



SCRUTINY BOARD

DATE: THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 10.00AM

AGENDA

- 1. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. MINUTES – 25 NOVEMBER 2025**

To note the minutes of the previous meeting and any actions arising.

- 3. THEMATIC SESSION – CUSTODY**

Presentation attached.

- 4. COMMISSIONER'S QUESTIONS**

- 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members of the public are invited to attend this meeting virtually in an observation capacity only.

You can register for the event here:

[Public Events and Meetings - Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner](#)



PUBLIC SCRUTINY BOARD

Notes of the Public Scrutiny Board held on 25 November 2025 at Chester Town Hall.

PRESENT: D Price, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
M Roberts, Chief Constable (CC)

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner
G Southern, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
D Taylor, Chief Executive
C Gilbody, Head of Scrutiny & Planning
J Hare, Head of Communications and Engagement
A Murphy, Governance Officer

Cheshire Constabulary
M Evans, Deputy Chief Constable
P Woods, Head of Performance & Planning

Members of the public observed the meeting via Teams.

1. Introductions

At the Public Scrutiny Meeting held on 25 November 2025, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) engaged the Chief Constable (CC) in a dialogue on the force's recent performance. This document captures the Commissioner's questions and the Constabulary's detailed responses, offering transparency and accountability on key issues including police complaints, stop and search, use of force, outcomes brought to justice, homicide, knife crime, neighbourhood policing, hate crime, officer conduct, shoplifting and fraud.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Scrutiny Board held on 25 September 2025 were agreed. There were no outstanding actions to review.

3. Delivery Against the Police and Crime Plan

The Commissioner invited the Chief Constable to present his opening summary for the performance session [*see slide presentation in report pack*].

The Chief Constable talked about the Constabulary's continued focus on responding proactively to the public. He said that he hoped that the public would be reassured that overall crime in Cheshire is 4% lower than this time last year, with the lowest crime rates in the North West of England and the 12th lowest in the country.

The Chief Constable also said that a particular focus in the last 12 months was neighbourhood crime which has seen a 9% decrease. He advised that Cheshire has comparatively low crime rates for burglary - the fourth lowest nationally, for vehicle crime - the sixth lowest nationally, and for robbery - the eighth lowest nationally, and the second lowest homicide rate in the country.

The Chief Constable said that the Constabulary continues to focus on bringing offenders to justice with some of the highest charge rates in the country for offences such as stalking and sexual offences, and an increase this year in offenders brought to justice for neighbourhood crimes.

4. Commissioner's Questions

The Commissioner scrutinised the data presented by the Constabulary and asked the Chief Constable to respond to a series of questions.

Slide 8 - Complaints

Question: What is driving the month-on-month increase in recorded complaints?

Answer:

The Chief Constable stated that the force has analysed the increase in complaints and advised that there is an increase in a number of different areas, both in terms of the type of issue and also geography. He explained that in the main they appear to relate to general service-related matters such as crime updates, outcomes, what action the force has taken etc. The Chief Constable reiterated the force's focus on victim contact and victim services. He explained that there are a number of new officers in Cheshire so some complaints may relate to a lack of experience and understanding. He reiterated his commitment to improve how the force keeps the public updated and in particular ensuring that victims of crime know what action the force is taking on their behalf.

Question: What are the top three categories that the Constabulary receives the most complaints about?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that he could give a specific breakdown on numbers *[after of the meeting]*.

The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable and added that the force does get things wrong from time to time, so it is important that the complaints process is robust and that training is carried out after those complaints.

Slide 9 – Stop and Search

Question: Under what circumstances should Section 60 stop and search powers be authorised, and how can forces ensure their use is proportionate, transparent, and maintains trust?

Answer:

The Chief Constable stated that it is important that the public is confident about what the police are doing. He said that stop and search is a key tactic for the police and is used sensibly, proportionately, and lawfully. He explained that Section 60 is a power which can enable officers to conduct a search within a specific area, without the same levels of suspicion that you would see on Section 1 of PACE for drugs or firearms. It was explained that it can be used where the authorising officer, which is an Inspector, initially believes that serious violence may take place in the locality and it is necessary to use the power to prevent that occurrence. It can also be used where an incident has already happened using serious violence where a dangerous instrument has been used and it is deemed necessary to prevent further serious violence.

The Chief Constable explained the scrutiny that occurs whenever the Constabulary issues that power – that although the Inspector gives authorisation, it then needs to be reviewed by the duty Superintendent. He said that it is a power that is used sparingly in Cheshire, but when authorised that it is proportionate.

The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for explaining the use of force and hoped that the public would be reassured about the checks and balances in place around its use.

Question: How are the Constabulary proactively monitoring officer conduct, especially in custody suites and during stop and search interactions?

Answer:

The Chief Constable explained that officers wear cameras and the expectation is that any stop and search encounter will be captured on body worn video for additional scrutiny. He explained that approximately one in seven of all stop and searches each month are subject to a full scrutiny using a review process, including body-worn video.

The Chief Constable advised that officers are provided with feedback and training and if an officer is found wanting on more than one occasion, they are specifically highlighted for training.

The Chief Constable also advised that all Cheshire's custody suites are fully covered by CCTV and that the use of force in custody is monitored and reported at daily performance meetings via custodial operations management. CCTV is reviewed by an inspector monthly as part of random checks, and any issues are escalated to the various monitoring groups as well to identify any particular issues or opportunities for learning. The Chief Constable advised that his Deputy also leads an independent scrutiny panel that examines video footage of use of force interactions in custody.

Question: How are community scrutiny panels influencing operational practice in this area?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that all the feedback captured from scrutiny panels is passed to the custody senior leadership team. Issues with individual officers are addressed, along with any thematic issues that might arise from the cases randomly selected. He said that he welcomed the involvement of members of the community in scrutiny panels to bring a different perspective to the work.

The Commissioner reflected on the difference between old police cells in comparison to the modern custody suites in Cheshire. The Chief Constable agreed and set out the high standards, level of staffing and investment needed to operate a modern custody suite.

Slide 10 – Use of Force

Question: The completion of use of force forms is largely static. Is there confidence that these are accurately capturing when force is being used?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that he expected the numbers to be largely static as the higher number of arrests has now stabilised. He talked about when forms need to be completed which might surprise the community – for example, when a member of the public is handcuffed. He explained the use of force scrutiny meetings as well as workshops held regularly by ACC Ross. The Chief Constable also talked about modern training techniques for officers at the Tactical Training Unit. He explained that officers are trained to respond to what scenario is in front of them which tests the officers' assessment of risk and better equips them for the reality of dealing with the public. A discussion followed about the importance of body-worn video which the Chief Constable hoped reassures the public that police powers are used in a proportionate way. He explained that body-worn video is also helpful in the criminal justice system as it gives a record of the type of behaviour that the police officers are often subjected to at an incident.

The Commissioner said that most of the members of the public that he speaks to are firmly on the side of supporting officers serving communities and accept that officers do not join to be subjected to that treatment.

Slide 13 – Outcomes Brought to Justice

Question: What's driving Cheshire's strong performance in charge rates, and how can we sustain or improve it?

Answer:

The Chief Constable talked about the robust and effective governance structures in place as well as systems to support less experienced officers. He also talked about evidence-led prosecutions where CPS may take the decision that even where a victim does not pursue prosecution, a prosecution will be mounted as the right thing to do.

The Chief Constable also highlighted the investment in the digital forensics capability to ensure there are no longer backlogs holding up investigations and prosecutions, improving charge rates and leading to better outcomes for victims.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable also discussed the Crown Prosecution Service which is shared across Merseyside and Cheshire and charge rates and charging decisions.

Question: Are there any crime types where charge rates remain stubbornly low, and what's the plan to address this?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that focus had been put on robbery under the leadership of Chief Inspector Rob McLaughlin and there have been significant improvements in outcomes. He added that there is a range of complexity with sexual offences which often makes this crime type very difficult to detect.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable reflected on leadership being the key to turning around low charge rates in a particular crime type.

Slide 23 – Homicide

Question: Five out of the six homicide cases resulted in charges, which is an encouraging position. But, on one incident, a prosecution wasn't possible because of an outcome 12 as they were deemed too ill to prosecute. Can you provide assurance on how decisions like Outcome 12 are scrutinized?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that this [an Outcome 12] is rare and both cases in Cheshire since 2018 have related to cases where the offender had been assessed clinically on the basis of professional psychiatric advice and assessment as lacking mental capacity and therefore too ill to prosecute.

The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable for providing clarity around these rare cases.

Question: Domestic abuse is sadly a common thread amongst homicides. How does this impact Cheshire?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that he recognised that nationally more people are murdered by people they know than a stranger, and that domestic abuse is one of the force's key priorities. He explained that every after every serious domestic incident there is a review looking for lessons to be learned. He also reiterated the focus on prevention through robust intervention highlighting the domestic abuse arrest rate increase from 22% to between 55-60%.

Slide 24 – Knife Crime

Question: What operational or partnership changes contributed to this increase in knife offence outcomes?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that the Constabulary has increased stop and search numbers significantly and each of the nine Local Policing Units has a dedicated point of contact who is responsible for carrying out crime prevention activities in relation to knife crime that are recorded and governed by a quarterly meeting. He said that Cheshire Constabulary also identifies habitual carriers for education action programmes; supports the national operation around the importation of weapons; ensure people irresponsibly selling knives are brought to justice; support national operations; and scrutinise performance in this area.

Question: How are we ensuring that this momentum continues particularly in areas with higher youth vulnerability?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that this is down to the Government's performance regime with performance frameworks, measurements and governance structures to make sure that the momentum is kept going and the force is not complacent in this area.

Question: Are we seeing any hotspots or demographic trends in knife-related offences?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that the force does monitor and identify quickly if there are any emerging trends in knife crime and have implemented Section 60 search powers and also emphasising education in schools. He said that police know that both victims and offenders of knife crime are disproportionately male and so activity is focused on that.

Slide 25 – Neighbourhood Crime

Question: Neighbourhood crime has fallen by almost 9%, and Cheshire ranks amongst the lowest nationally and within its most similar group for burglary, vehicle offences, and robbery. What targeted approaches or partnership work have contributed to this sustained reduction, and how are we ensuring these successes are being felt consistently across all communities?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that in Cheshire neighbourhood policing functions have always been maintained with nine LPU structures with beat management across the force. He advised that since March 2025 up until September neighbourhood policing has 23 more Police Constables and sergeants into neighbourhood policing and beat management.

Question: Some communities are disproportionality affected. How do you make sure that a fall countywide in something like car theft, doesn't mask a sudden spike that could happen in one community?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that the Force Intelligence Bureau monitors crime trends and beat teams are expected to understand and identify where spikes happen. One example given was in the east of the county where organised crime groups from Greater Manchester had been coming into the Cheshire region and carrying out a string of car thefts, for which a specialist unit was then deployed.

Question: Can I also ask the Chief Constable to reflect on the Safer Streets Summer activity and plans for the darker winter months.

Answer:

The Chief Constable reflected on the success of the initiative, with Cheshire being a highlighted force nationally in six different areas of activity. Some examples are the use of SelectaDNA to target e-bike and scooter issues; the nighttime economy operation undertaken in Nantwich; SWAP funds allocated by the Police and Crime Commissioner for diversion from crime and support activity; Cops on the Square initiative bringing the police closer to the public; the campaign around consent; and anti-spiking initiatives.

Question: E-bikes are plaguing communities, and enforcement is a real challenge. What is the constabulary doing to innovate in this space?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that the force has seized 380 e-bikes in 10 months, but that this type of anti-social behaviour is difficult to deal with as the e-bikes are often ridden by young people not wearing helmets. He explained that the force will use drones and air support where appropriate but also seek to identify where offenders live and follow up at their address and seize bikes from there. DNA sprays are also used to identify the perpetrator afterwards where arrests cannot be made at the time of the incident.

The Chief Constable urged parents not to buy e-bikes and scooters that can be readily converted to go at excessive speeds as they are so dangerous.

Question: I have seen the campaign behind Operation Scrambler. Do you attribute the 380 seizures of e-bikes to that campaign or is it a multitude of things?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that he thought it was a multitude of things – Operation Scrambler would have given a boost in areas that particularly needed it, but the force has also undertaken educational activity, targeting vehicles to make sure they have not been illegally modified, as well as working closely with partner agencies such as trading standards and housing associations.

The Commissioner said that this was something on their joint radar and he would continue to monitor especially how further investment can be put into capabilities to address the issue.

Slide 29 – Hate Crime

Question: What do you believe are the main drivers behind the fall and increase in hate crime in Cheshire?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that he thought that spikes in hate crime correlate with national and international events for example the spike in the summer associated with the widespread public unrest. The increases are almost entirely race hate offences. He added that it is to the credit of Cheshire that the public has a very cohesive community, and he is grateful not to see the disorder that is seen in other places. The Chief Constable reiterated that Cheshire officers are deployed through mutual aid to support other forces where there are incidents of this nature.

The Commissioner added that events online spill over into events in the community but should that happen, the public should know that they have a friend in Cheshire Police.

Question: What is being done to encourage people to report hate crime that they witness either in person or online?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that it can be seen from high profile cases that the police do take positive action. He said that there is a careful line for policing to take, but that they take a sensible approach so that where incidents meet the criminal threshold, the police will pursue that. The Chief Constable reiterated that Cheshire police take a robust, proportionate approach.

The Commissioner added that the public would be reassured that this is taken really seriously, and that the threshold is high.

Question: What reassurances can you provide about the security of religious sites in Cheshire following the Heaton Park Synagogue attack last month?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that depending on the nature of the event, the force will consider the threat assessment and proactively deploy officers either for reassurance, or if there is a specific threat then specialist assets are also deployed. He added that there is a 'golden thread' from the beat teams all the way up to the security services where the police can conduit information from local communities into a seamless chain. He said that this also works from the top down so that the police can take local preventative action if required.

General Questions

Question: What assurance can you give that the culture exposed in the Metropolitan Police does not exist within Cheshire Constabulary?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that this is squarely an incident in the Metropolitan Police, and it is for them to account for and deal with. He added that if there are incidents in Cheshire, it is his responsibility to account for them. The Chief Constable advised that the force takes the learning from these events by the National Police Chiefs Council and

are kept apprised of events. He said that it is a constant reminder for the police to ensure that they demonstrate the highest possible standards to the public. He added that the Deputy Chief Constable is responsible for enforcing discipline and ensuring the right culture in the force and that is something that is constantly pushed throughout the year. He also advised that the Constabulary has a counter corruption unit which is very proactive in seeking to identify any issues of misconduct.

Question: What mechanisms are in place for whistleblowing and independent scrutiny of officer behaviour in Cheshire?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that Crimestoppers run the Police Anti-Corruption and Abuse Reporting Service which can be used, as well as the Police Integrity Line within the police service. He added that he does see officers reporting other officers when they consider the behaviours inappropriate, and he regarded this as a sign of a healthy culture and strength of character. The Chief Constable said that particular consideration was given to those areas of the force that deal with vulnerable people on a regular basis.

Question: In light of recent national incidents what steps are being taken locally to ensure robust intelligence-sharing? It is important that communities are reassured that proactive measures are in place.

Answer:

The Chief Constable made reference to the recent attack in Manchester and said that on an operational level there are tried and tested procedures for the initial support to an incident such as that. He said that Cheshire Constabulary supported Greater Manchester Police with firearms assets to ensure that the immediate threat had been dealt with.

The Chief Constable said this type of incident also acts as a catalyst for Cheshire Police to check intelligence systems and look for any potential known risks in the absence of known risks. He said that the police then deploy resources to places to keep people reassured, and Cheshire also supports the national strategy. The Chief Constable explained that the national strategy is Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent. He added that in Cheshire, the force has recently supported major national counterterrorism exercises involving a range of assets to make sure that, should Cheshire have an incident, officers and staff are prepared.

The Commissioner said that there is a heightened awareness at Christmas time but the public should be reassured that there is substantial intelligence-sharing that happens. The Chief Constable reiterated that the national terrorist threat remains at substantial so the force should not be complacent, and officers will be present over the festive period for reassurance.

Question: Shoplifting is a concern to many shops and businesses across the county and facial recognition technology has been a real game changer in this area. In the absence of a dataset, can the Chief Constable provide an update?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that from April to September of this year the police have seen a 22% reduction in recorded shoplifting, and from a similar period the police have secured 35% offences brought to justice, compared to 27% last year. He said that it is

positive that the police are seeing volume reductions but also increased detections and that facial recognition technology has been a real plus for the police. He also said that facial recognition technology means that the police can identify perpetrators from a national database for example where a criminal travels into Cheshire to commit a crime.

Question: This is an area which touches so many people. The mechanisms for reporting fraud are confusing and involve organisations such as Action Fraud. Can the Chief Constable explain how this works and where the Constabulary gets involved?

Answer:

The Chief Constable confirmed that the national Fraud Intelligence Bureau, NFIB, is the central repository for all for fraud being recorded in England and Wales. He said that on behalf of individuals and businesses, the NFIB receives reports from three main places: Action Fraud, industry bodies such as Cifas, and a variety of intelligence sources including national and international police.

The Chief Constable said if a member of the public thinks that there is someone visiting them seeking to actively engage in a fraud e.g. if they are being asked to go to the bank, those are the sort of crimes where it should be reported to Cheshire Police so the local police can get out and try and support them. He reiterated that where this is not the case, the first port of call should be Action Fraud which is the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime victims and there is a link to Action Fraud on the front page of the Cheshire Police website.

Question: The next PEEL inspections will for the first time include Fraud. What is the force doing to prepare for this much-needed change, something I believe will drive up standards across the country?

Answer:

The Chief Constable advised that although the force does not yet know the questions that will be set, Cheshire Police are preparing for the HMIC inspection as they are for all elements. He said that the force works in fraud prevention and education and victim support with Trading Standards to promote fraud awareness. He also said the force is reassured by the City of London self-assessment which suggests the force is in a good place in terms of fraud investigations.

Is there sufficient capacity to investigate complex fraud cases, and are we seeing improvements in outcomes?

Answer:

The Chief Constable said that the capacity issues are a problem because there is so much national and international fraud, and cyber fraud, that the force needs to be prudent with their resources. He said that Cheshire Police has worked hard to improve detective strength in the force, with designated specialist fraud detectives deployed for this type of crime, in the same way that domestic abuse experts are deployed to better investigate that type of crime. He also said that the Constabulary would be introducing a fraud triage role, and there is an economic crime unit mailbox where people can get support or send in queries.

The Chief Constable said that the force has maximised the policing guarantee uplift, but this is tied to neighbourhood policing and as Chief Constable he would welcome the

freedom to be able to deploy the resources where he sees fit where there are competing aims.

The Commissioner welcomed the fraud triaging reflecting on the power of triaging across public services to ensure the right decision is taken as early as possible for the public.

5. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

The Commissioner raised the internal consultation currently taking place within the Constabulary and advised that budget discussions are still ongoing.

The Chief Constable advised that it was ACC Crowcroft's last day at Cheshire Constabulary after over 30 years of service and both the Chief Constable and Commissioner wished him well for the future.



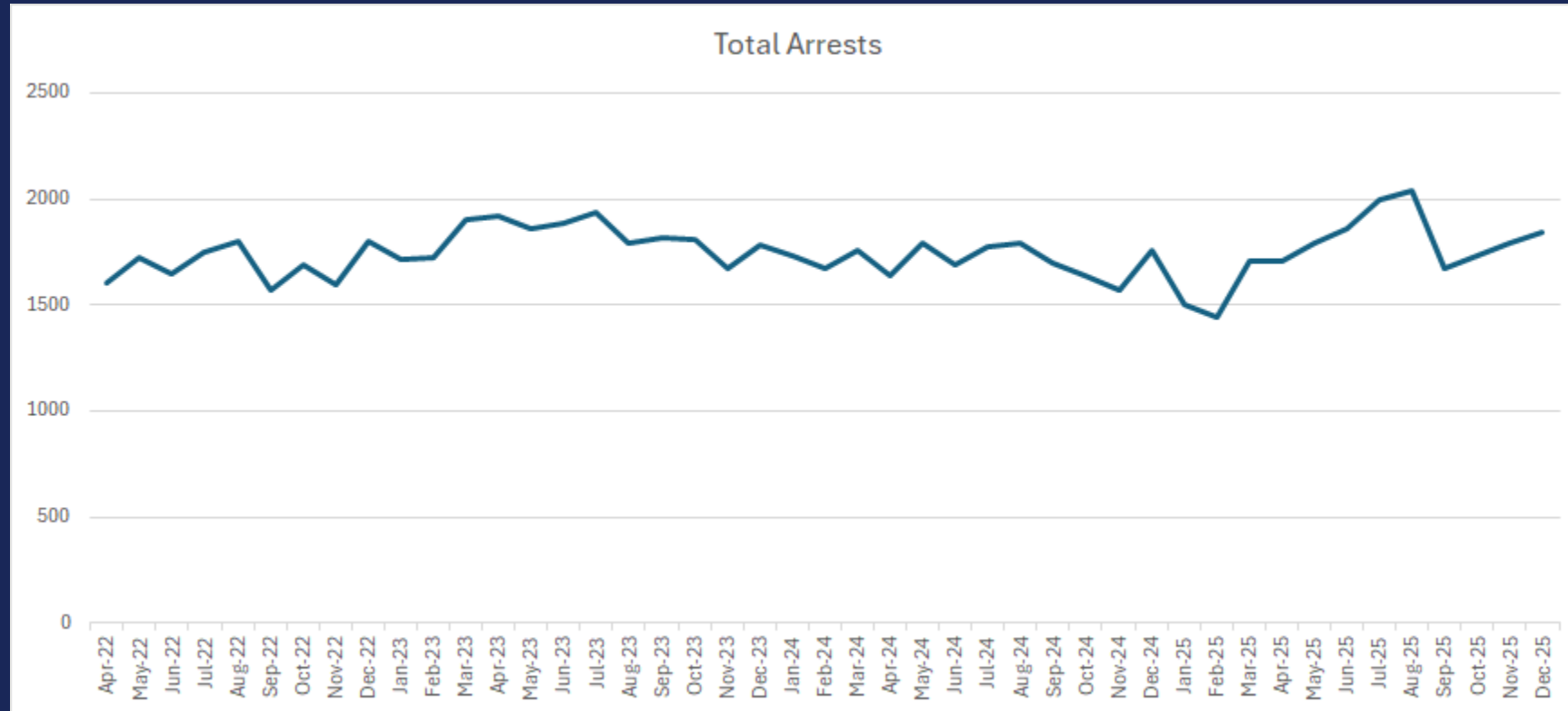
Cheshire
Constabulary

PCC Scrutiny Custody Thematic February 2026

Volume of Arrests



Cheshire
Constabulary

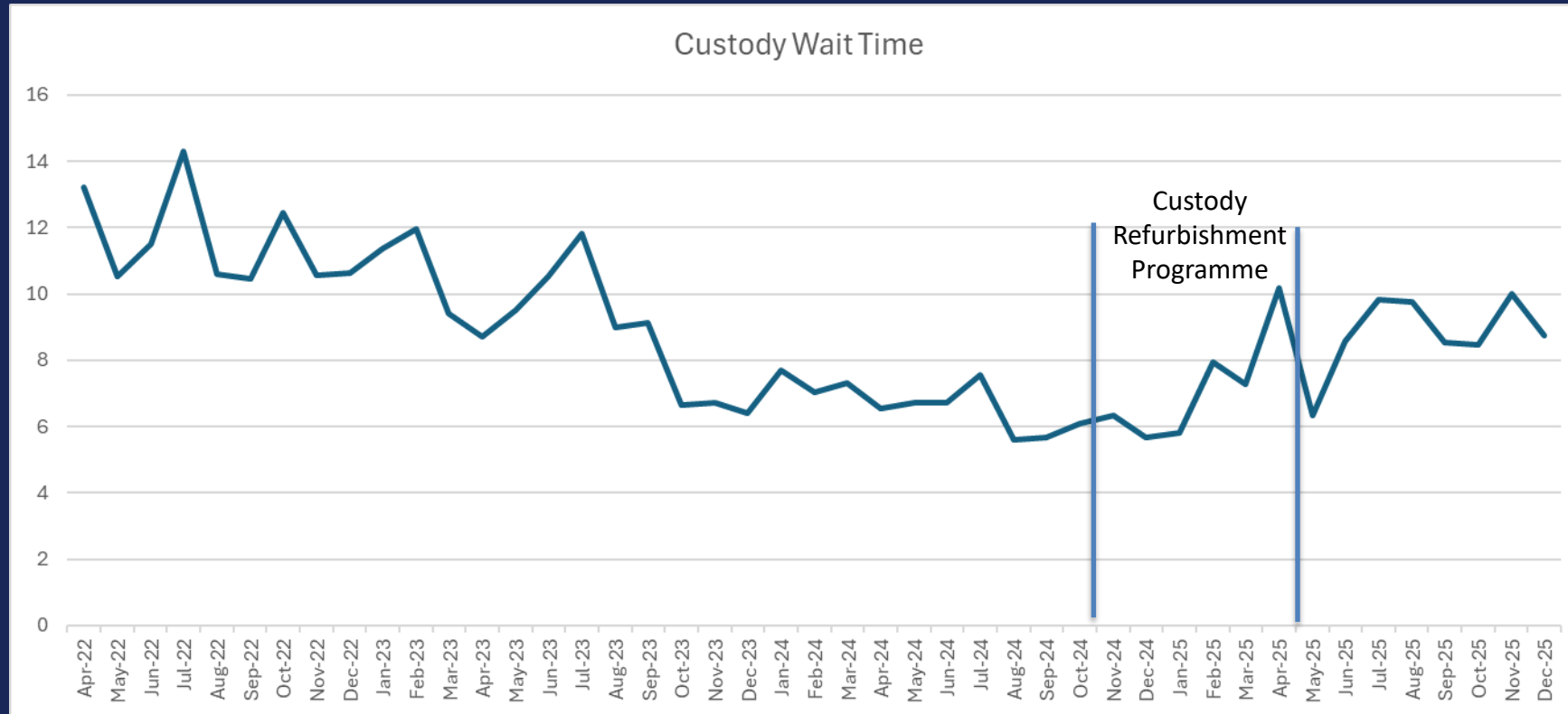


For the 12 months to the end of December 2025 the Constabulary made 21,087 arrests, a 2.8% increase on the previous year. 20,875 (99%) had detention authorised.

Wait Times



Cheshire
Constabulary



The median wait time for the 12-month period ending Dec-25 was 8.31 minutes, an increase on 6.46 minutes for the same period in 2024. For the period June to December 2025 when wait times were slightly higher, the volume of arrests were 9% higher than in the same period in 2024.

Custody Refurbishment Programme



Cheshire
Constabulary



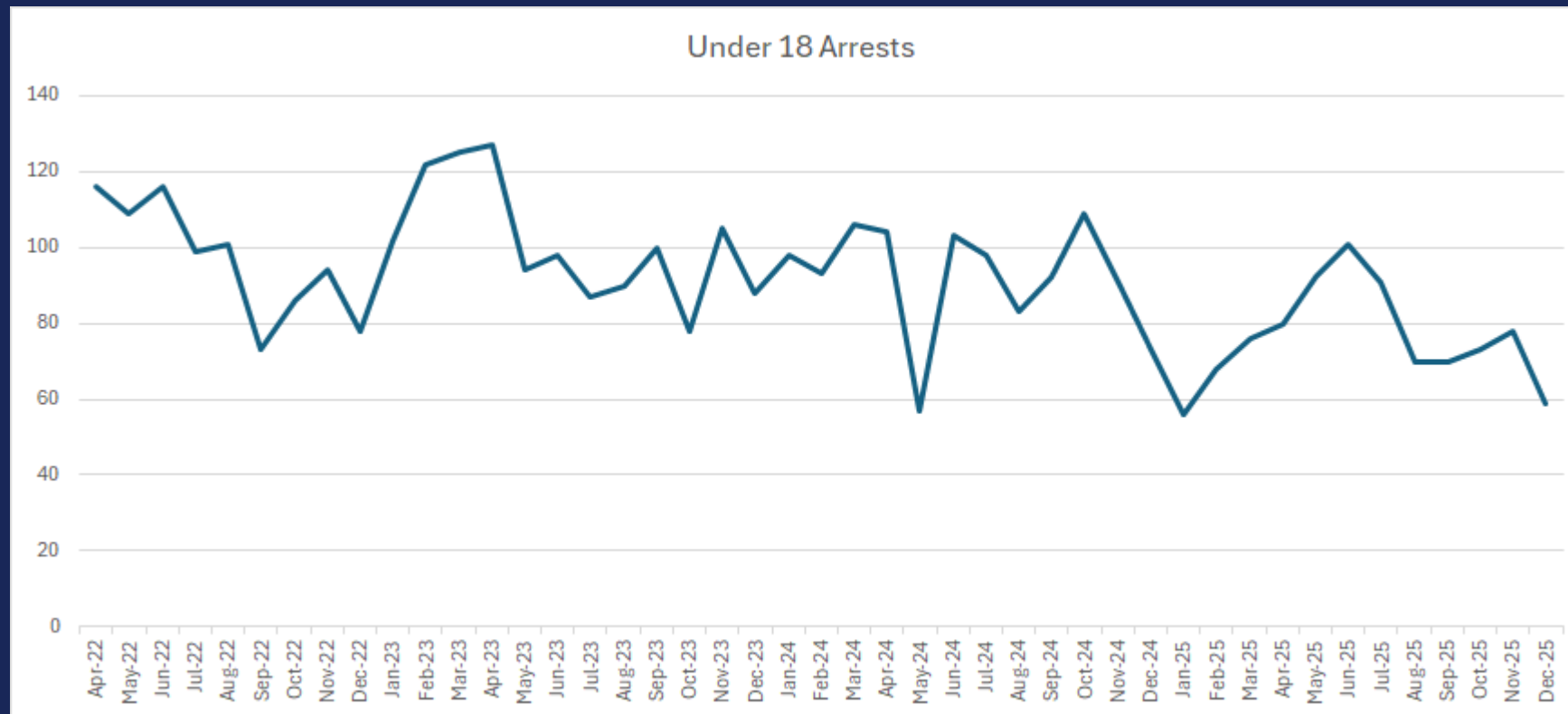
Between October 2024 and April 2025 each of the Constabulary's custody facilities was refurbished. Independent custody visitors were brought on board to support the various implementations along the way with them providing honest and constructive feedback.

In total, 126 action points were put forward, including some general modernisation improvements, which commanders took on board and a plan was developed to complete them all. This included recommendations around juvenile detainees, use of force, CCTV and body worn video activation and the quality of the custody record

Under 18 Arrests



Cheshire
Constabulary

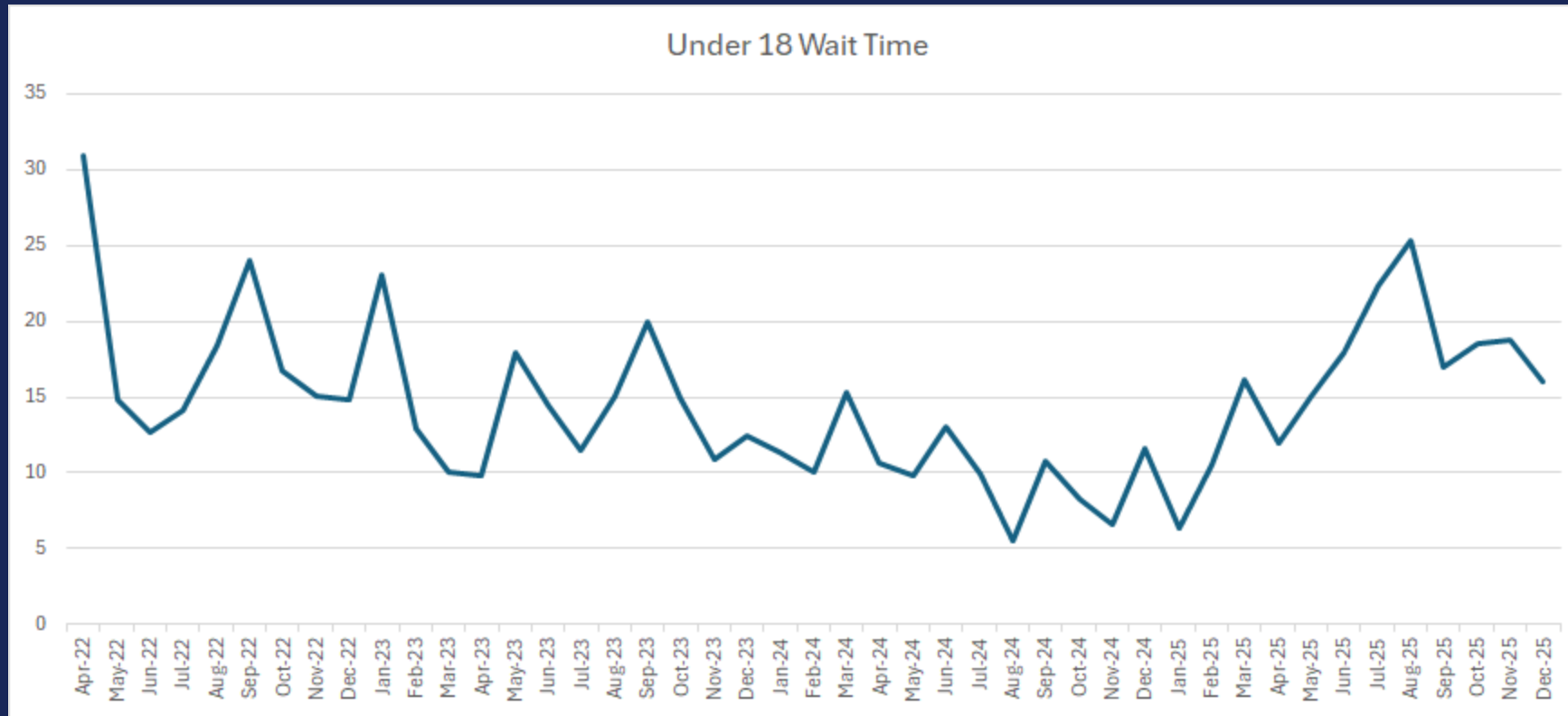


For the 12 months to the end of December 2025 the Constabulary made 915 arrests involving those under 18 years of age, a 17.4% decrease on the previous year. 872 (95%) of these had detention authorised. 37% had Child Action North West as an Appropriate Adult, with 50% having family and 13% Social Services. 99% had a Custody Sergeant check list added to the record and 95% had a Custody Inspector check list added.

Under 18 Wait Time



Cheshire
Constabulary

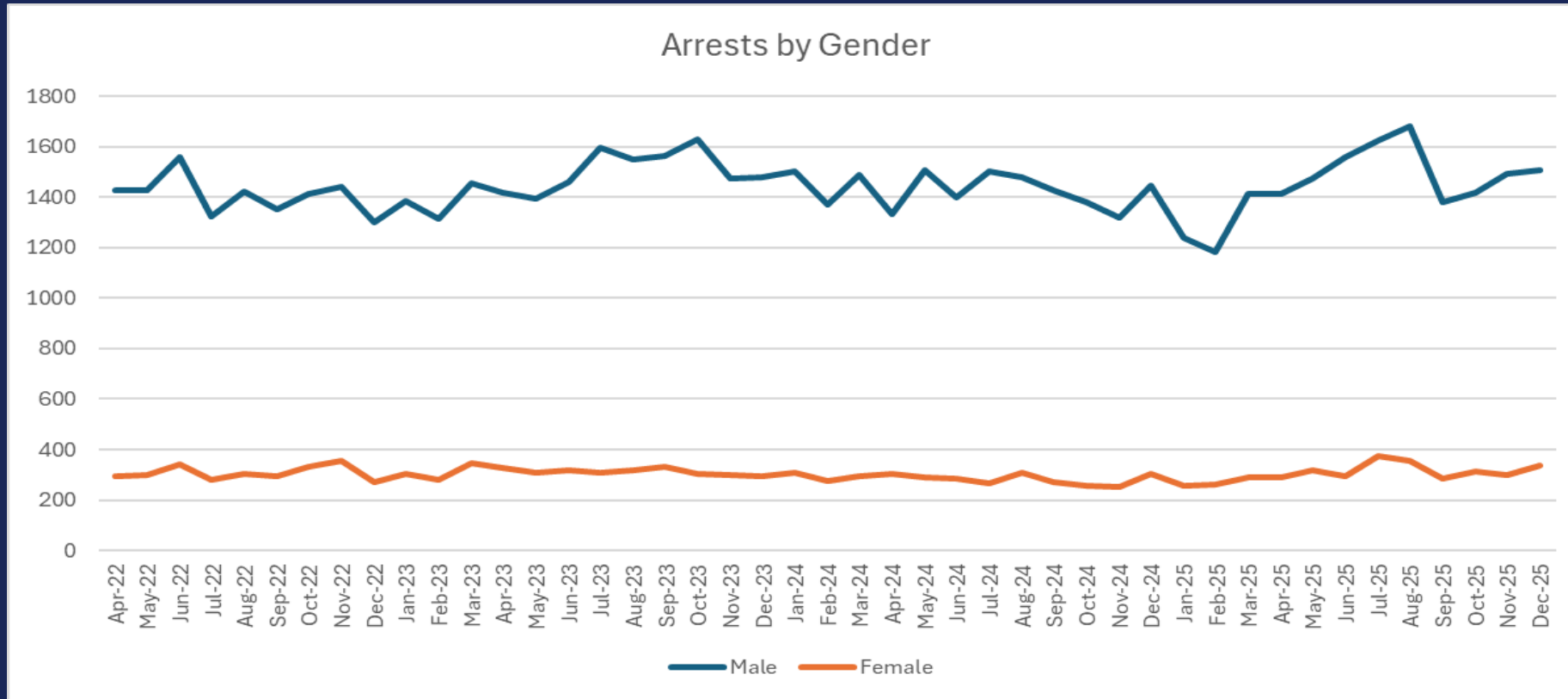


The median wait time for Under 18s over the 12-month period ending Dec-25 was 15.99 minutes, a 57.54% increase on the same period in 2024 .

Demographics of Arrests - Gender



Cheshire
Constabulary



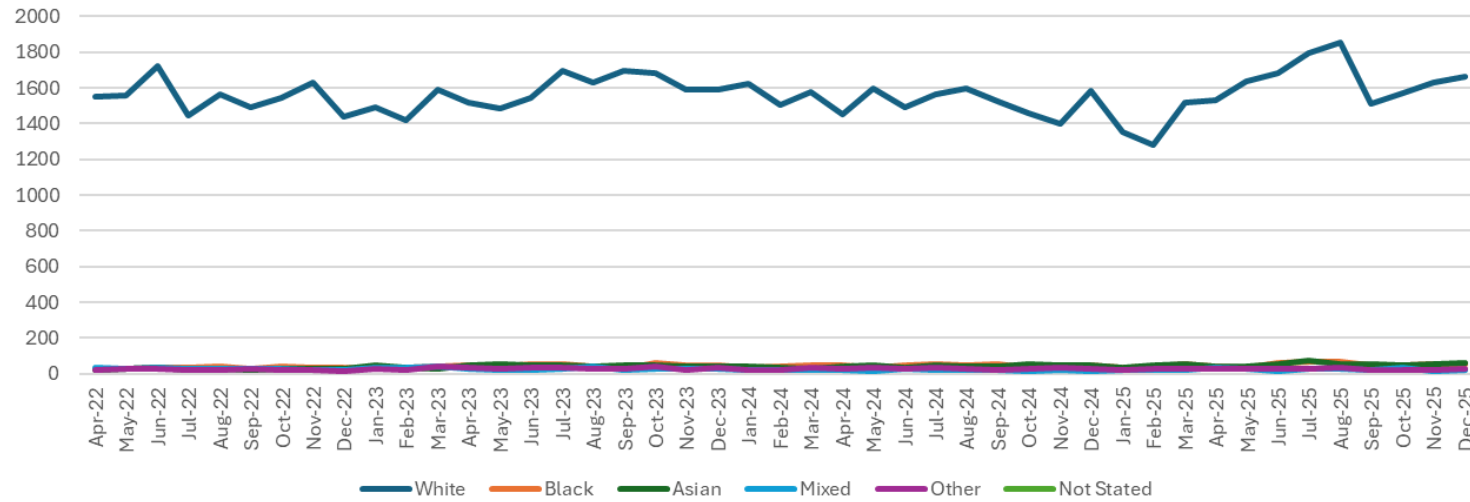
For the 12 months to the end of December 2025 the Constabulary made 17,396 arrests of males, a 1.45% increase on the previous year. During the same period, the Constabulary arrested 3,677 females, a 7.67% increase on 2024.

Demographics of Arrests – Ethnicity (SDE)



Cheshire Constabulary

Arrests by Ethnicity incl. White



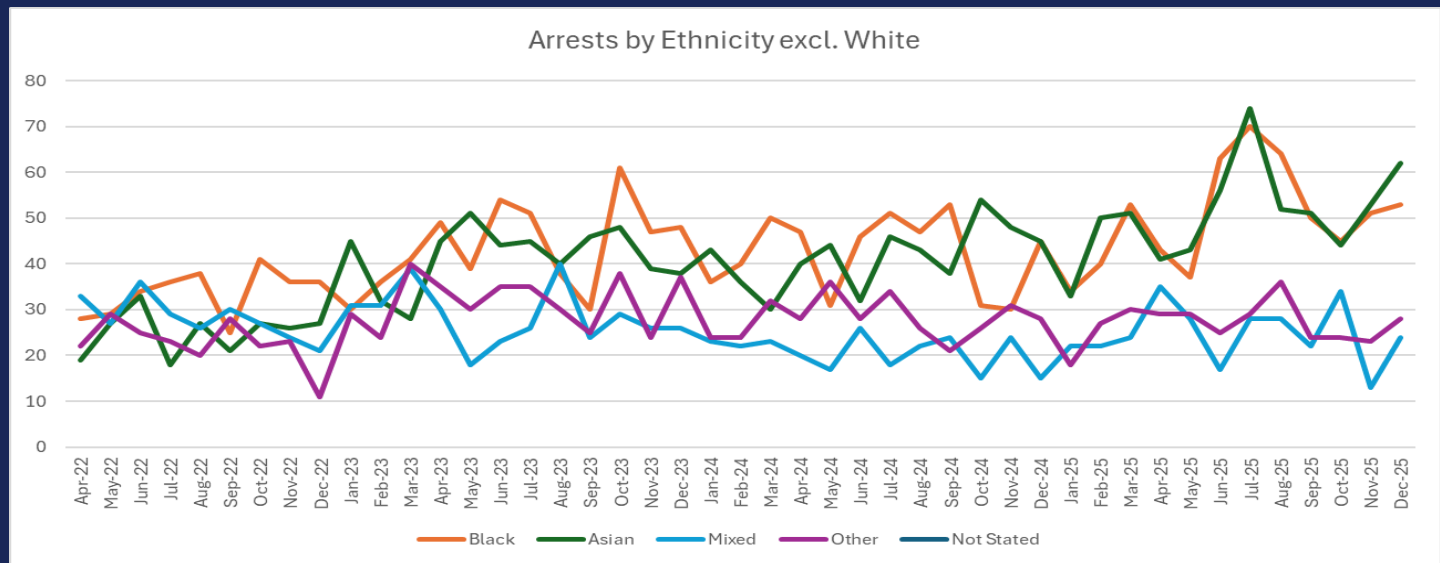
In 2025 19,015 arrested people had a self-defined ethnicity as 'White' a 3.53% increase from 2024.

During 2025, 610 arrests had a SDE of 'Asian' an increase of 22.24% from the previous year.

The same period recorded 603 'Black' SDE arrests, a 12-month increase of 18.93%.

2025 recorded 297 'Mixed' SDE arrests an increase of 19.28% from 2024.

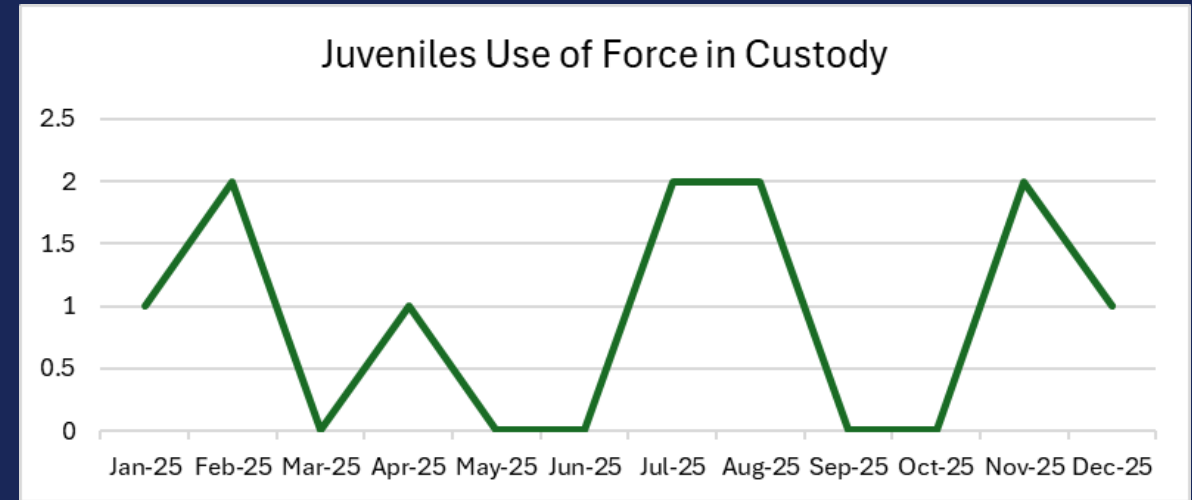
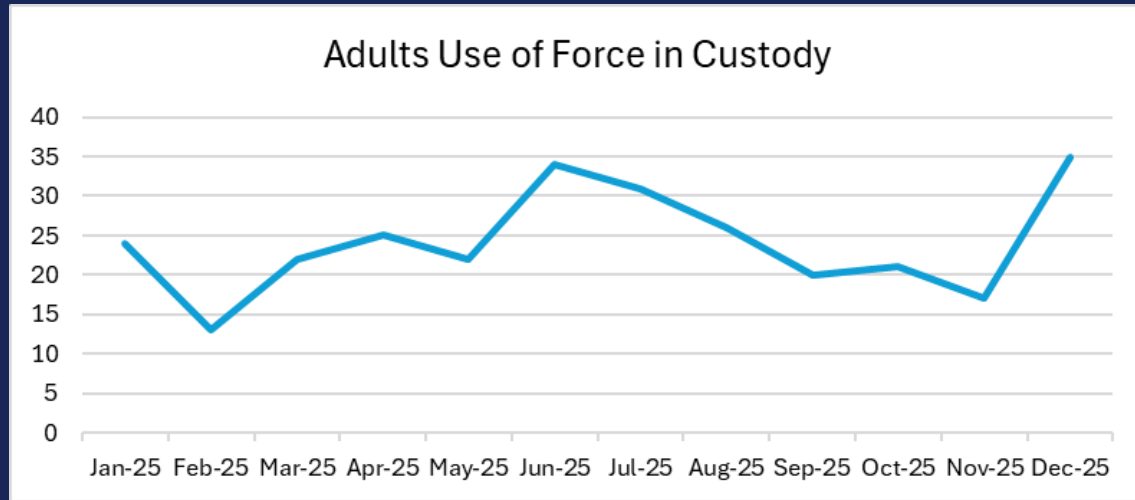
Arrests by Ethnicity excl. White



Use of Force in Custody by Age Group



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301 individuals had force used against them whilst detained in custody in 2025 (1.4% of all arrests) a slight increase on 2024 where 259 individuals had force used against them (1.2% of all arrests)

11 juveniles had force used against them in custody in 2025 compared to 12 in 2024

Use of Force in Custody



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Force Used	% of all force used
Handcuffs	34%
Prone restraint	26%
Open hand techniques	20%
Incapacitant spray	3%
Other	18%

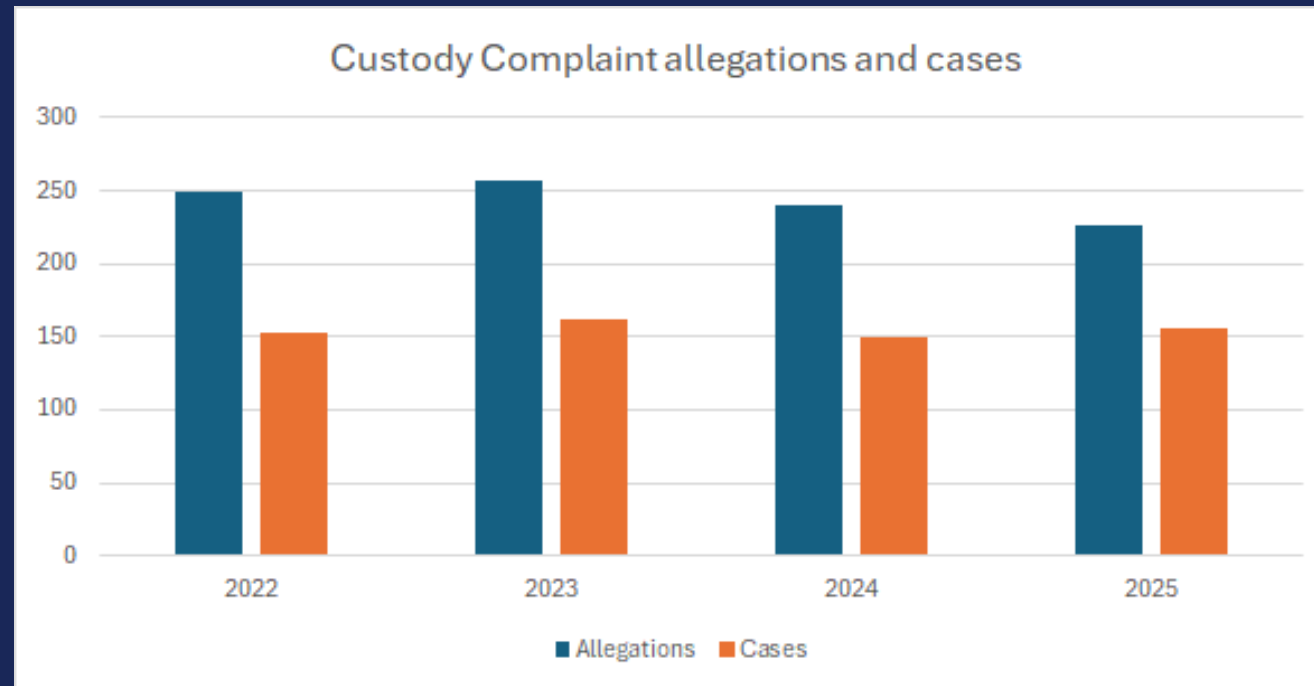
Handcuffs form the most widely used tactic, followed by prone restraint and open hand techniques

Note multiple tactics can be used in relation to the same individual. Other includes all other tactics such as head guard, limb / body restraint, spit guard etc.

Custody complaint allegations



Cheshire
Constabulary

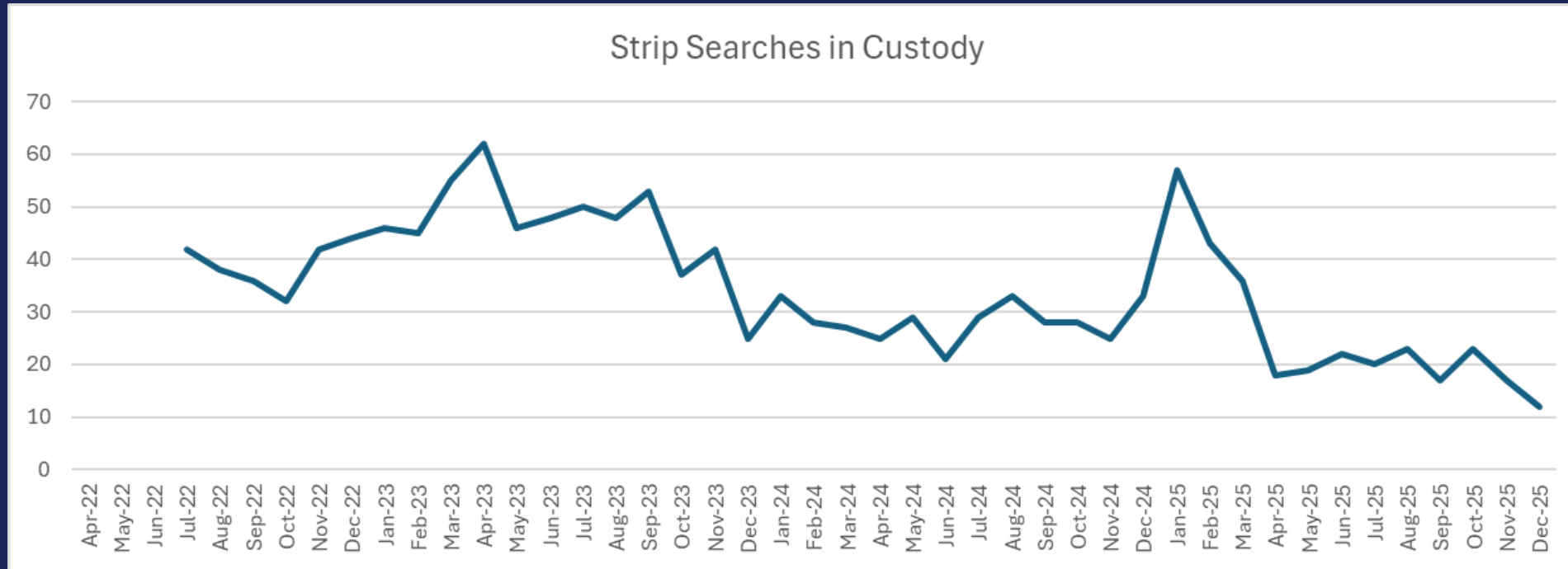


In 2025 there were 226 allegations, a decrease of 5.8% on 2024. There were 156 unique cases, a 4.7% increase on the 149 in 2024

Strip Searches



Cheshire
Constabulary



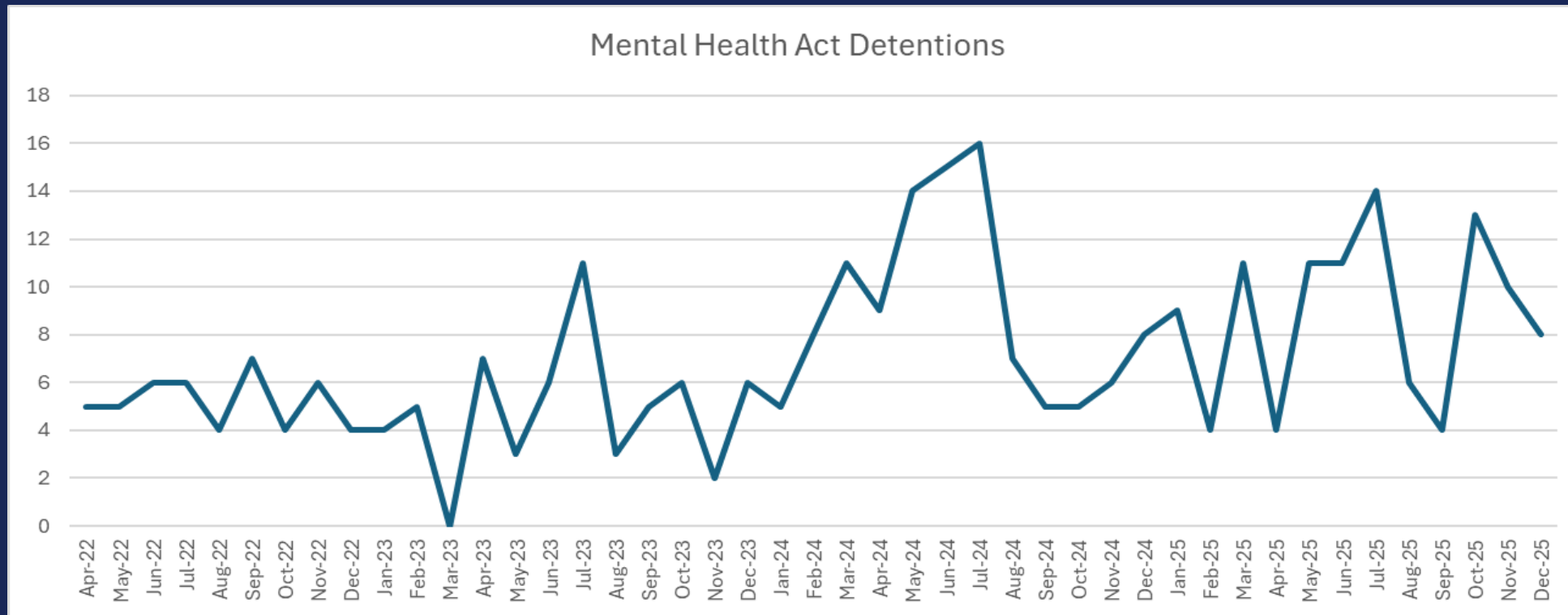
209 strip searches were completed in Cheshire detention suites during 2025, a 46% decrease on 2024. In 2025 there were 12 strip searches undertaken on juvenile detainees compared to 15 in 2024.

Intimate searches are not carried out in Cheshire custody suites, if required these are conducted in a hospital.

Mental Health Act Detentions



Cheshire
Constabulary

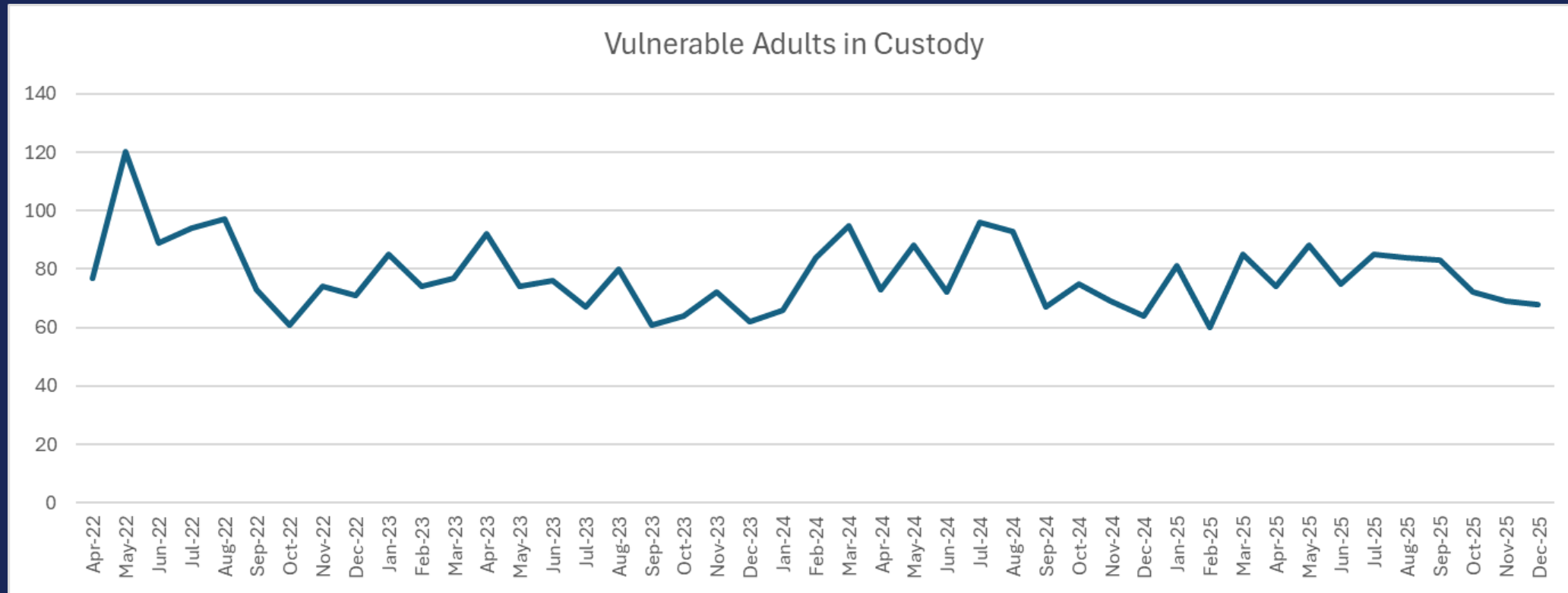


In 2025 Cheshire Constabulary had 105 MHA detentions, a small decrease of 3.67% on the previous 2024 period.

Vulnerable Adults in Custody



Cheshire
Constabulary



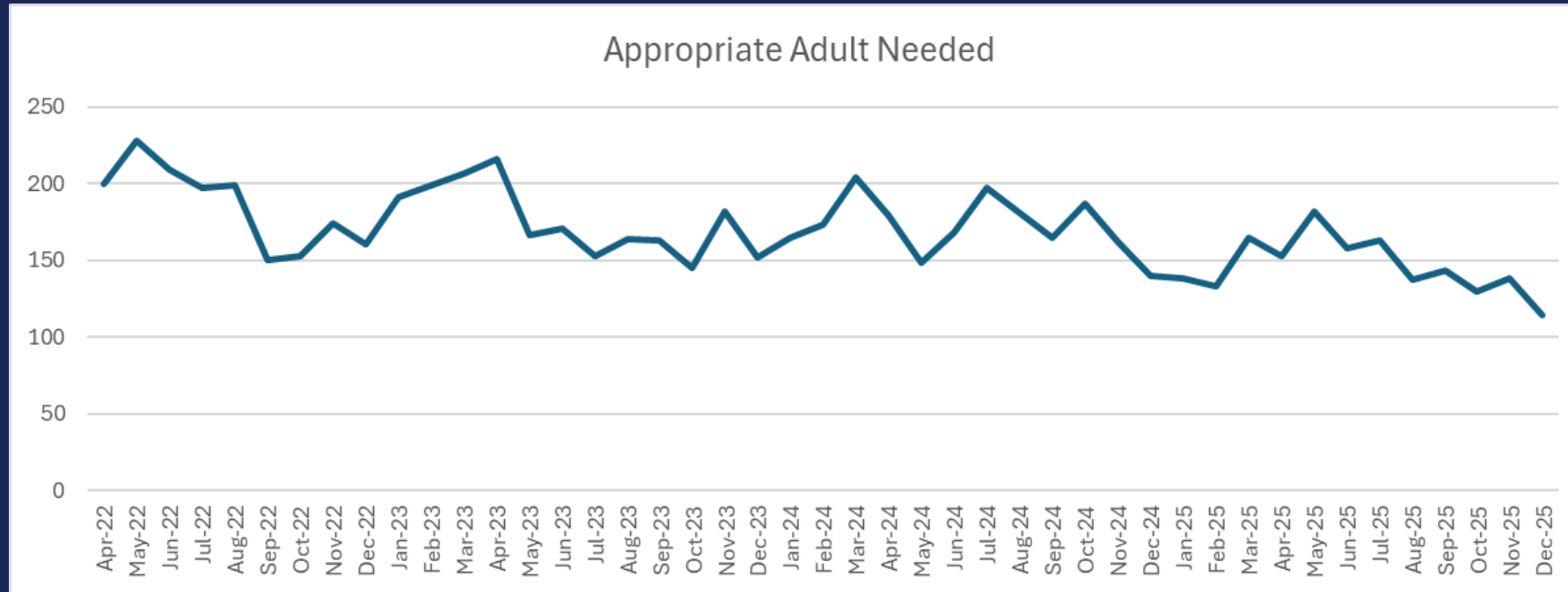
In 2025, 924 Cheshire Constabulary detainees were identified as vulnerable* adults, a small decrease of 1.91% on the previous 2024 period.

*All Under 18s are classified as vulnerable and not included in this count (see Under 18 slide).

Appropriate Adult Requested



Cheshire
Constabulary



1754 Appropriate Adult requests were made by Cheshire Constabulary throughout 2025, a decrease of 15.22% on the previous 2024 period.

Baird Inquiry Update



Cheshire
Constabulary

- Report published July 2024
- The inquiry investigated the treatment of individuals in police custody in the **Greater Manchester** police force area with a particular focus on women and girls.
- The report made 30 recommendations to address systemic issues within GMP and improve the treatment of vulnerable individuals in custody.
- The recommendations can be grouped into a smaller number of key themes:
 - Scrutiny, oversight and quality control
 - Training and guidance
 - Support for female detainees
 - Documentation of strip searches
- Cheshire Constabulary has reviewed the recommendations in relation to its own Custody facilities

Baird Inquiry Update



Cheshire
Constabulary

- Of the 30 recommendations, 4 have been signed off as complete in Cheshire by the Deputy Chief Constable:
 1. Refresher training on voluntary attendance
 2. Refresher training on the national decision-making model
 3. The ease of access to “arrest packs”
 4. The quality control of “arrest packs”
- All of the remaining recommendations are being written up for sign off by Chief Officers
- 4 of the recommendations relating to Scrutiny by OPCC will be completed by new arrangements currently being implemented.
- There are a small number of recommendations which require further financial consideration or where the force may not fully comply but with justified rationale.