



**Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner**

Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2029

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Introduction

This commissioning strategy outlines how funding and resources will be used to support delivery of the **Police and Crime Plan 2024–2029** and the six priorities contained within it which are:



Effective commissioning plays a key role in addressing crime, its underlying causes and the impact of crime. By working collaboratively with statutory partners, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), and local communities - this strategy will ensure that funding is targeted where it will have the greatest impact.

Promoting a preventative, evidence-led approach, will ensure services deliver measurable outcomes and represent value for money.

This strategy operates within the statutory framework established by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which created the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and provided powers to commission services that contribute to crime reduction and victim support.

Strategic Priorities for Commissioning

As referred to above, commissioning priorities will support delivery of the **Police and Crime Plan 2024–2029** and are broken down into **five** key areas below:

- **Prevent and Reduce Crime**

Commissioning of services that address the root causes of antisocial behaviour and crime and support early intervention, including:

- Youth violence prevention and early intervention programmes

- Reducing antisocial behaviour and neighbourhood crime
- Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and support
- Targeted interventions for individuals at risk of offending

- **Protect Vulnerable People**

Commissioning service that protects and safeguards individuals at risk of harm, including:

- Specialist Domestic abuse and sexual violence support services
- Safeguarding support for children and vulnerable adults
- Services addressing exploitation, including child criminal exploitation
- Support for individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage

- **Support Victims**

Ensure victims receive high-quality, accessible support services that:

- Are independent of the police and other statutory services
- Provide trauma-informed care and advocacy
- Support victims through the criminal justice process
- Promotes cope and recovery

- **Build Safer Communities**

Support initiatives that strengthen communities and increase confidence in policing by:

- Addressing antisocial behaviour and community safety concerns
- Supporting place-based community safety initiatives
- Promoting partnership and problem-solving responses to local crime issues

- **Improve Partnership and System Effectiveness**

Working collaboratively with:

- Local Authorities
- Health and Social Care
- Community Safety Partnerships / Safeguarding Boards
- Voluntary and community sector organisations

Commissioning Principals

It is widely regarded as good practice for commissioners to have an agreed list of principles or standards, which sets out, at a high level, the approach to commissioning.

All commissioning activity will be guided by the following principles adopted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC):

- **Outcomes focussed, high quality and evidence based**
 - The OPCC will seek to adopt an outcomes-based approach to commissioning – not focussing on activities and processes but on the intended results – striving to ensure high quality delivery, basing all commissioning decisions on a strong evidence base.
- **Co-commissioning / partnership approaches**
 - The OPCC will explore and consider opportunities to co-commission service provision with local partners. Such approaches would ensure a holistic response to meeting service users' needs.
- **Co-design and Market Engagement**
 - The OPCC will consult as needed with partners, services users (lived experience) and professionals to support the commissioning / re-commissioning of services so they can have a voice in the design of what will be delivered. This will be achieved through consultation exercises and service user feedback where services are already operating.
- **Creating a culture of continuous improvement and innovation**
 - As part of continuous improvement, commissioned services will be encouraged to regularly seek feedback on the services they offer as well as horizon scan and be aware of local, regional and national impacts that may require changes to the service delivered. In addition to this the OPCC will encourage services to be brave and bold and try out new approaches to meet the specific needs of our local communities.
- **Equitable, non-discriminatory and inclusive**
 - The OPCC will undertake equality impact assessments for the services that we commission to ensure a full understanding of the potential risks / gaps and barriers relating to equality, diversity and inclusion within the services that we commission. In addition to this we will ensure that services already commissioned consider equality impacts through regular monitoring and discussion as part of OPCC contract and performance / quality management frameworks.

Commissioning approach

The OPCC will use a range of commissioning methods to ensure services are effective and responsive to local needs.

Competitive Procurement

Contracts with providers to deliver specific services following a formal competitive procurement process.

Direct Commissioning

Directly funding services from a provider without competitive – this usually happens when a specialist provider already exists or when there is only one suitable provider.

Co-Commissioning

Working with partners such as local authorities, health and probation to jointly fund and deliver services that address shared priorities.

Grant Funding

Providing funding to charitable organisations that deliver innovative, community-based services and prevention initiatives following informal competitive processes.

Local Partnership Funding

Supporting local statutory and community safety partnerships and initiatives that address local crime and safety priorities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All commissioned services will be monitored to ensure value for money and effective outcomes. Monitoring will involve:

- Regular performance and quality reporting
- Contract / grant management meetings
- Independent evaluation where appropriate and required.

Where relevant, OPCC commissioned services data (anonymised) will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of their performance and delivery update.

Governance and Accountability

The OPCC will ensure transparency in our commissioning through:

- Clear commissioning procedures
- Published funding decisions
- Reporting to the Police and Crime Panel