



ANNUAL

REPORT 2025

Rural Voices, **Real** Impact

Message from the Chair, Tim Passmore

2025 was a year of progress for the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN). We strengthened partnerships, influenced national policy, and secured vital funding to support rural policing.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. Economic and political uncertainty means rural communities need a strong voice more than ever.



Our priorities include fairer funding for rural police forces, tackling serious and organised crime, and addressing rural vulnerability—ensuring issues like domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual abuse are taken seriously.

Mental health and wellbeing in rural areas are often overlooked. In 2026, NRCN will spotlight these issues and continue driving change to make rural communities safer.



Executive Summary

2025 marked a turning point for NRCN. Our mission to champion rural communities and tackle crime delivered tangible results—from securing government pledges to shaping national strategies. This report highlights key achievements and our vision for the future.

2025 Highlights

01



Hosted our second **National Rural Crime Conference**, with two ministerial speakers and a £900K government pledge for rural and wildlife crime policing.

02

Played a key role in **Parliament's rural crime debate** at Westminster Hall.



03



Sponsored rural crime Fringe Events at the **Conservative and Labour Party Conferences**.

04

Joined the **South East Serious Organised Waste Crime Roundtable** to support PCCs in producing a new plan to tackle organised waste crime.



05



Supported a new **BBC** documentary on rural services featuring our Chair, **Tim Passmore**.

06

Supported **Resolve's Anti-Social Behaviour awareness week**, spotlighting rural and heritage-related anti-social behaviour.



- Briefed Shadow Ministers and Opposition leads on urgent rural crime issues, including our 10-point action plan.
- Worked with the NPCC lead to ensure rural voices shape the new rural and wildlife crime strategy.
- Launched the Rural Domestic Abuse Working Group to influence the government's VAWG strategy.
- Represented rural PCCs and Deputy Mayors at the Safer Streets Rural Taskforce roundtable with the Home Office & DEFRA, urging implementation of the 10-point action plan.
- Highlighted partnership success in tackling rural crime using **NFU Mutual's Rural Crime Survey** in Parliament.
- Represented rural PCCs and Deputy Mayors at the **Selecta DNA Acquisitive Crime Conference 2025**, highlighting the impact of acquisitive crime on rural business and communities.
- Welcomed new partners, **Naturewatch Foundation**, and new members **West Yorkshire Combined Authority** and **Humberside**.
- New Associate Members including **Openreach** and the **Clearway Group**.
- Developed our new **3-year strategy consultation** for members and partners (launching in 2026).



Looking Ahead

Our priorities for 2026 include expanding partnerships, deepening policy influence, and implementing our new 3-year strategy.

The new plan will be unveiled in the new year—**stay tuned.**



Visit Us

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Partners



Follow our journey and initiatives