

Report of Police and Crime Panel

The main action we have been involved in is the Interviews and Confirmation Hearing of our new Chief Constable.

Richard Westwood attended the interviews at Police HQ, three candidates were shortlisted and interviewed. Richard judged the interviews to be detailed and thorough. The candidate was streets ahead of the other two therefore Sarah Crew was chosen.

Sarah has been in the force for 27 years (all with Avon & Somerset) in various rolls.

Confirmation hearing took place on November 25th. Sarah faced questions from all panel members for an hour and a half. Highlights during questions,

Drink Spiking

Sarah set up operation Headland to investigate the rise in this crime and arrests have already been made.

Agreed we need to review Policing in rural areas and night-time policing.

Domestic Abuse and Rape is something Sarah is very concerned about and pointed out this crime is also against men, who are very reluctant to come forward.

At the end of the hearing the panel unanimously confirmed that Sarah Crew be Avon & Somerset Chief Constable with immediate effect.

Following the hearing I had a few words with Sarah, she was impressed by our new CCTV system and praised her Town Centre team and the way they were working with other agencies, we can expect the team to be increased in future.

Panel Meeting

Presentation on Operation Remedy

Set up following 2019/20 precept increase to tackle burglary, drugs and knife crime.

There has been a reduction in house burglaries 2018/19 9,331 and 2020/21 6,342.

Disruption in drug trafficking, recent actions on county lines have seen arrests and confiscation of Drugs to the value of £240k.

Although more officers have been recruited the operation has not been as successful as planned.

Future Plans.

Intervention, Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation

Setting up Neighbourhood Focus Teams

8 Teams consisting of a Sergeant and 8 officers throughout the force area, One team allocated to NS.

Violence Reduction unit.

5 Inspectors, 8 PS and 16 PC's

Integrated Offender Management.

Rehabilitation, Offender Management, Partnership working with Probation and Local Authorities
with 1 Inspector 3 PS and 32 Officers

Force wide Uniform and where required, plain clothes deployment

Peter Crew

Richard Westwood