



# Impact Report

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners  
2023-24 Year Review



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# Foreword

**Policing, and the public's expectations of policing, are changing rapidly, and the last twelve months have demonstrated both. PCCs, supported by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), have sought to respond to these changing needs. The APCC has focused particular attention on providing support and guidance to PCCs so they are able more effectively to undertake their vital accountability and scrutiny functions, which play such a key role in driving public confidence.**

There has been a huge focus on getting the basics right, including an historic data wash undertaken at the start of 2024 which will now be implemented as a continuous process to ensure that any vetting concerns about police officers are identified more quickly. Acting on the recommendations of the first of Lady Angiolini's Reports is a vital step in addressing policing culture and processes. A new public-facing anti-corruption line, independently overseen by Crimestoppers, was launched jointly by the APCC and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in March. And our Race Disparity, Equality, and Human Rights Leads continue to be engaged in the NPCC and College of Policing Police Race Action Plan, which aims to drive change, build an antiracist police service, and address the lower levels of trust and confidence that black people have in the police.

The APCC has been keen to bolster the support it provides to PCCs, PFCCs and Deputy Mayors through the provision of tangible advice and guidance, drawing on best practice from across England and Wales. For example, we have provided guidance on Police and Crime Plan development and delivering on the Strategic Policing Requirement. We have also produced a best practice guide on victim support services, resources to support PCC engagement in the prevention of deaths in police custody, evaluated the Right Care Right Person approach, produced an Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and delivered member toolkits for holding to account, police complaints handling and on supporting forces in Engage.

The APCC's national reach and influence has been exemplified by the vast range of stakeholders and partners we have worked closely with over the course of the year, from the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health and Social Care, as well as the Department for Education, the Office of the Children's Commissioner, and the Local Government Association.

The significant role and contribution of PCCs, and their equivalents, in shaping policing and making communities safer was recognised again through a substantial Home Office grant to the APCC and this has enabled us to do even more to support our members in serving their communities.

This year also saw preparations for the fourth set of PCC elections, embedding PCCs even further as the public's voice in policing. The APCC has supported its members, many newly elected, providing an extensive programme of induction and all the guidance and resources they, and their offices, need to discharge their statutory duties.

Looking to the future, we stand ready to work with the new government in our shared endeavour to reduce crime, better support the victims of crime, and to rethink our criminal justice system, and, vitally, to restore public trust and confidence in policing.

We look forward to working closely with our fellow PCCs and partners to ensure that the role and function of PCCs remain an essential part of policing governance and the voice of the public in policing.



**Donna Jones**, former APCC Chair and PCC for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight



**Emily Spurrell**, APCC Chair and PCC for Merseyside



**Donna Jones**



**Emily Spurrell**

“ Safer Streets is one of the government’s five Missions. Police and Crime Commissioners and Mayors with PCC functions are an essential part of its success. Delivering greater accountability is vital to improving public trust, and the role of PCCs in reducing crime and increasing public confidence in policing and the criminal justice system is crucial.

We are working closely with the APCC and its members to deliver our shared mission of protecting the public and to ensure that, as part of wider police system reform, PCCs have the tools and levers they need to hold their local force to account, work with partners to prevent crime and deliver better outcomes for victims. ”



**Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP,  
Minister for Policing, Fire and Crime  
Prevention**

# What we do

## Role of a Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) ensure that policing in their area is effective and efficient. They hold the budget, set priorities through their police and crime plan, and hold the Chief Constable accountable for meeting these priorities. PCCs are the voice of the public in policing and are directly elected. They make communities safer, through projects to tackle anti-social behaviour, protect women and girls and reduce serious violence and substance misuse. They also commission a range of services such as reducing reoffending, youth diversion schemes, support for victims of crime and drug and alcohol services.

The majority of PCCs chair local criminal justice boards to improve the system through the commissioning of specialist services to support victims and work with local probation services to improve the rehabilitation of offenders. PCCs may also oversee fire and rescue services in some areas (known as PFCCs). In the mayoralities of London, Greater Manchester, York and North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, PCC functions are undertaken by Deputy Mayors, and in South Yorkshire, the Mayor.





# What does your Police and Crime Commissioner do for you?



# Role of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

The APCC is the national body that supports PCCs and other local policing bodies across England and Wales. It provides national leadership and drives strategic changes in policing, criminal justice and community safety to keep communities safe.

## Membership and functions of the APCC

- All 37 PCCs and PFCCs in England and Wales, the City of London Police Authority, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime for the Greater London Authority, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, South Yorkshire Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are members.
- The associate membership includes other policing governance bodies including the Jersey Police Authority, British Transport Police Authority, Civil Nuclear Police Authority, Ministry of Defence Police Committee and Police Scotland.

### The purpose of the APCC





# APCC Strategic Plan overview 2022-24

## Key Priorities:



A national voice on behalf of communities



Improving public understanding of the PCC role and supporting our members in their statutory roles



Securing investment and supporting innovation



Supporting our members to work in partnership and to collaborate effectively across policing and criminal justice

## Key Outcomes:



Safer communities



Excellence in policing



A transformed criminal justice system



Supporting and speaking up for victims of crime

## These six cross-cutting commitments will be reflected in all our work:



Support and promote PCCs as the public's elected voice on policing and crime



Improve the public's trust and confidence in the criminal justice system



Have a consistent focus on crime prevention



Work in partnership with other organisations where we can

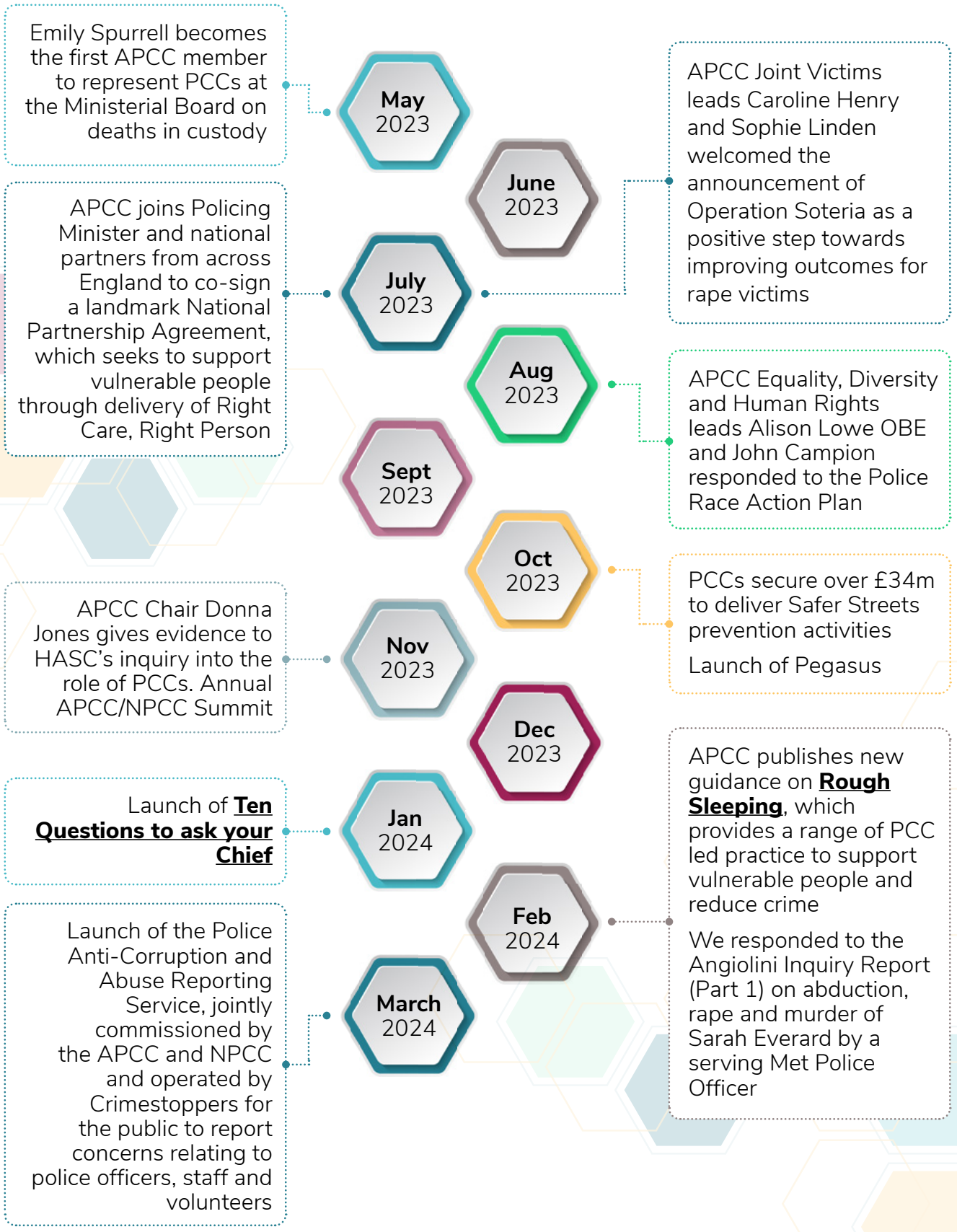


Champion equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do



Champion efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability in everything we do

# Milestone timeline



# Supporting our members to deliver safer communities



## Prevention

The Home Office awarded PCCs over £34 million through round five of the Safer Streets Fund to tackle neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour. APCC prevention leads worked with PCCs and officials to deliver this funding opportunity.

The APCC launched a unique resource to support PCCs to prevent and reduce rough sleeping. **The Rough Sleeping guide** received a prestigious national Government Property Award and is available on the APCC website.

## Addictions and substance misuse

APCC Addictions and Substance Misuse leads, Durham PCC Joy Allen and Dorset PCC David Sidwick launched the findings of an **APCC Deep Dive Review**. The report examined the experiences of PCCs and other policing partners of their local Combatting Drugs Partnerships (CDPs) and similar partnerships in Wales. It demonstrated the key role that PCCs are playing in implementing the government's drug strategy and cutting drug related crime.

The APCC successfully delivered three Drug Strategy Forum Meetings for SROs and their Welsh equivalents, along with other interested PCCs and lead OPCC officers, in 2023-24. This forum supported PCCs to take a leading role in their local Combatting Drugs Partnerships and in driving the local implementation of the national drug strategy. It provided opportunities to engage with ministers, senior officials, and other leading national figures on drug policy issues including the Home Office Permanent Secretary, Sir Matthew Rycroft. In addition, it informed and supported the portfolio leads' engagement as members of the inter-ministerial forum on drug strategy implementation, chaired by the Policing Minister, bringing together ministers from across six Whitehall departments, giving PCCs a strong voice at the heart of national drug policy. The forum provided PCCs with the opportunity to be briefed on key emerging issues and threats including synthetic opioids.

In collaboration with the NPCC, the APCC hosted a webinar on naloxone for PCCs and policing partners. We also worked in partnership with the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities at the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to enable Offices for Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCCs) to access detailed, up-to-date information held on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System on drug problems and interventions in their police force areas. This helps them to monitor progress in delivering evidence-based treatment and to hold health and other partners to account.

Following publication of the Howard League Commission's report on gambling and crime in April 2023, APCC portfolio leads met with the chair of the Commission on Crime and Problem Gambling, Howard League for Penal Reform to discuss its findings and recommendations. The APCC then led on setting up a new National Taskforce on Gambling and Crime to drive implementation of this report's recommendations working with the NPCC, Howard League and organisations across the criminal justice system, including His Majesty's Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the Crown Prosecution Service.

## Mental health and custody

The APCC successfully lobbied ministers for PCC representation to the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody, reflecting the importance PCCs place on ensuring detainee safety in police custody. As a result, the APCC has secured the support and expertise of members of the Independent Advisory Panel for Deaths in Custody in the development of new APCC guidance to prevent deaths in custody.

**Lynn Emslie, Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody** said:

“ My Panel and I were pleased to work with the APCC to support the development of guidance on preventing police custody deaths. PCCs play an important oversight role which is key to ensuring police forces drive forward a 'zero tolerance' approach to deaths in custody. We look forward to continuing our partnership working with the APCC in 2025 and beyond. ”

July saw the launch of a new mental health National Partnership Agreement (England only) to rollout Right Care, Right Person, supporting vulnerable people into care, and at the same time reducing non-crime demand on policing. The APCC played a key role in lobbying for this national agreement which we were signatories to, alongside ministers from the Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care, the NPCC, College of Policing (CoP) and NHS England. The APCC's involvement reflects the key role PCCs play in bringing partners together.

## Business crime

This year saw a focus on the destructive impact of retail crime. Led by portfolio lead PCC Katy Bourne OBE, the APCC rejected the myth that shop theft is a low level and victimless crime. With the support and endorsement of the policing minister and Home Office, Katy launched a business and police partnership called Pegasus. This initiative brings together retailers to form a unique partnership with policing for the first time to identify and tackle serious and organised retail crime groups.

The APCC also published a report on **Tackling Business & Retail Crime In Focus**, which included a range of case studies demonstrating the collaborative and evidence-based approaches being implemented by PCCs to successfully address retail crime, and to protect retailers and the public.

**Chris Philp, Shadow Home Secretary** said:

“ As the only elected position in policing, PCCs are a vital component in the policing landscape, providing scrutiny and oversight to ensure effective policing based on community needs.

By working in partnership with a wide variety of agencies at local and national levels, PCCs and the APCC are central to combating anti-social behaviour, reducing violent crime and improving services for the victims and survivors of crime. ”

## Road safety and roads policing

During 2023-24, the APCC worked closely with the Department for Transport on several pilots with the aim of reducing road injuries and deaths and reducing the overall levels of criminality on our roads. The funding secured from the Department for Transport has enabled eight PCCs to deliver focused activity in their areas.

The public's interest in this area of policing has also been seen through the increased number of Police and Crime Plans that now feature roads policing as a strategic objective. Through our support, 41 areas now have this highlighted in their plans, up from 14 in 2019. To support the evidence for why the public sees this area of policing as important, the APCC ran a public engagement survey, receiving over 66,000 responses. The themes of these were shared with all PCCs to help them determine how their force should respond to people's priorities for roads policing.

## Local policing and partnerships

The APCC's work in the local policing space focused on crime types we know matter most to communities – anti-social behaviour (ASB) and neighbourhood crime. The APCC supported the national roll out of the government's ASB hotspot response pilots, ensuring that all 43 PCC areas had access to funding to deliver increased visibility and patrols in areas with high levels of ASB. We supported the government's implementation of their flagship ASB Action Plan and ensured PCCs were empowered to take up their seats on the new Towns Boards in their areas, enabling them to oversee and influence the £20m set aside to regenerate selected towns in their area.

The APCC wrote to the Policing Minister raising concerns about a rise in dog attacks resulting in fatalities and links to a particular breed. This resulted in a meeting with the minister where APCC Chair Marc Jones highlighted the impact of these harrowing incidents on communities. Following this, the Prime Minister announced a ban on owning American XL Bully breeds. In November, the APCC published their **'Dangerous Dogs Toolkit'** for PCCs on how they can best support their force to prevent and respond to incidents involving dog attacks.

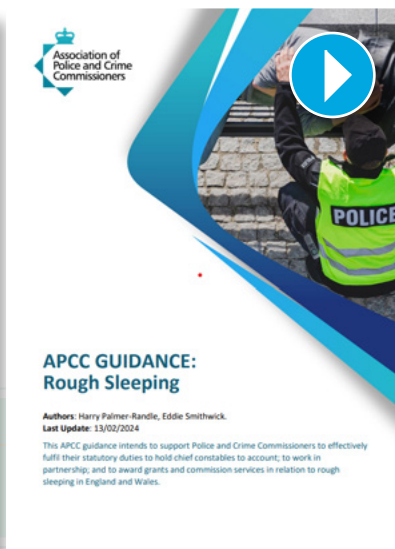


# Serious violence

The APCC successfully called for the government to close a dangerous loophole in the legislation for the possession of zombie knives and welcomed new powers for police to seize these knives before they can be used in crimes.

PCC leads Simon Foster and Steve Turner, hosted an event in Parliament for MPs and Peers to raise awareness of the work PCCs are doing as part of the new Serious Violence Duty, promoting the newly published strategies to reduce serious violence and protect those most at risk, including young people.

In September 2023 the APCC launched **'Innovative and Effective Approaches to Tackling Serious Violence'**, highlighting the vital work being led and funded by PCCs across England and Wales to prevent and respond to serious violence. It included insights into PCC evaluations, sharing their reflections on challenges and lessons learnt to support other PCCs looking to implement similar interventions.



# Supporting our members in delivering excellence in policing



## Developing the workforce

PCCs led proposals to the Police Remuneration Review Body on the first significant review of chief officer pay since 2003. The proposals, endorsed by both the review body and the government, will see a more clearly defined pay structure for chief officers, lowering barriers and removing obstacles to chief officer mobility and progression.

PCCs were also central to the continued success of the Police Staff Council, the national negotiating body for police staff pay and conditions. In addition to funding the pay and bargaining machinery, PCCs play a key role on the employers' side of the council and in the negotiating of police staff pay, with the timely resolution of pay negotiations in 2023-24.

## Building our resources and infrastructure

We set up the APCC Reference Group which fed into the Home Office's Police Funding Formula review (PFFR), through the APCC finance leads. As a result, PCCs have an increased understanding and confidence with the PFFR process and can feed into it at strategic and technical levels.

APCC Lead on Funding Formula, CSR and Grants, Essex PCC Roger Hirst, responded to the police funding settlement, welcoming the government's commitment to funding the police pay increase.

## Digital data and technology

Grant aid of £20 million was negotiated to offset PCCs' IT costs during 2023-24.

Our members supported a Delivery Landscape Reform Strategy to transfer live IT services from the Home Office to the policing sector.

We made important contributions to the management and investment in data, digital, and technology (DDaT) for policing which oversees costs, benefits, and value for money in major law enforcement (MLE) programmes and other related issues in policing data, digital, and technology. Key achievements included decision making on large-scale technology investments and national capabilities and active roles in key committees and boards, such as the Strategic Change and Investment Board, Public Safety Group Commissioning Board, Home Office Police and Public Protection Technology, and others.

The National Digital Strategy was updated and will be reviewed and published in 2025.

## Delivering more for our members

For the second consecutive year, the Home Office made a £1m grant to the APCC to enable it to deliver even more in support of PCCs, PFCCs and Deputy Mayors. For example, the grant has enabled the APCC to refresh the members' area of its website, which now hosts a range of guidance and toolkits, focused on giving PCCs and their staff what they need to carry out their roles effectively. These included the guide 'Innovative & Effective Approaches to Tackling Serious Violence', the 'Dangerous Dogs Toolkit' and 'Ten Questions to ask your Chief'

The core PCC guidance has been updated, in conjunction with the Home Office, and published on the APCC website. The APCC now has ownership of this important guidance and will ensure it is kept up to date and remains informative. It was delivered in sufficient time to act as a guide for those considering standing as PCCs.

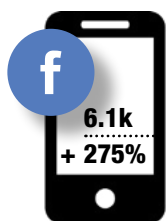


**14 pieces of new member guidance and toolkits published.**

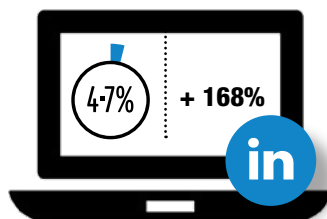
New corporate branded templates for guidance documents were produced, to ensure consistency and improved accessibility.

A public awareness-raising social media campaign 'Your Voice Your Police' was launched in February. The campaign featured video case studies demonstrating the role and impact of PCCs across areas including ASB, VAWG and youth engagement. It achieved double the average level of APCC social media engagement over the duration of the campaign and was amplified by OPCCs, partners and stakeholders.

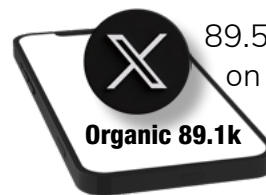
### 'Your Voice Your Police' campaign results



Facebook reach 6.1k and increased page visits by 275%



LinkedIn engagement rate 4.7% and increased page visits by 168%



89.5k impressions on X (all organic)

We produced Welsh translations for key pre-election materials, including social media assets and for the launch of the APCC/NPCC sponsored police anti-corruption and abuse reporting services, delivered by Crimestoppers.

## Delivering more for OPCC staff

### The APCC supported OPCC staff this year in a variety of ways:

1. Collated OPCC views on planned changes to the HMICFRS PEEL Inspection Framework 2025-27, helping shape what HMICFRS would inspect in future
2. Developed the Complaints Toolkit for Models 2 and 3, laying out the benefits and costs of adopting more intensive models of dealing with police complaints
3. Trained OPCC teams in the better use of criminal justice data and to access DHSC data on drugs and drug treatment
4. Ensured staff have better access and understanding of the MoJ data dashboards
5. Organised 'Holding to Account' workshops which were attended by 241 OPCC staff
6. Saved officer time by producing practical products such as 'Ten Questions to ask your Chief'
7. Led an engagement session on the national roll-out of hotspot patrols, attended mainly by ASB or Serious Violence leads of OPCCs
8. Provided workshops for OPCCs on the development of the Victims and Prisoners Act and held a monthly Victims Working Group
9. Developed a 'commissioning repository' - a list of useful guidance documents that support OPCCs in their commissioning practice and roles
10. Produced the Engage toolkit to support staff in fulfilling their responsibilities
11. Reinstated performance workshops

## Developing police capabilities and tackling serious organised crime

Joint APCC leads Alison Hernandez and Kate Green responded to a new government strategy to tackle serious and organised crime (SOC) to tackle drugs, human trafficking, child sexual abuse, fraud, economic and cybercrime.

We supported PCCs in holding their forces to account for the use of Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) powers, which enable police to freeze and seize assets from convicted criminals, and in encouraging greater and innovative use of these powers to deter organised criminals and help communities. As a result, according to the Home Office, the real amount (adjusted for inflation) of assets recovered increased by 19% from £19.2m in Reporting Period 1 2023-24 to £23m recovered in a similar period in 2024-25.

APCC Joint SOC leads recruited a new Chief Constable as NPCC lead and worked with the National Crime Agency (NCA) to deliver a consistent and value for money SOC response. The APCC held the NPCC SOC lead to account through the SOC Collaboration and Governance Board, which is also attended by representatives of the NCA, NPCC, Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), as well as the CoP.

We worked with the Home Office, the NPCC and PCCs on Clear Hold Build, a police operation focused on street level SOC, which was rolled out nationally to 60 sites across all force areas. Through engaging partners and the community this initiative seeks to clear the area of crime, hold it against resurgence or new criminal groups moving into the vacuum, and build community resilience to prevent crime regaining a foothold.

The APCC SOC portfolio group also enabled PCCs to share best practice related to Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU), such as Project Chapelgate, an asset recovery project run by the NCA.

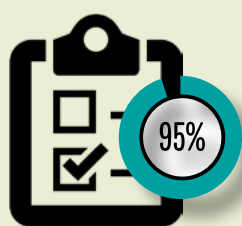
## Performance

In response to PCCs' call for more support for forces going through the Engage process, the APCC published an **Engage toolkit**. This toolkit is designed to explain the Engage process, how the PCC/OPCC staff can fulfil their responsibilities, how best to engage with HMICFRS, examples of how forces have exited the process, and details of help available. The toolkit incorporates PCCs' views, as well as those of partners, including Home Office, NPCC, HMICFRS, and the College of Policing (CoP).

An Engage workshop was held at the APCC February 2024 General Meeting, with PCCs whose forces had recently returned to the scan phase of the process sharing their experiences and learnings with other members.

The APCC reconvened the Performance working group and increased the number of OPCC colleagues joining. Chaired by one of the joint PCC leads, it allowed the APCC to highlight national performance-related updates, hear from other national partners, and discuss notable practice on performance, holding to account and oversight. Attendees reported this was a useful way to learn from each other and cement national and local connections.

We updated the Digital Crime and Performance Pack (DCPP), allowing more OPCC staff to access it and delivered a webinar to help them understand what the DCPP is and how to access and use it.



An APCC survey showed that **95% of OPCCs now use the Digital Crime Performance Pack to measure performance.**

## Transparency and accountability

Following the government's Dismissal Review in January 2023, the APCC's Transparency and Accountability portfolio leads participated in several Home Office-led sector workshops.



They strongly advocated for a role for PCCs in Chief Officer Misconduct Panels (which we believe will be included in forthcoming legislation), and for ensuring a transparent, fair, but more robust process of making sure that officers not fit to serve can be swiftly removed from British policing. We are grateful to former PCC Giles Orpen-Smellie for his extensive role in this process.

The APCC also supported a corporate duty of candour for policing, learning the lessons of the Hillsborough Review and associated cases within the public sector, including the contaminated blood scandal; and fed their views into the College of Policing's revised Code of Ethics launched in December 2023, which introduced a corporate Duty of Candour for Chief Constables.

**Other outputs of the APCC Transparency portfolio during this period include:**

- A new accountability framework for PCCs, covering all the statutory responsibilities with respect to holding Chief Constables to account, including case studies featuring notable practice
- A series of **10 questions to ask your Chief** on a range of topics, with a range of supplementary questions for PCCs to adapt and use to enhance local scrutiny
- Development of the Complaints Toolkit for Models 2 & 3, laying out the benefits and costs of adopting more intensive models of dealing with police complaints
- Holding a session with Baroness Casey at the January General Meeting to distil learning from the Casey Reviews of the Metropolitan Police, commissioned by Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden

**Andy Cooke, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary** said:

“ PCCs are a vital component in improving police accountability and driving performance improvement, both through local holding to account arrangements and, when necessary, through formal interventions such as the HMICFRS Engage process. I welcome the support provided through the APCC, both via their representation in national forums, including HMICFRS' Police Performance Oversight Group, and their work with individual PCCs.

I hugely value APCC as a partner and look forward to working closely together through the Government's landscape reform programme to reaffirm both APCCs' and HMICFRS' roles in delivering a whole system approach to accountability. ”

# Supporting our members to transform criminal justice



Through its Criminal Justice portfolio, the APCC continues to support PCCs and their offices to discharge the statutory responsibility of ensuring their local criminal justice system is efficient. Most members undertake this as chairs of their Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs). The APCC chair and Criminal Justice System (CJS) leads also attend the national criminal justice board. Regular briefings for members were hosted throughout the year with particular emphasis on the prison capacity issue.

**In 2023-24 the APCC focused on four areas to strengthen the PCC's role in their criminal justice environment, namely:**

- Implementing and embedding the recommendations from the PCC Review to strengthen accountability and expand the role of PCCs
- Developing the way that PCCs are confidently accessing and using policing and criminal justice data to inform and drive performance improvements and system-wide change
- Enhancing policy development and system-wide improvement activity through PCC engagement and leadership
- Better supporting PCCs of forces in enhanced monitoring (known as 'Engage') to improve police performance

**Outcomes this year include:**

- Reaching a data sharing agreement with the Crown Prosecution Service and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, enabling more effective and comprehensive data sharing with PCCs
- Holding a series of workshops with data analyst experts to train OPCC teams in the better use of criminal justice data
- Improved engagement with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) so OPCC staff have better access and understanding of the data dashboards being produced

The year has seen our relationship with all the CJS agencies grow, ministerial representation at our General Meetings and senior officials briefing PCCs at our regular portfolio events. At May's meeting the Director of Public Prosecutions, Stephen Parkinson presented an update and in October, Minister Freer from the MoJ spoke, providing an update on courts and probation.

# Supporting our members to speak up for victims of crime



## Commissioning

The APCC has helped PCCs to commission quality services for victims.

We co-produced the revised Victims' Commissioning Guidance with the MoJ, demonstrating our strong partnership. This led to a more collaborative, co-badged project, and shows the value of the APCC in shaping national policy beneficial for both members and partners. The guidance helps commissioning officers shape their local commissioning strategies.

The APCC reviewed victim hubs, engaging with OPCCs through surveys, meetings and in-person visits. This built strong relationships for OPCCs with stakeholders such as Victim Support and Citizens Advice. This work has provided a wealth of information on victim hubs and other victim support models across all 43 police force areas. In addition, a repository of victim hubs across England and Wales was produced.

We also agreed an evaluative pilot with the CoP to help PCCs to understand the evidence base behind their commissioned services, which will report in 2024-25.

## Victims and Prisoners (VAP) Bill

The APCC has been active in the VAP Bill's passage. The portfolio supported Victims leads at Committees and engaging with MoJ and the Bill team.

We influenced the then government on the impact assessment to ensure PCCs and partners received proper resources.

The APCC helped PCCs to engage with their MPs during the Bill's passage through the House. We engaged Peers to lay two amendments at Lords Committee stage, raising the profile of PCCs and the APCC.

## Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

The Victims portfolio worked with the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Taskforce, providing input on products and approaches, including the development of the NPCC Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment on VAWG.

We engaged the Operation Soteria team to deliver an update at an all-member meeting and supported the roll out of the national operating model.

## Domestic abuse perpetrators

The Home Office announced up to £39 million to help protect victims from domestic abuse and stalking. This will fund 50 PCC-led projects over the next two years, aiming to stop abusers from repeatedly targeting victims and vulnerable people.

# Raising awareness of PCCs

The Home Office grant has enabled the APCC to do more to increase public trust and confidence by developing guidance and toolkits to enhance holding-to-account and scrutiny activity. Early feedback in relation to savings on officer time by using the 'Ten Questions to ask your Chief' scrutiny product (at an estimate of 3.5 hours per OPCC office), indicates the potential to save at least 150 hours of time in OPCCs. The APCC 'Holding to Account' workshops had a total of 241 attendees across three sessions. Attendees have been from all PCC areas in England and Wales and included representatives from associate members.

We have increased engagement with PCCs as part of the Community Safety Partnerships Review. This took the form of eight 90-minute regional focus groups which, overall, included representatives from 38 of the 43 PCCs offices. The APCC also led on the drafting of a 'vision paper' reflecting the views of the four Welsh PCCs, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Welsh Government.

The APCC led a PCC engagement session on the national roll-out of hotspot patrols with 117 attendees. This provided PCC colleagues with the opportunity to learn from the pilot areas and seek any clarification required on the guidance. A similar session led by the APCC was held, with 71 attendees, on the roll out of the Immediate Justice pilots.

The Crimestoppers police anti-corruption and abuse reporting service, jointly funded by the APCC and NPCC achieved over 600 pieces of media coverage, including on BBC, ITV, Sky, LBC and Mail Online. This provided an instant opportunity for the public to report concerns about the police, with over 500 public reports made in the first five days of going live.

## Public affairs activity

### Key Stats:

72 parliamentarians attended APCC-led parliamentary events held over the year

Three All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) on policing events were held over the year, attended by a total of 57 parliamentarians

72

11

57

120

11 PCCs, PFCCs and Deputy Mayors appeared in front of Select Committees to give evidence to topical inquiries, with an additional five written evidence submissions

In the 12 months to April 2024, there were more than 120 positive mentions of PCCs in Parliament

**Parliamentarians attended a range of in-person events coordinated by the APCC to raise the profile of PCCs in Parliament and to brief key influencers on topical policing and crime issues, which included:**

- APCC Addictions & Substance Misuse Leads, Durham PCC Joy Allen and Dorset PCC David Sidwick, briefing MPs in May 2023 on all the work undertaken by PCCs to tackle drug, alcohol and gambling addictions
- Hampshire PCC Donna Jones addressing attendees at the APPG on Policing and Security in February 2024, to brief parliamentarians on her early priorities as APCC Chair and how the PCC role has changed in the 11 years since its inception
- APCC Business & Retail Crime Lead, Sussex PCC Katy Bourne OBE, showcasing how PCCs are spearheading efforts to tackle retail crime at a drop-in event for MPs and Peers in March 2024
- APCC Serious Violence Lead, West Midlands PCC Simon Foster, briefing parliamentarians at a drop-in event in March 2024 on the innovative and effective initiatives being implemented by PCCs to combat serious violence

**A range of Commons and Lords Select Committees held inquiries to examine important areas of policing and criminal justice policy, which the APCC has enabled members to influence, including:**

- APCC Victims leads presented evidence to the Victims and Prisoners Bill Committee in June 2023
- APCC Mental Health Lead, Humberside PCC Jonathan Evison appeared before the Health and Social Care Select Committee in September 2023 on Right Care Right Person
- North Wales, South Wales and Dyfed Powys PCCs and the Gwent Deputy PCC addressed the Welsh Affairs Committee policing inquiry in November 2023
- APCC Chair Donna Jones gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) inquiry into the role of PCCs in November 2023
- APCC CJS leads presented evidence to the Criminal Justice Bill Committee in December 2023
- Essex PFCC Roger Hirst provided additional evidence to HASC's inquiry into PCCs in January 2024, focusing on the role of PFCCs and fire governance

Written evidence was submitted on behalf of APCC national portfolios to support a range of inquiries, including to the Home Affairs Select Committee on fraud, the Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee on community sentences, as well as to several Bill Committees to influence legislation.

The APCC is a co-sponsor of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Policing and provides the Secretariat. In the past year, it hosted three meetings attended by a total of 57 parliamentarians. Guest speakers have included: Graeme Biggar, Director General of the National Crime Agency (NCA); Donna Jones, APCC Chair and Hampshire PCC; and Gavin Stephens, NPCC Chair.



## Media coverage

APCC spokespeople were featured prominently in print and broadcast media coverage of moves to tackle a surge in shoplifting, the need to improve vetting of police officers and staff to deal with cultural problems within policing and rebuild public trust, and efforts to combat violence against women and girls. In accordance with election laws, PCCs gave interviews during the spring 2024 Police and Crime Commissioner election campaign period to heighten public awareness of the role and encourage voting.

The APCC secured coverage on all the main national news outlets, including the BBC, Sky News, the Telegraph, Times and Independent as well as in the leading policing journals, Police Oracle and Policing Insight and in the Parliamentarians magazine, House. Topics included policing technology, the new Serious Violence Duty and the launch of the Crimestoppers public anti-corruption and abuse reporting service.

## Events

On Tuesday 2 May, over 20 MPs and Peers joined the APCC's parliamentary drop-in event on Tackling Addictions. The successful event was led by the APCCs Addictions and Substance Misuse Leads, PCCs Joy Allen and David Sidwick, who were showcasing the APCC's recent **Tackling Addictions In Focus Report** and all the work PCCs are doing in this area.

The APCC held a national 'Lessons Learnt' event on 9 May, hosted by Alison Hernandez, PCC for Devon and Cornwall to ensure that vital lessons learnt following her response to the mass shooting in Keyham, Plymouth in August 2021 were shared with colleagues. This provided key insight into crisis management, community reassurance, mobilisation of victim services and force engagement during an ongoing investigation.

The Serious Violence portfolio held a roundtable for PCCs in Parliament to support their engagement with the government's proposals to tighten the legislation around zombie knives and machetes. This led to the submission of a comprehensive response to the government's official consultation setting out PCCs' views and calling for a loophole in the possession of zombie knives to be closed. In August, we received confirmation that PCCs and Deputy Mayors had been listened to and that new restrictions for owning these dangerous knives would be introduced as well as new powers for police to seize knives that could be used in crimes.

In March 2024, APCC Serious Violence leads hosted a 'drop-in' for MPs and peers in Parliament to promote the work of PCCs in tackling serious violence and raise awareness of the new Serious Violence Duty. We engaged directly with 21 Parliamentarians, helping them access a copy of their PCC's newly published strategy as part of the requirements of the duty and to discuss more widely what more needs to be done to tackle this issue.

## APCC/NPCC Summit, November 2023

In November, almost 400 delegates attended the annual APCC/NPCC Summit and rated it excellent. Hosted by the journalist and broadcaster Julie Etchingham, keynote speakers included the Home Secretary, Shadow Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Stephen Parkinson, the Director of Public Prosecutions.



**Gavin Stephens, Chair of the National Police Chiefs Council** said:

“ PCCs, PFCCS and Deputy Mayors have an important role and chief constables welcome the scrutiny they bring to their force’s performance, and their work as effective delivery partners, reflecting community priorities on policing and crime. By working together, we are providing better policing for the communities we serve. ”

# Corporate governance

During 2023-24 the APCC Board continued to meet on a weekly basis to discuss urgent policing related topical and corporate matters, and act as a reference group for the Funding Formula Senior Sector Group. The Board welcomed Emily Spurrell as a new director following a decision at the General Meeting in February 2024, replacing Kim McGuinness. Other members of the Board included: Donna Jones (Chair), Marc Jones, Vice Chair, Alun Michael, Vice Chair, Katy Bourne, David Lloyd, Festus Akinbusoye and James Thomson (Chair of City of London Policing Authority).

The Chair also started a series of @5 Member Briefings on urgent topical issues, which were welcomed by the membership, and led to a review of corporate governance processes and meetings to improve membership engagement.

The General Meeting cycle continued on a quarterly basis, with an AGM at the College of Policing in Ryton in July, followed by a mix of virtual and in person meetings in Westminster. Speakers during 2023-24 included the Home Secretary and Policing Minister, MoJ Ministers, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Baroness Casey, the College of Policing, Crimestoppers, and Historic England.




## Other members of the board for 2023-24 included:

- **Donna Jones**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (Chair)
- **Marc Jones**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (Vice Chair)
- **Alun Michael**, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales (Vice Chair)
- **Katy Bourne OBE**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex
- **David Lloyd**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire
- **Kim McGuinness**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (later replaced by Emily Spurrell, PCC for Merseyside)
- **Festus Akinbusoye**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire
- **James Thomson**, Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board

To see a list of the current directors, [visit our website](#).



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