

Welcome to the **May** RAG Briefing note from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This briefing covers:

- **Live Facial Recognition**
- **Winter of Action – results**
- **Safer Town Centres grant scheme**
- **Youth Commission recruitment**
- **Grant Funding: Innovation and Targeted Interventions**
- **Road safety Budget fund**
- **Accountability and Performance Meetings (APM)**

Live Facial Recognition

LFR is a crime-fighting tool designed to support police forces in locating wanted offenders and safeguarding vulnerable people. The technology compares a live camera feed of faces against a predetermined watchlist of offenders in real time, generating an alert when a possible match is found. Hertfordshire Constabulary will be deploying the use of LFR in Hertfordshire, following a trial in December 2025.

Webinar capacity is limited so entrance to the webinar will be on a first come first served basis, any issues with registration then please respond to this email.

The technology was tested at the Brookfield Shopping Centre in Cheshunt before Christmas and over **50,000 people** who visited the shopping centre were checked against the watchlist. On this occasion, no matches with the watchlist were found and no arrests were made. But importantly, no false positives or bias was identified either.

Hertfordshire residents back the use of this technology – in the public survey done before Christmas, **81% of the public** said the police's use of the technology was always or usually acceptable.

Following the trial, the Constabulary will be using the technology more regularly across the county.

Winter of Action results

Following the successful **Summer Town Centre initiative**, the PCC supported the '**Winter of Action**' initiative which built on the summer success over the period from **1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026** to support the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.



Similarly to the Summer Action initiatives **grant funding** was made available to councils, BIDs, and community groups to support local crime prevention initiatives.

Residents invited to shape the programme via a public survey: Winter Town Centres Survey.

The survey's **public safety** results indicate an NPS of more than **+25**, suggesting that residents generally felt safe in their town centres during the winter action initiative.

The survey results show that the most significant concerns for residents are **antisocial behaviour** and **a lack of police presence**. Increasing police visibility in these areas directly addresses these two leading issues and responds to how residents feel.

17% of residents reported noticing either a considerable or a slight change in **police visibility** within the area.

Focus areas for Winter of Action

- **Retail crime**-Heightened risk of shop theft due to busier retail activity.
- **Street Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**- visible patrols and using enforcement to address persistent issues.
- **Night-time economy safety and VAWG**- disorder because of night-time economy.

Outcomes:

This was deployed across **24 different town centres** located throughout the county. The categories of arrests during the winter action period aligned with the focus areas: retail-related offences, violence-related offences, and sexually-related offences.

- During this period, there were a total of **77 retail related-crime** arrests across the areas of winter action with the largest proportion of arrests occurring in **Welwyn Garden City**, which accounted for **22 arrests**.
- During this period there were a total of **44 violence related-crime** arrests within these town centres.
- Finally, there were also **10 sexually related-crime** arrests that occurred across 4 different locations (Watford, Stevenage St Albans Hatfield Galleria)

Safer Town Centre Grant Scheme Summer Programme Launch – June 2026

The scheme will launch early June, and bids will be invited from District/Borough Councils, Voluntary/Third Sector/Business sector organisations and the Constabulary.



Priority will be given to projects that focus on targeting:

- Retail crime
- ASB (including youth diversion),
- VAWG
- Crime Prevention.

Examples of the types of measures that could be funded include physical improvements to safety/security in town centres/parks, projects designed to reduce retail crime/ASB, projects to improve nighttime economy safety, and youth diversion projects.

Bids for up to £6000 are invited, any larger bids must be match funded.

In 2025/26, **28 awards made** have been made across Hertfordshire, totalling over **£130k**.

Details, including bidding process will be published on the OPCC webpage, check [PCC 'Safer Town Centres' Grant Scheme 2025/26](#)

Youth Commission on Policing and Crime

The PCC will be relaunching the **Hertfordshire Youth Commission** to engage young people aged 14–25:

- A core panel of up to 25 young people will be trained to gather views from peers across the county.
- **'Big Conversation'** conference took place on the **29th of January** where members of the youth commission produced and showcased a video showcasing their learning and insights on joint enterprise.
- Recruitment will run from **12 May to 19 June 2026**. We encourage partners working with young people aged 14 to 25 in Hertfordshire to promote this opportunity and encourage them to apply.
- **Focus areas:**
 - Youth safety
 - Reducing youth offending
 - Improving relationships with police
 - Supporting young victims and witnesses



Innovation and Targeted Interventions

- **Noise Camera Pilot** launched in St Albans to tackle illegal street racing and antisocial driving.
 - Acoustic monitoring and camera technology will detect vehicles exceeding noise thresholds.
 - Offenders will receive warnings, with repeat offenders facing enforcement under Section 59.
 - The PCC has committed up to **£23,825** in funding, with additional support from local partners covering ongoing operational costs
- **Fly Tipping Fund** continues to support private landowners, especially farmers, with clean-up and prevention measures of tips on private land.
 - **£16.5k** allocated in 2024/25; further funding committed for 2025/26.
 - In 2025/26, 5 awards have been made in St Albans, East Herts & Hertsmere, totalling over **£7.5k**.

The scheme process is currently being reviewed before a decision on a 2026/27 scheme is made.

Road Safety Budget scheme Expressions of Interest

The scheme is now open, and Expressions of Interest (Eoi) are invited from District/Borough, Parish or Town Councils and the Constabulary.

Priority will be given to projects that prevent incidents on the road, support victims of incidents on the road, and provide interventions to address community concern around various aspects of illegal/antisocial behaviours on the road.

Following Eoi assessment by the OPCC, the applicant may be invited to submit a full application for funding towards a possible solution/intervention.

Details, including bidding process can be found on the following OPCC webpage [Commissioner's Road Safety Budget](#)

Community Safety and Serious Violence Funding

- **£43,000 awarded** to nine local projects addressing:
 - ASB prevention
 - Violence against women and girls
 - 4 courses started as part of the **Aspire Higher Programme** for **30 young males** on Probation with convictions/known intelligence links to carrying or using weapons, involvement in county lines/organised drug supply or exiting organised crime.



- **£675,000 Serious Violence Duty funding** confirmed for 2025/26.
 - Delivered via the County Community Safety Unit Strategic Chairs Board.
 - Supports mentoring-**Herts Sports Partnership/StreetGames** have advertised the wider commissioning opportunity to deliver secondary level opportunities for young people identified at high risk.
 - **Over 30** young people, aged 13+, carrying knives or involved in Serious Violence have started the **YouTurn Futures** structured 12-week intervention plan that is a trauma-informed, relationship-based approach designed to engage vulnerable young people, address the root causes of violent behaviour, and support long-term desistance from crime.
 - **3 secondary level interventions** have started to be delivered to over **30** young people via **the Herts Sports Partnership/StreetGames**-led initiative to support young people/adults identified at high risk. Workforce upskilling, including Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning planned for 7 organisations thus far.
 - **550+** young people, including habitual knife carriers, referred to attend a session where **VR Headsets** are used as a visual/interactive learning tool.

Home Office-Serious Violence Reduction/Young Futures 2026/27

The Home Office has made funding available for Specified Authorities to deliver their Serious Violence Duty & Young Futures responsibilities in Hertfordshire for 2026/27.

The OPCC continues to lead on this and have initiated an inaugural meeting of a new Governance Board in June to determine how decisions will be made and funding will be allocated.

Further information will be announced by the OPCC in June/July 2026/27. Further details will be provided in due course.

Performance and Accountability

The Police and Crime Commissioner holds monthly Performance and Accountability meetings with the Chief Constable as part of the holding to account. These are live streamed and can be accessed after the meeting via the OPCC website:

[Accountability and Performance Meetings](#)

The most recent May APM covered the following topics:

- Domestic Abuse
- Operation Hotspot



**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

Briefing Note for Responsible Authority Groups
May 2026

- World Cup Planning
- Knife Crime