



Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

Panel Report on the PCC's Annual Report 2020-21

On 8 October 2021, the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel considered the Annual Report of the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for 2020-21.

The meeting was held in the Elisabeth Room, Endeavour House. Eleven of the thirteen members of the Panel were present. The PCC was accompanied by the Head of Communications and Engagement from the Office of the PCC (OPCC). The [agenda and papers](#) from the meeting are available on the County Council's website.

The Panel noted that the Annual Report provided Members with an opportunity to review the PCC's activities, looking back at the last year's successes and challenges and forward to the next year's opportunities and priorities.

The PCC provided Members with an overview of his Annual Report, which contained details of the work he undertook in the 2020-21 financial year. This included his achievements, budgets and finances, collaboration and commissioning activities, grants, delivery of his objectives and the challenges posed by the pandemic.

In response to a question, the PCC said that a new Income Generation Officer would be responsible for leveraging funds from other sources such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and for facilitating organisations to work together. For example, the new Stowmarket joint police/fire station had been supported by a significant CIL grant. He highlighted the need for partnership working to ensure the police could remain focused on their core activities and said that it was intended that the Income Generation Officer would look at identifying matched funding to support initiatives where the issues were wider than the responsibility of the police (for example, mental health).

The PCC also agreed to provide a breakdown of the geographical areas in Suffolk that had benefitted from grants. He said that grant awards were dependent upon people making applications and that although he made every effort to encourage applications requests for grants were not evenly distributed across the county.

In response to questions from the Panel, the PCC said that in the light of the Sarah Everard case, he had spoken to the Chief Constable to ensure that the vetting of officers and volunteers was performed properly and improved where it could be. Discussions were taking place about introducing a regional approach to this. The PCC was concerned that vetting took a significant length of time and was aware of the potential to lose new staff whilst they were waiting to be vetted. He said that this was a national problem and that there was probably capacity to improve it, but this must not be at the expense of compromising standards. The PCC said that it was important to have a good balance of female officers at all levels and Suffolk was performing well in this respect. Any issues raised by any member of staff would be taken seriously.

The PCC said that he had always supported organisations working with victims of Violence against Women, Girls, Men and Boys, Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control, that no-one should feel unsafe on the streets and that funds were available to support this.

The Panel agreed that it was satisfied with the range of work taking place across Suffolk to meet the objectives set out in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

The Decision of the Panel

The Panel:

- a) noted the PCC's Annual Report for 2020-21;
- b) agreed to delegate to the Chairman of the Panel production and publication of the Panel's formal response to the PCC's Annual Report; and
- c) requested information on:
 - i. the geographical areas covered by the grants made by the PCC in 2020-21.
 - ii. the vetting and re-vetting procedures used by Suffolk Constabulary; to include the length of time vetting takes, the reasons for any delays, any plans for improving timescales and comparisons with the vetting procedures used by other forces.

Councillor Mark Jepson

Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel

8 October 2021