

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 18



Berkshire,  
Buckinghamshire  
and Oxfordshire

**POLICE  
& CRIME**  
COMMISSIONER  
THAMES VALLEY



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(A) ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES; B) STAFFING STRUCTURE 2017-18)

# 1. Introduction

**Welcome to my 2017-18 Annual Report as Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley (PCC). This 2017-18 report provides an update on overall progress against delivery of my new four year strategic Police and Crime Plan for the period 2017-2021.**

**My new Plan was informed by a broad range of information that is reflected in five key priority areas:**

- Vulnerability
- Prevention and early intervention
- Reducing re-offending
- Serious organised crime and terrorism
- Police judgment and reform

By law, I am required to secure and maintain an efficient and effective police service for the Thames Valley. In 2017/18 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) conducted their 'police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy' (PEEL) inspections for all police forces. HMICFRS graded Thames Valley Police (TVP) as 'Outstanding' in terms of efficiency, "Good" for effectiveness and 'Good' for legitimacy. Thames Valley's HMICFRS PEEL Reports have been the best for any police force except Durham, a force that in relative terms is substantially better funded than TVP.

Despite the budgetary challenges faced by TVP, a current shortfall of officers and the increasing complexity of crime, I and TVP are committed to providing a responsive emergency service that keeps people safe and brings offenders to justice.

During the year TVP has had to retain its high level of performance while making substantial annual savings of over £10m, and do this at a time of ever increasing demand for the services

of the police. Nationally we are currently seeing a significant rise in crime, though in the Thames Valley area the increase in many categories of crime is less than the national average. Overall crime levels in the Thames Valley are also lower compared to ten and fifteen years ago. As one of the less well funded police forces, this is a great credit to all who work for TVP.

My office has effectively managed our £2.765m Ministry of Justice grant funding to provide a range of victim and witness support services. I have also provided community safety grants totalling £2.7m to county and unitary councils in the Thames Valley area to help them to support me in delivering my Police and Crime Plan strategic priorities. A summary of the benefits delivered from these grants - including work to address female genital mutilation (FGM) and cybercrime - is provided later in the report.

My office introduced 'Victims First' - a new service which offers support through a single point of contact for victims and witnesses of crime, including affected family members. The service has now developed into our in-house Victims First Hub and was opened on 26 March 2018.

Since 2016 the Government has encouraged police and crime commissioners to seek to take over the responsibility for the governance of their local fire and rescue services. Nevertheless, last summer, I and the three fire authorities in the Thames Valley announced the decision that there will be no governance changes to fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley at the present time. In the Thames Valley this is more complex to achieve than in other areas which have only one fire and rescue service. In Thames Valley there are three fire and rescue services, one for each county. I believe there are substantial operational and efficiency savings to be made by combining them into one service, and bringing them into the TVP management system.

We will continue to work closely together to explore and develop more collaboration options, particularly between the fire and rescue services and Thames Valley Police.

Over 100,000 people came to Windsor to celebrate the Royal Wedding, and I am aware that a huge amount of work went into planning a policing operation that delivered a safe and secure event. Thames Valley Police were highly professional and showed the best of British policing to the watching world.

The reintroduction of 'custodian helmets' after 7 years has been greatly appreciated by both the public and police officers. It will greatly improve the visibility and presence of police officers on daytime patrol.

The forthcoming year will be the half way point of my current term in office. I am pleased that the recent full time appointment of my Deputy PCC, Matthew Barber, will enable us both to further focus on delivery of our strategic priorities.

Thames Valley Police is a Force we can be proud of and I have faith we and our other community safety and criminal justice partners, will be able to rise to the challenges in meeting the needs of communities across the Thames Valley.



**Anthony Stansfeld  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner for  
Thames Valley**



# 2. Progress in meeting my police and crime plan 2017-2021

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2018

THIS SECTION HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN 2017-18 TOWARDS DELIVERING MY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017-2021

## Summary of overall progress in 2017/18

This is year one of a four year strategic Police and Crime Plan

### • Are my strategic priorities going in the right direction?

Yes, I believe the overall direction of travel is positive and on course to deliver my 5 key strategic priorities.

I have highlighted evidence within this 2017/18 annual report which demonstrates what has been (or will continue to be) delivered by the Force, my own office and other key partners.

### • Are we where we want to be?

Having considered the delivery plans of both the Force and those of my own office, I am reassured that there is an undiminished focus in continuing to deliver a wide range of positive outcomes during 2018/19 and beyond.

However, the future funding of policing in Thames Valley continues to be a concern. While the Force can be rightly proud of its successes that are highlighted in the HMICFRS PEEL assessments, we are entering a phase where future funding of the service, along with increasing demands and complexities of modern policing, will inevitably create further challenge and uncertainty on the road ahead. I am encouraged by the recent speech of Sajid Javid, the new Home Secretary which underlined the importance of proper police funding and its correlation with the ability to fight crime.

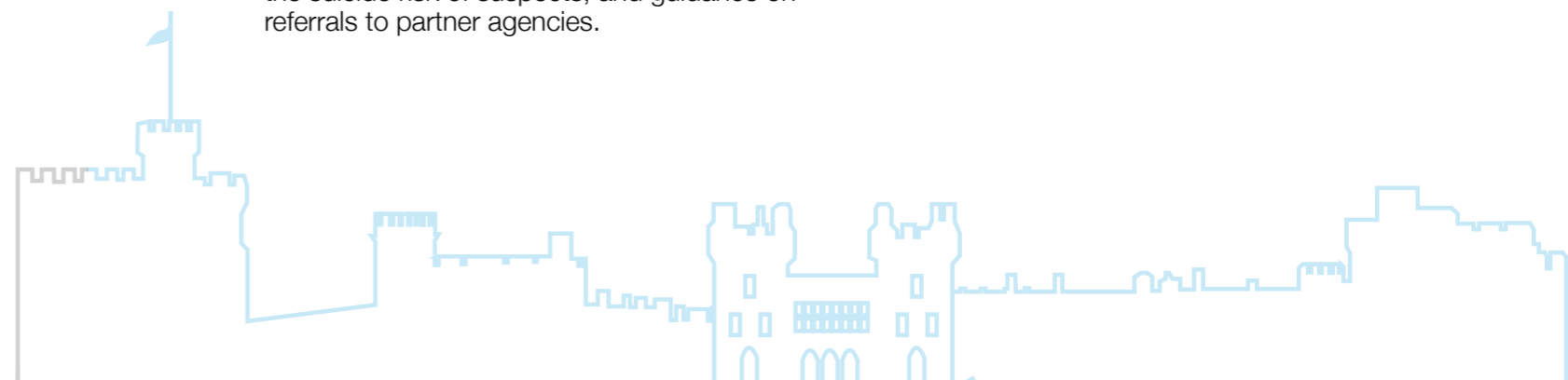
In view of this, whilst I will continue to closely monitor progress in delivering against my strategic priorities, I may consider revisiting and, possibly, refreshing my Police and Crime Plan for 2017-21, during the remaining term of my office.

# Strategic Objective 1 - VULNERABILITY:

Managing demand on services through working together

## PROGRESS IN 2017/18:

- Support through a single point of contact for victims and witnesses of crime, including affected family members. Further plans are in place to expand services during 2018 to include, for example, specialist counselling and community signposting points to simplify access and improve support for victims. Further details of Victims First can be found at <https://www.victims-first.org.uk/>
- The TVP Active Communities project has been rolled out during the year to develop community forums, independent advisory groups and specialist local volunteer roles to empower local communities to play their part in reducing demand.
- The Force are working with the Cinnamon network (a church-based organisation who work with the most vulnerable in the community) on joint projects with Neighbourhood Policing Teams, with a focus on supporting hard to reach and vulnerable parts of communities.
- During the year the Force has reviewed and health-checked all multi agency strategies to ensure their effectiveness, plus new systems have been introduced to assess the suicide risk of suspects, and guidance on referrals to partner agencies.
- I have agreed to match a grant from the Home Office to conduct a strategic framework review of 'County Lines' drug dealing activities, looking at our response across Thames Valley, and to make recommendations about risk management alongside other forces and partner agencies.
- Two new multi-agency projects were launched during Quarter 3: one focused on protecting vulnerable adults from modern slavery and exploitation, and the second to problem solve the impacts of serious organised crime to support Operation Stronghold.
- As the past Chairman of the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board, I have engaged with key service delivery partners to encourage a more joined-up criminal justice system.



# Strategic Objective 2

## - PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION:

### Improving safeguarding in physical and virtual space

#### PROGRESS IN 2017/18:

- Operation Sceptre (knife crime campaign) – resulted in 172 knives being surrendered during Quarter 4.
- Operation JEEP (rural crime campaign) was delivered in collaboration with partners. This included the introduction of online crime reporting, and a video introduction to TVP's role and activities in reducing rural crime which was viewed over 14,000 times.
- Through Operation Signature the Force is developing crime prevention advice for those vulnerable to online crime.
- A team of Special Constables with expertise and knowledge in IT has been trained to support communities in reducing online crime.
- Through campaigns such as Hidden Harm, the Force has engaged communities on a number of issues throughout the year, including modern slavery and online child abuse; #protectyourworld, aimed at keeping young people safe online, delivered in partnership with a range of agencies including Safe! and the NSPCC.
- A schools-based safeguarding children project was piloted in Cherwell & West Oxfordshire Local Police Area (LPA) and will be rolled out across other LPAs in 2018.
- Though grant funding from my Community Safety Fund, I awarded £120k to organisations to improve knowledge and awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and £94k to eight organisations to deliver cyber-crime prevention activities. I wrote to schools and health organisations to raise awareness of FGM amongst professionals who work closely with children who could potentially fall victim to this crime.
- My office has also delivered a number of key 'hate crime' activities such as the 'Let's Hate Hate' campaign - to help improve Hate Crime awareness and reporting - and also took over operational management of the (third-party reporting) Hate Crime Helpline.

# Strategic Objective 3

## - REDUCING RE-OFFENDING:

### Targeting and managing harm and risk

#### PROGRESS IN 2017/18:

- Work jointly commissioned by my Office and TVP, included new programmes set up to reduce re-offending such as "Positive Relationships Programme", which centres on perpetrators of domestic abuse with a particular focus on reducing repeat victimisation, and improving the lives of victims and their children.
- The Milton Keynes LPA problem solving team has significantly reduced the number of repeat domestic abuse offences through improved engagement with offenders.
- TVP has developed a programme to increase victim access to restorative justice, in order for offenders to better understand the impact of their crimes, and so help reduce re-offending.
- My office managed a successful 'Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) Project' funding bid which supports the Home Office 'Violence Against Women and Girls Service' (VAWG) Transformation Fund scheme.
- My office has also explored future options with partners for the provision of commissioned services based on vulnerability/needs of victims of crime, including co-commissioning opportunities with Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.



# Strategic Objective 4

## - SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM:

### Improving the local response

#### PROGRESS IN 2017/18:

- The Force has undertaken a range of multi-agency problem solving initiatives to both disrupt and prevent organised crime, e.g. a gangs project in Slough linked to a review of County drugs lines, and both Slough and Chiltern & South Buckinghamshire LPAs have undertaken significant work on closure orders to reduce cuckooing (i.e. when offenders use a vulnerable person's property for drug dealing).
- TVP and Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) have actively contributed to the national Action Counter Terrorism (ACT) campaign.
- My office has undertaken a range of activities to enhance oversight of activities to prevent violent extremism and promote good practice, and includes: supporting WRAP ('Working to Raise Awareness of PREVENT') training, supporting Community Safety Partnership initiatives, providing a Prevent Virtual Learning Group Newsletter for partners.

# Strategic Objective 5

## - POLICE ETHICS AND REFORM:

### Increasing the pace of change

#### PROGRESS IN 2017/18:

- HMICFRS PEEL (Policing Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) 'Effectiveness' inspection - TVP was graded as "Good" for the way it deals with crime, both in terms of prevention and investigation; how the Force deals with anti-social behaviour, their preparedness to deal with serious and organised crime and some of the specialist capabilities that are needed to deal with vulnerability.
- HMICFRS PEEL 'Efficiency' inspection - TVP was awarded an "Outstanding" rating, with particular reference to the Force's "sophisticated understanding of demand" and "innovative approaches to uncovering hidden demand".
- Staff from the Force and my office have undertaken a range of training around issues such as vulnerability, supporting victims, domestic abuse triage and dealing with hate crime to ensure we deliver the best support to victims of crime.
- The TVP Local Policing Operating Model was introduced in June 2017 to ensure the Force deploy the right resources with the right skills at the right time, and there is a range of work taking place to better manage demand.
- The Force has undertaken a file quality improvement programme to ensure detectives are building compelling, strongly evidenced and fully complete crime prosecution case files at the point of first submission; which has improved efficiency and created capacity for our detectives but most importantly provides a better and timelier service to our victims.
- My office has been developing a number of key functions within the corporate governance environment, including preparing for changes to the national police complaints system, reviewing transparency requirements under FOI legislation, and preparing for introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation requirements.



# Performance headlines for 2017/18

**Overall crime levels reported to TVP increased by 8.7% in 2017/18 compared to the previous year (2016/17). There were 149,875 crimes reported across Thames Valley during the period April 2017 to March 2018. Based on the latest available figures, this compares to a national increase of 15%.**

Thames Valley's increase is reflected by trends seen at a wider national level. The latest published figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show an increase to the relatively rare, but "high-harm" violent offences such as homicide, knife crime and gun crime, a trend that has been emerging over the previous two years. The ONS has also seen evidence that increases in some types of theft have continued, in particular vehicle-related theft and burglary. Overall crime levels in Thames Valley remain low compared with ten and fifteen years ago. There were 47,448 fewer crimes recorded in this timeframe compared with ten years ago (197,132), and 57,949 fewer recorded offences compared with fifteen years ago (207,633).

While I was disappointed that the recent HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity Audit and Inspection raised a number of concerns for Thames Valley Police, it was reassuring that no issues of unethical behaviour were identified. The same concerns were voiced by HMICFRS about the majority of other forces. However, the public need to feel confident that TVP is providing an accurate picture of crime and I will be closely monitoring the progress of the Force in addressing a number of improvements recommended by the HMICFRS.

## Force Performance Measures in 2017/18 - key headlines:

- **Burglary** - Occurrences recorded as residential burglary increased from 4,962 to 5,744; an increase of 15.8%, (782 occurrences) compared to the previous year. Based on the latest available national figures, Thames Valley had the 12th lowest level of domestic burglary per 1000 dwellings in the country in 2017, the same ranking as in 2016. *[Note that national figures from 1 April 2017 include residential burglary of sheds and garages. On this definition, Thames Valley were experiencing a 69% increase in domestic burglaries, the 13th highest percentage increase].*
- The prosecution or caution rate for residential burglaries (dwellings) between April 2017 and March 2018 was 8.3%, a reduction from 9.7% in 2016/17. The number of investigations resulting in a charge, summons or caution has increased in the period from 471 to 479. Based on the latest available national figures, Thames Valley had the 19th highest charge or caution rate for domestic burglary in the country in 2017. In 2016 Thames Valley was ranked 14th. *[Note that national figures from 1 April 2017 include residential burglary of sheds and garages].*

- **Violence** - Occurrences recorded as violent crime increased by 12.6% from 30,623 offences to 34,486 offences between April 2017 and March 2018. There has been an increase in offences identified as domestic violence of 8.9% to 10,616 offences. Non Domestic violence offences increased by 14.4%. Based on the latest available national figures, Thames Valley had the 5th lowest level of violent crime per 1000 population in the country in 2017, the same ranking as in 2016. Thames Valley had the 6th lowest change in the level of violent crime at 9.5%. *[Note that national figures do not split violent crime into domestic and non-domestic categories].*
- 13.2% of non-domestic abuse related violent crimes were disposed of by means of charge, summons or caution in 2017/18. This was a decrease from 18.9% in 2016/17. The number of crimes disposed in this way fell from 3,936 to 3,155 (these figures are based on offences where no domestic abuse identifier has been selected). Based on the latest available national figures, Thames Valley had the 15th highest charge or caution rate for violent crime in the country in 2017. In 2016 Thames Valley was ranked 12th. *[Note that national figures do not split violent crime into domestic and non-domestic categories].*
- **Rape investigation** - 108 rape occurrences were disposed of by means of charge or summons between April 2017 and March 2018. This was a decrease from 128 in 2016/17. In the same period the number of offences recorded increased from 1,581 to 1,794. The resultant prosecution rate of 6.0% is less than the 8.1% achieved in 2016/17. Based on the latest available national figures, Thames Valley had the 19th lowest charge rate for rape in the country in 2017. In 2016 Thames Valley was ranked 9th lowest.
- **Rural crime** - There were 1,379 occurrences between April 2017 and March 2018 which were identified as rural crime. This was an increase of 13 offences (1.0%) when compared to the same period of the previous year.
- **File Quality** - A new national monitoring system for file quality was introduced by CPS in September 2016. The data for this measure is based on the information recorded under this new monitoring system. The comparison data is for January to March 2017 to allow for bedding issues to be addressed. Between April 2017 and March 2018; 9,821 files were reviewed by the Evidential Review Officers. 1,943 (20%) were deemed to be insufficient to proceed.
- **Repeat victimisation** - The level of repeat victimisation for domestic abuse related crime was 27.2% in 2017/18. This is an increase from 26.3% in 2016/17. The number of domestic abuse related crimes increased by 1,051. The number involving a repeat victim increased by 411.
- **Hate Crime** - The number of hate crimes has increased across all strands monitored (for example, recorded Racist incidents increased by 25.1%; Religious incidents increased by 115.7%). Non Crime hate incidents have increase across all strands with the exceptions of transphobic incidents where numbers are relatively low. A number of factors could be affecting this, including the terrorist attacks earlier in the year along with increased training for officers and staff resulting in improved recording.



- **Hidden Harm** - The number of crimes which have been identified as involving Honour Based Abuse has increased by 4 in the period April 2017 to March 2018 compared to 2016/17. Incidents of honour based abuse have decreased by 67 (26%) in the same time frame. Levels of reporting of female genital mutilation and forced marriage have also fallen in the same period, though the number of forced marriage crime offences has increased.
- **Demand** - In 2017/18 the number of calls for service to Thames Valley decreased by 7,893 – a decrease of 1.4%. In the same period the number of calls for service which required police attendance (as measured by Command and Control) fell by 23,592 – a reduction of 8.4%. Many incidents are attended by arrangement or by appointment and this is not always reflected on Command and Control. The number of incidents which were identified as requiring an immediate response increased by 0.2% whilst the number shown as requiring an urgent response decreased by 9.2%

While some of the above figures may make for uncomfortable reading, this should be tempered by a number of highly positive outcomes delivered by the Force - these include:

- Answered over 290,000 emergency (999) calls and 980,000 non-emergency (101) calls; 80% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds.
- Arrested over 31,000 people and charged over 11,000 of them.
- The Force's Major Crime Unit featured in three Channel Four documentaries including "Catching a Killer".
- Police caught 1,800 drivers using mobile phones, 2,000 drink drivers, and 1,000 drivers under the influence of drugs.
- During the firearms amnesty, 413 firearms were surrendered.

- TVP seized and attained over £800,000 in cash and over £2.8 million in compensation is being returned to victims.
- This year saw the largest single cash seizure in TVP's history (Operation Stingray) of £560,000.
- Through investigation of a multi-million pound drugs conspiracy (Operation Strix), 11 people were convicted and almost £1 million in value was recovered.
- Through 'Stronghold', the Force have been tackling serious and organised crime across Thames Valley. TVP arrested 407 individuals and safeguarded 22 people. It seized 25 kilograms of cocaine with 140 criminals being sentenced to a total of 479 years.
- 1,041 mentally ill people led to a place of safety.
- 12,956 missing persons investigated.
- 7,379 people stopped and searched.
- 160 events policed.

## HMICFRS

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published its annual PEEL ('police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy') assessment in 2017/18. PEEL is designed to give the public information about how their local police force is performing in several important areas, in a way that is comparable both across England and Wales, and year on year.

TVP's overall grade of 'Good' reflects HMICFRS's assessment of each individual area of policing, with a common thread of keeping people safe and reducing crime featuring in all of its inspections.

## VALUE FOR MONEY

Due to the Government's austerity programme, which has required reductions in public service spending, the police service has had to make significant cash savings each year since 2010. Over the last seven years the Force has made annual savings of £99m, and annual savings of another £14.3m will still need to be made over the next three years in order to fund the ongoing cost of policing, for example, the investigation of complex crimes such as child sexual exploitation and ensure vulnerable people are protected through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs.

Continuing to identify and achieve cost savings is becoming increasingly more challenging so we have welcomed the support of the public in our increase in council tax, which will help us avoid further damaging cuts to the policing budget in the Thames Valley. However, since demand on the police is changing it is clear that to keep up with this change we must continue to transform and reform our police service. Within Thames Valley Police the Force's Productivity Strategy aims to reduce bureaucracy, reviews the way services are provided by the Force and identifies savings that could be made.

Further details of all planned productivity savings can be found in the Budget Book which is published on my website at: <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/what-we-spend-and-how-we-spend-it/budget/>

Looking to the future, I have approved a fully funded three year capital programme to support delivery of my Police and Crime Plan strategic priorities and the Force's long-term policing strategy, the 'Force Commitment'. In total we plan to invest nearly £65m over the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 and I believe that the policing budget plan the Chief Constable and I have set will enable us, together, to deliver the strategic priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

In terms of the individual areas of policing, I am delighted that Thames Valley Police has been graded as 'Outstanding' in the PEEL 'Efficiency' review; indeed it is one of only two forces in the country to receive such a grading. Like all forces, TVP is coping with reduced budgets and increased demand on policing and only by being efficient can it meet the demands placed upon it. Thames Valley Police has risen to this challenge and I am pleased that this has been recognised by HMICFRS, particularly in the way it understands demand, uses resources and plans for the future.

I am pleased with the Force's grading of 'good' in its PEEL 'Effectiveness' report with the Inspectorate praising the way that it deals with the most vulnerable members of our community, and the quality of its investigations of serious cases. Similarly, the PEEL Legitimacy report graded the Force as 'good' and identified that Force Senior Leaders could demonstrate they actively treated public and staff with fairness and respect.

While both of these latter PEEL reports were largely positive, they did highlight some recommended improvements and I will be closely monitoring progress of these over the coming year.

Further details of TVP's PEEL assessments can be found on HMICFRS's website: <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/peel-2017/>





## STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

During 2017/18 I continued to successfully meet my statutory duties and commitments as set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021. In discharging my personal duties, responsibilities and functions, I was supported by a relatively small team of staff within the Office of the PCC (OPCC). An overview of the roles, responsibilities and functions of the OPCC is presented at Appendix A, and the OPCC organisational staffing structure is presented at Appendix B. My performance, decisions and actions during the year were regularly scrutinised by the independent Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

Through a mix of regular public and private meetings, I held the Chief Constable to account for his leadership of TVP and the delivery of an efficient and effective police service. This involved close scrutiny of Force performance and progress against the Force's Annual Delivery Plan 2017/18, and was achieved through regular updates from TVP as well as engagement of my staff in key force performance meetings and delivery groups.

A joint PCC and Chief Constable Corporate Governance Framework is in place to ensure intended outcomes for stakeholders are achieved whilst acting in the public interest at all times. The governance framework comprises the culture, value, systems and processes by which the PCC and Chief Constable discharge their responsibilities and through which the police service is accountable to, and engages with, the communities they serve.

Joint Independent Audit Committee provides independent assurance to the Chief Constable and myself regarding the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment within TVP and the OPCC. It considers the internal and external audit reports of both the PCC and Chief Constable and advise both parties according to good governance principles. It has oversight of general governance matters and provides comment on any new or amended PCC policies and strategies with regard to financial risk and probity.



# 3. PCC Commissioned services – grants and funding 2017/18

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

**I maintain a community safety budget of £3.0 million, of which £2.7 million has been given in grants to county and unitary councils in the Thames Valley area, and I retained £0.3 million to fund Thames Valley-wide and other priority service initiatives.**

The local authorities have used their grant allocations to deliver the following benefits:

- Youth offending including youth restorative justice, intervention work with young offenders and participation in youth crime prevention projects: £917,917
- Substance misuse including Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) services, treatment for offenders, staff training, leaflets for taxi drivers and outreach support: £528,386
- Domestic Abuse (DA) including outreach support, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), DA champions, helpline calls: £424,926
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) officers, community wardens, diversionary activities: £223,492
- Sexual abuse, including anti-Child Sexual Exploitation youth projects and a healthy choices programme: £172,655

- Young people (crime prevention, safety or diversionary activities): £116,042
- Hidden harm, including a Human Slavery co-ordinator: £97,912
- Integrated offender management: £95,017
- Miscellaneous activities covering a raft of different initiatives and activities: £168,406

The £0.3 million fund which I retained has been used to provide:

- Grant funding FGM projects: £119,386
- Grant funding cyber-crime projects: £94,065
- Contribution to GPS offender tagging project: £25,000
- Other expenditure includes contributions to Crimestoppers, County Lines review, night vision goggles for rural policing, Modus software and commencement and evaluation of a Thames Valley-wide Domestic Violence perpetrators programme: (£68,679)

## VICTIMS AND WITNESSES SUPPORT SERVICES

I receive an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to commission services for victims and witnesses of crime. During 2017/18 I spent my full grant allocation of £2.765m to deliver the following services and benefits:

- Victim Support received £787,970 to provide mainstream advice and support to victims and witnesses of crime. They made 1,924 face-to-face visits to victims of crime.
- Thames Valley Partnership received £275,756 for Restorative Justice, which has led to 115 restorative interventions or case conferences between victims and perpetrators.
- Refuge received £313,387 to provide an Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) service and have supported 451 people.
- SAFE received £412,192 to provide a service to support young victims of crime. During the last year they supported 678 young victims, around 50% of whom were victims of sexual abuse.
- I provided funding for 3 county-based pilots to support domestic violence victims with complex needs. £97,627 was awarded to Berkshire Woman's Aid; Smart CJS received £92,056 across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, and Reducing the Risk received £93,332 to run the Oxfordshire pilot. A total of 372 individuals were supported by all of these services.
- Through local authority community safety grants, additional domestic violence services were provided across the Thames Valley area at a value of £330,000.

- I provided an independent trauma advisory service supporting victims of Modern Slavery and exploitation. Rahab provided the service in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire at a cost of £77,550 whilst Elmore provided the service in Oxfordshire at a cost of £24,000.
- A modern slavery co-ordinator was recruited to work with local authorities and TVP during the year, costing £12,200.
- Our new network of specialist counsellors cost £28,442 and resulted in 167 adults and young people receiving counselling, particularly for victims of the greatest harm (sexual, domestic and violence).

The balance of my MoJ grant fund (£0.222 million) has been spent on other services for victims, including commissioning costs.

## POLICE PROPERTY ACT FUND

The Chief Constable and I awarded £92,950 from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF) in 2017/18 to 28 charities and community groups across the Thames Valley who each made a significant contribution to reducing reoffending and/or preventing young people entering the criminal justice system.

In addition, the three county High Sheriffs identified a further 20 relevant organisations who have received £75,000, in total, from the Police Property Act Fund. The Chief Constable and I also agreed to give £105,000 to the four Community Foundations (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes). They have been tasked with obtaining additional matched funding in order to increase the total grant pot to at least £150,000. Given that this was a new initiative not all the funding has been spent in-year. The Chief Constable and I have so far approved 15 individual grant awards using £42,935 of PPAF money. The Community Foundations have added £72,217 of partnership funding, supporting total project costs of £182,175.



# 4. Summary financial performance: 2017/18 financial year

## A) PCC CONTROLLED EXPENDITURE

A high level analysis of my directly controlled budget and expenditure is provided below.

	Annual Budget £000	Annual Outturn £000	Variance £000
Office of the PCC	943	834	- 109
Democratic Representation	213	216	3
Other Costs	213	182	- 31
Commissioning Services			
- Community safety fund	2,689	2,672	- 17
- Victims & witnesses	2,768	2,844	76
<b>PCC Controlled Budgets</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>6,748</b>	<b>- 78</b>

## B) GROUP LEVEL EXPENDITURE (PCC AND TVP)

The following table provides a high level comparison between the approved budget for 2017/18 and actual expenditure at the aggregated Group level (i.e. PCC and Chief Constable). The annual revenue surplus of £0.773 million has been appropriated (or transferred) to general balances. This level of surplus represents just 0.2% of the Net Cost of Services which demonstrates strong and effective financial management of the annual budget.

	Annual Budget £000	Annual Outturn £000	Variance £000
PCC controlled budgets	6,826	6,748	- 78
TVP Operational budgets – direction and control of the Chief Constable			
<b>PAY AND EMPLOYMENT COSTS</b>			
Police officer pay and allowances	244,963	244,344	- 619
Police officer overtime	8,636	9,142	505
PCSO pay and allowances	12,722	12,676	- 46
Police staff pay and allowances	91,779	92,001	222
Temporary or agency staff	5,547	5,547	0
Police officer injury / ill health / death benefits	3,962	3,918	7.2
Other employee expenses	2,481	2,600	119
Restructure, training & conference costs	1,643	1,646	4
	<b>371,733</b>	<b>371,873</b>	<b>140</b>

## B) GROUP LEVEL EXPENDITURE (PCC AND TVP) (CONTINUED)

	Annual Budget £000	Annual Outturn £000	Variance £000
<b>OVERHEADS</b>	<b>371,733</b>	<b>371,873</b>	<b>140</b>
Premises	15,240	14,808	- 432
Transport	9,357	9,601	245
Supplies & services	47,593	47,669	76
Third party payments	8,856	8,979	123
Force income	- 30,183	- 30,518	- 335
	<b>50,862</b>	<b>50,539</b>	<b>- 323</b>
<b>OTHER</b>			
Capital financing	19,866	19,775	- 91
Interest on balances	- 500	- 789	- 289
Statutory accounting adjustments	0	- 21	- 21
Appropriation from balances	- 9,791	- 9,858	- 67
	<b>9,575</b>	<b>9,107</b>	<b>- 468</b>
<b>REGIONAL COLLABORATION SERVICES</b>			
SE Regional Organised Crime Unit	15,994	15,994	0
Counter Terrorism Policing South East	21,286	21,286	0
Chiltern Transport Consortium	17,117	17,117	0
Government grants and partnership income	- 54,397	- 54,397	0
	0	0	0
<b>Cost of Services</b>	<b>438,996</b>	<b>438,267</b>	<b>- 729</b>
Funded by:			
General grant income	- 227,382	- 227,382	0
Council tax	- 151,875	- 151,875	0
Specific grants	- 59,739	- 59,784	- 44
<b>Net Revenue position</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-773</b>	<b>- 773</b>

**Note:** The budget for the Cost of Services (£438.996m) is higher than the approved Net Revenue budget of £392.631m since it includes the running costs for CTPSE, SEROCU and CTC which are all fully funded by Government grant and partner contributions. There were also in year budget increases relating to additional special grants (with associated expenditure) and a change to the planned appropriations to reserves.

For more information, please see the annual Statement of Accounts 2017/18 published on the PCC's website: <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/>

# 5. Looking ahead to 2018/19

**The changing face of crime means we will continue to see an unprecedented increase in demand in some of the most complex and challenging areas of policing.**

Rising reports and cases of hidden crimes such as domestic abuse, child abuse, modern slavery, sexual offences, serious violence and exploitation have all increased the pressure on limited police resources.

In addition to the rise in crimes against the vulnerable, we have seen an unwelcomed increase in the more traditional crimes of burglary and violence, as well as the increased threat from terrorism, fraud and cyber-crime. I am pleased to note that burglary rates are now going down in many of our police areas. The rise in crime and expectations from our communities have led to an unprecedented increase in call volumes, with 999 calls increasing over 21% over the last 2 years.

In order to respond effectively to the increasing and changing demands within our constrained financial position, we must continue to reform services and ensure resources are focused on priority areas. The use of new technologies will be a major factor here by improving potential efficiencies and improvements in policing performance.

The Government's financial settlement for the police service in 2018/19 has required me to raise more money from the local Council Tax payer. While I have reservations about how this funding shortfall was handled and resolved nationally, it has reduced the budget gap for TVP which the Chief Constable and I need to manage. I do not expect there to be further

cuts in the national budget for policing over the foreseeable future, and would hope that we will actually see a substantial rise in police funding as public concerns about violent crime come to national attention. We have a new Home Secretary and I anticipate a refreshed and positive approach to policing.

The Chief Constable and I are committed to continuous improvement and development in the policing of the Thames Valley, and will use feedback we have received from the public and partners to develop our services. 2018 will see the launch of a number of initiatives designed to further enhance police effectiveness and efficiency, and help ensure that we are making the best use of our finite resources, whilst dealing with a rapidly changing policing landscape. The Force's 'Contact Management Platform' ICT system will be going live in the summer of 2018, and is a prime example of how new changing technological development will improve the way that the public make contact with Thames Valley Police.

Through our ongoing commitment to the Victims Code, my office is well positioned to respond to changes arising from the Government's forthcoming domestic abuse bill. In late-March 2018 we saw the opening of our 'Victims First Hub' - a new dedicated service for victims of crime, co-located with the Force's Witness Care Unit (based at the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ in Reading) - set up to ensure victims and witnesses receive the support they need to cope and recover from the impact of crime. We care about those affected by crime and will work continuously to improve the services available for victims, as well as their experience of the criminal justice system.



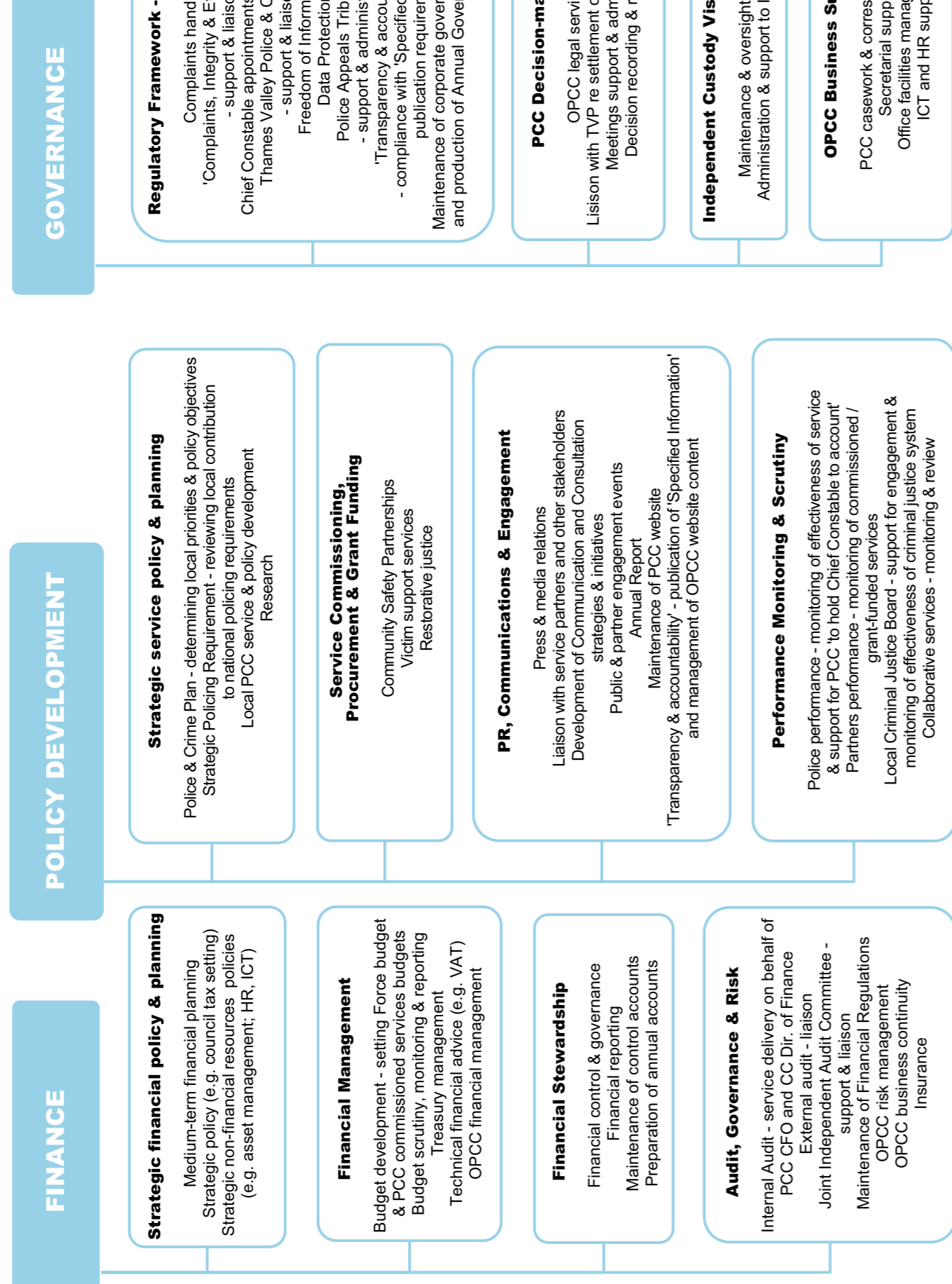
In 2018 I will be offering £0.4m of Community Safety Fund grants to enable my office to work with partners to deliver some key areas of the strategic priorities set out within my Police and Crime Plan 2017-21. There will be a particular focus on tackling elder abuse, substance misuse services, data sharing on gangs, reducing and preventing knife crime, and ensuring police and other organisations better engage with each other to support vulnerable migrants and rough sleepers.

Finally, I am delighted that custodian helmets have returned to the streets of Thames Valley. I have felt very strongly for a number of years that officers patrolling the streets of Thames Valley need to have greater prominence.

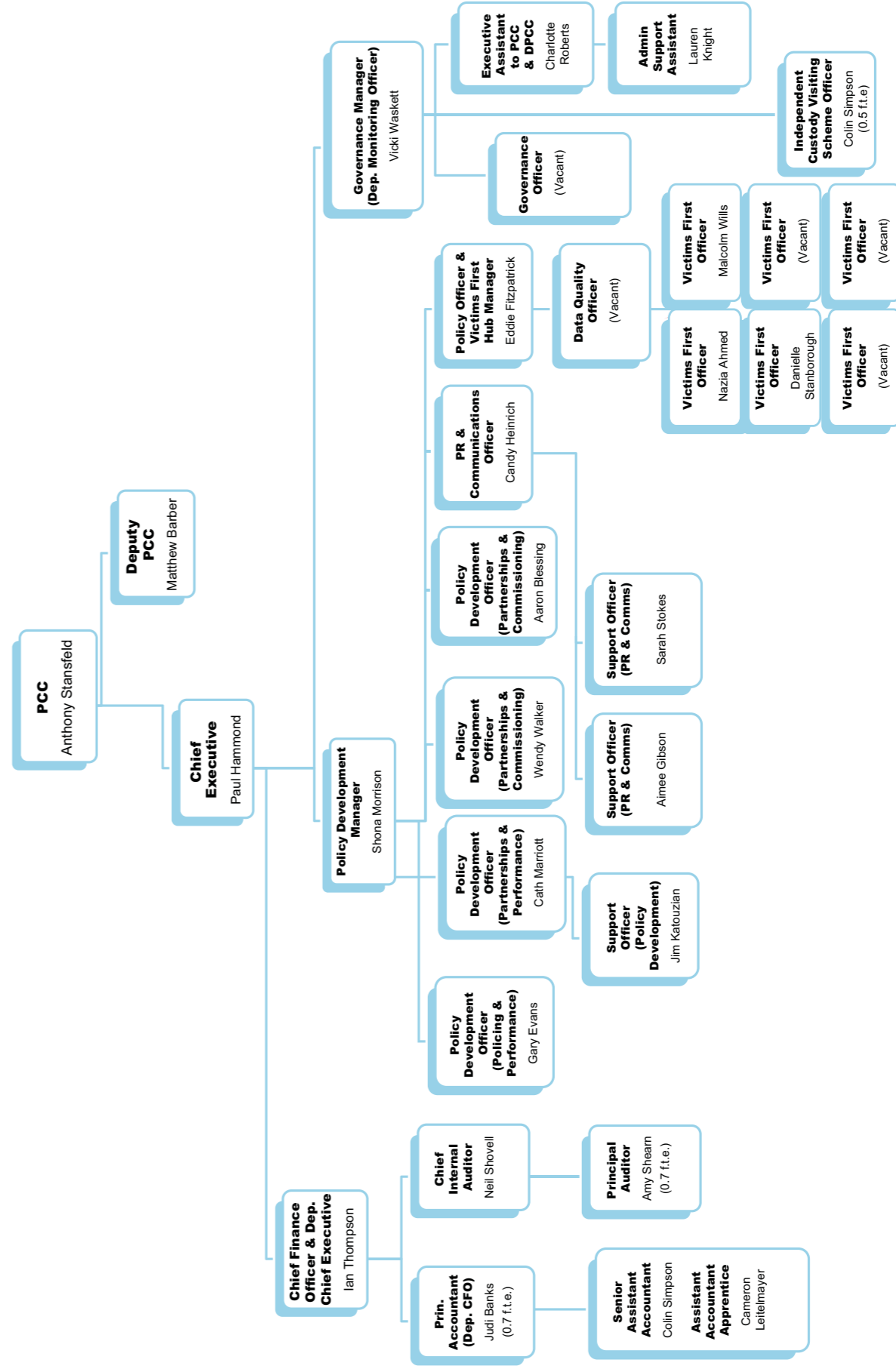
The custodian helmet is an iconic symbol of British policing and I believe that wearing it not only increases their profile in the community, but also makes officers more approachable and provides greater reassurance to the public.

Both my Deputy PCC and I look forward to working with the Chief Constable and other officers and staff of TVP, as well as with my other service partners, over the next two years, up to the next scheduled police and crime commissioner national elections in May 2020. Over that period we will continue to work hard on improving policing and keeping our communities safe.

Further details of my Police and Crime Plan for Thames Valley 2017 – 2021 can be found on my website: <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/>



THAMES VALLEY OPCC STAFFING STRUCTURE 2017-18 (AS AT MAY 2018)





For further information about the PCC, his plan, the budget or how you can get involved, get in touch with us using the contact details provided below or visit [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

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