

**Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner for Thames Valley**

# **PCC Candidates Briefing Pack**

## **May 2024 Election**

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## 1. Background and key dates

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections for England and Wales take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. The normal term of office for the PCC elected in May 2024 is four years. Accordingly, the term of office of the current PCC runs until Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the new PCC's term will run from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

A video from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) setting out some helpful information relating to the PCC elections in the Thames Valley area can be found on the OPCC website [PCC Elections 2024](#). More information about the APCC can be found later in this briefing pack.

The Electoral Commission have also published [candidate guidance](#).

Newly elected PCCs must swear the Oath of Office within 2 months of the day after the election (Part 1, Section 70 (2) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011); however, it is suggested that the oath is signed as soon as possible, to ensure business can be transacted.

### **Police Area Returning Officer (PARO)**

The overall responsibility for the conduct of the election will sit with the designated PARO as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011).

They are responsible for giving notice of the election, managing the nomination process, overseeing the conduct of the poll, as well as the calculation and declaration of the result.

The Minister of State of the Cabinet Office has formally designated West Berkshire Council to provide the appropriate PARO to conduct the 2024 PCC election for the police area of Thames Valley.

The PARO for the Thames Valley area as a whole is Nigel Lynn. For candidate and agent queries relating to the PCC elections, please email [paro@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:paro@westberks.gov.uk). The PARO Election website can be found at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/pcc-election-2024>.

## Key dates for the PCC Election

<b>22 March 2024</b>	Publication of notice of PCC election (pre-election period begins)
<b>25 March to 5 April 2024</b>	Nomination period for PCC candidates
<b>8 April 2024</b>	Publication of statement of persons nominated for PCC election
<b>8-24 April</b>	Candidate one to ones with OPCC Chief of Staff and Chief Finance Officer
<b>16 April 2024</b>	Registration deadline
<b>17 April 2024</b>	Postal / Postal Proxy deadline
<b>24 April 2024</b>	Proxy deadline
<b>25 April 2024</b>	Nominated candidates Group Familiarisation Date
<b>2 May 2024</b>	Polling day
<b>3 May 2024</b>	Verification of all ballot papers
<b>4 May 2024</b>	Count and declaration of result
<b>8 May 2024</b>	Term of incumbent PCC ceases
<b>9 May 2024</b>	Newly elected PCC takes office

## 2. Role of the PCC

The PCC is a legal entity (a 'corporation sole'), separate from the Force and its Chief Constable and the independent Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. First and foremost, the PCC is elected with a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police to account on behalf of the public in the Force area.

The respective roles and responsibilities of the PCC, Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Panel are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents)) and The Policing Protocol Order 2011 ([www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2744/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2744/made)).

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, PCCs must:

- Set the Police and Crime priorities and objectives for their force area through a Police & Crime Plan;
- Appoint the Chief Constable;
- Set the Police Force budget and determine the police precept;
- Secure an efficient and effective Police Force for their area;
- Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary;
- Hold the Chief Constable to account for how they exercise their own functions as well as those persons under their direction and control;
- Hold the Chief Constable to account for how complaints made against officers and staff are handled by the Force;

- Undertake reviews of the outcome of complaints made against the Force;
- Handle complaints made about the personal conduct of the Chief Constable;
- Administer Police Misconduct Hearings and Police Appeals Tribunals, including the appointment of legally qualified chairs (LQCs);
- Call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign in certain circumstances;
- Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, ensuring local priorities and services are joined up to secure crime and disorder reduction;
- Provide / arrange for the provision of support services for victims and witnesses of crime;
- Run an Independent Custody Visitor Scheme (a scheme of volunteers that check on the conditions of detainees held in police custody);
- Produce an Annual Report.

The PCC also has several other statutory responsibilities and powers, including for example:

- Public engagement and statutory consultation duties;
- Issuing of community safety grants;

A summary of the role and remit of a PCC is provided in the following video from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC): <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/videos/pcc-elections-2024/>.

A PCC is required under the 2011 Act to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which the election is held. The current Police and Criminal Justice Plan 2021-2025 can be found at: [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/).

The PCC is the recipient of all funding related to policing and crime reduction, including government Police Grant funding, police precept (council tax charge) and other sources of income, and all funding for a force must come via the PCC.

How this money is allocated to both policing and crime services is set by the PCC, in consultation with the Chief Constable, and in accordance with relevant statutory duties and other relevant legal obligations (e.g. government grant terms and conditions).

The PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the Force, making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

They ensure local community needs and priorities are identified and met as effectively as possible and improve local relationships through building confidence and maintaining trust. The PCC works in partnership across a range of agencies, at a local and national level, to help ensure a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel can require the PCC to provide information and attend its meetings by which the Panel may scrutinise, on behalf of the public, the decisions, actions, and performance of the PCC as to how well the PCC is delivering and achieving the strategic priorities and objectives set out in his/her published Police and Crime Plan (or Police and Criminal Justice Plan).

Further information about PCCs is available at the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)**

The APCC is the national body set up by and for PCCs which facilitates bringing them together where national collective decision making, or policy development is required. The APCC is funded by member PCCs, and its work and activities are supported by a small group of staff. It works closely with the Home Office and other national policing bodies, such as the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). The APCC services are overseen and directed by the Chairman and Board of Directors. Further information about the APCC can be found at [www.apccs.police.uk](http://www.apccs.police.uk)

The APCC offers the following services to members:

- Provides Information on national policing policy issues and legislation;
- Consults PCCs to enable them to develop policy positions and to influence change;
- Facilitates the leadership of PCCs on national governance structures such as the College of Policing, National Crime Agency, Police Reform and Transformation Board and other police (and fire and rescue services) professional bodies;
- Provides a range of opportunities for members to come together to debate and discuss national policing and criminal justice policy and engage with senior stakeholders;
- Assists PCCs to share best practice and identify ways to achieve efficiencies through collaboration;
- Support those PCCs seeking to take on and fulfil fire and rescue governance responsibilities.

Currently, all PCCs across England and Wales are members of the APCC, alongside the City of London Police Authority, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime for the Greater London Authority, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Jersey Police Authority.

A number of PCCs also hold statutory responsibility for fire and rescue service governance (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners or PFCCs).

### **3. Role of the Chief of Staff / Chief Finance Officer and OPCC**

PCCs employ staff to assist them in carrying out their role, collectively referred to as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Much like a Government department or local council support office, generally staff members are politically restricted and will provide professional support for the PCC regardless of their political status. The OPCC for Thames Valley is based at the Thames Valley Police Headquarters (South) in Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

It is up to each PCC to determine the numbers and scope of support staff, and the organisational structure of their office. The level, scope and structure of staff varies between PCC offices across England and Wales according to local PCC priorities and retained support functions. Details, including the current staffing structure for the OPCC, can be found at [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/office-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner/](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/office-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner/).

Each PCC is legally obliged to appoint two statutory officers amongst their staff, i.e. a Chief Executive or Chief of Staff (who also fulfils the role of 'Monitoring Officer' and 'Head of Paid Service') and a Chief Finance Officer. The current statutory officers are:

### **Gillian Ormston (Chief of Staff)**



Gillian Ormston is the Chief of Staff of the OPCC for Thames Valley. Her role is to support and advise the PCC in developing and delivering his/her strategic objectives, as expressed through the Police & Criminal Justice Plan. As 'monitoring officer', Gillian is required to advise and ensure the PCC complies with the law when discharging their statutory duties and responsibilities, and to facilitate transparency of their actions and decisions. Included

within her 'head of paid service' role is responsibility for the direct overall management of OPCC staff.

### **Martin Thornley (Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff)**



Martin Thornley joined the OPCC in September 2022. As Chief Finance Officer for the OPCC, he is statutorily responsible for the proper administration of the PCC's financial affairs. In discharging this responsibility, Martin's key responsibilities are to advise and support the PCC in developing and maintaining effective arrangements for financial strategy, budgeting and precept setting; treasury management; financial monitoring and reporting;

production of the annual statement of accounts, risk management, and audit and governance, thereby helping the PCC secure value for money for taxpayers. Martin works very closely with Linda Waters, the Chief Constable's Director of Finance. Martin is also the designated 'Deputy Chief of Staff' for the OPCC for Thames Valley.

### **Other staff**

Staff may be required to assist the PCC with the following:

- Communications, consultation and engagement;
- Correspondence and dealing with complaints;
- Financial management;
- Governance;

- Independent policing and crime reduction performance analysis;
- Internal audit;
- Office management and administration;
- Partnership working;
- Strategic planning;
- Victims support services commissioning.

As Head of Paid Service, Gillian Ormston works closely with the PCC to ensure staffing arrangements meet the needs and requirements of the PCC in achieving the objectives of their strategic plan. Whilst current OPCC staffing can be found on the OPCC website [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner](#), the Head of Paid Service will undertake a review of this with the PCC early on in their tenure to ensure it meets their needs and make any agreed changes.

#### **4. Role of the Police and Crime Panel**

The local authorities in each Force area are required to establish an independent Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with the responsibility for reviewing, supporting and scrutinising the decisions, actions and performance of the PCC on behalf of the public, making recommendations where necessary in respect of these matters.

The PCP for Thames Valley is made up of one councillor from each of the 14 first tier local authorities in the Thames Valley, 3 additional councillors from Buckinghamshire, 1 additional councillor from Milton Keynes City Council and 2 independent members. The lead authority currently providing support to the PCP is Buckinghamshire County Council.

The role and responsibilities of the PCP are set out in the [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) and [The Policing Protocol Order 2011](#). Specifically, these responsibilities include:

- The power of veto over the level of the PCC's proposed precept (council tax charge for the local police service);
- Their proposed candidate to be appointed as the Chief Constable;
- The duty to review the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan and their Annual Report in order to make recommendations to the PCC;
- The duty to review the PCC's proposed appointments to the positions of Deputy PCC, Chief of Staff and Chief Finance Officer;
- Dealing with non-serious complaints about the personal conduct of the PCC.

The PCP provides checks and balances on behalf of, and provides information to, the public in relation to the performance of the PCC to enable the public to hold the PCC to account through the electoral ballot box. The PCP scrutinises the PCC's exercise of their own statutory functions – with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the PCC's functions. The PCP does not scrutinise the Chief Constable – it is the responsibility of the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account.



To find out more about the Panel, visit: [Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

## **5. Corporate Governance Arrangements**

Good governance is about how those responsible for the service ensure they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

It comprises the systems, processes, cultures and values by which all public sector bodies are directed and controlled, and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities. These principles apply equally to the PCC and the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police (TVP).

### **Joint Corporate Governance Framework**

The Thames Valley 'Joint Corporate Governance Framework' provides clarity on the way the two corporation soles (i.e. the PCC and Chief Constable) will govern both jointly and separately to ensure they are conducting business in the right way, for the right reason and at the right time.

It consists of:

- Statement of Corporate Governance – Statutory Framework and Local Policy;
- Code of Corporate Governance – How the Core Principles will be implemented;
- Scheme of Corporate Governance – Defines the Parameters within which the Corporation soles will conduct their business;
- Separate Policy and Procedures for each Corporation sole, with Protocols and other Governance documents where they operate jointly.

The current Corporate Governance Framework can be found at:

[https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Joint-Corporate-Governance-Framework-2022-23\\_FINAL.doc.odt](https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Joint-Corporate-Governance-Framework-2022-23_FINAL.doc.odt)

### **Annual Governance Statement**

All Local Authorities, including the PCC and Chief Constable, are required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to show the extent to which they comply with their own code of corporate governance.

There are statements covering the performance of both the Chief Constable and the PCC as well as looking at both together.

All Local Authorities, Chief Constables and PCCs are required to follow the same standard format when producing their statutory accounts. This should enable members of the public to compare and contrast the Authority's financial performance over a number of years as well as with other Local Authorities, Chief Constables and PCCs.

## [Statement of Accounts - Thames Valley PCC](#)

### **Joint Independent Audit Committee**

The Joint Independent Audit Committee provides independent assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management framework and the associated controlled environment within TVP and the OPCC. It considers internal and external audit reports relating to both the PCC and Chief Constable and advises 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, service, risk and probity. At the end of each calendar year, the Committee produces an annual assurance report for the PCC and Chief Constable.

You can find a copy of the 2023 Annual Assurance Report, including further information on the Committee, at: [Joint Independent Audit Committee - Thames Valley PCC](#).

### **Professional and Ethical Standards Panel**

The Professional and Ethical Standards Panel helps to ensure that Thames Valley Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have clear ethical standards and aspires to, and achieves, the highest levels of integrity and professional standards of service delivery.

The Panel provides an independent forum that monitors and encourages constructive challenge over the way complaints, integrity and ethics issues are handled by the Force and overseen by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel is made up of 6 independent volunteers in total. Further information can be found at: [Professional and Ethical Standards Panel - Thames Valley PCC](#)

### **External Governance Arrangements**

The PCC and Chief Constable work collaboratively to ensure there are highly effective mechanisms in place to hold TVP to account publicly and ensure public trust and confidence is a key priority for the Force.

To strengthen our scrutiny arrangements, the OPCC and TVP have held a review of these arrangements over the last 12 months with the review findings having been published on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024: [Trust and Confidence - Thames Valley PCC](#)

This has led to some changes including splitting out the PESP to a new Complaints and Standards Committee and an Ethics Think Tank to enable stronger focus to be placed on both these important areas.

A Task and Finish (T&F) group is in place, made up of OPCC and TVP colleagues, chaired by the Head of Governance from the OPCC and Deputy Chaired by the TVP Trust and Confidence Support Officer. This T&F group is responsible for implementation of the changes and will ensure that mechanisms are in place for stronger community engagement from a scrutiny perspective.

The changes will also ensure communication of action taken following feedback from the new scrutiny arrangements.

Additional changes, include bringing together the Chair people from all the groups to discuss themes arising from scrutiny. All scrutiny groups will report into the TVP Trust and Confidence Board chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable leading on Legitimacy and Public Value.

The Chief of Staff from the OPCC is Deputy Chair of the Trust and Confidence Board and works closely in collaboration with the OPCC staff to ensure the PCCs requirements in relation to scrutiny are managed effectively.

The OPCC have also recruited a Trust and Confidence Support Officer to lead the operational implementation of these changes in collaboration with TVP colleagues.

## **6. Budgets and finance**

The PCC holds a shared responsibility with the Chief Constable for providing effective financial control and budget planning for the short, medium and longer term. In consultation with the Chief Constable, the PCC is required each year to set a budget for the forthcoming financial year.

In summary, the PCC is currently responsible for an annual net revenue expenditure budget of £524.212m (2023/24 financial year) and a four-year (2023/24 to 2026/27) capital spending programme totalling £109.353m.

Details on the financial matters, including the current budget and financial statements, can be found at: [Finances - Thames Valley PCC](#)

### **Financial strategy**

The Corporate Financial Strategy sets out how the PCC and the Force will structure and manage their finances to support the delivery of the strategic priorities and objectives of the PCC, as set out in the Police and Criminal Justice Plan and supported by the Chief Constable's Annual Delivery Plan, and to ensure sound financial management and good stewardship of public money.

The Financial Strategy is jointly developed by the PCC's Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Constable's Director of Finance for adoption by the PCC and Chief Constable. A copy of the Financial Strategy for 2024/25 - 2027/28 can be found at: [Financial and Capital Strategies - Thames Valley PCC](#)

## **Budgets**

The Budget Book is the PCC's published plan of all expected income and expenditure for the financial year. It shows, in financial terms, what the PCC intends to do for the next and following financial years.

It contains a detailed summary of the income we expect to get from central government, local taxpayers and other sources such as special grants – along with a breakdown of how much we expect to spend and on what.

The PCC and Chief Constable must consider future spending pressures upon the organisation and plan ahead.

For this reason, the budget book also shows a longer-term view of the PCC's finances and includes a medium term (4 year) revenue plan and a separate medium term capital plan.

The budget book also includes information on reserves, balances and provisions, as well as the annual treasury management strategy statement, incorporating the minimum revenue provision policy statement and the annual investment strategy.

The current and previous budget books can be viewed at: [Budget - Thames Valley PCC](#)

## **Annual financial statements**

The Statements of Accounts are statutory documents produced annually. They provide information about the PCC's and the Chief Constable's financial performance and position.

There are two statements, one covering the Chief Constable, and the other about the PCC and the 'group' as a whole (the combined financial performance of the PCC and Chief Constable).

The Statement of Accounts contains the following information about the financial year in question:

- An explanatory foreword;
- Audit report and opinion;
- Statement of responsibilities;
- Annual governance statement;
- Movement in reserve statement;
- Comprehensive income and expenditure statement;
- Balance sheet;
- Cash flow statement;
- Notes to the accounts;
- Pension fund accounts;
- Group accounts;

- Glossary of terms.

All Local Authorities, Chief Constable and PCCs are required to follow the same standard format when producing their statutory accounts. This is intended to enable members of the public to compare and contrast financial performance over several years as well as with other local authorities, Chief Constables and PCCs.

The Annual Statement of Accounts is, by necessity, a lengthy and technical document. Accordingly, a shorter, more readable summary of the financial position is provided in the narrative report at the beginning of the statement of accounts.

The OPCC Statement of Accounts can be found at: [Statement of Accounts - Thames Valley PCC](#)

## **7. Violence Reduction Unit (rebranded as Violence Prevention Partnership on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024)**

As part of the Serious Violence Fund, Violence Reduction Units (VRU) were established in 2019 in areas with the most serious violence, to lead and provide strategic co-ordination to a preventative, whole-system, public health approach to violence reduction. This comprises:

- engaging young people and communities
- multi-agency working
- data sharing and analysis
- commissioning (and delivering) evidence-based interventions, then evaluating them robustly to test whether they work in this area.

The intention is to prove what works; then work with the partnership to make successful activity sustainable back into existing systems.

### **Rebrand**

The Violence Reduction Unit became the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) on 2nd April 2024. The new name was decided democratically by consultation with partners, as was a new vision statement, core function and underpinning principles.

For further details on the work of the VPP, you can [download a copy of the 2023/24 Q4 highlight report](#) or visit their website: <https://www.tvvru.co.uk/>.

## **8. Victims Services Commissioning**

In October 2014, local PCCs became responsible for commissioning some support services for victims of crime in their area.

Although some services are still commissioned nationally by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), including the witness service, homicide service, trafficking service, rape support fund and some victims' helplines, this local commissioning by PCCs replaced the previous system of centralised grant-funding of services by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

PCCs have the power and responsibility for commissioning both a 'non-specialist' overarching victim referral mechanism, including onward support, and more 'specialist' services for victims of crime.

More information on Government reforms to victims' services, including links to the Victims' Code of Practice, is available at:

- Consultation on reforms leading to local commissioning, Ministry of Justice (2012): [consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/victims-witnesses/](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/victims-witnesses/)
- Framework for local commissioning, Ministry of Justice (2013): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-services-commissioning-framework](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-services-commissioning-framework)
- The Victims Code, Ministry of Justice (2015): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime)

### **Overarching Victim Referral Mechanism**

The overarching victim referral mechanism is delivered by the Victims First Hub, which is part of the OPCC. As well as being a central referral process for the police to refer victims for support, the Hub also receives referrals from a variety of other sources, including Action Fraud, other local partners, and victims themselves. The Hub will then contact the victim offering support and where appropriate, carry out an assessment with the victim to determine what support is required. This support can include our specialist online support, in-house support delivered by the Hub, referral to a commissioned service or referral/ signposting to an alternative service.

The Hub is supported by a newly developed Case Management System (provided by Make Time Count Today) which is utilised by all of the commissioned services to ensure support is joined up and outcomes for victims can be measured across and throughout support.

### **OPCC Commissioning in the Thames Valley**

Extensive research and a reviewing process has been completed over the last two years to establish what support services are required in the Thames Valley and to create a new model of support.

This new model of victims' provision will include a move to an automatic referral process to ensure that an offer of support is available to all victims of crime across the Thames Valley. This will include a range of self-guided support and specialist commissioned services.

The move will not only ensure compliance with the upcoming Victim and Prisoners Bill but also reflects the views of victims who highlighted that more information on how to get support was required.

After extensive consultation with the voluntary sector, statutory agencies and victims of crime, specifications for the specialist victims' services below were created. The service providers have now been commissioned in the Thames Valley to deliver from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

Thames Valley wide contractually commissioned services comprise of:

- Young Victims Service – delivered by SAFE!
- Sexual Violence Service – delivered by Hope After Harm
- Adult Service – delivered by Victim Support
- Online support for adults – provided by SilverCloud

These services will deliver a range of interventions to assist victims to cope with the impact of the crime, including new group and peer provision.

The bespoke commissioned specialist victim services will meet the needs of those most affected by high harm crimes such as sexual violence, domestic abuse and to provide specialist provision to children and young people. The new services will ensure that victims of crime in Thames Valley will be supported by high quality services that enable victims to move forward positively.

### **In-House Services**

The Victims First Counselling Service is also managed in house and utilises appropriately qualified freelance therapists/ counsellors to provide counselling support to victims of crime.

### **Grant Funding**

In recent years, the MoJ has provided additional funding to support victims of sexual violence and/or domestic abuse, including for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs). The OPCC currently funds over 20 organisations that support victims of sexual violence and/or domestic abuse and receives just over £1.6m per year ring-fenced funding from the MoJ towards these grants.

This funding has allowed for further provision in the Thames Valley, including a variety of specialist ISVAs and IDVAs, a stalking service, group support for DA victims and further counselling support. This funding is currently confirmed until end of March 2025.



### **Key Service Contracts and Grants awarded by the PCC:**

Provider: SAFE! -

Length of contract: Three years (plus one year, plus one year extension options)

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Purpose:

The Thames Valley wide Children and Young Victim Service provides a holistic offer of support for children and young people (aged 5 – 17 years-old) and their parents who are living with the impact of the crime and who then require support to cope and build resilience, as a consequence.

The support comprises of a range of evidence-based interventions designed to support the needs of victims and utilises a tiered approach to support victims to cope with the impact of the crime and build resilience. This includes group work, ISVA/ IDVA provision, case workers, counselling, and peer support.

Provider: Hope After Harm

Length of contract: Three years (plus one year, plus one year extension options)

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Purpose:

The Thames Valley wide Sexual Violence Service provides a holistic offer of support for adult victims of Sexual Violence who are living with the impact of the crime and who require support to cope and build resilience. The support comprises of a range of evidence-based interventions designed to support the needs of victims Sexual Violence and utilises a tiered approach to support victims to cope with the impact of the crime and build resilience. This includes ISVA provision, sexual violence case workers, psychoeducational support, group work and peer support.

Provider: Victim Support

Length of contract: Three years (plus one year, plus one year extension options)

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Purpose:

The Thames Valley wide Adult Victim Service is a mainly group based provision with a range of programmes to support victims to cope with the impact of the crime and build resilience. This includes a dedicated Domestic Abuse programme and wellbeing support.



The service also provides IDVA and case worker provision for victims who require some one-to-one support and a training function to increase victim awareness within the criminal justice system and with wider partners.

Provider: Make Time Count Today

Length of contract: Three years (plus one year, plus one year extension options)

Start date: July 2023

Purpose:

To provide a case management system for the Victims First Hub and commissioned services. This allows for a triaging function for referrals coming into the Hub and a system for recording the support a victim receives within both the Hub and services.

Provider: SilverCloud

Length of contract: 2.5 years

Start date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Purpose:

An online self-guided support provision consisting of 11 programmes to assist victims and improve their wellbeing. The structured courses include programmes on sleep, anxiety, stress, mindfulness, alcohol use and resilience.

Background information on the OPCC commissioning process can be found at:

[Victims First - Thames Valley PCC \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/victims-first)

## **9. Partnership Grants and Funding**

Significant grants and awarded funding opportunities can be found at: [Grants and Funding - Thames Valley PCC \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/grants-and-funding)

### **Community Safety Partnerships**

There are 12 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) that bring together key partners at local council level in the delivery of crime reduction and prevention.

The Partnership Fund (formally known as the Community Safety Fund (CSF)) is a direct grant from the PCC to Local Authorities is committed for 2024/25.

## **10. Role of the Chief Constable**

The Chief Constable is the most senior rank in Thames Valley Police. The Chief Constable is responsible for maintaining the Queen's Peace and has direction and control over the Force's police officers and staff.

The Chief Constable holds office under the Crown but is appointed by the PCC for a fixed term (which can be subject to extensions).

The Chief Constable is accountable to the law for the exercise of police powers, and to the PCC for the delivery of efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure by the Force.

Whilst the PCC sets the strategic policing and crime priorities for the Force area, the Chief Constable, their constables and staff remain operationally independent of the PCC, at all times, in the service of the communities they serve.

The Chief Constable is responsible to the public and accountable to the PCC for:

- Leading the Force in a consistent way with the attestation made by all constables on appointment and ensuring that it acts with impartiality;
- Appointing the Force's officers and staff (after consultation with the PCC, in the case of officers above the rank of Chief Superintendent and police staff equivalents);
- Supporting the PCC in the delivery of the strategic policing and crime priorities and objectives set out in the PCC's Police and Criminal Justice Plan;
- Assisting the PCC in planning the Force's budget;
- Providing the PCC with access to information, officers and staff as required;
- Having regard to the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement when exercising and planning their policing functions in respect of their force's national and international policing responsibilities;
- Notifying and briefing the PCC of any matter or investigation on which the PCC may need to provide public assurance either alone or in company with the Chief Constable (all PCCs will be designated as Crown Servants under the Official Secrets Act 1989(a), making them subject to the same duties in relation to sensitive material as Government Ministers);
- Being the operational voice of policing in the Force area and regularly explaining to the public the operational actions of officers and staff under their command;
- Entering into collaboration agreements with other Chief Constables, policing bodies and partners that improve the efficiency/ effectiveness of policing.
- Remaining operationally independent of their PCC;
- Managing all complaints against the Force, its officers and staff, except in relation to the Chief Constable, ensuring the PCC is kept informed to enable them to discharge their statutory obligations in relation to complaints in a regular, meaningful and timely manner.  
Serious complaints and conduct matters must be passed to the Independent Office for Police Conduct in line with the requirements of the relevant legislation;
- Exercising the power of direction and control in such a way as is reasonable to enable their PCC to have access to all necessary information and staff within the Force;

- Having day-to-day responsibility for the financial management of the Force within the framework of the agreed budget allocation and levels of authorisation issued by the PCC.

### **Jason Hogg (Chief Constable)**



Jason has 27 years police service and has worked in three police forces. He originally joined Cleveland Police in 1995, before transferring to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary in 2001 and joined Thames Valley Police in June 2016, most recently serving as Deputy Chief Constable.

On 1 April 2023, Jason was appointed as the tenth Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, taking over from former Chief Constable John Campbell.

Jason grew up in a deprived area of Hartlepool in Cleveland. He was fortunate enough to get a place at the University of Oxford in Christ Church College. During his time at University, Jason volunteered for The Gatehouse, a homeless charity in the city. It was here he met a number of police officers who were regularly called to incidents at the charity. It was those Thames Valley Police officers who inspired Jason to join the service.

He has spent most of his career working in Criminal Investigation roles, serving as a detective in every rank. He has been a member of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Child Protection and Child Death working groups and was involved in delivering training on the National Senior Investigation Officer (SIO) development programme. During his career Jason has been on extended secondments with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Jason is an accredited Strategic Firearms Commander, a Public Order Gold Commander, a Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Gold Commander and is part of the National Counter Terrorism Commander cadre.

## **11. About Thames Valley Police**

Thames Valley Police (TVP) is the largest non-metropolitan police force in England and Wales, comprising three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Seven forces border TVP and there are 9 local authorities. The force serves a diverse and growing population of more than two and a half million residents plus six million visitors who come to the Thames Valley area each year.

Cherwell and West Oxon alone has seen a 22.5% population growth and over 150 languages are spoken across the entire force area. As at 2023, the unemployment rate for the area sat under the national average at 3.2% (vs 3.5% nationally).

Thames Valley Police's core purpose is to protect its communities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and it strives to be an excellent force trusted by all its communities. It will do this by serving victims, fighting crime, building trust and valuing its people.

The TVP force area is currently divided into Local Policing Areas (LPAs) as follows:

**1. Berkshire**

- Slough
- Windsor & Maidenhead
- Reading Borough
- West Berkshire
- Bracknell & Wokingham

**2. Buckinghamshire**

- South Bucks
- Aylesbury Vale
- Milton Keynes

**3. Oxfordshire**

- Oxford City
- Cherwell & West Oxon
- South Oxon & Vale of White Horse

Last year (2023), Thames Valley Police began a review into the structure of the force, with a focus on finding out whether the current structure, put in place in 2010, was still the right one to deal with the demands of modern-day policing and the challenges put forward from changes in policing and in society.

They are now working in a more complex environment, with a rise in recent years in digital crime and increasingly harmful and complex offences such as child sexual exploitation and county drugs lines.

Following research and engagements with officers, staff, partner organisations and communities, they have made the decision to change to a five-area command model, to be called Local Command Units (LCUs).

The five new command areas are:

- Oxfordshire
- Buckinghamshire
- Milton Keynes
- Berkshire East
- Berkshire West

All 108 neighbourhood teams will remain in place as before, with additional officers in many parts of the Thames Valley.

The move to a five-area command model will:

- Strengthen neighbourhood policing
- Protect vulnerable people
- Respond to demand
- Protect our workforce

For more information, visit [Local policing structures | Thames Valley Police](#)

For more information, visit: [Home | Thames Valley Police](#)

The TVP Strategic Plan summary can be found at: [Our commitment | Thames Valley Police](#)

The Chief Constable is assisted by his management team. Details of the [Chief Constable's management team](#) are on the Thames Valley Police website via the link. Information about the different Force departments is available at: [Departments and teams | Thames Valley Police](#)

The latest performance update on the force's progress against the PCC's Police and Criminal Justice Plan is available at [Statutory Information - Thames Valley PCC \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)

## 12. National bodies

[Association of Police and Crime Commissioners \(APCC\)](#)

[His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\)](#)

[College of Policing](#)

[Independent Custody Visiting Association \(ICVA\)](#)

[National Crime Agency \(NCA\)](#)

[National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#)

## 13. Additional information

Queries relating to the elections and your eligibility to stand **must** be directed to the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) (see Section 1 of this document for the PARO's name and contact details).

Any requests for additional information regarding the OPCC should be referred to the Chief of Staff of the OPCC at PCC Election 2024 Mailbox [PCCElection2024@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:PCCElection2024@thamesvalley.police.uk) who will act as the 'Single Point of Contact' (SPOC). All requests for information should be in writing and will be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act.

Requests and information disclosed will be published on our website. The OPCC will aim to deal with such requests promptly and, in any event, within 20 working days.