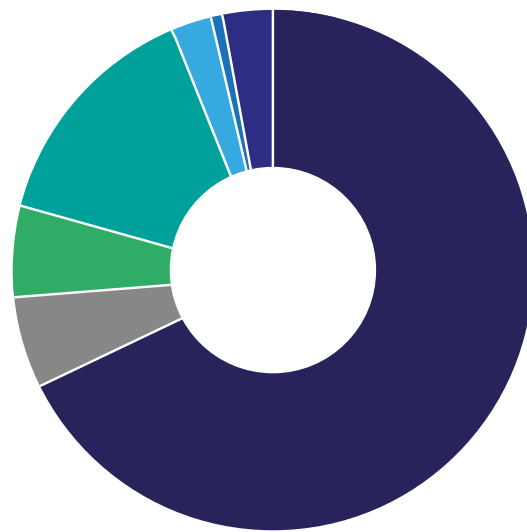
A public consultation carried out at the end of 2021 informed the 2021-22 budgets and funding priorities for the year. These were set out in detail in the precept proposals as considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2022.

Headlines for the Police and Fire 2021-22 budgets are set out on the following pages.

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A public consultation carried out at the end of 2021 informed the 2021-22 budgets and funding priorities for the year.

**Total income for Police
£153.5m**



Where the money was allocated

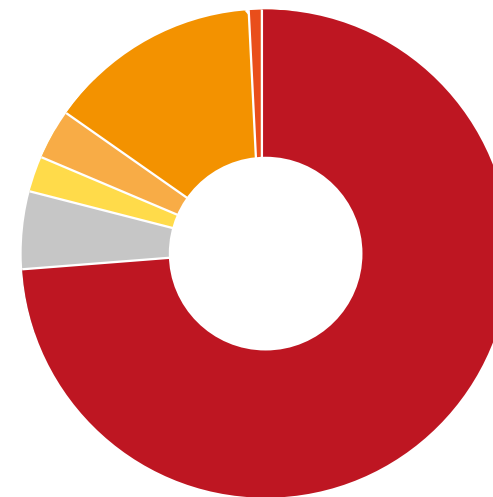
- 68.0% Police Officer, Staff and PCSOs
- 5.8% Collaborative policing and third party costs
- 5.6% Other costs and investments
- 14.5% Support (Enabling) Services
- 2.5% Capital financing
- 0.7% Office of the PFCC
- 2.9% Delivery and commissioning

Where the money came from

In 2021/22, Policing received funding of £153.5m to deliver Policing services. This was an increase of £6.7m on the previous year to support the additional police officers recruited.

Of this amount, almost 44% (£66.8m) came from local council taxpayers, with the balance of 56% (£86.7m) coming from central government in the form of police and pensions grants.

**Total income for Fire
£25.3m**



Where the money was allocated

- 73.7% Firefighters and staff
- 5.8% Estate and facilities
- 1.9% Transport
- 3.6% ICT
- 14.1% Supplies and services
- 0.9% Capital financing

Where the money came from

In 2021/22, Fire received funding of £25.3m, which was lower than in 2020/21. Given this challenging position, the Home Office provided an additional amount of £1m to support the Fire budget in 2021/22 and also provided the sum of £1m to be used to support Fire reserves.

Of this amount, nearly 62% (£15.8m) came from local council taxpayers, almost 11% (£2.7m) from local Business Rates and 27% (£6.8m) from central government grants.



During the year I received and considered regular financial monitoring reports for Policing and Fire and scrutinised and challenged them in detail at the Police and Fire Accountability Board meetings. I provided regular financial update reports throughout the year to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel. Three sets of statutory accounts for: the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (NCFRA) are produced each year and the deadline for the draft accounts to be published is 31 July 2022. The accounts will be subject to external audit.

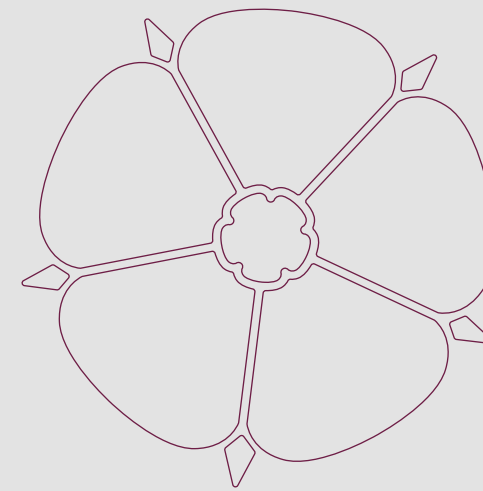
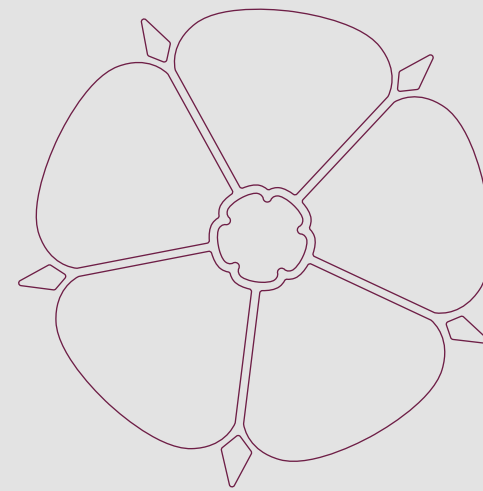
Work is in progress to close the accounts and a detailed financial outturn, together with an assessment of reserves and financial outlook for both Police and Fire will be contained within the 2021-22 Statement of Accounts.

Copies of both the draft and final audited accounts will be available on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's website in line with the statutory timescale at the following link:

www.northantspfcc.org.uk/our-information/statement-of-accounts-and-audits/

Grant Funding

In addition to the annual budget and council tax precept, we have continued to actively lobby and bid for additional grants from central government to support both Northamptonshire Police and our Fire & Rescue Service deliver services to local residents. In Policing, since 2017 we have secured over £10m to support the provision of additional officers, deliver our Safer Streets initiatives as well as other priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. In addition to this, we have secured almost £4.5m for the Fire and Rescue Service since the governance transfer in 2019 to support Fire in delivering the response to the Covid pandemic, assistance with building reserves and contributions towards transformative joint working such as the joint garage facility with Police.





**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Stephen Mold

2021-2022

Annual Report

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

19 JULY 2022

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to review of the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
Report Author	James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council James.edmunds@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	05/07/2022
West S151 (for West and joint papers)	Martin Henry	07/07/2022

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to set out the statutory requirements on the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to review the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to reviewing and making a report on the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. This Fire & Rescue Statement appears on the agenda for the current Panel meeting as the next item of business.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel reviews the Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 produced by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendation is intended to enable the Panel to carry out its statutory responsibilities relating to scrutiny of the Fire & Rescue Statement effectively at the current meeting.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Fire & Rescue National Framework for England sets out the government’s priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities. Every fire and rescue authority must have regard to the National Framework in carrying out its functions. Every authority must publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the National Framework (“the Fire & Rescue Statement”). This requirement applies to Police & Crime commissioners who take on the functions of a fire and rescue authority under the provisions of the Policing & Crime Act 2017, as is the case in Northamptonshire.
- 4.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (sections 12 and 28) as amended by the Policing & Crime Act 2017 Schedule 1 requires that the Fire & Rescue Statement published by a Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must be subject to scrutiny by the relevant Police, Fire & Crime Panel.
- 4.3 The Fire & Rescue Statement must be sent to the relevant Police, Fire & Crime Panel as soon as practicable following its publication by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.
- 4.4 The Police, Fire & Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the Fire & Rescue Statement.
- 4.5 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must attend the relevant meeting of the Panel to present the Fire & Rescue Statement and to answer such questions from the Panel about it as the Panel members think appropriate.
- 4.6 The Police, Fire & Crime Panel must then review the Fire & Rescue Statement and make a report outlining any recommendations to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. The report or recommendations of the Panel must also be published.
- 4.7 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner must provide a response to the panel and must also publish that response.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire has now produced a Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22. This has been sent to the Panel to review, reflecting the requirements summarised in section 4 of this report.
- 5.2 Reviewing and reporting on this Fire & Rescue Statement is a mandatory task for the Police, Fire & Crime Panel. The Panel should seek to carry it out in accordance with its overall role of scrutinising and supporting the effective exercise by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner of his responsibilities.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposal.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendation in this report.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing & Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Terms of Reference

Policing and fire governance – Local Government Association guidance for police and crime panels (2019)

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Northamptonshire Commissioner (Fire Authority) Fire and Rescue Statement 2021/22

1. Introduction & Background

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework (2018) sets out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. In addition, the annual report is required to show due regard to:
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework
 - The Fire and Rescue Plan for the area
 - The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for the area

- 1.2 This year's statement comes at the end of the third year of governance under the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), and the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the service, the third wave of infections in late 2021/22 saw the highest levels of staff sickness of the pandemic, which also impacted service delivery in a different way to previous lockdowns.

During 2021/22, the service developed 'A Vision for 2025 – Fire 25' and the Community Risk Management Plan (previously known as Integrated Risk Management Plan), these two documents provide strategic direction for the service over the next three years and sit alongside the PFCC's plan (Police, Fire and Crime Plan); the first combined plan for both police and fire. Additionally, the service has been subject to its second inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

2. Performance

- 2.1 The Authority monitored progress for this period against the Fire and Rescue Plan 2019/21 and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/22, and has introduced more detailed monitoring and oversight of key areas (prevention/protection). Community outcome measures and operational objectives are included within the plans.

3. Community Outcome Measures:

		2021/22				2020/21 EOY	2021/22 EOY	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
NI 33 (A)	No. of Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 population	0.79	0.71	0.73	0.57	2.59	2.80	↑
NI 33 (B)	No. of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 population	1.91	1.78	1.40	1.19	4.36	6.29	↑
NI 49 (1)	No. of Primary Fires per 100,000 population	31.83	33.94	28.26	24.04	107.64	118.07	↑
NI 49 (ii)	No. of fatalities in primary fires per 100,000 population	0.26	0.00	0.13	0.26	0.40	0.66	↑
NI 49 (iii)	No. of non-fatal injuries in primary fires per 100,000 population	0.66	1.19	1.06	0.26	5.81	3.17	↓
BVPI 143 (i)	The No. of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	↓
BVPI 143 (ii)	The No. of injuries (excluding precautionary checks), arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.40	0.79	0.26	0.26	2.51	1.72	↓
BVPI 142 (iii) D1	No. of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 dwellings	2.74	3.14	2.27	2.54	9.89	10.69	↑
BVPI 207	Non-Domestic Fires per 1000 Non-Domestic premises	1.79	1.39	1.83	1.04	4.50	6.05	↑
LPI 8ai	sickness - Wholetime (days/shifts lost per head)	1.55	1.91	2.57	4.07	7.03	10.09	↑
BV 12 ii	sickness absence (All staff, excluding on-call)	1.58	1.85	2.47	3.86	7.34	9.75	↑

Table Notes

It should be noted that the previous (2020/21) reporting year was anomalous due to the effect of covid restrictions on society.

Data is accurate as of 23 June 2022, with calculations based on the 2020 population figure of 757,181 for Northamptonshire.

NI 49 (ii) – Number of Fatalities in Primary Fires per 100,000 population. This indicator includes all fire related fatalities in all property types. During 2021/22 there were 5 fire fatalities, 3 were within vehicles and 2 were within a property

BVPI 143 (i) – The number of deaths arising from accidental dwelling fires in dwellings per 100,000 population. This figure has decreased as there were no fatalities arising from accidental fires in dwellings.

NI 49 (iii) and BVPI 143 (ii) - Number of non-fatal injuries in primary fires per 100,000 population and the number of injuries (excluding precautionary checks), arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population. There has been an overall decrease in the number of injuries in fires to 24 for 2021/22, the lowest total figure since 2009.

NI 33 (A) and NI 33 (B) – The number of Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 population and number of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 population. There has been an increase in both primary and secondary deliberate fires, these have returned to a similar level as before the pandemic.

LPI 8ai and BV 12 ii - Sickness - Wholetime (days/shifts lost per head) and sickness absence (All staff, excluding on-call). Sickness due to Covid has contributed to staff sickness levels, which have increased to a level higher than before the pandemic.



		2021/22				2020/2021 EOY	2021/2022 EOY	Compared to previous EOY
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Prevention	Progress against target for Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV)					----	84%	
	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)	561	1130	1238	1293	1771	4222*	
	% of HFSV completed by: dedicated prevention staff/ station based staff	49%/51%	32%/68%	27%/73%	28%/72%	----	32%/68%	
Protection	Progress against Risk Based Inspection Plan (RBIP) – End of Year One						On track	
	Targeted Risk Management (TRM)** activity	240	30	13	36	----	319	N/A***
Response	Average of Full Response Time#	10:17	10:34	10:26	10:34	10.17	10:27	

Table notes

Prevention

England entered third national lockdown on 06 January 2021, ending on 19 July 2021 when most legal limits on social contact were removed, during this time dedicated prevention staff dealt with the most high-risks cases and then as society opened-up station crews were able to deliver more of these.

*78.9% of visits within households identified as high/very high risk. 11.3% in non-white British households.

Protection

** Risk is not static, and our understanding continues to evolve as new intelligence and information is known. As a result, the RBIP allows some capacity to respond to emerging risks, via Targeted Risk Management TRM. This does not affect the premises which have been identified as higher risk within the RBIP but allow additional activity to be planned to supplement the plan. The protection team undertake TRM activity as required and in order to understand areas of potential change. Following this additional activity, consideration is then given to the RBIP and how this might be affected. As an example, the publication of a 'Preliminary Guidance Technical Note – Higher Risk Occupancies' prompted the inspections of some schools, a portion of which have a Special Educational Needs provision. TRM activity is captured and evaluated and outcomes will contribute to the design of future RBIPs.

*** This is the first year of the current RBIP, and the first year of monitoring and capturing more detailed information in relation to protection activity. It is therefore not possible to compare activity to previous years.

Response

#Standard of Operational Response is to respond to all incidents within an average (mean) of 10 minutes.

4. Financial Assurance

- 4.1 The Authority is responsible for ensuring that our Service's business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. The Authority is required to ensure that finances are used to ensure a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.2 Regular financial monitoring reports are considered monthly by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and regularly throughout the year at the Accountability Board. Financial updates are considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel throughout the year.
- 4.3 Financial performance, level of reserves and medium term financial outlook is included within the annual NCFRA Statement of Accounts.
- 4.4 Since the Governance change on 1 January 2019, the Authority has produced three Statement of Accounts, all of which have received unqualified audit opinions:
- The 2018/19 accounts cover the 3 month period 1 January to 31 March 2019 , and
 - The 2019/20 accounts cover the 12 month period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and
 - The 2020/21 accounts cover the 12 month period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
- 4.5 The Statement of Accounts were produced ensuring compliance with Codes of Practice issued by CIPFA and include within it an Annual Governance Statement which assesses controls within the Authority, making recommendations for changes in the following year.
- 4.6 The pre-audit Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 were published by the statutory deadline of the 31 July 2021 and a workshop took place with auditors, officers and Joint Independent Audit Committee members scrutinising the Statements in September 2021.
- 4.7 The Statement of Accounts were externally audited by Ernst and Young and the accounts, alongside the audit report to those charged with governance (the ISA260) were signed off and received an unqualified audit opinion on 25 February 2022.
- 4.8 The 2020/21 audited Statement of Accounts can be found at the following link:
- [Microsoft Word - FINAL Northamptonshire Fire Accounts 2020-21 .docx \(northantspfcc.org.uk\)](#)
- 4.9 Work is well progressed on the 2021/22 statement of accounts for NCFRA which cover the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The pre-audit Statement of Accounts will be published prior to the statutory deadline and available on the PFCC website after that time, with the external audit taking place after this date.

5. Governance Assurance

- 5.1 The governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is the responsibility of The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire
- 5.2 Governance is concerned with how the Authority manages its affairs on a day-to-day basis including its business practices, standards of conduct and overall management procedures. The 'rules' for how the Authority conducts business are set out in the Corporate Governance Framework, which can be found at:

<http://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NCFRA-Corporate-Governance-Framework.pdf>

This document is scheduled for review in 2022.

- 5.3 For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 21, the Authority prepared an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of the Statement of Accounts and which included:
- an acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance and system of internal control;
 - a brief description of the key elements of the governance arrangements including explicit areas such as internal audit and risk management;
 - a brief description of the process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance arrangements;
 - an evaluation of the level of assurance that the systems and processes that comprise the governance arrangements can provide an outline of the actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance and internal control issues.
- 5.4 The 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement for the Authority for the 12 month period is included in the Statement of Accounts and can be found by accessing the link above.
- 5.5 The Chief Internal Auditor for NCFRA provided his annual opinion on the NCFRA Internal Control environment for 2020/21 which he assessed as “**Satisfactory**” and is consistent with the “**Satisfactory**” assessment made for 2019/20.
- 5.6 This Chief Internal Auditor’s opinion was considered by the PFCC and statutory officers charged with governance in the formulation of the Annual Governance Statement for the year and the report and opinion were considered in full at the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) in July 2021.
- 5.7 The 2021/22 assessment is awaited. Once received it will be considered by the PFCC and statutory officers, included within the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and AGS and considered by the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) at their meeting scheduled for July 2022.

6. Operational Assurance

6.1 The Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority has carried out its functions in accordance with the defined statutory and policy framework in which it is required to operate. The key documents setting this out are:

- [the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
- [the Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
- [the Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#)
- [the Fire and Rescue Services \(Emergencies\) \(England\) Order 2007](#)
- [the Localism Act 2011](#)
- [the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#)
- [the Health and Safety Act at Work etc Act 1974](#)

6.2 Whilst the Authority is primarily a locally based service, mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services where incidents occur near our borders and to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents where additional resources need to be called on. The Authority contributes to national resilience and can make a number of its assets available to support a national emergency.

6.3 The Authority has robust Business Continuity Management (BCM) plans in place which are integral to our strategy in managing corporate risk and to provide, in the event of a major disruption, a fire and rescue service to the community.

6.4 The Authority publishes a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) that sets out details of its operational service provision and improvement plans at a local, regional and national level, together with individual delivery plans. The current Plan came into effect on 1 April 2022 and runs until 2025 but was developed and consulted upon during the period 2021/22, replacing the previous IRMP for the period 2019 – 2022.

6.5 A copy of the current Police, Fire and Crim plan, CRMP, Fire 25 and related documents can be found on our website at:

<https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/>

6.6 The service was subject to an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in January 2022. The report findings are due to be published in July 2022.

7. Overall Assurance Arrangements

- 7.1 The assurance arrangements that the Authority had in place are considered to meet the requirements set out in the National Framework.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel considers the content of the report.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

19 JULY 2022

Report Title	Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Work Programme 2022/23 and operating arrangements
Report Author	James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council James.edmunds@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	05/07/2022
West S151 (for West and joint papers)	Martin Henry	07/07/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Outline Work Programme 2022/23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to enable the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to consider and agree its work programme for 2022/23 as well as to consider and agree the approach it will take on certain matters connected with the operation of the Panel.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report invites the Panel to consider and agree its work programme for 2022/23, including any specific areas or priorities for scrutiny, reports to be requested from the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, and the timetable for identified activities. The work programme will support the Panel in carrying out its statutory responsibilities effectively through the year ahead.
- 2.2. In addition, the report invites the Panel to consider and agree whether to continue to participate in two network groups relevant to its role: the East Midlands Police & Crime Panels Network and the National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel:
- a) Agrees the content of its work programme for 2022/23
 - b) Agrees to continue its membership of the East Midlands Police & Crime Panels Network for 2022/23.
 - c) Agrees to continue its membership of the National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels for 2022/23.
 - d) Notes the opportunity to respond to consultation proposals published by the government setting out reforms of Fire & Rescue services in England.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendations are intended to support the effective operation of the Panel during 2022/23 and the delivery of its statutory responsibilities by establishing a work programme for the year; enabling the Panel to agree its membership of relevant information-sharing network groups; and advising the Panel of public consultation on government proposals relating to future Fire & Rescue service operation.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Policing & Crime Act 2017 and supporting legislation give various specific responsibilities to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel (“the Panel”). These are principally as follows:
- Scrutinising and reporting on the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC)’s proposed Police and Fire & Rescue precepts
 - Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Police & Crime Plan and Fire & Rescue Plan
 - Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC’s Annual Report on the delivery of Police & Crime Plan objectives and on the annual Fire & Rescue Statement reporting compliance with the Fire & Rescue National Framework
 - Scrutinising and reporting on proposed appointments by the PFCC to certain positions (: Deputy PFCC; Chief Executive; Chief Finance Officer; Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police; and Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service)
 - Dealing with complaints from members of the public about the conduct of the PFCC.
- 4.2 In addition, the legislation referred to in paragraph 4.1 above gives the Panel the general responsibility to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the PFCC in connection with the discharge of his functions and to make reports or recommendations to the PFCC with respect to these matters. The Panel is required to carry out its role with a view to supporting the PFCC in effectively exercising his functions.
- 4.3 It has previously been standard practice for the Panel to set an annual work programme to provide a framework within which it carries out its functions and the practical tasks these involve. The work programme is made up of a combination of statutory and discretionary scrutiny work; matters relating to the operation of the Panel; and any supporting activities such as briefings or training. The work programme covers a rolling 12-month period. The work programme is considered at the first Panel meeting in the municipal year. It can then be kept under regular

review by the Panel and modified or updated as necessary, with a view to ensuring that it is focussed on the aim of using available capacity to best effect.

5. Issues and Choices

Work Programme 2022/23

- 5.1 An outline work programme for the Panel for 2022/23 is included with this report (at Appendix A). This incorporates statutory business outlined in paragraph 4.1 above; regular monitoring reports that the previous Panel chose to receive to support its more general scrutiny role; and items of business relating to the operation of the Panel. The document also lists some other potential items of business and supporting activity that the Panel may wish to consider.
- 5.2 It is emphasised that this outline work programme is being presented to the Panel as a starting point for discussion that will produce the final version. The work programme for 2022/23 should be set by the current Panel. The work programme can be informed by input from a range of sources, including suggestions from the previous Panel, from individual Panel members and from the PFCC. The Panel should consider suggested topics from all sources on their merits, with a view to setting a work programme that reflects the Panel's remit, has the support of Panel members, is realistically deliverable within available resources and that has the potential to produce the most worthwhile outcomes.

Participation in the East Midlands Police & Crime Panels Network

- 5.3 The Panel has previously participated in the East Midlands Police & Crime Panels Network that has operated since 2014. The Network is intended to be an information and support network for the five panels in the region: Derbyshire; Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire; and Nottinghamshire. It is administered by Frontline Consulting Associates (FCA), which provides advice, consultancy and learning and development activity in the public sector. The Network holds two information-sharing meetings per year, which can be attended by 2-3 representatives from each panel. Network members also get access to sources of information and guidance on good practice and a 10% discount on the cost of any training activity purchased from FCA. The Panel is invited to consider whether to continue its membership of the Network for 2022/23. The cost of this is £420.

Participation in the National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels

- 5.4 The National Association was established in April 2018 as a special interest group of the Local Government Association. The National Association aims to represent and promote the views and interests of Police, Fire & Crime panels in England and Wales. Its specific purposes include providing a forum for discussion of issues affecting panels; sharing ideas and experience; promoting good practice; supporting liaison and dialogue with other relevant agencies; facilitating common responses by panels to relevant consultations; horizon scanning; and promoting better public understanding of the role of panels. The National Association is led by an elected Chair and Executive Committee and administered by Democratic Services at Essex County Council. The National Association operates on a non-subscription model and there is no

cost for membership. The Panel has been a member of the National Association since January 2020. The Panel is invited to consider whether to continue its membership for 2022/23.

Fire & Rescue service reform – government consultation

- 5.5 The Home Office is currently carrying out public consultation on proposals to “introduce system-wide reform that will strengthen Fire & Rescue services in England” set out in the fire reform white paper published on 18 May 2022. The proposals are divided into the three thematic areas of building professionalism, boosting performance and strengthening governance. The governance theme includes the proposal to transfer fire governance to a single elected individual, overseeing delivery by an operationally independent chief fire officer, as a standard organisational model.
- 5.6 The public consultation document and related information is available at: [Reforming our fire and rescue service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service). Panel members are invited to consider the consultation document outside of the current meeting and to feed back to the Panel Secretariat any points that they wish to make in response, which could be incorporated into a response submitted by the Chair of the Panel.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 It is intended that the resource implications associated with the proposed decisions set out in this report will be accommodated within grant funding that the Panel’s host authority is able to claim from the Home Office for the purpose of maintaining a panel for the Northamptonshire Police area. The specific cost of membership of the East Midlands Police & Crime Panels Network can also be met from this grant funding.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 The principal risk associated with the recommended decisions is that the Panel agrees a work programme that is not sufficiently effective. This situation could be caused by a range of factors: for example, if the work programme did not reflect the Panel’s statutory functions; if the work programme was unfocussed or included too much business to be realistically deliverable; or if the work programme was fixed at the start of the year and did not allow the flexibility to respond to issues that might subsequently arise. These risks should be mitigated by the Panel taking a considered view of the work programme at the start of the year, informed – but not bound – by the work of its predecessor. The Panel should then review the work programme at each of its subsequent meetings through the municipal year and amend it as may be considered necessary. Throughout, the Panel should ensure that the work programme and the specific activities

contained within it remain deliverable within the Panel's overall capacity and the resources available to support it.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Policing & Crime Act 2017

Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Rules of Procedure

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Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Outline Work Programme 2022/23

MEETING DATE	STATUTORY BUSINESS	DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS	BUSINESS RELATING TO PANEL OPERATION	OTHER BUSINESS
19 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Annual Report on Policing for 2021/22 - PFCC’s Fire & Rescue Statement for 2021/22 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of Panel Chair and Deputy Chair - Work programme - Appointment of Complaints Sub Committee members 	
8 September 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Delivery update - PFCC’s Budget updates - Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme - Complaints monitoring report 	
1 December 2022		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s Delivery update - PFCC’s Budget updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme 	
2 February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PFCC’s proposed Police precept and budget for 2023/24 - PFCC’s proposed Fire & Rescue precept and budget for 2023/24 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme - 2023/24 meeting dates 	

MEETING DATE	STATUTORY BUSINESS	DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS	BUSINESS RELATING TO PANEL OPERATION	OTHER BUSINESS
16 February 2023 (Reserve meeting)	- PFCC's revised Police precept and budget for 2023/24 [if required] and/or - PFCC's revised Fire & Rescue precept and budget for 2023/24 [if required]			
20 April 2023		- PFCC's Delivery updates - PFCC's Budget updates	- Work programme - Complaints monitoring report	

Further Information

(A) Statutory Business

PFCC's Annual Report and Fire & Rescue Statement – The Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) is required to produce an Annual Report on the exercise of the PFCC's police and crime functions during the previous financial year and the progress made in meeting objectives set out in the PFCC's Police & Crime Plan. The PFCC is also required to publish an annual statement of assurance of compliance with the priorities set out in the Fire & Rescue National Framework for England. The Panel must review and report on both the Annual Report and Fire & Rescue Statement as soon as practicable after they are received.

PFCC's proposed Police and Fire & Rescue precepts – The PFCC's proposed precepts must be reviewed and reported on by the Panel before they can be issued. The Panel has the power to veto a proposed precept, in which case the PFCC is required to produce a revised proposal that must also be reviewed by the Panel at the reserve meeting included in the outline work programme (if the Panel does not veto either of the proposed precepts the reserve meeting will not be held). The steps involved in this process must take place by specific deadlines set in legislation.

(B) Discretionary Business

PFCC's Delivery Update – This would be a regular report setting out actions by the PFCC supporting progress towards the delivery of the strategic outcomes set out in his Police, Fire & Crime Plan. The Delivery Update also includes contextual information about Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service performance.

PFCC's Budget Updates – This would be two regular reports setting out the latest in-year position for the budgets for policing and the Office of the PFCC and for the budget for the Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire & Rescue Authority.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual Report – The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) is responsible for providing independent assurance of the corporate governance, risk management and financial control arrangements operated by the PFCC and the Chief Constable. The JIAC's Annual Report is customarily presented by its Chair to the Panel, to reflect the complementary roles of the two bodies.

(C) Business relating to Panel operation

Complaints monitoring report – The Panel has adopted specific arrangements to carry out its responsibilities for dealing with complaints and conduct matters relating to the PFCC. These include the provision by the host authority Monitoring Officer of a half-yearly monitoring report about all matters dealt with in the preceding period. In this way the Panel is able to monitor the operation of the arrangements it has made to deliver this aspect of its statutory responsibilities.

(D) Other potential business for consideration

Scrutiny of early intervention in Northamptonshire – The previous Panel identified task-and-finish scrutiny work on early intervention as a topic that it suggested for inclusion in the work programme for 2022/23. This work would aim to consider how well relevant partners work together to support and build on early intervention activity in Northamptonshire, the barriers that can prevent effective partnership working on early intervention, and how these can be overcome.

Potential topics suggested by the PFCC – The PFCC has requested to present an update on the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology in Northamptonshire to the Panel at its meeting on 8th September 2022. The PFCC has also requested to present a report on the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) scheme to the Panel at its meeting on 1st December 2022.

Briefings with the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer – The Panel has previously sought to include in its work programme annual briefing sessions with the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and the Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service. These sessions would be intended to give an overview of the operating environment for the two organisations and their key priorities and challenges, to help to inform the Panel in carrying out its role of scrutinising and supporting the PFCC. The last one of these briefing sessions took place on 27th May 2022.

Development of the PFCC's proposed precepts and budgets – The Panel has held a workshop session with the PFCC and the OPFCC Chief Finance Officer in January in recent years to consider the financial environment and key factors informing the development of the PFCC's budget and precept proposals. This session feeds into scrutiny of the final proposals by the whole Panel at its formal meeting in February.

Other briefings or training for Panel members – It is open to the Panel to identify any other topics for briefing sessions that would inform it in scrutinising and supporting the PFCC. The previous Panel agreed that a briefing session on the use of telematics fleet management by Northamptonshire Police could be helpful. Similarly, the Panel may wish to consider whether there is any other training or support that could assist it to carry out its role effectively.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

19 JULY 2022

Report Title	Appointments to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Complaints Sub Committee for 2022/23
Report Author	James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager, West Northamptonshire Council James.edmunds@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	05/07/2022
West S151 (for West and joint papers)	Martin Henry	07/07/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Informal Resolution Protocol regarding non-criminal complaints against the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report is intended to enable the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel to appoint members to serve on the Panel's Complaints Sub Committee for 2022/23.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.2. The report summarises the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities for considering non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner and the approach that the Panel has adopted to carry out this function, using a Complaints Sub Committee. In order to continue this approach the Panel must appoint members to serve on the Sub Committee for 2022/23.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel agrees to appoint the following Panel members to serve on the Panel's Complaints Sub Committee during 2022/23:
- a) 4 councillor Panel members, 3 from the majority political group and 1 from the minority political group represented on the Panel; and
 - b) All independent co-opted Panel members to act as a pool providing 1 independent co-opted member for Sub Committee meetings.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendation(s) – The recommendation is intended to enable the Panel to fulfil statutory requirements using an approach that has previously operated effectively.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints & Misconduct) Regulations 2012 require Police (Fire) & Crime Panels to adopt a process for carrying out "Informal Resolution" of non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the relevant Police (Fire) & Crime Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, should a Deputy Commissioner be appointed.
- 4.2 Informal Resolution is intended to represent a locally-agreed process for resolving a complaint as far as possible by mediation between the complainant and the subject of the complaint. It is not an investigation of the complaint: a panel is prohibited from taking any action intended to gather information about a complaint other than inviting comments from the complainant and the subject of the complaint.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel agreed in 2012/13 to incorporate in its Rules of Procedure the following arrangements for carrying out Informal Resolution:
- Adoption of an Informal Resolution Protocol (included with this report at Appendix A).
 - Establishment of a Complaints Sub Committee with the following powers and duties:
 - Where a complaint or conduct matter comes to the Sub Committee's attention it must secure that all appropriate steps are taken, both initially and from time to time after that, for obtaining and preserving evidence relating to the conduct in question and to comply with any directions given by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) in this regard.
 - To provide the IOPC and every member of its staff with such assistance as it may reasonably require in connection with the carrying out of any investigation by the IOPC or by anyone appointed to carry out an investigation on its behalf.
 - To determine whether a complaint that has been recorded should be subject to Informal Resolution, or should be excluded from Informal Resolution on grounds identified in the 2012 Regulations, and in that case, to determine how to handle the matter or whether to take no action in relation to it.

- To deal with the Informal Resolution of complaints in accordance with the requirements of the 2012 Regulations.

5.2 The Panel has updated the composition of the Complaints Sub Committee since it was originally established when this has been considered necessary. The following changes have been made:

- 2014/15: The Panel reviewed the Sub Committee's original membership, which consisted of three Panel members: one councillor from each of the two political groups represented on the Panel and one independent co-opted member. In light of experience and to give the Sub Committee more flexibility the Panel agreed to increase the membership of the Sub Committee to 5 members, consisting of two councillors from each of the political groups represented on the Panel and one independent co-opted member, who could also be substituted by another independent co-opted member.
- 2020/21: The Panel agreed that the independent co-opted member on the Sub Committee should be drawn from the pool of all three independent co-opted members on the Panel, rather than a specific member being identified. Again, this change was intended to increase flexibility and to enable the Panel to make more use of independent co-opted members in this area of its work.
- 2021/22: The Panel agreed that the councillor membership of the Sub Committee should be changed better to reflect the revised composition of the Panel following local government reorganisation in the county. The Panel agreed that the Sub Committee should continue to consist of four councillor members, with three councillors coming from the majority political group on the Panel (Conservative) and one councillor coming from the minority political group (Labour). Substitute councillors were also identified.

5.3 It is proposed that the composition of the Complaints Sub Committee established by the Panel in 2021/22 still represents an effective and practical approach and should therefore continue to apply in 2022/23. The composition of the Sub Committee should give it the necessary capacity to carry out its role and enable it to do so in way that reflects the Panel's role of scrutinising and supporting the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. It is open to the Panel to consider and agree alternative ways of achieving this if it sees this as necessary.

5.4 For reference, the members of the Complaints Sub Committee in 2021/22 were Councillors Dorothy Maxwell, Ken Pritchard, Russell Roberts and Winston Strachan (with Councillors Andre Gonzalez De Savage and Zoe McGhee as substitutes) and Mrs Anita Shields and Miss Pauline Woodhouse (independent co-opted members). All Sub Committee members are provided with appropriate training and support to carry out the role.

5.5 It should be further noted that the workload of the Complaints Sub Committee is substantially determined by the number of complaints about the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner that it needs to consider. The number of Sub Committee meetings in each of the years since it was established has been as follows:

Municipal year	Complaints Sub Committee meetings
2013/14	4
2014/15	1
2015/16	0
2016/17	0
2017/18	1
2018/19	0
2019/20	2
2020/21	1
2021/22	1

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 The resource implications associated with the proposal consist of the reimbursement of expenses that may be claimed by Complaints Sub Committee members for any meetings that need to be convened and/or other activity involved in carrying out their role. These can be met from Police & Crime Panel grant funding that the Home Office makes available to the local authority that hosts each panel. As stated in paragraph 5.5 above, the Complaints Sub Committee will only be convened during 2022/23 if there is a specific need to do so.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal. It represents an established approach that has been used by the Panel to carry out part of its statutory functions.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The recommended decision will mean that the Complaints Sub Committee can be convened should the need arise for it to consider a complaint about the conduct of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. The risk of not taking the decision is that the Panel would not be in a position to carry out part of its statutory functions, which would have a practical and reputational impact. It is open to the Panel to consider alternative means of carrying out the complaints functions but this could take time to establish and be unproven, whereas the Complaints Sub Committee in its current form has previously operated effectively.

7. Background Papers

Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012

Northamptonshire Police & Crime Panel's statutory responsibilities relating to complaints against the Police & Crime Commissioner – report to the Police & Crime Panel (5th March 2013)

Future operation of the Northamptonshire Police & Crime Complaints Sub Committee – report to the Police & Crime Panel (3rd July 2014)

Appointments to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Complaints Sub Committee for 2020/21 – report to the Police, Fire & Crime Panel (16th July 2020)

Appointments to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel Complaints Sub Committee for 2021/22 – report to the Police, Fire & Crime Panel (17th June 2021)

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Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel

**Informal Resolution Protocol regarding non-criminal complaints against the
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
for Northamptonshire.**

1. The Monitoring Officer of the host authority ('the Monitoring Officer') will act as the first point of contact for all complaints made against the Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (PFCC) and Deputy Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (DPFCC) and will deal with any such complaints in accordance with the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations").
2. Any complaints received by Panel Members, by any of the Panel's constituent authorities, by the Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (OPFCC), or by the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police will be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer as soon as is practicable on their receipt.
3. The Monitoring Officer will determine whether or not a complaint should be recorded.
4. When a complaint is recorded the Monitoring Officer will:
 - (a) Send a copy of the record made of the complaint to the complainant.
 - (b) Send a copy of the complaint to the person complained against, subject to any decision taken not to supply a copy of the complaint or to supply the complaint in a form which keeps anonymous the identity of the complainant; and
 - (c) Refer the record, and copies of all the associated paperwork, to the Panel's Secretariat no later than 2 working days after the complaint has been recorded.
5. On receipt of the complaint the Panel's Secretariat will:
 - (a) Convene a meeting of the Panel's Complaints Sub Committee, normally to be held within three weeks of the Secretariat's receipt of the complaint.
 - (b) Write to the complainant, setting out timescales and providing details about the Informal Resolution procedure; and giving the complainant an opportunity to make further comments in support of their complaint. Where the Panel's Secretariat believes that the circumstances of the case are such that the Complaints Sub Committee may decide to treat the complaint as having been resolved the complainant will be asked to provide their representations in this regard for the Complaints Sub Committee to take into account.
 - (c) Write to the person complained about, setting out timescales and providing details about the Informal Resolution procedure; and giving them an opportunity to make comments in response to the complaint.

6. The Panel's Monitoring Officer will compile a brief report for the Complaints Sub Committee, setting out the pertinent details of the complaint, recording any failure by the person complained about to comment on the complaint and making suggestions for the next steps.
7. The Complaints Sub Committee will first consider whether the complaint has been satisfactorily dealt with and, subject to any representations by the complainant, may decide to treat the complaint as having been resolved. In such a case, the Complaints Sub Committee's reasons will be recorded and notified to all parties.
8. If, on considering the report, the Complaints Sub Committee feels that the matter needs to be resolved, it will decide its course of action. In accordance with the Regulations the Complaints Sub Committee may not conduct an investigation. The Complaints Sub Committee may use its delegated powers to require the person complained against to provide information or documents or attend before it to answer questions or give evidence, as this will not be regarded as an investigation. However, any other step intended to gather information about the complaint, other than inviting the comments of the complainant and the person complained against, will be likely to amount to investigation and will not therefore be undertaken.
9. The Complaints Sub Committee will consider whether to devise an action plan (to be drawn up by the Panel's Secretariat) and in so doing will take into account any applicable guidance issued by the Secretary of State and may also consider any guidance issued by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) pursuant to Section 22 of the Police Reform Act 2002 on local resolution. Any such action plan will include an indicative timeframe.
10. Any such action plan may include (for example):
 - (a) An explanatory letter being written by the Panel's Secretariat (or on behalf of the Complaints Sub Committee),
 - (b) An explanatory letter being written by an officer of the OPFCC,
 - (c) A suggested change to OPFCC policy, practice or action; or
 - (d) A request that an apology is tendered (no apology may be tendered on behalf of the person complained against unless that person has admitted the alleged conduct and agreed to the apology).
11. The Complaints Sub Committee will also decide whether it wishes to:
 - (a) Reconvene to take any steps identified in the action plan,
 - (b) Authorise any named individual (who may not be the PFCC, the DPFCC or the OPFCC Chief Executive) to take any steps in accordance with the action plan; or
 - (c) Refer the matter to the full Police, Fire & Crime Panel recommending that the identified action be taken.

12. Once the actions from the plan have been completed the matter may be referred back to the Complaints Sub Committee or an authorised individual may determine that the matter has been resolved. The Panel's Secretariat must make a record of the outcome of the informal resolution as soon as practicable, normally within 3 working days, after the process is completed and provide copies to the complainant and the person complained against. The matter will then be closed.
13. No part of the record may be published by the Complaints Sub Committee unless, having given the parties an opportunity to make representations about the proposed publication and having considered any such representations, the Complaints Sub Committee considers that publication is in the public interest.
14. The Monitoring Officer will present a half-yearly update report to the full Police, Fire & Crime Panel about all complaints dealt with in the preceding six months, the actions taken (including any obligations to act, or refrain from acting, that have arisen under the Regulations but have not yet been complied with or have been contravened) and the outcome of the process.
15. If, at any stage, the IOPC informs the Panel that they require the complaint to be referred to them, or if the Complaints Sub Committee decides that the complaint should be referred to the IOPC, the Informal Resolution process will be discontinued. The Complaints Sub Committee may only decide that the complaint should be so referred if matters come to light during the Informal Resolution process that indicate the commission of a criminal offence, thus leading to the earlier decision as to whether or not the complaint was a serious complaint being reversed.

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