

PRIVATE

Professor Marks
Senior Coroner for City of Hull & East Riding
Coroner's Courts & Office
The Guildhall
Alfred Gelder Street
Kingston upon Hull
HU1 2AA



Date: 15 June 2026

Chief Constable of Humberside Police

For the Attention of Professor Marks

Dear Coroner

Inquest touching the death of Ellie Mae Herron

I write in response to the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 24 April 2026.

Your report raises the following Matters of Concern:

"Pearson Park is frequented by individuals who sell and abuse drugs, drink alcohol and in addition, many individuals sleep rough in the park. It is well known that criminal activities of various sorts occurs in this park, and vulnerable individuals are at high risk as a consequence."

You asked for a review of the policing and police presence in this area. This report is intended to provide you with an overview of action by Humberside Police and partner agencies in the area local to Pearson Park.

Summary

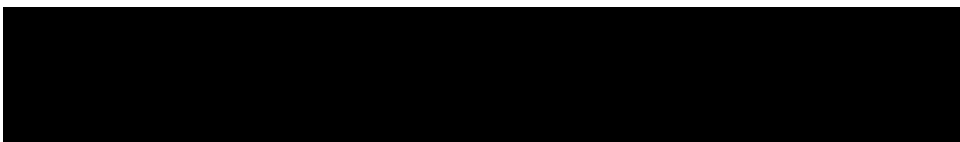
Pearson Park and the surrounding areas are a high demand, high footfall area where Humberside Police is working very closely with the Local Authority to reduce demand and vulnerability. The complexities of the growing homeless population in Hull are something all partner agencies are committed to working through.

Humberside Police take regular robust enforcement options including those detailed below. For the North Bank Command Senior Leadership Team this area of Hull remains a priority for resources, prevention activity, and intelligence gathering. We will continue to target drug use in this area.

Humberside Police's thoughts remain with the family of Miss Herron.

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Background

Pearson Park is a park in the west of Kingston upon Hull, England. It is situated about 1 mile (1.5 km) north-west of the city centre of Hull with its main entrance on Beverley Road and its western boundary adjoining Princes Avenue. It is a large open area with a large Victorian style conservatory alongside a lake. There is a play park for children and a small café operating alongside the lake. There is a large, covered band stand within the grounds.

Previously, conversations have taken place around improving the lighting within Pearson Park, however, due to the wildlife in the area, namely bats, and also the cost implications there have been challenges in relation to progressing this.

Westbourne Avenue is situated opposite Pearson Park. It is a residential street, predominantly comprised of large houses. Some of these have been converted to HMOs, such is their size. Others remain as homes for individuals or families.

Westbourne House is situated at the corner of Princes Ave and Westbourne Ave. It is a commissioned HMO owned and run by Humbercare. There are 53 units of supported accommodation. As a commissioned service there are additional responsibilities on the premises. This means that statutory partners work with their residents, and also that there is on site security within the premises. Westbourne House has been open for ten years and since it has opened there has been complaints from residents in the surrounding areas regarding ASB, drug use, street drinking and homelessness. It is believed by residents that due to vulnerability of the service users at Westbourne House and their lifestyles that this is the main contributor to the issues in the area.

Princes Avenue is a mixture of residential and mixed commercial premises. There are several shops, pubs, takeaways and cafes on this road.

Westbourne Avenue, Princes Avenue and Pearson Park had an increase in both ASB and recorded crime in 2025. Residents were reporting people under the influence, being laid out and being sick in the street. They were also reporting aggressive begging outside Sainsbury's on Princes Avenue, and large groups gathering of people who are under the influence. They have also reported open drug use in the street and sex trade workers openly offering services. There have also been a number of fights and other violent offences in the area. Residents were reporting feeling intimidated when walking down the street.

Police & Partnership response – Operation Vortex 2025:

Operation Vortex Aim:

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The overall intention of Operation Vortex is to provide a proportionate, proactive and engaging response to the threats and risks presented to the community as a result of anti-social behaviour and or criminal activity on the Avenues ward.

The aim of the operation is to reduce ASB in the Avenues ward from the levels seen between May and October 2025 where there has been a significant spike, and for levels to remain more stable throughout the year.

Operation Vortex is a policing operation on the Avenues ward, Hull in response to crime and Anti social behaviour, mainly focussed around Princes Avenue, Westbourne Avenue, Pearson Park and Beverley Road.

Operation Vortex commenced 27th October 2025 initially with 2 weeks of intensive action where the following resources were used:

- 2 x NPT officers in company with 2 x ASB officers.
- The Neighbourhood Tactical Unit
- 2 x patrol officers for one hour per day
- 2 x double crewed officers on overtime

During these two weeks there were 111 breaches of Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) dealt with by the staff, 17 arrests and 30 stop searches, as well as an increased amount of intel submissions.

In addition to this there has also been the Home Office hotspot funding in this area. There has been over 15 days between September – November 2025 where two uniformed officers have been on foot patrol on overtime in the area and officers on overtime in plain clothes over a 10-day period in November. There were also four Op Forager operations with the passive drugs dog in November.

A number of visits to licensed premises in the area have been conducted by the Licensing team and test purchasing has been carried out. One licensed premises on Princes Avenue has been issued a formal warning due to breaching conditions. Other premises in the area have been issued letters warning against selling single cans and super strength alcohol to street drinkers.

On completion of the intensification weeks the following was completed:

- An OSARA problem solving plan has been created for the area this is jointly owned by Humberside Police and Hull City Council
- Regular meetings with staff at Westbourne House and Terry Street hostel.
- A number of residents meetings/Street surgeries

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- Humbertalking in the area, where Neighbourhood officers & PCSO's attend properties in areas to ask questions and listen to concerns
- Patch walk with MP Diana Johnson
- Councillors updated by beat officers and area co-ordinators.
- A tiered list run by Hull City Council has been introduced to manage nominals in the area. These are individuals identified through police tasking processes as priority subjects based on repeat behaviour, risk, and community impact.
- An Op Vortex briefing meeting has been set up between Hull West Supervision and Partners. This was initially a daily meeting and is now once every two weeks.
- A 'Power BI' dashboard has been set up that is distributed to Hull West supervision and Avenues staff with details of crime on the ward, intel submitted, and tiered list nominals.
- Two problem profiles have been created by Divisional Intelligence Bureau. Actions have been set for all addresses and nominals which feature.
- A Teams channel has been created for Op Vortex.
- Regular meetings taking place between the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Sainsbury's on Princes Avenue.
- Two Tactical Surveillance Unit cameras have been installed in the area
- The CCTV camera which covers the bandstand in Pearson Park has been repaired.
- A patch walk with partners and the Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO) has been completed in Pearson Park and environmental changes such as cutting back vegetation has been completed.
- A property on Pearson Park attracting street drinkers and ASB has been boarded up.
- A 'Poplite' for a repeat nominal has been created and a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) application has been completed pending court date.
- Lighting has been fixed on the bandstand to assist with CCTV footage.
- Electrical sockets have been isolated in Pearson Park conservatory due to street drinkers gathering inside and abstracting electricity.
- Regular meeting set up between Humberside Police and Humbercare regarding their HMOs in the area.
- Op Prowess patrols briefed.
- Patrol officers/Proactive/Kinetic briefed.
- Media have been out on patrol with NPT and BBC have interviewed Ch Insp Stevens.
- QR codes have been set up for PSPO Breaches and returns for Op Vortex.
- Addition £15k overtime budget secured
- Consultations with Legal Services regarding ASB powers
- Raised at Tactical Tasking Coordination Group and mandatory patrolling area for patrol officers
- Briefing slides created for patrol officers
- An Ops order created for staff working from different areas/pillars.
- Regular returns data provided to partners.
- Added to ward tasking

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Police & Partnership response – Operation Vortex 2026:

The following is also ongoing in 2026:

- There are two officers dedicated to the Avenues area every day on high visibility foot patrol. This is between the hours of 0800-2200 (sometimes 2300hrs). High visibility patrolling includes joint patrols with partnership agencies.
- Requests are also made via TTCG for additional resources from patrol and other force resources in the area when required.
- Two dedicated Detective Constable's have been allocated to the operation to expedite any crimes that occur linked to nominals on the tiered list, linked to Op Vortex area, or are crimes related to Op Vortex.
- Logs and crimes for the area are reviewed daily and appropriate action taken.
- Work ongoing to build wider knowledge and intelligence picture for the area around ASB, street drinking and drugs.
- Enforcement of the tiered list process (Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW) / Community Protection Notices (CPN) / Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) applications).
- Increase media and social media presence to promote good work to increase public confidence.
- Regular engagement with the park rangers to address any concerns / issues and obtain information in relation to problem individuals within the park.
- Communication on going between the neighbourhood teams particularly Hull West and Hull Central due to the transient nature of people moving between the ward areas.
- Work continues in relation to Organised Crime Groups acting in and around the area to arrest, and bring to justice.

Hull CC Neighbourhood Nuisance Team (NNT) – response

From a NNT perspective, support has been given to Op Vortex by ensuring that the ward ASB Officer completes 4 sessions per week of joint patrols with NPT staff in the hotspot areas identified

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with a view to enforce the PSPO legislation, offer support and advice to the public, and provide a visual deterrence. These sessions are carried out in a random order of AM and PM sessions organised by the ASB Officers in conjunction with NPT staff shift patterns.

The NNT have employed 2 x ASB Officers who have been ringfenced to enforcing the PSPO legislation and will be deployed across the city. We will deploy these Officers to locations based on what the intelligence and data are showing as problematic areas. During peak times and increase demand we will utilise these officers within the Op Vortex area enforcing the PSPO.

Governance

Partners have stood up a simple, repeatable governance and tasking model to run Op VORTEX and deliver the OSARA objectives. Activity is coordinated through three forums, each with a clear purpose, cadence, and outputs:

1) Tiered List (Key Nominals) – every 6 weeks

- Purpose: Manage the small number of high-harm nominals (OCG-linked supply, persistent ASB/street drinking/sex work facilitators).
- Led by: Police NPT (with Council ASB).
- Core members: NPT/Intel, Council ASB/Community Safety, Probation/IOM, ReNew (drug & alcohol), Housing providers/HMO enforcement, Licensing (as required).
- Inputs: Recent crime and incident logs, CPNW/CPN status, intel updates, enforcement outcomes.
- Outputs: Named actions per nominal (enforcement and support), target dates, information-sharing tasks, review of displacement/impact.

2) Ward Partnership Tasking – every 6 weeks

- Purpose: Place-based tasking to reduce opportunity: CPTED/environmental changes, PSPO enforcement, engagement/communications, activation of the park/public realm.
- Led by: Council (with Police NPT).
- Core members: NPT/PCSOs, Community Safety/ASB, Environmental Crime, Parks/Open Spaces, Housing, Highways/Street Scene, Business/trader reps, Residents/Friends group (as appropriate).
- Inputs: Hotspot maps, service requests, Humber Talking feedback, environmental defect reports.
- Outputs: Time-bound works orders (lighting, pruning, sightlines), patrol/tasking plan, comms to residents and traders, escalation of blockers.

3) Op VORTEX Key-Partner Catch-Ups – from May, Wednesday mornings

- Purpose: Rapid coordination and deconfliction: review last 7 days, set next 7 days; agree patrol times, outreach rota, and comms.
- Led by: Police NPT & Council.
- Core members: NPT/Tasking, Council ASB, Parks/Open Spaces, ReNew/outreach, NHS/mental health/substance misuse (as needed), Licensing (as needed).
- Inputs: Daily logs, emerging intelligence, community reports.

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- Outputs: Weekly hotspot plan, agreed visible guardianship times, swift fixes (e.g., cleansing, repairs), short update to partners.

Support for individuals with multiple unmet needs

Humberside Police complete a Vulnerable Adult form in relation to concerns they have when engaging with a member of the public. This enables assessment within our vulnerability hub and information sharing between partner agencies.

Humberside Police refer individuals to the Changing Futures hub on Beverley Road, Hull. This provides a base for multi-agency team working to discuss support needs and accommodation options. Contained within the building are a clinic room, one to one rooms for support, a large meeting room for group sessions, shower facilities, and a fully fitted kitchen with washing machine and dryer.

Changing Futures is a national programme aiming to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple unmet needs. These include combinations of homelessness and rough sleeping, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system. They often fall through the gaps between services and systems, making it harder for them to address their problems. Changing Futures Hull is supported by [Making Every Adult Matter \(MEAM\)](#). The multi-agency team are based in the Changing Futures Hub and work with individuals to lead more fulfilling lives.

Results

Since the start of Op Vortex:

- The neighbourhood team have completed 57 Stop Searches, 46 arrests, 165 intel reports, 5 Op Forager deployments, 785 breaches of PSPO, 21 CPNWs and 9 CPNs. We currently have 4 applications for CBOs waiting to be heard.
- Closure orders have been sought for problem properties.
- A Partial closure order has been granted for another flat which is attracting a large amount of ASB/Calls for service.
- Warrants have been completed at addresses linked to drug supply and OCG activity.
- Large cannabis grows located at several addresses and dismantled.

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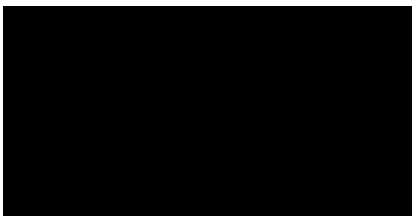
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As above, the area of and surrounding Pearson Park in Hull remains a priority for Humberside Police in terms of resources, prevention activity, and intelligence gathering. This is to target drug use and Anti-Social Behaviour, and assist partnership agencies to provide support to vulnerable individuals in the area.

I hope that this provides you with assurance that the Matters of Concern that were identified are already and continue to be fully addressed by Humberside Police.

Yours sincerely



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