

APCC General Meeting Minutes: Wednesday April 27 2022:

PFCC Roger Hirst, APCC Board member and Chair of Day 1 of the APCC General Meeting, welcomed everyone to APCC General Meeting.

Item 1: Home Office/Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: Levelling Up White Paper:

- Following introductions by PCC David Lloyd, officials from both the Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities gave a presentation on Levelling Up White Paper. (*Damon Fairley, Deputy Head of the Police Strategy & Reform Unit, Home Office; Lauren Bridges, Head of Local Delivery, Crime Strategy & Performance Unit, Home Office; Freya Walker, Senior Policy Advisor, Cities & Local Growth Unit, DLUHC; and Majeed Neki, Head of Policy, Levelling Up Taskforce, DLUHC*).
- Speakers covered an overview of the White Paper, including economic regeneration; information on the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF); links to the Beating Crime Plan; and Devolution and PCC functions.
- There followed a Q & A between PCCs and officials which focused on engagement between PCCs and local authorities around devolution deals; ensuring PCCs involvement within the roll out of the SPF; and the key role for PCCs and policing within any new devolution agreements.

Q & A:

- **Engagement:** Discussion followed around how we can ensure that PCCs can engage on Levelling Up and how they can influence discussions on the deals. PCCs asked what they should do if local authorities do not involve PCCs in the investment planning process. Officials confirmed they would come back on this but that it was a two-way conversation and PCCs should be reaching out proactively. PCC involvement would be taken into account when the Home Office are assessing fund submissions. PCCs asked if they could be statutory consultees. This is currently not the case.
- On the SPF, this was a “designing out crime” intervention and the assessment would be taken forward entirely within the DLUHC framework. The Assessment process was still being confirmed.
- **Crime Survey:** PCCs asked how could the Crime Survey for England and Wales be reinvigorated and could it go to force level? The officials agreed to take this away.
- **Governance:** The officials confirmed that any bids need to be taken forward in local partnerships. If local partners are not involved then will not be looked at favourably. There was confirmation that bids would be assessed at Cabinet level.
- A discussion then followed on the devolution agenda in which the following points/views were made:
 - A view was aired that areas in Southern England might be discouraged from applying if there was a perception that all the money is “all going north.”
 - A point was made that a Combined Authority Mayor appoints a Deputy Mayor who is not accountable to the public in the same way a PCC is.
 - Levelling Up directors are currently being recruited and PCCs requested that they are involved in this recruitment.
 - A request for PCCs to be statutory consultees in any devolution deals was made.
 - Business is key to success and there are questions over what happens to LEPs going forward.
 - There was a request for local leaders to have more autonomy over the deals as opposed to a Whitehall centralised approach. All public sector needs to be taken into account including health.
 - On the SPF, a point was made around the practicality of engagement (for instance one PCC would have to join boards of 14 unitary and district councils).
 - How do we ensure that issues of crime are included in any Mayoral Plan or manifesto? Officials agreed to take this point away.
 - The Home Office confirmed that they had heard the message on statutory consultees and reassured PCCs that deals cannot be signed off by the Home Office unless there is evidence that PCCs views have been taken into account. The Home Office view is that there are more levers for Mayors than there are for PCCs. They took away the clear message that local authorities are still not engaging properly on this.

Approved/Agreed Actions:

- David Lloyd in summing up made clear that the next step was for the APCC to establish a working group for work around Levelling Up and emphasised the importance of ensuring that PCCs are closely involved in local and national discussions. All those interested in participating should let David Lloyd or Jamie.hurst@apccs.police.uk know.

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

Item 2: Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority: Introductions and Overview:

- Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, joined the meeting as a new Associate Member to outline the governance of policing in Scotland. The main ambition of the Police and Fire Reform Scotland Act (2012) is “To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland”.
- Police Scotland is the second largest police service in the UK, with 32 local policing scrutiny panels, each of which has a local plan. Police Scotland has responsibility for national and Specialist Support Functions including Roads Policing, Firearms, Public Order, Air Support, Marine Policing, Dogs and the Mounted Branch, as well as Emergency and Events Planning. The Specialist Crime Division offers investigative and intelligence functions such as Major Crime investigation, Public Protection, Organised Crime, Counter Terrorism, Intelligence and Safer Communities. These national divisions ensure every community in Scotland has access to specialist policing services.
- The Authority’s main functions are to: maintain the Police Service; promote the policing principles; promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland; keep under review the policing of Scotland; and hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.
- The Scottish Police Authority have several mechanisms for building public trust and confidence within policing although they have similar challenges to other areas e.g. mental health, inequality, the public being uninterested until something goes wrong.

Approved/Agreed Actions:

- The Scottish Police Authority are very keen to work with the APCC and share progress and learning and build on collaborative relationships with policing governance partners. They are also keen to link up with us on our interface with NPCC.

Item 3: PCC Katy Bourne: APCC Policing Protocol Consultation Response:

- PCC Katy Bourne introduced this session as an opportunity for PCCs to inform the APCC response to the consultation on proposed amendments to the Policing Protocol. She thanked the other members of the working group, including PFCC Roger Hirst and PCC Alun Michael, for their contribution to the work and informed PCCs that the response had been drafted with the benefit of legal advice.
- In the first part of the session PCCs were taken through the draft response to the consultation and given the opportunity to comment.
- Roger Hirst commented that devolution in 2011 intended to make policing more democratically accountable and it had. However, if the powers of PCCs were subsumed into central government that would be a dangerous step. If such changes were to be made, they should be made by Parliament rather than the government.
- Katy Bourne then welcomed Home Office officials *Rachel Watson, Kayleigh Chapman and Lauren Diffey* to join discussions. Rachel Watson, Home Office Lead for the Protocol consultation said that Home Office colleagues would talk about the context and set out some of the thinking behind the proposed changes. This was an open consultation and there was an understanding that the proposed wording could cause strong reactions, officials would welcome proposed alternative wording.
- The Home Office advised that the statement of removing last resort for the Home Secretary to intervene was designed to remove confusion. The protocol enshrines the concept of operational independence. This can be fluid in nature. The intention is for the protocol to solve problems and support effective working relationships, it is not intended to give new powers, or take powers away. Officials are very clear that they do not intend to override primary legislation.
- The removal of the description of Home Secretary powers as “last resort” provides greater clarity on the use of those powers. The Home Office think the powers have been helpful where they have been used.
- The intention is to better reflect the role of the Home Secretary. Having introduced the NPB there is an intention to describe the position as is rather than give it new powers.
- In respect of impartiality the intention is to reinforce that the force should act with political impartiality. The Home Office would welcome clarifying the line between the PCC and Chief Constable role.
- On financial responsibilities officials were not surprised by pushback. They recognise that financial accountability is a key lever but this looks at how we marry this with operational independence.
- PCC Alun Michael replied that this was a major constitutional issue and he welcomed the reassurance that officials were listening. It is a crucial principle of British policing that the police are the public not an instrument of the state, if the protocol varies from this it is damaging.
- The Home Secretary’s role in setting the SPR is crucial, PCCs and Chief Constables already must have regard to it, it is already there. There is a fine line between operational and strategic but that is a matter for the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables, relationships and judgments are important and cannot be over regulated.

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

Approved/Agreed Actions:

- In terms of next steps, the APCC will make their consultation response submission by the May 2nd deadline. PCCs were encouraged to do the same.
- The Home Office will review responses to the Policing Protocol. The Home Secretary will then confirm the next steps.

PFCC Roger Hirst, Chair of Day 1 of the APCC GM, thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

APCC General Meeting Minutes: Wednesday April 27 2022:

APCC Vice Chair, PCC Alun Michael, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Day 2 of the APCC General Meeting.

Item 1: Discussion on the development of the new APCC Strategic Plan:

- Susannah Hancock, APCC Chief Executive, began this session by thanking those who had sent feedback in on the first draft of the plan. It is hoped that a final version will be signed off at the July APCC AGM.
- The draft strategic plan is set out into three main high-level priorities: Firstly, how the APCC will support its members (via its activities), what it will support them with to deliver (outcomes) and cross-cutting priorities. The plan has been formulated based on responses to the APCC Annual Members Survey 2021, our analysis of all Police and Crime Plans and our analysis of our role in supporting the delivery of national priorities (e.g. The Beating Crime Plan and the Police Uplift Programme).
- The APCC will be held accountable to the plan via the work of our portfolios, the APCC Board, APCC General Meetings and the Annual Impact Survey. The key messages received from PCC feedback included a clearer balance between national and local support, a clearer explanation on how the APCC is funded and how it delivers value for money, and the need to establish a vision for PCCs beyond 2024.
- PCC Marc Jones thanked Susannah and Marcus Roberts for their work on the plan and noted that it is important to hear the views of wider PCCs, rather than just those on the board.
- There was also a discussion as to whether the APCC needed to consider a name change to ensure that they are representative of wider members - for example, the Association of Policing Governance (APG). It was agreed there needed to be wider discussion and consideration of this at future meetings as there were a range of issues to consider.
- Verbal feedback was provided by PCCs touching on issues such as ensuring PCCs are relevant to the agenda, the sharing of best practice, providing an effective counterbalance to the NPCC, and the proposal to increase membership fees.
- PCC Emily Spurrell asked that the APCC prioritise ensuring that PCCs are relevant to the agenda and are around the right tables to ensure their voice is heard.
- Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden asked that sharing of best practice between force areas be prioritised. Sophie also noted that she does not feel disadvantaged in her support from the APCC as a Deputy Mayor rather than a PCC and feels as equally represented as other colleagues.
- PCC Tim Passmore noted that we need to provide a counterbalance to the NPCC and work to ensure that the Home Office are engaging with the APCC on equal footing with the NPCC. Regarding an increase in membership fees, he asked for further information and a breakdown on what it would be spent on.
- PCC Alison Hernandez encouraged PCCs to support an increase in membership fees and noted that on the horizon we have the PCC Review, the Policing Protocol review, challenges with public confidence, and the recruitment of a new CEO. She noted that for the APCC to become the home of policing governance, PCCs need to 'take a leap of faith' and that further costings will be provided for PCCs to discuss this in more detail.
- PFCC Roger Hirst noted that the APCC will need to increase membership fees for all PCCs by £7k a year just to continue doing what they currently do.
- The PCCs thanked Susannah for her work at the APCC over the last four years.

Approved/Agreed Actions:

- The APCC will produce a final version of the Strategic Plan for approval at the July APCC General Meeting.

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

Item 2: Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio Update: Portfolio Leads PCC David Sidwick and PCC Joy Allen and Rosanna O'Connor, Director for Addictions and Inclusion, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, DHSC:

- PCC Joy Allen (Joint Portfolio Lead) highlighted the work the portfolio is leading on gambling-related crime:
 - Influencing the forthcoming White Paper on Gambling Law Reform (including supporting calls for a statutory levy on the industry to fund prevention, treatment, etc.).
 - Lobbying/raising awareness of the negative impact of Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) proceedings on problem gamblers and their families.
 - Producing a checklist for PCCs on steps they can take in their force areas to address gambling related crime (circulated with the papers for the General Meeting).
- PCC David Sidwick (Joint Portfolio Lead) discussed the portfolio's work on the new 10 year drug strategy, which is a 'game changer', noting that it is working across the three pillars of cutting supply, world class treatment and recovery services, and a generational shift in demand for drugs. He particularly highlighted the third pillar, stating that without addressing this we will be having the same conversations in 20 or 30 years.
- The portfolio will lead work with PCCs on a forthcoming White Paper on the tougher consequences agenda, including options for diversion/Out of Court Disposals. He also noted emerging data on harms where cannabis has been legalised (e.g. rises in drug-related driving accidents/fatalities) and the need to tackle 'illegal gateway drugs' like cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, and ketamine.
- Rosanna O'Connor (Director, OHID) highlighted the importance of the PCC role in treatment and recovery – there was a strong evidence base for crime reduction and the OHID are keen to use PCCs local voice and leadership to support local investment, particularly of 'additionality' funding, which is substantial. PCCs should also expect to be consulted by public health colleagues.
- In discussion, PCCs raised issues including limited access to abstinence-based treatment in prisons and the challenges of engaging with multiple local government/health partnerships across some force areas (e.g. in London). Rosanna and her team will continue to work with the portfolio leads and are happy to have follow up conversations with individual PCCs/their offices. She highlighted that her role covers alcohol, tobacco, drugs and gambling.

Item 3: Victims and CJS: MOJ Session: Chaired by PCC David Lloyd:

Part A: Antonia Romeo, MOJ Permanent Secretary: Presentation on work of the MOJ and working with PCCs on victims and CJS followed by Q & A:

- Antonia Romeo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice spoke about court recovery, partnerships and the role of PCCs in delivery victims' services.
- Antonia said that court recovery is progressing but it is recognised that this is at different rates across the country. This is being supported through unlimited sitting days, extending 13 Nightingale Courts and with 2 new Super Courtrooms. Recruitment is being expanded in the judiciary and Magistrates powers are being extended.
- Victims are a critical priority. The Victims Bill aims to ensure victims are at the centre of the CJS supporting them to receive fair and timely outcomes. It will look to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs and support PCCs to gather data and monitor and evaluate the Victims' code. The government has also committed to multi-year funding for the victims grant to improve consistency in service provision.
- In March 2022 local CJ scorecards were published, this will ensure we are all working from a single version of the truth. It reflects our shared objective to increase timeliness, improve victims' engagement and in RASSO, improve outcomes.
- LCJBs are a good forum for collaboration and the work PCCs do as chairs is welcome to align cross-system priorities. The PCC review will develop options for placing LCJBs on a statutory footing. The MOJ is currently working on guidance for LCJBs, and has recently sent surveys to LCJBs and interested partners. PCCs were asked to please contribute to these surveys.

Part B: Jim Barton, Deputy Director National Probation Service, HMPPS: Presentation on PCCs and Probation working together followed by Q & A:

- Jim Barton, Director in the Probation Service with responsibility for Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Integrated Offender Management (IOM), gave an update.
- Jim confirmed that probation reform is progressing well, however the new unified service has inherited issues from the previous service and it is the priority to address them. Through the Spending Review the Service has secured an uplift in core probation budget of £150m a year but it will take time to translate this into what it is intended to fund i.e. more probation officers. By the end of this year the aim is to have 19,000 employees at all staff grades.
- One focus of the new Service is partnerships and ensuring the relationships with RPDs and the sector is

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

bolstered. The Regional Outcome and Innovation fund (£3m rising to £10m) has been put in place to support local flexibility and increase better working practices locally, by investing in better local partnerships.

- On unpaid work, the Service must deliver 155% of pre-Covid levels to clear the backlog. The PCSC Act contains a duty to consult with PCCs on how these are delivered.
- On EM, the acquisitive crime pilot has been running with success and the rollout to all forces is planned by 2024.

Item 4: New HMICFRS Chief Inspector Andy Cooke: Introductory Address and Q & A:

- Andy Cooke, in his new role as Chief Inspector at HMICFRS said that he was keen to adopt a more proactive approach to working with PCCs and the APCC, and to improve the 'engagement/ HMI Police Performance Oversight Group (PPOG) stage of supporting forces by endeavouring to prevent forces from getting to the stage where they require intensive engagement. One method for this was a smarter system approach where good practice is identified, forces are encouraged to adopt it and then the inspection is conducted to ensure a problem has been resolved.
- HMICFRS will be sharing examples of good practice for producing an FMS as Andy Cooke sees value in them but feels they can be more succinct.
- Andy Cooke stated he understands the importance of engaging PCCs at an earlier stage when developing the inspection framework and will seek to do this in the future.

Q & A:

- Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden noted the issue of PCC attendance at force debriefs, and the fact that it is not currently the case that PCCs are invited to these.
Andy Cooke (AC) replied that HMICFRS inspects Chiefs not PCCs and the current approach is that it is down to the individual discretion of the Chief whether to invite the PCC. AC will question at the next Chiefs Council meeting whether documents could be shared with PCCs at the same time as the force debrief is held.
- PCC Katy Bourne asked AC for his view on collaboration as this is something which has been pushed hard by HMICFRS in Surrey/Sussex but is not without its problems.
AC stated that collaboration has to be done for the right reason: to deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness. AC will not push it if it is not felt to benefit communities.
- DPCC Nick Evans asked AC for his vision for the FMS process.
AC noted that as a Chief Constable he was an 'early doubter,' but his view has shifted as it is important to know what the future holds and be aware of where the pinch points are. Some FMS documents are far too long though and HMICFRS will be sharing examples of best practice.
- PCC Stephen Mold noted that Northamptonshire Police were brought to the PPOG quite late and so the benefit of it was limited as there was no funding and advice is received late.
AC has been speaking with the Home Office to discuss how PPOG can be changed to a more active meeting, ensuring earlier engagement with forces to prevent them needing to be part of the PPOG. Forces in PPOG should be avoided and the focus should be on the start of the decline in force performance.
- PCC Jeff Cuthbert (Gwent) asked AC for his view of joint inspections.
AC felt joint inspections can be very powerful, but it is important that there is strong commitment across the part of the system involved to implement any changes.

Item 5: APCC Business Part 1:

Finance and Funding Formula Review update: PCC Roger Hirst:

- PFCC Roger Hirst, APCC Finance Lead, spoke to this item and provided an update on the Home Office review of the Police Funding Formula. A detailed paper had been circulated to PCCs in advance on this.
- The current funding formula in many ways penalises those areas that are successful in cutting crimes. The current formula models expected demand for policing, not just recorded crime. It would also be important to use this review as an opportunity to consider variations to the cost of living, different structures in different areas and the possibility of positive incentives.
- PCCs were encouraged to take the Home Office up on their offer of individual consultations and PCCs were asked to stress the importance of using 2021 census data rather than 2011 which is outdated.
- Discussions are ongoing in regard to transition arrangements to a new model to ensure that no areas are negatively impacted.

BlueLight Commercial: PCC Matthew Scott:

- PCC Matthew Scott asked PCCs to respond to the Resolution sent out on April 11th seeking members agreement to a set of changes to the BLC Articles of Association. The changes were intended to help BLC operate more

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

flexibly. If members did not recall receiving the request, or had any questions, they should contact him.

- A request for forces to provide the authority for BMW to share information relating to forces with BLC would be re-issued shortly following a low response; PCCs were asked to look out for it and help ensure BLC received a good response this time round.
- Matthew provided a short update on BLC including:
 - The new fleet agreement had generated £3.4m savings for forces in E&W and another £1.8m for other LEAs which showed the value of working together.
 - Contingent labour contracts agreed and would save £4.4m.
 - Further support had been provided on Forensics and NPAS.
 - The Social Value toll had been shortlisted for a number of awards.
- Matthew thanked PCCs Donna Jones, Jeff Cuthbert and Kim McGuiness for the support they had provided as Board Directors. They were now being replaced by PCCs John Dwyer and Joy Allen and Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe who were thanked for joining.

Approved/Agreed Actions:

- PCCs to review and respond to the Resolution to agree changes to the Articles of Association by Friday May 6th.
- PCCs to look out for a request to provide the authority for BMW to share information relating to forces with BLC and help ensure that it is responded to.

Police Digital Service: PCC Stephen Mold:

- PFCC Stephen Mold, Chair of the Police Digital Service Board, presented PCCs with an update of the work of the Police Digital Service (PDS) since the last General Meeting. He reminded the meeting that policing spends over £1.4 billion a year on IT systems and technology – getting better value for money and efficiency for this spend is a key role for PCCs. He asked whether PCCs knew how much their forces were spending on IT and technology?
- The PDS was launched a year ago, in April 2021, to build on the commercial success of the former Police ICT Company to become the principal delivery vehicle for new digital, data and technology capabilities in policing. Owned by the PCCs, there have been some notable successes and milestones since the last General Meeting:
 - A new Audit and Risk Committee has been set up, under the PDS Board, chaired by PCC Katy Bourne;
 - Joint and collaborative working was now developing between PDS and Bluelight Commercial (BLC);
 - Successful completion of the key delivery programmes with 92% of deliverables achieved (for example, the National Enabling Programmes);
 - Around £17m commercial cashable and cost avoidance savings have been made in 2021-22, building on multiple millions in previous years.
- Finally, the annual National ICT Summit (organised by PDS and the National Police Technology Council) would take place in Birmingham on 12th and 13th of May, and PCCs and their staff were urged to attend.

Item 6: Local Policing and Partnerships Portfolio: Contact Management and 999/101: PCC Alison Hernandez:

- PCC Jeff Cuthbert opened the session by highlighting the key areas of activity at present for the APCC Local Policing and Partnerships Portfolio, including tackling ASB and Contact Management. PCC Alison Hernandez then spoke about work in relation to public contact, local policing and the proposed APCC public contact survey which was due to be released shortly (early May). Alison encouraged all PCCs to participate in the survey, details of which would be circulated to them next week.
- The APCC has been involved in the decision making process ahead of the launch of the 999 League Tables, through membership of the Home Office 999 League Tables steering group, represented by PCCs Alison Hernandez, Alun Michael and Jeff Cuthbert.
- 101 has been recognised as complicated and the proposed performance league tables for the 101 service has been postponed until re-contracting of the service has been completed. PCC leads met with the Crime and Policing Minister in February 2022 to raise concerns about the future of the 101 service and the implications of a 101 league table.
- At present, the 999 league tables are set to be published and launched on May 31st 2022 by the Home Office. Communications is owned by the NPCC and the APCC is working in partnership in this area.
- Jeff Cuthbert explained what is set to be published in the league tables, including:
 - Force Name (sorted in alphabetical order).
 - Total Call Volumes and Average call answering times.
 - RAG rating for the calls answered.
- Jeff Cuthbert confirmed that the data published will be BT (service provider) data, not force data. This is due to BT data having greater consistency and accuracy.
- PCC Alison Hernandez stated that the Home Office steering group has taken into account input from PCCs and the APCC has influenced positivity in the planning for the performance tables. Alison also raised the APCC Contact Management Survey, which is surveying the public's understanding, preference and experience of

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

reporting crime and ASB to the police. The survey is expected to be launched on May 16th 2022 and will run for 2 months.

- Jeff Cuthbert handed over to Rory O'Neill, from NPCC Digital Public Contact who gave a presentation on the publication of league tables. Rory confirmed the full data set to be published, all data will be published on the www.police.uk website on 31st May. As part of the efforts to help the public understand the performance of forces, a narrative will accompany the data and a series of FAQs.
- Rory provided an overview of how the design of the 999 performance will be presented, including the explanatory text, monthly data set and percentage of each call rating.

Item 7: APCC Business Part 2:

VAWG Spotlight update: PCC Donna Jones:

- PCC Donna Jones gave a detailed update on recent VAWG work. Headlines included on April 1st the APCC Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan being published. This plan was developed through the VAWG Working Group and in collaboration across the APCC policy portfolios. It draws together our ambitions for the next year on how we will tackle this issue, working together and across our partners.
- The Plan is iterative and will be monitored by our VAWG Working Group to ensure it remains up to date with emerging issues and interests. For example, once the PCSC Bill passes, this will be added to the Plan. The plan can be found on the APCC website and all PCCs were encouraged to read it.
- As the APCC we have aligned with colleagues in the NPCC in defining with VAWG as a gendered issue. This means it is crimes perpetrated, often by men, against women and girls. In doing so we do not diminish those experiences of men, boys and others who experiences terrible crimes against themselves, and we will work with the NPCC to also capture and tackle these crimes.
- The APCC have published a VAWG infographic, highlighting the excellent work going on across PCC areas led by PCC colleagues. It demonstrates that PCCs are leading the way in the fight against VAWG and is an excellent example of the different ways in which we can make positive change. This can be found on the APCC website. PCCs were encouraged to think about what you are doing in your own areas on VAWG and how they might engage partners.
- The portfolio has engaged with DCC Maggie Blyth and her NPCC VAWG Taskforce on their VAWG Performance and Outcomes Framework, which was published on April 6th. All PCCs were encouraged to talk to their Chief Constable about the framework and ensure they are implementing their VAWG action plans. The portfolio is also working with Maggie Blyth on a shared partnership plan, to ensure we are fully aligned in tackling VAWG.
- The CPS has recently launched a consultation on both its legal guidance and policy statement for domestic abuse. All PCCs were encouraged to share their views with the APCC via Ella Thomas so that we can send in a response on behalf of PCCs as Victims leads.
- The Home Office also recently launched its Domestic Abuse Plan. The APCC are currently working through the wider implications of this plan however, one of the recommendations is on considering the introduction of a domestic abuse offenders register. The APCC would be grateful for PCC feedback on this recommendation in order to consider the position as APCC leads.
- Finally, the Home Office is soon to launch expressions of interest to forces for a DAPN and DAPO pilot selection. Leads will be informed when the application round is launched and Donna encouraged PCCs to consider whether their force might be interested and to have conversations with their Chiefs.

Victims Portfolio update:

Multi-year Funding:

- DJ reported that at the end of March we received the welcome news that the Victims core funding is multi-year. This does not yet represent a material uplift to the grant, but it does mean that PCCs can make strategic commissioning decisions which will benefit victims and our services.
- The process by which the allocations for the DA/SV funding will be granted has been met with criticisms by PCCs and OPCCs due to the demands that all bids received by PCCs are submitted to MoJ. Leads have been reassured by MoJ that PCCs are able to express preference in their assessments, however, the outcomes will be monitored and PCCs are encouraged to contact APCC should they encounter issues.

Victims' Bill:

- An APCC response to the Victims Bill was submitted in early February. The policy team in MoJ have since been developing the policy, and engaged the APCC through our policy manager, the victims portfolio group and through a meeting with Victims Leads.
- The MOJ had shared a draft of several of the chapters and Victims Leads are due to meet with them later today to discuss thoughts and feedback. The document demonstrates an increased PCC role in victims support, however, Victims Leads have consistently been clear that this must come with additional resourcing and support in order for PCCs to deliver effectively. The portfolio will continue to keep the group updated on

APCC General Meeting (April 2022)

progress.

Victims' advocacy:

- The portfolio has been thinking about how the APCC and Victims Leads can support PCCs in your role as victims' advocates; it is a huge role alongside other critical work as PCCs.
- Leads are considering how to better facilitate this support, and believe the Victims Portfolio Group is a forum for officials to discuss more operational matters. However, Leads would like to ensure that PCCs are involved in the portfolio through meetings split across VAWG and Victims, which will be actioned in the coming months.

Letter from Rachel Maclean:

- Following the VAWG Summit in early February, Rachel Maclean wrote to PCCs on VAWG issues, and this will be circulated by the portfolio group.

PCSC Bill:

- The portfolio leads noted the upcoming Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts bill, which looks to introduce changes that assist with the pursuit of VAWG perpetrators (including extending the time limit for prosecuting domestic abuse cases), which is very welcome.

RASSO:

- PCCs were asked to check that they have specialist RASSO teams. There is also the question of RASSO court rooms to mirror the DA Courts, and if so, should these be long or short term?
- The local RASSO Scorecards have been a positive addition to data sharing and PCC's understanding of the system.
- It was highlighted that Digital forensics is a further barrier to rape victims staying with the system; devices are being kept for far too long.

DG6:

- It was reported that the Attorney General is producing new guidance which will reduce pressures on police forces. There will be a data sharing agreement between CPS and forces to ensure better information flow and more timely decision making.

Sir Tom Winsor Review:

- PCCs were asked to take note of this review and the recommendations within.

Item 8: AOB

PCC Alun Michael confirmed there was no other business and closed the meeting by thanking attendees for their attendance and participation.