



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

9th September 2021

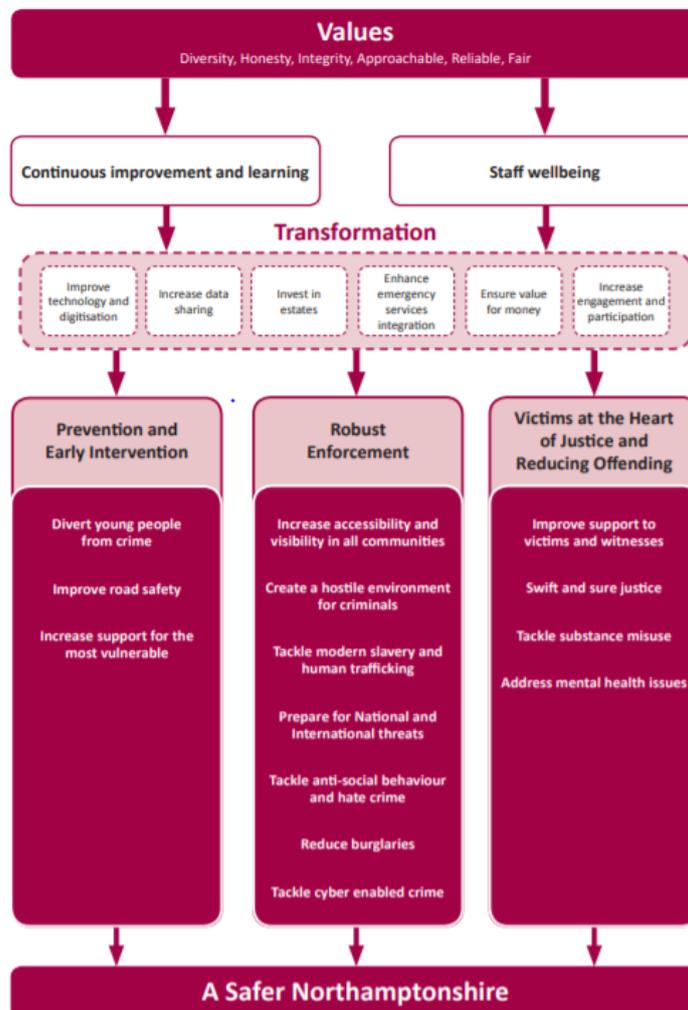
OFFICE OF THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER POLICE AND CRIME PLAN UPDATE

1. Introduction

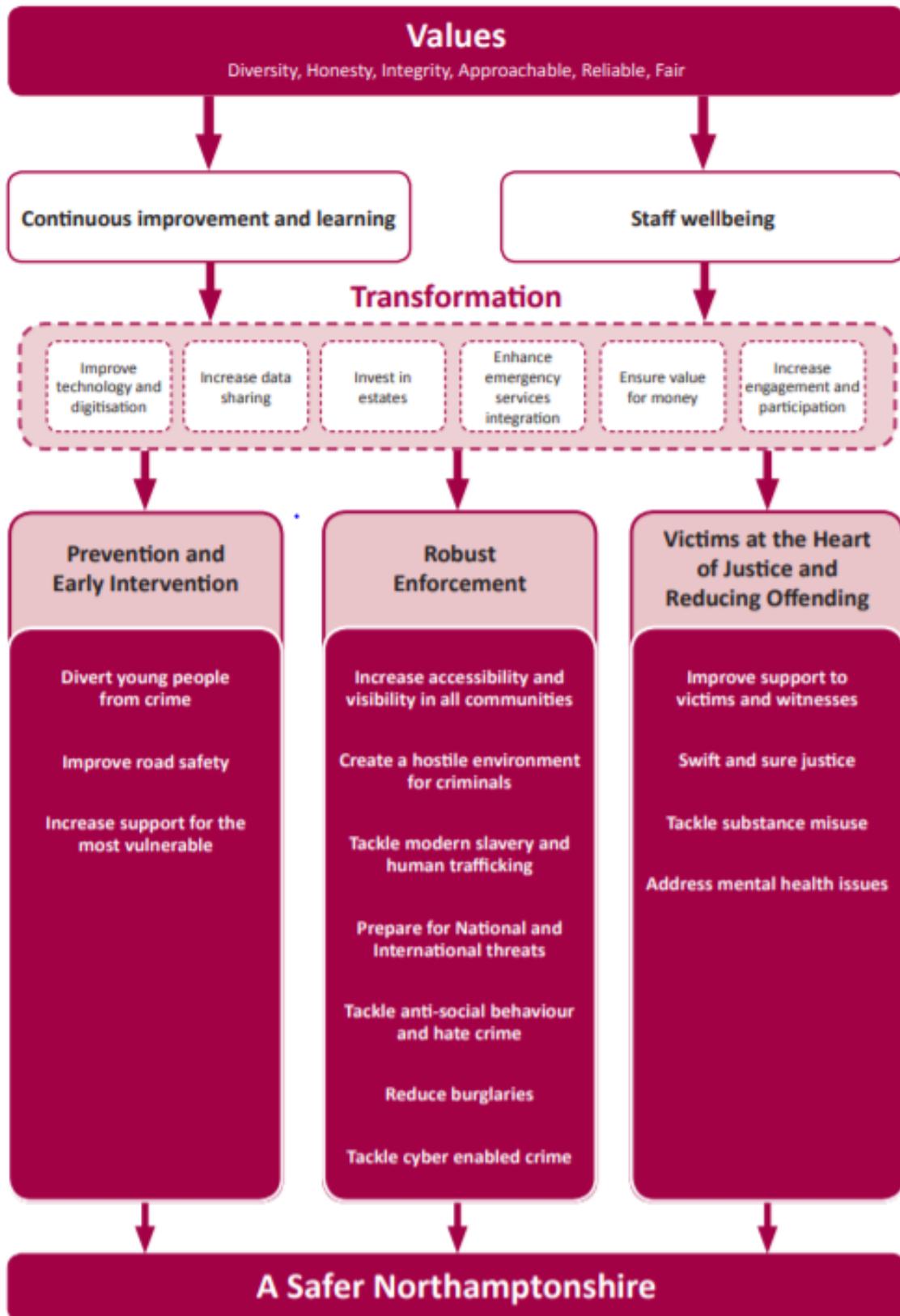
- 1.1 This report updates the Panel on the work of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commission and the progress being made in relation to the delivery of the new Police and Crime Plan for Northamptonshire which is set out in detail in appendix A.

2. Delivering the Police and Crime Plan

Plan on a Page



Plan on a Page



2.1 Transformation

2.2 Meeting with the Prime Minister

Last month, I joined fellow Commissioners from around the country at a meeting with The Prime Minister Boris Johnson at Downing Street. The briefing focussed on the Government's new Beating Crime Plan, which sets out its strategic approach to cutting serious violence and neighbourhood crime, including burglary and anti-social behaviour. A panel discussion that included Home Secretary Priti Patel and Policing Minister Kit Malthouse, covered the wider criminal justice system, early intervention and work with young people, and police pay. During this meeting, I was able to explain the success of Northamptonshire Police's approach to burglary: the Force already visits all victims of domestic burglary and gives the crime a focus that has significantly reduced the number of incidents in the county. I also took the opportunity to talk about our focus on young people and early intervention to improve life chances and prevent crime from happening in the first place.

I was pleased to hear the Government's commitment to ensuring that every element of the criminal justice system needs to work together to ensure swift and speedy justice for victims and for people accused of crime. The Government's Beating Crime Plan puts such a focus on PCCs working with partners to prevent reoffending and to stop crime from happening in the first place, and I welcome that. In Northamptonshire, we are already working hard to create safer communities and to focus on preventing young people from becoming involved in crime, with other projects including the Youth Team and the tri-service Emergency Services Cadets. It was great to hear the Prime Minister restate his commitment to policing and to tackling crime and I look forward to getting on and working with partners, to make that happen.

2.3 Prevention and Early Intervention

- **Divert young people from crime**
- **Improve road safety**
- **Increase support for the most vulnerable**

Early Intervention

A key priority in my Police and Crime Plan has been early intervention which helps to keep people out of the criminal justice system and provides support. More than 900 families across the county have received support from the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Team, a project set up to provide early intervention in domestic or family related incidents. The ACE Team was set up in February 2019 and over the past two years, has helped 934 families, with a total of 1,736 children and young people.

The Team works with families in situations where police have been called to domestic incidents that are unlikely to result in prosecutions, or when they are referred by a school if a young person is at risk of exclusion, for example. Workers from the ACE team work with families to offer support to prevent issues from escalating further, including giving guidance on issues like domestic abuse, relationships, parenting, online safety, mental health and substance abuse. Their work is complemented by four specialist Domestic Abuse Support Officers, whose role is to help people in incidents where the police have been called specifically to a domestic incident regarded as low level. Since the appointment in January of two officers and a further two in June, the Domestic Abuse officers have dealt with 594 incidents, supporting 1034 children.

This team is providing a really valuable service, meeting the needs of families who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with Northamptonshire Police and ultimately, may enter the criminal justice system. This work ultimately enhances the life chances of children and young people and I believe, prevents them being involved with or a victim of crime later in life.

The information above provides an overall viewpoint of what the ACE team have achieved since their inception over 2 years ago. I have provided a latest overview of the most up to date figures for the team's performance within Appendix A detailed further below in the report. This commentary forms part of my current Performance Framework in ensuring that delivery of services is being provided in an effective manner.

2.4 Robust Enforcement

- **Increase accessibility and visibility in all communities**
- **Create a hostile environment for criminals**
- **Tackle modern slavery and human trafficking**
- **Prepare for National and International threats**
- **Tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime**
- **Reduce burglaries**
- **Tackle cyber enabled crime**

Neighbourhood Policing

We now have 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.

Working in partnership with the Chief Constable, 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. As part of this work, I also want to see

work to reduce the harm from domestic abuse and on early intervention to protect children and prevent crime.

The renewed focus on neighbourhood policing has taken a further step further as we now have 94 Police Constables, 83 PCSOs, almost 20 Sergeants and 4 Inspectors on our Neighbourhood policing teams as at the end of August. In addition to this, new livered 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 changes to 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, for the first time, a cohort of new recruits will 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. I am delighted to see the new recruits begin their policing career in such a vital role.

Neighbourhood policing teams across Northamptonshire have also received a welcome boost after eight new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) completed their initial training. The recruits successfully completed seven weeks in the classroom and have now joined their neighbourhood policing team colleagues on patrol across the county. The training covered an understanding of the law and legislation, the role of the neighbourhood policing team, the use of police IT systems and first aid, as well as information on specialist policing areas and external partners and agencies. People tell me time and again how much they value the work that PCSOs do in their communities. They are also valued members of our local neighbourhood policing teams and play an important role as they're our eyes and ears within our local communities. PCSOs are a vital part of the new focus on neighbourhood policing that I want to see across Northamptonshire, and I was delighted to meet these new recruits and see at first hand their enthusiasm to get stuck into their new roles.

Safer Streets fund

The OPFCC has been successful in a bid to the Home Office and awarded £432,000 to fund crime fighting projects in Wellingborough after a successful bid to round two of the Safer Streets initiative. The funding will be used in a major scheme to make hundreds of homes on the Hemmingwell estate in Wellingborough more secure. Working with the local housing provider Greatwell Homes, the Hemmingwell Safer Streets scheme will enhance CCTV on the estate, as well as providing new front doors to make properties less vulnerable. The project will begin during the summer and will be completed by the end of March 2022.

The Home Office Safer Streets fund enables Police and Crime Commissioners and local authorities to bid for funding to support crime prevention initiatives in areas particularly affected by acquisitive crime such as burglary, vehicle crime and robbery. The funding must go towards measures that are proven to cut crime, including changes to the street scene such as locked alley gates and better lighting, and the installation of CCTV.

The OPFCC was awarded the maximum amount available for any one bid and I have pledged additional funding from my budget, as well as funding from our partners North Northamptonshire Council and Greatwell Homes, to ensure that further enhancements to community safety on the Hemmingwell estate can be carried out. This funding award is the second time that Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has been successful in the Safer Streets Fund. Last July, funding was awarded for three schemes that have just been successfully completed:

- Security improvements to car parks, and new, safe bike parking facilities and safety enhancements to hundreds of homes on the Bouverie estate and Portland Place in Northampton. The town's CCTV system was also enhanced with the addition of 13 new state-of-the-art cameras.
- The gating of alleyways behind homes in Wellingborough, with 74 gates making properties in the Victoria area more secure from crime and a significant extension of the town centre CCTV system with the addition of seven new cameras.
- 18 alley gates to secure the rear of homes in Kettering, where the town's CCTV system was extended, with 15 new cameras to cover the All Saints area.

I am very pleased that we have been successful, yet again, in securing additional funding to make people in Northamptonshire safer. The three projects we have already carried out using Safer Streets funding made real improvements that made people in Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton safer in their homes. Residents in those areas have told me that the schemes have made such a difference to them and I know that these crime fighting measures have a lasting impact on people's lives.

Uplift in ANPR ring of steel

The doubling of Northamptonshire's ANPR network has resulted in 340 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 results in the past eight months with 340 arrests made, 627 vehicle seizures, 310 intelligence-led searches, and 1026 traffic offences identified.

Some highlights included:

- In February 2021, intelligence led to a taxi being stopped in Northampton. Officers searched the vehicle and the occupants, discovering a large amount of both Class A and B drugs. In total 108 wraps of Class A drugs with an estimated street value of £6,000 and £1,300 in cash was seized and taken off the streets of Northamptonshire. Two men were arrested following the stop.
- In April, 2021, six males entered a property in Kettering armed with machetes and forced the victim to hand over nearly £2000 in cash and other high value items. Enquiries by officers identified a vehicle believed to be involved in the offence. The vehicle activated ANPR and subsequently failed to stop for officers. Officers pursued the vehicle and a male decamped. A containment was put on the area and with help from the police dog handler the male was found and arrested.
- In May 2021, a property was burgled, and several firearms, items of jewellery and a quantity of cash were stolen. A male was identified through police inquiries and his vehicle added to ANPR systems. The vehicle was subsequently stopped by officers and the suspect arrested for burglary.
- In May 2021, a vehicle linked to multiple thefts of purses from elderly victims in the Lincolnshire area activated a camera entering Northamptonshire. Officers responded to the ANPR hit and managed to stop it in Welford Road, Northampton. Three men were arrested and taken into custody, undoubtedly preventing further offences.
- In June 2021, police received reports of an altercation in Northampton. Officers attended and found a male with multiple stab wounds. Quick actions by officers at the scene identified a vehicle that had been used in the offence. The vehicle's registration was added to the ANPR system which was then subsequently stopped by armed officers. One male in the vehicle was arrested for grievous bodily harm.
- In July 2021, one of the new ANPR Intel Officers identified a vehicle containing a missing 15-year-old girl at risk of CSE which we stopped and found her to be in company with a man in his 60s. He was promptly arrested for child abduction.

The results that have been achieved through our investment in additional ANPR capacity speak for themselves. These additional ANPR cameras and staff members are a fantastic resource, supporting Northamptonshire Police officers and staff in their work to target people who come to the county to commit crime and cause harm. These success stories show how the appropriate use of technology is helping Northamptonshire Police to deny criminals the use of our county's roads. Good work is taking place across the county to prevent crime and support victims, and I am pleased to see that our investment in ANPR is playing an important part in making Northamptonshire safer.

Extra security for rural Northamptonshire businesses

Rural businesses are being given a helping hand to combat crime thanks to a trial funded by the OPFCC. The scheme allows businesses to be loaned 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, should it be triggered, 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 will also fund signage warning potential criminals that their every step is now being watched where the cameras are in place. Working with PID and using their VideoGuard 360 acts as a deterrent against criminal behaviour. If anyone goes near it then it will inform the police and it will act as a powerful tool in helping us to prevent crime, which is a major priority for us. It also marks our continued investment in making rural areas even safer. 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.

2.5 Victims at the Heart of Justice and Reducing Reoffending

- **Improve support to victims and witnesses**
- **Swift and sure justice**
- **Tackle substance misuse**
- **Address mental health issues**

Improve support to victims and witnesses

Organisations working with victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence applied, with the assistance of this office, for another tranche of funding made available by the Ministry of Justice this year. I am pleased to say that all local bids were successful and our total MOJ grant funding for 2021 to 2022 is outlined in the table below.

Funding Core Victim Services and Child Sexual Abuse	
Victim Services	£813,336
CSA 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

Swift and sure justice

Since March 2020, the Local Criminal Justice Board which I established, and chair continues to draw key criminal justice agencies together to draw up a coordinated response to the COVID pandemic which has had a significant impact 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 in order 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.

This year I am making a substantial investment in refreshing the Integrated Offender Management scheme in Northampton. This is a multi-agency project involving the Force, Probation, The Third Sector, and both Local Authorities. The aim of this scheme is to offer support to those prolific offenders who wish to change whilst tightly monitoring and 'gripping' those who do not.

I and my team are engaging with the Director and other senior staff at HMP Five Wells, the soon to be opened local prison in Wellingborough.

Tackle substance misuse

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 on behalf of the whole county. In addition, Northamptonshire has been awarded additional Home Office Grant funding to tackle substance misuse amongst our local homeless population. 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.

Address mental health issues

Northants is a test bed site for Mental Health Treatment Requirements, and the work undertaken here has gone on to shape national thinking on how best to deliver mental health (and subsequently other) treatment as part of a court order. I have provided additional funding for this scheme and early evaluations of this work have identified very significant positive outcomes.

I have provided additional investment this year in Op Alloy which will see mental health nurses working closely with the Force, providing advice and support both in

the Force Control Room and in Response vehicles. This doubles the capacity and extends the service to 3am which improves the quality and appropriateness of our response to those with mental health needs

3. Holding the Chief Constable to account

3.1 The Police Accountability Board supports the PFCC in exercising his statutory duties of holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Northamptonshire Police and forms part of a wider ranging programme of assurance across the breadth of policing activities.

3.2 The Board scrutinises areas of concern in relation to performance and service delivery at a strategic level and allows for open and constructive discussions between the Force and the OPFCC in respect of strategic budget setting, medium term financial planning and other matters requiring ongoing levels of assurance.

3.3 Accountability Board Meeting 9th February 2021

3.4 Force Strategic Priorities Performance log – The Commissioner requested a presentation/report that shows performance against these measures and targets. The Commissioner acknowledged the difference that the current Chief Constables' leadership and vision had brought to the Force.

3.5 The Commissioner expressed his support and was assured that the leadership now shown in the Force by the Chief Constable and his team was much improved from previous years, providing greater clarity, vision and focus. He recognised that there were clear green shoots of success in a number of areas that included burglary reduction, quality of investigations and victim satisfaction but there was still progress to be made in a number of higher harm areas, such as knife crime, vulnerability and Rape and Serious Sexual Offence numbers. The Commissioner welcomed the fact that the Force had set some stretching targets in this year for things that mattered for the public but noted that a number were not being met and he expressed his desire for the Chief Constable to be clear in what the target setting process would be for the forthcoming financial year period. The Commissioner welcomed the suggestion from the Chief Constable that policing will need to be delivered differently in some areas in the future to address issues such as knife crime.

3.6 Budget conditions letter update - The Commissioner agreed a budget conditions letter with the Chief Constable as part of the budget setting process for 2020/2021. He required a report outlining progress, to this point in implementation and progress of the matters agreed in the letter. The Commissioner thanked the Force for the comprehensive response in relation to the conditions set for this current year's budget. He was assured that a better understanding existed in relation to what was expected in return for the delegated budget to the Chief Constable. He saw that while this report

only deals with the first three quarters of the financial year some of the conditions would potentially not be met and as such these might well appear in the budget conditions letter for 2021/2022.

3.7 - Missing Persons update - The Commissioner was aware of the demand placed upon Northamptonshire Police as a result of missing person investigations. He requested a report relating to missing persons in the County. The report included reference to the numbers of missing persons per year and any notable trends relating to this over recent years, as well as a breakdown in terms of demographic, including gender, age and ethnicity. Where relevant the paper also highlighted contributory factors associated with missing persons such as mental health. The Commissioner was reassured that the Chief Constable and team were able to demonstrate good internal processes, that were much improved over the past 12 months relating to missing persons, especially those deemed to be at high risk. He was also reassured that it seems that this will be commented on favourably by HMICFRS following a recent inspection. The Commissioner was pleased that the evidence demonstrates that the Force is identifying risk better, providing faster responses to these types of incident and locating missing persons more quickly. The Commissioner offered his support through Nicci Marzec to the Chief Constable in addressing future or ongoing issues that might be supported by partners in relation to missing persons especially for looked after children.

3.8 Accountability Board Notes 9th March 2021

3.9 Update on victim satisfaction and VCOP compliance - In August 2020 the accountability board received a paper relating to rates of compliance with VCOP and satisfaction levels with victims of crime. It was agreed there would be an update provided between 6 and 9 months. The Commissioner congratulated the Force on the improvements they had made in relation to the provision of 28-day updates to crime victims, since the previous review of this at an accountability board. He was assured that this was as a result of an improvement in processes and leadership. This is particularly relevant as it is well evidenced that being kept informed is one of the key drivers in overall victim satisfaction. The Commissioner was satisfied at this time with the processes in place to ensure victims were aware that a crime had been recorded and assured that audits demonstrate a very high compliance level with this. This is particularly pertinent as the requirement to send every victim a letter was resource intensive and will disappear later this year when the new enhanced victims code commences. The Commissioner stressed the importance to him of proper dialogue with and support for victims. He questioned the Chief Constable on the readiness of the Force to rollout the newly enhanced VCOP later this year and was assured that there was in place an effective plan to do so.

3.10 Response times and visibility - The Chief Constable set several Force priority areas for 2020/2021. These included priorities and targets relating to

response times for attendance at Grade 1 and 2 incidents, as well as visibility outside police stations for Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The Force had reported in the performance update in November 2020 that these were not being met and a plan was being developed to rectify this situation. The Commissioner therefore requested a report that demonstrates what the causal factors for this were, articulates the agreed plan to resolve this and shows the current position and improvements that have been made since that time. The Commissioner received a detailed briefing on the deep dive work that had been undertaken by the Force to better understand the reasons why response times and visibility have reduced in the previous briefing from late 2020. The Commissioner was assured by the level of understanding that the Force had now on these issues and complemented the Force on this work. The Commissioner was further reassured in relation to the positive improvements relating to response times and visibility of neighbourhood and response officers. The Commissioner requested consideration to be given by the Chief Constable as to what might be required to achieve a visibility level of 70% for these staff.

3.11 Complaints update – The 1st February 2021 saw the first anniversary of the implementation of the new Police Complaints regime, following the Policing and Crime Act 2017. As well as providing Police and Crime Commissioners with additional mandatory and optional responsibilities relating to the Police complaints system, this legislation delivered a strong focus on the learning opportunities that the complaints system provided to improve personal and professional behaviour and service delivery. An additional mandatory requirement under the legislation was PCCs to have a specific responsibility for holding the Chief Constable to account for the handling of complaints. The Commissioner requests a report from the Chief Constable that covers the following areas; Reflective Practice and learning, Review and Timeliness. The Commissioner was pleased with the progress made in the first 12 months of the new complaints' procedures. The Commissioner and Chief Constable discussed whether there was any evidence of disproportionality in timeliness of management of complaints dependent upon ethnicity, the DCC was to examine this further. The Commissioner while assured overall requested that improvements were sought to be made in timeliness of complaint investigation.

3.12 Accountability Board Meeting 13th April 2021

3.13 Budget conditions letter update - The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner agreed a budget conditions letter with the Chief Constable as part of the budget setting process for 2020/2021. The Commissioner requires an end of year highlight report outlining delivery against the matters agreed in this letter. The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for the work progressed over the past 12 months. He was assured that a large number of the areas agreed in the budget conditions letter for 2020/21 had been progressed, despite the challenges faced by the Force in policing the County during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Commissioner discussed with the Chief

Constable the desire this year to have produced a more cohesive and joined up approach to crime prevention and a greater focus on wider customer service approaches.

3.14 **Capital Programme** - As part of the 2021/2022 budget setting programme there was a requirement to review the current capital programme to ensure affordability and deliverability. The Commissioner therefore required the revised programme to be presented for review and approval. The Commissioner was assured that the paper described a healthy position, that appears affordable in relation to the police capital programme. The Commissioner recognised that the programme contained areas where choices in relation to investment could be made as well as areas where it was completely necessary, and these elements of the programme would need to be kept under ongoing review. The Commissioner commended the work that had been undertaken to complete this.

3.15 **Accountability Board Notes 11th May 2021**

3.16 **Force strategic priorities performance update** - The Chief Constable adopted a suite of performance measures and targets relating to Force Strategic priorities for the performance year 2020/2021. The Commissioner requests a paper outlining the end of financial year performance against these targets and measures. The Commissioner agreed with the direction of intended travel on the Chief Constables agreed 4 Strategic Priorities for 2021/2022. These covered many of the areas of concern that have been previously highlighted in local consultations. He made the point there were areas that were not defined priorities this year, but where he still expected performance to be maintained or improved, such as residential burglary. The Commissioner was assured by the Chief Constable that this would be the case. Reflecting on last year's performance the Commissioner noted that there had been some notable measures of success but that there was still improvement to be made in certain areas, notably relating to personal crime and positive actions and outcomes. The Commissioner was pleased to see that many of these were covered in the Force internal targets for the year and made the point that he was looking for a wider range of these internal targets to be met this year, in comparison with last year.

3.17 **Hate Crime** - The Commissioner requested a report in relation to Hate Crime. This report should outline the reported rate of Hate Crimes or Hate incidents over a three-year period, to include total numbers as well as a breakdown by incident and victim type, outcome rates and victim satisfaction levels. The report should identify any trends over this period. It should also provide a description of the approach taken by the Force to the supporting of victims of this type of crime/incident. The Commissioner welcomed the level of understanding and focus that the Force could demonstrate on this agenda. He noted the increase in offences over the last three years but was assured that the crime recording was ethical. Overall the Commissioner was assured on the activity of the Force on this subject.

3.18 Accountability Board Notes 8th June 2021

3.19 Health and Safety - The Commissioner requested a presentation of the annual Northamptonshire Police Health and Safety Report and progress on the internal Mazars audit of Health and Safety from March 2021. The Force has a legal and moral duty to safeguard and improve the health and safety of Police Officers, Police staff, Special Constables, volunteers and those affected by their activities. A report was provided which examined the Forces health and safety policies, any health and safety issues and the Forces achievements against its performance objectives. The Commissioner welcomed the paper and the assurance it provided in relation to compliance with legal frameworks and requirements. The Commissioner was pleased that the Force was making good use of the data at its disposal, particularly in relation to assaults on officers. The Commissioner looked forward to seeing the results of the further analysis that had been commissioned

3.20 Accountability Board Notes 13th July 2021

3.21 Stalking and Harassment - The Commissioner was concerned about the increase in reported cases of stalking and harassment across Northamptonshire and was aware from previous updates that many of these might be in relation to the recording of secondary crimes associated with domestic abuse victims. The Commissioner requested a report that outlines the levels of recorded stalking and harassment crime over the last three years, demonstrating any trends in numbers and victimology and the understanding the Force has in relation to what proportion of this relates to domestic incidents or otherwise. He also requested that the report articulate the understanding that the Force has in relation to the subject that would allow for earlier interventions to reduce the opportunities for escalation to additional or more serious offences. The Commissioner was assured from the report that the force had a sense of understanding of these issues and that the recording of these matters showed high levels of integrity. He asked what actions the force were undertaking to identify the causes of the potential over recording of these offences, and to tackle the risks associated with threats being carried out in a domestic setting by those who commit stalking and harassment type offences that audit had potentially identified and was assured that there were actions in place to try to address this. He thanked the Chief Constable for the conciseness and clarity that the paper offered.

3.22 Internal Audits - The Commissioner requested a report that outlines the received internal audit reports from the internal audit inspection regime for 2020/2021. The report should outline all recommendations made in these audits, whether these have been accepted or not, provide an update on any actions or recommendations that have been completed and where not completed, outline the timescales for their completion. The Commissioner was assured that Northamptonshire Police had in place effective processes and systems to manage and monitor recommendations made following

internal audits. He expressed some concerns in relation to the effectiveness of the monitoring processes relating to performance for collaborative units across the region and agreed with the Chief Constable to raise this at a forthcoming regional meeting to seek improvement.

3.23 Accountability Board Notes 10th August 2021

- 3.24 **Budget outturn 2020/21** - The Commissioner requested a report on the Northamptonshire Police financial outturn position for 2020/2021 which provided a breakdown of all departments and an underspend by the year end of £583k.

Carry forwards have been transferred from specific budget lines as agreed separately with the Chief Constable and will be held in earmarked reserves for use in 2021/22 as appropriate. The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for the ongoing improvements made since his appointment in financial management. He noted that there had been as planned a reduction in overtime spend but asked whether this was in line with agreed targets and requested further details on this. He questioned whether there was any opportunity to look to invest to save by bringing in temporary staff to assist in delivery of parts of the capital investment plan, in areas that might make the Force more efficient or effective. He was assured that the management and oversight of the budget provided to the Force was working effectively.

- 3.25 **Force Strategic priorities** - The Chief Constable has adopted a suite of performance measures and targets relating to Force Strategic priorities. The Commissioner requested a presentation/report that shows performance against these measures and targets from 1st April 2021. From the presentation provided, the Commissioner recognised and was assured that there were signs of continued improvement in the performance of the Force. He was particularly assured by the high and continually improving levels of satisfaction with victims of crime. The Commissioner expressed some concerns in relation to a recent decline in relation to response times. There was a discussion relating to this and he was assured by the Chief Constables explanation for the reasons for the decline and his plans to improve them. There was an acknowledgement that there was a renewed focus on the quality of service provided upon attendance at an incident, as opposed to just the speed of response. The Commissioner was assured in relation to the increased focus on quality of life issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour. Overall the Commissioner was assured that the Force continues to move in the right direction, concerning its performance, however he expressed the view, agreed by the Chief Constable that this was not universal across all areas and there was still significant improvement to be made.

4. Summary of PFCC Decisions taken

[Decision Record 198- Policing Budget and Precept 2021and 2122](#)
[Decision Record 199- IT Contract variation](#)
[Decision Record 200- S22 RIPA agreement](#)
[Decision Record 201- Cleaning Services](#)
[Decision Record 202- HR solution](#)
[Decision Record 203- Darby House Variation](#)
[Decision Record 204- Video Conferencing System](#)
[Decision Record 205- NCT Desk Spaces at the CJC](#)
[Decision Record 206- contract extension for language services](#)
[Decision Record 207- replacement recruitment system](#)
[Decision Record 208 Pump Priming Joint Enabling Services](#)
[Decision Record 209 OP Nova](#)
[Decision Record 210- Additional Witness Care Officer](#)
[Decision Record 211- Digital Leadership Exec Programme Membership](#)
[Decision Record 212- Telephone Interpreting contract extension](#)
[Decision Record 213- Criminal Justice Healthcare Services](#)
[Decision Record 214- FHQ Re-roofing contract](#)
[Decision Record 215- Lenovo ThinkPad Laptops](#)
[Decision Record 216- Language Services](#)
[Decision Record 217- Darby House refit variation](#)
[Decision Record 218- Chorus licences](#)
[Decision Record 219- Firewall Project](#)
[Decision Record 220- Self Drive Vehicle Hire contract extension](#)
[Decision Record 221- Additional IDVA posts at Voice](#)
[Decision Record 222- Duty management module](#)
[Decision Record 223- Ridgecrest cleaning contract extension](#)
[Decision Record 224- Software Licences](#)
[Decision Record 225- Tranman Upgrade](#)
[Decision Record 226- Deed of Variation for Corby Police Station](#)
[Decision Record 227- HyperConvergence](#)
[Decision Record 228- duty planning module](#)
[Decision Record 229- SPS agreement with SCL](#)
[Decision Record 230- SPS agreement with UoN](#)
[Decision Record 231- Special Services Charges](#)
[Decision Record 232- Op Alloy](#)
[Decision Record 233- Digital Delivery Team 2021 resourcing](#)

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel considers the content of the report and its appendix.

Stephen Mold

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner