

Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Plan 2021 - 2025

In December 2022 I attended a meeting led by Mark Shalford the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. He came across as a determined, focussed and motivational leader but also as a good listener with the communities of Avon and Somerset at the forefront of his plans and thoughts.

Here are just a few statements taken from the document and the presentation –

Police Priorities –

Priority 1 - Preventing and fighting crime

Areas of focus

- Vulnerable adults and children
- Male violence against women and girls specifically domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and harassment
- Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour specifically car crime, robbery, theft, hate crime and rural crime
- Fraud and cybercrime
- Road safety

Key objectives

- Reduce crime and ASB
- Increase the proportion of crime reported to the police
- Increase positive outcomes from reported crime and ASB
- Fewer deaths and serious injuries on the roads

Priority 2 - Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations

Areas of focus

- Public engagement – particularly with underrepresented groups
- Special Constables and citizens in policing
- Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- The criminal justice system
- Reducing reoffending
- Collaboration and partnership working

Key objectives

- Increase engagement with and from communities
- Increase victim satisfaction
- Increase feelings of safety

Priority 3 - Leading the Police to be efficient and effective

Areas of focus

- Recruiting officers
- Capability including training, wellbeing, leadership, equipment, estate, data and technology
- Demand management to increase visible policing and time to fight crime
- Crime recording and response to calls for service
- The Strategic Policing Requirement: terrorism; serious and organised crime; a national cyber security incident; threats to public order or safety; civil emergencies and child sexual abuse
- Environmental impact

Key objectives

- Increase the morale of the police workforce
- Increase the capability of the police workforce to deliver against local and national priorities
- Reduce the negative environmental impact whilst maintaining operational efficiency

Priority 4 - Increasing the legitimacy of and public confidence in the police and criminal justice system

Areas of focus

- Representative workforce
- Inequality and disproportionality
- Use of police powers
- Complaints
- Data and information
- Scrutiny, performance and learning

Key objectives

- Increased satisfaction with the service provided by the police
- Increased confidence in the police

Copies of the 2021-2025 Police and Crime Plan – Safer Communities for All – are available from avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk

The document gives a detailed explanation of each area of focus – too much to go in here!

Other points of note/interest –

- 999 and 101 calls are taken by the same call handlers
- Reporting a 101 issue online is recommended
- Avon and Somerset call handlers take calls for other police forces one day a week
- A mental health advisor is on the 999 team – 30% of 999 calls are linked to mental health issues
- Over 40% of all reported crime is cyber crime with an additional 10% being linked to the grooming of children
- An online tool called StreetSafe is available to residents to report anonymously anywhere they feel or have felt unsafe. This helps to identify areas where there are fears caused by anti-social behaviour and environment issues including the lack of street lighting, abandoned buildings and vandalism.

Lynne Mitchell, Village Contact, Lydford Neighbourhood Watch

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