

## **Report on Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Panel 08 September 2023**

The OPCC panel took place on the 8th of September. There were range of reports submitted to the panel and some of which were of concern and were raised.

The first item related to Gloucestershire Local Criminal Justice board. Victoria Bishop who is the local coordinator, gave an overview of the work of the LCJP. The key points included the fact that they Board is chaired by Chris Nelson, the police and crime commissioner, and the focus of the board is get each aspect of the criminal justice system to work collaboratively.

The office has asked about reducing offending because there was concern certainly in Cheltenham at there not being enough officers to attend those areas where there was significant concern.

The officers confirmed that they were taking the public health approach to crime, meaning they were focusing on the individuals who had the potential to commit an offence before the offence was committed. Therefore they were working on areas such as the BOOST program with six formers and talking to primary school children about respect.

Other concerns related to toxic male, muscularity and how that could be challenged using educational videos and building a strong preventative program.

Safe Gloucestershire gave its report to the committee and highlighted that the districts each had a community safety partnership that worked under the umbrella of Safer Gloucestershire.

I raised questions in relation to violence and intimidation against women and girls, which was not a focus of safer Gloucestershire according to the information presented. The officer confirmed that VIAWG was part of safer Gloucestershire but had not been included in the presentation.

The office stated that it was of the upmost importance to them to fight violence against women and girls and the office of the PCC had three staff members dedicated to domestic violence and sexual assault.

A question was asked about antisocial behaviour. In this case it was in the rural area of Gloucestershire, but we also raised issues in relation to youth intervention being required in the town areas, particularly in relation to exploitation of young people by criminal gangs.

It was confirmed that the audit of crime related issues would be sent to members of the panel.

There was an update from the police and crime commissioner and some questions were asked in relation to Gloucestershire police stations, and with relation to RAC following the

media coverage on the safety concerns of the concrete material. It was confirmed that every building was still being checked.

The issue of shoplifting was raised by me, and How the OPCC were dealing with it.

It was noted that there was a specific shoplifting team responsible for investigating shoplifting incidents. The reporting of shoplifting did need to be easier for businesses. It was confirmed and Safer Streets were trying to create a better reporting system which allowed for the uploading of CCTV.

In relation to the Executive report, I pointed out a problem with some of the wording in relation to this and that has now been changed.

We also raised issues in relation to unsafe scooter usage in the county. However, we were advised, the illegal scooters are the ones that are being used unsafely rather than the legal ones and it has been confirmed in response to a question that illegal scooters or bikes if seen would be received by the police.

I raised the issue of the Guardians post in relation to Cheltenham. Officers confirmed that the errors were in messaging has been raised internally with Guardians.

It was emphasised that VIAWG had not increased in the county, but instead was being better reported on. Indeed, the issue of reporting was in the paper submitted by the CEO's office. I raised the issue in relation to the volume of VIAWG reporting which seems to have increased significantly and whether that reflected the actuality of the sexual offences situation in relation to on page 5 of his report. This showed the increase of 100% in sex attacks.

Councillor Flo Clucas  
20.10.2023