

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 7th April 2026

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

**Location: Cambridgeshire Constabulary HQ, Hinchingsbrooke
Business Park, Brampton Road, Huntingdon PE29 6NP**



Agenda Item

Welcome and Introduction

13 panel members were in attendance, along with Caitlin Bones (Inclusion & Legitimacy Co-ordinator) Inspector Colin Norden and Sgt Sean Feline from the Constabulary, with Chief Constable Simon Megicks joining for the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Charlotte Cramp (Communities Policy Officer), Jack Hudson (CEO) and Matilda Pearson (Senior Policy Officer) from the OPCC.

One of the co-chairs JP introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting and then invited all members to introduce themselves.

Address from Chief Constable Megicks

The Chief Constable formally thanked all panel members and Chairs for their continued commitment and contribution to the panel's work. He acknowledged the breadth of experience represented within the room and emphasised the value that members' differing professional and personal backgrounds bring to effective scrutiny. Panel members were encouraged to actively draw upon their diverse lived experiences in order to strengthen their challenge and support of the Constabulary.

The Chief Constable made reference to the recently published White Paper, highlighting the work undertaken in relation to police workforce size and structure. He emphasised his strong commitment to local accountability, noting the importance of policing remaining rooted in and answerable to local communities. He reflected that one of the key strengths of policing in this country is that officers are drawn from the communities they serve and are therefore rightly held to account by those same communities.

He went on to stress that scrutiny is fundamental to the success and legitimacy of the Constabulary, stating that public confidence is inseparable from visible and effective accountability. It was noted that Cambridgeshire continues to experience comparatively high levels of public trust and confidence when measured nationally.

The Chief Constable highlighted the need to strike the right balance between robust accountability and effective policing delivery. While he welcomed scrutiny and challenge, he also stressed the importance of ensuring officers are able to focus on delivering policing services professionally and effectively.

Thanks were extended to the panel for the feedback provided to date, including its expansion into the custody scrutiny remit. The Chief Constable outlined a number of the panel's achievements and formally recognised the positive recognition received from HMICFRS, noting that the scrutiny arrangement was the only area assessed as "Outstanding" for the Constabulary within that inspection report.

The Chief Constable confirmed that all incidents assessed by the panel as Red under the RAG rating system had been personally reviewed by him. He expressed appreciation for these issues being escalated through the scrutiny process, while also clarifying that, following his own risk assessment, he does not consider any of the cases raised to present a level of danger requiring further action.

He acknowledged that the current composition of the panel showed limited demographic diversity and recognised the importance of hearing from a wider range of communities. In particular, he highlighted the need for greater engagement with women and members of the Black community.

Panel members were asked to remain mindful of the age, experience, and career stage of some officers whose encounters are subject to scrutiny. The Chief Constable emphasised the need for officers, particularly those early in their careers, to be supported to learn and develop, and noted that fear of scrutiny can be counter-productive. He stressed that scrutiny is welcomed but should be exercised in a way that supports professional growth.

Finally, the Chief Constable informed the panel that a new set of values is being introduced. These align with three national values:

- Respect and Empathy

- Public Service
- Courage

In addition, a fourth value of Fairness has been adopted locally, encompassing fairness to the public served and to colleagues within the organisation. These values will be shared with the panel and the OPCC for information and alignment.

Address from PCC

JH, Chief Executive Officer of the OPCC, introduced himself to members of the Panel and gave apologies on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who was unable to attend.

JH formally thanked Panel members for their continued commitment, support, and active participation in the work of the Panel. He paid particular tribute to the two Co-Chairs, acknowledging their leadership and the significant contribution they make to the effectiveness of the Panel's scrutiny function.

JH noted that this meeting marked his fifth AGM and reflected on his involvement with the Panel since 2021. He observed that having worked with several members over that period, it was encouraging to see a number of familiar faces and to recognise the continuity and experience within the Panel.

In his remarks, JH emphasised the importance of effective and constructive scrutiny, highlighting it as a central component of the Panel's role. He made specific reference to scrutiny as a key theme within the Police and Crime Plan and reiterated its value in supporting accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement across policing and community safety services.

JH referred to Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures from 2021, which estimated that approximately 14.2 million people across the UK had engaged in formal volunteering at least once during the year, with around 8.3 million individuals participating in formal volunteering on a monthly basis. He used these figures to highlight the scale and significance of voluntary contribution nationally.

JH noted that, in comparison, his role at the meeting was a simple one: to formally acknowledge and thank a small but highly valued group of volunteers for their time, commitment, and contributions. He conveyed his appreciation on behalf of both the PCC and

the OPCC, recognising the important role volunteers play in supporting scrutiny, engagement, and public accountability.

JH advised that, on an annual basis, the OPCC submits an Integrity and Assurance Report to the Police and Crime Panel. He noted that the report includes a dedicated section highlighting the work of both the Community Scrutiny Panel (CSP) and the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) schemes, recognising their contribution to transparency, accountability, and oversight.

JH also made reference to the relevant White Paper, briefly outlining the current areas of uncertainty affecting the policing landscape. He touched on changes relating to the future of PCCs, the impact of devolution, wider police reforms, and how these developments may shape the future of scrutiny arrangements. In doing so, JH shared some initial observations drawn from other Combined Authority models, noting how scrutiny functions have evolved within those governance structures.

He concluded his remarks by once again thanking members for their ongoing dedication and contribution, and wished everyone well.

Formalities:
ToR Approval

Several queries were raised by panel members regarding the current Terms of Reference. Members were requested to submit any specific queries or suggested amendments in writing by email to enable appropriate consideration.

The Terms of Reference were approved in their current form at this meeting. Any further recommendations or proposed amendments are to be submitted to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and will be considered as part of the next formal review and revision of the Terms of Reference.

BREAK

Chairs Reflection on past 12 months

Both Co-Chairs presented their reflections of the relevant panels over the last 12 months. The activity of each of the panels was reflected upon.

S&S and UoF:

Month	Panel members in attendance	Panel Topic	Additional theme if appropriate	BWVs/Records scrutinised	Green	Amber	Red
Jun 2025	8	UoF	Policing Protests - MBR Acres	4	3	1	0
Jun 2025	9	S&S	Stop Searches in Wisbech / Fenland area	6	5	1	0
Aug 2025		UoF	Unable to go ahead or be rescheduled				
Sept 2025	6	S&S	Cross sex JOG searches	5	4	1	1
Nov 2025	15	UoF	UoF within knife crime related incidents	5	5	0	0
Dec 2025	20	S&S	S1 Searches on Black/Asian Males	4	3	1	0
Feb 2026	13	UoF	Use of Force linked to ABD	5	4	1	0
Mar 2026	14	S&S	Searches carried out by student officers	5	3	2	0

Custody:

Month	No. of panel members in attendance	Panel Topic	Additional theme if appropriate	BWVs/Records scrutinised	Green	Amber	Red
Apr 2025	6	Custody	Child Remands in Custody	6	5	1	0
Jul 2025	4	Custody	S40 Inspector Reviews	4	3	0	1
Oct 2025	11	Custody	Booking in Procedure	2	2	0	0
Jan 2026	11	Custody	Time taken to from arrival to be booked in	8	4	4	0

The Co-Chairs formally recognised the success of the recruitment campaign led by the OPCC during the year. It was noted that this activity resulted in the onboarding of 16 new panel members, with a further 100+ applicants retained on a holding list for future engagement opportunities.

JP presented a number of proposed thematic areas for future Custody scrutiny activity. These themes are currently under discussion with the OPCC and the Constabulary to assess the

feasibility, resourcing implications, and alignment with existing priorities before being taken forward.

Re-election of co-chair

JH formally thanked co-chair JP for his ongoing commitment and significant contribution to the panel, noting in particular the successful embedding of Custody as a core area of scrutiny. JP was formally re-elected as Co-Chair for a further two year term, following multiple seconded votes from panel members. In recognition of his service and continued leadership, he was presented with a token of appreciation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Update on other scrutiny activity

MP noted that the year had already been particularly busy from a scrutiny panel perspective for both the OPCC and the Constabulary. In addition to the established recurring scrutiny panels (Stop and Search, Use of Force, and Custody), the OPCC and Constabulary had worked collaboratively to deliver additional thematic scrutiny sessions aimed at individuals and groups unable to access the standing panels.

Members were reminded that a roadshow approach had been piloted in 2023 with youth groups to address safeguarding and logistical barriers associated with young people attending formal panels. Following the success of this approach, it had since been extended to other community groups.

In February, a scrutiny session was delivered with volunteers from Healthwatch and Voiceability, comprising individuals with lived experience of autism and other neurodiverse conditions, as well as those with caring responsibilities. During this session, the Constabulary presented BWV footage involving individuals believed to be neurodiverse. The session was reported to be valuable, generating informed questions and feedback which had been taken away for further consideration. The group also benefited from increased understanding of what to expect when interacting with the police.

In late March, a scrutiny session was held with members of the Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, providing feedback on police interactions with Deaf individuals. Actions arising from this session were noted. The session also enabled the Constabulary to signpost

participants to relevant support mechanisms, including the Pegasus Scheme, which some attendees had not previously been aware of.

It was reiterated that the Community Scrutiny Panel and all associated scrutiny activity facilitated by the OPCC, with the support of the Constabulary, were intended to build trust and confidence. Panel members were invited to notify the OPCC of any community networks or groups who may benefit from, or add value to, future thematic scrutiny activity.

CB provided the panel with a high-level reflection on actions set by the panel and completed over the previous year. It was noted that this was a recap only, as detailed updates on actions had been provided at the relevant scrutiny panels throughout the year and were recorded in the corresponding minutes. CB also provided an update on ongoing actions, with further detail due to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

CB shared information regarding further engagement opportunities available to panel members. These included participation in hate crime scrutiny, involvement in Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs), and engagement with the Independent Scrutiny and Oversight Board as part of the Police Race Action Plan.

A number of forthcoming participation opportunities for panel members were highlighted. These opportunities were shared during the meeting and would be circulated to all panel members following the session:

Associated Panel Meeting	Amended Time	Input
Thursday 23 rd April 2026 Stop and Search	Discussion about trial of & potential roll-out of Live Facial Recognition	18:00-21:00hrs 18:00-19:00hrs = Live Facial Recognition 19:00-21:00hrs = Stop Search Scrutiny
Thursday 19 th May 2026 Stop and Search	Input on Vehicle Equipment and Tasking including tour of police vehicle	18:30-21:00hrs 18:30-19:00hrs = Vehicle Input 19:00-21:00hrs = Vehicle Stop Scrutiny
Early June 2026	Milton Custody Tour	TBC if possible & date

Custody	(Milton Police Station, Cambridge)	(Provisional date Thursday 4 th June)
Thursday 25th June 2026 Use of Force	Input and demonstrations by Officer Safety Training Team	18:00-21:00hrs 18:00-19:00hrs = Officer Safety Input 19:00-21:00hrs = Use of Force Scrutiny
Summer 2026	Observe Taser Training (2x spaces)	TBC – will be done by lottery
Tuesday 29th September 2026 Use of Force	Input from Taser Training Team	Timings TBC
Thursday 29th October 2026 Stop Search	Q&A including demonstration with regular users of stop search	Timings TBC
AOB		
- Confidentiality agreements will now stand for the duration of membership and do not need to be signed annually - Next of kin and photo consent forms only need to be resubmitted if there are changes to any of the information held - Parking for panel members has been agreed by the Chiefs Staff Office providing access is monitored by the OPCC and all registration plates are recorded. This was announced and all will be formally notified. The Constabulary can revoke this arrangement at any time. - From now on meetings will alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays. All dates will be circulated to members. - The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd April at HQ and is S&S. - One panel member asked about the dash cameras for cars / vans and whether there was an update on this. CB confirmed that an update would be given to panel members once available.		
End of Meeting		