

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chief Executive report to the Police and Crime Panel aims to provide members with an overview of performance and recent OPCC activity.
- 1.2 As this report has been written with less than a month since the last report (July 2024), and covers a period with high absence within the team (summer holiday period), with the agreement of the Chair, this report deviates from the usual format and instead covers, recent national policy and strategy updates.

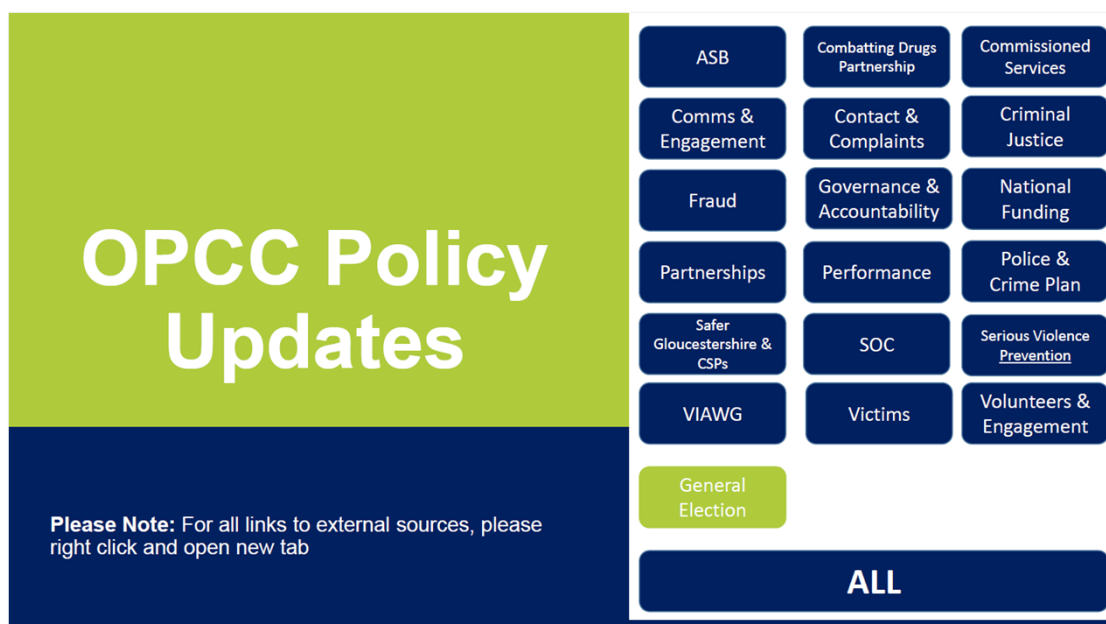
### 2. PCCs' meeting with the Home Secretary

- 2.1 On 7 of July 2024, PCCs, Deputy PCCs and Chief Executive of OPCCs were invited to a short Teams meeting with the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, to discuss her priorities and ambitions for policing. The meeting was called within three days of the General Election.
- 2.2 The Home Secretary opened the meeting with a thanks to local policing and PCCs for helping keep communities safe. She stressed that she was keen to keep in close contact with PCCs and the Association of PCCs (APCC) in order to achieve the national ambition.
- 2.3 The Home Secretary reiterated the Labour Party commitment to tackling crime, outlined in their manifesto and stressed that the Government would be “mission led” in focusing on this task and that this would involve cross-departmental work across Whitehall. Concern was raised about levels of confidence in policing and in the current state of the Criminal Justice System. With specific regards to confidence, the Home Secretary noted that turning this around is a “fundamental priority” for all and for democracy.
- 2.4 Outlining some of the areas of focus in her “mission”, the Home Secretary spoke about halving serious violence (violence against women and girls and knife crime in particular) within ten years, improving confidence in policing and tackling anti-social behaviour with a commitment to neighbourhood policing. She said this would be achieved through working with PCCs.
- 2.5 There will also be a focus on prevention with a specific mention of the Serious Violence Duty.
- 2.6 She acknowledged that resources were going to be “tight” and that there was a need for us all to make the most of the funding we have and this includes working better together, in partnership at a local and national level. She noted that the “mission” includes many cross-cutting themes (confidence, effectiveness and safety for example) that are beneficial for all departments and agencies.

### 3. National policy and strategy updates

3.1. To support the OPCC in maintaining an up to date knowledge of current policy and strategy, a database has been developed by the Policy and Research Team. This is updated on a weekly basis using information received, for example, from the Home Office, College of Policing, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Chief Executives.

3.2. Updates are categorised as follows:



3.3. Since the General Election in July, the following updates have been received regarding national policy and/or strategy:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Policing Statement 2024 (23/07/2024)
- Police Race Action Plan – progress report (24/07/2024)
- State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales in 2023 (26/07/2024)
- HMCTS vulnerability action plan (08/08/2024)

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Policing Statement 2024**

3.4. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing (CoP) launched their Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Policing Statement 2024 on 23 July 2024. The statement sets out the scale and threat of VAWG, policing's commitments to tackling VAWG, and its call for a whole system approach.

3.5. The statement sets out the scale and threat of VAWG, finding that:

- Over one million VAWG related crimes were recorded during 2022/23, accounting for 20% of all police recorded crime.
- Police recorded VAWG related crime increased by 37% between 2018/23.
- At least 1 in every 12 women will be a victim per year, with the exact number expected to be much higher.

- 1 in every 6 murders related to domestic abuse in 22/23, with suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse rising year-on-year.
  - Child sexual abuse and exploitation increased by more than 400% between 2013 and 2022.
- 3.6. The statement caveats that all types of VAWG are likely to be underestimated significantly and recognises that the figures represent the minimum volume of estimated VAWG offences.
- 3.7. Policing have identified 5 high harm and high-volume threat areas which they will focus on over the next year:
- Rape And Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)
  - Domestic Abuse (DA)
  - Stalking and harassment
  - Online and tech-enabled VAWG
  - Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE)
- 3.8. They will do this through the methodology of the '4P' approach through which the UK's counter terrorism strategy has been delivered, set out in the National Framework for Delivery: 2024 – 2027 (NFD):
- Prepare: forces must have the right culture, skills and resources
  - Protect: action is being taken to protect individuals, families and communities
  - Pursue: perpetrators of violence are being relentlessly pursued
  - Prevent: policing must work with partners as part of a whole-system approach
- 3.9. The CoP and NPCC will establish a National Centre for Public Protection (NC4PP) to support and improve forces response and to create a foundation within which to bring policing and external partners together. The statement calls for a whole system approach to addressing VAWG, highlighting that the continued increase and scale of VAWG requires a significant shift in national policy with focus applied to prevention as well as to the enforcement of perpetrators and support to victims. Policing would welcome an approach that brings together criminal justice partners, wider public, VCS and private sector agencies, in a new partnership that seeks to reduce the scale and impact of VAWG
- 3.10. The OPCC Strategic Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordinator has recently joined the NPCC VAWG taskforce one day a week, this will ensure the OPCC and Constabulary are able to keep up to date with national work and updates. In addition they will support the specific taskforce which has oversight and coordination of the national roll out of Rapid Video Response (RVR) for domestic abuse, working alongside Digital Public Contact who have been given a mandate for the national roll out from the Home Office.
- 3.11. Click [here](#) for more information about the statement.
- 3.12. Tackling VAWG is a Constabulary and OPCC priority and responsibility sits across the majority of departments. VAWG links to the following [Police and Crime Prevention Plan](#) Priorities:
- [Creating safer communities](#)

- [Tackling violence against women and girls](#)
- [Strengthening your Constabulary](#)
- [Targeting the causes of crime](#)
- [Supporting victims and reducing reoffending](#)

### **Police Race Action Plan - progress report**

- 3.13. The Police Race Action Plan (PRAP) is the biggest coordinated effort ever across every police force to improve trust and confidence in policing among Black communities.
- 3.14. The plan is broken down into four key work stream areas. These are:
- Represented (internal culture and inclusivity)
  - Not over-policed (use of powers)
  - Involved (community engagement and relations)
  - Not under-protected against victimisation
- 3.15. This update report provides an overview of the progress the PRAP has made just over two years since the PRAP was published. It outlines activity and outcomes that suggest progress in policing's relationship with Black communities, both in terms of delivery in the plan's four key areas of focus as well as how far the service has come against the five commitments made at the outset of the plan. These commitments are:
- Zero tolerance of racism in policing
  - Policing will adopt an 'explain or reform' approach to address the negative impact and outcomes experienced by Black people
  - Policing will ensure that officers and staff understand the history of policing Black people and the ongoing impact and trauma of disproportionality
  - The development of a representative workforce
  - Policing will increase the involvement of Black communities in its work and improve support to Black victims of crime
- 3.16. Click [here](#) for more information about the update report. PRAP will also publish a report in the autumn which will "put the plan on a long-term footing", and include an "updated outcomes framework".
- 3.17. Oversight of the PRAP is delivered through the Constabulary's Community Legitimacy Panel (CLP). For more information about the CLP, click [here](#). This links to the following [Police and Crime Prevention Plan](#) Priorities:
- [Strengthening your Constabulary](#)
  - [Targeting the causes of crime](#)
  - [Supporting victims and reducing reoffending](#)
  - [Empowering local communities](#)

### **State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales in 2023**

- 3.18. This is His Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) of Constabulary's (Andy Cooke's) report to the Secretary of State. It contains his independent assessment of the efficiency

and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales and is based on inspections carried out between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

3.19. In the report, the HMCI notes:

- The level of crime is on a long-term downward trajectory, but some crime types such as violence against women and girls, are still highly prevalent in society
- Many officers have high workloads and don't feel valued enough for the work they do. Forces must do everything they can to better lead and support their officers and staff
- The police funding formula is outdated and unfair. Funding should be distributed so that it goes to where it is needed most

3.20. In his report, Andy Cooke has made four recommendations to the Government and Chief Constables, which include:

- Abolishing the Government's fixed police officer hiring target so forces can build a more balanced and effective workforce
- Reviewing how forces are funded to make sure that funds are distributed according to the needs of communities
- Providing the inspectors of constabulary with the right powers and enough funding so they can help forces to improve and make communities safer across England and Wales.

3.21. Click [here](#) for more information.

3.22. Response to HMICFRS inspections, including the annual assessment is a whole Constabulary and OPCC responsibility and links to the following [Police and Crime Prevention Plan](#) Priorities:

- [Creating safer communities](#)
- [Tackling violence against women and girls](#)
- [Strengthening your Constabulary](#)
- [Targeting the causes of crime](#)
- [Supporting victims and reducing reoffending](#)
- [Empowering local communities](#)

### **HMCTS vulnerability action plan**

3.23. His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service Vulnerability Action Plan shows how they aim to make courts and tribunals accessible for everyone. It sets out what is being done to make sure vulnerable users are not disadvantaged or discriminated against now and in the future.

3.24. Commitments outlined in the action plan include:

- Ongoing engagement with vulnerable users
- Implementing cross government strategies such as the National Disability Strategy, the National strategy for autistic children, young people, and adults, and the Ministry of Justice Neurodiversity action plan
- Ensuring special measures continue to be in place such as a remote link to give evidence and the use of screens in court

- Providing reasonable adjustments for users with disabilities
- Providing intermediary services if users need communication support at a court or tribunal hearing
- Using remote hearing links and providing users with information about video hearings
- Completing equality impact assessments to understand the potential impacts of change on users with protected characteristics
- Signposting people to additional support that will help them
- Providing Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyards

3.25. Click [here](#) for more information.

3.26. The OPCC will link into this agenda via the Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board and links to the following [Police and Crime Prevention Plan](#) Priorities:

- [Supporting victims and reducing reoffending](#)
- [Empowering local communities](#)

#### 4. The King's Speech (17/07/24)

4.1. The King's Speech is an opportunity for the new Government to set out its priorities and the legislation it intends to pursue in the forthcoming parliamentary session. This summary sets out the proposed legislation relating to policing and criminal justice, plus wider measures of relevance to PCCs that were announced in the King's Speech.

##### Overview of relevant Bills

4.2. A number of measures will be introduced in a new Crime and Policing Bill relating to tackling knife crime, violence against women and girls, antisocial behaviour, shoplifting and a neighbourhood policing guarantee. While notable measures that will be introduced in other Bills include reforms to the planning system, enhanced cyber security protections, reforms to the Mental Health Act 1983, as well as the introduction of a duty of candour.

4.3. The Bills of most relevance announced in the King's Speech include:

- |                                              |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Crime and Policing Bill                    | • Cyber Security and Resilience Bill |
| • Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill | • Hillsborough Law Bill              |
| • Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill    | • Planning and Infrastructure Bill   |
| • English Devolution Bill                    | • Tobacco and Vapes Bill             |
|                                              | • Mental Health Bill                 |

4.4. Outlined below is more information about the Bills of most relevance to the work of PCCs.

##### Crime and Policing Bill

4.5. This Bill seeks to deliver on the Government's mission to halve serious violence and increase confidence in policing and the Criminal Justice System. It will give police

powers to crack down on knife crime, violence against women and girls and antisocial behaviour, whilst introducing new reforms to ensure that law enforcement agencies deliver in line with public expectations on policing and policing standards.

4.6. The main elements of the Bill are:

- Bringing forward arrangements to get neighbourhood police and Police Community Support Officers back on the beat in local communities.
- Expanding the powers of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to intervene in failing police forces, introduce higher mandatory national vetting standards across policing, and establish new mandatory arrangements to deliver efficiency savings through nationwide standards for procurement, shared services and specialist functions.
- Introducing new Respect Orders to tackle persistent adult offenders, fast-track Public Spaces Protection Orders to make it quicker and easier to clamp down on rapid escalations in street drinking, and new powers to tackle the dangerous and antisocial use of off-road bikes.
- Creating a duty for local partners to co-operate to tackle antisocial behaviour, with an antisocial behaviour lead in every local authority area.
- Creating a new specific offence of assaulting a shopworker and introduce stronger measures to tackle low level shoplifting.
- Getting dangerous knives and other weapons off streets by banning ninja swords and other lethal blades, and introducing strict sanctions on senior executives of online companies who fail to operate within the law.
- Strengthening the law to tackle those who exploit children for criminal purposes, and create arrangements for local Young Futures prevention partnerships to bring together services to support at-risk teenagers.
- Ensuring the police have the capability to respond robustly to domestic abuse, rape and other sexual offences, and strengthen the law to improve the police response to spiking.

### **Victims, Courts and Public Protection Bill**

4.7. This Bill aims to deliver on the commitment to deliver a justice system that puts the needs of victims first by strengthening public protections, reducing delays in the criminal courts and ensuring that victims of crime and antisocial behaviour get the support they deserve.

4.8. The main elements of the Bill are:

- Strengthening powers for the Victims' Commissioner to ensure that they are empowered to hold the system to account for the needs of victims not being met.
- Requiring offenders to attend their sentencing hearings so that victims and bereaved family members of deceased victims see criminals face the consequences of their actions.
- Restricting parental responsibility for child sex offenders and implementing restrictions on sex offenders changing their names.
- Reducing delays in the courts system by allowing Associate Prosecutors to work on appropriate cases.



## **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**

- 4.9. This Bill requires those responsible for certain premises and events to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm in the event of a terrorist attack occurring. The measures required vary according to the capacity of the premises or event. This Bill will deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment to introduce Martyn's Law.
- 4.10. The main elements of the Bill are:
- Smaller premises in the 'standard tier' will be required to notify the regulator of their premises and put in place reasonably practicable procedural measures to keep the public safe. Some measures could be as simple as educating staff on locking doors and evacuation procedures.
  - The requirements for organisations at these smaller premises will be focused on simple, low-cost activities surrounding policies and procedures.
  - Those responsible for larger 'enhanced tier' premises and certain public events will be required to put in place counter terrorism measures that could be expected to reduce, so far as reasonably practicable, both the risk from an attack occurring at the premises or event as well as the risk of physical harm being caused if an attack was to occur.

## **English Devolution Bill**

- 4.11. This Bill has the purpose of transferring power out of Westminster and into local communities. It also aims to enable towns and cities to thrive by strengthening mayoral powers, and empowering communities to transform their neighbourhoods, high streets and important community assets.
- 4.12. The main elements of the Bill are:
- Making devolution the default setting, meaning places will be granted powers without the need to negotiate agreements where they meet the governance conditions. Local leaders will be able to formally request additional powers according to the framework and the Government will be required to consider the request and either devolve them or publicly explain their reasons for not doing so.
  - Making it easier to provide devolved powers quickly to more areas through establishing a simpler process for creating new Combined and Combined County Authorities, to ensure that every part of England can rapidly benefit from devolution. The Bill will establish a legislative foundation upon which to widen and deepen devolution, with a weighting towards creating advanced mayoral settlements where there is the capacity and ambition to do so.
  - Improving and unblocking local decision making through more effective governance arrangements, ensuring mayors and Combined Authorities can get on and deliver for their areas.

## **Cyber Security and Resilience Bill**

- 4.13. This Bill seeks to strengthen the UK's cyber defences, ensuring that critical infrastructure and the digital services that companies rely on are secure.
- 4.14. The main elements of the Bill are:



- Expanding the remit of the regulation to protect more digital services and supply chains. These are an increasingly attractive threat vector for attackers. This Bill will fill an immediate gap in defences and prevent similar attacks experienced by critical public services in the UK, such as the recent ransomware attack impacting London hospitals.
- Putting regulators on a strong footing to ensure essential cyber safety measures are being implemented, include potential cost recovery mechanisms to provide resources to regulators and providing powers to proactively investigate potential vulnerabilities.
- Mandating increased incident reporting to give government better data on cyber attacks, including where a company has been held to ransom – this will improve understanding of the threats and alert us to 96 potential attacks by expanding the type and nature of incidents that regulated entities must report.

### **Hillsborough Law Bill**

4.15. This Bill will place a legal duty of candour on public servants and authorities.

4.16. The main elements of the Bill are:

- Improving transparency and accountability where failure in the provision and delivery of public services is the subject of public investigation and scrutiny.
- Reducing the ‘culture of defensiveness’ in the public sector.
- Helping ensure that the lack of candour uncovered in recent reports is not repeated, such as in the case of the Hillsborough and Infected Blood Inquiries.

### **Planning and Infrastructure Bill**

4.17. This Bill is intended to speed up and streamline the planning process to build more homes of all tenures and accelerate the delivery of major infrastructure projects in alignment with the Government’s industrial, energy, and transport strategies.

4.18. The main elements of the Bill are:

- Improving local planning decision making by modernising planning committees.
- Increasing local planning authorities’ capacity, to improve performance and decision making, providing a more predictable service to developers and investors.
- Further reforming compulsory purchase compensation rules to ensure that compensation paid to landowners is fair but not excessive where important social and physical infrastructure and affordable housing are being delivered. The reforms will help unlock more sites for development, enabling more effective land assembly.

### **Tobacco and Vapes Bill**

4.19. This Bill seeks to improve healthy life expectancy and reduce the number of lives lost to the biggest killers, including cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

4.20. The main element of the Bill is:

- Strengthening enforcement activity, allowing Trading Standards to take swifter action to enforce the law and closing loopholes. The Bill will help prevent underage sales of tobacco and vapes by providing enforcement authorities in England and Wales with the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for the underage sale of tobacco and vaping products.

## **Mental Health Bill**

- 4.21. This Bill seeks to modernise the Mental Health Act 1983. The Bill will make it fit for the 21st century so that patients have greater choice, autonomy, rights and support, and make sure all patients are treated with dignity and respect throughout their treatment, helping to reverse the rising trend in the rate of lives lost to suicide.
- 4.22. The main elements of the Bill are:
- Removing police stations and prisons as places of safety under the Mental Health Act to ensure people experiencing a mental health crisis or with severe mental health needs are supported in the most appropriate setting.
  - Supporting offenders with severe mental health problems to access the care they need as quickly and early as possible, and improve the management of those patients subject to a restriction order (for the purposes of public protection).

## **5. Other notable national updates**

- 5.1. **The Baird Inquiry.** In July a report was published by Vera Baird reviewing custody practices by Greater Manchester Police. Commissioned by the Mayor of Manchester, [The Baird Inquiry \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk) recommended:
- Strip search should only be used as a last resort. Alternatives should include the use of airport style security.
  - The establishment of an independent scrutiny panel to review arrests and strip searches.
  - Better provisions for women in custody, including separate cells for women and female welfare officers.
- 5.2. The report has been shared with the Home Secretary for national consideration.
- 5.3. **A new era for UK Policing: PwC's Perspective.** This is an industry report from PwC regarding their perspective on the future of policing: [3-a-new-era-for-policing-pwc-perspective.pdf \(apccs.police.uk\)](https://www.apccs.police.uk/3-a-new-era-for-policing-pwc-perspective.pdf)

### **Ruth Greenwood**

Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire  
August 2024