

# APCC BULLETIN

Issue fourteen March 2023



## INSIDE this issue:

MONTHLY NEWS AND OPINIONS FROM YOUR ELECTED POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

**Introduction from APCC Chief Executive, Phillip Golding**

**Tackling Addictions In Focus**

**Serious Violence Duty**

**International Women's Day**

**Let's Get Talking**

## INTRODUCTION:

*APCC Chief Executive: Phillip Golding*

I have now been at the APCC for about five months. It's been a steep learning curve, but I am grateful to everyone - PCCs, APCC and OPCC staff, and stakeholders - for your time and patience as I get up to speed with the complex world of policing and crime reduction.

It's been an exceptionally busy time for the sector and clearly the issue of public confidence looms large, not only in relation to the conduct of officers, but also whether policing is getting the basics right, for example answering calls promptly, or responding effectively to reports of crime. The APCC has also been very busy in a number of key policy areas, including anti-social behaviour, the Victims and Prisoners Bill, drug strategy, community safety, integrity and many others. It's not always easy to measure the impact of this work, but I am well aware from my time in Whitehall that it's vital the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) voice is represented in these national discussions.

We will also soon be embarking on a member-led review of the functions and governance of the APCC. There's a lot of excellent work going on but, at the same time, it's important we explore what more we can do, especially around delivering specific and measurable products and tools for PCCs. I am keen to hear ideas from those with whom we regularly work with, so will be making sure I continue to get out and about in the coming months, building on recent visits to Cumbria, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Cleveland and Sussex.

I joined just as we celebrated ten years of PCCs. I am hugely excited about working with all of you to help PCCs, and the sector more widely, consider what developments we should seek to achieve in the next ten years - Thank you again for your support.

## USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/>

# APCC NEWS AND UPDATES: TACKLING ADDICTIONS IN FOCUS

*Joy Allen, Joint APCC Addictions & Substance Misuse Lead and PCC for Durham*  
*David Sidwick, Joint APCC Addictions & Substance Misuse Lead and PCC for Dorset*

Drugs drive crime and anti-social behaviour. With half of all homicides and acquisitive crimes believed to be drug-related, tackling drugs may be the single biggest thing that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) can do to prevent crime and make communities safe.

“The ‘Tackling Addictions In Focus’ report shows how PCCs and Mayors, across England and Wales, are contributing to all three pillars in the Government’s From harm to hope drug strategy: robust enforcement to cut supply; help to get offenders with addictions into treatment and off drugs; and reducing demand by changing attitudes to drug misuse.

It’s not only delivering each of the pillars that’s important, but - as Project Adder has demonstrated – joining them up. Some of the biggest challenges arise in the gaps between systems and services. For example, we need to get more people who are engaging with treatment in prisons linking up with services in the community on release, and more offenders with addictions who appear - often again and again - before our courts into treatment with robust community sentences to ensure they are getting their lives back on track and addressing their offending behaviour. We also need to get our schools, colleges and universities more involved given their critical role in shifting attitudes.

PCCs are uniquely placed to convene and drive the partnerships that join the dots - many are leading their Combating Drugs Partnerships, most are chairing their Local Criminal Justice Boards, and all are expecting changes to strengthen their relationship with Community Safety Partnerships.

There is no doubting the scale of the challenge to PCCs from drugs and other addictions, nor the benefits to our communities of getting this right in terms of reduced crime, safer communities and support for vulnerable people. We have an historic opportunity to turn the tide, notably with the ten-year Drug Strategy and the investment that is supporting it. This In Focus report showcases work PCCs are doing to deliver that promise on the ground.”

### **The Rt Hon Chris Philp MP, UK Government Combating Drugs Minister:**

“Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are in a unique position to drive real change in local systems, and I have been encouraged by the leadership they have

shown across the country in the Combating Drugs Partnerships. They have the ability and opportunity to see the bigger picture in an area and hold a distinct role in convening and coordinating local partners.

This guide is very welcome - showcasing some of the excellent, joined-up work being led by PCCs across the country. I hope to see the continuing positive impact of these initiatives, and their further expansion.

I am grateful to all PCCs for all the hard work they and partners have been putting in to make the drugs strategy a success. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to address illicit drug use and make our communities safer and healthier.”

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/8506/tackling-addictions-in-focus-v10.pdf>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1079147/From\\_harm\\_to\\_hope\\_PDF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1079147/From_harm_to_hope_PDF.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-adder/about-project-adder>

## **SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY**

*Simon Foster, Joint APCC Lead for Serious Violence and PCC for West Midlands*  
*Steve Turner, Joint APCC Lead for Serious Violence and PCC for Cleveland*

In January 2023 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) gained new responsibilities to help tackle and prevent serious violence in communities. The Serious Violence Duty is a new legal requirement which will see organisations working together to prevent and tackle serious violence, with PCCs and Deputy

Mayors playing an important role as lead conveners for local partners. Under the Duty, all statutory partners must work together to develop a strategic needs assessment of the unique causes of violence in their area and then publish a strategy on how they will tackle it.

APCC Leads for Serious Violence, Simon Foster and Steve Turner said:  
“PCCs long advocated for a whole system approach and welcome the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty. As local leaders we play a pivotal role in coordinating this activity and will act as local conveners to ensure a collaborative joined up approach to preventing and tackling serious violence in our communities.

We are well placed to bring agencies and organisations together, overseeing the totality of work taking place to tackle serious violence, particularly in complex geographical areas, and ensuring that work reflects the unique needs of our local communities.

We will play a key role locally in managing the funding accompanying the Duty, ensuring all named partners are around the table, and monitoring the exercise of functions under the duty.

The Duty is a positive step towards collectively reducing serious violence in our communities and we remain committed to helping to coordinate sustainable prevention and early intervention programmes to ensure we prevent people from committing serious crimes and ensure our communities are a safe place for all.”

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1125001/Final\\_Serious\\_Violence\\_Duty\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_-\\_December\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125001/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf)

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2023**

### **#EmbraceEquity**

On International Women’s Day, we shone a light on some of our inspirational female leaders and the vital work they do locally and in their capacity as national portfolio leads.

Police and Crime Commissioners and Deputy Mayors from across England and Wales shared their reflections on what International Women’s Day means to them and how they play a vital role in advocating for equality and in supporting women and girls.

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/celebrating-our-female-leaders-this-international-womens-day/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/>

## **LET’S GET TALKING**

### **ABOUT THE APCC**

#### **THE APCC IS THE HOME OF POLICING GOVERNANCE**

It is the national body which supports Police and Crime Commissioners and other local policing bodies across England and Wales to provide national leadership and drive strategic change across the policing, criminal justice and wider community safety landscape, to help keep our communities safe.

**Telephone:** 0207 222 4296

**Address:** Lower Ground, 5-8 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS

**Email:** [info@apccs.police.uk](mailto:info@apccs.police.uk) **Website:** [www.apccs.police.uk](http://www.apccs.police.uk)

**LinkedIn:** @assocpccs

[\(https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-police-and-crime-commissioners/\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-police-and-crime-commissioners/)

**Twitter:** @assocpccs

([https://twitter.com/AssocPCCs?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/AssocPCCs?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor))

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**Click on the links below to find out more about what we do:**

**ABOUT the APCC:** The role of the PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/>)

**APCC STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024:** Find out how we support our members to have a national voice on behalf of their communities.  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/campaigns/apcc-business-priorities/>)

**APCC IMPACT REPORT:** The Impact Report 2020/21 demonstrates the breadth of work and impact of the Association against its five business priorities  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/8192/impact-report-2021-22.pdf>)

**LATEST NEWS:** Up-to-date news updates from our website  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/>)

**PCCs:** What you need to know as a PCC  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/role-of-the-pcc/what-you-need-to-know-as-a-pcc/>)

**FIND YOUR PCC:** Use our simple tool to locate the PCC in your area  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/>)

**APCC BULLETINS:** View previous bulletins  
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/public/apcc-bulletins>)

**YOU HAVE A VOICE:** Short animated video explaining the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/you-have-a-voice/>)

**ENDS**

