

HOLDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT



HOLDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) holds the Chief Constable (CC) to account for the performance of Bedfordshire Police, including ensuring that the CC has due regard to the Police and Crime Plan and the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

It is for the PCC to determine what mechanisms to use in discharging this duty, including both public and private accountability meetings, formal reports and informal meetings etc.

Police and Crime Plans must include details of how the CC will report to a PCC on his delivery of effective and efficient policing in Bedfordshire and how performance will be measured.

Read more about the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Chief Constable weekly 1:1's

SCAN ME



Read the Police and Crime Commissioners 2022-23 Annual Report

SCAN ME



WEEKLY 1:1 WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

As part of the PCC statutory oversight and scrutiny function of policing in Bedfordshire, he holds weekly meetings with the Chief Constable. This allows the PCC to be provided with updates on force activity, to advise on matters that have been raised by residents, and to liaise on key areas of policing (local, regional and national).

PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The purpose of the Performance and Governance Board is to hold the CC to account via the Force Executive Team for the efficient and effective delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, including, effectiveness and efficiency including utilisation of all resources, performance monitoring, budget monitoring, risk (local and collaborated) and force action against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN: KEY PRIORITIES

- 1) Investment in community-based and community led policing for urban and rural areas.
- 2) Recruitment and retention of police officers.
- 3) Tackling the causes of crime and breaking the cycle of re-offending.
- 4) Placing residents and victims at the centre of policing priorities.
- 5) Multi-agency approach to community safety and crime reduction.
- 6) Transparency and Open Communication.
- 7) National Contributions.



INTRODUCTION

The Police and Crime Panel plays an important role in challenging, scrutinising and supporting the PCC.

The panel is responsible for scrutinising:

- The PCC's precepts and police and crime plans
- Conducting confirmation hearings
- Dealing with complaints against the PCC.

HOW DOES THE PANEL HOLD THE PCC TO ACCOUNT?

- Reviewing, reporting/making recommendations to the PCC in respect of his draft Police and Crime Plan.
- Reviewing, reporting/making recommendations to the PCC on his annual report.
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions made, or other actions taken by the PCC in connection with the discharge of his functions and make reports or recommendations to the PCC with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- Reviewing and reporting back to the PCC on appointments he proposes to make to the Commissioner's Chief Executive, the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

VOLUNTEERING



STOP AND SEARCH AND USE OF FORCE PANEL

The PCC for Bedfordshire has the responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for the safe delivery of Stop and Search and Use of Force.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner manages and administers the Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel. Feedback and findings are provided to Bedfordshire Police.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is to:

- To provide independent reviews of the use of Stop and Search and Use of Force across Bedfordshire and provide learning on their practices.
- To achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use of Stop and Search and Use of Force powers across Bedfordshire.
- To improve public confidence and trust in the way in which Stop and Search and Use of Force is conducted.

INDEPENDENT DOG WELFARE SCHEME

The Dog Welfare Scheme is administrated by Hertfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of all three Police and Crime Commissioners.

Volunteers meet every six months with the administrator attending along with Dog Unit Manager and Dogs Trust representative. The scheme's target is that the volunteers visit all police dogs in a six month period and report on their findings via visiting forms.



INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING

The Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme is a statutory requirement for PCC's. Independent Custody Visitors are expected to make unannounced visits to police custody suites and provide feedback to the PCC and his office on their findings. The ICV role plays an important part in reassuring the community.

Independent Custody Visitors ensure that:

- Detainees are treated fairly and in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and associated codes of practice.
- That the conditions detainees are kept in are clean and safe and any matters of concern are recorded and dealt with effectively.
- That the rights and entitlements of detainees in Bedfordshire Police Custody are observed and adhered to.



COMPLAINTS PROCESS



REVIEWING COMPLAINTS

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) monitors Bedfordshire Police Force complaints handling by completing dip sampling for the Professional Standards Department (PSD) and Customer Support on a monthly basis.

All feedback and learning is documented within the Quarterly Transparency Reports published on the PCC's website.

When Dip Sampling, we review the following:

- Timelines – how long it has taken for the complaint to be completed.
- Has the correct process been followed?
- Have all allegations been investigated?
- Learning identified
- Has the outcome been clearly explained to the complainant?

COMPLAINTS REFORM REVIEWS

A review offers the opportunity to consider whether the complaint outcome is reasonable and proportionate but not the handling of the incident leading to the complaint.

Each review will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the reviewer concludes that the outcome was not reasonable and proportionate, the review should be upheld i.e, the service provided by the police was not acceptable the OPCC will, where appropriate, make recommendation to the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police.

Complainants will have been advised by PSD in their complaint outcome letter if they have the right of review and who is the appropriate review body (either the OPCC or Independent Office for Police Conduct).

DID YOU KNOW?



The timeframe for requesting a review is 28 days from the date of the letter concluding the complaint.

CHIEF CONSTABLE COMPLAINTS

When the Chief Constable has not had any personal involvement into a case or dealings with the complainant and delegates such as responsibilities to others within the organisation, a Chief Constable complaint cannot be recorded.

The IOPC statutory guidance states 'A.7 *There will be times where a complaint names the chief officer or acting chief officer, but the complaint is actually about something where authority has been delegated to another officer or staff member within the force*'.

Therefore, where it is immediately clear that the Chief Constable or Acting Chief Officer has had no involvement, the local policing body must take the steps to inform the complainant that they are not the appropriate authority and that the complaint must be passed to the police to review.

SCAN ME



FUNDING, FINANCES, GRANTS & COMMISSIONING

FUNDING STREAMS

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire has two funding streams from which awards can be made which contribute to the delivery of the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (MOJ) FUNDING

Police and Crime Commissioners were given responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in 2014 along with an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice.

Ministry of Justice Funding is specifically used in the specialist support of victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, counselling services and support of victims of all other crime types.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND (CSF)

The PCC's Community Safety Fund is utilised to support services in the following areas:

- Mental Health
- Volunteers
- Adult Offender Management
- Youth Offender Management
- Domestic Abuse Offender Focus
- Early Intervention
- Police and Crime Plan Delivery

COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

Commissioning is the process of completing needs assessments across Bedfordshire, planning, prioritising and monitoring services to achieve outcomes.

To do so the PCC awards funding to organisations in the county who contribute to the delivery of the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

This falls into four priorities within the Police and Crime Plan:

- Investment in community-based and community-led policing for urban and rural areas.
- Tackling the causes of crime and breaking the cycle of re-offending.
- Placing residents and victims at the centre of policing priorities.
- Multi-agency and transparent approach to community safety and crime reduction.

JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE



The Joint Audit Committee (JAC) scrutinises internal processes, spending and risk management policies.

It also has the power to:

- Review finance issues referred by the PCC and the Chief Constable.
- Monitor internal control processes.
- Audit reports and the annual statements of accounts.

SCAN ME



The OPCC strives to keep the needs of local people at the heart of commissioning choices. Funding opportunities are awarded after a fair, transparent and open process and ensure quality services are provided by holding commissioned organisations to account with robust performance monitoring. The aim of which, whether it be funding services to help prevent or recover from crime, is to make sure that our communities are supported and safe.