

## **PCC Announcements – February, March (to date)**

### **February**

- The Commissioner held the Chief Constable account to account on the police response to shoplifting, rural crime and the 101 service at her regular Commissioner's Oversight of Policing Services (COPS) sessions. Live Streamed on Facebook, the Chief faced a number of pre-submitted and live questions from the public. The session garnered nearly 100 viewers. For those who don't have Facebook, the session was recorded and published on the OPCC website. 80 questions were submitted in total and those that were not answered in the session were responded to by the Commissioner's casework team.
- During Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, the Commissioner raised the profile of the support services funded by the OPCC to reassure victims of sexual crimes they don't have to report to get support. Specifically highlighting Independent Sexual Violence Advocates and the Frankie Worker service.
- The PCC launched the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) which is made up of the police, local authorities and Criminal Justice partners. The PCC's role is to ensure that all those that have the requirement to reduce violence are fulfilling their statutory duty. The VRP is coordinated by the PCC's Violence Reduction Unit.

- The OPCC's Youth Commission pledged to make 'safe on the streets' a priority subject at their annual conference. The event in Winchester on 3 February 2024 brought together senior police officers and partner organisations including local authorities, education and charities to hear about the work of the YC members, representing the voices of young people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- The Commissioner visited Waterlooville Boxing Club to meet the Secretary and young members after leasing a derelict police estate building to the club to help expand its membership. Its new location in St George's Walk, Waterlooville, welcomes approximately 125 individuals every week. The majority are aged 15-19 years old but some members are as young as nine. The lease has been set by the Commissioner at a modest rate, which has allowed the Club to bring the property back into use and really make a difference to the lives of local young people.
- The PCC launched the Victim Care Hub; a multi-million pound service for victims of crime in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. This is brand new approach to supporting victims means there are now four Victim Care Hubs embedded in police stations geographically spread across the two counties bringing policing and support for victims under one roof for the first time. The Commissioner has provided £850,000 per year from Feb 2024 to March 2029. The money has been allocated from the annual Ministry of Justice Victim's Core Grant Fund budget which forms part of the PCC's overall Commissioning budget. Total cost £4,391,667.

## March

- The Commissioner and Chief declared zero-tolerance on retail crime as part of Safer Business Action month. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to answer the calls from business owners to crack down on shop theft, reporting more than an 80% increase in outcomes for victims when compared to the same period last year. Key to this success is police using facial recognition technology. The introduction of City Centre Units last year means more offenders are also being charged and appearing before the court each week.
- PCC Donna Jones commemorated International Women's Day visiting an event held by Advance Charity in Portsmouth and a drinks reception at No.10; celebrating women in leadership roles who are breaking glass ceilings.
- The Commissioner provided £500K to boost funding for partners to take on anti-social behaviour. The money is open to bids from local authorities, police, Community Safety Partnerships and community groups to provide partnership solutions to recurring anti-social behaviour issues.
- The PCC hosted the third PCC annual awards to publicly pay tribute to officers, staff, volunteers support services and community groups who go that extra mile to keep residents safe.

## APCC announcements

- In her role as APCC Chair, PCC Donna Jones reflected on the latest crime statistics for England and Wales, specifically commenting on the long-term trend in violent crime reduction.
- In response to the government's announcement on changes to public order legislation, PCC Donna Jones welcomed the strengthening of police powers to deal with protestors, specifically the banning of flares and pyrotechnics and on behalf of all PCCs cited there must be a clear distinction between peaceful protest and those intent on causing criminal damage, harm and intimidation.
- The Commissioner went onto respond to the Home Affairs Select Committee final report on the policing of protests, highlighting the significant strain the protests in London are putting on police resources. Specifically drawing on workforce welfare, and supporting the Committee's calls for police forces to be given greater support to manage such events to prevent crime and disorder.
- Following a roundtable at No 10 regarding the protests related to the Middle Eastern conflict the Commissioner in her role as APCC Chair highlighted the increase in the number of reported hate crimes nationally, stating there had been a 147% increase with a large number of them being committed against Jewish communities – publicly calling for it to stop.

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The Commissioner went on to stress the unprecedented levels of pressure on the Met to manage The related protests with more than £25 million spent on the protests since the 7 October attacks.

- In response to the Angiolini report (part 1), the Commissioner reflected on Lady Elish's deeply shocking findings and failings by police which allowed Wayne Couzens to indulge in increasingly depraved behaviour for two decades. The Commissioner outlined what forces have already begun doing to prevent this from happening again, specifically citing increased vetting and workforce scrutiny, new systems to enable officers and staff who may have witnessed to report their concerns about colleagues, and enabling the public to have confidence to raise concerns through effective and trusted reporting systems.
- The PCC became a signatory to a new Police and Industry Charter. The charter sets out foundational principles upon which the policing sector and industry partners collectively agree to adhere as they work together to design and deliver effective crime-fighting products and services, and develop the skills required to tackle rapidly evolving crime challenges.
- The Commissioner jointly launched the Crimestoppers police anti-corruption and abuse service with the NPCC following a successful roll out in the Met. The service provides an opportunity for the public to report their concerns about individuals anonymously, and for policing to root out those not fit to serve. The Commissioner also reiterated the role of Police and Crime Commissioners having a legal duty to ensure an effective police service in their

police force area; this includes ensuring the highest levels of integrity are maintained; overseeing complaints procedures; working with their forces to provide a voice to those affected by police corruption and abuse; and holding Chief Constables to account for dealing efficiently and effectively with investigations and dismissal decisions.