

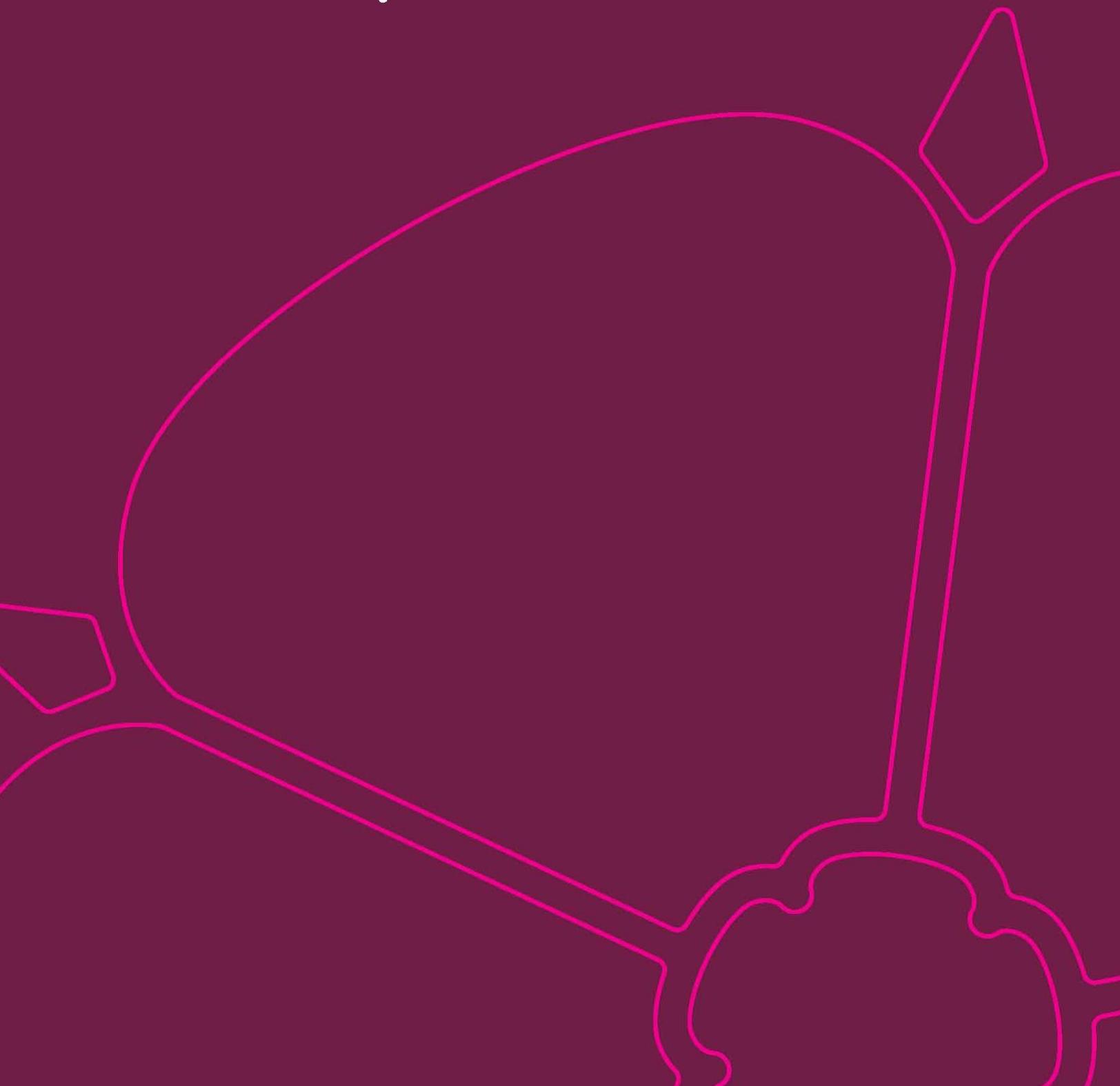
2022-2023



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Stephen Mold

Annual Report



Introduction

This is my first Police, Fire and Crime plan combined annual report and it reflects the breadth of work being undertaken by the OPFCC, and with colleagues in the Force and the Fire and Rescue Service to successfully deliver my priorities to make Northamptonshire safer.

2022-23 has also seen us deliver real improvements to communities across Northamptonshire in partnership with our local authority colleagues, through the Safer Streets initiative. This has seen us working at a very local level to address the issues and concerns of residents. The work we have undertaken in Northamptonshire has been recognised as best practice nationally and is already having a positive impact to people's lives.

This year has also seen us deliver a number of projects to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG). This work is important to me both as a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, but also as a father. No one should have to endure unacceptable behaviour or abuse and the work we have delivered, helps send out a clear message that this will not be tolerated in our county. The Chief Constable has stated that he wants to make Northamptonshire a hostile place for offenders, and we are working together to ensure this includes those who think sexist and misogynistic behaviour is in any way acceptable.

Such behaviour is totally unacceptable in policing or in the fire and rescue service and I am pleased that both Chiefs are taking this issue seriously. I have asked them to challenge and modernise outdated work practices and unacceptable behaviours. I am proud that since becoming the Commissioner, we have been able to deliver real improvements to both services and it is vital that this work is not undermined through a failure to address cultural failings within the services.

I will also never lose sight of the fact that we have much to be proud of in our police force and fire and rescue service. Their work touches so many lives on a daily basis and they can often find themselves having to deal with unimaginable situations, which test their training and professionalism to the absolute limit. Their dedication and motivation to protect us is greatly inspiring. We should never take for granted what they do for us each and every day.

Finally, none of the work in this report would have been possible without a team of highly skilled and motivated individuals who have supported me each and every day. The OPFCC continues to deliver innovation and excellence which is often overlooked, but it is a source of pride that I get to work with a group of highly experienced and professional colleagues.



Stephen Mold
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

Highlights of the year



April 2022

18 new recruits join the Fire and Rescue Service



May 2022

Delivery of four new fire appliances



July 2022

More bleed cabinets are rolled out across the county



November 2022

The Flare Report APP is launched to help make women and girls feel safer



February 2023

A series of events were held to address rural crime



May 2022

The Knife Angel visits Northamptonshire



June 2022

The decision is taken to appoint Mark Jones, as the new Chief Fire Officer



September 2022

New green motorbikes to help Neighbourhood Policing



January 2023

The decision is taken to reappoint Nick Adderley as Chief Constable



March 2023

The Safer Streets-lite scheme is launched

Policing - a year in numbers

On average, **385** 999 calls received a day or one call every **3.5** minutes

185.859 non-emergency calls received, which works out as one call every **3** minutes

12,196 arrests made, an increase of **11.3%**.

152 Domestic Violence Protection Orders secured (**88%** success rate)

80.5% conviction rate achieved at the Crown Court

83.3% conviction rate achieved at the Magistrates Court

71.8% of victims of crime surveyed were satisfied with the overall service

65.8% of neighbourhood and response officer's time spent outside of the station.

Prevention that keeps the public safe

Making the night-time economy in Northampton and Kettering safer

Schemes in Northampton and Kettering, delivered in partnership with both councils are now enhancing the safety of women and girls at night thanks to more than £0.450m of funding. Work included the creation of a night safety charter, lighting improvements and alley gating and the launch of the Flare app to allow anonymous reporting of incidents of abuse or where people were made to feel threatened or unsafe to help inform future improvements.

These schemes are now enhancing the safety of women and girls at night, thanks to the funding secured by my office from the Safer Streets Scheme.

Queensway, Wellingborough

Around 650 properties in Kiln Way and Minerva Way have had new secure doors fitted in a partnership with Greatwell Homes, and alleys in the Shelley Road area have been gated as part of a further £0.680m secured from the Safer Streets Scheme. Security lighting was fitted to some properties and there was a significant roll out of security products to residents. A major extension of North Northamptonshire Council's CCTV scheme was also delivered with 15 new cameras on the Queensway estate. Future work this year will look to enhance security of car parking and the provision of additional facilities for young people.

Preventing doorstep crime

Training being delivered to health and social care professionals to help them recognise and tackle doorstep crime was extended for a further 12 months and will reach other community groups and charities, thanks to funding from the OPFCC. Operation REPEAT was designed to enable health and social care sector staff who visit vulnerable people regularly, to deliver important information about doorstep crime and scams. Doorstep crime can affect anyone, but elderly and vulnerable people are most at risk of being targeted by rogue traders, unscrupulous salespeople, distraction burglars and bogus callers. Operation REPEAT provides an effective means to reach these people.

More information about Operation REPEAT can be found on their website at <https://www.oprepeat.co.uk/> and information about Northamptonshire Carers can be found at <https://www.northamptonshire-carers.org/> The scheme has been so successful that a utility provider has agreed to co-sponsor additional training, meaning that delivery can continue for another two years.

ID scanning technology to bring safer nights out in our town centres

Late night venues in Kettering, Daventry, Wellingborough and Northampton have been equipped with state-of-the-art security technology to help them manage identification checks and share information about troublemakers, funded by the OPFCC. 27 bars and clubs that open after 1am now have the latest ScanNet ID scan equipment to help them make their premises safer and it also gives them the opportunity to work together and share information about people intent on causing trouble from all their premises. This is the first time that a network of premises is being equipped to the same standard and enabled to work together across the county. ScanNet ID technology works by scanning someone's identify documents to detect if it is genuine, as well as capturing their image to enable customer causing troubled to be identified.

Prevention that keeps the public safe

Fire prevention priorities

The Fire Service is committed to improving community safety through prevention activities and the Fire Prevention team focuses on delivering home fire safety checks and equipment, complex needs visits to vulnerable people, road and water safety education. The service continues to support national fire safety campaigns and develop broader work supporting victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and neighbourhood disputes with their arson reduction work.

More than 5,600 Home Fire Safety Visits (HSFV) were carried out by Northamptonshire fire crews and fire staff to help some of the most vulnerable people across the county live more safely in their homes, almost 1400 more than the previous year. Approximately two thirds were carried out by fire crews and one third by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service's Prevention Team. Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) by firefighters have more than doubled (67% increase) from 2520 in 2018/19 to 4210 in 2022/23. Home Fire Safety Advisors in the Prevention Team focus on vulnerable people with the most complex needs to ensure that risks in their homes are thoroughly evaluated and made safer by installing working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Advisors can also make Winter Warmth referrals to get expert advice on financially viable ways to heat their homes safely. To supplement the additional four Home Safety advisor posts funded by the OPFCC, Fire Protection uplift funding from central government grant has been used to develop the team and permanently employ three additional Fire Protection Officers. At all times, the service ensures it works locally to engage with different community groups to promote diversity and inclusion.

Effective and efficient response

Tackling violence against women

As part of the Safer Streets initiative, a partnership led by Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council, working with Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and Northampton BID, has delivered a number of measures to make women safer at night by improving physical safety and security, tackling perpetrators and enable people to call-out abuse. This has included making licensed venues safer and a ground-breaking programme to train venue staff to recognise and tackle predatory behaviour. The initiatives were developed in consultation with groups representing women and local communities, and included:

- £0.180m investment for new, monitored CCTV and further investment for help points on the Racecourse, Becket's Park, All Saints Plaza and Abington Street in a first for Northampton. These allow someone to buzz for help and speak instantly to CCTV operators, while the camera zooms in on their location
- Funding to bring the Shout Up! programme to venues in Northampton and Kettering, to train and accredit bar staff in identifying and challenging harassing behaviour in their premises
- ANPR cameras and other safety improvements in the Racecourse car park and a well-lit and signed safer walking route across Becket's Park to the town centre
- Funding for licensed premises to take part in the Licensing Safety and Vulnerability Initiative (LSavi) so that they can reassure their customers that they take security seriously

Night-time safety operation extended

Further investment was made into Operation Kayak, aimed at targeting men who prey on vulnerable women on a night out in Northampton and Kettering. Uniformed police officers patrol hotspot areas on Friday and Saturday nights to help reduce crime and keep the public safe, targeting people with sexually aggressive, intimidating or concerning behaviour. Vehicles loitering in or driving around the town centres were stopped and challenged and as a result, 159 suspicious vehicles were added to the ANPR alert list. Since the start of the operation, Northamptonshire Police have disrupted over 400 males acting suspiciously, and more than 480 vulnerable people have been identified and kept safe. Op Kayak police officers also attend unrelated incidents, and made arrests for other offences including drink driving, other driving offences, assaults and drug possession.

New video is the centrepiece of road safety education push for teenagers

Work with the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA), which is a partnership between Northamptonshire Police and the Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authorities Highways Departments and the OPFCC, has continued to deliver innovative programmes to improve road safety within the county. A recent campaign focused on educating young people and featured a road safety education film called My Pink Trainers, aimed at Year 12 students. The short, hard-hitting film was developed in consultation with young people and involves a real incident where a young person lost their life following a road traffic collision. The video sends a stark message to young drivers and passengers that an error of judgment or carelessness can have devastating consequences. The video forms the centrepiece of a much wider educational and prevention delivery, that also includes the provision of appropriate pastoral care for young people at the point of delivery in schools.

Effective and efficient response

New Flare Report app to help make women and girls feel safer in Northamptonshire

A new, free smartphone app – Flare Report – was launched to help women and girls feel safe and be safer on the streets of Northamptonshire. Flare Report allows women to anonymously and quickly report any incidents or behaviour that make them feel unsafe when they are out and about. Northamptonshire Police collate and analyse the reports to identify problem areas and act to make them safer. Flare is not for reporting crimes in progress, but reports are monitored daily to make sure that nothing requiring an urgent response has been submitted. Details of the app can be found at: <https://flarereporting.com/>

Northamptonshire to pilot new anti-social behaviour crackdown

Northamptonshire has been selected by the Home Office as one of 16 areas in England and Wales to participate in a new crackdown on anti-social behaviour. The initiative includes funding to support new 'hotspot' police and enforcement patrols in areas with the highest rates of anti-social behaviour and to trial a new 'Immediate Justice' scheme to deliver swift and visible punishments. It is intended that, following these initial trailblazers, both schemes will be rolled out across England and Wales from 2024.

Retail crime investigator drives better results on shoplifting

A pilot scheme to support businesses in North Northamptonshire with better investigation of shoplifting and other retail crime will now be funded by the OPFCC permanently following impressive results in the first year. The scheme is a partnership between Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership and Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has improved the response to retail crime by focusing on prolific and violent retail crime offenders, working closely with the Police Initial Investigation Team to increase the number of crimes that are resolved. The scheme significantly boosted the number of retail crimes detected and over the 12-month trial, the number of positive outcomes for shoplifting in the north of the county rose from 47 to 174 and the number of shoplifters charged with criminal offences in the north of the county increased by 10 per cent. Funding to mirror this activity in the West of the county has also been agreed.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service - Emergency Cover Review

The Fire and Rescue Service is undertaking a detailed study of service activity levels to inform a risk-based approach to provide the most appropriate response to emergencies in Northamptonshire. The Terms of Reference for the review have been developed and work on the detail will be carried out over the summer and will report back to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on recommendations for future service needs that meet the emergency cover needs of the county in August 2023.

Effective and efficient response

Four new fire engines for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Last year four new fire engines were rolled out in Northamptonshire, giving firefighters more capacity, access to the latest technology and modernising an ageing fleet. The generation Type B SCANIA appliances are based at The Mounts, Moulton, Kettering and Mereway and mark the first new fire engines for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service in more than a decade. The new fire engines have been designed by the service's Fleet team with public safety, crew welfare, diversity and futureproofing at the forefront of their thinking. Major new additions include a clean cab design, with separate lockers for Breathing Apparatus and clean spare fire kit and for contaminated kit. During the year a further four fire engines and one aerial appliance were delivered and will be rolled out in the coming months. We continue to lobby Government to enable further investment in new engines and equipment to ensure firefighters are well trained and well-equipped to keep the county safe.

Risk profile review

The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-25, which examines the risks the county may face and how the Service will use its resources to tackle them, continues to be dynamically reviewed as new information and data comes to light or is published, with a formal update and review completed annually.

Working in collaboration

Collaborative working is well embedded in Northamptonshire, and Police and Fire continue to work together on activities like searching for missing people, sharing of intelligence and planning for events such as Silverstone and other significant countywide events. They also help to improve community safety and wellbeing by working together to tackle incidents such as deliberate fire setting and target hardening. Following the recent Manchester Arena Inquiry reports, both organisations have reviewed collaborative working and the Interoperability working group continues to look for future opportunities to respond effectively to incidents in partnership to maximise resources across the county. Current activities include:

- **Arson Reduction** – The County Schools Challenge engaged hundreds of year 9 pupils in raising awareness of arson and deliberate fire-setting issues. There has also been joint work with statutory stakeholders in relation to problem solving.
- **Road Safety** – Work with Highways and Northamptonshire Police to deliver road traffic collision reduction education and initiatives. Northants Safer Roads Alliance delivered road safety education packages including the My Pink Trainers educational film, Mature Drivers Events and Biker-down & Parking Buddies.
- **Youth** – The Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadet Scheme, jointly supported by the Police, Fire and Ambulance service, has over 300 cadets across the county including 30 per cent from diverse backgrounds.

Effective and efficient response

- **Water** – Collaboration with RNLI continues to deliver Waterside Responder Training and monitor availability of throwlines through the Water Safety Forum.
- **Safeguarding** – Supporting the Hoarding Framework with local authorities, health and social care, environmental protection to highlight and mitigate risks as part of a person-centred approach
- **Protection** – Working with the local authorities to support the planning process and HMO inspections, attending business, landlord and commercial forums.



Protect and support those who are vulnerable

The Early Intervention Team

A specialist Early Intervention team, employed by the OPFCC, provides additional support to families and vulnerable young people who are at increased risk of becoming victims of crime or are likely to get involved in criminal behaviour. The Early Intervention Family Support team provide a range of preventative services targeting families where there are issues with domestic incidents, risk of exclusion from school or involvement in crime, and issues of concern referred by other professionals in the county. This critical work is integral to the Police, Fire and Crime Plan commitment to divert young people away from crime and safeguard them from criminal exploitation. Early intervention is essential to understanding why young people get involved in crime and other negative activities and to prevent problems before they escalate. With support at the right time, work with young people and their families can improve engagement with education and training, improve family relationships and life chances and reduce the risk of them getting involved with or becoming a victim of crime.

Since April 2022 the service received 347 referrals for family support and support was given to 269 families across the county. The team provided support on a wide range of issues from school exclusion, parenting, finance and tenancy related issues and mental health and wellbeing. In addition to face-to-face work with individuals and groups, the team also offer online parenting workshops which have been particularly well received by working parents. 21 workshops were delivered last year, and subjects have included:

- Positive Parenting
- Understanding the teenage brain
- Self-Care and the impact on parenting
- Managing challenging behaviours
- Maintaining rules and boundaries

The team also have specialist Domestic Abuse Family Support Workers who contact families who have received a police call out for a domestic abuse incident where children were present. Generally, these referrals relate to low level incidents which will not be progressed through the criminal justice system. The team make immediate contact to offer support to help address the issues which may be causing arguments and violence to occur to prevent escalation and further calls to the police. In the last year 1,279 families were referred to the team by the police following incidents that they attended. The top four issues reported by families as the drivers of unhealthy relationships and domestic incidents during this period were family issues, harassment, emotional abuse and family issues.

The Domestic Abuse support officers also delivered 19 online workshops to parents covering the impact of parental conflict and healthy and unhealthy relationships. Parents attended the workshops, all reporting a greater understanding of the issues and impact on their children, evidenced by pre and post feedback scores.

Protect and support those who are vulnerable

Early Intervention support to the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)

Early Intervention Support Officers also work alongside police officers in the CIRV initiative and are the first point of contact for young people referred to it. They work with colleagues across a range of partner organisations to ensure young people receive tailored support for their needs. The Early Intervention support officers offer one to one interventions with young people to help them to understand the impact of their behaviour and to plan ways of changing their behaviour in a safe way. Since April 2022 the team has engaged and supported 435 young people and examples of the support that the team give are:

- Understanding how their adverse childhood experiences have impacted lives.
- Understanding criminal exploitation and how it can affect them and their friends and families.
- Knife Crime – impact of carrying knives, the law and risks.
- Risky behaviours – understanding what they are and the impact.
- Understanding their own emotions and developing strategies to manage in a safer way.
- Supporting parents to understand the risks of Criminal Exploitation and how they can help to reduce risk.

The team is also responsive to the needs of the community and works collaboratively with the police to support young people who are impacted by crime in the community. In response to a recent murder, the team immediately provided support to young people and local schools, which resulted in 112 young people being supported over a five-day period.

The OPFCC Youth Team

The OPFCC Youth team works with young people across the county in areas and schools which have been identified as priority areas by Community Safety Partnerships for crime and anti-social behaviour. The team undertake outreach activities and receive referrals from professionals who are concerned about behaviour, absence from school or have identified possible risks of exploitation. The Youth Workers support young people on a one-to-one basis and in groups to offer mentoring, support and informal education to address personal issues, enhance self-esteem and engage them in positive activities and routes into education and training. Since April 2022, the team supported a total of 949 young people, 309 young people received one to one support from a Youth Worker while, 640 young people have educative group work sessions in schools with input on knife crime, exploitation, online safety, healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Supporting victims of knife crime

In May 2022 the Knife Angel, a national monument against violence and aggression made from 100,000 knives, was brought to Northamptonshire. The impressive statue was displayed in Northampton and Corby as well as at an event in Wellingborough and heralded the launch of a month of activities across the county aimed at raising awareness and educating people about the impact of knife and violent crime. This was achieved through funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, working in partnership with local charity C2C Social Action, West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council.

Protect and support those who are vulnerable

Fire Service proactive work on safeguarding and adult risk management

The involvement of the fire service in safeguarding has significantly increased in recent years where officers have identified and acted upon concerns of harm, abuse or severe self-neglect either by making referrals that meet statutory thresholds or taking part in other multi- agency processes to help manage risk. Safeguarding concerns are usually identified through Home Fire Safety visits, incident response or through our youth programmes. Referrals to other agencies like housing, health and the police to support safer living increased by 88 per cent between 2020/21 and 2022/23 helping to ensure that elderly and vulnerable people can live safely in their own homes. In addition, the National Fire Standard for Safeguarding is now in place in Northamptonshire which ensures that all new entrants to the service have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Home fire safety visits

Fire Protection officers visited more than 1,000 premises in 2022 to help significantly reduce the risk of fires in buildings where people live, work and visit. Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue has also proactively contacted property owners across the county to ensure they meet their legal requirements, with landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) a recent priority. HMOs are properties where at least three unrelated people rent out rooms in the same home and the Protection department offers specialist advice to landlords to ensure they meet the latest safety regulations. The team are also actively involved in business forums so that they may effectively and efficiently speak with commercial organisations and the protection website has been effective with a significantly higher number of visits last year. The website provides a universal information and resources for people to access as well as a new and innovative online tool to aid landlords to calculate the potential number of people that a room/building can accommodate, allowing for safe movement and escape.

<https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/guide-to-assessing-your-occupancy-limit/>

<https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/business-safety/>

Protect and support those who are vulnerable

More bleed cabinets rolled out across Northamptonshire

Seventeen new bleed control cabinets containing lifesaving equipment have been installed across the county by Off the Streets NN, with the support of funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The cabinets contain medical items used to stop catastrophic bleeding and keep someone alive until the emergency services arrive. The cabinets are fixed in high profile locations including Northampton Racecourse, Eastfield Park in Wellingborough, the Recreation Ground in Kettering and Adrenaline Alley in Corby. In addition, 30 bleed control trauma kits have been put into shops and stores that will be identified by a window sticker. These new kits and cabinets join more than 50 others already installed by campaigning organisation Off the Streets NN and will help to save lives in the event of potentially fatal wounds.



Effective justice

Voice for Victims and Witnesses

Voice is Northamptonshire's victim and witness service, commissioned by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to support victims of crime and witnesses to prosecution. Supporting victims and witnesses is at the heart of the Police, Fire and Crime Plan and the service has been given additional funding to increase the capacity of the witness care team and to deliver support to victims of domestic abuse. This will ensure the needs of victims and witnesses are met in light of the increased demand, particularly as a result of court backlogs and delays in the criminal justice system.

Further details of Voice's work can be found on their website at: <https://www.voicenorthants.org/about-voice-northants/>

Throughout 2022/23, Voice received a total of 35,023 referrals into the adult service, of which domestic abuse accounted for the largest group of referrals, making up 24 per cent of all Voice referrals, closely followed by theft and fraud (20%) offences. Of all the referrals into the adult service, 12% of people went on to receive help and support ranging from immediate and practical support, being referred to other specialist services or receiving ongoing emotional support.

At the end of 2022/23, the Voice witness care team has seen a strong upward trend in witness attendance rates at court. At the start of the year, the witness attendance rate for the team was 71.2 per cent, however by the end of March 2023, this increased to 85.1%, which is above the national average of 83.2 per cent.

Local Criminal Justice Board

Since March 2020 the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has chaired the Local Criminal Justice Board which was established to bring together key criminal justice agencies together to draw up coordinated responses to the challenges facing the criminal justice system. The objective of the Board is to promote effectiveness and efficiency of the whole criminal justice system and it has developed a business plan and performance framework to measure performance against a range of measures. The Board monitors the delays in the system which, although improving locally, are still impacted by the legacy effects of the COVID pandemic and delays in the court process can mean that victims and witnesses lose confidence in the justice system and decide to disengage from the Court process, making the work of the Voice witness care team even more important than ever.

Effective justice

Reducing Reoffending Board

The Northants Reducing Reoffending Board is chaired by the OPFCC's Criminal Justice Delivery Manager, and a number of priorities aimed at reducing reoffending have been agreed. Over £0.220m was spent on reducing reoffending projects, including the commissioning of services to support the coordinated multi-agency management of cases within a refreshed adult Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme. Cases managed by the scheme will include the most prolific local offenders, many of whom cause significant harm to our communities. The local IOM scheme will be subject to both local and national evaluation.

Substance misuse treatment and recovery services

Last year, £0.24m of funding was allocated towards substance misuse treatment and recovery services commissioned through a pooled treatment budget with the Local Authority. In 2023 work has started with partners to determine how services will be commissioned in accordance with the Government's 10-year Drug Strategy ('From Harm to Hope'). The aims of the strategy are to reduce drug related crime, improve the numbers of people in treatment, improve treatment outcomes and create a generational shift in attitudes to drug use.

Since 2018, Northamptonshire has been a test bed site for mental health treatment requirements, and the work undertaken locally has gone on to shape national thinking on how best to deliver mental health (and subsequently other) treatment as part of a court order. Early evaluations of this work identified significant positive outcomes. The OPFCC has commissioned a range of out-of-court disposals for low level offenders, ensuring that appropriate offenders can be conditionally cautioned to attend a rehabilitative programme including those for domestic abuse, drug or alcohol offences and a special programme for female offenders. All these programmes are subject to internal and external evaluation. Having a broad range of programmes in place has allowed the police to transition smoothly to a "two tier" out-of-court disposal scheme, ahead of legislation which will require all areas to adopt the new model.



Modern services that are fit for purpose

A strong and inclusive fire and rescue service

The Fire and Rescue Service 2021 – 2025 ‘Culture and People Strategy’ focuses on developing a service fit for the future, empowered, engaged and accountable with resilient leadership. This has been supported by a range of positive activity to promote a strong and inclusive organisation which allows staff at all levels to develop and grow their potential. The leadership and new talent development programmes include a range of leadership and continuing professional development training aligned to the Fire Leadership Standard and to identifying, developing and supporting high-potential staff and aspiring leaders for the future. Joint training with police colleagues also allows for skills and experiences to be shared and for each to learn from the other and to identify improved emergency response opportunities.

Working together measures

A new strategic board has been established between Police, Fire and Rescue and the OPFCC which will oversee implementation of key priority areas for joint working and development of new and innovative responses to emergency response and community safety. Four key priority areas have been agreed, including:

- The development of a multi-service officer role to provide a more holistic first response to the community.
- Community Safety and prevention work to reduce the harm and risk of crime and fire in communities
- Enhancing the opportunities for Cadets and Volunteers schemes to engage young people and communities in the work of emergency services.
- Joint Operational Team - building on the existing centre of excellence to ensure that joint responses to critical incidents are well co-ordinated and managed.

Work is also continuing on a joint feasibility study and outline business case for a new control room to serve the needs of both police and fire in the county, ensuring most effective deployment of resources to emergency calls.

An estate fit for the future

The need for buildings which meet the needs of staff and the public to deliver effective and efficient emergency services is also a central tenet of the Police and Crime plan. Many of the existing buildings owned by both services are in need of modernization and repair to make them fit for current purpose, some are no longer appropriate or needed because the way services are delivered has changed.

Last year the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner commissioned a detailed external review of the whole joint estate across police and fire, resulting in the development of an Estates strategy which will over the next 10 to 20 years see a range of investment in current and new buildings as well as selling those which are no longer required. This means that staff will work in buildings with facilities that meet their needs and those of the service as well as being accessible to the public where appropriate.

Modern services that are fit for purpose

Significant progress in how Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service keeps the county safe

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service has been commended for the improvements that it has made in keeping the county safe, in its second inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services. The Service received an overall rating of 'Good' from Inspectors as well as in the areas of its operational effectiveness, efficiency, making the best use of resources and having a robust plan to manage its finances well into the future. These areas had been graded as requires improvement in the previous inspection in late 2018. However, in the 'People' area HMICFRS graded Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service as 'requires improvement' and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has set out clear expectations for the service in relation to the need to address the cultural and behavioural issues in the service highlighted by the inspection and in services across the county in national reports.

Preparing our fleet to become greener

Vehicle telematics have been added to the Fire and Rescue Service fleet of 150 vehicles as well as the 400 plus vehicles in the police fleet fitted with telematic equipment. The data will provide valuable information to target resources, look at potential fuel savings and inform vehicle replacement programmes in the future. The shared telematics system will also allow for better joined up emergency response by both Fire and Police within the county, and also allows real time comparison in performance with other Police and Fire services. It is important that both Fire and Police can have the best access to technology that provides them with the best data to inform service delivery and to achieve a greener fleet and one that is in line to meet the government's carbon targets.

Developing data sharing

The integrated Digital, Data & Technology team for both police and fire has achieved over £2m of cashable and efficiency savings since inception, far exceeding the expectation of £163,000 by the end of 2022/23. The Digital Data and Technology team now incorporate performance management and analytical functions, reflecting the strategic importance of data and the need to align our digital strategy with data to inform and future proof the service going forward. In addition, the collaborative approach has brought all business change functions into one department, together with the information assurance/governance function to help deliver efficiencies that will support the front line.

Northamptonshire Cyber Security Forum

The Northamptonshire Cyber Security Forum is an informal supportive network which puts local organisations and businesses in the same room as Policing. The Forum meets monthly and includes presentations from knowledge experts. to raise awareness of the cyber landscape and facilitate discussion about a wide range of issues including cyber resilience, asset management, data breaches, ransomware, cyber recovery and vigilance. Work is also underway to develop an innovative suite of cyber awareness tools that will be free to the local Northamptonshire community in promoting and educating about Cyber Security.

Complaints

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, took on responsibility for the receipt, recording and resolution of less serious complaints on 1st of February 2020 with the creation of the Customer Service Team to carry out these responsibilities. Since inception, the Customer Service Team has dealt with a total 5,337 contacts from members of the public which includes complaints, queries, and requests for complaint reviews under the revised legislation.

Type of contract	Number
Complaint against Police	2,045
Request for review of finalised complaint	182
General query about Policing	3,110
TOTAL	5,337

Demand continues to increase, with the number of contacts up approximately 15 per cent on the same period last year, but the team continues to maintain high levels of service recovery with 60-70 per cent of complaints being dealt and resolved by the team. Complaints are closely monitored to identify any themes, patterns or trends to inform service development and improve performance.

Recent data from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) reflects the Customer Service Team are outperforming the vast majority of other forces nationally, for example, initial contact with a complainant is on average 0.6 working days compared to the national average of 5.3 working days. A monthly analysis on complaints data helps to identify performance and service issues and recent learning has identified:

- An increase in complaints about delays in the Firearms Licensing Unit, resulting in plans to tackle the backlog and improve service to customers.
- Feedback to officers about their own performance and use of equipment in responding to emergencies.
- An investigation being reopened and submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service.
- Individual feedback to an Officer regarding his approach to a sensitive situation in front of children.
- An investigation was reopened where it was identified that it had been filed inappropriately and should have been submitted to the CPS for a charging decision.
- Feedback given to an individual officer reminding them to use Body Worn Video.

The team also review complaints finalised by the Professional Standards Department to ensure an effective complaint handling process for those which are referred to the police for investigation. In future this process will be extended to look at specific areas of concern such as discrimination and violence against women and girls. From the 1st April 2023, the OPFCC's Customer Service Team have taken on the management of the Fire and Rescue Service's complaints process to free up capacity to deal with operational demands and enable more effective oversight.

Complaints

Four new Independent Panel Members have been recruited and trained to support Police gross misconduct hearings, where they form part of the panel to determine the outcome and level of sanction for officers subject to such hearings.



Independent assurances

Independent Custody Visitors Scheme

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to maintain an effective Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme for Northamptonshire. The scheme provides independent scrutiny which offers mutual protection to detainees and the police, and reassurance to the community and allows for volunteers from the local community to observe, comment and report on:

- The welfare of detainees
- That detainees are receiving their rights and entitlements
- That the conditions that detainees are being held in are satisfactory.

Northamptonshire has Custody Centres, the Criminal Justice Centre (CJC) in Northampton has 40 cells and the Weekley Woods Justice Centre (WWJC) in Kettering has 22 cells.

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, 12,142 detainees were held in the custody centres in Northamptonshire. ICVs prioritise speaking to vulnerable detainees and during the 12-month period, 1,008 (8 per cent) of those detained were under the age of 18, 2,002 (16 per cent) were female, and 4,894 (40.3 per cent) had a mental health condition. The top five defined ethnicity groups were White British (59.9 per cent), any other white background (19.6 per cent), Black African (3.7 per cent) and Black Caribbean (2.6 per cent).

There are 24 Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) in Northamptonshire with 13 new ICVs recruited to the scheme last year. During the 12-month period (April 2022 – March 2023), 96 ICV visits took place, and 340 detainees were seen (268 spoken to and 72 observed). 86 per cent of those that were asked, consented to speaking to an ICV and 14 per cent of detainees declined to talk.

During this period, 55 issues were raised by detainees. 17 per cent of the issues raised related to adequate food not being offered, 16 per cent related to adequate drink not being offered, 12 per cent related to requests for a Solicitor and 12 per cent related to medical matters.

Joint Independent Audit Committee

The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) supports the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to discharge their responsibilities by providing independent assurance on the adequacy of their corporate governance, risk management arrangements and the associated control environments and the integrity of financial statements and reporting. The JIAC covers three organisations: The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), the Chief Constable (CC) and Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (NCFRA). The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is provided by NCFRA. The JIAC produce an annual report and a copy can be downloaded after the JIAC's July 2023 meeting from the OPFCC website at

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/category/opfcc/accountability-opfcc/joint-independent-audit-committee/>

OPFCC grants schemes

The Making Northamptonshire Safer Fund provides funding of £3,000 to £10,000 to organisations with projects that support the Police, Fire and Crime Plan. The grants can be varied in nature owing to the breadth of the plan but cannot be for recurring activity.

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/making-northamptonshire-safer-fund/>

The Road Safety Community Fund, which is supported by the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance, offers grants of between £500 - £5,000. The fund looks for applications that support the Northamptonshire Strategic Road Safety Plan. Grants are often allocated for Vehicle Activated Speed Signs, traffic calming measures, school road safety project costs, and other projects that aim to make the roads in Northamptonshire safer for all users.

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/road-safety-community-fund/>

The Small Grants Scheme offers grants between £500 and £3,000 to smaller organisations running projects in Northamptonshire that support the Police Fire and Crime Plan.

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/small-grant-schemes/>

Fly-tipping Grants Scheme

In partnership with the local authorities in Northamptonshire, the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has allocated funds to support the removal of items that have been fly tipped on private land, and subsequently support the target hardening of these sites where possible to reduce the incidents of future fly-tipping. The OPFCC will contribute a maximum of £1,500 toward the costs associated with each site.

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/fly-tipping-grant-scheme/>

For more details on the grants process can be found on

<https://northantspfcc.org.uk/our-work/grant-schemes/>

Budget and financial outturn 2022-23

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is the recipient of all funding for both Fire and Policing. This includes all the grant funding from the government for Policing and Fire, Business Rates for Fire and funding raised by the Council Tax.

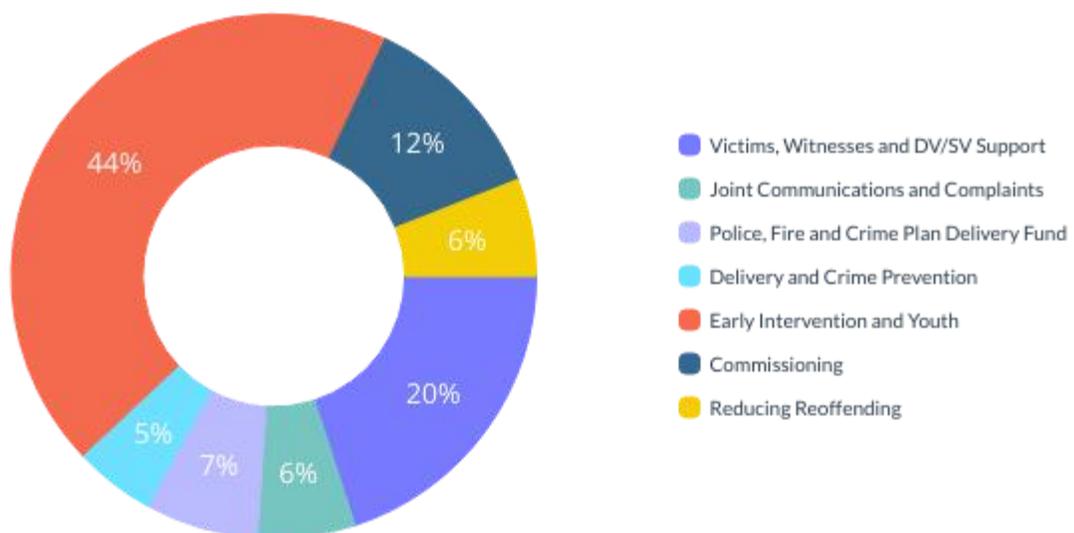
One precept is set for Fire and another one is set for Policing. The Policing budget covers Northamptonshire Police and the Office and the Delivery activities of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. How this money is allocated in each service is a matter for the PFCC who consults the Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Constable as they provide professional operational advice and recommendations. The PFCC also undertook a public consultation at the end of 2022 to inform the 2023-24 budgets and funding priorities for the year. These were set out in detail in the precept proposals as considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2023.

Each year the PFCC produces separate Statement of Accounts for Fire and Policing which set out the detailed financial performance for the year. The Statement of Accounts are published on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner website and are externally audited.

Police

Funding for the £161m Police budget was made up of 55% of national police grants and 45% from local council tax precept. In 2022-23, the PFCC allocated over 94% to the Chief Constable to deliver operational policing and included funding to increase Police Officers in Northamptonshire to 1501 full time equivalents, the most there has ever been. This number was exceeded, and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner was successful in claiming an additional grant of almost £1m for the county, with an expectation to draw down a similar sum in 2023-24. Around 4% was allocated to fund capital expenditure and the costs of running the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The balance of 3% (£4.5m) was used by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to directly support his delivery and commissioning priorities as follows:

Delivery and Commissioning



Budget and financial outturn 2022-23

Police Funding Formula – the challenge

Around 55% of Police funding is allocated via the Police Allocation Formula (PAF). The PAF is a calculation that uses various data sources (such as population density) to share money between police authorities in England and Wales. This formula was “frozen” in 2011/12 and includes population as a key factor in the allocations. Northamptonshire’s population has and continues to grow at a much faster rate than the national average.

This means that the majority of funding provided for Policing in Northamptonshire is based on a formula which is over ten years old. His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) issue annual Value for Money profiles. In 2022/23, these profiles reflected that Northamptonshire’s central police grant per head of population is way below the national average as follows:

- Northamptonshire’s central grant funding was £114.88 per head of population
- Regional Force area Nottinghamshire’s was £137.77 per head of population
- The national average for England and Wales was £134.93 per head of population
- The average for the metropolitan areas was £181.88 per head of population

The PFCC is concerned that the current formula is not fit for purpose – it does not reflect the current challenges and demands of policing in Northamptonshire and has not kept pace with the population increase. The PFCC will continue to actively lobby for a fairer funding formula for the residents of Northamptonshire.



Budget and financial outturn 2022-23

Fire

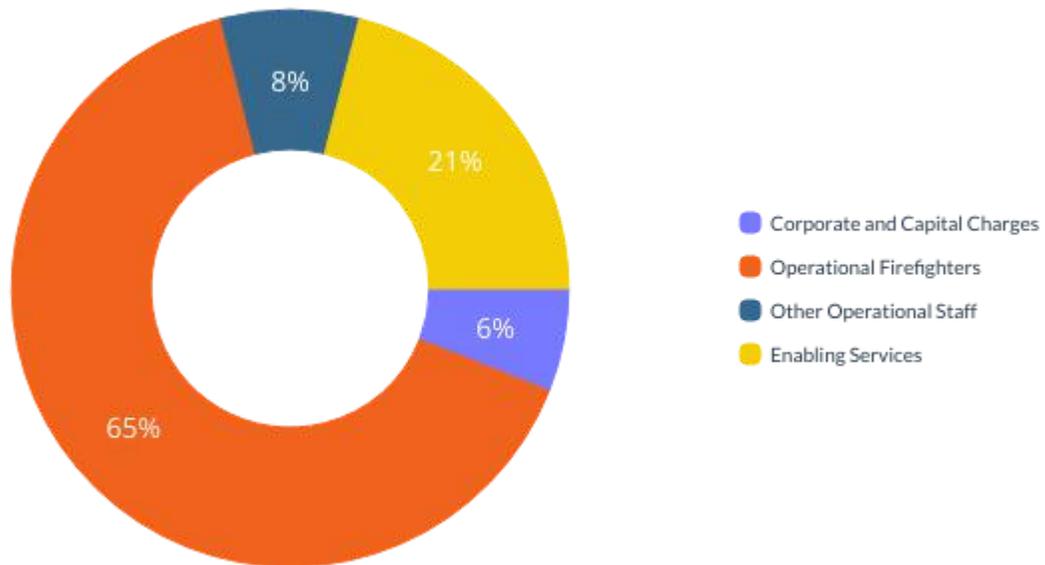
Funding for the £27.1m Fire budget was made up of around 14% from national grants with the balance of 86% from local business rates and local council tax precept.

Although Northamptonshire are still one of the lowest funded Fire and Rescue service in the country, the PFCC has continued to actively lobby and secure funding for Northamptonshire. In fact, since the governance transfer, the Fire budget will have increased by over 30% by 2023-24 (almost £7m). Around 73% of the budget is spent on operational firefighters and staff and the remaining 27% transport, digital, funding capital expenditure and support staff.

In January 2019, Fire transferred with a base budget which had no resilience, a long list of essential capital funding requirements and no reserves. Since that time, Fire have worked hard to build and maintain a stable and resilient funding position.

There is now a sustainable budget and a reasonable level of reserves held to support unforeseen challenges and to support investment in transformation and improvements for the residents of Northamptonshire.

Fire expenditure



Budget and financial outturn 2022-23

Grant funding

The PFCC actively seeks additional grant funding to support new or existing local and national initiatives, as well as offsetting additional costs for Fire and Policing. Since 2016/17, over £12.7m has been secured for Policing and since January 2019, over £4.9m for Fire in Northamptonshire.



Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (NCFRA)

Fire and Rescue Statement 2022/23

Introduction and background

Fire and rescue services play a crucial role in making our communities safer, whether it be preventing and protecting people from fire and other risks or responding swiftly and effectively to the incidents and emergencies that occur. The Fire and Rescue National Framework (2018) provides overall strategic direction and guidance with how fire and rescue authorities discharge their functions. Within the framework, there is a requirement for the authority (NCFRA) to provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. In addition, strategic direction is also provided by other plans for which the annual assurance is also required to show due regard to:

- The Police, Fire and Crime Plan
- The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)

Governance transferred to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) on 1 January 2019. This year's statement comes at the end of the fourth full financial year of governance under the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC).

During 2021/22, the service developed 'A Vision for 2025 – Fire 25' and the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-25 (previously known as Integrated Risk Management Plan). These two documents provide strategic direction for the service over that period and sit alongside the PFCC's plan 2021-26 (Police, Fire and Crime Plan) the first combined plan for both police and fire. The service has been the subject to three inspections (two full effectiveness and efficiency inspections, and one COVID-19 compliance inspection) by HMICFRS since 2019. The next full inspection is due in September 2023

In October 2022, Chief Fire Officer Darren Dovey retired from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service after 35 years in the sector. Following a robust recruitment process, Chief Fire Officer Mark Jones was appointed by the Commissioner and the appointment ratified at the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in July 2022.

Performance

The Authority monitors fire and rescue performance through the OPFCC Accountability Board. This board maintains oversight of key delivery areas including operational response, prevention and protection. This board holds strategic leads accountable for the delivery of community outcomes, improvement actions and performance outcomes.

Community outcome measures

	2022/23				21/22	22/23	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EOY	EOY	
No. of Deliberate Primary Fires per 10,000 population	0.98	1.02	0.65	0.51	2.80	3.15	↑
No. of Deliberate Secondary Fires per 10,000 population	2.26	3.76	0.98	0.90	6.30	7.90	↑
No. of Primary Fires per 100,000 population	31.39	36.60	26.43	25.03	118.08	119.46	↑
No. of Fatalities in Primary Fires per 100,000 population	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.13	↓
No. of Non-Fatal Casualties in Primary Fires per 100,000 population	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.21	0.79	↓
No. of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population ##	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	↑
No. of injuries (exc precautionary checks) arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.64	0.25	0.38	0.51	1.72	1.78	↑
No. of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	2.57	2.47	2.67	2.87	10.69	10.59	↓
Non-Domestic Fires per 1000 Non-Domestic premises	1.43	1.35	1.51	1.19	6.05	5.49	↓
Sickness – Wholetime (days/shifts lost per head) ^	3.37	2.98	2.99	1.96	10.10	11.30	↑
Sickness – All staff (days/shifts lost per head, excluding on-call) ^	2.95	2.67	2.67	1.85	9.83	10.15	↑
Prevention	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	21/22	22/23	
Delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)	1349	1285	1572	1480	4255	5685	↑
Protection	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	21/22	22/23	
Risk Based Inspection Programme Inspections RI/FURI*	193	185	160	225	644	763	↑
Full Inspections FI	67	33	74	29	205	203	↓
Informal Notifications	22	836	35	15	79	108	↑
Enforcements Served	4	5	14	6	24	29	↑
Prohibitions Served	2	4	6	9	7	21	↑
Building Regulation consultations BR	126	128	139	113	495	506	↑
Other Consultations OC	23	14	12	12	112	61	↓
Other Fire Safety Activities OFSA	208	209	189	220	1098	862	↓
Total Risk Inspections FRRI / FI / BR / OC / OFSA*	617	569	574	599	2554	2359	↓
Response	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	21/22	22/23	
Average of Full Response Time (including call handling)	09:55	10:32	10:08	10:12	10:16	10:14	↓
Average Call Handling Time (call to mobilise)	01:43	01:38	01:40	01:44	01:40	01:41	↑
Average appliance availability (No. of appliances)	17.93	17.82	18.01	17.81	-	17.90	
Training	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	21/22	22/23	
% of Wholetime operational staff in date with Core Competences^^	95%	80%	85%	95%	94%	95%	↑
% of on-call operational staff in date with Core Competences^^	84%	73%	72%	83%	84%	83%	↑

Data Notes:

2021/22 population figures based on 757,100. 2022/23 population figures based on 786,900 = 4.33% population increase

* Protection codes – RI – Re-Inspection, FURI – Follow up re-inspection, FI – full inspection, BR – building regulation, OC – other consultation, OFSA – other fire safety activity

– Number of Fatalities in Primary Fires per 100,000 population. This indicator includes all fire related fatalities in all property types. During 2022/23 there was 1 fire fatality within a domestic dwelling.

^ Sickness - Wholetime (days/shifts lost per head) and sickness absence (All staff, excluding on-call). There has been a high level of sickness reported throughout 2022/23, however there is a steady decline over the last 2 reporting quarters.

^^ Training – in September 2022 a new Competency Based Training Framework was introduced which captures and records slightly different data hence initial slight drop in %.

Financial assurance

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner acting as Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority is responsible under legislation for ensuring all financial activities are carried out in accordance with statutory and professional requirements. This includes safeguarding public money, receiving all income due to the organisation and meeting all financial obligations in respect of for Northamptonshire Fire.

As a corporation sole, NCFRA is required to have a Section 151 Officer. In line with the options set out within the Home Office Financial Management Code of Practice, the role of NCFRA Section 151 Officer in Northamptonshire is also undertaken by the PFCC and Group Section 151 Officer for Policing.

The PFCC delegates financial arrangements within NCFRA to ensure day to day activities can be undertaken and decisions can be made by those who have the knowledge and authority to do so. The PFCC delegates the operational Fire service budget to the Chief Fire Officer and sets out the requirements of this allocation in an annual strategic outcomes letter.

Delegation arrangements and levels are set out within NCFRA's Corporate Governance Framework (CGF). The CGF was established at the time of the governance transfer in January 2019. A full review of the framework started in 2022 and was concluded in May 2023.

Regular financial monitoring reports are considered monthly by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and regularly throughout the year at the Accountability Board. Financial updates are considered by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel throughout the year.

Financial performance, level of reserves and medium-term financial outlook is included within the annual NCFRA Statement of Accounts and is subject to external audit.

Since the Governance change on 1 January 2019, the Authority has produced three Statement of Accounts, all of which have received unqualified audit opinions:

- The 2018/19 accounts cover the 3-month period 1 January to 31 March 2019, and
- The 2019/20 accounts cover the 12-month period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and
- The 2020/21 accounts cover the 12-month period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The 2021/22 Draft Statement of Accounts were published on the OPFCC website in line with statutory deadlines and it is anticipated the audit opinion will be issued in the coming months.

The Statement of Accounts were produced ensuring compliance with Codes of Practice issued by CIPFA and include within it an Annual Governance Statement which assesses controls and makes recommendations for changes in the following year.

As in previous years, the pre-audit Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 were published by the statutory deadline and a workshop took place with auditors, officers and Joint Independent Audit Committee members scrutinising the Statements in December 2022.

Work is well progressed on the 2022/23 statement of accounts for NCFRA which cover the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The pre-audit Statement of Accounts will be published prior to the statutory deadline and available on the PFCC website after that time, with the external audit taking place after this date.

Governance assurance

In his role as NCFRA, the governance of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is the responsibility of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire. Governance is concerned with how NCFRA manages its affairs on a day-to-day basis including its business practices, standards of conduct and overall management procedures. These arrangements are set out within the Corporate Governance Framework, a copy of which is available on the OPFCC website.

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 23, NCFRA have prepared an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of the Statement of Accounts, and which included:

- An acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance and system of internal control.
- A brief description of the key elements of the governance arrangements including explicit areas such as internal audit and risk management.
- A brief description of the process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance arrangements.
- An evaluation of the level of assurance that the systems and processes that comprise the governance arrangements can provide an outline of the actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance and internal control issues.

Whilst internal audit work for 2022/23 has not yet concluded, in their draft annual report for the year, the Chief Internal Auditor issued a draft opinion based on the audit work undertaken as at the date of the Annual Governance Statement:

Audit Opinion - 22/23

I can confirm that sufficient work has been completed to allow me to form a conclusion on the adequacy and effectiveness of Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority's internal control environment. Based on audit work undertaken during the year, in my opinion, NCFRA's framework of governance, risk management and management control is GOOD.

Audit testing has demonstrated that controls were working in practice across key areas for the most part during the year.

Where weaknesses have been identified through internal audit review, we have worked with management to agree appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement.

Jacinta Fru BA (Hons) FCCA, Chief Internal Auditor

In her report, the Chief Internal Auditor concluded that NCFRA's framework for 2022/23 was assessed as "Good". This assessment is an improvement on every year since NCFRA was established as they have previously been assessed as "Satisfactory."

This Chief Internal Auditor's opinion was considered by statutory officers charged with governance in the formulation of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23. In line with the approach undertaken in previous years, the report and opinion will be considered in full at the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) in July 2023.

Operational assurance

The Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority has carried out its functions in accordance with the defined statutory and policy framework in which it is required to operate. The key documents setting this out are:

- The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007
- The Localism Act 2011
- The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
- The Health and Safety Act at Work etc Act 1974

Whilst the Authority is primarily a locally based service, mutual aid arrangements are in place with other services where incidents occur near our borders and to provide resilience for large scale or complex incidents where additional resources need to be called on. The Authority contributes to national resilience and can make a number of its assets available to support a national emergency.

The Authority has robust Business Continuity Management (BCM) plans in place which are integral to our strategy in managing corporate risk and to provide, in the event of a major disruption, a fire and rescue service to the community. These plans underwent significant test and review during 2022/23 to provide community reassurance throughout lengthy periods of high temperature during the summer period and in preparation for potential periods of industrial action and national power outages.

The Authority publishes a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) that sets out details of its operational service provision and improvement plans at a local, regional and national level, together with individual delivery plans. The current Plan came into effect on 1 April 2022 and runs until 2025. It has now reached the end of its first full year and is undergoing its planned annual review.

A copy of the current Police, Fire and Crime plan, CRMP, Fire 25 and related documents can be found on our website at: <https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/>

The service was subject to an inspection by HMICFRS in January 2022, providing a 'good' rating for 8 out of 11 areas inspected. The report findings were published in September 2022 and can be found here along with any associated public facing action plan.

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/frs-assessment/frs-2021/northamptonshire/>

Overall assurance arrangements

The assurance arrangements that the Authority had in place are considered to meet the requirements set out in the National Framework.



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Stephen Mold