



**APCC**  
**»» IMPACT**  
report 2022/23

**Association of Police and Crime  
Commissioners 2022/23 Year Review**



# TESTIMONIALS

Since their inception, PCCs have helped drive change across the policing and criminal justice system, including driving up trust and confidence in policing, driving down anti-social behaviour and supporting victims and survivors.

PCCs have an important role in representing local communities' priorities to their policing counterparts, and as the PCCs' representative body, the APCC is a key component in policing governance. **Policing Minister, the Rt Hon Chris Philp MP**

I value the close working relationship between the NPCC and APCC which is important to support our communities and respective membership bodies.

The critical scrutiny role of the PCC and Deputy Mayors is well established after 11 years, and provides effective oversight of policing, delivered in a transparent way, ensuring that the community voice is front and centre. This in turn helps to ensure that Chief Constables can concentrate on the operational side of policing, and the delivery of an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

Policing standards, capacity, cultural practices, and overall effectiveness are under the spotlight more than ever and working collaboratively with the APCC and its members makes us stronger and able to face the challenges that lie ahead.

We will face these challenges and continue the positive work we do every day in, with and for our communities to help keep them safe. **Chief Constable Gavin Stephens QPM, Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council**

Police and Crime Commissioners have an important role in policing to make sure we are accountable to the communities we serve, and they act as an essential link between the public and the police. The College of Policing will continue to work closely with PCCs as we seek to boost standards, improve the service's effectiveness, and restore public confidence and trust. **Chief Constable Andy Marsh QPM, Chief Executive Officer of the College of Policing**

We have greatly valued working with the APCC this year to improve collaboration between charitable foundations and Police and Crime Commissioners. New guidance produced by the APCC – with input from the Association of Charitable Foundations – will act as a resource to encourage PCCs and grant-making foundations to share intelligence and evidence, coordinate funding and even co-invest where areas of interest match. Greater connection and collaboration between PCCs and charitable foundations will help to address key challenges and deliver positive outcomes for local communities across England and Wales. **Association of Charitable Foundations**

As a PCC, I have been able to spearhead closer collaboration between policing and the private sector to raise the issue of retail crime to the top of the political and policy agendas, supporting retailers to have their voice heard on issues around reporting and attendance.

This work has now led to the launch of the Pegasus Partnership in which 14 of the biggest retailers in the UK have pledged nearly a million pounds to develop a dedicated national police intelligence capability to scope and tackle the organised crime gangs affecting the retail sector.

With support from the Home Office, NPCC, the APCC and the College of Policing, we now have a coordinated national action plan to combat the exponential rise in retail crime nationally so we can protect businesses and shop staff and reassure shoppers that our high streets are safe. **Katy Bourne OBE, Sussex PCC. APCC Lead for Business and Retail Crime and Board Member**





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## INTRODUCTION

**It has been a huge privilege to Chair the APCC through what has been such an important time for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), Police Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCCs), Deputy Mayors, and the public.**

As the public's elected representatives to policing, PCCs are showing vital strategic leadership in the fight to protect local communities and reduce crime. Commissioners are also driving effective governance and stronger public accountability across policing, which everybody should welcome.

November 2022 marked the ten-year anniversary since Police and Crime Commissioners were elected for the first time. Whilst public oversight of policing dates back to the days of Peel, PCCs have undoubtedly elevated the levels of transparency and accountability in the service. Over the last ten years, elected PCCs, and their equivalents, have established their role as the public's voice to policing, the champion of victims and survivors of crime, the convener and leader of a myriad of local partnerships and the commissioner of countless initiatives and services in their communities.

The APCC has become an integral part of the policing landscape and is now rightly seen as the home of policing governance. This Impact Report sets out how we are delivering against our strategic plan, including how we are influencing and shaping national policy and debate on behalf of our growing membership.

We have, notably, increased our influence with our national partners – including, consolidating the PCC role on the National Policing Board and as joint chair of the Strategic Policing Partnership Board while strengthening our relationships with the College of Policing and other policing partners, and developing the APCC's relationships beyond policing.

In this way the APCC has re-focused the way we are working with partners, significantly strengthening ties with a wide range of representative organisations, including the Local Government Association, with which we initiated a number of workstreams on key issues, including tackling antisocial behaviour, substance misuse, violence and civility in public life.

We also extended the APCC membership to new partners, including Scottish Police Authority and the Civil Nuclear Police Authority.



By demonstrating the positive impact the work of the APCC has had on policing, including through the implementation of the PCC Review, we attracted additional funding from the Home Office this year, enabling us to do even more for our members and for policing, fire and criminal justice. The APCC remains an incredibly ambitious organisation which is focused on promoting the PCC role, supporting members to discharge their duties and priorities, enable better sharing of knowledge and work to maximise investment to prevent and tackle crime.

The need for a strong APCC has never been more evident. It remains committed to providing PCCs with the tools necessary to ensure policing is transparent, accountable and, above all, well placed to deliver on behalf of the public we serve.

**Marc Jones:** Outgoing APCC Chair

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## FORWARD LOOK

**I want to place on record my thanks to Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones for the time he served as Chair of the APCC Board. Marc supported all members during his two years as Chair. His efforts in improving the organisation have seen an increase in the membership of the APCC which has led to an increased focus of events and panels to ensure the APCC is delivering the support required for Police and Crime Commissioners, Police Fire and Crime Commissioners, Deputy Mayors and Associate Members.**

In leading the APCC, it is my vision to ensure that the public get the first-class policing service that they deserve. In order to do that we need the professional organisation supporting us to be fit for purpose, agile and prepared to respond to the ever changing needs of PCCs in the national policing space. As we approach the PCC elections it is key that the profile of PCCs and Deputy Mayors is increased to ensure the public are aware of the strong voice they have in policing through 43 PCCs, PFCCs and Deputy Mayors and our valued Associate Members.

The APCC has a critical role to play. I was pleased to have worked with the Home Office to secure an extra £1m in funding for the APCC. With the extra investment afforded to us by the Home Office, the APCC is increasing capacity to tackle the key challenges within the sector.

The role of PCCs in the criminal justice system has grown and we are now seeing tangible improvements and outcomes for victims of crimes in the communities we serve. But we need a stronger focus on prevention and, as the home of policing governance, we need to support PCCs to develop bold and intuitive solutions to the problems we face in our communities.

I am looking forward to working closely with my fellow PCCs to ensure drive forward these agendas and to deliver improvement and change.

*Donna Jones.*

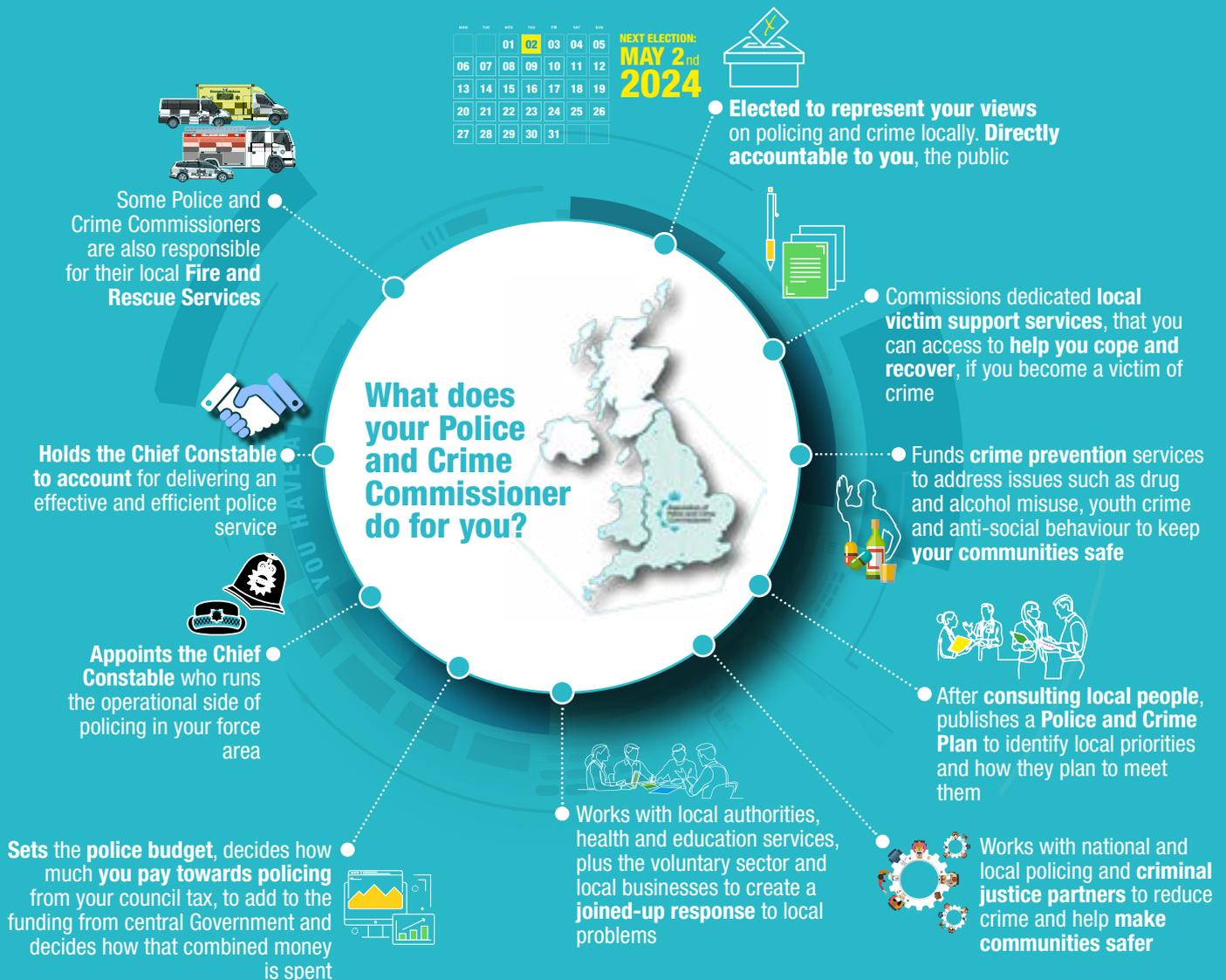
**Donna Jones:** Incoming APCC Chair

# WHAT WE DO

## ROLE OF A POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PCCs are responsible for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of policing in their area. They hold the budget, set the priorities through their police and crime plan and hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery against it. They are the voice of the public in policing and are directly elected.

They also are responsible for commissioning support services for victims of crime in their area, ensuring the voice of the victim is heard in the criminal justice system and that victims get the help and support they need. PCCs remit also extends to the criminal justice system. Many chair their local criminal justice boards and bring criminal justice partners together to deliver improvements. Some PCCs are also responsible for the governance of fire and rescue services in their area (PFCCs). In London, Greater Manchester, and West Yorkshire policing and crime are the responsibility of Deputy Mayors.



**PCCs have many responsibilities which include:**

- **Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account**
- **Setting the police budget**
- **Deciding how much local people pay towards local policing through the policing precept**
- **Producing a Police and Crime Plan which sets out local priorities**
- **Commissioning services to support victims of crime**
- **Improving community safety**
- **Working with other organisations, including criminal justice partners, to deliver a joined-up approach to local priorities**
- **Engaging with the public, giving them a voice in local policing and community safety**

## **ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) is the national body that supports PCCs, and other local policing bodies across England and Wales, to provide national leadership and drive strategic change in the policing, criminal justice and wider community safety landscape, to help keep our communities safe.

All 40 PCCs and PFCCs in England and Wales, as well as the City of London Police Authority, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime for the Greater London Authority and the Greater Manchester and the West Yorkshire Combined Authorities are members of the APCC. It also increased its membership amongst other policing governance bodies so it now includes Jersey Police Authority; British Transport Police Authority; Civil Nuclear Police Authority; the Ministry of Defence Police Committee and Scottish Police Authority.



**Association of  
Police and Crime  
Commissioners**

**By coming together  
as one Association,  
the APCC is able to:**

- **Debate and shape national policing and criminal justice strategy and policy**
- **Use its collective voice to influence change with Government and stakeholders**
- **Engage nationally with the public to inform policing and community safety developments**
- **Forge productive relationships with national stakeholders and delivery partners**
- **Share good practice and innovation across our members and more widely**

# APCC STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW FOR 2022-24

## WHO ARE WE?

The APCC is the home of policing governance and the national membership body that supports **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS, POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS, DEPUTY MAYORS** and other policing bodies across England and Wales to:

- Reduce crime, safer communities, and excellence in policing
- Be the voice of the public in policing and criminal justice
- Build trust and confidence across communities

### KEY OUTCOMES:

-  SAFER COMMUNITIES
-  EXCELLENCE IN POLICING
-  A TRANSFORMED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
-  SUPPORTING AND SPEAKING UP FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

### KEY PRIORITIES:

-  A NATIONAL VOICE ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITIES
-  IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE PCC ROLE AND SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS IN THEIR STATUTORY ROLES
-  SECURING INVESTMENT AND SUPPORTING INNOVATION
-  SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP AND TO COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY ACROSS POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### THESE SIX CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS WILL BE REFLECTED IN ALL OUR WORK:



SUPPORT AND PROMOTE PCCS AS THE PUBLIC'S ELECTED VOICE ON POLICING AND CRIME



IMPROVE THE PUBLIC'S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



HAVE A CONSISTENT FOCUS ON CRIME PREVENTION



WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHERE WE CAN



CHAMPION EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EVERYTHING WE DO



CHAMPION EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY IN EVERYTHING WE DO

# FOUR KEY OUTCOMES

## 1. SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS TO DELIVER SAFER COMMUNITIES

### PREVENTION

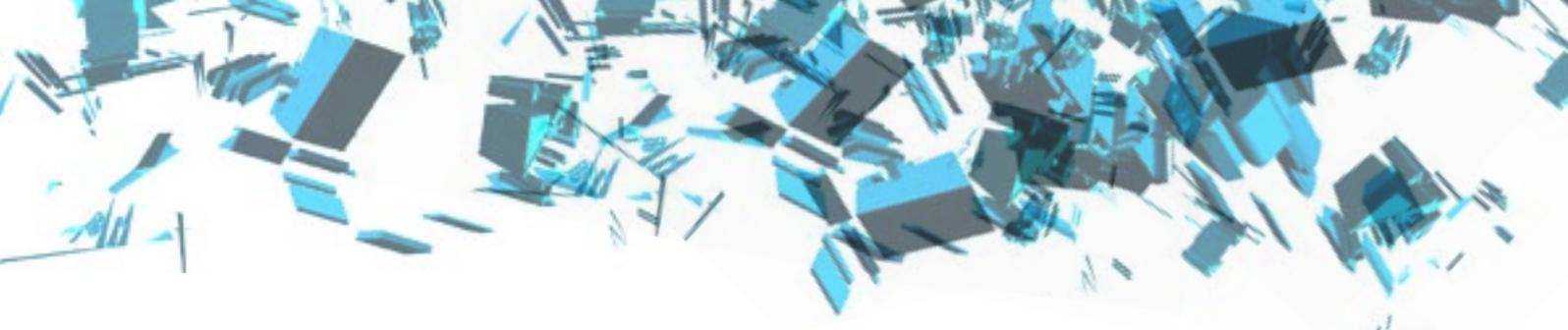
During 2022-23, the APCC worked to secure a combined total of almost £35m of Safer Streets funding to deliver local prevention activity and innovation. Our public media campaign to highlight PCC led Safer Streets projects was supported by the Policing Minister and increased engagement with our X (formerly Twitter) account by nearly two hundred per cent compared with the previous month.

The portfolio Lead's evidence given at the Home Affairs Select Committee received national media coverage, helping to raise the PCC profile and awareness of prevention, as well as the

### ADDICTIONS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

The APCC directly shaped the local implementation guidance for the Drug Strategy with PCCs at the forefront and has supported PCCs to take on the lead role in their Combatting Drug Partnerships where appropriate. In addition, awareness among PCCs of gambling-related crime and how to tackle it was raised, which has led to more local initiatives and activity. The APCC produced a checklist for PCCs and their offices to support them to audit how gambling-related crime is addressed locally and to support them to address it.

Through the APCC, PCCs have an effective voice and national representation on substance misuse and addictions strategy. For example, portfolio leads attend the cross ministerial forum for drug strategy implementation and sit on the new National Taskforce for Alcohol Related Crime and Homicide. PCCs also gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee inquiry on drug policy.



The APCC's Addictions and Substance Misuse portfolio played a lead role in highlighting community concerns about nitrous oxide, persuading ministers of the case for action. An Addictions in Focus report was published to profile PCC-led initiatives to combat drugs and launched in parliament, with excellent engagement from MPs and peers.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND CUSTODY**

Having secured the first ever APCC/PCC representations to the Ministerial Board for Deaths in Custody, PCCs now have a national voice in this area, helping shape policy and practice and inform decision makers at views at the national level. The APCC delivered a new Quarterly Custody Meeting, providing PCCs and their offices with a valuable opportunity to engage with stakeholders, share best practice and receive important policy updates. In doing so, the APCC established a national network of colleagues working in custody which has shared notable practice.

The portfolio has worked hard to develop a new National Partnership Agreement on mental health for policing and PCCs to help realise change in how policing responds to mental health demand, which will release police resources. The APCC also gathered evidence from PCCs relating to local spend on mental health commissioned services to inform Sir Stephen House's productivity review.

## **BUSINESS CRIME**

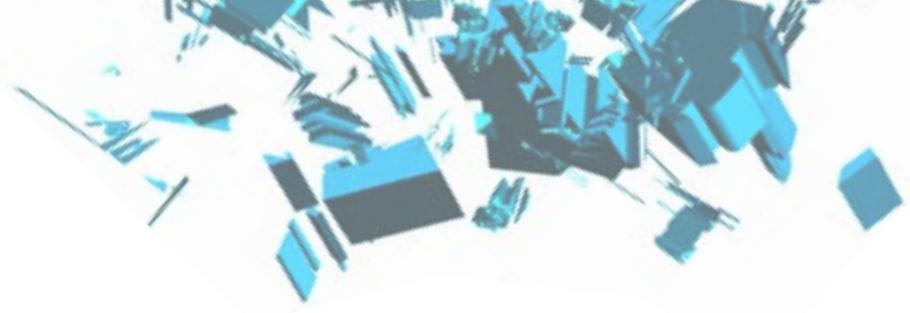
The portfolio has focussed on sharing notable practice and supporting PCCs Police and Crime Plan priorities which has meant PCCs/OPCCs have been able to adopt new approaches and partnerships following its guidance. The portfolio has provided valuable contributions to the National Retail Crime Steering Group and to engagement with the Government.

More PCCs have included business and retail crime in their Police and Crime Plans, re-established or reformed their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, and built relationships with Business Improvement Districts.

## **ROADS SAFETY AND ROADS POLICING**

APCC portfolio group meetings have provided a forum for PCCs/OPCCs to be involved in policy discussions and information sharing on road safety. PCCs have addressed the structures of their local road safety partnerships and revised local strategies in line with their Police and Crime Plans.

The review of National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme regulations will provide greater transparency for PCCs to use funding to invest in engineering, enforcement and education for road safety and roads policing, and to support provisioning for post-crash victim care.



## LOCAL POLICING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The APCC has produced new guidance for PCCs on ASB tools and Powers, including the ASB Case Review and the Community Remedy. Alongside the LGA, we hosted a successful joint Community Safety Partnership conference on sharing notable practice on CSPs. The portfolio engaged with OPCCs and the Home Office during the Community Safety Partnership review and responded to the Home Office consultation.

The APCC's Local Policing portfolio was also involved in a two-day workshop with the NPCC and the College of Policing which reshaped national neighbourhood policing guidelines. The APCC worked with the Home Office and Department for Levelling Up on the development of the ASB Action Plan and supported the 16 OPCCs who were selected to run immediate justice and hotspot policing pilots.

The Portfolio supported the ASB session at the APCC/NPCC Policing Summit with a partnership panel involving key stakeholders, with a focus on supporting victims of ASB and working collectively to prevent ASB. Throughout the year, the portfolio attended workshops and hosted portfolio group meetings with key stakeholders to develop policy and share notable practice – including the launch of the first ASB Awareness Week and launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on ASB.

## SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Through its portfolio, the APCC helped to ensure £1M of funding was made available to PCCs to prevent and tackle homicide via the Homicide Prevention Fund. The portfolio has ensured that PCCs have an effective voice and representation nationally on serious violence and homicide.

The role of PCCs as local leaders in the fight against serious violence has been solidified following successful calls for them to have a role as 'lead convener' in the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty.



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## 2. SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS IN DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

### DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE

The APCC has worked with its national partners to deliver on the Government's commitment to increase the number of police officers in England and Wales by an additional 20,000. The success of the police uplift programme is due to the hard work of policing, locally and nationally, and is very much in line with what we know the public want to see.

In terms of police officer and staff pay, the APCC has been at the centre of negotiations that delivered an agreed pay award for 2022/23, whilst maintaining healthy and constructive national employment relations with both staff associations and trade unions.

Through their membership on key national workforce boards, including the Police Uplift Programme Board, Police Covenant Oversight Board, the Police Staff Council and the NPCC Workforce Coordination Committee, PCCs continue to exert influence on behalf of the communities they serve.

Last year, the APCC Race Disparity, Equality and Human Rights leads published an Equality Framework for PCCs and their Offices. Endorsed by the EHRC, PCCs have used this in support of their equality duties and provided positive feedback. We also updated the APCC Race Disparity Toolkit which enables our members to share good practice. We remain a key partner of the NPCC and the College on their Policing's Race Action Plan and work with them on our annual joint conference on diversity, equality, and inclusion. We have also worked closely with the Home Office to help them achieve on their actions in the cross-government Inclusive Britain report.



## **BUILDING OUR RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

PCCs, through the Finance and Funding portfolio, continue to influence the process around the Police Funding Formula Review through their representation at the Senior Sector Group, the APCC Reference Group (APCC Board) and via the APCC in the Technical Reference Group.

APCC leads won additional funding intra-year for the higher police pay settlement and additional cash for the Funding Settlement (2023/24) amounting to an additional £170m above the CSR and a £15 precept flexibility.

The APCC has provided supporting information for PCCs and Chief Constables on the efficiency evidence requirements in the police grant settlement and on the Uplift Maintenance Grant. In addition, multi-level engagement and activity by the APCC enabled PCCs to secure precept flexibility and continue specific policing programmes such as Safer Streets, Violence Reduction Units and in the technology portfolio.

Through our Police Technology and Digital Portfolio, we managed to negotiate and save around £8 million on the Memorandum Trading Account and influenced programme governance to ensure value for money, through, for example, improved financial reporting at programme boards.

The portfolio has helped to formulate joint positions on key technology related issues, which included providing joint evidence to the House of Lords on digital ethics.

The Environment and Sustainability portfolio has worked to heighten awareness of the PCCs' policing's role in sustainability, among PCCs, other stakeholders and national policy makers, and in local Police and Crime Plans.

Led by Bluelight Commercial (BLC), the portfolio contributed to developing a Sustainability Framework, a Social Value Tool and a Fleet for the Future vision.

The APCC continued to support BLC who made further good progress in building commercial capability, driving standardisation across commercial processes, leading on national procurement activity and delivering savings. Benefits delivered directly by BlueLight Commercial activities in 2022/23 totalled £17m (Cashable £9.5m, Cost avoidance £2.8m, Revenue £4.8m).



## **DEVELOPING POLICE CAPABILITIES AND TACKLING SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME**

The portfolio highlighted to the Home Office the role that PCCs play in combatting fraud to ensure they were included in the Fraud Strategy as well as raising questions of prioritisation, sentencing and disclosure with Policing and Security Ministers. There was a deep dive on Fraud at the APCC General Meeting in January 2023 that encouraged the sharing of best practice in local fraud prevention initiatives.

In terms of Serious Organised Crime, PCC voices influenced development of a Home Office workstream on the local partnership approach at a January 2023 Ministerial roundtable. In addition, a workstream was identified to strengthen the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) network by supporting PCCs to hold ROCUs to account.

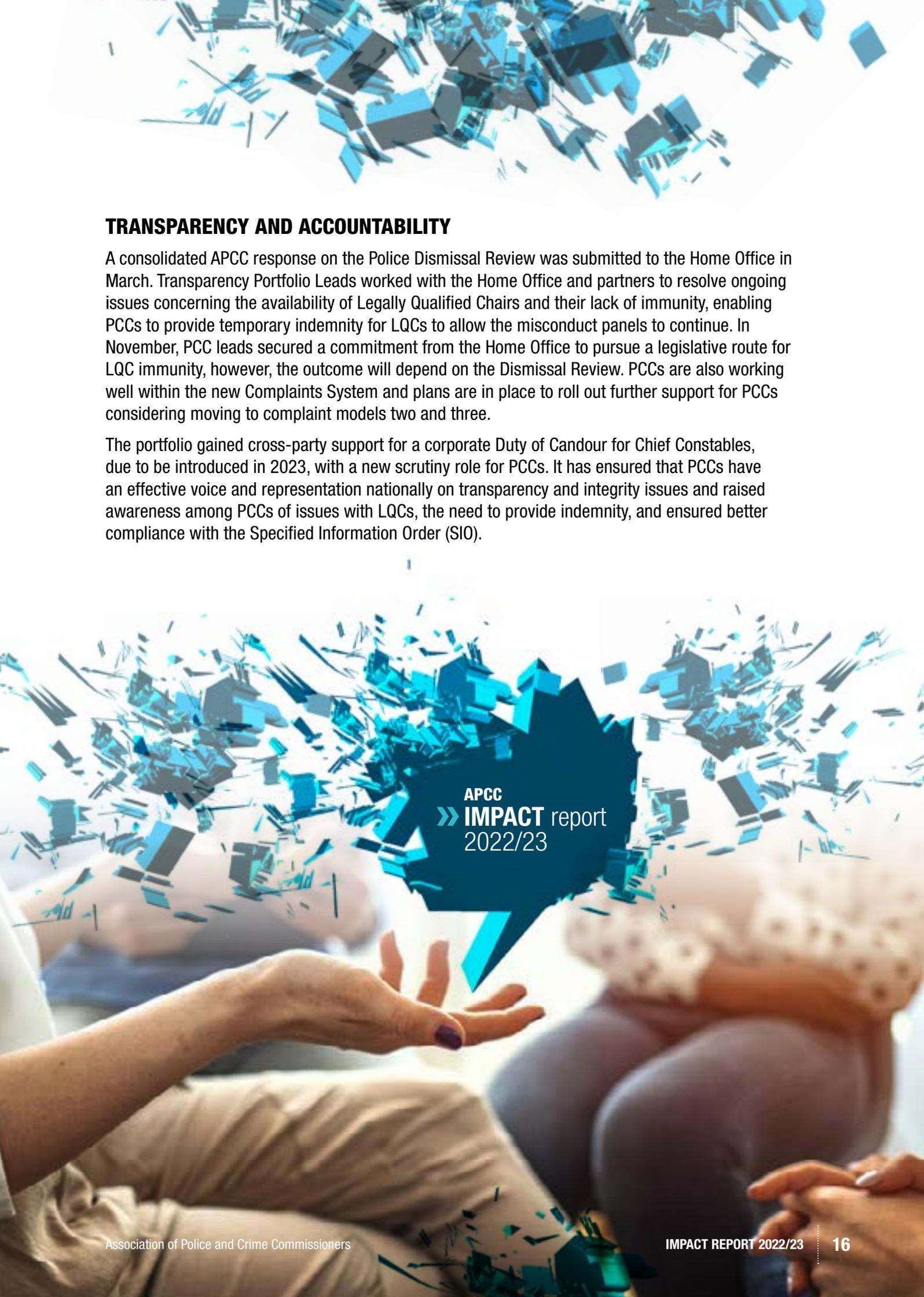
The APCC agreed the funding model and reserve policy for the Forensic Collision Investigation Network and the Forensic Science Regulator took APCC feedback into consideration when developing the Forensics Science Regulator's (FSR) Code of Conduct. The APCC working group on Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) continued its work supporting PCCs in achieving accreditation in line with the FSR's requirements.

## **PERFORMANCE**

The APCC has helped to develop an Early Warning System that supports PCCs in their work to hold their forces to account through the early notification of performance outliers in key crime types.

The portfolio extended access to the internal Digital Crime Performance Pack (DCPP) which has allowed PCCs and OPCCs to have more robust, evidence-based scrutiny of their forces. The APCC secured a Home Office commitment to a public version of the DCPP data so PCCs can use this data to support Statutory Information Order requirements, transparency in public engagement and partner collaboration.

The Performance Portfolio has continued to develop its influence with the Crime and Policing Board, which is chaired by the Policing Minister, with responsibility for driving improved performance nationally. The APCC is also developing a support package for PCCs whose forces are in either Early Warning or Engage.



## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A consolidated APCC response on the Police Dismissal Review was submitted to the Home Office in March. Transparency Portfolio Leads worked with the Home Office and partners to resolve ongoing issues concerning the availability of Legally Qualified Chairs and their lack of immunity, enabling PCCs to provide temporary indemnity for LQCs to allow the misconduct panels to continue. In November, PCC leads secured a commitment from the Home Office to pursue a legislative route for LQC immunity, however, the outcome will depend on the Dismissal Review. PCCs are also working well within the new Complaints System and plans are in place to roll out further support for PCCs considering moving to complaint models two and three.

The portfolio gained cross-party support for a corporate Duty of Candour for Chief Constables, due to be introduced in 2023, with a new scrutiny role for PCCs. It has ensured that PCCs have an effective voice and representation nationally on transparency and integrity issues and raised awareness among PCCs of issues with LQCs, the need to provide indemnity, and ensured better compliance with the Specified Information Order (SIO).

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### 3. SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS TO TRANSFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The PCC Review Part Two has paved the way for PCCs to have an even more influential role in the criminal justice system and the APCC continues to work closely with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and partners to implement those measures.

The APCC's Portfolio Lead is now a member of the reformed national criminal justice board, which has given a national voice to PCC concerns. We have also strengthened partnerships with the CPS and HMPPS, now both regular contributors to the APCC Criminal Justice portfolio quarterly events, helping to share notable practice, explain policy changes and deal with PCC concerns on performance.

A series of HMPPS/APCC joint seminars have brought PCCs and regional probation and prison directors together to improve delivery. Workshops have been held for OPCC staff to better engage with HMPPS data, to help determine local needs to reduce reoffending and understand what interventions are making a difference.



CRIME SCENE



## 4. SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS TO SPEAK UP FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The APCC works with PCCs to ensure that victims are put at the heart of policing and the criminal justice system.

The APCC is improving relationships with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office on the delivery of funding, including the sharing of data via the Victims Working Group. The APCC negotiated with HO to remove the financial contribution for forces participating in Op. Soteria expansion, we also ensured that the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Funding was delivered direct to individual PCCs rather than through a consortia model.

We have influenced key legislation with strong engagement from Ministers and officials, including the content of the Victims and Prisoners Bill, providing drafting advice, engagement with members and OPCCs, and attendance of the Justice Select Committee to provide oral evidence. We have also engaged with Home Office on the development of the statutory guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews.

More broadly, the APCC has developed partnership working practices, facilitating greater alignment across key organisations including the LGA, NHS England and the NPCC, including on key areas such as VAWG. We have cemented a forum, the Victims Working Group, for engagement between Government and OPCCs, with buy-in from each stakeholder.

We produced a Victims 'In Focus', highlighting to leading stakeholders the innovative work of PCCs in advocating for victims to deliver through their core victims' funding, and we updated our VAWG infographic to demonstrate PCCs' leading role in coordinating a public health approach to tackling VAWG.



# BEING A NATIONAL VOICE ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITIES

We continued to develop and grow our media and public affairs work to influence and shape policy and raise the profile of PCCs as the public's voice in policing.

2022 marked ten years since Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were first democratically elected and started making a real difference by giving the public a stronger voice in policing and criminal justice.

Over the course of the year this page showed how PCCs consistently continued to deliver with impact and make a real difference to keeping their communities safe; how they work their police forces, criminal justice agencies and partner organisations to prevent and cut crime, protect victims and reduce re-offending.

## KEY AREAS OF PCCS WORK HIGHLIGHTED INCLUDED:

- Helping to end violence against women and girls
- Driving forward improvements to local criminal justice services
- Preventing crime and reducing re-offending
- Tackling ASB and addressing drug and alcohol abuse
- Addressing race disparity and disproportionality within policing
- Restoring public confidence and trust in policing

You can read more about the work here on the [APCC website](#). For each theme we created a range of materials including Parliamentary and press briefings, social media assets, In Focus policy publications and proactive media statements and blogs.



**Support PCCs to make the case for expanding the PCC role, and shape and influence policy developments around the levelling up agenda; profile the local crime reduction initiatives that they are leading on; and have a strong voice and presence in national media and social media.**

This year we expanded the capacity in our communications team to include a specialised media manager and we produced over 100 proactive media statements, think pieces and blogs. These covered a wide range of issues including on violence against women and girls, mental health and policing, the drugs agenda, serious violence, criminal justice system reforms, anti-social behaviour, police misconduct, fraud, business crime and victims.

We have regularly engaged with the Crime Reporters' Association and achieved coverage across all the main national newspapers and many national broadcasters. To support portfolio engagement, we produced 13 new videos with the leads at our April General Meeting.





## **IN NOVEMBER WE SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED THE ANNUAL POLICING SUMMIT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NPCC:**



### **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SUMMIT ON OUR WEBSITE**

**Support PCCs to engage effectively with parliamentarians and parliamentary inquiries and business; and to shape and influence national debate in a way that shapes and improves policy outcomes:**

The APCC feeds into key legislative and Parliamentary business activity – which includes supporting PCC appearances in front of Committees, briefing Parliamentarians on key issues, providing secretariat support for the APPG on Policing and Security and monitoring of Parliamentary developments.

This year we supported PCCs as part of the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) drugs inquiry session, including oral evidence from David Sidwick, Andy Dunbobbin and Zoe Metcalfe. The APCC Prevention lead, Festus Akinbusoye, also gave evidence to HASC as part of the policing priorities inquiry. Mark Shelford PCC gave evidence as part of the Lords Fraud Act inquiry; and Sophie Linden appeared before the Justice Committee as part of the pre-legislative scrutiny of the Victims Bill.



We continued to influence key pieces of legislation, including the Online Safety Bill, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, the Economic Crime & Corporate Transparency Bill. On the Levelling Up Bill in particular we campaigned for amendments to the planning provisions, including providing multiple briefings and facilitated a Parliamentary briefing session in the House. We planned and delivered a Parliamentary drop-in event in May 2023 to promote the Addictions and Substance Misuse In Focus report.

We have developed our programme of workshops and this year provided a public affairs workshop on how to influence parliamentary questions and a briefing session for PCCs & Parliamentarians on Illegal Money Lending.

The APCC continues to hold the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary group on Policing and Security and has held meetings this year with the College of Policing; the HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary; and the Met Police Commissioner. We have also engaged with other APPGs, including on anti-social behaviour.

### **SUPPORT PCCS WITH COMMUNICATIONS FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS, SO THEY ARE ALWAYS UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ON THE APCC'S PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

After streamlining internal communications with our members, we continue to look for ways to ensure that our members receive information in the most tailored and effective way possible.

We continue to produce a wide range of internal communication products, including: a fortnightly newsletter; **quarterly external bulletin**; weekly public affairs bulletin reports and legislation tracker; twice weekly policy updates; daily media and public affairs briefings and access to the APCC activity and communications grid.

We also hold regular workshops for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner network group. This has included sessions on maximising public engagement on social media; discussions on precept consultations; website accessibility and how to frame communications.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

## DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

View on website: <https://www.apccs.police.uk/about-the-apcc/board-members>

**Marc Jones**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire (Chair)

**Alison Hernandez**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (Vice-Chair)

**Alun Michael**, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales (Vice-Chair)

**Katy Bourne OBE**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex

**Festus Akinbusoye**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

**David Lloyd**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

**Kim McGuinness**, Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

**James Thomson**, Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board

### THE ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS (APCC):

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## “ TESTIMONIALS

The APCC has supported the pioneering work of Welsh PCCs and their police forces, to reduce-drug related deaths, and ensuring that the public is cited and reassured on the ethical use of new technologies such as facial recognition. It has also enabled government grants to PCCs to enable improvements to make our streets safer for women and to protect communities from the scourge of anti-social behaviour.

As the body representing PCCs both in England and Wales, the APCC recognises that often things are different here and delivers dedicated policy support for PCCs in Wales. **Alun Michael, South Wales PCC. APCC Joint Lead for Data and Biometrics and Board Member**

As Lead for the Prevention Portfolio, which delivers on some major government initiatives such as Safer Streets Fund, the support of the APCC has been immense in landing these investments.

Much work goes into working with partners at the Home Office and in Parliament, ensuring the voice of local people are heard when such major public safety decisions are being made. Police and Crime Commissioners are elected to be that voice, and thanks to the support of the APCC, we are better placed and supported in delivering on our statutory responsibilities to the public.

Furthermore, and as part of my role as APCC Board Member, I have been impressed by the APCC's willingness to work with and support the work of PCCs. **Festus Akinsbusoye, Bedfordshire PCC. APCC Lead for Prevention and APCC Board Member**

Through our work with the APCC, my office has successfully secured significant government grants for Merseyside to make our streets safer and to tackle persistent issues such as anti-social behaviour.

PCCs are elected to hold their police forces accountable and ensure that the public's priorities are met. Having the APCC as the national voice for PCCs, helps us to ensure our constituents voices are heard and their concerns are listened to in Whitehall. **Emily Spurrell, Merseyside PCC. APCC Custody Lead and Criminal Justice Deputy Lead**

As Portfolio Leads, you get a real insight into all the hard work the central APCC team do to support us. They have provided a brilliant platform to put us as PCCs right at the heart of addictions and substance misuse policy.

For example, by securing a voice for PCCs on the inter-ministerial forum that is overseeing and coordinating delivery of the drug strategy at the heart of Government and supporting us to work closely with senior officials to ensure the role of PCCs in implementation is fully recognised – with the consequence that many PCCs are now leading their Combatting Drugs Partnerships. For example, we have played a key role in ensuring there is a real focus on tackling illegal gateway drugs like cannabis as part of the strategy, with a focus on prevention and young people – and we successfully campaigned for action on nitrous oxide too.

This all means we've got much more say in how the £900 million plus that's been invested by Government over the last two years is being spent locally. The APCC has also enabled us to reflect back all the amazing work PCCs are doing locally, including to ministers and parliamentarians, with an In Focus report and a parliamentary reception to launch it. Without the APCC, we would not have had anything like the same levels of national or local influence. **Joy Allen, PCC for Durham and David Sidwick, PCC for Dorset. APCC Joint Leads for addictions and substance misuse**





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Association of  
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