

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 17 September 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Towill, Vice Chair.

Councillors Alvey, Atiya-Alla, Dewhirst, Fitter, Hackett, Knowles, Partridge, Mrs Pengelly, Samuel and Wright.

Co-opted Representatives: Sharon Minty (Independent Member for Cornwall)

Apologies for absence: Councillors Biederman, Chopak, Hopwood, Loudoun, Rodgers, Tilbey and Salmon.

Also in attendance: Alison Hernandez (Police and Crime Commissioner), Frances Hughes (Chief Executive for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), Felicity Ridgeway (Director of Operations for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), Jamie Sheldon and Jake Metcalfe

The meeting started at 10:30 and finished at 11:41.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

Councillor Croad offered words of solace in relation to the tragic Keyham events and thanked people across the country and the world who had offered condolences to the City and the community of Keyham.

Councillor Croad led members in a minutes silence as a mark of respect for those who tragically lost their lives in the devastating incident and in support also of their families and loved ones as well as all those who had been affected.

55. Minutes

The Chair proposed the minutes of 9 July 2021 to the panel for approval, this was seconded by Councillor Towill.

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

56. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Towill declared a private interest as a holder of a Devon and Cornwall Police firearms license.

Sharon Minty declared a private interest in relation to item 5 and 7 due to employment for an organisation that delivered victim support.

57. **Public Questions**

There had been no public questions submitted.

58. **Summary of Police and Crime Commissioner's Response to the Mass Shootings in Keyham, Plymouth**

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, introduced the report to members and commented on the tragedy, the one minutes silence at the beginning of the meeting and thanked people for their response following the events.

Members discussed:

- Thanked members for the one minutes silence at the beginning of the meeting and thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for her response of the tragedy.
- Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly formally thanked all the emergency responders who had bravely ran to the aid of the people in Keyham. Councillor Mrs Pengelly commented on their care and dedication to their roles. Plymouth City Council staff had been thanked for tirelessly helping the residents of Keyham affected in the aftermath.
- Plymouthtogether.co.uk had been set up for residents to have information, updates and advice on the support that had been put together.
- Local community groups, ward councillors and MPs had been thanked for their response.
- Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, advised the Panel that the OPCC had been in contact with Home Office and Ministry of Justice to acquire more resources for the community; hot spot policing had been used in Keyham for which the Police and Crime Commissioner had some reservations around for not wanting to over criminalising a community following a response; Safer Streets initiative successfully implemented in Stonehouse would be extended to Keyham. Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, would be requesting £3 million over three years to help fund the response.
- The victim support line is available to anyone in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that had been a victim of crime.

59. **Commissioner's Update Report**

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, presented the report to members and updated members on the following points:

- The Safer Streets bid for Exeter and another part of Plymouth had been delayed.

- Within the Vision Zero Partnership, the Board had taken full control of the camera partnership and would be seeking to implement changes to achieve their targets. The Commissioner thanked members for their commitment in their communities through the community speed watch and volunteers who had kept people safe on the roads.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had been successful in receiving extra funding for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators programme. The Police had been funding victim support in relation to domestic abuse but the funding would start to tackle the perpetrators.
- The summer of 2021 had been busy for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, due to the impact of COVID-19 and the UK population opting for more 'staycations'. This had also resulted in more traffic and tragically deaths had occurred on the roads.
- If members of the public wanted to sight the live wait times of the 101 service they would be able to go online for this information.
- Newquay Police station had reopened to the public and the Commissioner expressed a commitment to reopen Tiverton's Police station in Devon along with others across the region afterwards.

Members discussed:

- That there had been a spike in deaths on the highways in Devon and Cornwall. The Commissioner clarified that there had been 21 deaths on the regions roads over a three month period which had reinforced the decision to move forward with the Vision Zero partnership to bring those road deaths to zero. The Commissioner advised members that people wanting to end their lives on the road rather than having a collision and losing their lives had increased and would be brought back to the Panel at a later date to have a discussion.
- A request for an update on traveller legislation at a future meeting due to on-going problems caused in the region.
- Members requested that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner circulate to the public the re-opening of Newquay Police station and other future Police stations in the future.
- The Commissioner advised members that Tiverton Police station would open in the Autumn of 2021.
- The Commissioner had been thanked by Councillor Knowles for the grant in relation to CCTV and would be implementing this shortly.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner advised members that Operation Snap provided 200 uploads a month with around two thirds having some

form of action taken. The Commissioner would also look into initiatives to reduce horse deaths and other related problems across the region.

- The Commissioner had advised Councillor Hackett that handheld camera's for community speed watch teams should be supplied by the Police. If this had not been happening the Commissioner requested this to be submitted in writing.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner would correspond with Councillor Lois Samuel with further information of the domestic abuse perpetrator programme in order for this to inform the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Panel of good practice between Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth and Torbay as a collective.

60. **Draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025**

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, introduced the report to members.

Members discussed:

- Would the Commissioner in the Draft Police and Crime Plan provide more prominence of her voice of the plans to tackle violent crime that disproportionality affect women and girls?

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, advised that this had been at the forefront of her thoughts and would reflect on how the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will enable the public to understand that violence against women and girls is taken seriously.

- The survey results did not provide any gender specification which would provide insight into the difference in crime affecting the different genders.
- Concern that the Police and Crime Commissioner had not been doing any work with people from an ethnic minority background with the backdrop of a raise in hate crime following the COVID-19 pandemic. Concerns had also been raised that 3% of respondents to the draft plan were from a BME background. What would the Commissioner be doing in terms of policy to help BME communities going forward?

The Commissioner highlighted that this was a draft plan and the OPCC had been working out what the measures of success are and the Commissioner would monitor hate crime as part of those measures, this would be critical to understand whether communities were cohesive. BME respondents to the survey had been more than the percentage of population in the 2011 census. The Commissioner would reflect on how to reassure members that these issues are being focussed on.

- The Commissioner advised that the Devon and Cornwall Police force did not reflect BME communities enough and suggested this as an item for a

future meeting in order to show what the Police had been doing in terms of recruitment to better reflect communities.

- Anti-social behaviour had been consistently raised as one of the top three areas of concern for the public. Plymouth had seen an increased volume in anti-social behaviour especially at night. How serious had the Commissioner been taking this?

Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, advised that the force and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner needed to complete some work in properly defining anti-social behaviour. This had been due to certain things such as dog-fouling being classified under anti-social behaviour but it had not been within the remit for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner also expressed concern over the bureaucracy of anti-social behaviour and the various agencies required to be involved which would lead to an increased length of time to problem solve. The Commissioner would like to streamline this process.

The Panel noted the report.

61. **Government Review of the Role of Police and Crime Commissioner (Part 2)**

Frances Hughes, Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, introduced the report to members and highlighted the following key points:

- Members were advised that part one and part two of the Government review would be summarised and presented to ministers before the end of November 2021, to allow for legislative time. It was anticipated that primary legislation would need to change to reflect outcomes.
- Deloitte had been commissioned and they would be contacting a cross section of Police and Crime Panels over the immediate coming weeks wishing to seek conversations with members.

Members noted the report.

62. **Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner received under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act**

There had been no complaints made to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner since the new term of office.

63. **Work Programme - To Follow**

Members discussed:

- Neighbourhood Watch, this had moved to November's agenda from the September meeting

- Traveller Legislation update