

Police and Crime Commissioner CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH Darryl Preston

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2025 TO 2028





Tackling crime and keeping communities safe



POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2025 TO 2028

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FOREWORD

From Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston

As your Police and Crime Commissioner I have listened to residents, local businesses and staff in organisations across the county to understand what matters to you all.

From those conversations, several priorities emerged – the most common being increased police visibility, an improved call handling service and better communication once a crime has been reported.

We all understand the police need to prioritise calls for service for those at risk of serious harm including knife crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG). This umbrella term covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, 'honour'-based abuse, 'revenge porn' and 'upskirting'.

However, you also told me you expect local issues such as anti-social behaviour to be dealt with, so we feel safe where we live. Partner organisations also have a role in preventing some of these issues, not just police.

In my role as Commissioner, I will continue to work with the Chief Constable and partners to make sure local concerns are addressed.

We currently have record numbers of police officers, but I acknowledge the challenges that lay ahead as one of the lowest funded forces in the country.

The priorities included in this Plan – summarised in the graphic on page four – reflect those people wanted to see.

I will continue to work hard with the police and partners to prevent crime and keep communities safe.



EARLY
INTERVENTION
AND
PREVENTION

TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE



TACKLING CRIME AND KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE

SAFE COMMUNITIES From initial contact to response, we will support the Chief Constable to ensure police officers are visible and accessible within communities, listening and responding to your concerns.

Whether you live in a village, town or city, we will ensure you get the police service you need.



EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

We will work with police and partners to take an early intervention approach to help prevent crime and serious violence, including violence against women and girls, from happening in the first place.

We will work in partnership to better understand and address the root causes of crime.

We will work with probation and other agencies to ensure that people who have offended change their behaviour and are less likely to reoffend.



TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We will support and encourage communities to work with the police and other organisations, such as the county's six Community Safety Partnerships, to resolve local issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, rural crime and business crime – issues that matter to them.

We will work with the police and agencies, including the courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities, to ensure they use criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to tackle crime and disorder.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

We will ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to their individual needs.

We will provide opportunities for victims and witnesses' voices to be heard.

We will work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure victims and witnesses continue to be placed at the heart of the criminal justice system.



BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

We will hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.

We will aim to strengthen public trust and confidence through independent scrutiny of police powers.

We will support the Chief Constable and senior officers to continue to promote a culture that is inclusive and diverse and reflects the communities they serve.





Darryl Preston, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



YOUR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Darryl Preston was re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 3rd May 2024.

Police and Crime Commissioners are elected by the public as the voice of local people. Their role is to deliver efficient and effective police services by holding Chief Constables and their forces to account. PCCs make the police answerable to the communities they serve.

PCCs cannot get involved with operational matters – these are the responsibility of Chief Constables.

PCCs ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible and work in partnership at a local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out that PCCs must:

- Secure an efficient and effective policing service for their area.
- Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force and if necessary, dismiss them.
- Set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan.
- Set the force budget and determine the precept (policing element of council tax).
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary.
- Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are joined up.

What your Police and Crime Commissioner does for you – page 6



WHAT YOUR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DOES FOR YOU



The PCC is elected by you to be the voice of the public on crime and policing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The PCC must answer to you the public about the decisions they make.



The PCC must publish a Police and Crime Plan, after engaging with local people, which identifies what the local priorities are and how they plan to meet these priorities.



The PCC appoints the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary who decides how the local police force will be run at the operational policing level.



The PCC is responsible for making sure that the Chief Constable delivers an efficient and effective police service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – this is otherwise known as 'holding to account'.



The PCC sets the local police budget and decides how much you pay towards policing from your council tax (the police precept), which is added to the funding from central government. The PCC also decides how the total police budget is spent.



The PCC funds services that help to prevent crime and keep communities safe. This can be used to address issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, youth crime, and anti-social behaviour.



The PCC commissions dedicated local victim support services that you can access to help you cope and recover, if you become a victim of crime.



The PCC works with national and local policing and Criminal Justice partners to reduce crime and help make our communities safer.



The PCC works with local authorities, education services and health professionals, as well as local businesses and the voluntary sector to develop a joined-up response to address local problems.



SAFE COMMUNITIES

From initial contact to response, we will support the Chief Constable to ensure police officers are visible and accessible within communities, listening and responding to your concerns.

Whether you live in a village, town or city, we will ensure you get the police service you need.



SAFE COMMUNITIES

"As your Police and Crime Commissioner, my priority will always be to listen and respond to your concerns about policing and crime and to ensure they are acted upon. That is why I put safe communities at the top of my plan.

"Cambridgeshire Constabulary currently has a record number of officers who provide a good service. It is clear you want to see more visible and accessible policing across your neighbourhoods, with timely responses to your concerns and an offer of support should you become a victim, or witness of crime.

"Our police force has always been at a disadvantage when it comes to central government funding. I will continue to fight for a fairer funding formula so that you get the service you need."

My priorities are...

- A more accessible and visible police service by delivering effective neighbourhood policing and providing officers who understand local concerns and act upon them, often working with partners such as Community Safety Partnerships, listed on page 8.
- Improving response and communication when people call the police, they want to be reassured that the police understand the impact a particular crime has had on them. They also expect to be updated on any action taken. While officers work hard to make sure this expectation is met, I will continue to support the Chief Constable through improvements in technology and investment to ensure people receive the service they need.
- Securing a fairer deal for our police service I will continue to work with local MPs and local authority leaders to lobby central government for fairer funding. For far too long, the county's police service has suffered through a historical, unfair funding formula.



Safe Communities

continued from page 7

- Preventing crime I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for progress in keeping crime down.
- Continuing to listen to your views on policing and crime – I will provide opportunities for you to speak to me about your concerns either in person, online or within your communities.





There are six Community Safety Partnerships in Cambridgeshire – use the links below to visit their websites.

- Cambridge City
- East Cambs
- Fenland
- Huntingdonshire
- Peterborough
- South Cambs



EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

We will work with police and partners to take an early intervention approach to help prevent crime and serious violence, including violence against women and girls, from happening in the first place.

We will work in partnership to better understand and address the root causes of crime.

We will work with probation and other agencies to ensure that people who have offended change their behaviour and are less likely to reoffend.



EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

"When people ask me about crime and criminality, I always talk about prevention being better than cure.

"I recognise the best way to support communities is to prevent crime from happening in the first place.

"By intervening early and addressing the underlying causes of criminality, we will have fewer victims of crime, young people will be protected and diverted away from crime and there will be less cost to the criminal justice system.

"Crime prevention has always been a core element of policing, but it cannot be achieved by police alone."

My priorities are...

- Supporting early intervention by actively encouraging local partners to intervene earlier to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable groups are kept away from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Preventing and reducing serious violence I will continue to work in partnership in line with the Serious Violence Duty (a legal requirement for councils and local services to prevent and reduce serious violence) to prevent young people from getting drawn into crime such as knife crime.
- Preventing violence against women and girls through partnership working to embed a preventative approach to violence against women and girls (VAWG) within workplaces and communities.
- Enabling and empowering communities a new Prevention Fund from which small grants will be awarded will provide financial support through local charities and community organisations, to contribute to the prevention of crime.



Early intervention and prevention

continued from page 9

- Keeping communities safe the Constabulary will keep communities safe and reduce the risk to victims by working in partnership with local agencies to intervene early to prevent crime from occurring, continuing, or escalating.
- Building resilience to cybercrime and fraud I will continue to work with the Constabulary and other partners to raise awareness about fraud and cybercrime and how to prevent them from occurring, as the threats from the digital world evolve.
- Preventing future victims of crime I will support agencies to learn from and respond to recommendations made in reviews and embed a culture of continuous professional development to avoid future victims.
- Tackling serious crime I will continue to support the Constabulary and other partners to work together to prevent serious violence and crimes relating to knife crime, drugs, serious and organised crime, and violence against women and girls.
- Breaking the cycle of reoffending through partners across the criminal justice system working together to ensure smoother transitions for people back into the community as they leave prison. This includes supporting female offenders and addressing complex problems faced by some people including homelessness, deprivation, drug and alcohol misuse, mental ill-health and access to employment, education and training opportunities.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston at Netherhall School, Cambridge, with the School Council.





TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We will support and encourage communities to work with the police and other organisations, such as the county's Community Safety Partnerships, to resolve local issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, rural crime and business crime – issues that matter to them.

We will work with the police and agencies, including the courts, prosecutors, probation and local authorities, to ensure they use criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to tackle crime and disorder.



TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

"I have dedicated my life to protecting the public, previously as a police officer and now as Police and Crime Commissioner, and my aspiration remains the same – to ensure criminals are caught, victims are helped and our communities are kept safe.

"The core role of policing is to maintain public order, prevent crime and pursue those who break the law to keep our streets safe. Policing cannot do this alone.

"We have well-established Community Safety Partnerships consisting of the police, fire and rescue service, local authorities, health and the probation service who work together to address local issues such as bike theft, vandalism, fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour. I will build upon the progress made within the 'Robust Enforcement' theme of my previous Plan* and continue to support them.

"The criminal justice system is under pressure but plays a key role in ensuring that those who break the law are brought to justice."

My priorities are...

- Dealing with local issues I will continue to invest in our Community Safety Partnerships to support them in identifying and addressing the causes of local crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, working with partners and the community to build local resilience.
- Bringing offenders to justice I will work with agencies within the local criminal justice system to ensure that those who break the law are dealt with robustly and brought to justice in an effective and timely way.
- Improving road safety I will continue to work with the countywide road safety partnership to reduce serious injuries and deaths on our roads.



Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour continued from page 11

- Reducing re-offending the Constabulary will pursue offenders who commit frequent offences such as burglary, shoplifting and theft which impact on residents and businesses, and continue to work with local partnerships to prevent offending.
- Tackling crime in rural areas I will continue to make resources available to the Chief Constable to address the challenges faced by our rural communities. This involves working across county borders and with local and national partners such as Countryside Watch, National Farmers' Union, and the National Rural Crime Network.
- Combatting serious and organised crime the Constabulary will continue to work in collaboration with local partners to tackle serious and organised crime, with a particular focus on groups involved in firearms, drugs, and exploitation, including county lines.
- Addressing crimes affecting businesses I will continue to encourage the business community to share their concerns with the police and Community Safety Partnerships, to allow the challenges they face, including shoplifting, fraud, and violence towards shop workers to be responded to.
- Tackling hate crime by working with partners to tackle hate crime, raising awareness of the impact of it on communities, signposting to support, and improving victim confidence to report these crimes.
- Protecting the public the Constabulary, probation and other services will continue to monitor people who present a serious risk of harm in our communities, committing crimes such as domestic abuse, serious sexual offences, child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, to protect victims and the wider community.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

We will ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to their individual needs.

We will provide opportunities for victims and witnesses' voices to be heard.

We will work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure victims and witnesses continue to be placed at the heart of the criminal justice system.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

"Having listened to residents, businesses and stakeholders, it is clear that your expectations have not changed – victims want to be kept safe and for officers and staff to keep them updated on the police investigation. They want to be able to access support services which have sustainable funding and can meet their needs.

"Victims of serious violence, such as violence against women and girls (VAWG), also want to be confident that officers and staff have the skills and knowledge to respond to the crimes they report.

"I will do all I can to ensure that victims get the services they are entitled to, under the Victims' Code, by working with my colleagues in the criminal justice system."

My priorities are...

- Ensuring all victims and witnesses of crime who
 live in the county can access appropriate support

 by commissioning local services in partnership and within the budget available.
- Supporting local VAWG services so their voices, and that of the victims they support, are heard nationally and funding provided to continue the provision of life saving support.
- Victims of VAWG receive a professional service I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure that police officers and staff have the knowledge and skills to respond to VAWG offences including the evolving digital and online offences.
- Supporting victims of business crime I will work in partnership with the Constabulary to ensure victims of business crime are proactively offered appropriate support.
- Creating opportunities to listen to the voices of all victims and witnesses – and use these views to shape the development of a local Victim Strategy and the delivery of local services.



BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

We will hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.

We will aim to strengthen public trust and confidence through independent scrutiny of police powers.

We will support the Chief Constable and senior officers to continue to promote a culture that is inclusive and diverse and reflects the communities they serve.



BUILDING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

"Effective policing in the UK relies on maintaining public trust and confidence. Given the numerous challenges faced by modern policing, cultivating a strong ethical culture in the workforce is crucial. Policing also plays a key role in community cohesion. I will build upon the progress made in the 'Ethical Policing' theme of my previous Plan*. I am dedicated to holding the Chief Constable to account, ensuring that police officers act with integrity and adhere to the highest ethical standards.

"My approach will promote inclusivity, diversity and equality, guided by my experience as a former police officer to drive these efforts effectively."

My priorities are...

- Consistent ethical and professional behaviour in policing – holding the Chief Constable to account for their actions in ensuring the Code of Ethics is effectively implemented and that the requirements set out in the Guidance for Ethical and Professional Behaviour supports everyone in policing to do the right thing in the right way for the right reason.
- Delivering a policing service in a sustainable way

 by ensuring that the Constabulary is taking steps
 to reduce its impact on the environment in the way it
 works now and in the future. This includes working
 towards a net zero target by 2035.
- Promoting equality and diversity I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account, in the exercise of their duties or their general duty under equality and diversity legislation and how this is embedded within the Constabulary to ensure that the workforce is representative of the communities it serves.
- Overseeing police complaints and continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for their handling of dissatisfaction. Where standards fall short of expectations, or where something could have been done better, I will ensure the Chief Constable has processes in place to ensure complaints are dealt with fairly, the outcomes are reasonable and that appropriate learning is used to benefit all in policing.



Building trust and confidence

continued from page 14

- Understanding and addressing disproportionality –
 I will work with criminal justice partners to look at how the criminal justice system disproportionately impacts upon some of our communities.
- Scrutinising police actions by actively supporting community panels to review the use of police powers, which includes the use of stop and search and force. I will also support my Independent Custody Visitors as they make unannounced visits to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which people are detained in custody suites so that the interests of detainees are properly considered.
- Supporting the use of new tools and technologies intended to prevent and solve crimes, bring offenders to justice and keep people safe, whilst ensuring their use is necessary, proportionate and fair so that it does not undermine trust and confidence in policing.
- Taking a commissioning approach to the award of all funding from my office in line with the Commissioning and Grants Strategy.

Commissioner
Darryl Preston at the
launch of Buses and
Businesses Against
Abuse – the largest
violence against
women and girls
prevention initiative
Cambridgeshire has
ever seen, with bus
drivers receiving
specialist training to
identify predatory
behaviour to keep
people safe.





FINANCE AND RESOURCES

I receive an annual police settlement grant from central government which makes up approximately half of our funding. Most of the remaining funding comes from the policing part of your council tax. Funding for the 2024/25 year was made up of £109.8m of government grant and precept payments of £87.5m.

The majority of funding (99.2%) is passed to the Chief Constable to provide local and regional operational policing, including through the use of strategic partnerships through specialised and collaborated units.

Investment in policing continues to remain a priority for me. With record officer numbers now available within the Constabulary, appropriate planning is undertaken to ensure the growing demands on policing can be met.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary remains one of the lowest funded police forces in the country per head of population. A fairer funding formula would enable the police to respond better to community concerns. I will continue to work with local MPs and others to campaign for fairer funding, which reflects policing needs across our county.

Details of the budget, precept and financial plans will continue to be published on the budget page of the Commissioner's website. In addition to the 0.8% of funding retained by the Commissioner, £1.3m is also retained for Crime and Disorder Grants to fund partnership work to help prevent or reduce crime.

The Commissioner also receives an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice to fund support services for victims and witnesses of crime. The Commissioner's team will look for opportunities to bid for additional funding.



Finance and resources

continued from page 16

A Commissioning and Grants Strategy sets out how the Commissioner uses funding locally to help deliver the aims of this Plan. Details of all funding awards are available in the commissioning and grants section of the Commissioner's website.

Important points are...

- Effective and efficient collaborative arrangements that continue to provide value for money for the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Ensuring we have a balanced and sustainable budget which meets the requirements set out in the Police and Crime Plan.
- Reducing the costs of the police estate by working with our staff for more efficient ways of working and sharing premises with partners.
- Enabling and empowering communities a new Prevention Fund from which small grants will be awarded will provide financial support through local charities and community organisations, to contribute to the prevention of crime.
- An environmentally sustainable policing model to help us work towards a net zero target by 2035.

Commissioner Darryl
Preston at the site of
the new Cambridge
police station in
Milton; it is due to
become operational
during 2025.





HOW THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER HOLDS THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT

Governance and accountability

Although the Chief Constable remains operationally independent, it is my role to hold the police accountable on behalf of the public. Through robust governance arrangements, I monitor and scrutinise the Chief Constable's performance to ensure efficient and effective policing across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, addressing both ongoing and emerging challenges.

In recent years, while the overall level of recorded crime has decreased, there has been an increase in reports of certain previously hidden crimes—such as domestic abuse, child sexual abuse, stalking, and harassment. Knife crime and county lines drug dealing have also become more prominent. Drugs remain a major driver of crime, inflicting harm on individuals and communities. In addition, digital crime and fraud continue to present significant and evolving challenges.

The Chief Constable is responsible for delivering policing services and has systems in place to manage police performance. Alongside formal reporting from the Constabulary, I will also take into account feedback from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents, as well as data from audits, inspections, and other sources, to hold the Chief Constable to account.

At the end of each financial year, I will publish an annual report outlining how this Police and Crime Plan is being delivered.



NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Strategic policing requirements

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out what the Home Secretary believes are national threats and what national policing capabilities are in place to counter these threats. Currently this contains six national threats overall, namely terrorism, serious and organised crime, a national cyber incident, child sexual abuse, public order and civil emergencies and violence against women and girls, all of which reflect the growing focus on protecting vulnerable groups.

In the last three years, the SPR has evolved to include a stronger emphasis on tackling emerging threats, such as cybercrime, which has become increasingly prevalent. The requirement now highlights the need for police forces to develop capabilities to combat online crime and protect critical infrastructure. Additionally, there is a heightened focus on maintaining public safety and order, especially in light of civil unrest and large gatherings, requiring police to be prepared for dynamic public situations.

I will ensure the Chief Constable is prepared to meet these challenges by facilitating resource sharing and collaboration with other forces to tackle these complex issues. There is a renewed emphasis on the importance of joint operations and intelligence sharing to enhance policing effectiveness in addressing serious and organised crime, including drug trafficking and gang violence.

I will provide an annual assurance statement on how I have had regard to the SPR and how it has influenced the Constabulary in setting the strategic direction and objectives.



National priorities

continued from page 19

I will continue to work in partnership with regional and national agencies to address these national threats, encouraging more co-ordinated operations to combat serious organised crime and other risks that also affect local communities in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

In addition to the SPR, there are a range of national strategies that influence local policing priorities. My plan reflects key areas of focus for policing across the county. It addresses the issues that matter most to the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough while ensuring the flexibility to respond to emerging challenges during the life of this Plan.

This Plan also sets out clear expectations for the criminal justice system and community safety efforts, both for existing challenges and any new threats that may arise.







Police and Crime Commissioner CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH Darryl Preston



Commissioner Darryl Preston by the war memorial and town hall in Bridge Street, Peterborough.

CONTACT THE COMMISSIONER

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If you would like a printed version of this Plan, please contact the Commissioner's office.

You can keep up-to-date with the Commissioner's news and activities by signing up to receive his monthly newsletter.

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