

Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Annual Report 2025/26



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1. FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the 13th Annual Report of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel (PCP), covering the Panel's activities from May 2025 to April 2026.
- 1.2 The Panel was established in 2012 in compliance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and has a statutory responsibility to provide both challenge of and support to the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) (currently Tim Passmore) regarding his strategic actions and decisions made.
- 1.3 The Panel plays a role in supporting the PCC in the effective exercise of his duties and has continued to benefit from a constructive and positive working relationship with the PCC and his office, to whom we extend our thanks for their engagement with the Panel both within and outside of formal meetings.
- 1.4 The priority of the Panel during the period of this report has continued to be scrutiny of the strategic actions and decisions of the PCC, whilst maintaining a focus on the priorities in the PCC's refreshed Police and Crime Plan for 2025-2029.
- 1.5 I have been a member of the Panel since May 2022, and was honoured to be elected as its Chair in July 2023. I was also very pleased that one of our independent co-opted members, Simon Furlong, was elected as Vice Chair of the Panel from July 2025.
- 1.6 As Chair I work closely with Panel members and the support officer to develop the Panel's forward work programme, whilst at the same time meeting regularly with the PCC and his office to discuss matters of local and national interest which may affect either the Panel or the PCC, and topics arising at the next Panel meetings. We continue to align the Panel's work programme with the functions of the PCC and the work of his Accountability and Performance Panel (APP).
- 1.7 Following the Suffolk District, Borough and County Councils' annual meetings in May 2025 we welcomed three new members to the Panel, and two new substitute members, as well as a further change of member in January 2026, and it has been a privilege working with them, their diverse experience has been a great benefit to the Panel.
- 1.8 Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all Panel members for their dedication in conducting the Panel's statutory functions which, I hope, helps the PCC in his responsibilities for setting the direction, objectives and budget of Suffolk Constabulary.



Councillor Sarah Mansel
Chair of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The [Suffolk Police and Crime Panel](#) (PCP) is a joint committee, established according to Schedule 6, Part 2, clause 4(5)(b) of the [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#), and is responsible for supporting and challenging the [Police and Crime Commissioner](#) (PCC) for Suffolk.
- 2.2 The PCC has responsibility for setting the direction, objectives and budget of Suffolk Constabulary, and for holding the Chief Constable to account. The Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the performance of the PCC over a range of policy areas, including the delivery of his [Police and Crime Plan](#).
- 2.3 The Police and Crime Panel has 13 members in total, comprising:
- four county councillors;
 - seven representatives from Suffolk's District and Borough Councils; and
 - two independent co-opted members.
- 2.4 The Panel is politically balanced, with the 11 local authority councillor representatives appointed to achieve political proportionality across Suffolk. Together with the two independent co-opted members, Panel members reflect the breadth of the communities in Suffolk.
- 2.5 The key functions of the Panel are to:
- review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan;
 - scrutinise the PCC in his delivery of the Police and Crime Plan;
 - request information from the PCC on decisions he has taken;
 - review and report on the appointment of the Chief Constable and other senior appointments (the Panel has powers to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable);
 - review the Commissioner's proposed policing precept (the Panel has powers to veto the PCC's first presentation of his precept);
 - scrutinise the PCC's annual report; and
 - consider complaints against the PCC.
- 2.6 Further information is available on the Panel's web page at: [Suffolk Police and Crime Panel](#).

3. PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

- 3.1 PCCs are ultimately accountable to the electorate, with elections every 4 years. The last election was held in May 2024, when Tim Passmore was elected as Suffolk PCC for the fourth time since the inception of PCCs in 2012, having been the only post holder.

- 3.2 PCCs set the direction and budget for local policing. This includes:
- setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing;
 - working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending;
 - invoking the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims;
 - contributing to the resourcing of the policing response to regional and national threats; and
 - ensuring value for money.
- 3.3 The PCC undertakes engagement activities to capture the views of the people of Suffolk on policing, crime, and anti-social behaviour issues, and whether they feel the police provide value for money. The PCC's [community engagement](#) includes all sectors of society, public sector partners, victims of crime and businesses.
- 3.4 The PCC holds a series of public meetings in each District/Borough area across the County, which are publicised on his [website](#). There is also ad-hoc direct engagement with the public, community groups and councillors by the PCC.
- 3.5 The PCC's [Accountability and Performance Panel](#) (APP) meetings with the Chief Constable take place every two months at Police Headquarters, Martlesham, with the opportunity for members of the public to attend either in person, or via an online link.
- 3.6 Panel members attend APP meetings as observers, thereby gaining valuable insight into some of the operational challenges and key issues impacting local policing and how the PCC is holding the Chief Constable to account for addressing them. Panel members may also take advantage of the public questions opportunity at these meetings.
- 3.7 Other scrutiny is undertaken by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), and internal and external auditors. HMICFRS reports are available to the public on the PCC's website on the [HMICFRS Inspections and Reports webpage](#).

4. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 At its meeting on 18 July 2025 the Panel re-elected Councillor Sarah Mansel as Chair of the Panel, and elected Simon Furlong as Vice-Chair.

Cllr Sarah Mansel
(Green) (Chair)
Mid Suffolk District
Council



Simon Furlong
(Independent Co-
opted Member)
(Vice Chair)



4.2 During 2025/26 the remaining membership of the Panel was as follows:

Councillor Peter Beer	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Seamus Bennett	East Suffolk Council
Councillor Mike Chester	West Suffolk Council
Councillor Stephen Connelly	Ipswich Borough Council
Councillor Adele Cook	Suffolk County Council
Councillor James Finch	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Liz Harsant (to 15/01/26)	Suffolk County Council
Franstine Jones BEM	Independent Co-opted Member
Councillor Elisabeth Malvisi	Babergh District Council
Councillor Joe Mason (from 15/01/26)	Suffolk County Council
Councillor David Smith	West Suffolk Council
Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte	East Suffolk Council

4.3 Officer support to the Panel is provided by the host authority, Suffolk County Council, on behalf of all the Suffolk local authorities. The costs incurred in supporting the Panel are funded from a specific Home Office grant made available for this purpose.

5. THE PANEL'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025/26

5.1 Between May 2025 and April 2026 the Police and Crime Panel held four public meetings. Details of formal meetings and the agendas and papers for them are available online on the [PCP Reports and Minutes](#) page.

5.2 In addition to formal Panel meetings, the Panel held a number of informal workshops, open to both members and substitute members of the Panel. Informal workshops focus primarily on scoping the key areas of enquiry for the next Panel meeting, briefing members on the subject matter to assist in their preparation, and highlighting any key points to bring to the attention of the PCC's office prior to the meeting.

5.3 There have also been several other meetings during the year involving one or more Panel members, such as planning and briefing meetings, and meetings between the Chair, Vice Chair and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

5.4 Panel members and the support officer attended, as observers, each of the PCC's [Accountability and Performance Panel](#) (APP) public meetings with the Chief Constable.

5.5 Additionally, the Chair and Vice Chair meet quarterly with the PCC, his Chief Executive and other officers to discuss current issues, and items expected at forthcoming APP or Panel meetings. These meetings also enable the Chair and Vice Chair provide feedback to the PCC on his scrutiny of the Chief Constable and give a heads-up on likely areas of questioning when issues discussed come through the Panel. The Panel hopes that these meetings provide helpful support to the PCC in his scrutiny of the Chief Constable, and the Chair and Vice Chair

are grateful for these meetings. For 2025/26 an additional meeting was held to discuss with the OPCC how the Panel might make its scrutiny key lines of enquiry more effective, impactful and useful to the OPCC.

- 5.6 Panel members and the support officer also regularly attend national and regional network meetings. These provide an opportunity to share best practice with other panels and to increase members' knowledge and understanding of key issues and national developments.
- 5.7 The Panel's key activities and achievements from its meetings during 2025/26 are summarised below.

18 July 2025

- 5.8 Councillor Sarah Mansel was re-elected as **Chair** for the 2025/26 municipal year and Simon Furlong was elected as **Vice Chair**. The Panel also re-appointed Franstine Jones as Independent Co-opted Member of the Panel for a second four-year term from 8 October 2025.
- 5.9 The Panel received **verbal updates from the PCC** on his planned 2025/26 budget savings, recent engagements, and the Safer Streets Summer Initiative.
- 5.10 The Panel Reviewed the **PCC's Performance Framework**, making recommendations around the provision of performance progress updates throughout the period of his Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029, the monitoring of victim support services funded by the OPCC, and reviewing the use of social media as a means for the PCC to engage with the public.
- 5.11 The Panel considered its own [Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2024/25](#) and approved it for publication.
- 5.12 The Panel reviewed the **recent decisions of the PCC**, questioning the PCC on a number of these.

10 October 2025

- 5.13 The Panel reviewed the **PCC's Annual Report 2024/25** and [the Panel's response to the Report](#) is available on the County Council's website. The Panel discussed a number of elements of the report with the PCC including the financial position going forward, and made suggestions for information which might be included in future reports such as the context around numerical data provided, comparison with previous years' data, benchmarking with other forces, and evidence of monitoring the outcomes of funded services in supporting victims of crime or tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 5.14 The Panel also questioned the PCC on the 2025/26 **financial position** and received an update on the use of precept funds. In a wide-ranging discussion the Panel asked the PCC about the projected budget underspend, uncertainty in funding and the assumptions to be used when setting the 2026/27 budget, and slippage in the capital programme.
- 5.15 The Panel Received **verbal updates from the PCC** on a number of topics including the Constabulary's approach to the recruitment and retention of detectives, recommendations within the Police Race Action Plan, working with the County Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Champion, progress with the renewal of the PCC's website and the forthcoming Estates Review.

- 5.16 The Panel reviewed the [recent decisions of the PCC](#), questioning the PCC around Decision 26-2025 concerning a contract variation, and C27-2025: “Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme – National Energy Initiative”.
- 5.17 The Panel reviewed its **Forward Work Programme**. During the discussion the Chair updated the Panel on a meeting held recently with representatives of the County Council’s Communications Team, at which the potential to increase the visibility of the Panel and its work was discussed. The Chair reported that in future a press release would be circulated prior to each meeting, including via appropriate social media channels. This could include some targeted social media posts with the aim of increasing the Panel’s public engagement. The success of this initiative will be reviewed at a future Panel meeting.

30 January 2026

- 5.18 The Panel supported the PCC’s **proposal to increase the policing precept** by 5.16% (£14.95 for a Band D property) per annum in 2026/27 (8 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention). The government’s funding settlement for police had assumed full use of the maximum allowable £15 increase in the precept, and not to agree the precept would have meant the PCC and the Constabulary needing to identify further significant savings, the majority of which would be a reduction in civilian staff, which could result in warranted officers doing work that could be undertaken by civilians. The Panel’s report to the PCC on its consideration of his precept proposals can be found on the [County Council’s website](#).
- 5.19 In supporting the PCC’s precept proposals, the Panel made a number of recommendations to the PCC, including around how equality considerations are taken into account for the PCC’s precept proposals, further engagement with under-represented and disadvantaged groups, use of reserves to fund invest to save projects, and the planned investment in technology to be funded under the approved precept.
- 5.20 The Panel also reviewed the [recent decisions of the PCC](#), questioning the PCC around Decision 38-2025, Renewal of the Joint Professional Standards Department Section 22A Collaboration Agreement, and making recommendations including reviewing the performance of the Department.

20 March 2026

- 5.21 The Panel scrutinised **Theme 2 of the PCC’s 2025-2029 Police and Crime Plan**, “Commissioning services which support victims of crime and investing in initiatives which reduce crime, disorder, offending and prevent victimisation”, reviewing the PCC’s commissioning of services and outcome monitoring to ensure effective use of public money. Areas of focus included the process by which grant decisions were made and selection criteria, action taken where performance criteria had not been fulfilled, measuring the success or otherwise of projects in delivering the services for which they were funded, and reporting the outcomes from funded services. A number of recommendations were made including the publication of project outcomes and ensuring the Commissioning Strategy is up to date.
- 5.22 Three **verbal updates** were received from the PCC, concerning the OPCC’s new website, progress on the PCC’s ongoing Estates Review, and the impact of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 on the OPCC.

- 5.23 The Panel reviewed the **recent decisions of the PCC**, questioning the PCC around Decision 5-2026, Ready to Rebuild Fund, and Decision C5-2026, Suffolk Sexual Assault Referral Centre Contract Variation and Collaborative Agreement.
- 5.24 Finally the Panel reviewed its own **Forward Work Programme**, confirming that the next meeting of the Panel on 17 July 2026 would review Theme 3 of the PCC's 2025-2029 Police and Crime Plan: "Effective engagement with communities, and working with partner agencies to enhance community safety and criminal justice", including a review of the OPCC's new website. The Panel would also consider its own Annual Report, and receive a further update from the PCC on progress with his Estates Review.

6. PANEL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Panel members, both new and existing, are provided with learning and development opportunities to give them the skills to effectively scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC, and to provide support and challenge in the exercise of his functions. This includes the provision of training sessions covering governance arrangements in policing and crime, the Panel's statutory powers and duties, key stakeholders and relationships, and running an effective Panel. Professional development is also undertaken through keeping members informed of any new guidance, and via peer group networking.
- 6.2 The Panel holds informal workshops throughout the year, in preparation for forthcoming public meetings. These are open to both members and substitute members, ensuring that there is a good framework for all members to be kept up to date on recent developments and to have the opportunity to contribute directly to the planning and scoping of the Panel's forward work programme.
- 6.3 Panel members and substitute members are regularly updated about PCC and Panel-related issues, including national and local developments. The membership of the Panel provides a good mix of skills and expertise and a knowledge of local policing issues from across the County.
- 6.4 Three new members and one new substitute member were appointed to the Panel following the May 2025 district and borough council annual meetings and there was a further change of member in January 2026. An initial pack of introduction material was sent to them, along with offers of face-to-face meetings with the Panel's support officer and/or the Council's Monitoring Officer. Anticipating this turnover of members, a refresher and induction session took place prior to the Panel's first meeting of 2025/26, facilitated by Frontline Consulting, with the Chair, Vice Chair and support officer having input into the content of the session. The session included the powers and responsibilities of the Panel, the PCC and the Constabulary, and how best the Panel can support the PCC in his role in holding the Constabulary to account.
- 6.5 Seven members (including 2 of the 4 recently appointed members) and 2 substitute members of the Panel attended the session. The Panel was delighted that the PCC's recently appointed Chief Executive was able to attend the session, along with his Head of Communications and Assistant CEO, and

together they provided valuable insight into the office's work and capacity, as well as engagement throughout the session. Both members of the Panel and the OPCC representatives found this approach to training very helpful in fostering a mutual respect and understanding of each other's roles, responsibilities and expectations.

- 6.6 On 7 November 2025 the OPCC's Head of Finance provided Panel members with a financial briefing, providing useful context to the forthcoming budget and explaining the financial climate for policing, the anticipated financial pressures and likely timings for receipt of the 2026/27 settlement. This timely overview assisted the Panel in setting the key lines of enquiry for its important review of the PCC's precept proposals at its January 2026 meeting.
- 6.7 On 24 February 2026 the PCC's Chief Executive and Head of Communications and Assistant CEO led a workshop with Panel members introducing them to the PCC's new website. The OPCC was keen to hear about any problems with the website, and asked members to review it in advance of the meeting, and to let them know of any glitches or problems which they may not have picked up on. As members had commented on the PCC's website several times in the past, their input was appreciated by the OPCC, and the Panel was pleased to be able to support the OPCC in this new endeavour.
- 6.8 During the year, the Panel continued its membership of the Eastern Region Police and Crime Panels Network, alongside the seven other PCPs in the region, and attended meetings to discuss key issues and share best practice.
- 6.9 The Panel also continues to be a member of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP). The Association provides a common voice for Panels across England and Wales and the opportunity to share good practice. It also provides a forum for a collaborative discussion on issues relating to and impacting on the role and operation of Police and Crime Panels. The Panel's Chair is a member of the NAPFCP Executive Committee.
- 6.10 Following each meeting the Chair sends a short synopsis of the business considered, together with some detail around the Panel's purpose and how often it meets, to each district and borough council member of the Panel for them to use in their "outside bodies" reports to their individual councils. It is hoped that this will further publicise the work of the Panel and provide useful background information for district/borough councillors with an interest in joining the Panel.

7. THE PANEL'S FINANCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

- 7.1 For 2025/26 a Home Office grant of up to £65,260 provided the finance to Suffolk County Council to cover the costs of the maintenance of the Police and Crime Panel for Suffolk, including:
 - staffing support to the Panel;
 - specialist professional advice and support;
 - meeting management;

- financial administration and management;
 - website management and updates;
 - Members' expenses, Chair's allowance and Independent Co-opted Member attendance allowances;
 - Conference attendance fees; and
 - Subscription to the Eastern Region Police and Crime Panel Network.
- 7.2 As part of the Home Office agreement, Suffolk County Council is required to submit an annual return detailing progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in achieving outcomes and targets, including how value for money is being achieved.
- 7.3 An Information Bulletin is included with the papers for each meeting providing information on matters of interest to the Panel and ensuring that agenda time is used to best effect in focusing on matters for scrutiny. The Information Bulletin is also used to keep a track of decisions and recommendations made at previous Panel meetings.
- 7.4 The Panel continues to deliver value for money in the following ways:
- The Chair's Special Responsibility Allowance has been held at the same rate since 2014.
 - Scrutiny scoping workshops continue to be held remotely to ensure costs are kept to a minimum.
 - Members and substitutes are encouraged to make use of technology for reading agendas and reports. Reports also routinely include hyperlinks to more detailed information which affords members the opportunity to drill deeper into a topic area and helps to keep production costs to a minimum.
 - Professional updating is mainly undertaken via electronic documents and through remote peer group networking rather than attendance at specific training events. Where members and officers attend paid-for training, the value and benefits are considered in advance and are related to the overall value to the Panel.
 - Panel members also attend a remote pre-meeting in advance of formal Panel meetings to develop an effective questioning strategy and help with management of the meeting.

8. THE PANEL'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

- 8.1 The Panel maintains a Forward Work Programme which is published with the agenda and papers for each formal Panel meeting and is kept under regular review at each meeting and workshop session. The Forward Work Programme provides a published record of the Panel's delivery plans.
- 8.2 At each formal meeting the Panel considers any updates required to its Forward Work Programme, with consideration given that the matter comes within its

terms of reference, and that there is an opportunity to have a positive impact and add value to the work of the PCC.

- 8.3 Looking forward into 2026/27, discussion and development of the detailed topics for consideration by the Panel in the coming year will take place at the Panel's informal workshop sessions, and will include regular scrutiny of the objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

9. CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information about the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel, or if you find any of the content of this report to be inaccessible, please contact Suffolk County Council on Tel. 01473 265119, email: committee.services@suffolk.gov.uk.

10. APPENDIX A – RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2025/26

Recommendations made by the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel during 2025/26

18 July 2025

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Framework

The Panel recommended that the PCC consider:

- a) providing updates throughout the period of his Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029, as part of his Annual Report, on performance against the key areas under each of the three core Themes of the Plan, as set out on Page 4 of his Performance Framework;
- b) continuing to monitor victim support services funded by the OPCC in order to ensure they are reaching the people who need them most, including how long a victim has to wait for support;
- c) reviewing the most efficient and effective use of social media as a means for the PCC to engage with the public, potentially alongside the services of a social media expert, including monitoring the audience of each platform with the aim of achieving engagement with all sectors of the community.

Police and Crime Panel's Annual Report 2024/25

The Panel asked the Panel support officer to discuss with the Suffolk County Council Communications Team the potential for the provision of advice and/or assistance to the Panel in increasing the public's awareness of both the existence of the Panel and its role.

10 October 2025

PCC's Annual Report 2024/25

The Panel:

- a) noted the PCC's Report;
- b) delegated the production and publication of the Panel's formal report on its scrutiny of the PCC's Annual Report to the Chair of the Panel;
- c) agreed that the Panel write to the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire expressing its concern at the disparity in the police funding formula and the lack of a review of this for many years, which disproportionately adversely discriminated against Suffolk.

Verbal Update - The Constabulary's approach to the recruitment and retention of detectives

The Panel requested a written update on the net increase in detective numbers over the past two years, as well as a breakdown of the ethnic background of those new detectives.

Verbal Update - Estates

The Panel accepted the PCC's offer to bring the initial findings from his Estates Review to the 20 March 2026 meeting of the Panel.

30 January 2026

PCC's Proposed Policing Precept for 2026/27

The Panel:

- a) supported the PCC's proposal to increase the policing precept by 5.16% (£14.95 for a Band D property) per annum in 2026/27 (8 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention);
- b) agreed that the Panel Chair would make a formal report on behalf of the Panel on the PCC's precept, by the statutory deadline of 8 February 2026; and
- c) recommended that the PCC:
 - i) for future precept reports, include a written explanation of how equality considerations were taken into account as set out in the Equality Act 2010;
 - ii) provide the Panel with a written explanation of how equality considerations were taken into account prior to the PCC's 2026/27 precept proposal;
 - iii) for future years' precept consultations, consider ways to engage under-represented and disadvantaged groups in order to elicit a greater number of responses from those groups;
 - iv) update the Panel regarding the county-wide survey currently being procured by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group aimed at assessing community views on public safety;
 - v) bring an update to the October 2026 meeting of the Panel regarding the planned investment in technology to be funded under the approved 2026/27 precept, and the expected impact of that on freeing up officer time;
 - vi) consider how reserves might be used to fund invest to save projects, and report back to the Panel at its October 2026 meeting;
 - vii) arrange a workshop for the Panel providing details of the reserves set out in the Medium-Term Financial Plan, to include when they are due to be spent, and for what purpose; and
 - viii) when writing his next letter to the Minister of State for Policing and Crime regarding the unfairness of the police funding formula, liaise with other public sector leaders as to whether they would be willing to write a letter of their own supporting the PCC's concerns.

Recent Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Panel recommended that the PCC:

- a) include in future decision papers concerning the renewal of S22 Collaboration Agreements the rationale for taking the decision, including evidencing why the decision should be taken; and
- b) review the performance of the Joint Professional Standards Department in six months' time, to ensure that the additional resources allocated under Decision 38-2025 had led to improvements in the Department's performance.

20 March 2026

Scrutiny of Theme 2 of the PCC's 2025-2029 Police and Crime Plan

The Panel recommended that the PCC:

- a) consider the addition of short outcome statements for each funded project outlined in the PCC's Annual Report and in the Commissioned Services and Grants List showing whether the project had achieved its intended outcomes, including the PCC's support for young people as a way of preventing anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder;
- b) explore how victims of anti-social behaviour can be better supported through the PCC's commissioning work in the same way as victims of crime;
- c) review his Commissioning Strategy to ensure it is linked to the current Police and Crime Plan, to check that all areas are up to date, to include an updated table of commissioned services, and to consider how anti-social behaviour might be incorporated into the Strategy, following the suggestion in Recommendation b);
- d) consider how data collected during needs assessments and research projects might be shared more widely with the community, Community Safety Partnerships and Community Policing Officers to raise awareness of grant opportunities, including creating a simpler, "plan-on-a-page" style version of the Commissioning Strategy to improve clarity and communication and encourage people to get involved or to apply for grants.

The Panel also resolved:

- e) That the Panel write to the appropriate Government Minister, copying in all Suffolk MPs, raising its concerns about insufficient funding for victims' support services caused by the backlog in the criminal justice system, and highlighting the effect of this on victim support and police caseloads.

Verbal Update - The Impact of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 on the Office of the PCC

The Panel recommended that the PCC request that the Chief Constable include data in her reports to the APP on the Constabulary's compliance with Right 12 of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales, alongside the current reporting on compliance with Right 1-9.