



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel
7th February 2020
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

This report draws the Police and Crime Panel's attention to a number of matters that have arisen, or progress that has been made, since the last Panel meeting in September 2019 - any of which the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) would be happy to expand upon further.

This report does not contain updates on issues related to road safety or rural crime which are the subject of separate reports to this meeting.

1. Policy developments

1.1 Development of an application to the Home Office for a Special Grant

The Police and Crime Panel were informed at the last meeting of the work the Commissioner and Chief Constable were conducting to seek additional funding from the Home Office to reflect the additional pressures placed upon Devon and Cornwall Police as a result of the summer surge of tourism.

PCCs can apply for special grant funding from a national £73m Special Grant Funding process to meet additional costs that would be incurred from policing unexpected or exceptional events. Earlier this year the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) commenced discussions with the Home Office, on the advice of the then Policing Minister Nick Hurd MP regarding an application for a Special Grant based upon the unique demands that are placed upon Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by the combined factors of exceptionally high tourism levels, rurality and geographical isolation.

With visitor numbers second only to London, at around 45 million nights per year, we see significant increases from April to September in levels of recorded crime and in calls for service in areas such as missing persons and road traffic accidents. This level of tourism is equivalent to a base population increase throughout the whole year of 7% of whom we need to protect and police with no extra funding. Our recorded crime increases in the summer period are the highest of any police force, and affects all area of our geography as demonstrated by the presentation to the Panel at its meeting in June 2019.

On 26th September 2019, the Commissioner led a delegation of elected members and police representatives to London to present the funding submission to the Home Office. The Policing

and Fire Minister Kit Malthouse MP received the bid on behalf of the Home Office. Accompanying the Commissioner in presenting the application were representatives of the Police and Crime Panel: Cllr Chris Batters (Chair), Cllr Sally Haydon (Vice Chair), Cllr Philip Hackett and Cllr Kevin Towill. The delegation was joined by a number of local MPs, Devon and Cornwall Police representatives and the Chair of the local Police Federation. The Commissioner would like to formally thank the Panel members for their support in writing to the Minister and to also thank those local authorities and leadership boards who have written letters of support for the bid. We are aware of letters of support from Plymouth City Council, Exeter City Council, Teignbridge District Council and the Torbay Together Board. The Commissioner also welcomes the support received from a large number of our local MPs who have written to Ministers regarding the application (Selaine Saxby, Neil Parish, Simon Jupp, Steve Double, Anne Marie Morris, Cherilyn Mackrory, Mel Stride, Derek Thomas and Sheryll Murray).

The Commissioner's application was for a total of £17.9 million which related to expenditure across three financial years (2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019-20). Consideration of matters related to all special grant applications were delayed at the end of 2019 due to the general election but the Commissioner and her team have been in further discussions with the Home Office regarding our application in January. No formal decision regarding the application has been made by Ministers at the time of writing this report.

The Commissioner has been clear that pursuance of a special grant is just a part of a wider strategy to secure fairer funding for Devon and Cornwall Police through improvements to the funding formula. While we continue to seek support through the special grant process the Commissioner will also continue to campaign for an updated funding formula for policing which reflects not just the population increases we see from tourism but also the resource implications of policing a large rural area such as ours and of dealing with incidents such as mental ill health, missing person searches and road accidents.

The work carried out to develop the bid has allowed us to better understand and articulate the pressures faced within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We will continue to highlight both our exceptional circumstances and the innovative ways we are trying to tackle them through our 'We Police' campaign. A summary of the analysis carried out by OPCC Team has now been published on the OPCC website and is available in the Key Documents section of the OPCC website <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/key-documents/>

1.2 National investment in 20,000 new police officers

At its September 2019 meeting the Police and Crime Panel were provided with an update on the Prime Minister's announcement in July 2019 that an additional 20,000 new police officers would be recruited nationally. The Commissioner reported that a new National Policing Board chaired by the Home Secretary had been set up to oversee the uplift and that work was underway within Devon and Cornwall Police to prepare for a significant uplift in officer recruitment and to lobby for the best possible allocation for Devon and Cornwall.

The Government's national recruitment drive – 'Be a Force For All' was launched in September 2019 www.joiningthepolice.co.uk. Since that time Ministers have confirmed the allocation to each police force for the initial 6,000 recruits who will be in place by March 2021.

It was announced in late October 2019 that Devon and Cornwall Police would receive funding for 141 additional police officers as part of this first phase.

All of the 6,000 additional police officers in this first phase have been allocated to local police forces, in line with the distribution of core police grant. However Ministers have made it clear in statements in the House of Commons that they expect the future allocations will also include additional resources for nationally delivered policing services such as the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism. The Commissioner will continue to work with our 18 MPs to make the strongest possible case for allocating future new recruits to local police forces and to seek an allocation that is based upon population rather than the existing funding formula model which is widely acknowledged to not be fit for purpose.

Additional funding is being allocated to police forces to reflect the additional recruitment, training and support costs that will be incurred by this uplift in officer numbers and preparations within Devon and Cornwall for additional recruitment rounds is well advanced and the first new police officers have already commenced their training.

The Panel will be aware that in 2019 Devon and Cornwall Police, along with forces across England and Wales, moved to a new framework for police officer training. The new Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF) has made some significant changes to the recruitment pathways for police officers. New recruits will have the option to join on a 2 year graduate programme having completed an undergraduate degree or to join the new Police Officer Degree Apprenticeship Course and undertake a course of formal course of study alongside practical training over a 3 year period.

These changes are a recognition of the complex mix of legal, technical and practical skills held by our highly professional police officers. Contrary to media reports it is not the case that all joining police officers must have a degree - in recognition of the study they carry out and the skills they learn during their training they will be awarded a degree at the end of their training period. These changes are just part of the wider PEQF framework that has been introduced nationally and if the Panel would find it helpful a presentation can be provided to a future Panel meeting on the new arrangements.

1.3 Preventing gang violence – the Turning Corners Project in South Devon and Torbay

As the Panel is aware from previous reports in November 2018 the OPCC was awarded over £500,000 in funding from the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund for the Turning Corners Project until March 2020. This is a collaborative project being led by the Community Safety Partnerships in South Devon and Torbay. The project seeks to identify and divert young people at risk of becoming engaged in violence and gang activity and activity is primarily focused on Newton Abbot and Torbay.

The team have utilised an innovative Youth Exploitation Tracker Assessment (YETA) which was developed by the Metropolitan Police. The project team have adapted that tool and it is being used to understand the risks, behaviours and needs of individual young people in the area who are referred to the project by the police, schools, social services or other agencies. This assessment then enables the project team to identify appropriate interventions for that individual to manage those risks. Following these assessments tailored individual plans are

put in place with diversionary activities and sports led by specialist youth workers. As at 06 January 2020 there have been 144 referrals to the Turning Corners Project. Referrals have been made from the three areas within pilot as follows: Torbay (61), Teignbridge (46) and South Hams (37).

The evaluation of the project is being led by external evaluators appointed by the Home Office who will be meeting the project team at the end of January 2020. It is anticipated that the recommendations and outcomes of the evaluation report will shape the long-term future of any legacy commitments.

As we approach the end of the Home Office funding on 31st March 2020 Devon and Cornwall Police and the OPCC are working with delivery partners and with local authorities to determine the extent to which elements of the project might be sustained beyond March 2020. Whilst the evaluation is ongoing it is clear that the project has had a positive impact on the lives of people living in these communities and highlights the importance of taking a proactive and early intervention approach to issues of violence.

1.4 Publication of the 2019/20 Peninsula Wide Crime and Disorder Assessment (the Peninsula Strategic Assessment)

The Panel have previously been advised that the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police were working with the community safety partnerships from across Devon, Cornwall and the isles of Scilly to support the creation of a new Peninsula Strategic Assessment (PSA) for 2019/20. The PSA brings together analysts from the Peninsula Crime Analysts Network and practitioners from across the Community Safety Partnerships in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to provide a shared view on community safety priorities within the peninsula.

The PSA is an important tool for all parties with an interest in keeping communities safe and it plays an important role in informing the Commissioner's activities and priorities and her commissioning plans. The 2019/20 PSA was finalised in November 2019 and identifies ten high level threats within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as well as a series of moderate and low level threats. A copy of the 2019/20 PSA is available in the Key Documents section of the OPCC website <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/key-documents/>

The ten high level threats set out in the PSA are grouped in three areas:

Domestic abuse and sexual violence

- Domestic Abuse, including Domestic Homicide
- Rape and Sexual Assault
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Exploitation

- Drug Trafficking, including County Lines
- Modern Slavery
- Terrorism/Violent Extremism

Vulnerability and Complex Needs

- Problem Drug Use, including Drug Related Deaths
- Problem Drinking and health-related harms

- Vulnerability on the streets
- Youth risks and vulnerability

The Commissioner and the OPCC have examined the PSA and have discussed the issues identified within the assessment with the police and community safety partnerships. The PSA continues to inform the PCC's Commissioning Intentions and the discussions held regularly between the OPCC and the CSPs who receive funding from the Commissioner to support activity in these areas and in general pursuance of the Police and Crime Plan.

1.5 Expansion of the Pathfinder Programme to include deferred charge

In 2017 the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police introduced an innovative programme ; the Pathfinder Diversion Scheme as part of their commitment to reducing reoffending by intervening at an early stage in the offending cycle. The scheme focused on the deferring of a caution for eligible offenders who agree to undertake actions to tackle the underlying causes behind their offending which subject to satisfactory completion of the terms of their 4 month contract would not receive a caution. The Devon and Cornwall Pathfinder Programme has been recognised nationally as best practice and won the Howard League for Penal Reform's Policing and Adults Award in 2018. The Panel have received previous reports regarding the operation and impact of the Pathfinder Scheme. The initial pilot programme is being evaluated by Cambridge University who are due to report in 2020.

In December 2019 new arrangements were introduced in Devon and Cornwall Police for Pathfinder with the expansion of the scheme beyond cautions to situations where the offender may be charged with an offence. The Pathfinder Programme now offers deferred caution and deferred charge options for eligible offenders aged between 18-30, widening the potential impact that this programme can have on tackling offending at an early stage and diverting people away from crime. Individuals who wish to defer their caution or charge (where eligible to do so) will need to undertake to not reoffend and commit to taking action to address the underlying causes of their offending. Those who seek to take a referral will also have to comply with any conditions set regarding their engagement in community resolution activities, restorative justice and voluntary work during the four month period.

1.6 CCTV Investment Strategy

The Commissioner set out her support for CCTV in the Police and Crime Plan, highlighting the protection CCTV affords to vulnerable people, the reassurance it brings to members of the public generally, and the operational benefits for policing in areas such as deterrence, investigation and conviction. Over the lifetime of this investment our funding has contributed to the delivery of several hundred new or upgraded cameras and has provided access to CCTV monitoring services for a number of towns which might otherwise have been unable to access those services. Since the last report to the Panel in September 2019 there has been progress in a number of areas.

The OPCC have been working with Plymouth City Council to explore opportunities to work together to enhance CCTV provision in Plymouth in line with the Commissioner's investment plan and the Council's priorities for the City. This has included the agreement of OPCC funding to support CCTV development in Torridge Way, Crownhill and the Barbican. In

addition Plymouth City Council are exploring how they might be able to support towns in other parts of our area to access monitoring services for their CCTV.

The OPCC has confirmed funding support for the development of CCTV in North Devon (including the development of a monitoring hub facility), Okehampton, Liskeard and Newquay. The PCC is currently awaiting a formal bid from Exeter City Council.

OPCC staff met with Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service in early January to review the initial pilot scheme for mobile CCTV deployment which has been previously reported to the Panel. Arrangements for the future deployment of the 2 mobile CCTV units that were funded by the OPCC are being finalised and initial discussions are underway to pilot the use of one of the cameras in Devon in the coming weeks.

1.7 Tackling Business Crime – Business Crime Prevention Assessments

Under the PCC's Approach to Business Crime¹ work is continuing within the OPCC, in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Police and the South West (SW) Business Crime Centre to explore opportunities to set up new Business Crime Reduction Partnerships or other business crime prevention initiatives across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The OPCC is supporting the provision of business crime prevention assessments by the SW Business Crime Centre and Devon and Cornwall Police. This initiative was launched in November 2019. The OPCC will be writing to towns and community safety partnerships across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in the next few weeks to seek any further requests for an assessment.

To date assessments have been completed in Teignmouth and Liskeard. Assessments are scheduled for Bodmin, Camborne, Helston, Saltash, St. Austell and Wadebridge and we dates are being scheduled for a further seven towns who have expressed an interest. Initial feedback from towns on the Business Crime Assessment is positive. The towns are now invited to consider the report and decide upon which if any steps they wish to take. The OPCC has made financial provision in the draft commissioning intentions plan to provide some seed funding to towns to help them take forward business crime prevention improvements.

1.8 Safer Towns Programme

The Safer Towns proposal is a place based initiative bringing community safety partners, town councils, businesses and communities together to support their local efforts to address identified local issues.

In 2018/19 the OPCC worked in partnership with Cornwall Council through the Safer Cornwall CSP to support the establishment of 10 Safer Towns across Cornwall. The towns, which were identified by Safer Cornwall have been established since mid-2018 and provide an additional 'place based' focus for shared action. In 2019/20 the OPCC identified in the PCC's Commissioning Intentions Plan a desire to support CSP partners in Devon to adopt a similar approach and the development of a network of Safer Towns.

¹https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Key%20document/PCC_Business_Crime_V2.pdf

Provision was made to support a number of towns or specified areas/wards in the context of our large urban centres. The support offered by the OPCC to towns that wish to take part, nominated through their local CSP, is to help them to establish and operate local problem solving approaches. It includes data analysis, support to develop a community profile; access to a business crime prevention assessment and regular multi-agency engagement days in the community as well as a small seed fund to support local projects.

In 2019/20 the Commissioner is supporting the establishment of safer town approaches in the following areas: Bideford, Barnstaple, Torrington, Ilfracombe, Cullompton, Cranbrook, Axminster, Paignton and Torquay harbourside with other towns also actively being considered.

The OPCC intends to provide further support for the safer town approach in 2020/21 which is set out in the PCC's Commissioning Intentions Plan which is at another item of the agenda.

1.9 Holding the Chief Constable to account: the PCC's Scrutiny Programme

As previously reported to the Panel the Commissioner introduced a new scrutiny framework in early 2019 which was developed with support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny. The framework is a comprehensive and public facing document which details the Commissioner's own definition of scrutiny and what she expects to change as a result of good scrutiny practices. The document also describes how the Commissioner uses scrutiny to inform policy and to hold the Chief Constable to account. It built upon the existing scrutiny arrangements currently in place and a new scrutiny section of the Commissioner's website went live in February 2019 at www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/scrutiny.

During 2019 the OPCC have supported the Commissioner in carrying out a wide range of scrutiny activities, assisted by 11 OPCC Scrutiny volunteers. This has included:

- A regular (monthly) programme of scrutiny activity comprising Panel meetings, task and finish deep dive review sessions and training days.
- The delivery of two deep dive thematic reviews by the Use of Police Powers Community Scrutiny Panel covering a) spit and bite guards and b) stop and search which have resulted in 25 Panel recommendations which will be subject of further consideration by the OPCC during 2020
- The convening of three case review panels under the Out of Court Disposal Panel which have reviewed 45 cases in detail
- A total of 234 hours of scrutiny activity delivered by the two established Panels (excluding reading and preparation time)

The Commissioner's scrutiny programme for January-April 2020 is focused in three areas:

- The Use of Police Powers Scrutiny Panel is currently engaged in a deep dive thematic review of taser. This work commenced in January 2020 following agreement of the specification with Devon and Cornwall Police leads
- The Out of Courts Disposal Scrutiny Panel will hold a case review panel in March 2020
- The OPCC is carrying out a thematic scrutiny review in the area of modern slavery which is scheduled to conclude in March 2020.

1.10 Changes to how public complaints about policing are handled

Home Office regulations that provide for the long-anticipated changes to police integrity processes have been laid in Parliament and will come into force on 1 February 2020. These changes provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the police complaints and discipline system and a greater role for PCCs in the complaints process. The reforms seek to deliver a proportionate approach to the handling of complaints and the addressing conduct matters with an emphasis on learning for the future as opposed to a focus on establishing blame.

As previously reported to the Panel, the legislation gives PCCs the mandatory role of handling qualifying complaint appeals (termed 'reviews' in the new legislation) against the outcomes of complaints to confirm or otherwise that the finding was reasonable and proportionate.

PCCs are not being given a formal role in the resolution process for complaints. Where a complaint is recorded, the statutory duty for resolving that complaint will rest with the police force. This is crucial for maintaining the independence of the appeals process but also the principle of operational independence.

The Commissioner is currently adopting the mandatory elements of the legislation although this approach may be reviewed at a later date. The OPCC is currently recruiting a Complaint Review Officer who will support the Commissioner in delivering this new statutory responsibility. It is anticipated that this post will be filled by the end of February.

2. Transforming Justice and the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) developments

The focus of the Devon and Cornwall Criminal LCJB which is chaired by the Commissioner continues to be reducing offending, victims and witnesses and improving services for those with a mental health issue within the criminal justice system (CJS). The Commissioner would like to highlight to the Panel several notable developments since its September meeting:

2.1 Reducing offending

The LCJB's Short Term Prisoner Resettlement Group continues to develop the check in and departure lounge based at HMP Exeter and is also working to find continuation funding for accommodation for prison leavers, which includes specific accommodation for women with complex needs. The Group has been working with the SW Region Reducing Reoffending Board to develop a project which builds modular housing at HMP Ley Hill. This project provides meaningful employment and skills for prisoners and the subsequent installation of the housing can also involve offenders working in the community. Ultimately the intention is for these flexible and low costs forms of housing to assist with housing stock availability in local authorities.

2.2 Victims and Witnesses

The LCJB has agreed to refresh its focus on victims and witnesses which will be led by the newly appointed Criminal Justice Superintendent within Devon and Cornwall Police. The group will identify key priorities for multi-agency collaboration throughout 2020/2021.

2.3 Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System

Based on the success of the pilot of Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) Orders in Plymouth, further funding has been agreed to support the further roll-out and development of the MHTR. Planning between the CJS agencies, Local Authorities, Devon Partnership Trust and EDP (Exeter Drugs Project) has now commenced.

3. **National developments**

3.1 Legislative developments

The Queens' Speech in December contained a number of announcements regarding future legislation in the areas of crime and criminal justice. This included legislation related to:

- Establishment of a Royal Commission to 'review and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process'
- The establishment of a Policing Covenant to enshrine protections for police officers
- New sentencing laws to ensure most serious violent offenders serve longer in custody
- Requiring the parole board to take account of a prisoner's failure to disclose information about the victim in cases related to unlawful killing and indecent images of children
- Ensuring that schools, the police, councils and health authorities work together to reduce serious violence
- Speeding up the justice process in cases of knife possession
- Improving court processes for all who use them, including victims of domestic abuse
- Enhancing support for victims of crime and their families

The detail of proposals in many of these areas are still awaited but three new bills have been introduced into the Houses of Parliament in January 2020:

- Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Bill
- Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Bill
- Summary of the Sentencing (Pre Consolidation Amendments) Bill

3.2 Ministerial changes

Following the General Election in December 2019 there have been no changes in the policing and criminal justice related Ministerial appointments within the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

3.3 Launch of Home Office's Safer Streets Fund

On 26 January the Home Office launched its new Safer Streets Fund for bids from Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales to fund initiatives aimed at tackling high levels of acquisitive crimes such as theft, robbery and burglary in residential areas. The funding can be used for a range of initiatives such as increasing street lighting, installing better locks and gating alleyways. The funding can also be used for activities such as training community wardens, and delivering local crime prevention advice to residents or Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Successful areas could receive a grant of around £500,000 to support activity within that specific geographic area.

The OPCC, Devon and Cornwall Police and Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association attended an engagement day in London on 22nd January to learn more about the parameters of the fund. The number of bids that can be submitted by a PCC will be restricted.

The OPCC are currently working with data analysts in Devon and Cornwall Police to understand the eligibility criteria and to identify areas that may be eligible for the fund. In developing any bids to the fund the OPCC will work closely with local authorities and other partners within the geographic area including community groups. The deadline for submission of bids is 20 March 2020 with decisions expected to be made in May 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safer-streets-fund-application-process>

3.4 Implementation of legislation to introduce Stalking Protection Orders

On 20 January 2020 new legislation introducing Stalking Protection Orders came into force in England and Wales. This important legislation will allow courts to move more quickly to ban stalkers from contacting victims or visiting their home, place of work or study, helping victims to recover from their ordeal. The new Orders which can also be used to require perpetrators to seek professional help will usually last for a minimum of 2 years, with a breach counting as a criminal offence that can result in up to 5 years in prison.

3.5 Body scanners in HMP Exeter

In January 2020 the Ministry of Justice announced that high tech body scanners would be introduced into HMP Exeter (and 17 other prisons across the country). The scanners, which are due to be rolled out before summer 2020, will help prison officers to detect and prevent the smuggling of weapons, drugs and phones into prisons. The Commissioner has been lobbying for this action for the past 18 months and has actively welcomed the government's decision but will continue to campaign for similar facilities to be introduced into HMP Dartmoor and HMP Channings Wood and right across the prison estate.

3.6 On-going Government Consultations

Consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on whether criminalising unauthorised encampments would be preferable to the amendments originally proposed by the Government in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and if so, how it should work. The consultation launched on 5th November and will run until 4th March 2020.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/844954/Unauthorised_Encampments_-_consultation_paper.pdf

4. **OPCC Staffing**

On 6th January 2019 Dr Davina Cull joined the OPCC as the new Criminal Justice, Commissioning and Partnerships Manager, replacing Lyn Gooding who has left the OPCC to take up a post as the Chief Executive of First Light.

Sophie Baker, from the OPCC's Criminal Justice, Commissioning and Partnerships Team has taken up a two year secondment to lead the newly established South West Reducing

Offending Board. Sophie will be working on behalf of the five Police and Crime Commissioners for Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire to bring together our efforts to reduce reoffending levels and to shape the new probation arrangements which will come into effect in 2021.

Pierre Michel Doutreligne has joined the OPCC on secondment from Cornwall Council Democratic Services Department and has joined the OPCC Strategy, Policy and Performance Team.

5. Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Publications

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue services (HMICFRS) has published several reports relating to Devon and Cornwall Police in the period since the Police and Crime Panel meeting in September 2019.

5.1 Devon and Cornwall: Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) Inspection 2019

At the time of writing this report we await publication of HMICFRS's integrated PEEL inspection for Devon and Cornwall following their inspection in Autumn 2019. The PEEL inspection looks at the efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy of our policing service. If that report is published before the Panel meeting on 7th February the Commissioner will provide a verbal update to the Panel at its meeting.

5.2 Devon and Cornwall: Inspection of Police Custody

On 11th September 2019, HMICFRS and HMI Prisons jointly published an inspection report into Devon and Cornwall Police custody.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/09/Devon-and-Cornwall-police-custody-web-2019.pdf>

This report contains the findings from an unannounced inspection of Devon and Cornwall custody facilities conducted in May 2019. This inspection is part of a rolling national programme of custody inspections across police forces in England and Wales.

In its inspection HMICFRS assessed the effectiveness of custody services and outcomes for people throughout the different stages of detention. It examined the force's approach to custody provision in relation to safe detention and the respectful treatment of detainees, with a particular focus on vulnerable people and children.

The report's assessments are made against the following criteria

- Leadership, accountability and partnerships
- Pre-custody: first point of contact
- In the custody suite: booking in, individual needs and legal rights
- In the custody cell: safeguarding and health care
- Release and transfer from custody.

The joint inspectorate found the Force was delivering good outcomes for detainees held in custody. Inspectors found a very clear strategic focus on diverting people, especially the most vulnerable, away from police custody. Children were only taken into custody as a last resort and those who were detained received good care and were treated well. The report identified some areas for improvement and made a recommendation regarding data. The findings of the inspection are being taken forward by Devon and Cornwall Police and regular reports on progress in addressing the issues identified in the report will be provided to the Commissioner and the OPCC.

The Commissioner's response to the report is published on the OPCC website.

<https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Response%20to%20HMIC%20reports/HMICFRS%20and%20HMI%20Prisons%20Joint%20Inspection%20report%20into%20D&C%20Police%20Custody%20-%20PCC%20response.pdf>

5.3 National Inspection Report: Shining a light on betrayal - Abuse of position for a sexual purpose

On 27th September 2019, HMICFRS published a PEEL spotlight report entitled 'Shining a light on betrayal - Abuse of position for a sexual purpose'. This is a national thematic report that does not refer specifically to Devon and Cornwall Police. HMICFRS previously inspected how forces are tackling abuse of position for a sexual purpose in 2015, 2016 and 2017. This issue has been re-visited by HMICFRS in their PEEL inspections and the inspectorate has published this national thematic review which draws upon those individual inspections.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/peel-spotlight-report-abuse-of-position-for-a-sexual-purpose-1.pdf>

Inspectors noted some encouraging progress and an improved understanding of the problem across the whole of the police workforce including examples of forces being proactive and creative in looking for signs of corruption. In the report HMICFRS are clear that only a tiny proportion of police officers and staff abuse their position for a sexual purpose and that the vast majority of the workforce would never contemplate this behaviour.

However, while inspectors have found excellent work in some forces, it found that progress in some police forces was slow and set out several areas where there needs to be further progress. These includes forces: being more proactive in looking for the signs of officers and staff abusing their position for a sexual purpose; having enough staff to do this; having the right tools, such as monitoring software that allows them to easily see the records staff are accessing and the contact they have with victims and other vulnerable people; and forming more effective relationships with those agencies who support vulnerable people and who are most likely to become aware of the early warning signs of grooming before abuse takes place.

The Commissioner's response to the report is published on the OPCC website

<https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Response%20to%20HMIC%20reports/PCC%20response%20HMICFRS%20report%20Shining%20a%20Light%20on%20Betrayal.pdf>

5.4 Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children's mental health in Plymouth

In November 2019, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI CFS and HMI Probation carried out a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to 'front door' services, evaluating all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation, as well as an evaluation of the responses to children's mental health in Plymouth. The joint inspectorate published its findings on 8th January 2020

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfs/wp-content/uploads/Plymouth-JTAI-inspection-report-.pdf> .

The report found many areas of strength but with several areas for improvement. Plymouth City Council are required prepare a written statement of proposed action for the partnership and, where appropriate, individual agencies to Ofsted by 16 April 2020. Devon and Cornwall Police and the OPCC will be working with Plymouth City Council to contribute to the development of that statement.

6. **OPCC Communications and engagement**

6.1 Summer funding campaign and Back the Great South West

The OPCC has continued to lobby central government for financial recompense around the triple challenges to policing of rurality, isolation and tourism. The #InvestingInPolice campaign has highlighted how police officer density, despite recent recruitment drives, remains low in what is the largest police force area in the country. There are more visitors annually to Devon and Cornwall than there are to any other force area apart from London. Devon and Cornwall receives no additional funding for the policing of these visitors. The campaign supports the PCC's bid for a £17.9m Home Office Special Grant and to make the longer-term case for an annual funding settlement that fully recognises the challenges posed to police forces with a mix of dense urban and dispersed rural populations.

To strengthen its case, the OPCC has united with Local Enterprise Partnerships, public sector partners and private sector organisations in the Back the Great South West campaign, fronted by the Western Morning News. This campaign is making the case for greater government spending in the region so it can realise its economic and quality of life potentials.

6.2 Councillor Advocates

The councillor advocate programme, open to all elected council members in the force area, seeks to engage and educate these community-spirited individuals. Renewed focus has been given in the last quarter of 2019 to driving membership of the scheme following the May 2019 elections and this has been successful. There are currently 95 scheme members.

Since the Panel last met two councillor advocate seminars have been held, one in Devon and one in Cornwall. Subjects covered included liaising with Gypsy and Traveller communities and rural crime prevention. The March 2020 seminars will focus on tackling antisocial behaviour.

On 16th January the first Cranbrook Area Parish Council Liaison Meeting took place as a result of councillor advocates in Truro sharing best practice around the way meetings were held with their Neighbourhood Policing Team.

6.3 Neighbourhood Alert

The OPCC's Neighbourhood Alert email communications system remains a useful tool in reaching members of the public who have actively sought out information from the office. It circulates regular newsletters, polling requests and crime prevention advice to users.

The December performance indicator showed that the OPCC account had:

- 31,283 contactable users (+53 on the previous month)
- An email open rate of 67%
- A message quality rating of 6/6 (+0.20 on previous month)

7. **Estates**

Key developments under the Estates Strategy since the last Panel meeting in September 2019 are highlighted below.

7.1 New Exeter Police Station

The construction phase of the new Exeter Police Station has been completed on time and under budget. The building was handed over from contractor Willmott Dixon to the OPCC on 20th January and is being fitted out. Departments will be moved into the new building in phases with the Police Enquiry Office (public front desk) and custody departments opening at 8.00am on 22nd April.

The building has achieved BREEAM 'excellent' sustainability accreditation, and is among the top 10% of sustainable buildings in the UK. It produces a fifth of the carbon of a normal building of that size. The 40-cell custody centre is the most advanced in the country, with medical-grade cameras installed which monitor detainees' vital signs.

The project, funded from reserves and with a budget of £29m, made a significant contribution to the local economy, with 78% of total project spend within 50 miles and 63% within 40 miles.

Three engagement events have been held in Exeter to inform the public about the move of the public enquiry office from Heavitree Road Police Station to the new site in Middlemoor and leaflets have been produced and distributed across the Exeter, East and Mid Devon Policing Area to inform the community about the new arrangements.

An official event to mark the completion of this new station is taking place on 1st February 2020 to which Police and Crime panel members have been invited.

7.2 Liskeard Police Station

The new Liskeard Police Station will be opened on 1st February 2020. The station replaces the previous facility which was no longer fit for purpose. This £1.7 Million investment in a new police station is located on a blue light campus with the fire and ambulance services and will provide space for over 70 officers and staff.

An official event to mark the completion of this new station is taking place on 1st February 2020 to which Police and Crime panel members have been invited.

Contact for further information

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