

## **Candidate questions**

A number of PCC candidates met with several members of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to find out more about the role and to explain their manifesto.

In order to remain transparent and fair, this document outlines questions asked by the candidates and the OPCC response.

### **Candidate question**

What has been the OPCC or PCC's approach to drug consumption rooms?

### **OPCC response**

Team are aware of ongoing discussion around drug consumption room but current approach is for Public Health England are taking the lead on decisions rather than police or PCC. This could change if PCC wishes to become more involved.

### **Candidate question**

Candidate would want to explore initiatives that would see police officers going into schools. Are any initiatives already in place?

### **OPCC response**

Team highlighted the work of the Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), which includes working with schools, school exclusions and focusing on county lines.

### **Candidate question**

How are we getting the message out about cybercrime and online fraud?

### **OPCC response**

Team discussed being involved in a number of Avon and Somerset Police communication campaigns to highlight cybercrime, using social media to highlight how local people can stay safe online and running a small campaign on Valentine's Day focusing on romantic fraud. The focus on cybercrime campaigns can increase if this is a priority for the new PCC. The team also discussed the police's approach to tackling this issue including the economic crime unit approach and working with UK Finance.

### **Candidate question**

Has Avon and Somerset declared a climate emergency?

### **OPCC response**

No.

### **Candidate question**

Candidate would like to launch an internal enquiry into the recent 'Kill the Bill' protests and resulting violence. What would this look like?

### **OPCC response**

The approach to an internal enquiry can be led by the PCC and dependent on the aims and objectives of the enquiry. Team explained there is already governance in place to provide independent scrutiny including IOPC and HMICFRS as well as the SOPP panel. The team

added there are a range of options the new PCC can explore including commissioning this piece of work.

**Candidate question**

Is there currently a youth IAG?

**OPCC response**

No. Team discussed the new to increase youth engagement and this could be one approach.

**Candidate question**

Why has a Deputy PCC not been hired before last year?

**OPCC response**

Team discussed the mandating of the Deputy PCC and that it was felt there was only a need for one during the pandemic.

**Candidate question**

What is the relationship like between the OPCC/ incumbent PCC and the Police Federation?

**OPCC response**

A relationship exists but the development of this relationship can be influenced by the new PCC.

**Candidate question**

What interfaces are there within the prison service? Candidate would want to become more involved with prisons?

**OPCC response**

Team explained that the OPCC work with prisons and probation on reducing reoffending boards – both locally and regionally. There is a good relationship with probation through the boards and, in the future, the relationship will continue due to the focus on Integrated Offender Management. Historically, PCC has worked closely with probation and prisons.

**Candidate question**

What themes for you see from the local people who contact you?

**OPCC response**

The OPCC receives contacts regarding dissatisfaction with police service, local people who have gone through police complaints and are not happy with the outcome, feedback regarding PCC support services, general state of policing and recognition of good work.

**Candidate question**

How active is the Ethics Committee?

**OPCC response**

There is an infrastructure in place for the Ethics Committee but it is more of an internal structure but this could be broaden dependent on the PCC and Avon and Somerset Police approach. The committee meet quarterly.

**Candidate question**

Can you give me an update on Op Uplift figures for Avon and Somerset Police?

**OPCC response**

Avon and Somerset Police have recruited an additional 241 police officers since the Police Uplift Programme started. Avon and Somerset Police's national target was to have 2,972 officers by 31 March 2021 and they currently have 3,076 – 104 above their target. By March next year, the force is forecasting a growth of another 136 officers.

**Candidate question**

Candidate asked what is missing in the current commissioning landscape for Avon and Somerset.

**OPCC response**

Team discussed the impact of VAWG waiting list, the need for an increased focus on mental health services, the quick turnaround Government require for funding streams and the need for more health collaborations in order for intervention and prevention.