



Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Panel Report on Draft Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2025-29

1. The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel (PCP) has a statutory duty to review the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Police and Crime Plan. The legislation requires the PCC to issue a Plan within the financial year in which a PCC election is held, on this occasion by the end of March 2025.
2. On 21 February 2025 the PCP considered the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk for 2025-2029. Eleven of the Panel's 13 members were present.
3. The agenda and papers for the Panel meeting are available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#). The PCC's Decision Papers are available on the [PCC's website](#), reference [6-2025](#).
4. The Panel had first considered what it would like to see included in the PCC's refreshed Plan at its informal workshop on 22 August 2024. Following that meeting a document containing the Panel's discussions was provided to the PCC as an early indication of the Panel's input into the Plan. Following this, at the PCC's formal consultation with the Panel on 1 November 2024, the Panel heard from the PCC about his approach to consulting with partners, stakeholders and the public on his draft Plan, and how it had been developed. During the subsequent discussions, the Panel made a number of comments and suggestions for the PCC's consideration, and a summary of these was set out in the Panel's report.
5. In introducing his Plan, the PCC reminded members that this was the fourth Plan developed by his office since his first election as PCC in 2012. The Plan was a strategic document customised to reflect the specific needs of Suffolk, and the need to keep crime levels low in order to encourage inward investment and economic growth. An extensive consultation process had been undertaken, including with the Panel, and comments received had been taken into account wherever appropriate.
6. The PCC made reference to the performance framework which would be used to monitor the plan, and would be the guiding document for reports brought to the bi-monthly Accountability and Performance Panel (APP) meetings at which the PCC held the Constabulary to account.
7. There were more police officers than ever before in Suffolk, standing at 1,425, and according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Suffolk had the third lowest recorded crime rate in England and Wales, whilst at the same time being one of the lowest funded forces. A main theme of the draft Plan was crime prevention and the need to reduce reoffending, which was not just a policing issue but involved the whole of society. A high number of the issues facing

Suffolk had to be tackled in partnership, such as shoplifting, knife crime, drugs and gangs.

8. Challenges impacting on the delivery of the Plan included the continuing problems within the criminal justice system, from court backlogs and prison capacity to probation. The PCC also referred to areas for income generation, major ongoing investment programmes, and initiatives aimed at reducing demand on the police.
9. Panel members made comments and asked questions of the PCC on a number of issues including:
 - The accessibility of the Plan to difference audiences;
 - The content of the refreshed Performance Framework;
 - Public consultations by the PCC;
 - The recruitment and retention of detectives;
 - Current and future officer numbers;
 - Crime rates and types, including the increase in fraud and cybercrime;
 - Schools engagement;
 - Anti-social behaviour and designing out crime in new developments;
 - Partnership working
 - Road safety, anti-social driving and speeding;
 - Reducing re-offending;
 - Police visibility; and
 - Rural policing.

The decisions of the Panel:

The Panel:

- a) delegated the Chair, on behalf of the Panel, to make a report on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 to the PCC, incorporating the points made by members during the discussion;
- b) agreed that the Panel's report would be published with the minutes of the meeting, on the County Council's website;
- c) recommended that the PCC:

Recommendations relating to the draft Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025

- i. as mentioned by the PCC during the meeting, produce a summary document to be published alongside the full Plan, to make it accessible to a greater number of people;
- ii. consider amending the draft Plan to better reflect the key issues affecting Suffolk for prioritisation by the Constabulary, and actions to be taken on these issues;
- iii. report back to the Panel outside of the meeting the reason for the change from an earlier draft of the Plan under Theme 2, Objective 1 stating "Learn from needs assessments and ... support joint commissioning and the new duty to collaborate to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence so a

victim's right to be referred to a service are met" to "Use needs assessments to build evidence, enable collaboration and increase accessibility for victims";

- iv. when refreshing the performance framework to be used to measure the success of the Plan, consider the inclusion of "smart" (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) performance targets to better inform the PCC whether the Constabulary is delivering against the Plan's objectives;
- v. bring the draft refreshed performance framework to the Panel's 18 July 2025 meeting for consideration and comment before its final publication;
- vi. consider changes which might be made to question structure in future consultation documents, including those on future Police and Crime Plans, that might make respondents more likely to share their ethnicity information;
- vii. consider the inclusion in the consultation responses document at Evidence Set 2 of the agenda pack of the data regarding the percentage of respondents who had either ticked "prefer not to disclose" or had skipped the question relating to their ethnicity, as this provided useful information regarding the people who had responded;

Other recommendations

- viii. bring a verbal progress update to the October 2025 meeting of the Panel on the Constabulary's approach to the recruitment and retention of detectives; and
- ix. consider how comparative data for specific crimes, including year-on-year trends, might be published in a format which is readily accessible to the public.

A copy of this report will be uploaded onto the County Council's website.



Councillor Sarah Mansel

Chair of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

21 February 2025