



## Safe Communities

- From initial contact to response, we will support the Chief Constable to ensure police officers are visible and accessible within communities, listening and responding to your concerns.
- Whether you live in a village, town or city, we will ensure you get the police service you need.

### Progress to deliver against the priorities

**More visible policing hours and improved response** - as a result of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, announced in April 2025, all [neighbourhood areas](#) now have named staff contactable via the Constabulary's website with local priorities provided for each neighbourhood location. In a paper to the July Police Accountability Board (PAB) the Constabulary [reported](#) sustained improvement (from 67% to 70%) in its commitment to respond to local queries within 72 hours between April and June 2026. Officers continue to host regular community meetings (advertised widely) which enable residents to raise concerns with their dedicated officer.

**Contacting the police** – HMICFRS has confirmed they have [closed the 'causes of concern'](#) they issued in the 'Responding to the public' section in their 2023-25 police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy inspection. The Constabulary recorded an average 999 call answering time of 7.9 seconds and an increase in demand of 2.3% over the 12 months to June 2026 under a revised national measure that now includes BT transfer time.

**Engagement with local communities** - the Commissioner supported (with £600 from his small grants [Prevention Fund](#)) and attended the county's first ever visit by the [Knife Angel](#). Hosted by Soham Town Rangers FC outside Ely Cathedral, the 27-foot Angel was visited by 100s of people including local school children who joined workshops to understand the dangers of carrying knives. Through his holding to account role the Commissioner receives [reports](#) on the Constabulary's approach to corporate communications. This enables oversight of responses to community concerns and for the Commissioner to provide appropriate support by issuing reassurance statements- for example following [the incident](#) at Johnson's of Old Hurst. Traditional and social media have enabled the Commissioner to reach many thousands of people – with an article written to illustrate the consequences faced by [officers who commit criminal acts](#) being viewed by more than 17k people. Two other stories resulted in 10k view on Facebook: a World Cup Drink/Drive Campaign shared by Vision Zero partners and [additional funding to tackle serious violence](#).

**Listening to your views on policing** – local residents continue to raise issues with the Commissioner through his mailbox. More than 160 emails/phone calls were dealt with in the past four months: the top topics relate to firearms licensing delays, Freedom of Information requests and concerns about anti-social behaviour. Local councillors have had opportunities to raise concerns directly with the Commissioner – recent conversations have highlighted challenges at Mill Road Cemetery in Cambridge and suggestions about police visibility in Ramsey.

**Milton Police Station** – the new station, which opens next month, provides a modern policing facility designed to improve services to the public, manage increasing demand and better support frontline officers and staff.



## Early Intervention and Prevention

- We will work with police and partners to take an early intervention approach to help prevent crime and serious violence, including violence against women and girls, from happening in the first place.
- We will work in partnership to better understand and address the root causes of crime.
- We will work with probation and other agencies to ensure that people who have offended change their behaviour and are less likely to reoffend.

## Progress to deliver against the priorities

**Serious Violence Duty** – A total of 325 young people (aged 24 and under) benefited from interventions designed to prevent and reduce serious crime between April and June this year. The 17 targeted diversionary interventions, which are spread across the county area, were developed based on the [Youth Endowment Fund Violence Prevention Toolkit](#). The funding, which is managed by the OPCC, comes from the county's [£599k of Home Office grant funding](#) awarded to deliver the Serious Violence Duty in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. In a bid to further extend youth provision the OPCC has supported Peterborough City Council's expression of interest to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for [Young Futures Hubs](#).

**Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Prevention** – The Commissioner secured £900,000 of Home Office funding to introduce the nationally recognised [DRIVE programme](#), which focuses on high-harm domestic abuse perpetrators through intensive case management, behaviour change and multi-agency divert or disrupt activity. Through an open and transparent procurement process, led by the OPCC, The Red Snapper Group was awarded a two-year contract to case manage 125 perpetrators a year. The Constabulary is overseeing the programme, which goes live in October 2026. As part of the **end-to-end management of domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators** the OPCC has submitted **a partnership bid for £1.2m** into a new Home Office fund. If successful eight delivery partners will be part of the two projects providing educational and behaviour change programmes, support for victims and direct interventions and multi-agency case management of stalking perpetrators. The services will be delivered in line with [national standards](#).

**Combatting Drugs Partnership** – As Senior Responsible Owner, the Commissioner monitors progress against the national From Harm to Hope Drugs Strategy through the Countywide High Harms Board which acts as a Combating Drugs Partnership. A national independent [evaluation](#) report found that such partnerships (including Cambridgeshire) have strengthened multi-agency working and improved local collaboration, helping to better align delivery with the national drug strategy for the benefit of local people.

**Prevention Fund** – the Commissioner has awarded £36,525 to 11 projects for local initiatives which help to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of public safety. Local voluntary and community organisations [can bid for up to £5,000](#) for VAWG, community or youth diversionary activities with recent bids including summer youth activities in Whittlesey, seed funding for new youth groups, equipment for volunteers in Fenland and training to identify and offer support to families experiencing child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. The funding comes from proceeds of crime.



## Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- We will support and encourage communities to work with the police and other organisations, such as the county's Community Safety Partnerships, to resolve local issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, rural crime and business crime – issues that matter to them.
- We will work with the police and agencies, including the courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities, to ensure they use criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to tackle crime and disorder.

### Progress to deliver against the priorities

**Reducing cycle crime** – the Cambridge Cycle Crime Reduction Group was praised at the [National Acquisitive Crime Awards 2026](#) in July. The group contributed to reducing city cycle theft by 70% since 2019 through a multi-agency, intelligence-led approach. In the 12 months to July 2026 the force reported a 9.6% reduction in reported cycle theft crime. The Commissioner also welcomed joint efforts to tackle local issues such as anti-social behaviour, including through [problem-solving posts](#) he funds in each Community Safety Partnership area.

**Business crime and retail crime** – the Constabulary's Northern Spree Offender Team, which supports the retail industry by targeting prolific offenders of high-volume crimes such as shoplifting across Peterborough and Fenland, reported a [successful first year](#). The team made 262 arrests and brought charges for 731 crimes, including shoplifting, burglary, assaults, breaches of court orders, drugs offences, and criminal damage. Members of the Business Improvement District can securely share intelligence about crime and offenders with officers direct through software called a Disc platform. The force reported improved shoplifting outcome rates at May PAB.

**Improving road safety in partnership** –motorcycle safety has been a key focus of the force's Casualty Reduction Officer in a bid to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured while riding bikes on the county's roads. School and college inputs now include specific rider advice, and the Commissioner has provided funding for engagement and enforcement through Roads Policing Unit motorcyclist patrols in areas frequented by motorcyclists, and [BikeSafe](#) a police-led motorcycle safety initiative. [Vision Zero Partnership](#) work to tackle the fatal four (speeding, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, not wearing a seatbelt and being distracted by mobile phone use) included the 'I am Des' campaign. This national initiative discourages drink driving by providing designated drivers discounted or complimentary soft drinks. An innovative [seatbelt initiative](#) funded by the Commissioner has been launched to aid communication in a crisis. The free [Pegasus Scheme](#) offers a specially designed seatbelt cover to people experiencing neurodiversity, learning disabilities or conditions affecting speech or communication. This alerts anyone approaching the vehicle that the driver needs a different response. Cambridgeshire is only the second force to launch the scheme.

**Tackling crime in rural areas** – more than 330 police officers received [specialist training](#) to tackle rural crime and better support farming communities across the county. Response officers learnt about hare coursing, farm machinery and plant theft, environmental and heritage crime at sessions run by the force's Rural Crime Action Team and supported by Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch, the National Farmers Union, Crown Prosecution Service and the National Rural Crime Unit.



## Supporting victims and witnesses

- We will ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to their individual needs.
- We will provide opportunities for victims and witnesses' voices to be heard.
- We will work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure victims and witnesses continue to be placed at the heart of the criminal justice system.

### Progress to deliver against the priorities

**Delivery of local support services for victims and witnesses** – staff in the OPCC ensured the appropriate and proportionate outcome and financial monitoring of 18 services for victims and witnesses with an annual budget of £2.2m. The newly commissioned [Specialist Domestic Abuse Group Work](#) delivered 115 sessions across the six districts reaching 232 local residents between April and June. Work began to scope new posts in Peterborough Rape Crisis to support the local response to [Operation Beaconport](#). This UK national policing initiative will review previously closed cases of group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation to ensure justice for victims and survivors.

**Cambridgeshire's Sexual Assault Referral Centre** – the [Care Quality Commission Inspection Report](#) published in July gave [the service](#) 'green ticks' across the board, meeting all regulations under: Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-led. The inspectors said: "The service was supported by strong leadership, effective governance and a committed workforce. Patients received a good standard of care and treatment. Their needs were appropriately assessed, and care was planned and delivered in line with current best practice guidance." An average 49 people a month access the service. A new contract for a [Countywide Sexual Violence Support](#) was signed by the Commissioner in July securing services for the next five years. This will provide equity of support across the county through the delivery of a Countywide Independent Sexual Violence Adviser Service and emotional and practical support - subject to continued national funding. More than 800 survivors remain engaged with the service at any one time.

**Bringing national funding into county** – staff in the OPCC are supporting partners across the system to bid into a series of national funding pots set up to deliver the Government's commitments within the [VAWG Strategy: Freedom from violence and abuse](#). Expressions of interest are being considered by the Department of Health for [Steps to Safety](#) and NHS England's national team to explore a county-based Child House Model based on [The Lighthouse](#). Work is also ongoing to develop a procurement compliant route to market to enable [Child-Focused Independent Domestic Violence Advocates](#) (IDVAs) to be based in the county's Family Courts. Collectively this work could bring several million pounds of additional resources and expertise into Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

**Developing knowledge and skills of police officers and staff** – the mobilisation of four Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialists based in the force's communication centre is set to strengthen responses to domestic abuse calls. Thanks to a successful bid to the Home Office Cambridgeshire joined Phase Two of [Raneem's Law](#). By the autumn the staff, who are employed by Cambridgeshire County Council IDVA Service, will be listening into 999 and 101 calls (and [Rapid Video Responses](#)) and providing live time review, support, advice and challenge (and escalation) in how the call handlers and officers are dealing with cases.



## Building Trust and Confidence

- We will hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.
- We will aim to strengthen public trust and confidence through independent scrutiny of police powers.
- We will support the Chief Constable and senior officers to continue to promote a culture that is inclusive and diverse and reflects the communities they serve.

### Progress to deliver against the priorities

**Consistent ethical and professional behaviour** – A former officer jailed for making indecent images of children has [forfeited the police contributions into his pension](#) following a decision by the Commissioner. OPCC staff developed the pension forfeiture case in line with [national guidance](#) and evidenced his actions were ‘gravely injurious to the state’ or liable to damage public confidence. The offences were committed while he was working as serving police officer entrusted to protect vulnerable victims in the Child Abuse and Safeguarding Unit.

**Police Race Action Plan** – the Commissioner recognised the Constabulary’s work to progress its [local plan](#) at the April PAB. It aims to address significantly lower levels of trust and confidence and race disparities affecting Black people through four workstreams: culture and workforce; powers and procedures; trust and reconciliation; and safety and victimisation. The local Black Leaders’ Forum is supporting its development through bi-monthly meetings which have strengthened community relationships.

**Scrutinising police actions** – the OPCC-run [Independent Custody Visting Scheme](#) was declared ‘outstanding’ across 25 criteria, including holding the Constabulary to account, and awarded a platinum accreditation in [July 2026](#). Out of 46 schemes quality assured by the national membership body, the Independent Custody Visiting Association, only 20% secured the award. Cambridgeshire’s 22-strong volunteer team make unannounced visits to local custody suites to check on the welfare of detainees and conditions in the custody block.

**Four new police dogs** [officially joined](#) the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Dog Unit in May and have already been using their training to track down criminals. The welfare of Murphy, Madden, Dixon and Muzza and their canine colleagues are checked by trained volunteers from the tri-force [Animal Welfare Visiting Scheme](#). The team, who are managed by staff from Cambs OPCC, visited 24 dogs between April and June reporting no serious concerns regarding the health or welfare of any police dogs.

**New technologies** – the Commissioner sought Constabulary reassurance on their use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the August Police Accountability Board following the publication of a tri-force policy. The force is being supported by staff at a [National AI Centre](#) who are tasked with identifying and testing new AI tools and delivering training. The new OPCC-run AI Scrutiny Committee has been looking for expert volunteers to help review the local use of new AI tools such as live facial recognition and risk modelling.