



COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Police and Crime Panel
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	9th September 2023

BRIEF REPORT

A presentation was given on the Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board (GCJB):

Background: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 set out in law the duty on Police and Crime Commissioners and other Criminal Justice (CJ) agencies to work together to provide an efficient and effective Criminal Justice. Bringing together criminal justice partners to identify priorities, address cross-cutting issues, reduce reoffending, improve the experiences of victims and witnesses, and deliver agreed objectives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local CJ System (CJS).

In Gloucestershire it has five priorities:-

1. Reducing reoffending – Working with other agencies focusing on women who come in contact with justice system, improve desistance pathways, and improve provision of services for those with mental health.
2. Criminal Justice Performance -Improving of communications to inform public about CJS, scrutinise the use of Out of Court Disposals including use of restorative justice.
3. Victims & Witnesses – Improve the voice and support for victims
4. Violence against women and girls (VIAWG) – To bring offender to justice and improve outcomes for victims, to develop quality of VIAWG data
5. Anti-Discrimination (which has been recently added)

Many boards and panels fall within the GCJBs remit across the county and linking with other South-West CJBs.

A presentation was given on Safer Gloucestershire giving an overview on its work and current and future workstreams. The crime and Disorder Act 1998, established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and their functions which include, to develop crime and disorder reduction strategies (to be reviewed every 3 years), disclosure powers across agencies to prevent/reduce crime and increasing community safety, and consider crime and disorder in all their functions.

- In Gloucestershire there are six district CSPs, and a umbrella safer Gloucestershire Boar.
- An audit in 2022 was undertaken and recommendations from this are being considered.
- The strategic assessment for Gloucestershire aims to identify the CSP priorities and support the district CSPs in their own priorities.
- Recent findings are that Gloucestershire remains one of the safer places to live in England, however violent crime and sexual offences are rising, as is hate crime – though drug offences and Anti-social behaviour is falling.
- The countywide priorities are VIAWG, Hate Crime, Urban Street gangs, Prevent, Road Safety, and ASB

The cost of crime 21/22 in Gloucestershire is £237m , of which violence with injury (£86m), Violence without injury (£43m) and Homicide (£42m) were the highest contributors.

SOLACE (recently introduced into SDC) , aim is to reduce repeat incidents and victims of ASB and provide a consistent approach in doing so across Gloucestershire. There were 144 cases (Jan-Apr 23) , higher than in previous years partly due to rural districts now covered.

SOALCE Priorities :- ASB county group , County hate crime group, enhanced reporting, improve processes, and more delivery of in-depth crime perception survey which will provide data by postcode.

In response to questions:-

- Gloucestershire will introduce ASB reporting portal (one of the last in the country to do so).
- Concern were raised on young gangs in Cirencester, and the PCC responded that aware that there are crime issues outside of Gloucester and Cheltenham which are being addressed.
- Funding for SOLACE beyond March 2024 is being sought.

The OPCC briefing note to the panel highlighted a number of events that had occurred in the county Police and Crime. In addition to the 21 officers recently funded the PCC is looking to obtain a further authority to recruit 3 more.

The PCC continues to seek to introduce more community hubs in fire stations and working on how these could improve responsiveness to crime reports.

The Chief Executive report provided recent complaints data received by the OPCC which were up in 2023 with the majority about road safety, then crime issue. Crime data showed high percentage increases year on year for VAWG (+150%), Public order offences (+160%), and violence without injury (+120%), but falls in Bicycle theft (-50%), and theft from vehicles (-44%) , overall an increase of +47% . Some driven by improved reporting, but in response how much could not be quantified.

- Data accuracy had increased from 86.6% (2019) , to 97.65% in the latest PEEL inspection, and 999 and 101 call answering had also improved although more still is needed on 101 calls with many callers hanging-up before being answered.

In response to questions during the meeting:-

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- Concern were raised on young gangs in Cirencester, and the PCC responded that aware that there are crime issues outside of Gloucester and Cheltenham which are being addressed.
- Funding for SOLACE beyond March 2024 is being sought.
- The PCC has recently visited shops to discuss the rise in retail crime and ASB and is making it easier to report , as many retailers do not report all shoplifting.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Cllr Martin Percy
DATE	10h August 2023