

PCC Accountability Meeting

20 October 2021

Public Questions Not Covered in the Meeting

NB: Public questions that were asked in the meeting can be found on the video recording and the minutes. Some question areas were grouped together by the PCC in order to ask as many questions as possible in the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS	NORFOLK CONSTABULARY RESPONSES
<p>“How many prosecutions and successful convictions have occurred in the last year of sexual offences and rape?”</p>	<p>In July 2021 the Constabulary reported publicly to the Police and Crime Commissioner on some of the elements of your question.</p> <p>The link below takes you to the Police and Crime Commissioners website where page 47 of the report and the following pages set out the solved rates across the previous 12 months for rape and serious sexual offences:</p> <p>PAM-Papers-29-v2.07.2021.pdf (norfolk-pcc.gov.uk)</p> <p>If this report does not provide you with sufficient data around your question, you can submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request setting out what statistics you seek.</p> <p>You can find out more about FOI and how to submit an application by using the following link:</p> <p>Freedom of Information request Norfolk Constabulary</p>

“As a member of our local Speed Watch Team I had understood - prior to lockdown - that it was likely the information submitted by speed watch teams was going to be used more strictly by police officers to contact repeat offenders.

I also understood that the equipment we use was going to be upgraded to provide photographic evidence and record the speed.”

The Constabulary would like to take the opportunity to recognise the valuable work of all the Community Speed Watch teams and their contribution to making the road network safer in the County.

Data from Community Speed Watch teams is centrally collated and repeat offenders are contacted by our Safety Camera Team to advise that their speeding has been recorded and in some cases offenders are notified to local beat managers for direct contact to be made.

If you have a concern about a specific case, please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss it in the first instance.

Equipment issued to Community Speed Watch Teams will be maintained to remain operational. If schemes have defective equipment this can be reported.

“Following the Wayne Couzens case, what will you do to significantly increase the resourcing, prosecution and prevention of all sexual offences - including minor ones and those committed by police officers and staff - at both a national level (e.g. joining calls for RASSO to be included in the strategic policing requirement and for greater controls on tech companies to limit access to pornography and sharing of abusive material) - and at a local level (e.g. improving police vetting and misconduct handling, working with education, health and social services to massively scale up preventative work and change societal attitudes)?”

The Chief Constable has stated he is determined to improve how Norfolk Constabulary investigates violence against women and girls, supports victims, and focus on that core group of perpetrators that cause the most harm.

There are established dedicated delivery boards looking to improve the policing response to rape and domestic abuse with monthly oversight at chief officer level of the progress being made.

There has been a continuous programme of work over the last three years looking to improve investigation standards to ensure victims receive a professional and consistent service.

A new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy is in development that will bring an additional new focus to supporting victims, training, investigations, and the process of building court files.

The Constabulary will continue to work with a multitude of agencies across the county as a member of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group to explore how victims are supported as well as focusing on tackling offending in the most effective way.

Professional Standards for officers and staff

The PCC Accountability Meeting in October 2021 saw the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable discuss confidence in policing and the work of maintaining a professional standard for all Norfolk's officers. This answer should be viewed in line with the recording of that meeting.

We do expect the highest level of professional and personal behaviour from officers and staff and where these standards fall short, officers and staff will be taken to task. We have robust processes in place to deal with complaints and allegations against officers and staff – these matters are dealt with seriously and promptly. Furthermore, where this happens, we will be upfront with the public.

If a member of the public had a concern about an officer's behaviour, they can utilise the Complaints process either by calling 101 or submitting a form through the Constabulary Website or through the Independent Office for Police Conduct website. You can read more here: [Compliments and Complaints | Norfolk Constabulary](#).

The Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Professional Standards Department work closely with managers to address concerns raised either by officers, police staff or the public regarding an employee's behaviour.

In addition, internally, staff can make use of an Internal Confidential Reporting Line to report the behaviour of colleagues they have an issue or concern with.

Vetting of officers and staff

All Staff are vetted. This includes those staff joining the organisation from another Constabulary. Further vetting requirements are then reviewed periodically throughout an individual's service.

This year, 138 applicants who applied to be a police officer were rejected on the basis of vetting for a number of reasons including previous convictions, inappropriate associations or as a result of social media research.

The Constabulary will await the outcome of the Metropolitan Police's review of vetting processes to consider whether there are any additional considerations which could improve local vetting practices here in Norfolk.

“Why is it that the many reports I and others have made about a local community concern, have not received a positive response or action, thus a cure to the problem? This has been reported many times, but they still continue to disrupt other people’s lives, year after year.”

NB: This question has been edited slightly given the original subject matter to protect the individual reporting.

Through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Constabulary will look to work with the person reporting this issue to consider an appropriate policing response to the matter specifically referred to.

To speak more generally;

Police will look to act on corroborated intelligence against unlawful activity.

If you have a concern about a local issue you think the police should be notified about there are several options available to you for reporting the matter.

If you are just after some advice in the first instance you can contact your local Neighbourhood Policing team by following the below link:

[Your Area | Norfolk Constabulary](#)

If you want to specifically report an incident or anti-social behaviour you can do so through the below link:

[6. Report It | Norfolk Constabulary](#)

The Constabulary provides a guide around how to contact us which also includes guidance on when to call 999 or 101 (please note there can be a delay on answering a 101 call at peak times). Please click on the link below for more information:

[Contact Us | Norfolk Constabulary](#)