

## APCC General Meeting Minutes: Day 1:

Wednesday April 26 2023

### 1. Welcome and Introductions – APCC Chair PCC Marc Jones

- PCC Marc Jones, Chair of the APCC, welcomed colleagues to Day 1 of the General Meeting and outlined the agenda for the next 2 days. Marc then introduced the first session which involved a Deep Dive on delivering the drug strategy, tackling addiction and cutting crime.

### 2. Deep Dive on Drugs Strategy

- Following an introduction by PCC Dave Sidwick and PCC Joy Allen, APCC Addictions Portfolio Leads, a plenary session was held which involved presentations by Dame Carol Black and Professor Keith Humphreys.
- Dave Sidwick underlined that it was crucial to tackle drugs in order to tackle anti-social behaviour. He stated that he and Joy Allen have done a lot of work to broaden the work of the portfolio to consider gateway drugs, as well as heroin and crack cocaine. He emphasised the need for treatment, interventions, and prevention, particularly for young people. Dave pointed out the link between drugs and criminality, such as county lines, and stated that half of homicides are linked to drugs. He stated that furthermore, one in five homicide victims are believed to be under the influence of alcohol at the time. Moreover, around 40% of violent crimes are thought to be drug related.
- Dave advised that gambling-related crime is thought to cause £1.2 billion of economic damage. He stated that half of all domestic abuse is linked to drugs and alcohol. Meanwhile, the use of nitrous oxide is linked to ASB. He underlined the role that the APCC has played in campaigning against the use of N2O and its associated behaviours. He stated that he and Joy sit on a relevant cross-Government group, with the next meeting scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and that he and Joy had asked for the group to focus on prevention. Dave reported that the absence of representatives of the Department for Education had been noted at the first meeting of this group.
- Dame Carol Black began her contribution by underlining the need to drive the strategy from harm to hope. The three parts of her proposed approach included supply, treatment and recovery, and prevention. She underlined the need for a whole-systems change and pointed out that the current system was broken, because of austerity and a lack of support for all aspects of addiction. Dame Carol urged that it is impossible to tackle addiction through conventional treatment or getting rid of supply alone.
- Dame Carol emphasised the need for innovative thinking, and to improve systems of accountability. She stated that central government need to be much stronger and there needs to be more partnership working. She hypothesised putting a drug-dependent person in the centre of a circle, then surrounding them with all the things they need to overcome addiction: criminal justice, mental health care, a recovery community, physical healthcare, housing and support, drug treatment, education. She echoed DS's earlier observations regarding the lack of Department for Education involvement in the programme so far.
- Dame Carol stated that the former and current Policing Ministers have been strong advocates for her approach, but underlined again the need for a successful approach to be cross-government. She cautioned that very few people on release from prison receive support for drug addiction, and pointed out the 'hamster-wheel' of drug addiction in prisons. She stated that this hamster wheel needed to be dealt with in order to build safer communities. She underlined the need for a continuous process of planning and improvement, including good needs assessments.
- Dame Carol commended the APCC's In Focus publication on the work PCCs are doing to tackle addiction, and the emphasis on different organisations working together to provide accessible pathways of support. She urged PCCs to ensure continuity of care and to use their influence on drugs partnership boards to evaluate the whole system's effectiveness.

#### Q&A:

- PCC Jeff Cuthbert pointed out that the Welsh Government has a devolved responsibility for drugs. He enquired as to what level of engagement Dame Carol has had with the Welsh Government.  
Dame Carol stated that she engages heavily with the Welsh Government, but that she has had more engagement with officials in Scotland. She reflected that there appears to be a desire across the board for a collaborative approach to this is UK-wide issue, underlining the need to listen carefully to what is happening in Wales and Scotland.
- PCC Dave Sidwick emphasised the need for a Government Action Plan and stated that there would be no progress without this.  
Dame Carol stated that prevention, and the involvement of the Department of Education, was crucial. She highlighted the need to pilot initiatives to see what works.

- Jonathan Jardine, Chief Executive of West Midlands OPCC, asked what questions should PCCs and Mayors be asking. Dame Carol stressed the need for PCCs to keep track of how money is being spent and to ensure that needs assessments are conducted. She stated that money spent on should be accounted for, and underlined the need for investment in the recovery space. Again, she emphasised the need for a whole-system change. She also stated that substitution treatment cannot be an adequate replacement for recovery.
  - PCC Festus Akinbusoye asked Dame Carol for her view on how PCCs should respond to partners who support decriminalisation and point to other jurisdictions which have pursued such policies. Dame Carol stated that she had not been asked to look at decriminalisation in her report, but observed that in the UK we have two legal drugs: alcohol and tobacco. She stated that regulation of both of these had been poor, and pointed out the high number of alcohol-related deaths. She therefore felt that regulation would likely be unsuccessful if it were to be pursued in relation to other substances. She also considered that it was unlikely that the Government, or any future Government, would consider this approach. Dame Carol advised that austerity has contributed to younger people taking drugs and being drawn into drug-related criminality, as youth clubs and other services have disappeared. She also stated that it is now easier to buy drugs online due to social media, and observed that the decrease in the nation's mental health could also be a contributing factor.
  - Keith Humphreys then gave his presentation which focused on swift, certain and fair models of reducing substance misuse in people who threaten public safety. This presentation centered on research undertaken on addiction and its consequences, and lessons learnt in the USA and in London.
  - More detailed information can be found in his slides. Keith concluded by stressing the importance of treating people with humanity, and stated that people would be more likely to comply if they are treated humanely.
  - PCC Marc Jones stated that they have had a successful partnership along these lines in Lincolnshire, and considered that an important part of such initiatives' success is encouraging the judiciary to buy into it.
  - PCC Joy Allen highlighted the need to press for the need to tackle gambling-related harm and crime to local Criminal Justice Boards, to ensure that action is taken in magistrates courts and prisons. She also pointed out the impact on police officers of responding to gambling-related suicides.
  - 3 breakout sessions were then held looking at treatment and recovery, problem gambling and crime, and the Criminal Justice System. Summary notes are each of these sessions are provided below.
- Treatment and Recovery Breakout Room:** Chair: PCC Dave Sidwick Speakers: Rosanna O'Connor & Pete Burkinshaw, Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Rosanna O'Connor and Pete Burkinshaw highlighted additional investment in treatment to support implementation of the 10-year Drug Strategy which will be this year £670m through the public health grant plus £154m through the Drug Strategy Supplementary Grant.
  - Outcomes sought include 54,000 new high quality treatment places and 24,000 more people in long term recovery from addiction.
  - Other funding is being invested in helping people access recovery capital, like housing and work (Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Grant, a further £21m for Individual Placement and Support to get people into jobs and £53m over the next 3 years for Housing Support).
  - Funding goes from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) to Local Authorities and they develop treatment plans and commission services from a mixed economy of providers across the NHS, voluntary sector, peer support, etc, and a mix of harm reduction and abstinence-based services.
  - Local commissioners select from a menu of treatment options and are expected to have balanced treatment services, with interventions for different needs/points on the treatment and recovery journey. This includes everything from needle and syringe programmes to residential rehab and recovery support.
  - OHID reviews and signs off local treatment plans. 151 plans have been received with 129 signed off in this cycle.
  - There is a particular concern to improve pathways between the CJS and Drug treatment - including policies custody assessments, liaison and diversion schemes, use of Drug Treatment Requirements and increasing pick up of people leaving prison by treatment services. PCCs are playing a critical role here.
- Problem Gambling and Crime Breakout Room:** Chair: Joy Allen Speakers: Matt Burton, Former Assistant Chief Constable in Cheshire and NPCC lead for gambling and crime and Chris Brace, CEO at Hertfordshire OPCC
- PCC Joy Allen introduced the session to attendees and welcomed the two speakers.
  - Matt Burton noted that there is growing evidence of a link between problem gambling and violence/crime. Furthermore links are starting to show between harm to children and gambling related harms.
  - Matt pointed out the interactions between the gambling industry, criminal damage, employee theft, large-scale fraud, and money-laundering. He also indicated the links between gambling and domestic violence. He stated that a child of

a harmful gambler is 14 times more likely to experience trauma than other children, and stated that there is often a prevalence of crime in areas where there are a large number of betting shops. He also observed that often gambling can be used to fund drug addiction.

- Matt noted that people entering custody were now being asked if they had a gambling addiction. He asked those in attendance to check with their forces and custody sweets if they are using the 'Niche System'. More information can be found on the slides.
- Chris Brace spoke next and noted that gambling is now seen as a national problem and there is a national conversation around the harms it causes. The MOJ sees gambling as a growing problem. Chris can see improvements happening e.g. removal of gambling sponsors at sporting events, but there is still a way to go.
- Chris spoke about his experience in Hertfordshire where they commissioned Gamcare who have developed a training package to help people with gambling problems. Gamcare has a series of referral pathways in Hertfordshire which has led to 167 people being screened and 27 receiving ongoing support. The service cost £91k and Chris noted that it was worth the amount spent. – the material produced was key to the success of the programme.
- PCC Jeff Cuthbert asked if guidance would be issued on PCCs accessing the money gambling companies pay in fines? It was noted that PCCs will soon be receiving invitations to regional boards where they can learn more about the process of accessing funds these monies and how they can use this money in their local areas.

**Criminal Justice System (CJS) Breakout Room:** Chair: PCC David Lloyd; Speakers: Rachel Radice (RR), Deputy Director for Substance Misuse and Michael Wheatley (MW), Head of Substance Misuse Group Operations

- Rachel Radice (RR) confirmed that 9 Health and Justice Partnership Managers are now in post with 25 coordinators. These roles will be based in the community, will take a key role in strengthening local continuity of care pathways from prison, and will be actively involved in Combatting Drugs Partnerships.
- RR shared that a letter is being drafted from Minister Hines to his counterpart in DHSC on the role of health in diverting people from custody. RR confirmed she will share this letter with PCCs.
- RR informed that the Probation Notification Action Plan has just launched, with a pilot in South Wales, and aims to go live in South East England from July 1<sup>st</sup> and nationwide by March 2024. This aims to deliver a process for prison treatment providers in England and Wales to communicate referrals to probation via a new 'single national gateway'.
- Marcus Roberts updated that over 1000 secure laptops for communication with treatment providers, interventions and recovery building have been procured. 400 are already in place and the other 600 are due to be distributed with the aim of strengthening the link between prisons and community based treatments. This will be available in all prisons in England and Wales.
- PCC Katy Bourne highlighted the work of Video Enabled Policing (VEP) programme which aims to provide officers with technology to give evidence in court remotely. Katy encouraged the MoJ to link in with the Police Digital Service (PDS) to explore how VEP could connect with this work.
- RR committed to meeting with Phil Golding, APCC CEO, to explore the use of PCC convening powers to assist in implementing a holistic approach to offenders with multiple needs.
- PCC Alun Michael noted his interest in the pilot in South Wales as they have got a higher success rate of people continuing to engage with treatment services post prison and advocated for the Welsh model in addressing this (where there is one commissioner for the prison services and community services).

### 3. After Casey: Regaining public trust

- Led by Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe and PCC Festus Akinbusoye, and facilitated by Lord Bishop David Walker, this session covered learning from Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden following the Casey Review of the Met, and a wider discussion on what more PCCs can do with the levers available, recognising that problems identified in Casey will not be isolated to the Met.
- Bishop David Walker highlighted the vital role that policing plays in our communities and the need to regain public trust and involve local communities. He observed that policing is suffering reputationally, due to displaying a lack of empathy, as well as misogyny, racism and homophobia. He underlined the need to work together to put in place a new way of doing policing, improving trust, and involving local people in scrutiny. He regarded the Casey Review as an excellent foundation on which to rebuild this trust and confidence. The Bishop stated that PCCs are in the right place to ask questions and ensure that forces are able to restore trust.
- Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe and PCC Festus Akinbusoye emphasised the need for action to address this issue now, the importance of PCCs talking to the workforce, and the importance of transparency in driving accountability. Festus emphasised the urgent need for policing to address the confidence deficit, particularly in certain communities.
- Deputy Mayor Sophie Linden then explained the background to the MPS and MOPAC in commissioning the Casey Review, following a number of red flags in respect of the culture. Sophie felt that this is a watershed moment for UK policing and that the review holds a mirror up to the MPS through the words of their own police officers and staff.

- Sophie encouraged colleagues to ensure that they know about the operational decisions that forces are making, and to ensure that resources are being invested in line with PCCs and Mayors' priorities. She also stated that PCCs are able to see what is happening 'on the frontline' through their access to victims satisfaction data.
- One of the recommendations in the review is setting up a public London Policing Board to hold the police to account. While the IOPC, HMICFRS and PCCs have the levers to effect change in the MPS, the London Policing Board is a critical means of engaging the community and bringing their voices in.
- Sophie highlighted that the Duty of Candour for organisations and individuals is very important and this comes back to ethics, standards and conduct and the Casey recommendation of holding officers to account against these standards. She underlined that there was a need to improve accountability, through effective community engagement, and stated that there is a need for enforcement systems to be quicker and more streamlined. She also posed a question to colleagues on how they can support Chief Constables to promote ethical standards.

#### Q&A:

- PCC John Champion noted the Casey Report affects all PCCs and confidence in the police everywhere and that scrutiny is an important part of the PCC role and PCCs must not allow their powers to be diminished. He added that the PCC role as the voice of the public needs to be cemented.
- PCC Festus Akinbusoye emphasised the importance of exploring as many avenues as possible to receive information and that PCCs are not spokespeople for the police. Festus also highlighted the role of the Scrutiny Panel adding that in Bedfordshire they have unfettered access to things like Body Worn Video as well as ensuring diversity on the panel.
- Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe highlighted the importance of creating the conditions where other people give you information, data and evidence and having contact with the unions, staff associations, networks, individual officers and staff to test the veracity of the narrative.
- PCC Alan Billings noted that bad news does not tend to travel upwards in command and control organisations and established an independent ethics panel which is important mechanism in terms of finding out what is going on.
- PCC Mark Shelford felt there is internal and external work that PCCs need to do to understand at a grassroots level what is going on and address the concerns of the community.

#### 4. Presentation from Civil Nuclear Police Authority

- PCC Alison Hernandez introduced Susan Johnson, Chief Executive of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority. The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) joined the APCC in 2022.
- Susan thanked colleagues for the opportunity to update the APCC on the CNC and then provided some background to the organisational history, responsibilities, geographical coverage, funding, capabilities, and governance, including its Board which is made up of an independent Chair, 4 independent Board Members and 4 nuclear industry members.
- Susan highlighted that the CNC is subject to inspections by HMICFRS and is an armed force which provides regular support to other forces, attends traffic incidents, and assists officers who need armed support for incidents. Susan also highlighted the work being done on conduct and ethical standards.
- Susan then outlined the Civil Nuclear Police Authority Strategic Plan and its key elements and goals in more detail including synergies with the role of PCCs.
- Alison thanked Susan for her presentation and the contribution of CNC to the policing family. Several PCCs including PCC Mark Shelford, PCC Tim Passmore and PCC Joy Allen mentioned that they looked forward to working together and extended an invitation to Susan to visit their offices if she wished.
- Marc then closed proceedings for Day 1 of the General Meeting.

## APCC General Meeting Minutes: Day 2:

Thursday April 27 2023

### 1. Welcome, introductions, minutes of the last meeting and APCC strategic updates – APCC Chair PCC Marc Jones

- PCC Marc Jones, Chair of the APCC, welcomed colleagues to Day 2 of the General Meeting.
- PCCs approved the minutes of the last APCC General Meeting which was held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and the result of the resolution on membership fees.
- Marc then provided a strategic update on recent work undertaken by the APCC. In particular he highlighted the recent positive first meeting of the APCC Review Group, with further meetings scheduled in May and June, and an ambition to develop recommendations to the membership following this. PCC Jeff Cuthbert who sits on this Review Group agreed that the spirit of the meeting was positive and constructive.
- Marc also updated colleagues on the very positive news that the Home Office had confirmed they would be providing the APCC with a £1m grant for this financial year. He added that the Home Secretary is very supportive of PCCs and that the list of grant deliverables has been developed by the APCC and PCCs not the Home Office. It is important that we now deliver against the areas identified.
- Marc also highlighted the good news that the Police Uplift Programme target has now been reached; that an ASB Action Plan is now in place; and the development of the national Fraud Strategy.
- Marc mentioned the potential of one pagers of PCC work that could be shared with MPs, with further information to follow.

### 2. Corporate Updates: BlueLight Commercial

- PCC Matthew Scott, Chair of BlueLight Commercial (BLC), provided the APCC with an update on recent work of BLC. Matthew noted that BLC was celebrating its third anniversary since its establishment and it had many notable success stories it could point to, including the delivery of savings. The targets for 2022/23 had been well exceeded – £28.7m cashable savings (which were likely to be higher once final returns were in) against a target of £24m and efficiency savings of £22.3m were forecast against a target of £12.7m - and these included combined savings delivered by BLC of £16.9m. The intention is to share the breakdown by force area with PCCs and Chiefs. The targets of £24m cashable savings and £12.6m efficiency savings for 2023/24 would require a significant focus, given inflationary impacts this year and next, to mitigate contract cost increases and ensure more efficient ways of working in order to form a single voice for policing to suppliers.
- BLC had been successful in getting further funding from the Home Office for 2023/24 and they were seeking the support of BLC in key areas like forensics where some additional funding had been provided. But there would need to be further discussions on future funding and how best to ensure that BLC was sustainable.
- BLC are continuing to lead the commercial case against BMW concerning issues with its N57 engine and a robust governance structure had been put in place to ensure that all decision making was collaborative and transparent. Counsel had now been engaged and all forces had been contacted to provide contractual information in order to support the case. Matthew advised that a minority of force lawyers had been less than supportive but BLC would go forward with the majority and felt they had a substantive claim.
- BLC had been working closely with PDS to develop a national commercial pillar for ICT. With £925m being spent on ICT there was confidence that savings could be made. One of the nationally focussed ICT projects BLC had been leading on from a commercial perspective was a Victim & Citizen Engagement Solution and ensuring there was an overview of the 3 different interim specifications of Salesforce products currently being piloted in Humberside, Thames Valley Police and Merseyside to ensure a coordinated approach when it came to a national roll out. BLC was also working with the NPCC on a HOLMES discovery phase ahead of a commercial review of how it should be taken forward.
- Responsibility for Forensics commercial activities had now fully transferred from the Forensics Capability Network (FCN) to BLC. A Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed setting out future roles and responsibilities.
- There was a robust programme of work with Fire, including joint projects, with a dedicated resource so as not to distract from all the other work BLC were delivering for policing.
- Operation Safeguard, the national contingency plan for custody support to HMPPS, had been instigated for the first time since 2007. The Revenue Team had delivered workshops to the Finance SPOCs for all forces and were managing the ongoing cost recovery process from HMPSS to reimburse forces. BLC had added value by improving the costing methodology and with all 400 cells activated, £2m of cashable revenue per week would be recovered for policing.
- In terms of Physical Forensics, BLC had been working closely with the marketplace as a result of critical financial issues experienced by one of the major providers. The work had included detailed cashflow analysis and forecasting. It has been established that one of the key causation factors was the differing procurement routes and associated payment sequencing from policing. There was significant aged debt owed from a number of differing forces, this and the requirement to pay a large VAT bill and staff salaries had caused a critical cashflow pressure point. The immediate issues had been remedied in the short term with improved payment terms, temporary suspension of service credits



and management of payment sequencing. In the longer term BLC would be undertaking a full review of the marketplace to establish capacity, which would include a review of insourcing and outsourcing options.

- Matthew concluded that the Company was in a strong position with lots of good results delivered. He would be seeing the Policing Minister in a couple of weeks to discuss ongoing funding so they could agree a sustainable funding plan.
- PCC Katy Bourne placed on record her thanks to Matthew for chairing the BLC Board and for his excellent leadership. She underlined the critical importance of the work of BLC in that, whilst much of which was not that visible, policing would suffer without it – the recent work on physical forensics was just one example. Sustainable funding was required and while there would be pressure put on the Home Office to continue their support it also needed recognising by PCCs and they needed to highlight the excellent work the Company was undertaking.
- PCC Dave Sidwick agreed that BLC had done some good work – including more recently on forensics. He asked whether it would be possible to have the force level breakdown of savings on a regular basis so that he could highlight the importance of BLC with his police and crime panel and others. It could help show whether they were making the most of BLC when holding Chiefs to account. Lianne Deeming confirmed that the plan was to issue the benefits statements in the next few weeks and thereafter to issue them on a quarterly basis.
- PCC Alun Michael reminded attendees that the two companies BLC and PDS were important and had both been ideas originating from Government which PCCs had needed to make happen. They had a lot to be proud of.
- Marc Jones agreed that a sustainable funding model for BLC was essential. Given the savings it was making, it made sense to be open to helping fund the Company.

### 3. A Fleet for the Future

- PCCs Tim Passmore and Joy Allen introduced this item noting the 2030 government targets and how much needed to be done in preparation for that to meet the net zero ambition. They introduced Lianne Deeming who was leading the work on sustainability both as the CEO of BLC and through work with the NPCC, the APCC and the Home Office.
- Lianne explained that she would be highlighting just a few elements from the slide pack (attached in Annex A) and once PCCs had looked at the detail they should get back to her with any comments or questions.
- The scale of the challenge to meet the government targets was enormous. Set against the targets, there were 32,000 vehicles across the 43 forces and these represented a third of all scope 1 and 2 emissions. Only 1.7% of the police fleet was electric (and within that some forces were quite high and others very low) and only 23% of forces had an approved transition plan.
- Manufacturers were setting targets for the production of electric vehicles and had indicated that by 2028 they would cease production of Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles with some indicating no petrol/ diesel vehicle renewal from 2025. This would have implications, including ending up with single source suppliers which would place us in a vulnerable position. BLC were currently developing a Fleet and Transport Strategy which will review the options available for decarbonisation of the Fleet and in the meantime would run a series of contracts over the next few years to allow for more flexibility.
- BLC had hosted a fleet decarbonisation workshop with forces which had looked at the different types of force area and the challenges they faced and what the plan for the future should be. It established that forces found it challenging to understand what was needed and how to start the journey, how to access funding to make the changes, how to address the cultural change needed and how to get buy-in from their leadership. The plan was to develop a national toolkit to provide practical support.
- Lianne commented that what was needed was national coordination and local delivery. She stressed that it would be important for infrastructure to go across borders so it needed to be considered holistically. Other issues to consider were how to measure progress and how other technologies were used – for example drones.
- On funding we needed to look at the finance rules including the Return on Investment and whether we could use the cost of carbon. And a more strategic approach was needed on funding – with a 10 year plan not an annual funding approach. This should be considered as part of the SR discussions.
- The Police were often not very successful in getting grant funding – often because there were very short application windows which meant that there was a need for ‘oven ready’ projects which were ready to go. Policing needed to be in local authority groups so that they could better capture the funding available. The current figures showed Police and Fire getting a very small proportion when compared with Local Authorities and the NHS.
- PCCs need to keep this on the agenda of operational colleagues, we are only two procurement cycles away from key deadlines and there was a lot to do to prepare for them. A plan needed to be put in place in the next 6-8 months.
- In summary Lianne said that PCC’s need to consider how they:
  - address the key challenges and key barriers to change

- develop investment plans for a minimum of 10 years which allow for standardisation and borderless access beyond their estate
- develop Police and Crime plans which support this delivery and ensure that this topic is on the agenda.
- PCC Tim Passmore noted the need to be pragmatic and find practical solutions that worked. He had doubts that the Government targets would be able to stand as they were. He saw funding as key and the need for a national approach.
- PCC John Campion highlighted the need for new infrastructure that could be delivered in good time. He thought that vehicle manufacturers would get there but there needed to be the infrastructure to support the new vehicles. Lianne agreed and advised that there would be another workshop, this time on estates, to be run next month which was likely to highlight similar issues. There needed to be some national direction on how this would be delivered.
- PCC Philip Seccombe commented that PCCs were in a good position to talk to partners about sharing infrastructure such as charging points but there was a need to get on with it.
- PFCC Stephen Mold was grateful for the work BLC had carried out and said that he had raised some of these concerns with the Home Secretary but felt that this was not on her radar at all. He noted that there would be a need to double the size of the fleet so that you always had one set of vehicles charging. The financial implications were frightening and help from the Government would be needed.
- PCC Dave Sidwick was concerned that in our haste to hurtle towards decarbonisation we could miss the operational issues including the need for pursuit cars that could catch criminals using older petrol vehicles. Lianne said that this had come up in discussion with the Chiefs and we needed to achieve operational requirements alongside decarbonisation – much more discussion was required.
- PCC Katy Bourne asked when HMICFRS would be starting inspections on this as PCCs would need to be talking to Chiefs about transition plans. Lianne was not sure but would be speaking to them on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Katy also pointed out that without BLC this work would not be happening and it was yet another example of the great work they were doing behind the scenes. She would raise it with the Policing Minister when she saw him.
- Marc Jones added that there was a need to have further sessions on this critical issue.
- Action:** APCC to liaise with BLC on a further discussion.
- Lianne was happy to be contacted if PCCs had further questions at [Lianne.Deeming@bluelight.police.uk](mailto:Lianne.Deeming@bluelight.police.uk).

#### 4. Keynote Speaker: Rt Hon Edward Argar MP, Minister of State for Justice

- PCC Donna Jones welcomed the Minister to the General Meeting. The Minister welcomed the engagement he had already had with the APCC Victims' Leads, and thanked all PCCs for their role in improving the CJS and improving victims' experiences. He said the role of PCCs has substantially increased, as had public confidence in the role.
- The Minister then highlighted challenges surrounding this area of work but emphasised the opportunities. PCCs have a critical role in partnership working and in collaboration with key groups like the NHSE, LAs and community groups.
- The Minister set out the government's achievements:
  - Recruiting against police uplift targets.
  - Giving courts the power to lock offenders up for longer, ending automatic release at the halfway marks and allowing whole life orders.
  - Publication of the CJS Dashboards, highlighting high performance and demonstrating where performance varies and we can drive change.
  - Committing £150m in the budget to building change for victims.
- The Minister set out the further measures planned in the Victims and Prisoners Bill which will go further to support and ensure victims feel they have been treated fairly which include:
  - Placing the victims code in statute, with the requirement on CJS bodies to report against it. PCCs will have a critical role in convening the forums where such data will be discussed.
  - Placing a duty to collaborate on support services, recognising that this is already happening across many areas but ensuring consistency and giving PCCs a greater strength in their convening powers.
  - On the 'Prisoners' section, enshrining public protection in the decision making of the parole board, giving the public greater confidence.
  - The bill has resource implications but he was clear that the MoJ will commit more resource to PCCs where burden is increased to fulfil responsibilities. They will provide those funds and will not expect PCCs to do that from their budgets.
- The Minister finished by offering further engagement and visits to PCCs should they wish to invite him.
- Q&A:**
  - PFCC Roger Hirst welcomed multi-year funding but noted the direction from central government to award direct grants, reducing local discretion. He suggested further join up on conversations on funding with APCC Finance Leads. The Minister noted funding flexibility is really importance and the core funding is flexible. There is ringfencing which has a reason but we must strike an appropriate balance. The Minister was aware of the delays to funding this year and noted the new Secretary of State (SoS) will want to look over the funding before any agreements are made. He agreed to further engagement on finance and funding through himself and officials, and with APCC Victims and Finance Leads.

- PCC Mark Shelford reminded the Minister that each PCC is the local Victims Commissioner. He raised the concern that victims of cyber fraud are often considered only victims of financial and not emotional impact. He asked the Minister to support his work on creating a manslaughter charge for when a victim commits suicide as a result of cyber fraud. The Minister highlighted a recent visit to Avon and Somerset to see the work on Operation Soteria. He asked Mark to write to him setting out further details of the work on cyber fraud and he would then take advice.
- PCC Emily Spurrell noted the murder of Olivia Pratt-Korbel and the incident of the offender refusing to attend sentencing and asked whether the Minister will be undertaking work on this area. The Minister replied offenders should face justice and come to court for sentencing. Dominic Raab was looking into giving judges power to compel offenders to attend. The new SoS has been briefed but the Minister was yet to discuss it with him. It may not be in scope for the Victims and Prisoners Bill but the Minister agreed to return with an answer.
- PCC Festus Akinbusoye asked whether anything can be done to improve communication by the CPS to better explain the 'what and why' of its decisions with the public. The Minister agreed to write with further details but briefly noted that he was looking into this with the Solicitor General as currently in the legal system victims are not party to the case (i.e. it is the crown vs the accused). However, they are looking at ways to create a link with victims.
- PCC Philip Secombe noted the tendency to do grant funding with match awards which can make it very difficult for small areas to apply.
- The Minister agreed and noted these challenges and agreed to take it away as something to bear in mind.  
**Action:** The APCC will liaise with the Minister's office to progress follow-up to the questions raised.

## 5. APCC Portfolio Updates: CJS and Workforce

- PCC David Lloyd, APCC CJS Portfolio Lead, reported that delivering against the PCC Review recommendations has been a focus for the portfolio and good progress has been made. Over half of PCCs have signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing from the Probation service. The insight this will offer on local reoffending rates and which interventions work is of great value. OPCC staff have also been offered workshops to help them interrogate the data and these will continue as more areas sign up.
  - Guidance has been published setting out how PCCs can be better involved in how community payback is undertaken in force areas. Guidance is also due to be published next month, again arising from the PCC Review, capturing notable practice from OPCC teams who have already co-commissioned services with probation.
  - Colleagues have also been part of the work developing the updated LCJB guidance which builds on what PCCs already do as system leaders at our local boards, reinforcing that role with partner agencies. Later this year will also see the delivery of Home Office and APCC guidance to improve data access with partners, such as health, that offer a different insight into how those impacted by criminal behaviour could be supported.
  - David and PCC Emily Spurrell also continue to represent the APCC at various CJS focused Ministerial meetings. Of note have been Minister Freers' CJS task and finish group and Minister Philp's Policing Round table. Looking forward, CJS portfolio quarterly meetings will continue to draw speakers from the range of partners we engage with. The APCC and HMPPS are also currently asking colleagues for views on the current operation of integrated offender management.
- Workforce update:**
- PCC Peter McCall, APCC Workforce Portfolio lead, updated colleagues on developments and challenges in the workforce arena, particularly in relation to pay. PSC unions have claimed 17.8% for 2023/24 and we are not entering into negotiation until we have the police officer pay award, which is normally in July, and at that point PCCs and CCs will be consulted. The intervening months will be used to look at the other elements of the claim. There is a massive difference between the claim and what has been budgeted for.
  - PFCC Stephen Mold and PCC Peter McCall gave evidence to the PRRB. They deliberately did not recommend a figure but when pressed said that personally anything less than the firefighters award would be poorly received but that anything above 2% would need to be funded centrally.
  - The PRRB is expected to report on both police officer pay and the reform of chief constable remuneration in July.



## 6. Mark Hallas, Chief Executive of Crimestoppers

- Mark Hallas, Chief Executive of Crimestoppers, provided an overview of what the charity does, how it operates, and the impact that Crimestoppers has on the tackling and prevention of crime through a process of anonymous reporting.
- Mark highlighted previous work with PCCs, and called for continued and increased collaboration with PCCs, as well as the APCC. Half of all reports to the anonymous line relate to drug crimes, such as manufacturing or dealing. These reports are sent on to other organisations with 80% going to policing and the other 20% going to other organisations such as HMPPS, HMRC, Immigration Enforcement and Environment Agencies.
- Crimestoppers have also run a number of national, regional and local campaigns including recent ones on modern slavery and domestic abuse, which have been specifically branded to distinguish them from police campaigns. PCCs asked for plans for future campaigns to be shared with them so they can promote them.
- PCCs asked for more information on how they can get involved with project Fearless which looks to engage with 11-17 year olds to provide information on crime. The focus is on cohorts with useful intelligence but who do not feel comfortable engaging with the police, which echoes with 30% of callers who when asked "Why did you speak to Crimestoppers today" responded that it was because they did not feel comfortable talking to the police.
- Specific impact evidence for 2022/23 includes:
  - 572,480 anonymous calls
  - 196,261 reports
  - 126,786 actions
  - 29,112 solved or prevented crimes
- Mark informed the APCC that Crimestoppers currently run the internal professional standards lines for 26 police forces and have recently launched the external MPS Anti-Corruption Line. This is currently averaging 10 contacts a day and leading to 4 reports to MPS professional standards a day. They are currently working with the NPCC to establish a national public line for all forces.
- Mark invited PCCs to visit the Crimestoppers contact centre.

### Q&A:

- PCC Katy Bourne asked Mark about the number of callers coming to Crimestoppers after failing to get through to 101. Mark informed that they do not ask for, or record, this information routinely but that a survey with a sample size of 1000 callers nationwide would be coming soon and this question can be included. Mark stated anecdotally that callers mentioned switching from 101 25%-30% of the time.
- APCC Chief Executive Phil Golding highlighted the APCC and PCC's ability to increase outreach for campaigns such as Fearless, pointing out the opportunity to provide a wider reach for Crimestoppers. Mark welcomed this.
- PCC Alun Michael pointed out that 80% of 101 calls are not relevant and wondered if it is a similar situation at Crimestoppers. Mark confirmed that the situation is similar for Crimestoppers, with 33% of calls being relevant.

## 7. CSP Review & Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

- PCC Jeff Cuthbert and PCC Steve Turner opened the ASB and Community Safety Partnership session. ASB has gained a high level of interest from the Government following the launch of the ASB Action Plan.
- Jeff reminded PCCs on the importance of responding to the CSP Review, the deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> May and he requested PCCs to share their responses with the APCC by contacting Will Pryce before 17<sup>th</sup> May to form a collected response. Jeff also thanked the work the APCC has done in supporting the portfolio and bringing PCCs up to speed and involved on the CSP Review and national ASB policy.

### Nick Kershaw, Deputy Director from the Department for Levelling Up

- Nick Kershaw reported that the ASB Action Plan was published on 27<sup>th</sup> March, one month ago. The document is a long-term plan to tackle ASB with supporting infrastructure, new powers and accountability as part of a wider package. ASB is seen as a main reason communities have deteriorated, and is linked to the wider Government Levelling Up Agenda.
- Improvement of data is vital to moving this piece of work. The ASB Action Plan is backed by funding, with over £160m worth of new funding as part of the plan. The ASB Action Plan covers five pillars:
  - Tougher punishment – through immediate justice pilots and perpetrators undertaking proactive work to restore wrongdoing. Government will be changing the law on nitrous oxide and strengthening the powers of eviction. The Home Office are also exploring enhancing current powers and tools and are consulting on existing tools and powers through the ASB Consultation.
  - Making Communities Feel Safer – through extra hotspot policing. 10 pilot forces will initiate trailblazing pilots for hotspot and visible authority policing before a wider rollout across all force areas in 2023/24.
  - Regenerating high streets and green spaces – including powers to regain control of disused land and funding for regenerating parks and public spaces.
  - Focus on prevention – with funding available for additional youth services. Over one million additional hours of youth activity has been delivered which was initially targeted in hotspot areas before wider rollout.

- Improving the user experience of reporting ASB with an enhanced ASB reporting system – this will involve speaking to all police areas to understand how their reporting systems join up currently. Increasing transparency of ASB outcomes and reporting, hoping to lead to greater accountability.

**Paul Regan, Head of Unit, Home Office Neighbourhood Policing**

- Paul Regan, Head of Unit at the Home Office Neighbourhood Policing Unit, gave an overview on the areas of the ASB Action Plan that are of particular interest to PCCs and Policing.
- Immediate justice is of considerable government importance. These pilots are intended to give immediate reparative amends in communities. New funding for 10 PCCs for the 2023/24 financial year has put in place new arrangements commissioning third party suppliers and other means.
- The Immediate Justice programme will be rolled out to all force areas in 2024/25.
- Hotspot policing will be allocated to 10 trailblazer pilot areas ahead of a national rollout to all police forces except the City of London in 2024/25. The selection process was based on the metrics on prevalence of ASB within the force area and ensured one force area in each region of England and Wales. The hotspots do not need to be policing officer patrols, and could include other measures such as community wardens and other visible authority. The fund is under the discretion of the PCC and involves targeting the right places at the right time with the relevant authority figures, whether this is policing, community wardens or other means. The fund is designed to be as prescriptive as possible for PCCs to target areas of high ASB activity. The pilot activity should not be used in areas currently receiving GRIP funding.
- PCCs will have basic data collection requirements, which are not intended to impose additional rules and burdens. The aim is to achieve the greatest reduction of ASB. There is a consultation on ASB tools and powers, as part of the Community Safety Partnership Review Part One – the deadline for responses is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.
- The CSP Review Part One is consulting on new requirements for the CSP to report into the PCC on ASB activities and powers, as well as accountability on the strategic assessment.
- The Home Office have revised the 2014 ASB Act statutory guidance, which included rebranding of the ASB Case Review, formerly known as the ASB Community Trigger.

**Q&A:**

- PCC Marc Jones raised that in the CSP Review Part One, under the ASB Consultation there are specific questions around reducing the Community Protection Notice from the age of 16 to as low as 10. He asked for clarity on what impact this may have. Marc Jones also reminded PCCs to respond to the CSP Review as this is an area of reform the APCC and PCCs have been requesting for a number of years.  
Paul Regan advised this is a significant question and encouraged PCCs to consider it carefully.
- PCC Simon Foster questioned whether the £1m funding would be an effective resource and whether it was adequate to allocate funding evenly across forces and asked will this be reviewed in the future.  
Paul Regan answered it is right for this year for the pilots to be allocated equally between all pilot areas. Ministers will need to take the outcomes of the pilots before progressing or reviewing funding allocation in the future.
- PCC Alun Michael PCC made a request for liaison between UK Government and Welsh Government and encouraged direct engagement with the 4 PCCs in Wales also.  
Paul Regan replied there are areas of work that are clearly in the devolved space, and some are in reserved space. Policing and crime is a reserved matter. There is recognition that other aspects of the ASB Action Plan come into the devolved space, and assured colleagues there is engagement between the Welsh Government and the Home Office.  
**Action:** APCC/Welsh PCCs to arrange a meeting with Home Office to discuss specific issues PCCs in Wales wanted to raise on the ASB Action Plan and CSP Review for extended discussion.
- PCC Katy Bourne requested clarity for when PCCs will receive funding for the ASB Pilots.  
Paul Regan answered this will be clarified as quickly as possible. There will need to be two separate grant agreements in place for immediate justice and hotspot policing pilots. There is a firm commitment from the Prime Minister on funding, but if PCCs want to get their pilots up and running sooner then they will do this at their own risk. Pilots are intended to be up and running by July 2023.
- Jeff Cuthbert and Steve Turner closed the session and thanked participants.

## 8. Corporate Updates: PDS; NPAS; Finance

### PDS update:

- PFCC Stephen Mold, Chair of the Police Digital Service Board, updated PCCs on PDS activities since the last General Meeting. He noted that Delivery Landscape Reform has now become a formal Programme in the Home Office, supported by the APCC, PDS and other key stakeholders. Bethan Page-Jones from the Home Office joined PCCs at the last GM in January to set out the work of DLRS and the proposal to transfer live national police IT services from the Home Office to Policing over time – with future delivery of these services being carried out primarily by the Police Digital Service. The benefits will include bringing services closer to the front line, providing policing with greater decision rights, and driving efficiencies in the cost of running the systems. He noted that the PDS had already taken on an increasing amount of delivery responsibility and was building-up its capacity and capability.
- The proposals for DLRS were agreed at the Strategic Change and Investment Board on 13<sup>th</sup> March chaired by the Policing Minister. A programme to give effect to the Strategy is now being put in place. A Delivery Landscape Reform Programme Board is being set up which will include four PCCs. It is expected to meet for the first time in July and will be supported by Gold and Silver Groups of operational managers, officials and senior stakeholders.
- The transfer of services will be expected to go through an iterative 'stage-gate' process with a focus on due diligence and where policing hold decision rights at each stage. Further information will be provided at the July AGM when there will be a better feel for both process and timescales and how the governance is expected to work.
- For the Police Digital Service, he noted that their Finance Team are in the process of closing the accounts for financial year 2022-23 and anticipate closing in line with management expectations. The accounts will be subject to external audit. Year one of the new PDS Internal Audit function is almost complete – audits into People and Culture, Risk Management, and Key Financial Systems have been completed and the management team have action plans in place to deal with the recommendations. The final year one audit into Cyber Security is still underway, but PDS expect to have the report on that by the time the Board meets towards the end of May (23<sup>rd</sup> May).
- All reports so far received indicate a company that is still young, but maturing quickly, with some growth and development still to come but in overall good shape.
- The two Board sub-Committees – Audit and Risk and Nominations and Remuneration – are working closely with the auditors and management team to monitor performance against the various recommendations and he was pleased to report good progress in all areas. PCCs' attention was drawn to how quickly and confidently PDS is engaging with the process and using it to help shape the company. The audit reports and management action plans can be shared with members if that was something the meeting would welcome. He concluded by noting that year two audits, which start in May, will look at Procurement, Expenses, GDPR, Corporate Governance and then Long-term Financial Model.

### NPAS update:

- Transition Programme Board Chair PFCC Ben Adams reminded the APCC that the programme is about transformation as well as transition and the focus is on maintaining a core service in a safe, reliable, cost-effective way. The target for transformation remains June 2024.
- Additional funding for staff to work on the programme was approved at the NPAS National Strategic Board. One of the proposals for a new host force has now been excluded so the focus is now on the two options for an existing public organisation or a new organisation. This is not a no cost option.
- Nick Adderley is the new aviation lead for NPCC and will be leading on the operational business case. There is some detailed work to do over the next few months particularly in reference to drones.
- For transformation we must be in a position where everyone can take advantage going forward and PCCs may all have to take a decision on a revised Section 22.

### Finance update:

- APCC Finance Lead PFCC Roger Hirst provided a finance update noting that pay is the biggest single moving part in terms of finance. A 2% pay increase was the assumption in the CSR submission and anything above will require an in-year conversation with government. It is known from the CSR that next year we will have a £150m increase in the baseline but this will not cover pay increases.
- Conversation about the PUP grant agreement which is measured 30 September and 31 March. Roger reminded colleagues that if this is missed by more than 1%, they will be docked their entire share of grant agreement moneys.
- Most of the work is now done on the Police Funding Formula Review and we are looking for clarification as to when Phase 1 of the consultation will begin. Finance Leads were reassured that a schedule in the Number 10 grid is being looked for and are optimistic the new Funding Formula will be in place next year.
- On the PUP offer of payment for additional officers, Roger clarified that it was £45k paid in two tranches – £15k and then £30k and clarified that the payment was a one off.
- Roger also referenced the finance survey which is taking place and confirmed that although it is being done by the force, PCC 151 officers have been sent all the details.

## 9. AOB and close

- PCC Tim Passmore informed colleagues that work is progressing on charging for policing football matches.
- Marc Jones thanked colleagues, external speakers and the APCC team for a successful General Meeting.