



## Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office

### Governance and Assurance Report 2025

#### 1. Purpose of report

This report details progress against actions and recommendations identified by governance arrangements and assurance mechanisms outlined below:

- SCO Annual Governance Statement – AGS
- Internal Audit – RSM
- Ethics, Transparency and Audit Panel – ETAP
- Independent Custody Visitor Quality Assessment Framework – ICV QF

For the purpose of this report these will be referred to as the review bodies.

#### 2. SCO Audit & Reviews

Area	Review Body	Due Date	Update
Commissioned services	RSM	June 2025	On hold, scope reassessed, pending SCO decision.
ETAP	SCO	July 2025	Review of audit committee function, ETAP, completed and recommendations implemented. ETAP replaced by new Joint Audit Committee (JARC), established 01 July 2025.
Appropriate Adults (AA) Volunteer Service	SCO	December 2025	Review of AA volunteer service managed by SCO, including national benchmarking, to inform direction of the service.

#### 3. SCO Recommendations Update

Completed since last report:

Review Body & Date	Recommendation	Completion Date
AGS 2023/24	The SCO will support the SC to develop and publish within legal timeframes both a Police & Crime and Fire & Rescue Plan. The Police & Crime and Fire & Rescue Plans began to be developed at the start of the Commissioner’s new term of office in May 2024. They have been shaped by public feedback gained through surveys and consultation	Plans published - November 2024



	exercises balanced against detailed assessments of demand, threat and risk carried out by the two services. They also consider national developments and inspection findings. A public consultation process took place prior to the finalisation and publication of the plans in November 2024, well ahead of the legal deadline for publication, which is March 2025.	
AGS 2024/25	That the SCO further strengthen SGB Governance arrangements to enable greater oversight of planning for and delivery of MTFs plans for Force and Fire throughout the year - the 2025/26 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is set against a backdrop that includes some significant uncertainties and new financial pressures for Force and Fire, that will require significant savings to be delivered as part of renewed transformation programmes in 2025 and beyond.	New governance arrangements implemented for both Police and Fire – April 2025

In progress:

Review Body	Recommendation	Update / Action Taken	Due Date
SCO	To review internal SCO Governance arrangements and Joint Scheme of Governance with Police and Fire.	Scoping underway	March 2026

#### 4. Risk

SCO Strategic Risk Register was submitted to ETAP Finance Panel on a quarterly basis prior to 30 June 2025. Following the implementation of the new JARC, SCO Strategic Risk Register will be submitted and considered by the committee at quarterly public meetings.

SCO, Police and Fire Strategic Risk Registers are a standing agenda item at SGB Governance arrangements with Force and FARS, where changes to registers are regularly discussed.

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