MEETING: **Governance and Scrutiny Board**	DATE: **11th November 2025**	AGENDA NO: 3c
NAME OF PAPER: **OPCC FORECAST OUTTURN REPORT 2025-26 and** **OPCC BUDGET 2026-27 PROPOSAL**	AUTHOR: **Paul Butler, OPCC CFO**	PURPOSE: **Discussion**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out an update on the forecast budget outturn position for the Office of the PCC ("OPCC") and OPCC Commissioning in 2025/26 as well as setting out proposals for the 2026/27 budget and use of reserves.

2. OPCC COMMISSIONING

2.1 OUTTURN 2025/26

The PCC's commissioning budget for 2025/26 was agreed as £2.6m. This is supported by Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Formula Based and General grant funding of £3.9m for Victims services as well as other MoJ and Home Office funding as detailed. The PCC's commissioning forecast outturn spend for 2025/26 is £2.6m.

2.2 This budget continues to support core commissioned services for victims; community safety; drugs and alcohol referral services; Mental Health Triage; services to support victims and tackle offending in Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation (CCE & CSE).

2.3 The £11k forecast underspend against the commissioning budget for 2025/26 relates to partner contributions to the Appropriate Adult Service contract being more than budgeted.

2.4 The OPCC Commissioning 2025/26 forecast outturn and full breakdown of the draft 2026/27 budget can be found at Annex A.

2.5 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The budget proposed below for 2026/27 is £2.7m and supports the planned grants and commissioning work agreed with the PCC. The proposed increase in budget of £57k allows for increases NHSE are expected to apply to NHSE led commissioned services (Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Emergency Services Triage, Sexual Violence Therapies and Integrated Non Custodial Service).

OPCC Commissioning		
	Budget 25/26 £'000	Draft Plan 26/27 £'000
Budget Requirement	7,011	7,094
Income (MoJ and Home Office)	-3,829	-4,180
Income (Partner Funding)	-230	-245
Use of Reserve	-340	0
	2,612	2,669

2.6 PLANNED USE OF THE VICTIMS & COMMISSIONING RESERVE

On 1st April 2025 the balance of this reserve was £1.4m. £0.8m is currently allocated against this reserve with discussions ongoing regarding the use of the remaining reserve. The Victims and Commissioning reserve is earmarked as follows:

- Soteria Pilot £35k
- Exploitation/ Youth Violence £55k
- VRP Hub 26-27 £360k – these costs will be covered by the reserve if Home Office funding is not awarded
- VRP Comms £12k

- Earmarked for Serious Violence £40k
- Op Soteria £270k

3. Office of the PCC (OPCC)

3.1 OUTTURN 2025/26

The PCC set an office budget for 2025/26 of £2.7m, an increase from £2.4m in 2024/25. The OPCC's forecast outturn spend in 2025/26 is £2.6m.

3.2 There are overspends on:

- Overspends on staffing largely relate to cover for a senior level post for much of the year. These overspends have been covered by transfers from reserve.
- Overspend on professional services relate to legal costs but these have been covered by transfers from reserve.

There are underspends on:

- Travel remains an area of underspend as the OPCC continues hybrid ways of working.
- Small underspend against subscriptions as the APCC Membership increase for 2025/26 was less than the budget assumption.
- Transfer from reserve in relation to a senior level post and assumed cover for this until the role was filled. The temporary cover is no longer in post and therefore we are assuming this senior level post will now be vacant for the remainder of the financial year, creating an underspend.
- There are also currently vacancies within the OPCC Communications team and the Policy, Partnerships and Commissioning team adding to the underspend position.

3.3 The OPCC 2025/26 forecast outturn and full breakdown of draft 2026/27 budget can be found at Annex B.

3.4 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The PCC proposes an OPCC budget, as set out below, of £2.8m in 2026/27. The increase on 2025/26 reflects inflationary uplift only.

OPCC		
	Budget 25/26 £'000	Draft Plan 26/27 £'000
Budget Requirement	2,749	2,850
Income (MoJ Top-slice)	-50	-50
Income (Partner Funding)	-33	-45
Use of Reserve	0	0
	2,666	2,755

The proposed increase in budget of £89k is as a result of the following inflationary increases:

- Pay awards (assume 3% Sept 26 and full year effect of Sept 25 4.2% Pay Award, assumption had been 2%) and April 2026 incremental increases £95k
- Treasury Management increase £5k
- External audit increase £4k

We recognise that there is a budgetary pressure arising from police misconduct hearings and the processes associated with this. We intend to try to accommodate this within the existing budget for 2026/27 but acknowledge that there is some uncertainty on the volume and impact at this stage.

Some of the above increases are offset by small savings below:

- Partner Contributions to the Criminal Justice Manager post. Increase in contributions in line with Pay Award assumption and incremental increase. Partner contribution indicated would not be available from 2025/26 is now assumed to continue. £12k
- APCC Membership 2025/26 increase was not as much as assumed. £3k

3.5 Due to the sustained increase in work to support the commissioning process it is proposed that £50k be top-sliced from the MoJ grant and transferred to the OPCC Office staff budget to support costs.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTION**
The PCC is invited to review and discuss the OPCC budget forecast outturn for 2025/26 and the budget proposals for 2026/27.

Annex A - OPCC Commissioning 2025/26 forecast outturn and draft 2026/27 budget

	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Forecast 2025/26 £'000	Draft Plan 2026/27 £'000
Integrated Non Custodial Services (INCS)	581	581	599
Victims incl. MoJ Uplift, SARC & CCE	4,176	4,185	4,207
Lighthouse Contribution	890	890	890
MoJ grant top-slice to support OPCC grants process	50	50	50
Police & Crime Grants	698	698	450
Proactive Initiatives	0	0	259
Appropriate Adults	121	121	121
Mental Health triage	135	135	144
Commissioning other	20	276	23
Supported Accommodation	0	164	0
Violence Reduction Partnership (incl. Serious Violence Duty)	340	1,651	337
Local Integration of Women's Services	0	120	0
Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention (Drive Project)	0	706	0
Hotspot Response	0	1,641	0
	7,011	**11,218**	**7,080**
MoJ Grant Funding	-3,829	-3,829	-3,829
NHSE ISVA Contribution	-133	-136	-136
Home Office Violence Reduction Partnership Grant Funding (Incl. Serious Violence Duty)	0	-1,637	-337
MoJ Local Integration of Women's Services Grant Funding	0	-120	0
Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Grant Funding	0	-583	0
Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention (Drive Project) Partner Contributions	0	-123	0
Hotspot Response	0	-1,641	0
Appropriate Adults Partner contributions	-47	-59	-59
Supported Accommodation Partner Funding	0	-164	0
Reimbursement - ISVA Uplift Underspend	0	-8	0
BCC ISVA Contribution	-50	-50	-50
Transfer from Reserve – VRP Hub will be funded by the Victim and Commissioning reserve for 2026/27 if Home Office funding is not awarded	-340	-267	0
	-4,399	**-8,617**	**-4,411**
	2,612	**2,601**	**2,669**

Annex B - Summary OPCC 2025/26 forecast outturn and draft 2026/27 budget

	Budget 2025/26 £'000	Forecast 2025/26 £'000	Draft Plan 2026/27 £'000
Staff costs incl. PCC/DPCC and training	2,199	2,268	2,294
Transport & travel	23	12	23
Audit, annual accounts and joint audit committee	209	218	215
Subscriptions: APCC, APACE, PaCCTS	61	57	59
Communications, media, PR	42	42	42
Treasury mngt	86	85	88
Legal, Actuarial & other professional fees	45	84	45
Office stationary, ICT, events	17	15	18
Custody visiting	9	7	8
Misconduct Hearings and Police Appeal Tribunals	58	60	58
Be Proud Awards – carry forward of sponsorship	0	2	0
	2,749	**2,850**	**2,850**
MoJ grant top-slice to support grants process	-50	-50	-50
Transfer from Reserve	0	-168	0
Partner Contributions to LCJB Coordinator 73.9%	-33	-33	-45
DCLG Redmond Review Funding 24/25	0	-15	0
	-83	**-266**	**-95**
	2,666	**2,584**	**2,755**