



Police and Crime Commissioner  
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**  
Darryl Preston

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**



**Tackling crime and keeping communities safe**





Police and Crime Commissioner  
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston hosted the county's first-ever Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Prevention Event with partners in Brampton.

## FOREWORD

### Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston

**This Annual Report** covers the period 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2025 and captures progress against both my previous Police and Crime Plan (2021-2024) and my new [Plan \(2025-2028\)](#) – published following my re-election as Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2024.

Following extensive consultation with residents, businesses and stakeholders in 2024, the priorities in my new Plan have evolved from the first and focus on what you want to see the police and other partners prioritise:

- Safe communities
- Early intervention and prevention
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Supporting victims and witnesses
- Building trust and confidence

Over the reporting period, there has been continued progress across these areas including:

- **Significant improvement in 999 and 101** call handling times.
- **More visible policing** – 932 days of additional patrols in 20 hotspot locations, leading to 160 more weapons being taken from our streets.
- **Continued investment in tackling local issues of crime and anti-social behaviour** through six problem-solving posts aligned to the Community Safety Partnerships.
- **More than 2,000 people** from the night-time, retail and transport economies, including taxi and bus drivers, trained to spot the signs of predatory behaviour – just one example of a wide range of initiatives helping to prevent and reduce serious violence including knife crime.
- **£2.4m invested** in services which support victims and witnesses of crime.

My commitment to you remains the same as the day I was first elected – in May 2021 – to ensure the Constabulary has the resources it needs to tackle crime and keep you safe.

SAFE  
COMMUNITIES

EARLY  
INTERVENTION  
AND  
PREVENTION

TACKLING  
CRIME AND  
ANTI-SOCIAL  
BEHAVIOUR

SUPPORTING  
VICTIMS AND  
WITNESSES

BUILDING  
TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE

## TACKLING CRIME AND KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 six 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.



### 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.



### 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.





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.



**As your Police and Crime Commissioner**, my priority will always be to make sure your concerns about policing and crime are listened to and acted upon.

Keeping you safe is at the heart of my [Police and Crime Plan](#). Through holding the Chief Constable to account for an effective police service, I have continued to progress the priorities you wanted to see.

With more officers in our cities, towns and rural areas through proactive recruitment and improvements to call handling, the Constabulary is working hard to respond to demand. However, funding remains a big issue – our county continues to suffer from an historically unfair funding formula – one I continue to campaign against.

### Progress...

- **More visible policing** While maintaining record officer numbers – at 1,732 by the end of March 2025, the Constabulary also increased the visibility of local officers in 20 hotspot locations following a £1m government grant. In total, 932 days of additional patrols provided over 7,000 hours of visible policing with 160 more weapons taken from our streets. The activity resulted in 244 extra arrests, a 50% reduction in anti-social behaviour in Peterborough and a 30% reduction in serious violence in Huntingdon. Additionally, 215 extra stop searches were carried out and anti-social behaviour powers used on 242 occasions.
- **Improving response and communication** Having been identified as an ‘Area for Improvement’ following an inspection by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services, significant improvements in call handling performance have been achieved over the last 12 months. The response service for both 999 and 101 calls improved, from 79% to 94% and 78% to 93% respectively. As a result, the force now ranks favourably against national comparators.

## Safe communities

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- Significant improvements have also been seen in police response times compared to the previous 12 months. The average response time reduced from 20 minutes to 16 minutes with a further reduction to 14 minutes in recent months. Response time for priority calls also reduced – from 77 minutes to 52 minutes.
- **Securing a fairer funding deal for our police service**  
Supported by local MPs and Police and Crime Panel members, the Commissioner continued to highlight the outdated and inadequate police funding formula by appealing to both the Home Secretary and the Policing Minister. He also continued to raise the issue across traditional and digital media, including through radio and television interviews.
- **Continuing to engage** Over the reporting year, the Commissioner carried out extensive public engagement in our cities, towns and villages. This included public consultation throughout the summer of 2024 encouraging members of the public, partners and stakeholders to have their say on the content of a new [Police and Crime Plan](#) for the county. His office also organised an opportunity for residents to have their say on police funding through an online survey on the policing element of their council tax in January 2025.
- Listening to your views, along with reactive responses to concerns raised by local people, public engagement continued to inform the Commissioner's priorities when holding the Constabulary to account. The Commissioner's team also ensured the voices of those who are not traditionally engaged through online surveys were heard through bespoke engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities and disabled people.
- Engaging with young people – students across the county spoke candidly to the Commissioner about their experiences of policing and crime at visits organised with Head Teachers. Year 10 pupils (including sixth form Criminology students) were encouraged to present their concerns as part of their learning with issues such as knife crime, drug dealing and road safety featured. Pupils from Netherhall School in Cambridge, Cromwell Community College in Chatteris and Neale Wade Academy in March all took part.

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## Safe communities continued from page 6

- Responding to your concerns – between April 2024 and March 2025, more than 500 people proactively contacted the Commissioner’s office about a range of issues, from firearms to dangerous driving, anti-social behaviour to e-scooters and cycle crime. More than 3,000 people are signed-up to receive the Commissioner’s regular newsletter and many more continue to be engaged through social media.
- **New brand for the OPCC** 25 undergraduate graphic design students from Anglia Ruskin University responded to a live brief to develop a new brand for the Commissioner bolstering their CVs in the process. Second-year student Faria Ahktar got to see her winning design come to life during a visit to the Commissioner’s office – her brand is featured throughout this Report.
- **Progressing issues important to communities** The timeliness of processing firearms and explosive licences remained a concern throughout the year. The Commissioner continued to hold the Chief Constable to account over the service provided (through the joint Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Firearms and Explosive Licensing Unit). An improvement plan was subsequently developed and implemented, and the Commissioner has received regular updates.
- **Ensuring people get specialist support** The Constabulary worked with local partners to ensure the right agency responded to incidents involving people with mental health needs. As well as ensuring the most appropriate support for members of the public, the new approach has saved considerable police time which can be used to respond to other calls for service. The Constabulary reported the lowest number of Section 136 detentions for ten years in 2024 – where officers use emergency powers to take people in mental health crises to a place of safety.



Commissioner  
Darryl Preston  
with community  
police officers in  
Huntingdon.

**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.



**During the year agencies across the county** have worked together to prevent serious violence and anti-social behaviour (ASB) through engaging with young people to keep them safe and divert them from crime.

Staff working in the night-time, retail and transport economies have been trained to spot the signs of predatory behaviour and contribute to reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

**Progress...**

- **Supporting early intervention preventing and reducing serious violence** Under the Serious Violence Duty – where police and local services work together to prevent and reduce serious violence – a range of initiatives were delivered:
  - 3,445 young people and 329 adults were reached through 41 interventions funded through a £599K Serious Violence Duty government grant. Targeted youth work, diversionary activities and educational programmes directed vulnerable young people away from criminal activity towards positive activities, education and employment.
  - In Huntingdonshire 40 hours of weekly sports activities led to a reduced presence at known ASB hot spot areas during the session times. While in Fenland officers reported a reduction in ASB incidents in all areas and highlighted that when the youth workers were providing diversion / positive activities, there were fewer issues locally involving young people. The work was overseen by the Countywide High Harms Board, chaired by the Commissioner.

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## Early intervention and prevention

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- **Preventing violence against women and girls**
  - More than 2,000 staff in the night-time economy, retail, within universities and bus drivers received training to spot the signs of predatory behaviour in Cambridge. The Safer Streets 5 funded 'Businesses Against Abuse' initiative was designed to safeguard potential victims of VAWG. A bus driver has already put his training into practice earning a commendation from Stagecoach management.
  - Domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators better understand the impact of their behaviours on their victims as a result of engaging with programmes funded through a £411K bid to the Home Office. The multi-agency project also ensured victims were offered support and safeguarding through specialist domestic abuse and stalking advocates. A Stalking Consultant Psychologist, one of only a handful in the country, worked with colleagues in the Constabulary, local authority and the Probation Service to review stalking cases and help mitigate the risk posed to the victims. Small numbers of perpetrators were provided with one-to-one intensive case management and intervention. This was mandated via a Stalking Protection Order, conditional caution or pre-sentence report.
- **Keeping communities safe**
  - Local neighbourhood policing teams have built better links with young people in areas prone to ASB thanks to three young people's workers from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities. The Constabulary provided resources, through its £1m Hotspot Policing Fund, for the experienced staff to be embedded into policing teams, to join their briefings and patrols and help them better engage with young people.
  - Serious Violence Duty funding has also provided additional staff within the Peterborough City Council Diversion Team to deliver community outreach through primary schools. Staff ensured young people got the help and support they needed and organised diversionary activities to prevent them being involved in crime and ASB.

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## Early intervention and prevention

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- **Building resilience to cybercrime and fraud** Compared to the 2023-2024 financial year, recorded cybercrime reduced by 11% in the 12 months to March 2025. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership shared prevention information and raised awareness of support available to victims. For businesses, the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre provided prevention advice on how to avoid becoming victims of fraud and cybercrime.
  - Other campaigns included a Constabulary-run 'SOC FUSION' event to show how economic crime and money laundering can be a part of serious and organised crime and support for Action Fraud's '12 frauds of Christmas' campaign.
- **Preventing future victims of crime** Learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews continues to guide multi-agency practice, policy and training. The Commissioner contributes, on behalf of the Constabulary, to the countywide co-ordination of the reviews and receives regular updates on the themes raised which are discussed at the Countywide High Harms Board. In 2024-2025 four reviews were started and training developed to raise awareness of familial and carer abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse.
- **Tackling serious crime / drugs** As Senior Responsible Owner, the Commissioner continued to monitor progress against the Drugs Strategy at the Countywide High Harms Board. The local partnership reports significant progress against the National Combating Drugs Outcome Framework. In 2024-2025, the Commissioner contributed £130K towards countywide drug treatment services and wraparound support.
- **Breaking the cycle of re-offending**
  - Child / adolescent to parent violence and abuse: the Commissioner funded the delivery of the Respect Young People Programme which works with young people and their families or carers over 12 weeks to change behaviour, improve communication and reduce the risk of violence in households. This has reduced demand on policing with 85% of cases seeing no further calls for service post course completion.

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## Early intervention and prevention

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- The Rehabilitation and Resettlement Group, which reports into the Criminal Justice Board chaired by the Commissioner, focussed on further improving the transition for people into the community as they leave prison, to break the cycle of re-offending. This included ensuring prison leavers have pathways to suitable accommodation on release, with drug and alcohol treatment for those experiencing dependency and opportunities for education, training and employment.



Commissioner Darryl Preston at Romsey Mill Centre in Cambridge where Serious Violence Duty funding has paid for a range of diversionary

activities for young people – use [this link to page eight](#) for more information about this important work.

**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.



**We all recognise that the police** must prioritise high risk offending however issues such as anti-social behaviour, including anti-social driving and vandalism, can cause misery in our communities.

Our local Community Safety Partnerships are key to tackling these issues and play an important role in understanding what matters to people living in their communities.

Though the criminal justice system remains under pressure, I continue to support all partners involved to ensure those who commit crimes are brought to justice.

### Progress...

● **Dealing with local issues**

- The Commissioner funded dedicated Problem-Solving Co-ordinators in the six Community Safety Partnerships to address local issues of concern, tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and prevent crime. This £247K investment and a further £10,000 from the Safer Communities Fund enabled a wide range of positive work such as projects to address fly-tipping and ASB.
- County-wide cycle theft reduced by 12% against the previous year as a result of increased investment in CCTV technology, targeted police activity and proactive work by local authorities. Just short of 800 bikes were marked by neighbourhood officers, supported by local partners, through events at Cambridge, Ely, March and Huntingdon police stations.

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## Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

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- **Bringing offenders to justice** Through chairing the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board, the Commissioner led multi-agency reviews of local processes on issues such as Crown Court backlogs, early prison releases, improving outcomes for rape cases through Operation Soteria and the effectiveness of the Integrated Offender Management approach. Although there is still work to do, this reporting period has seen improved joint working between the Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to rape and serious sexual offence cases.
- **Improving road safety** There are still far too many people killed or seriously injured on our roads. The county's road safety partnership has continued to lead work to reduce serious injuries and deaths on all our roads. The Commissioner invested resources to enable local prevention and enforcement initiatives to take place, including a Constabulary-based Casualty Reduction Officer and a Speedwatch Co-ordinator plus dedicated vehicles for the Special Constabulary to support road safety campaigns.
  - Throughout December 2024, the Constabulary ran 'Operation Limit' to raise awareness of the dangers of drink and/or drug driving. The campaign resulted in 749 breath tests, 33 of which were positive with a further six arrests for positive drug wipes and 65 arrests overall.
- **Reducing re-offending** Through the Integrated Offender Management Programme, which supervises and rehabilitates repeat offenders, individuals were encouraged to develop a sense of personal responsibility through skills training.
- **Tackling crime in rural areas** The Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team and Countryside Watch worked in partnership to prevent and detect agricultural, environmental, heritage, illegal hunting, and wildlife crime. The Commissioner listened to the experiences of people affected by crime in rural areas and used this feedback to hold the Chief Constable to account for efficient and effective policing in these communities.
  - In January 2025, a force-led investigation was launched following multiple complaints of hare coursing, criminal damage and dangerous driving in various parts of the county. Throughout this unprecedented event the Commissioner requested regular briefings from the Constabulary and joined the Chief Constable at a public meeting, attended by more than 300 local people, so he could hear concerns first hand and ensure they were being responded to.

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## Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

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- **Combatting serious and organised crime** Through his Business Co-ordination Board and the Countywide High Harms Board, the Commissioner monitored the Constabulary's progress in tackling serious and organised crime (following an inadequate His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services grading).
  - Marked improvements in partnership working was credited for the Constabulary recording charges in 14% of all modern slavery and human trafficking offences – the highest in the country. The Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Unit flagged the Constabulary's staff resources as national best practice.
  - A countywide Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking conference organised by the High Sheriff and attended by the Chief Constable was held as a catalyst for an 'Anti-Slavery Charter'.
  - Through Operation Mille (a national operation to tackle the cannabis trade and associated violent crime and exploitation) 12 locations were targeted by the force alongside colleagues from the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit, and Lincolnshire and Norfolk Constabularies. The operation resulted in seven arrests, the disruption of several organised crime groups and the recovery of cannabis with a street value of £1.7m.
  - Alliance – a partnership and community-led campaign designed to tackle organised crime and build long-term community resilience – continued in Peterborough. The team won an award at the National Police Chiefs' Council's Serious and Organised Crime conference for 'outstanding partnership approach to serious and organised crime.'
- **Addressing crimes affecting businesses** The Commissioner remains committed to supporting the Constabulary to tackle the rising national trends in shoplifting. In the south of the county, the Constabulary's Spree Offender Team has secured more than 1,639 charges for shoplifting since its creation in September 2023 and ensured offenders were signposted to services to tackle the root causes of crime. During the year, the Commissioner engaged with local businesses across the county to hear their concerns about retail crime.

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## Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

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- **Protecting the public** To protect victims and local communities, the Constabulary worked with Probation and other services to monitor and rehabilitate individuals who presented a risk of serious harm in our communities, through committing crimes such as domestic abuse, child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking and serious sex offences.



Commissioner Darryl Preston talking to security staff at TK Maxx in Huntingdon.

**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.



**Victims of crime who live in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** can access high quality specialist emotional and practical support to help them deal with the short and long-term impact of the crime they have experienced. I am proud of that fact.

I have listened to victims and survivors and the skilled staff who deliver our services and used what they have told me to guide my work to ensure all agencies put the needs of victims at the heart of what they do.

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**Progress...**

- **Ensuring all victims and witnesses of crime who live in the county can access appropriate support** A total of £2.4m was invested into the provision of local services. This includes those who secure the homes of elderly victims of burglary, provide tailored help and advocacy for young victims and their families or deliver mental well-being support to those victims struggling as a result of the crime they have experienced. The model of support services also includes a Victim and Witness Hub and specialist provision for victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- **Victim and witness hub** The Hub, which provides 'report to court' support to victims and witnesses of crime who live in the county, has been flagged as 'promising practice' by HMICFRS and is included on the College of Policing 'What works' website. Hub staff provided emotional and practical support to 6,555 people during the year. Volunteers gave 381 hours in a seven-month period equating to nearly £40,000 worth of extra resource. Victims praised the speed of contact by 'well trained professional staff' which made them feel like they 'were not alone' and 'incredibly supported'.

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## Supporting victims and witnesses

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- **Sexual violence** The Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership continued to deliver a countywide ‘life saving’ emotional and practical support service which was accessed by 1,936 adults and children. A 13-year-old survivor of sexual abuse praised the help she received: “When I first started this process, I was terrified, I was scared, I blamed myself. I had changed so much and felt so alone. You all took away my fears and doubts. I feel more confident, and I have you all to thank for this.” Over the last year the Commissioner’s office has ensured feedback like this, and the views of specialist staff such as the Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), has guided the co-design of future service provision. The Commissioner also supported the partnership’s chief executives to meet Ministry of Justice officials to ensure the voices of local victims were heard and influence national funding decisions.
- **Domestic abuse** Partnership working between the Commissioner’s team, the Constabulary, local authority and specialist providers has ensured all victims of domestic abuse can access help and support whether they have reported their crime to the police or not. During the year community-based services, many of whom work with those seldom-heard from, have played a vital role in raising awareness of domestic abuse and keeping victims safe. One victim helped by the Cambridge-based charity The Meadows Children and Family Wing said simply they had “provided a foundation for a new beginning”.
  - The co-design during the year of a new service for all victims reporting domestic abuse to the police and who are considered what the police call ‘medium risk’ will enhance local support provision from April 2025. Delivered by Peterborough Women’s Aid it will also ensure victims receive their entitlements under the Victims’ Code.
- **Victims of VAWG receive a professional service** The Constabulary’s Stalking Action Plan sets out how it will enhance the service it provides to victims of stalking and responds to the national challenge to policing called the ‘Stalking Super Complaint’. This, along with the commitment to improve the experience and outcomes for rape victims, through the principles of the national Operation Soteria model, is refining the Constabulary’s response to VAWG offences. During the year, two specialist stalking Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) supported 232 victims of stalking ensuring they received the advice and support required to help keep them safe.

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## Supporting victims and witnesses

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- The Constabulary continued to improve their initial response to reports of domestic abuse to ensure victims, and their families, are kept safe. A team of police staff, based in the Demand Hub, assist response officers at the scene of domestic abuse incidents. Through fast time research they provide officers with key background information to guide their investigations and advice to help them safeguard victims. The Constabulary also makes use of Rapid Video Response technology, where safe to do so, to engage swiftly with victims in non-emergency situations.
- **Supporting victims of business crime** Staff from the Victim and Witness Hub have been raising awareness with officers, through joint visits to retail premises, of the importance of referring people who have experienced such crime.
- **Creating opportunities to listen to the voices of all victims and witnesses** Victim support providers have captured the personal experiences of victims and witnesses through the case studies they submit. This feedback has guided local commissioning decisions and the Commissioner's partnership work with criminal justice agencies.
- During the year initial meetings were held with the local authority and health partners to develop plans to collectively respond to new statutory duties within the Victims and Prisoners Act. Along with the Commissioner and his team those agencies must jointly prepare needs assessments, develop a Victim Strategy and commission services for victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse and serious violence. Work also began with Criminal Justice partners to explore mechanisms to monitor Victims' Code compliance.

Use this link to our [Victim and witness support page](#) for a list of 2024-2025 funding awarded by the Commissioner to support victims and witnesses of crime.



Commissioner Darryl Preston at the launch of *Buses and Businesses Against Abuse* - the largest VAWG prevention initiative our county has ever seen. Stagecoach East 'wrapped' one of its buses with a relevant message.

**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.



**Policing in our country is based on public consent.**

While nationally trust in policing remains an ongoing issue, it is important to remember that the majority of officers and staff enter policing for the right reasons – to tackle crime and keep communities safe.

The Constabulary has built upon its strong ethical culture with the development of further independent panels to scrutinise the use of police powers.

For my part, I have continued to seek reassurance from the Chief Constable through my holding to account that police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.

**Progress...**

- **Consistent ethical and professional behaviour in policing**  
 An annual [Integrity Report](#), published on the Commissioner’s website, provides him with a comprehensive overview of how police officers and staff have carried out their duties.
- **Retention of skilled staff** A Constabulary initiative to retain local talent and skills has seen staff thinking of leaving offered one-to-one meetings to instead explore alternative roles within the organisation. Positively the police officer attrition rate is 7% (as of March 2025) which is below the national average of 7.4%.
- **Delivering a policing service in a sustainable way** The Constabulary continued to take steps to reduce its impact on the environment through a Sustainability Strategy. This included enabling the greater use of electric vehicles, exploring solar energy options and ensuring new developments such as Milton Police Station consider sustainability from the design phase.

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## Building trust and confidence

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- **Promoting equality and diversity** four initiatives developed by the Constabulary over the reporting year were highlighted as good practice in the National Police Chiefs' Council's [National Policing Culture and Inclusion Strategy 2025 to 2030](#):
  - The creation of new 'ETHICARDS' to embed ethics into everyday thinking and behaviour.
  - A 'Stepping-Up' programme to help prepare officers and staff for promotion.
  - A 'Cultural Awareness Training Package', put together with community leaders and partners from Peterborough City Council and the local Black Leaders Forum, which focuses on culture, procedural justice and anti-racist training.
  - A long-term disability campaign to increase awareness of what non-visible disabilities are, how they can affect people, and how they should be supported in the workplace.
- **Overseeing police complaints** The Commissioner's team continued to handle complaint reviews on his behalf to ensure that outcomes for complainants were reasonable and proportionate. Regular dip sampling of police complaints investigated over the past year revealed a focus on loss and damage to property, impolite language and tone, and lack of fairness and impartiality. The Commissioner sought reassurance from the Chief Constable that these themes were being learnt from, and appropriate action taken.
- **Scrutinising police actions** A Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel is the latest addition to a portfolio of independent panels which collectively enable local people to scrutinise the use of police powers such as Stop and Search and Use of Force. These independently chaired panels have helped improve police processes, including proposing proactive supervision and scrutiny when officers carry out strip searches as well as increased use of body worn video. This local approach was called 'outstanding' in a recent His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire and Rescue Services' Peel Inspection and was highlighted by the [College of Policing 'Exploring Best Practice' study](#).

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## Building trust and confidence

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Additionally, young people were invited to scrutinise body worn video footage as part of an awareness raising roadshow delivered by the Constabulary in schools.

Cambridgeshire's Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) continued to carry out visits to detainees held in the county's two Custody Suites: Parkside in Cambridge and Thorpe Wood in Peterborough. Over the year, 335 detainees were spoken to by the ICVs to ensure their rights and entitlements were understood. At the same time, conditions in the cells were examined with any issues brought to the attention of the Custody Sergeant and shared with the Commissioner.

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire (BCH) Independent Dog Welfare Visiting Scheme was administrated by the Commissioner's office on behalf of all three Commissioners. Over the year, 97 dogs were inspected with no concerns reported – this included checks on the welfare of dogs at Luton International Airport.

- **Supporting the use of new tools and technologies** To enhance policing effectiveness and build public trust, the Commissioner supported the implementation of Rapid Video Response (RVR) technology which enables officers to respond to certain incidents, such as non-emergency domestic abuse calls, via secure video links.
- **Taking a commissioning approach** A new Commissioning and Grants Strategy was developed to guide future funding awards. This includes using local organisations who employ local people based in local buildings where possible. The Commissioner's team managed a £6.5m portfolio over the reporting year across multiple agendas – several million of which was a result of successful bids for funding. The Constabulary has worked hard to secure social value through large Constabulary contracts which create opportunities for young people and resources for vulnerable victims of crime in line with the priorities within the [Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan](#).



Commissioner Darryl Preston at the site of the new Cambridge police station in Milton; it is due to become operational during 2026.

## FINANCE AND GRANTS

**The Commissioner received a total** of £197.3m funding for the period of this annual report – a £15.5m increase on 2023-2024<sup>[1]</sup>.

In Cambridgeshire, police funding comes from two main sources: a central government grant and the policing part of council tax.

While the Commissioner is responsible for the policing budget, the Chief Constable is responsible for delivering an effective and efficient policing service which provides value for money and for the financial management of the Constabulary within the agreed budget allocation.

The [financial \(statutory\) accounts](#) will be available on the Commissioner’s website during 2025. Details about how the [OPCC’s budget](#) is calculated are also on his website.

### Commissioning and grants

In 2024-2025 the Commissioner managed a £6.52m commissioning portfolio consisting of the following:

#### All government grants

Victim support services	£2,334,328
Serious violence	£599,402
Domestic abuse perpetrator fund	£411,289
Safer Streets 5	£355,000
Consolidated ASB Hotspot	£996,956

#### Commissioner’s funds

Crime and disorder reduction	£1,382,736
Casualty support and reduction reserve (road safety)	£208,195
Youth Fund	£3,500
Local partnership co-commissioning	£ 230,248

You can find more details [about the funding awards made by the Commissioner](#) on his website.

<sup>[1]</sup> Prior year funding of £179m restated to include uplift grant of £2.8m, giving total funding in 2023/24 of £181.8m. 2024/25 total includes all sources of funding.

## NATIONAL POLICING PRIORITIES

### Strategic Policing Requirements

**The government's Strategic Policing Requirement 2023** (SPR) outlines national threats to public safety, guiding Police and Crime Commissioners in planning and collaborating with Chief Constables to address policing challenges effectively.

The SPR identified national threats are:

- Serious and organised crime (including county lines and fraud)
- Terrorism
- National Cyber Event
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Public Disorder
- Civil Emergencies
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Through his governance arrangements, the Commissioner remained confident that the Constabulary had the ability to provide an effective and proportionate response to these national threats. There is more information on the [Business Coordination Board](#) page of the Commissioner's website.

The Commissioner also has a responsibility to hold the Chief Constable accountable for how national policing priorities are being addressed. The Constabulary has provided the following updates for the reporting year (2024-2025):

- Murder remains significantly low in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough compared to similar police force areas with nine murders (or other homicides) recorded.
- While there was an overall increase in serious offences involving a sharp/bladed weapon, the number of hospital admissions for assaults where the weapon was a knife reduced by 4%, equating to 22 fewer admissions (almost a 60% reduction since March 2020).
- Over the last 12 months, there were 1,750 overall recorded drug offences, compared with 1,865 recorded in 2023-2024.

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## National policing priorities

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- Recorded crime fell by 2% across the county when compared against 2023-2024. This included:
  - 11% drop in personal robbery offences.
  - 5% drop in vehicle crime with a 6% drop in theft of a motor vehicle offence.
  - 9% drop in residential burglary.
  - 12% drop in cycle theft across the county.
  - Online and cyber enabled recorded crime reduced by 11%.
  - 4% drop in criminal damage.

Conversely, increases were seen in other recorded crime types including:

- Anti-social behaviour incident numbers rose by 9%.
- Theft from the person rose by 7%.
- Possession of Weapons Offences rose by 17%.
- Shoplifting increased by 22%.

The changing profile of recorded crime is in part due to a new baseline, comparing this year's data with last year's (2023-2024), rather than the Home Office's previous 2019 baseline. Other influences on levels of recorded crime include trust and confidence in reporting and controls on recording processes. The report highlights significant activity to keep crime down.

Over the reporting period, Cambridgeshire's recorded VAWG offences were 4% lower than the year before. Through its VAWG strategy launched in 2021, the Constabulary continued to ensure victims received an effective response.

Overall satisfaction with victims' whole experience with Cambridgeshire Constabulary has remained broadly stable in the 12 months to March 2025 at 78%. For domestic abuse victims, the figure was 77%.

The all-crime prosecution possible outcome rate remained stable at 15%.



Police and Crime Commissioner  
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**  
**Darryl Preston**



Commissioner Darryl Preston with the new OPCC branding. It was designed by Faria Ahktar, a second-year student at Anglia Ruskin University.

## CONTACT THE COMMISSIONER

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If you would like a printed version of this annual report,  
please contact the Commissioner's office.

You can keep up-to-date with the Commissioner's news and  
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