

Avon and Somerset
Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
Election Candidate
Pack 2024



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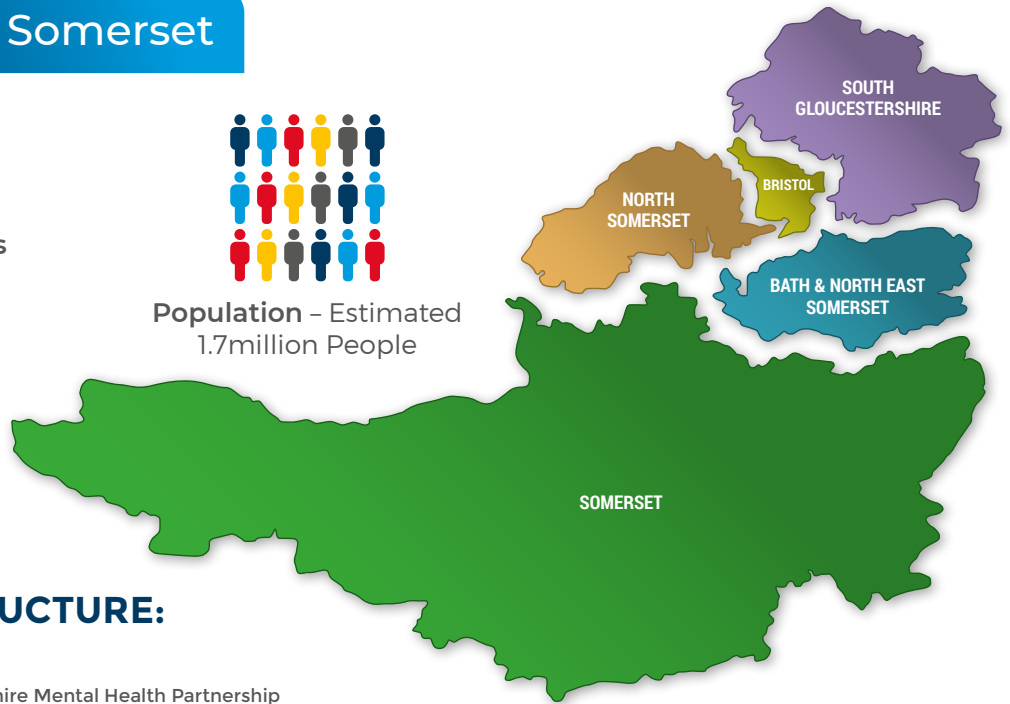


About Avon and Somerset

Avon & Somerset
Covers 1,855 Square Miles



Population – Estimated
1.7million People



KEY PARTNERS STRUCTURE:



Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust, RUH Bath NHS
Foundation Trust, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust,
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation
Trust, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS
Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust



PRISONS

Ashfield, Bristol,
Eastwood Park
and Leyhill



A Community
Safety Partnership
for each Local Authority



Crown Courts
Bristol and Taunton



5 UNITARY AUTHORITIES

Bristol City Council, Bath and
North East Somerset Council,
North Somerset Council, South
Gloucestershire Council and
Somerset Council



MAGISTRATES COURTS

Bath, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare,
Taunton and Yeovil



Three Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

NHS Bath and North East
Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
ICB, NHS Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire ICB,
NHS Somerset ICB



FIRE SERVICES

Avon Fire and Rescue
Service, Devon and Somerset
Fire and Rescue Service



YOUTH OFFENDING TEAMS

Bath and North East
Somerset, Bristol, North
Somerset, Somerset,
South Gloucestershire

It is a geographically diverse area from the beautiful and scenic rolling hills, national parks, levels and market towns of Somerset to the culturally rich, historic and vibrant cities of Bristol and Bath. The region has a growing and diversifying population. The estimated population is around 1.7 million people and 734,000 households. At the 2021 Census, the overall resident population in Avon and Somerset was less ethnically diverse than the national average.

However, diversity is increasing and there are significant differences across urban and rural areas. At the last census, there were just under 160,000 people from a Asian, Black, mixed or other minority ethnic backgrounds in Avon and Somerset, representing 9.2% of the population. This varies considerably across Local Authorities with the greatest ethnic diversity in Bristol (18.9%) and the least ethnic diversity in Somerset (3.6%). When looking at the top-tier ethnicity groups Avon and Somerset is 3.5% Asian, 2.2% Black, 2.5% Mixed and 1.0% Other.

Duties of a Police and Crime Commissioner



THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The PCC is democratically elected to act as the voice of communities of Avon and Somerset. In addition to this, there are a number of legal duties which are described below.

- ✓ Securing that the police force is efficient and effective
- ✓ Setting the strategic direction for policing in Avon and Somerset
- ✓ Publishing a Police and Crime Plan, in consultation with the Chief Constable and local people
- ✓ Setting the budget for the police
- ✓ Setting the policing part of the council tax precept
- ✓ Holding the Chief Constable to account for delivering policing
- ✓ Appointing, and if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable
- ✓ Supporting and challenging police performance
- ✓ Engaging with communities including victims
- ✓ Commissioning victim support services and awards grants in the community
- ✓ Working with partners in the areas of criminal justice and community safety

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PCC

1

Elected to represent public views on policing and crime locally. Directly accountable to the public.

2

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

3

Funds crime prevention services to address issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, youth crime and anti-social behaviour to keep your communities safe.

4

After consulting local people, publishes a Police and Crime Plan to identify local priorities and how they plan to meet them.

5

Works with national and local policing and Criminal Justice partners to reduce crime and help make communities safer.

6

Works with local authorities, health and education services - plus the voluntary sector and local businesses - to create a joined-up response to local problems.

7

Sets the police budget, decides how much you pay towards policing from your council tax, to add to the funding from central Government and decides how the total budget is spent.

8

Appoints the Chief Constable who runs the operational side of policing in your area.

9

Holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering an effective and efficient police service.

10

Some Police and Crime Commissioners are also responsible for their local Fire and Rescue Services.

About the OPCC

WHAT IS THE OPCC?

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is run by a dedicated team who support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

The team support:

- Strategic financial policy
- Performance, monitoring and scrutiny
- Governance and Compliance
- Commissioning, grant funding and partnerships
- Communications and engagement
- Audit and general administrative duties

The OPCC is led by a Chief of Staff whose responsibility is to manage the staff and provide a monitoring role to ensure standards remain high. The team also includes a Chief Finance Officer to advise the PCC on financial matters and the impact on any decisions regarding the budget, spending and commissioning. The PCC and OPCC occupy a suite of offices (179 sq m) at Police Headquarters in Portishead.

Our Purpose

To lead improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of policing, victim support and criminal justice services on behalf of local people.

Our Vision

Excellent victim support, accountable policing, and fairer criminal justice services for all.

Our Mission

We listen

We lead

We challenge

We innovate

We improve



OPENNESS

We will always be transparent and open about the work we do, our services and how we support our communities.



PARTNERSHIP

We will work with the police and key partners to provide better services to local people.



**AVON &
SOMERSET**
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER



COMPASSION

We will continue to take a compassionate approach to commission the most effective services for victims and survivors.

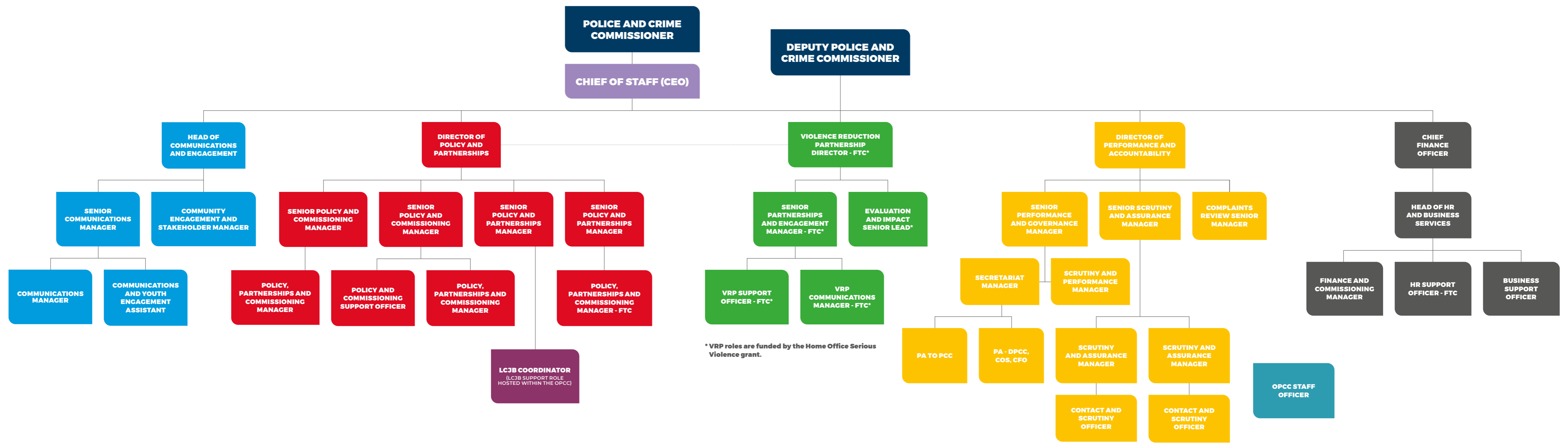


COURAGE

We are the voice of local people in policing, and we will always share concerns, issues and feedback to the police and partners.



OPCC STAFF STRUCTURE

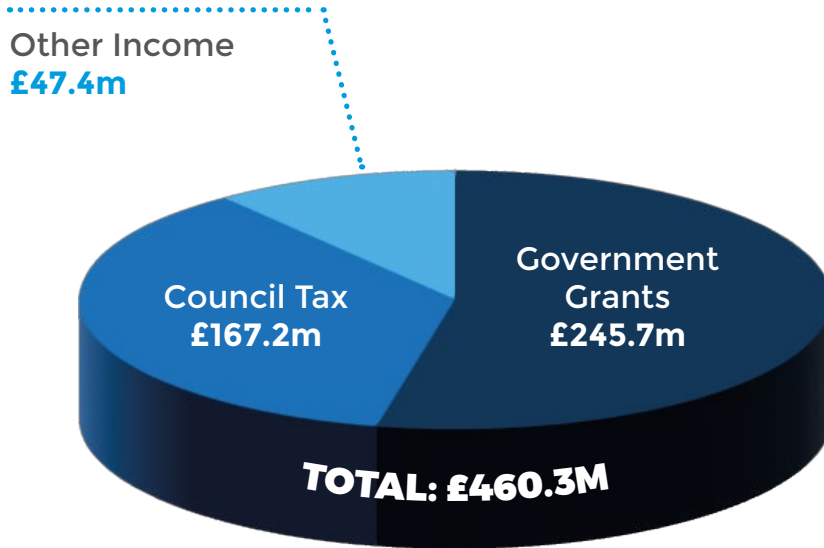


* VRP roles are funded by the Home Office Serious Violence grant.

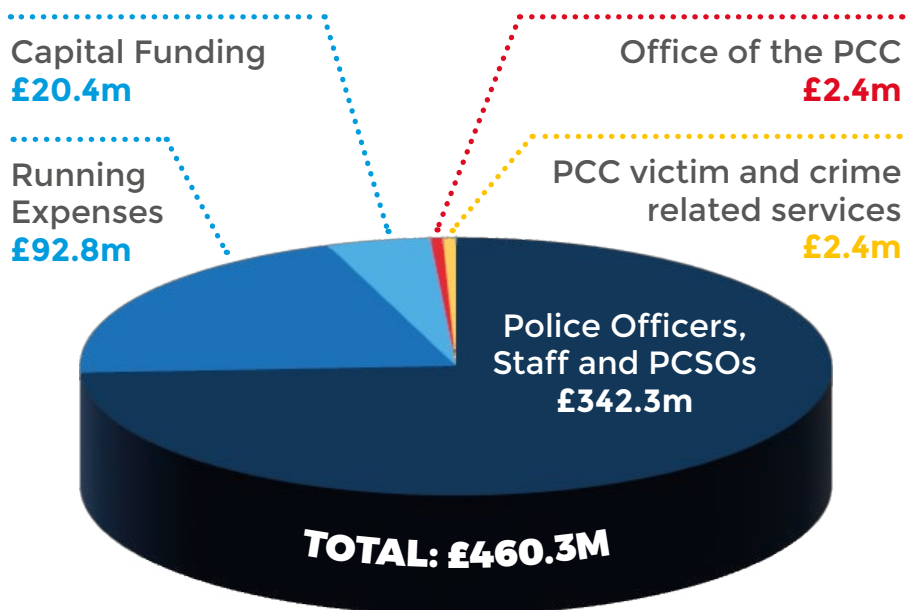
OUR VALUES

- OPENNESS
- PARTNERSHIP
- COMPASSION
- COURAGE

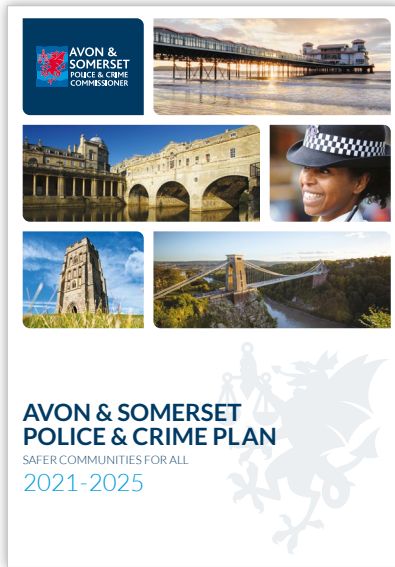
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



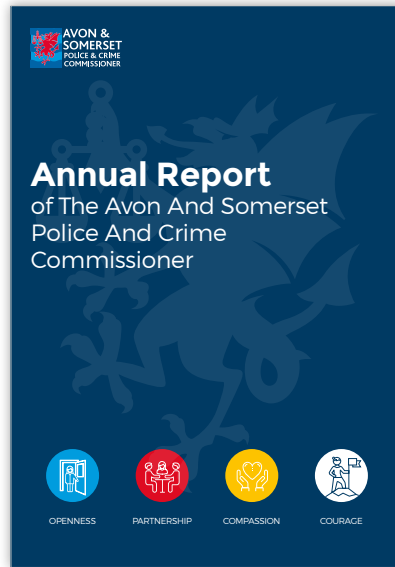
WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



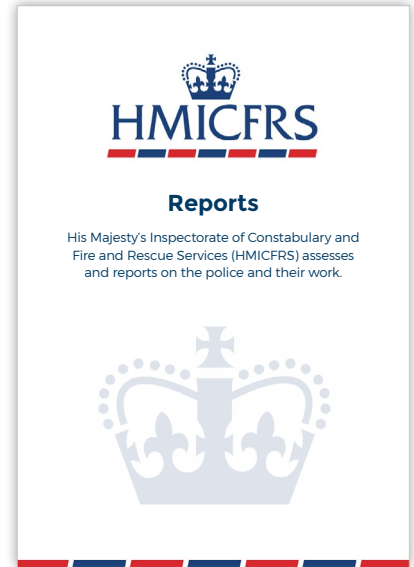
Key Reports and Documents



Police and Crime Plan



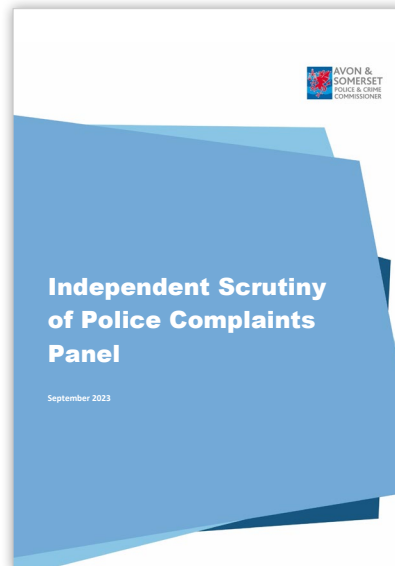
Annual Reports



HMICFRS Reports



Identifying Disproportionality Report



Independent Scrutiny Panel Reports

Avon and Somerset Police



SOUTH WEST POLICE COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

The South West police region covers five forces: Avon and Somerset, Gloucestershire, Devon and Cornwall, Wiltshire and Dorset. Avon and Somerset Police work in three, four and five force collaborations across the South West to increase capability, efficiency and realise cost benefits in maintaining and improving services to the public.

The force's approach to collaboration is summarised by the following agreement between Chief Constables and PCCs across the South West: 'We will pursue opportunities to collaborate, that enhance the effectiveness of policing operations, increase the safety of the public and deliver improved value.'

- Major Crime Investigation Team
- South West Regional Organised Crime Unit
- Counter Terrorism Policing South West
- Tri Force Firearms Training Facility 'Black Rock'
- South West Regional Special Branch Collaboration
- Forensic Services
- Procurement
- Other regional operations and projects overseen by a joint strategic governance structure
- Find out more about [Avon and Somerset Police's collaborations](#).

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are required to publish certain performance information to allow the public to hold them to account.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires an elected local policing body to publish any information specified by the Secretary of State by order. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 ('the Order') sets out the information that must be published.

[To read about the areas of focus for the Specified Information Order and the reports available please see the page on our website.](#)

Other Partnerships

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CSPS)

CSPs have a range of duties which are set in legislation:

- Consult & Engage with their local community on issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety.
- Identify & Prioritise issues and prepare plans for how these can be tackled at a community level;
- Monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime; and
- Deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in each district, directly through interventions, through the work of delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

CSPs work with the community to identify issues of concern in the local area and prepare plans to deliver practical solutions.

They also work in partnership with other organisations which contribute to community safety in the area.

There are CSPs in each of the five local authority areas of Avon and Somerset.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

The Violence Reduction Partnership in Avon and Somerset is a partnership of local statutory agencies and some third sector organisations that takes a public health approach to violence reduction, focusing on understanding the causes of serious youth violence, and the reasons why people get drawn into a life of crime. The partnership provides interventions, support and prevention to young people to steer them away from the criminal justice system.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is the VRP hub, providing a central coordination function, overseeing all five spokes, coordinating the Home Office grant allocation and ensuring that the Avon and Somerset VRP is collectively meeting the objectives of the public health approach to tackling serious violence.

LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD (LCJB)

LCJBs bring 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 Criminal Justice System.

In Avon and Somerset the PCC chairs the Local Criminal Justice Board and has a Business Manager role hosted in the OPCC to support the function.

TACKLING RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY STEERING COMMITTEE (TD STEER CO)

The TD Steer Co sits under the governance of the LCJB. It is chaired by the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police, Sarah Crew and Councillor Asher Craig of Bristol City Council.

It was set up in response to a report published in 2022, commissioned by the OPCC on behalf of the LCJB.

The Identifying Disproportionality In Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice System report was in response to the national Lammy Review – an independent review of the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) – led and published by David Lammy MP in 2017.

The aim of the localised review was to take a local approach to the principle of “explain or reform” in respect of any identified racial disproportionality within the agencies who deliver the criminal justice system in Avon and Somerset.

The TD Steer Co is coordinating a multi-agency approach to the report and delivering its recommendations, asking the senior leaders involved to drive the cultural change required to ensure that the criminal justice system is more equitable, so people can feel and see the difference through their experiences in the future.

REDUCING REOFFENDING BOARD

Our office has reinvigorated the local Reducing Reoffending Board. This is the key forum for all partners involved in the criminal justice system to focus efforts that reduce reoffending.

Aims:

- To provide oversight and coordination of reducing reoffending work across Avon and Somerset.
- To provide strategic oversight and governance of Integrated Offender Management (IOM).
- To develop priorities that provide areas to focus efforts.
- To bring together and support partner agencies with the objective of sharing information, improving efficiency, and sharing best practice.

To discuss opportunities for co-design and co-commissioning across statutory, VCS and private sector agencies.

SOUTH WEST REDUCING REOFFENDING PARTNERSHIP

The South West Reducing Reoffending Partnership (SWRRP) was established in March 2019. It brings together partners from across the South West to support multi-agency work to tackle some of the main causes of reoffending (such as lack of accommodation, access to health services and employment opportunities).

Partnerships and Collaborations

The Partnership is made up of a range of criminal justice partners, which includes:

- Ministry of Justice
- NHS
- Police
- Prisons
- Probation Service
- The Department of Work and Pensions.
- The South West regional Police and Crime Commissioners
- The voluntary sector
- Youth Justice Board

Together, they aim to reduce the frequency and harm of reoffending by adults and children in order to reduce crime and prevent further victims. The SWRRP is currently particularly focused on improving outcomes for people in the criminal justice system with a substance misuse and / or mental health need.

The innovative partnership deliver a number of ambitious projects, including our Prisoners Building Homes Programme – an initiative which involves prisoners working with modular housing providers to build low carbon, environmentally friendly modular homes for local communities and vulnerable people across the South West.

BUSINESS CRIME FORUM

The Business Crime Forum was set up to ensure there is an open dialogue between Avon and Somerset Police, business crime reduction partnerships and business groups to help reduce crime against local businesses.

The concerns and issues discussed help to inform the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) and Avon and Somerset Police's Business Crime Strategy. [Avon and Somerset Business Crime Strategy 2022 – 2025 \(PDF\)](#).

RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM

The Rural Crime Forum aims to create a place for people to discuss issues around crime in rural communities and find solutions that meet the whole community's needs.

Existing Farm, Horse and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes serve rural communities through the sharing of intelligence between the community and the police.

The Forum aims to:

- Support the development of a network of communications with rural communities across the whole of Avon and Somerset in a manner which meets the needs of the communities.
- Work in partnership with all rural communities to ensure the police response to crime is of the highest possible standard.
- Seek to reduce levels of rural crime and increase the trust and confidence in the policing service.

The Police and Crime Panel

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel is a statutory panel that supports and scrutinises the decisions and activities of the PCC. The Panel is made up of 16 councillors from all local authorities in the area plus three independent co-opted members.

The Police and Crime Panel can:

- Review the PCC's plan for the proposed precept (the policing part of the council tax budget) and they have the power to veto the decision if necessary.
- Review the draft Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report and make suggestions about the publications.
- Scrutinise the PCC's proposed appointment of a Chief constable; they have the power to veto the decision if necessary.
- Scrutinise the PCC's proposed appointment for OPCC Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and any deputy PCC that they seek to appoint.
- Request reports and call the PCC to attend its meetings.
- Consider complaints against the PCC of a non-criminal nature.

Read the Panel's meeting agenda and papers on the [Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel website](#).

Police and Crime Panel meetings are open to the public, except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be discussed.

The public can ask questions at each meeting relevant to the Panel's functions.

Find out how to get involved on the [Panel's website](#).



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 [avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

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