



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

AN INTRODUCTION FOR CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Phillip Golding - Chief Executive, APCC



Thank you for your interest in working with elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales.

We recognise the vast overlap and areas of shared interest that exist between PCCs and charitable foundations, including responding to challenges through funding, making informed evidence-based decisions and engaging with communities to deliver change.

I am therefore delighted to introduce this introductory guide which has been developed by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), with the support of the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) and the helpful input from the Home Office, to encourage collaboration between PCCs and charitable foundations.

Within the following pages of this introductory guide you will find:

- Valuable information on what Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) do and how to contact them;
- Helpful case studies and ideas on how PCCs and charitable foundations can effectively work together across a range of areas; and
- A practical checklist for charitable foundations to consider when engaging with PCCs (see **Annex A**).

We hope you find this guide helpful and that it strengthens ties between PCCs and charitable foundations long into the future.

PCC(S) & CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS IN ACTION

Since their introduction in 2012, PCCs have worked closely with charitable foundations on a range of areas, including crime prevention, criminal justice partnerships, helping shape and inform local strategies and many more impactful projects.

In the sections below, you will find helpful information explaining some of the key areas where PCCs and charitable foundations can work together, these include:

- Coordinating funds
- Partnership-working & co-investing
- Sharing insights and intelligence



BACKGROUND INFORMATION - THE ROLE OF A PCC

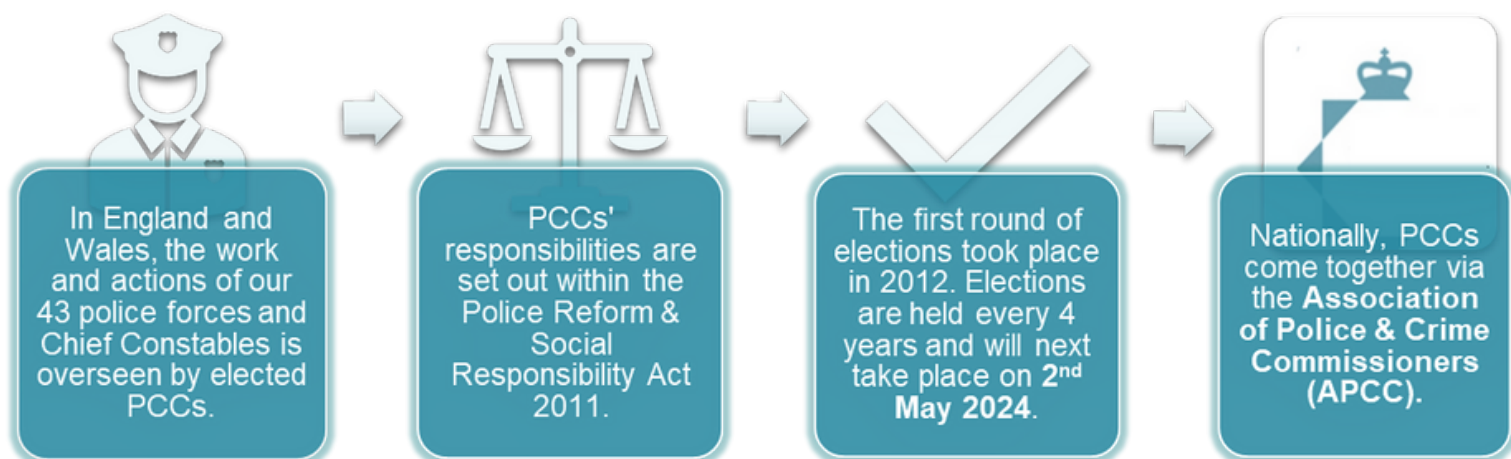
There are 43 local policing areas across England and Wales; each has an elected representative, usually a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), but other governance models exist (see **Annex B**).

Elected every 4 years, the role of a PCC is to be the **voice of the people** and to **hold the police to account**.

To fulfil these responsibilities, PCCs have a range of powers and responsibilities, including:

- Publishing a Police and Crime Plan that captures local police and crime priorities;
- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for delivering a safe and effective police force;
- Setting the police budget and making funding decisions, including commissioning victims' services;
- Bringing together and working in partnership with a range of agencies, such as those from criminal justice, community safety and voluntary sectors, including **charitable foundations**, to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

Annex B provides further details on PCC responsibilities and the different models of governance.



PCC KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Understanding the PCC role and responsibilities will help to determine **how** and on **what basis** partnership working can mature and lead to positive outcomes for local communities.



CASE STUDIES

COORDINATING FUNDS

Coordination of funding between PCCs and charitable foundations provides a valuable opportunity for both parties to improve their awareness and understanding of interventions and services they each fund and also reduces risk of duplication.

This is essential for ensuring the most effective use of available funds.

For PCCs, who are responsible for numerous funding streams and budgets, approaches from charitable foundations to help inform funding decisions are often welcomed. Approaches may offer to:

- Provide details of successful programmes currently funded within their areas.
- Highlight opportunities to complement existing PCC funded projects, or alternatively target funding to areas where PCCs cannot reach due to funding criteria restrictions etc.
- Deliver funding processes on behalf of the PCC.

Examples of PCC funding where charitable foundations may be able to offer advice or support include:

Home Office Grant and funds raised via council tax

Annually, PCCs receive a single funding grant from the Home Office for policing and community safety - this is complimented with additional income raised via council tax.

PCCs use this funding to support the effective delivery of the police service, to commission services, to pay for their office, and to make grant awards. Grant awards include small to medium amounts that PCCs allocate often via expressions of interest or competitive processes to local partners. As a result of receiving this funding, local partners will deliver activities to support the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. In some areas, PCCs delegate administration of their small to medium funding grants to charitable foundations who use their expertise, local knowledge and communication networks to maximise the value and impact of these funds.

Proceeds of Crime Act (2002)

PCCs can access funds seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. Many PCCs look to reinvest this funding into local communities and organisations, again via a competitive funding processes linked to their Police and Crime Plan priorities e.g., crime prevention and youth diversion schemes.

Ministry of Justice Victims' Services Grant

This funding is granted annually to PCCs and is ring-fenced for the commissioning of victims' support services only. To commission these services, PCCs will hold competitive processes whereby organisations, **including charities**, must satisfy nationally set criteria to access funding to deliver services that enable people to cope and build resilience following traumatic experiences. Those successful in securing funding are required to provide evidence of outcomes and progress.

Other Government Funds

PCCs receive or can apply for funds from various government departments in response to a range of issues including, prevention (e.g., Home Office Safer Streets Fund), serious violence, or to deliver measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. These funds vary in amount and longevity (e.g., some have been delivered over 18 months, while others have run for 12 months as 'seed' funding). PCCs often partner with local organisations, **including those from the third sector**, to help deliver the expectations and intentions of these funds.

Charitable foundations can have a key role in complementing PCC funding as they have the flexibility to deliver activities that fall outside the nationally set criteria.

For example, the Ministry of Justice funding delivered to PCCs is ring-fenced for victims of crime, and does not include ASB, meaning that charitable foundations have the opportunity to deliver complementary services in this area. Additionally, where a PCC has secured funding from the government, charitable foundations may be able to offer match-funding to help upscale projects across the PCC area.



DEVON & CORNWALL PCC

Devon Community Foundation actively promotes funding made available by the PCC for Devon and Cornwall, helping to spread awareness and encourage applications. The Foundation also publishes reports on its website to raise awareness of how PCC grants support local communities. For more details, please see [here](#).



MERSEYSIDE PCC

The Community Foundation for Merseyside regularly promotes PCC funding. For example, they have provided a detailed outline on their website of the application process for the PCC's Youth Diversion Fund, which uses money raised through the Police Property Act to support community projects. This awareness raising is valued by PCCs, as it helps to ensure that accurate information on funding is shared effectively with key groups, including local charities, community groups and social enterprises. This saves the PCC time and resource in promoting the fund and responding to queries. Further details are available [here](#).

The Foundation also plays an important role in completing all necessary due diligence thanks to their knowledge of the sector, which enables the PCC to find and reach charities in their community, including lesser-known charities operating at a grassroots level.

PARTNERSHIP-WORKING & CO-INVESTING

Working with PCCs in more formal partnerships provides charitable foundations with the invaluable opportunity of building strong relationships with key stakeholders and joining forces with partners to pool funding and resources to tackle complex issues.

This is particularly the case since PCCs hold significant responsibilities around partnership work, including:

- Bringing community safety partners from police, fire, health and local authorities together e.g., Community Safety Partnerships.
- The majority of PCCs chair their local criminal justice boards which include police, prison, courts, probation and third sector representatives.
- Under the Serious Violence Duty, PCCs have a key role in supporting delivery as a lead convener for local partners – e.g., justice, education and health agencies, **including charities**.
- Local Combating Drugs Partnerships (England) and Area Planning Boards (Wales) also reflect the key role PCCs play in encouraging partners to work together to tackle behaviours driving criminal activity.



NORTHUMBRIA
PCC

The National Lottery Community Fund has provided over £300,000 to support Northumbria PCC's Violence Reduction Unit and the SARA project, which aims to co-locate statutory services and the voluntary and community sector within a Community Hub. In establishing a Community Hub, the project provides a central, effective multi-agency resource in a recognisable, well-used and long-established building within the community. It also facilitates integration of delivery of services to gain more local knowledge and insight of the community.

According to Northumbria's PCC, levels of crime in Southwick have already decreased by 37%. The long-term success of this project is reliant on existing services, the VCS and residents coming together, for a joined-up, effective approach to supporting residents.

By working together as partners, both PCCs and charitable foundations can harness the expertise and resources of all those involved.



PCCs acknowledge the importance of adopting a system-wide approach, taking into consideration the impact of health inequalities on criminal behaviour, for example. Partnership-working and co-investing is critical for achieving this approach and charitable foundations can play an important role in the provision of holistic solutions.

PCCs can utilise the valuable experience and knowledge within the voluntary sector, while charitable foundations can make use of the intelligence and resources provided by PCCs and their Offices (OPCCs).



WEST MERCIA PCC

West Mercia PCC has partnered with the Worcestershire Community Foundation to better support grassroots projects in West Mercia that have been underserved. The PCC provided 50% of match-funding to support the project, which aimed to put in place initiatives to help local communities become more connected and resilient, avoiding crime and disorder, and delivering long-term impact. Please see [here](#) for further details.



STAFFORDSHIRE PFCC

The PFCC for Staffordshire closely works with the Community Foundation for Staffordshire. The Foundation has provided invaluable support in promoting the Commissioner's Community Grant schemes, working with community groups and voluntary sector organisations, helping them to establish themselves and ensure they are able to apply for grants. The Foundation has processed applications and paid out funds on behalf of the PCC's Office, operating to a detailed Service Level Agreement.



ESSEX
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ESSEX
PFCC

A helpful example of effective partnership-working between PCCs and the third sector is the establishment of a partnership between Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) and Essex Community Foundation to help charities respond to the impact of Covid_19. This saw the development of the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme, which received £150,000 of funding from the PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund.

This delivered practical help for vulnerable people, such as essential access to transport to attend hospital appointments and vital food parcel delivery. The partnership was shown to go a long way in delivering financial support, relieving pressure on public services and helping co-ordinate a local community response. For further details, please see [here](#).



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PCC

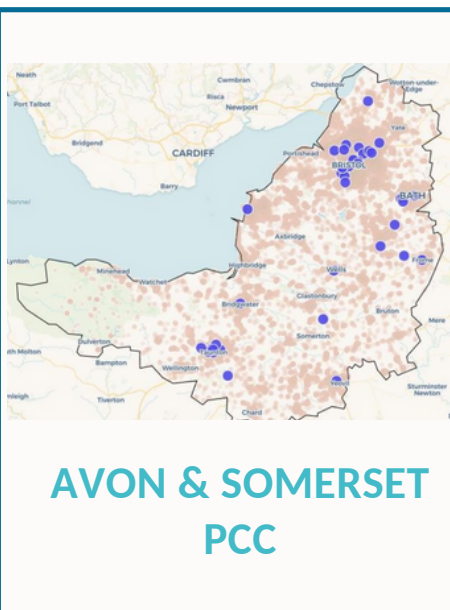
The Gloucestershire Funders Group is also a positive example of collaboration between the PCC for Gloucestershire and eight charitable foundations and third sector organisations, which provided funding for charities, people and activities during the Covid_19 pandemic. This group sought to help facilitate the application process for funding and grants by removing the need for organisations to make numerous separate applications.

SHARING INSIGHTS AND INTELLIGENCE

Engaging with PCCs provides charitable foundations with an opportunity to share information from their own work and gain invaluable insights.

This can take the form of providing advice and briefings, helping PCCs to respond to government consultations or calls for evidence, and bringing local concerns to the PCCs' attention.

In some cases, charitable foundations provide funding to local charities who undertake their own engagement and stakeholder outreach. Grant-funded charities often have strong local connections, knowledge of services and learnings from evaluations, which can inform wider approaches. Foundations can play an important role in facilitating connections between grant-holders and other key stakeholders, including PCCs.



The PCC for Avon and Somerset has a strong partnership with Somerset Community Foundation and the Quartet Foundation. In 2022-2023, both charitable foundations provided support and intelligence on levels of crime to help inform the PCC on grantee locations.

This resulted in the funding of over 40 charity-led projects across the region, which included early intervention and educational activities, awareness raising and outreach work, all aimed at reducing crime and providing support to those who need it most.



The local knowledge and expertise of charitable foundations, and the wider sector, can be used to shape strategic thinking. An example of how local intelligence can shape key decisions can be taken from West Midlands. In this instance, the PCC's statutory Police and Crime Plan (which sets out the priorities for the Chief Constable and provides an outline of the PCC's work) has been developed in consultation with a range of community groups and stakeholders.

This engagement resulted in over 4,600 responses and helped the PCC facilitate their understanding of local issues, with the aim of developing and delivering coordinated, holistic and effective interventions locally.

ANNEX A - CHECKLIST

ACTIVITIES	DETAILS	✓
Understand the role and responsibilities of PCCs, and if working locally, who your PCC is.	Consider the statutory responsibilities of PCCs and how you can support your local PCC(s) to effectively deliver these duties. The 'Find your PCC' webpage is a useful starting point to finding out further information on your local PCC(s), see Link .	
Research the structure and governance of your local PCC(s)' office and engage with key stakeholders.	This includes key staff involved in decision-making within the PCC(s)' Office e.g., the Chief Executive Officer, Commissioning Manager, Policy Manager.	
Conduct a review of your local PCC(s) Police and Crime Plan(s) and identify areas of shared concern or gaps in knowledge.	The Police and Crime Plan outlines the PCC's priorities, which will be key for setting your expectations and for informing your conversations on how you can support the PCC(s) to deliver their priorities.	
Offer to meet with your local PCC(s) or a representative and ask key questions.	When meeting/corresponding with your PCC(s), or an office representative, explore opportunities to help inform their decisions and provide suggestions on how to do this. You may also wish to seek details of where the PCC(s) funding has /or will be targeted as a way of complimenting, informing and avoiding duplication.	
Assess any gaps that you may be able to help your PCC(s) to address.	Highlight your knowledge and expertise. For example, helping to reach specific communities or networks, sharing community intelligence, sharing evidence and evaluation on activities you have successfully delivered that link to the PCC(s)' priorities.	

Showcase your work and successes.	Demonstrate your experience and evaluated outcomes. This will help PCCs feel confident in your abilities and offer of collaboration or support. Examples may include, delivering social value or situations where your foundation has helped inform decision making or policy, or delivered change.	
Promote a system-wide approach.	<p>PCCs have acknowledged the impact of public health on criminal behaviour, meaning that those working on health or mental health can often make valuable contributions to PCC-led work e.g., addictions and adverse childhood experiences.</p> <p>Take a look at APCC's Public Health Approach Guidance that features helpful examples of PCCs' work in this area (Link), as well as case studies of PCC activity to tackle addiction and substance misuse (Link).</p>	
Look for windows of opportunities and engage with PCC candidates prior to the election period (May).	PCC elections take place every four years, and the pre-election period provides excellent opportunity for charitable organisations to engage early with candidates and raise awareness of their work and support offer.	
Engage with your local PCCs on commissioning or funding opportunities.	<p>Sign-up to PCC newsletters or ask to meet the PCC's Commissioning Team to find out what funding or co-commissioning opportunities there are.</p> <p>OPCCs often produce a 'Commissioning Intention Plan' or 'Strategy', which provides useful insight on how they intend to allocate and invest their funds. Proactively share your own funding intention plans and highlight evidence-based practice and evaluation. Examples of documents mentioned above include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Mercia PCC's Commissioning Activity Report provides a useful overview - Q1-Overview-of-Commissioning-Activity-Report.pdf • Dorset PCC's Approach to Commissioning • Leicestershire's PCC Funding Opportunities 	

Seek out funding opportunities.

Monitor and track national funding announcements and wider government projects e.g., Home Office Safer Streets Fund which requires PCCs to secure local match-funding.

Consider whether you're able to deliver activities that fall outside the nationally set criteria; for example, the Ministry of Justice funding delivered to PCCs does not include victims of criminal anti-social behaviour, meaning that charitable foundations have the opportunity to deliver complimentary services in this area.

Where your local PCC(s) has provided 'seed' funding to initiate a local project (e.g., via Safer Streets Fund), consider how you may be able to offer additional funding to help maintain this work.

The following webpage may be helpful: **News and communications - GOV.UK** (www.gov.uk).

ANNEX B - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON PCC RESPONSIBILITIES

MODELS OF GOVERNANCE

In England and Wales, local policing bodies have different models of governance including PCCs, PFCCs (England only) and Deputy Mayors for Policing and Crime (England only), and whilst these models share many similarities, there are some statutory differences that you should be aware of to help with your engagement:

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCCs)

In 2017, legislation was passed enabling the transfer of fire and rescue governance from unelected Fire and Rescue Authorities to directly elected PFCCs, subject to Home Secretary approval (legislation for England only). PFCCs are similar to PCCs in every way except they also have responsibility for fire governance. PFCCs roles and responsibilities include:

- Putting in place arrangements to deliver an efficient and effective fire and rescue service;
- Setting the fire and rescue objectives for their area through a fire and rescue plan;
- Appointing the Chief Fire Officer, hold them to account for delivery of objectives, and if necessary, dismiss them; and
- Setting the service budget and determine the precept.

You can find out more about PFCCs via the APCC's **'FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE IN FOCUS'**.

Mayors with PCC Functions

In several areas of England, police governance (and fire governance in some areas) falls under the remit of an elected Mayor. Mayors with PCC functions have the same responsibilities as PCCs e.g., producing a Police and Crime Plan, commissioning victims' services and holding the Chief Constable to account. Mayors may delegate certain PCC functions to a Deputy Mayor for policing and crime (and fire where relevant).

The Office of a Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

PCCs are supported to deliver their duties by an Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). OPCCs are non-political and their sizes and structure can differ. Generally, OPCCs include a Chief Executive, a Chief Finance Officer, and other specialist staff who provide support on key areas of business and help deliver PCC functions. Further differences include the Assistant or Deputy PCC roles – these are unelected posts and whilst not mandatory, they provide resilience and useful avenues of engagement for partners.

You can find out more about your local PCC / OPCC **HERE**.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

It is worth noting that, in Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority provides oversight and governance for Police Scotland.

In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Policing Board fulfils a similar role for the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

PCC KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Police & Crime Panels

For all governance models, a Police and Crime Panel will scrutinise the work of the PCC. To find out more about Police and Crime Panels please visit [Link](#).

Police and Crime Plan

Under the **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**, PCCs are required to set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan. This is a legal document which sets out:

- The PCC's key priorities
- How they will monitor performance
- How they will hold the Chief Constable to account.
- An outline of funding and resources that PCCs will provide.

PCCs must publish their Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which they are elected and can revise the document at any time during their term of office, subject to local consultation and engagement.

PCCs will consult with their local communities and partners when developing their police and crime plans. This is the time when the public and other stakeholders can give their feedback and suggestions on the draft plans before they are finalised and published. The consultation period can run for several weeks and may involve surveys, online discussions, workshops and events.

Supporting Victims

PCCs play a leading role in supporting victims in the following ways:

- **Advocating for victims:** PCCs ensure victims are placed at the heart of decision-making through ensuring their voices are heard and advocating for their rights. PCCs engage with the public in a variety of ways in developing the priorities for their police and crime plans, as well as listening to the views of victims and amplifying them in their commissioning process in order to deliver effective local services.
- **PCCs use multi-year funding to fund quality services for victims:** as mentioned above, PCCs commission quality victim-support services across England and Wales. Securing multi-year funding means that PCCs can develop long-term, sustainable approaches to support services.

You can find out more about the work that PCCs do to support victims by viewing the below report 'Victims In Focus' which can be accessed [HERE](#).

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS (APCC)

All PCCs (and other governance models in England and Wales) are members of the APCC. The APCC offers the following services to members:

- Provides information on national policing policy issues and legislation.
- Consults PCCs to enable them to develop policy positions and to influence change.
- Facilitates the leadership of PCCs on national governance structures such as the College of Policing, National Crime Agency, other police professional bodies, and fire and rescue bodies.
- Provides a range of opportunities for members to come together to debate and discuss national policing and criminal justice policy and engage with senior stakeholders.
- Assists PCCs to share practice and identify ways to achieve efficiencies through collaboration.

Further information is available at www.apccs.police.uk

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS (ACF)

The Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) is the leading membership association for foundations and independent grant-makers in the UK.

Driven by a belief that foundations are a vital source for social good, our purpose is to strengthen trusts and foundations so they can rise to the challenges of our times. We do this through the provision of policy and advocacy, research and information, and a wide-ranging programme of events and learning. Our 440 members collectively hold assets of around £50bn and give over £2.5bn annually. More information available at www.acf.org.uk

ACF hosts the Funders Collaborative Hub, which enables funders of all kinds (including charitable foundations and public bodies) to share opportunities to collaborate.

Find out more at www.funderscollaborativehub.org.uk.

ANNEX C - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Below you can find [links](#) to a wide range of useful websites and reports that will help further inform your understanding of the PCC role and areas of work they have delivered.

[ACF website](#) and Twitter [@ACFoundations](#)

[APCC website](#) and Twitter [@AssocPCCs](#)

[Find your PCC](#)

[Role of the PCC](#)

View this helpful [video](#) on PCCs

[What you need to know as a PCC](#)

PCCs Making a Difference Reports

- [Innovative & Effective Approaches to Tackling Serious Violence](#)
- [Tackling Addictions In Focus](#)
- [ASB In Focus](#)
- [Fire & Rescue Governance In Focus](#)
- [Race Disparity In Focus](#)

Funders Collaborative Hub

- [Search the Hub for collaboration opportunities](#)
- [Add a collaboration opportunity](#)
- [Sign up for regular updates on collaboration opportunities](#)