

Chief Constable pledges ambitious new vision for Police Scotland

Every community in Scotland will have identifiable local officers as part of an ambitious new vision for Police Scotland.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell made the pledge as the Service unveiled key plans which outline how policing will evolve to meet existing and new challenges.

A 2030 vision for policing sets key ambitions of safer communities, less crime, supported victims, and a thriving workforce.

A three-year business plan outlines over 130 milestones Police Scotland aims to achieve by March 2027.

Other milestones include: A new cyber and fraud division to tackle the growing demand of online crime, a refreshed commitment to what contact the public can expect from officers after reporting a crime, strengthened vetting and misconduct regulations to safeguard standards and integrity, a greater role for police staff in jobs that don't need policing powers and improving efficiency in back offices through greater use of AI and technology to automate paperwork.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell said: "The reform of policing in Scotland removed £200m from the annual cost base compared to legacy arrangements while improving service to the public.

“To strengthen the frontline, reconnect with communities, and respond to emerging threats when the outlook for public finances is challenging, we must progress the next phase of police reform.

“Our vision and values set the guiding principles and ambitions for policing and our business plan details the steps we are taking to deliver for our communities and our workforce, relentlessly prioritising frontline services.

“This is a positive and ambitious vision and plan for policing and, while we outline milestones taking us to 2027, our approach will remain flexible and subject to funding.

“I’ve asked Deputy Chief Constable Jane Connors to take strategic oversight of this vital work and she had established Operation Evolve to drive the changes necessary to deliver safer communities, less crime, supported victims, and a thriving workforce.

“We will continue to share further information on individual workstreams as progress is made.”