

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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| DATE | 13 March 2024 |
| REPORT OF | Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) |
| SUBJECT | OPCC Update |
| STATUS | Open |

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with a general progress report for the OPCC across all areas of work.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Police and Crime Panel note update and take the opportunity to request further information on any areas of particular interest.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has provided general updates to the Police and Crime Panel in the past that have been regarded as useful for keeping panel members up to date with developments of the office. The CEO has made the offer to provide the panel with any update as requested.

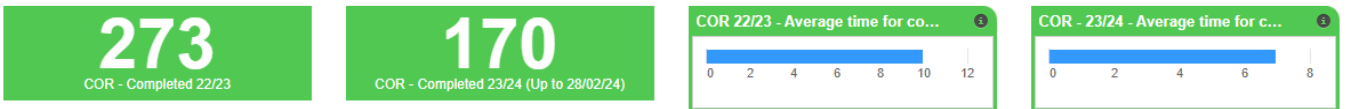
4. PCC UPDATE

- 4.1 The PCC has held two celebration events to share the success of the Community Safety Fund grant scheme. The events were attended by grant recipients who were able to network with others working in their community. The scheme has been over subscribed throughout and all funds are now allocated.
- 4.2 The PCC and Police Force have had the opportunity to bid for further grant to increase our police officer uplift even further against our target profile of 2222 officers. This is the third time we have been in a position to request further uplift due to the success of our recruitment pipeline. Our revised grant awarded us monies for an additional 16 officers taking our new uplift target to 2299.
- 4.3 We are working with the Police Foundation to bring together a multiagency use toolkit in better tackling anti-social behaviour. We brought together over 120 partners on March 5th to discuss how we better work together including an address from the Policing Minister, national and regional good practice. We will have a product to launch into next financial year.

5. ASSURANCE & STATUTORY DUTIES

5.1 The figures quoted in the following areas are covering the period April 1st 2023 to mid-January 2024 unless stated elsewhere.

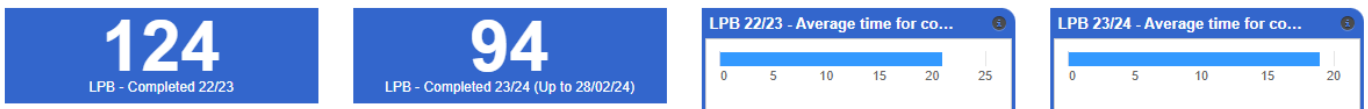
5.2 General Correspondence



We have seen a rise in correspondence volume since September 2023, but are anticipating a reduction in overall correspondence for the full year. This indicates improvement in the effectiveness of our triage and case management approach. Even with an increased demand in recent months, our average time for completing correspondence has dropped from a 10-day to a 7-day completion average. Due to improvements in recording on our internal systems, we are now seeing a more accurate picture of demand.

From January to December 2023, we have also signposted an additional 386 cases to the appropriate agencies - we don't count these within our demand totals. These cases do not cover FOI, SAR, reviews or complaints - these are measured separately as below.

5.3 Complaint Review



5.4 Reforms to police complaints legislation in 2020 sought to introduce a more customer focused system that aims to resolve issues and provide learning, with greater transparency and independent local oversight. Accordingly, the PCC is now the Review Body for the majority (98%) of complaints about the Force in addition to holding the role of mutual oversight body, which is shared with the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC). National statistics published by the IOPC show that Humberside Police continues to hold a favourable position in terms of demand levels, outcomes and timeliness.

We continue to work with the force to address any areas of learning identified in those cases where an appeal has been upheld. We are also introducing further reporting via our Accountability Board of the Professional Standards Department to monitor progress more closely.

5.5 Freedom of Information Requests



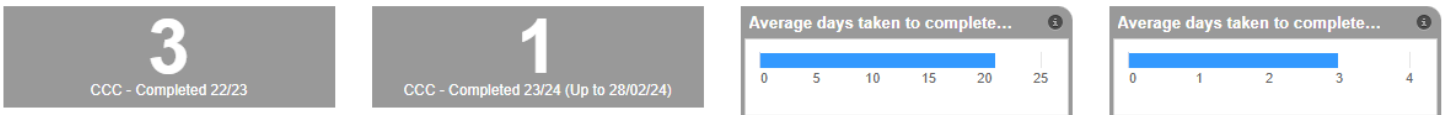
So far in 2023-24 we have met all timing guidelines for responses to FOI requests. We have also seen a reduction in time taken to complete requests. Between September 2023 and January 2024, we have not seen any increase in demand, but we usually see an increase prior to PCC elections, so this could occur between now and May 2024.

5.6 Subject Access Requests



The number of Subject Access Requests has increased significantly, which we believe is primarily due to new responsibilities as a review body. It is also of note that several of our requests have come from a single person, and these have been dealt with accordingly.

5.7 Complaints about the Chief Constable



Complaints are recorded internally based upon the perception of the complainant and the wording of their allegation - which is why our KPIs show these cases. On assessment, none of these cases met the criteria for recording under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002 - they did not relate to the Chief Constable's own personal actions or conduct and the Local Policing Body (PCC) was not the appropriate authority. After careful consideration, appropriate explanations were provided along with helpful FAQs to further inform individuals of our remit in the police complaints process.

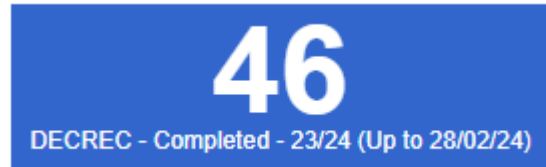
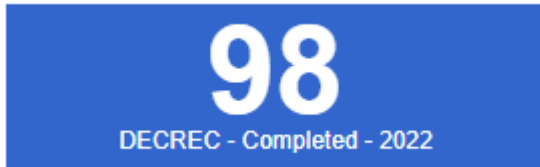
5.8 Appointment of Independent Panel Members and Legally Qualified Chairs to Misconduct Hearings



We have a statutory obligation to appoint a Legally Qualified Chair (LQC) and Independent Panel Member (IPM) for every misconduct hearing brought by the Force - that is for misconduct investigations which meet a threshold of Gross

Misconduct. Nationally and locally we have seen a rise in cases, but in the last quarter this has levelled off. The government recently announced proposed changes to the current approach and we will be working through the implications with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

5.9 Decision Records



The process on how Decision Records are managed was reviewed in early 2023 to ensure even greater efficiency and transparency. The new process is working well and enabling better transparency for the public. All decisions authorised by the PCC are published on our website. This is an area we will continue to review through 2024 to ensure we are as open and transparent as we can be.

5.10 Independent Scrutiny Work

Our scrutiny panels continue to thrive, and we have received national recognition from the APCC around our work with volunteers. On our Police Powers panel, we welcomed Jon Webster as the new chair, and said a massive thank you to Mark Lewindon for his tenure as chair. Under Mark, the panel saw some huge changes and developed into a thriving group. It is easy to meet every quarter and simply criticise and praise, but under Mark's leadership the panel influenced direct change in, for example, the Force's training policies. He leaves his position knowing he and the panel are making a difference and gives the incoming chair a clear path to follow. Although Jon will have big shoes to fill, he has the feet to do so, and his years as the Vice Chair on the panel will stand him in good stead.

The Hate Crime panel continues to grow under the leadership of Tor Xander Crabb. In the past few meetings, they have identified some emerging trends and are actively challenging the Force to make changes. As a panel and office, we supported and promoted Hate Crime Awareness Week between the 14-22 October 2023.

In October 2023 we held our first Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel (ICSP) and our second of these panels met in January 2024. We at one of the first OPCCs to run such a panel, and we anticipate as these meetings develop that we will influence some positive change within Humberside Police. We are working closely alongside the Force to ensure the needs of our communities are met regarding all aspects of custody.

Between September 23-January 24, our Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) conducted almost 40 visits to the two custody suites and interacted with hundreds of detainees to ensure their needs and rights were met. It is vital that all detainees are treated with dignity and respect. We also have some brilliant news, as our ICV scheme was recognised nationally and awarded Platinum accreditation (the

highest level awarded). The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) - the national membership organisation that supports, leads and represents these schemes - developed a quality assurance framework to assess how well schemes complied with the code of practice that governed custody visiting. The Humberside scheme was presented with a Platinum quality assurance award by ICVA on 29 November 2023 at a ceremony in Birmingham.



5.11 Campaigns

Each year we run a series of targeted campaigns to raise awareness of services supporting people affected by domestic abuse and fraud. Our most recent fraud campaign, over the winter period, reached 291,225 people on Facebook and Instagram alone with 1,425,728 impressions. In addition, adverts on Google and YouTube made a further 334,547 impressions across the Humber region. The adverts on these platforms lead to 5,267 users clicking to read further information, with 1,025 users clicking through to the 'Say no to fraud' national website.

We ran a domestic abuse campaign over a similar period, which showed a good increase in engagement across the board, with 492,809 people in the region reached, equating to 1,788,740 impressions. We also saw 5,886 people click on links to read further information, and 1,447 people click through to support websites such as 'You Are Not Alone' and 'Help to Stop'.

5.12 Operation Journey - Department for Transport Roads Policing

As a result of the East of England and East Midlands' Road Safety Summit on 15 September 2023, Humberside PCC was invited by the Department for Transport (DfT) and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to submit a road safety funding bid. The bid was successful and will fund the purchase of dashcams for key road users, body cams for Community Speed Watch coordinators, and cycle cams for key cycle user. The overall aim is to make improvements to the current offer around Operation Snap and our local Community Speed Watch scheme.

Humberside OPCC will also be working closely with Lincolnshire OPCC, who are conducting a similar dash cam trial, albeit with a different approach to evaluate options for what works.

Humberside OPCC will receive £65,000 towards the project, which will run from January-July 2024, to coincide with the Operation Journey - DfT Roads Policing Review Programme. The DfT will be providing evaluation of the project through a

third-party provider. The application window for members of the public to apply has begun with applications being made having circulated information via My Community Alert. Cycle Cam applications are being co-ordinated by the charity R-evolution. Cameras will allow members of the public to report poor driver behaviour via Operation Snap which the police can then use to prosecute those found to be breaking the law.

**RACHEL COOK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OFFICE OF THE
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HUMBERSIDE**