

## Report of the Chief Executive

This is my report to the Police and Crime Panel on the activities of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. It is intended to assist the Panel in reviewing and scrutinising decisions made and actions taken by the Commissioner, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities.

### 1 Decisions

1.1 The complete decision log may be viewed on the OPCC's website [here](#).

1.2 A summary of decisions for up to the end of October 2018 has been presented to the Panel at previous meetings. Table 1 below covers the period November 2018 – January 2019.

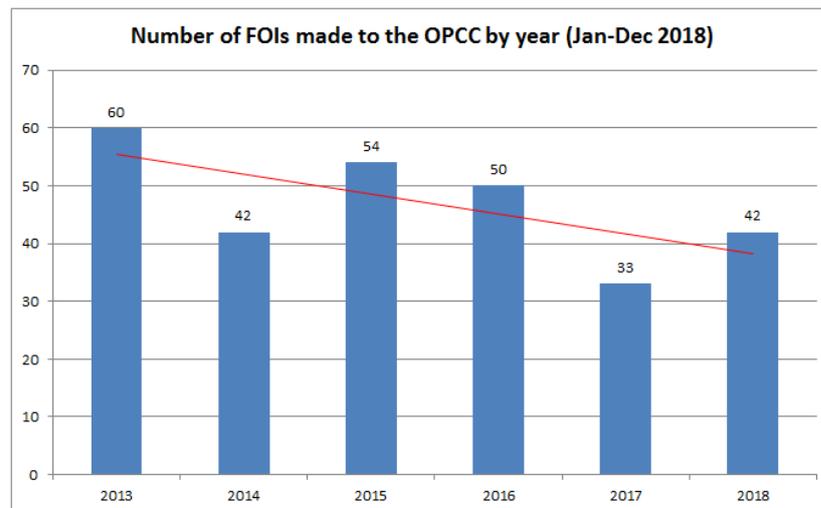
Table 1: Summary of decisions recorded by the OPCC in November 2018 – January 2019			
Month	Reference	Subject Matter	Decision
Nov	D31	Land at Bamfurlong Lane	<p>Considerable work has been undertaken to assess the options for the redevelopment of the Operations Centre at Bamfurlong, making best use of its unique position in the centre of the county and on the junction of the M5 and the A40 Golden Valley Bypass. One of the issues identified has been the need to provide an alternative route for power, gas, water and IT services to and from the site and space which can be used by the Constabulary while any redevelopment of the site takes place. Agreement has consequently been reached with the owners of the field to the east of Bamfurlong Lane to purchase the field from them to supplement the existing site.</p> <p>The report to Governance Board recommended that the freehold of the land from its current owners is purchased at a price of £65,000 plus a contribution towards the sellers' legal costs.</p>
Nov	D32	Electric charging points	<p>The paper presented to Governance Board outlined the options for the installation of additional charging points within the Constabulary estate. It also highlighted issues with the current public infrastructure which restrict the opportunities for staff to use public recharging points. The options for upgrading the current infrastructure for charging points were raised because the existing points at HQ may become inoperable at any time due to their age. A decision to install additional points at GTEC and Phoenix House would provide alternatives to the points at HQ, until they can be replaced and will also support the Constabulary's commitment to the Carbon Management Plan by supporting the move towards more electric fleet vehicles.</p> <p>The following recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To install three charging posts at GTEC and two charging posts at Phoenix House.</li> <li>To Install two new electric posts at HQ (to replace the two existing points).</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration is given to replacing the “Rolec” electric post at Compass House with two (22kw) “Chargemaster” posts.</li> <li>• That it is noted that using charging points not owned by the Constabulary is currently not an option but that further work is carried out to explore the options available.</li> </ul>
Nov	D33	Budget underspend	<p>Funding was approved in the budget for 2018/19 to increase the officer establishment by 23 posts. This has been built into the recruitment plans but, even with the current ambitious plans, the Constabulary will not reach its officer establishment until 2019. There will be an underspend of around £1m on the police officer salaries budget in 2018/19.</p> <p>The paper presented to Governance Board explored how this underspend could be used for one off commitments that would help to reduce demand on frontline officers and ensure that the officer recruitment plans were achieved.</p> <p>The following recommendations were endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the funding already approved for £500k is noted.</li> <li>• That funding for the two additional posts for a Research Officer and a Violence Reduction Officer is noted.</li> <li>• That additional funding for the disk library is approved – total £196k.</li> <li>• That the additional proposed commitments for funding for £240k are approved.</li> </ul>
Nov	D34	Not published: not of significant public interest.	
Dec	D35	Violence Prevention Co-ordinator	<p>During 2018, a Violence Prevention Task Group was established to scope existing and potential partnership action to prevent violence in Gloucestershire. This group identified that a public health approach to violence prevention locally would form part of the overall Safer Gloucestershire strategy, but for this to happen well, there were a number of actions which required focus and capacity to support this. This paper outlines a proposal for a Violence Prevention Coordinator post which is intended to facilitate this work.</p> <p>The main outputs from this fixed term post in the 12 month period will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised Safer Gloucestershire strategy and implementation plan</li> <li>• A report on the implementation and findings from the strengths based community resilience and violence prevention pilot</li> <li>• A communications, media and challenging social norms plan</li> <li>• Recommendations to Safer Gloucestershire for a training plan The total funding requested is £61,093 for one year with office costs to be met by the Prevention and Communities Hub in Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).</li> </ul> <p>The recommendation that a full time GCC RB1 banded post is funded for one year fixed term in the Prevention,</p>

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			Wellbeing and Communities hub at GCC was approved. This would provide capacity and skills to fulfil a number of short term actions supporting the Safer Gloucestershire and violence prevention agendas.
Dec	D36	Not published: commercial sensitivity	
Jan	D01	Publication of Correspondence in re. former Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership	<p>In view of comments recently made by the leader of Gloucestershire County Council, the Commissioner wishes to put in the public domain copies of correspondence received and sent by the OPCC in 2016 and 2017 in relation to his decision to withdraw from the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership.</p> <p>It has been decided that a copy of the documents disclosed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Request 015-17 in relation to the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership be published on the OPCC website.</p>

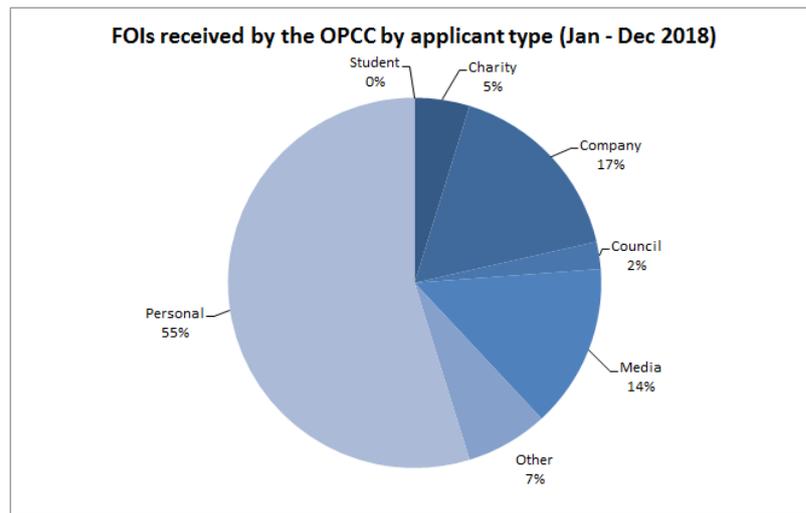
## 2 Freedom of Information Act and complaints (01 January – 31 December 2018)

2.1 In the 12 month period up to the end of December 2018, the OPCC has received 42 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. This compares to 33 in the same period last year (+9%).

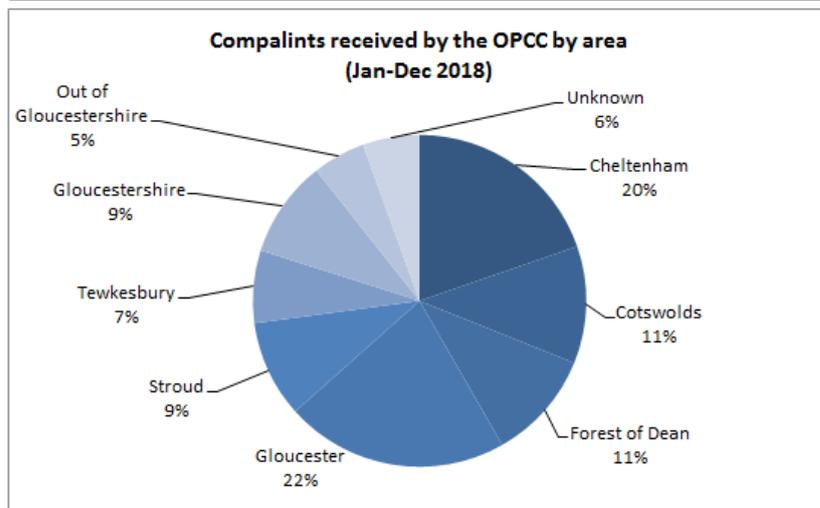
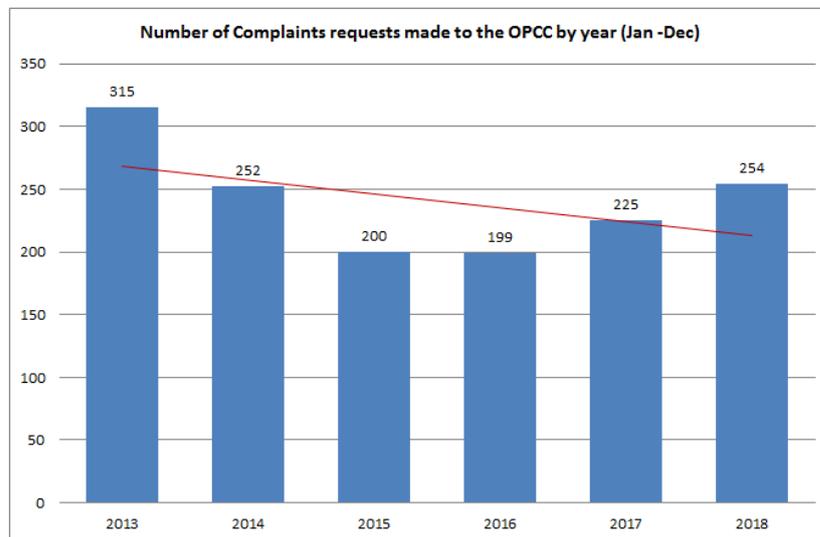


2.2 Of the FOI requests made to the OPCC during this period, 11 were redirected to the Constabulary (as the request related to information held by the Force), one required a joint OPCC/Constabulary response and 20 were for OPCC held information. In all, a total of 158 questions have been asked requiring an OPCC response.

2.3 The chart below provides an overview of FOI applicants by type (all FOI requests received). Individual requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act constitute the greatest number of requests received by the OPCC (55% / 23), followed by companies (17% / 7) and then the media (14 % / 6):



2.4 254 complaints were made to the OPCC in the period January to December 2018 from members of the public. This represents a 12.9% increase (29) compared to the same period in 2017.



2.5 The chart above shows the greatest number of complaints were received from residents from Gloucester (22%), followed by Cheltenham (20%). This mirrors the distribution of complaints by area reported at the previous Panel meeting in November.

- 2.6 Table 2 below outlines complaint types by area from January to December 2018 (excluding those from outside of the area or unknown). Complaints received by the OPCC are broadly categorised and include a wide range of issues to facilitate analysis for this report.

Complaint Type	Chelt.	Cots.	FoD	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkes.	Total
ASB report	11	1	5	15	2	1	35
Crime report	4	3	3	0	2	1	13
Road safety issue	3	6	6	4	6	6	31
Police service / presence	28	14	11	31	11	9	104
OPCC complaint	2	5	1	2	1	1	12
OPCC complaint relating to GFRS governance debate	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	2	0	1	4	1	0	8

- 2.7 Table 2 shows that the greatest number of complaints received by the OPCC are categorised as police service / presence followed by reports of anti-social behaviour and road safety issues. The OPCC complaints relate to dissatisfaction with the precept increase earlier this year. Again this mirrors the distribution of complaints by theme presented to the last Panel in November.
- 2.8 Up to the end of December 2018, the Independent Appeals Officer had received 31 complaint appeals. Of these, 25.8% (8) appeals were upheld.

### **3 Crime data**

- 3.1 The OPCC is able to compare national and local crime rates via various Home Office performance management tools. Unfortunately, due to the conditions of use we are unable to share the full content publicly but the table below provides information about how Gloucestershire is performing when compared to the national picture. The data we are using refers to the British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crimes and were chosen because they represented those crimes that (according to the Crime Survey) caused the most amount of harm to communities. The most recent data available is up to the end of November 2018.
- 3.2 Table 3 below shows that BCS crime rates in Gloucestershire continue to fall in Gloucestershire in line with peer groups. Across the districts BCS crime is falling with the exception of Stroud and Gloucester – both of these areas were showing increases at the time of the last report (12 months up to the end of August 2018). Whereas the rate of increase of BCS crime in Gloucester has reduced (+11% up to the end of August and +8% up to the end of November), Stroud is showing a greater increase (+2% up to the end of August, +8% up to the end of November). Despite this, Stroud remains significantly low in relation to BCS crime rates, with the lowest number of crimes per 1000 population in its Most Similar Group.
- 3.3 Rates in all areas are lower than the MSG average although both Gloucester and Cheltenham are closer to the average than the other areas. This is reflected in their MSG position.
- 3.4 The Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury are showing the greatest decreases and both are performing well in relation to rates in their MSGs.

<b>Table 3: BCS Crime in the 12 month period up to the end of November 2018</b>			
Area	MSG position out of 15 (1 = good)	Rate per 1000 population	Percentage change compared to the same period last year
<i>Gloucestershire (out of 8)</i>	2	27.488 (MSG average 31.447)	-1%
Cheltenham	7	38.488 (MSG average 40.736)	-6%
Cotswolds	2	16.227 (MSG average 21.826)	-4%
Forest of Dean	1	16.869 (MSG average 24.493)	-16%
Gloucester	8	45.823 (MSG average 49.365)	+8%
Stroud	1	18.928 (MSG average 24.504)	+7%
Tewkesbury	2	18.952 (MSG average 25.884)	-10%
South West	N/A	31.8	-1.92%
MSG for Gloucestershire	N/A	31.2	-1.74%
England & Wales	N/A	40.8	+1.09%

- 3.5 In light of recent media coverage regarding crime trends and in anticipation of queries from the Panel, table 4 provides members with further detail of crime trends in comparison to peers.

<b>Table 4: Percentage changes (compared to previous year) and rates per 1000 population by crime type in the 12 months up to the end of November 2018</b>								
<b>NB: Rate per 1000 households for residential burglary</b>								
	Gloucestershire		South West		MSG		England & Wales	
	% change	Rate	% change	Rate	% change	Rate	% change	Rate
All crime	+2.4%	55.8	+0.57%	66.9	+1.65%	63.9	+6.86%	86.1
All burglary	+0.17%	6.6	-11.64%	5.0	-8.83%	5.2	-3.58	7.2
Residential burglary	+22.9%	11.6	-3.83%	7.5	+0.67%	8.2	+5.32	12.8
Violence against the person	+14.71%	14.9	+10.97%	22.2	+10.53%	21.0	+18.88%	26.8
Most serious violence	+19.41%	0.5	+17.64%	0.4	+11.99%	0.5	+14.28%	0.6
Robbery business	-4.88%	0.1	-9.06%	0.1	+17.57%	0.1	+12.28%	0.1
Robbery personal	+20.82%	0.5	+15.02%	0.5	+14.93%	0.5	+11.8%	1.2
Theft offences	-2.38%	26.7	-6.81%	24.3	-3.53%	24.4	-0.96%	33.6
Shoplifting	-9.83%	5.4	-6.56%	5.5	-2.01	5.5	-3.12	6.3
Criminal damage	-0.16%	7.1	-3.66	8.4	-4.86	8.1	-3.73	9.6
Sexual offences	+2.72%	1.7	+2.11%	2.4	+2.72%	2.4	+10.05%	2.7

- 3.6 Crime trends and performance are continually monitored by the Policy Officers in the OPCC in order that the PCC is able to hold the Chief Constable to account in accordance with his statutory responsibilities.

3.7 For more information about crime rates by area, please go to [www.police.co.uk](http://www.police.co.uk). This is publically available data from the Home Office that shows, through charts and maps, how Gloucestershire Constabulary is performing and includes analysis by crime type.

#### 4 Holding to account

4.1 As reported at previous Panel meetings, the OPCC has recently refreshed the approach to holding to account in a new policy and, in line with our commitment to transparency, the topics of these meetings are now shared on the OPCC website [here](#).

4.2 Table 5 summarises topics discussed at the holding to account meetings for November and December 2018:

Table 5: Summary of HTA discussion topics recorded by the OPCC November and December 2018	
Month	Topics of discussion:
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border firearms cover</li> <li>• Budget underspends</li> <li>• Blackrock regional firearms training centre</li> <li>• Income generation</li> <li>• Transformation programme</li> <li>• Building alterations</li> <li>• Sponsorship</li> <li>• Drink drive campaign</li> <li>• Uniform changes</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Strategic Board meeting</li> <li>• Tri-force futures programme</li> <li>• Blackrock regional firearms training centre</li> <li>• Estates management</li> <li>• OPCC/COG meeting arrangements</li> </ul>

#### 5 Tri-Force update

5.1 The Panel will be aware of the decision by Avon and Somerset Police to withdraw from the existing Tri-Force structure by 1 April 2019 in respect of Roads Policing and the Dog Section

5.2 While we accepted the return of the dogs and roads policing units, we had hoped to continue a Tri-Force arrangement involving our firearms officers working alongside those from Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire under a single joint command.

5.3 On Tuesday 20 November 2018, however, the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner of Avon and Somerset declared their decision not to continue with a Tri-Force command structure for firearms officers.

5.4 A meeting took place with the other two Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables to consider a number of different options but sadly it wasn't possible to reach a consensus which met the needs of all three forces. We regret that the discussions have now been terminated by the decision of Avon and Somerset to withdraw entirely from the arrangement they had with us and Wiltshire.

5.5 This means that all Gloucestershire Tri-Force officers and staff will come back under the sole command of our Constabulary from April 2019 and that Tri-Force Specialist Operations will no longer exist from that date.

- 5.6. We were already planning for the return of the dogs and roads policing units. This work has now been extended to plan for the return of the firearms team and retain the armed officers who work within the Royal Household Protection Group (RHPG).
- 5.7 It is important to recognise the operational success of Tri-Force since its inception in 2014 which has been based on the talent and hard work of the officers involved. The decision is not in any way a reflection of the important work that Tri-Force staff do in keeping our communities safe.
- 5.8 With regards to the Black Rock Specialist Training Centre arrangement, this will continue to operate, providing the same training that it does now. This will need to be adapted going forward to ensure it meets the needs of all three forces.
- 5.9 We will of course seek to ensure that our firearms capability is fully resourced – that will mean more opportunities for other Gloucestershire officers if they want to pursue a career as a firearms officer.

## **6 Victim Services and National Victims Portfolio Group**

- 5.1 The OPCC Commissioning Team is currently in the process of recommissioning Victim Services for the county. The current contract with Victim Support ends in March 2020 and the new service will start in April 2020. The contract will be for a seven year period.
- 5.2 An independent victims' needs assessment has been commissioned to inform the service specification. One of the key recommendations from the needs assessment is for a separate young peoples' service. This should be branded differently to the adults' service and should seek to engage young people through various routes including social media, chat forums and schools. As such, the newly commissioned service will have an adults' and young peoples' arm.
- 5.3 A bidders' day has been held and the advert will be going live in the summer. More information on this will be available later in the year.
- 5.4 The Deputy Chief Executive of the OPCC is now a member of the National Victims' Portfolio Group. This group is chaired by Dame Vera Baird QC (PCC for Northumbria), and comprises senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice, MOPAC, Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and other PCC offices.
- 5.5 The Group provides advice, support and guidance to the Government on victim related matters and, to date, has supported the below initiatives and work packages:
- Victims Strategy
  - Support for victims of major incidents
  - CSE/A Network
  - VAWG Transformation Fund Projects
  - Interoperability
  - Rape prosecutions & disclosure issues
  - Sexual Violence & Court Based witness service pilots
  - Support for victims of road traffic incidents & MOJ funding of BRAKE
- 5.6 Work planned for the next few months includes:
- Consultation on the new Victims Law
  - A review of the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP)
  - Devolution of holding to account responsibilities to PCCs for VCOP

## 7 Criminal Justice: Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and future of Probation Services

- 7.1 Since the last update provided in September 2018, the LCJB has developed its strategic plan and agreed the three main outcomes on which it would like to focus. These are:
- Higher public confidence in the delivery of justice in the county (Victims and Witness group – Chaired by GRASAC)
  - Increased efficiencies throughout the system (Delivering Justice group – Chaired by CPS)
  - Reduced re-offending and increased rehabilitation opportunities (Rehabilitation and re-offending group – Chaired by Glos. Constabulary)
- 7.2 A corresponding delivery group has been established underneath each of these areas as noted in brackets above. Each group has now met and is developing its purpose and aims. Current activity includes:
- **Victims and witnesses:** The group is looking at how it can improve the process work for the most vulnerable, including offenders. This includes practical issues such as improving facilities at courts, staggering attendance times and is looking at how the statutory agencies can improve their adherence to the Victims Code of Practice.
  - **Delivering Justice:** The group focuses on the specific performance of prosecution systems and focuses on how to drive performance improvements. Current areas of concern are a high level of adjournments per case (in the Magistrates Court), police file quality and improving the quality of domestic abuse cases (throughout the system).
  - **Rehabilitation and Re-offending:** The group is currently focusing on three priority themes of accommodation, female offending and mental health. Multi-agency working groups have been established to drill down into the issues and will be looking at how best to improve the system for offender, make the pathways more accessible and ensure better connections between agencies, the voluntary sector and out of county partners.
- 7.5 The Ministry of Justice *Transforming Rehabilitation Programme* 2015 (TR) dissolved the former Probation Trusts and replaced them with a National Probation Service (NPS) which has responsibility for High Risk offenders (c.20% of the offender cohort) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) who have responsibility for the medium to low risk offenders (c.80% of the offender cohort). This latter group can include offenders who have been convicted for burglary, theft and some violent crime types.
- 7.6 As part of the TR programme the CRC element was commissioned from the private sector to provide this service. Sadly this approach has failed and the government, having accepted this, has agreed to terminate the existing CRC contracts at the end of 2020. This has shortened the original contract period by two years and has led to the recommissioning of a new service.
- 7.7 Unlike the original commissioning process in 2014/15, PCCs and other partners are now included in the re-commissioning process which includes:
- Re-design of the new service
  - Inclusion within the commissioning process
  - Contract management once awarded.
- 7.7 The CRC landscape within England currently comprises 21 Contract Package Areas (CPAs) with services being delivered by a variety of providers. The current Gloucestershire provider is Working Links. The new approach will reduce the number of CPAs within England to ten with the South West being one CPA. It is felt this approach will be beneficial as a regional approach will be more effective and enable greater local provision, oversight and accountability.

7.8 The Deputy Chief Executive of the OPCC is working closely with the Ministry of Justice in the recommissioning and progression of this new approach on behalf of the OPCC.

## **8 Modern slavery and human trafficking**

6.1 The OPCC was successful in obtaining funding from the Modern Slavery Transformation fund to put towards a CPD accredited awareness training course for front line staff. Approximately 120 people have attended this course in January 2019, including Fire Fighters, Social Workers, Police, council staff and foster carers.

## **9 Commissioner's Fund**

9.1 The Commissioner's Fund supports activity towards the delivery of the Police & Crime Plan priorities, in the knowledge that the Police cannot bring about the change we need on their own. More widely, the Police & Crime Plan values better connected communities where people utilise our collective assets and can act together to make life better.

9.2 Each year the Commissioner allocates 1% of the policing budget (c.£1m) to the Commissioner's Fund to support projects and programmes that seek to break the cycle of harm and offending. In total the OPCC has allocated grants to 440 projects throughout the county. All applications received go through an evaluation process which includes feedback from priority leads and subject matter experts, with the PCC making the final decision.

9.3 We are currently processing this year's round of applications with decisions to be made in March 2019. We will have more information on the successful applications for the next report.

## **10 Estates update**

10.1 No further update.

## **11 OPCC Staff update**

7.1 No further update.

Paul D. Trott  
Chief Executive  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire  
January 2019