

# Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2020



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## 1. FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which covers its activities during the 2020 calendar year.
- 1.2 The Panel was established in 2012 in compliance with the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 and maintains a 'check and balance' on the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) regarding his strategic actions and decisions made.
- 1.3 The Panel plays a vital role in holding the PCC to account and supporting him in the effective exercise of his duties. I would like to thank all Panel Members for the dedication and commitment in carrying out the Panel's statutory functions which, in turn, help to deliver an effective and efficient policing service for local people.
- 1.4 The Panel continues to benefit from a constructive and positive working relationship with the PCC and I am grateful to the PCC and his Office for their engagement at Panel meetings, and for the providing information and updates in a timely and transparent manner.
- 1.5 In January 2020, the Panel agreed unanimously to support the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by 4.69% (£9.99 per annum for a Band D property) in 2020-21, recognising that there had been no progress in addressing the inequalities in the national funding formula. The Panel were assured that all would be done to ensure the money was well spent and noted the PCC's commitment to ensuring Suffolk remained a safe place in which to live, work, travel and invest.
- 1.6 During the year, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the work of the Panel and on its meeting processes. The Panel's meeting in March 2020 was cancelled as the country moved towards national 'lockdown' and in adherence to national directives. However, the Panel was able to respond proactively and positively to the challenges faced and quickly migrated to 'remote' or online meetings using MS Teams, which enabled the Panel to continue to conduct its business in public and with full transparency.
- 1.7 Throughout the pandemic, the Panel has maintained oversight of the PCC's activities to support the Constabulary's response to COVID-19, including the adjustments needed to policing due to the introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020, and the requirements to police the Coronavirus Regulations.
- 1.8 The Panel has continued to scrutinise the strategic actions and decisions of the PCC, maintaining a focus on the key local issues and the priorities in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.9 Since being elected as Chairman in October 2020, I have worked with the Support Officer to develop the Panel's forward work programme and enhance the working arrangements with the PCC and his Office, building on the strong relationships established by Councillor Patricia O'Brien during her eight years as Chairman.
- 1.10 On behalf of the Panel, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Councillor O'Brien for her dedication and leadership of the Panel since its

formation in 2012, and for her enthusiasm and professionalism in overseeing the Panel's discharge of its statutory functions.

- 1.11 I would also like to extend my personal thanks to the Panel for their contribution and support throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Jepson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Councillor Mark Jepson**

*Chairman of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel*

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## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel 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).
- 2.2 The PCC has responsibility for setting the direction, objectives, and budget of the Suffolk Constabulary, and for holding the Chief Constable to account. The Police and Crime 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 the District and Borough Councils in Suffolk; 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 communities in Suffolk
- 2.5 The key functions of the Panel are:
- To review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan;
  - To hold the PCC to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – the panel has powers to request any necessary information from the PCC on his decisions;
  - To 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;
  - To review the Commissioner's proposed police precept – the Panel has powers to veto the precept;
  - To scrutinise the PCC's annual report;
  - To consider complaints against the PCC.
- 2.6 Further information is available on the Panel's website at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel).
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### 3. THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND OTHER PUBLIC SCRUTINY

- 3.1 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) are ultimately accountable to the electorate, with elections every 4 years. The last election was held in May 2016 and the next one due in May 2021 (deferred from May 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic).
- 3.2 PCCs set the direction and the 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 resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats;
  - Ensuring value for money.
- 3.3 The PCC, under normal circumstances, would undertake a wide range of 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. This public engagement includes young people, public sector partners, victims of crime and businesses.
- 3.4 During any given year, the PCC arranges public meetings, on-tour events and public surgeries. These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions of the PCC and the Constabulary, and to find out more about policing in the county.
- 3.5 These public forums are usually held in each District/Borough Safer Neighbourhood Team area across the County (publicised on the PCC's website) and attended by Panel members to gain an overview of the PCC's activities and policing priorities in their respective constituencies.
- 3.6 Public meetings did not take place during 2020 whilst COVID-19 restrictions were in place.
- 3.7 However, his 'Accountability and Performance Panel' meetings with the Chief Constable have continued through 'remote' or online meetings.
- 3.8 Panel members have attended the Accountability and Performance Panel meetings, as observers, thereby gaining valuable insight into some of the operational challenges and key issues impacting upon local policing and how the PCC is holding the Chief Constable to account for addressing them.
- 3.9 Other scrutiny is also undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), internal and external auditors, and in the local and national media. HMICFRS reports are available to the public on the PCC's website here.

## 4. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The membership of the Panel has remained unchanged during the year. However, in October 2020, the Panel elected Councillor Mark Jepson as Chairman for the municipal year, replacing Councillor Patricia O'Brien. Councillor Peter Gardiner was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

4.2 Members of the Police and Crime Panel during the year were:



Cllr. Mark Jepson (Con.)  
(Chairman) - East Suffolk  
Council



Cllr. Peter Gardiner (Lab.)  
(Vice Chairman) - Ipswich  
Borough Council



Cllr. Peter Beer (Con.) -  
Babergh District Council



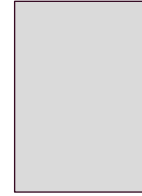
Cllr. John Burns (Ind.) -  
West Suffolk Council



Cllr. John Field (Lib. Dem.)  
- Suffolk County Council



Cllr. Brian Harvey (Con.) -  
West Suffolk Council



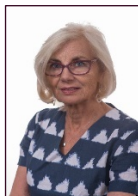
Len Jacklin - Independent  
Co-opted Member



Cllr. Debbie McCallum  
(Con.) - East Suffolk  
Council



Cllr. Graham Newman  
(Con.) - Suffolk County  
Council



Cllr. Patricia O'Brien  
(Con.) - Suffolk County  
Council



Stuart Palmer -  
Independent Co-opted  
Member



Cllr. Keith Patience (Lab.)  
- Suffolk County Council



Cllr. Keith Welham  
(Green) - Mid Suffolk  
District Council



Andrew Eley – Senior  
Democratic Services  
Officer (Support Officer)

*[Councillors may have a named substitute member]*

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 additional costs incurred in supporting the Police and Crime Panel are funded from a specific Home Office grant made available for this purpose.



## 5. PANEL'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

- 5.1 During 2020, the Police and Crime Panel held three public meetings; on 30 January, 17 July, and 9 October. The meeting scheduled for 20 March was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the key business from that meeting was deferred until the July meeting.
- 5.2 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel moved to 'online' formal public meetings using MS Teams. The PCC and his colleagues were able to participate in the meetings 'virtually'. Each public meeting was advertised on the Suffolk County Council's website and broadcast 'live' via YouTube, thereby ensuring the public could watch the meetings.
- 5.3 Panel Members received full training on the use of MS Teams and the local protocols for 'online' meetings. The use of MS Teams provided an efficient and effective means for the Panel to discharge its functions and carry out its business in full during the pandemic.
- 5.4 The Panel continued the practice, first introduced in July 2016, of having a public participation session at the start of every meeting, allowing for any Suffolk resident to speak briefly on a matter relating to the agenda. During the COVID-19 pandemic, local arrangements were established to ensure that members of the public wishing to speak at meetings could continue to do so.
- 5.5 Details of the formal meetings and the agendas and papers for them are available online at:  
  
[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/Committee.aspx?Refinablestring10=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20\(Joint%20Committee\)](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/Committee.aspx?Refinablestring10=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20(Joint%20Committee))
- 5.6 In addition to the formal Panel meetings, the Panel held a number of informal workshops with invitations sent to both main and substitute members of the Panel. The informal workshops focused primarily on scoping the key focus areas for the upcoming 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.
- 5.7 There have also been several other meetings during the year involving one or more Panel members, such as planning and briefing meetings with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Support Officer, and informal meetings between the Chairman and the PCC.
- 5.8 Panel members and the Support Officer attended each of the PCC's 'Accountability and Performance Panel' public meetings with the Chief Constable.
- 5.9 Panel members and the Support Officer have also attended national and regional conferences and local network meetings. These have provided an opportunity to share best practice with other Panels and to increase knowledge and understanding of key issues and national developments.
- 5.10 The Chairman, two Panel members and the Support Officer attended the Ninth Annual National Conference for Police (Fire) and Crime Panels. This year's conference was held 'virtually' and included keynote addresses on policy issue, including the strategic review of policing and various thematic policy



seminars. The conference also provided a variety of interactive workshops focusing on good practice and Panel development.

- 5.11 The Panel's key activities and achievements from its meetings during 2020 are summarised below:

**January 2020:**

- 5.12 The Panel considered the PCC's proposed Policing Precept for 2020/21. In introducing his report, the PCC expressed regret at having to increase the precept, but he considered this necessary to enhance the Constabulary's ability to deliver his Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 and deliver national requirements. The Panel was informed that the proposed increase of 4.69% or just £9.99 per annum for a typical Band D property would provide the necessary funding to deliver a balanced budget in 2020-21 and ensure Suffolk remained a safe place in which to live, work, travel and invest.
- 5.13 Members questioned the PCC on a variety of matters including; his consultation, deployment of the additional resources, tackling 'volume crime', increasing police visibility and improving public confidence, future recruitment (including Special Constabulary and volunteers etc.), public engagement, and training and equipment for new officers
- 5.14 The Panel unanimously supported the PCC's proposal to increase the precept by 4.69% in 2020-21. Further details can be found in the Panel's formal report, available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).
- 5.15 At the meeting, the Panel questioned the PCC on progress made in achieving his strategic objective to ensure the Constabulary had the necessary resources to meet demand with a focus on the effectiveness and the role of Community Engagement Officers (CEO) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) in delivering local policing.
- 5.16 The Panel was also provided with information on the PCC's grant funding to organisations which supported young people to help crime reduction and crime prevention.
- 5.17 The Panel questioned the PCC on the joint working with Norfolk Constabulary, the '7-Force' collaboration project, and received an update on the implementation of the new legislation and procedures for complaints handling.
- 5.18 The Panel received the draft of its Annual Report for 2019 which summarised the Panel's activities and associated outcomes between January and December 2019. The Panel unanimously agreed to approve the Report for publication on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

**July 2020:**

- 5.19 The Panel received an update report, and questioned the PCC, on the continuing impact of COVID-19 on policing and the activities being undertaken to support the Constabulary's response to the pandemic. The Panel received details of the significant adjustments made to policing due to the introduction of the Coronavirus Regulations, the changing behaviours of the public, changes in crime patterns, and a need to enhance the protection of officers and staff to ensure a 24/7 service is maintained.

- 5.20 The Panel received an update on how the use of stop and search powers support delivery of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 objectives, how he holds the Chief Constable to account for ensuring the legislation is used fairly and effectively, and how he works with the Constabulary and wider community to ensure the use of the powers improves public confidence and trust.
- 5.21 The PCC assured the Panel that the Constabulary policy was that stop and search in Suffolk was intelligence-led with legitimate grounds. The PCC advised that Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) received an annual grant to facilitate the Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) which was a public meeting which he attended regularly.
- 5.22 The Panel acknowledged that stop and search is a valuable policing tool but recognised that a disproportionate number of people from differing ethnic backgrounds were being stopped. The Panel wished to understand the evidence underpinning the disproportionate number of black people being stopped, and the high proportion of young people where no further action was taken following the stop and search. It was agreed that the PCC would provide further analysis of these areas at a future Panel meeting.

**October 2020:**

- 5.23 Councillor Mark Jepson was elected as Chairman for the 2020/21 municipal year, and Councillor Peter Gardiner was re-elected as Vice Chairman.
- 5.24 The Panel received a verbal update from the PCC on his oversight of, and activities to support, the Constabulary's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic since his report presented to the Panel on 17 July 2020.
- 5.25 The PCC provided details of the number of fixed penalty notices issued for breaching COVID-19 restrictions, details of the £208,000 grant to help voluntary and charitable sectors in dealing with domestic abuse and serious sexual offences during the pandemic, and details of an additional £270k of national funding for extra enforcement for policing in Suffolk.
- 5.26 The Panel questioned the PCC on a number of other areas including the impact of the pandemic on changing demands for policing, enforcement of the new regulations and national guidance, the health of workforce, access to testing and future resilience.
- 5.27 The Panel formally gave thanks to the Special Constabulary for their additional commitment and support to the Constabulary during the pandemic.
- 5.28 The Panel questioned the PCC on his activities which supported and contributed to the county-wide, multi-agency programme to tackle issues around Youth Gangs, Drug and Knife Crime and 'county lines'. The PCC advised of the achievements of the 'Sentinel Team' which had been very successful in helping to deal with organised crime groups and 'county lines'.
- 5.29 The PCC updated the Panel on the funding of organisations working to deter young people from becoming involved in criminal activity and the various organisations and clubs which encourage young people to make better life choices.

- 5.30 The Panel also questioned the PCC on the deployment and impact of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) across the county, the use of speed indicator devices in rural areas, and the various ways that members of the public could report crimes and incidents to the police.
- 5.31 The Panel received an update from the PCC on progress made against his Police and Crime Plan objective to protect vulnerable people and communities by preventing, reducing, and solving crime and reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB). This included a detailed discussion on domestic abuse.
- 5.32 Finally, the Panel reviewed and commended the PCC's Annual report 2019-20, and requested further information on the national police officer 'uplift' recruitment programme and the work ongoing to reduce the carbon footprint of the OPCC and the Constabulary, The Panel's formal report on the Annual Report is available on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).
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## 6. PANEL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Panel members, both new and existing, are provided with learning and developmental opportunities to enable them to effectively scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC and provide support and challenge to the Commissioner in the exercise of his functions. This includes the provision of materials, presentations, and meetings to discuss governance arrangements in policing and crime, the Panel's statutory powers and duties, key stakeholders, and relationships, and running an effective Panel.
- 6.2 The Panel holds Informal Workshops throughout the year, in preparation for forthcoming public meetings. These are open to both main and substitute Panel members, ensuring that there is a good framework for all members to be kept up to date on recent developments and have the opportunity to contribute directly to the planning and scoping of the Panel's business and forward work programme.
- 6.3 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel established 'remote' meetings using MS Teams. Panel Members received full training on the appropriate use of MS Teams and the local protocols for 'online' meetings. The use of MS Teams has provided an efficient and effective means for the Panel to discharge its functions and carry out its business in full during the pandemic.
- 6.4 Panel members and substitute members are regularly updated about PCC and Panel-related issues, including national and local developments and the PCC's meetings held in public.
- 6.5 Three members of the Panel and the Support Officer attended the national conference of Police and Crime Panels held 'remotely' in November 2020 and a summary of the event and the keynote addresses were provided to all Panel members, to ensure a consistent and shared understanding of national policy development and key priorities. Key focus areas of the conference included:
- 'policy' and policing;
  - human trafficking and modern slavery;
  - Strategic Review of Policing;
  - partnerships, collaboration and the initiatives, opportunities and challenges for policing and criminal justice in the 2020s;
  - police and mental health triage - working with public health around early intervention;
  - PCC elections 2021;
  - networking opportunities to share best practice.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The Panel continues to be a member of the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels. The Association provides a common voice for Panels across England and Wales and the opportunity to share good practice in

creating guidance or other support materials. 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.

6.8 In December 2020, the Panel agreed to broaden its approach to effective scrutiny through the use of Task & Finish groups. These will be established during early 2021 and will focus initially on Domestic Abuse and Roads Safety, including speed reduction. A Panel member 'champion' will lead the group, together with the Panel's Support Officer, and will operate broadly around the following framework:

- Why is the Panel is looking at this issue?
- Who is the Panel trying to influence?
- What is the question the Panel is trying to answer?
- What outcomes can be expected?
- How will the Panel know it has made a difference?

6.9 This approach will further develop Panel members' knowledge and expertise in specific areas, which will allow for a more informed and constructive 'support and challenge' of the PCC at Panel meetings.

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## 7. PANEL'S FINANCES & VALUE FOR MONEY

- 7.1 In 2020/21, as in previous years, a Home Office Grant of up to £65,260 provides the finance to Suffolk County Council for the maintenance of the Police and Crime Panel.
- 7.2 For the period 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020, the total costs submitted to the Home Office for reimbursement were £33,988.
- 7.3 For the period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020, the total costs submitted to the Home Office for reimbursement were £29,006.
- 7.4 These costs include:
- staff support to the Panel;
  - specialist professional advice and support;
  - meeting management;
  - financial and administration and management;
  - updating of information about the Police and Crime Panel on its website;
  - Members' expenses, Chairman's allowance, Independent Co-opted Member attendance allowance;
  - Conference attendance fees and subscription to the Eastern Region Police and Crime Panel Network.
- 7.5 As part of the Home Office agreement, Suffolk County Council is required to submit a report highlighting the progress of the Police and Crime Panel in achieving outcomes and targets against specified "critical success factors" including how value for money is being achieved (e.g. benefits, savings, efficiencies etc.). The mid-year report summary for April to September 2020 was submitted as follows:

### **Critical Success Factors**

- 7.5.1 The Suffolk Panel's work continues to be focused around:
- Nominally quarterly formal public meetings but with considerable informal preparatory work and stakeholder interactions scheduled around these, including via informal workshops and member task and finish groups where appropriate;
  - Regular statutory reviews including the PCC's annual precept, the PCC's Annual Report, and any formal variation to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan;
  - Review of the Panel's own Arrangements and Rules of Procedure;
  - Regular scrutiny reviews of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Objectives;
  - A focus on major scrutiny themes such as finance, complaints reform and complaints handling, stop and search, and the PCC's update on the Constabulary's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.5.2 In Suffolk, the PCC holds various meetings in public, such as Accountability and Performance Panel meetings with the Chief Constable every two months.



Panel members attend these as observers in order to keep up to date with current issues and demands on local policing. In addition the PCC holds a series of public forums in each District/Borough Safer Neighbourhood Team area across the County (which are publicised on his website), which are regularly attended by members of the Panel to keep an overview of current activities. There is also ad-hoc direct engagement of the public, community groups and Councillors with the PCC or the Panel.

- 7.5.3 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel has established arrangements for 'remote' meetings using MS Teams. Public meetings are advertised on the County Council's website and broadcast 'live' via YouTube, thereby ensuring the public can participate in or watch the meetings on-line. The PCC and his colleagues join the meeting. Panel Members and PCC's staff have received full training on the appropriate use of MS Teams and the local protocols for 'online' meetings. The use of MS Teams has provided an efficient and effective means for the Panel to discharge its functions and carry out its business in full during the pandemic.
- 7.5.4 The Panel is comprised of 11 local authority Councillor representatives, representing each of the local authority areas within Suffolk. To further enhance the capacity of the Panel to carry out its scrutiny function the Panel also has two co-opted Independent Members, making a total membership of 13. Each Member brings with them skills and expertise and a knowledge of the local policing issues within their area of the County. In a County which comprises both urban and rural areas, lived experience and an understanding of policing priorities from the perspective of local residents are invaluable in holding the PCC to account.
- 7.5.5 The Panel maintains a Forward Work Programme which is published with the agenda and papers for each formal Panel meeting and kept under regular review at each meeting and workshop session. In updating the Forward Work Programme, and in order to ensure a focus on priorities, the Panel considers:
- Does the matter come within the Panel's Terms of Reference?
  - Is there a significant level of public interest in the matter?
  - Is it an issue which has been raised by auditors or other inspection regimes or is the effect of new government guidance or legislation, which the Panel should consider?
  - Is there an opportunity to share and promote good practice, have a positive impact and/or add value to the work of the PCC?
- 7.5.6 The Panel produces an Annual Report in January each year summarising the Panel's activities and key achievements in the preceding year. The Annual Report is published and widely circulated. The latest Annual Report can be found [here](#).
- 7.5.7 The Panel receives reports or updates from the PCC at each Panel meeting and makes comments and recommendations on those reports as appropriate.
- 7.5.8 The PCC submits his Annual Report to the Panel for review and comment, as well as regular reports in relation to his budget precept and how the precept is spent to improve policing services locally. The PCC also submits reports on

any senior appointments he wishes to make. Following scrutiny of these reports the Panel publishes a report with any relevant recommendations. These can be found [here](#).

- 7.5.9 All reports and papers for Panel meetings are published in advance of the meeting with the exception of any material that is sensitive and confidential as set out in the “Local Government Act 1972 – Exclusion of the Public” regulations. Copies of agendas, reports and minutes of meetings can be found [here](#).
- 7.5.10 An “information bulletin” is also included with the papers for each meeting providing briefing information on matters of interest to the Panel and ensuring that the Panel’s agenda time is used to best effect in focusing on matters for scrutiny. Regular items for inclusion in the bulletin include: an update on the PCC’s decisions since the previous meeting; an update from the PCC’s Accountability and Performance Panel, a regular update on how the PCC is addressing solved rate performance for Serious Sexual Offences and Domestic Burglary, and an update on how the precept funding is being spent to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objectives. The information bulletin is also used to keep a track of decisions and recommendations made by the Panel at previous meetings.
- 7.5.11 The PCC attends every public meeting of the Panel to respond to questions, accompanied by relevant staff appropriate to the items being discussed. In its consideration of all reports the Panel questions the PCC in relation to his strategic role and provides challenge and support as appropriate. Particular emphasis is placed on scrutiny of the success of the PCC in achieving the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The Panel focuses an item at each meeting on one of the PCC’s four strategic objectives:
- Responding to calls for urgent assistance;
  - Caring about victims, communities, the local economy, and our people;
  - Protecting the most vulnerable people and community by preventing, reducing, and solving crime and anti-social behaviour;
  - Making Suffolk Safer – an ethical and effective service with the right resources.
- 7.5.12 Members of the public are invited to attend all meetings in public (or via YouTube if the meeting is being held ‘remotely’) and are able to access the agenda, reports, and minutes on the County Council’s website. There is also a public participation session at the beginning of each meeting where members of the public can attend to make representations. Representatives from the press regularly attend Panel meetings and the Panel’s work continues to receive coverage in the local media, raising public awareness and stimulating wider debate in relation to the work of the PCC.
- 7.5.13 The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel continues to be an active member of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panel (NAPFCP). The Association provides a common voice for Panels across England and Wales and the opportunity to share good practice in creating guidance or other support materials. It also provides a forum for a collaborative discussion on issues relating to, and impacting on, Police and Crime Panels.

7.5.14 The Suffolk Police and Crime Panel continues to offer value for money in the following ways:-

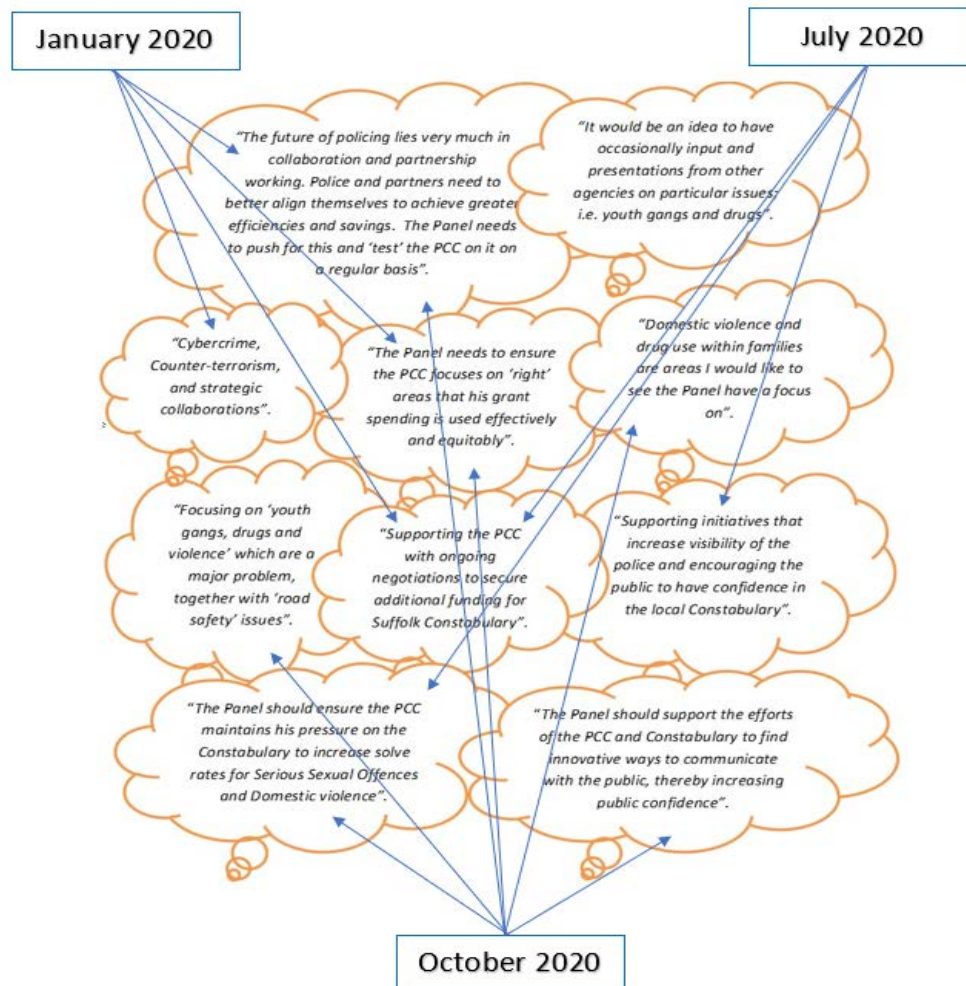
- The Chairman's Special Responsibility Allowance has been held at the 2016/17 rate again in this period.
- Meeting papers are sent to all Panel Members and substitute members to ensure that any substitute members continue to be fully conversant with the business and able to take an active and informed role.
- Substitute members are encouraged to attend informal scoping workshops, alongside other members.
- Members and substitutes are encouraged to make use of technology for reading agenda's 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 generally undertaken via the internet and through 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.
- The Panel has recognised the time constraints of public meetings of the Police and Crime Panel and continues to make use of regular informal workshops as an effective and efficient way of exchanging information between formal meetings and for identifying key areas of questioning to ensure that the evidence presented to formal meetings is tightly scoped and focused.
- Panel members also attend a premeeting in advance of the formal Panel meetings to develop an effective questioning strategy and help with management of the meeting. The pre-meetings take place on the same day as the Panel meeting to keep costs of attendance to a minimum.
- Remote meetings have achieved additional savings in this period relating to accommodation, travel expenses and refreshments costs. However, some additional costs have been incurred to cover the provision of technical support to the broadcasting of on-line meetings.

## 8. PANEL'S FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

- 8.1 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;
  - there is a significant level of public interest in the matter;
  - it is an issue which has been raised by auditors or other inspection regimes, or is the effect of new government guidance or legislation;
  - there is an opportunity to identify and promote good practice, have a positive impact, and add value to the work of the PCC.
- 8.2 The Suffolk Panel's Forward Work Programme continues to be focussed on the following:
- Formal quarterly meetings, with preparatory work and stakeholder interactions around these, including informal workshops and consideration of member 'Task & Finish' (T&F) Groups or 'champions' where appropriate.
  - Regular statutory reviews such as the PCC's annual proposed precept (and any formal variation to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan).
  - Quarterly focus on one of the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.
  - Some topics for more specific focus arising from previous Panel meetings, or matters arising in between the formal meetings.
  - An 'Information Bulletin' containing information of potential interest to the Panel (e.g. summary of PCC Decisions since the last meeting).
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## 9. PANEL'S FORWARD VIEW

9.1 In November 2019, Panel members were asked to consider key priorities and focus areas for 2020. These are set out below, together with dates of when the Panel scrutinised these areas (further details are included in Section 5).



9.2 In November 2020, members were again asked to consider focus areas for 2021. These are set out below and will form the basis of the Panel's Forward Work Programme and its approach to supporting and challenging the PCC:

- Cybercrime;
- Roads policing, speeding, and the use of technology e.g. ANPR, Vehicle Activated Signs, Community Speed Watch, partnership working etc.;
- Policing the COVID-19 pandemic and the Coronavirus legislation etc.;
- Enhanced performance reporting and visibility of KPIs;
- Police's presence and visibility in communities;
- Resources and technology in tackling 'county lines' and knife crime;
- Reducing Constabulary's carbon footprint.

## 10. CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like further information about the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel please visit the website at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/police-and-crime-panel), or contact Suffolk County Council, on Tel. 01473 265119, email: [committee.services@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@suffolk.gov.uk).