



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

3rd July 2020

CONTINUING TO DELIVER AN EFFECTIVE POLICING AND CRIME SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGHOUT COVID 19

During the COVID 19 pandemic there has never been a more important and challenging time to ensure that our communities remain **safe, resilient and connected**.

The Commissioner's **Police and Crime Plan** strategic intentions remain valid and have been applied to the devastating impact and consequences of the pandemic as it relates to policing, crime and community safety. Working with partners across Devon and Cornwall, Criminal Justice and Policing, and supporting the Chief Constable, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's team have adapted to meet the needs of victims, offenders, wider communities and policing to ensure that Devon and Cornwall remains best placed to protect our communities. It has also focused on ensuring the resilience and recovery of Devon and Cornwall Police.

However, the emergency situation created by COVID-19 means that there has needed to be a reprioritisation of activity to meet the new demands. In order to respond to the emergency and fulfil her statutory responsibilities, the **Commissioner's focus** has been on:

1. Enabling the Chief Constable to access sufficient resources to respond to the emergency;
2. Supporting the Chief Constable to work in partnership to protect the public locally, regionally and nationally.
3. Ensuring, on behalf of the public, that the police respond in ways that are necessary, sufficient, proportionate and ethical (holding to account);
4. Facilitating effective partnership working among agencies and groups working in community safety, violence reduction and criminal justice;
5. Commissioning and co-commissioning new services, particularly for victims of crime, and providing grants for policing and crime reduction purposes;
6. Ensuring the organisational health of Devon and Cornwall Police, so that it not only responds to the national emergency effectively, but recovers and returns to normality as quickly as possible;
7. Ensure that the public receive a proportionate response to business as usual crimes and requests for service throughout the current emergency.

Business as usual has carried on as normal in all areas and these are detailed in the



PCC Update report to the Police and Crime Panel.

The nature of crime and policing changed throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Whilst there were obvious reductions in some night time economy related crime such as violence and rape, in other areas crime types have seen escalations or no reductions e.g. domestic abuse, fraud, cyber-crime, child sexual exploitation. Escalating anti-social behaviour and business crime were other areas of concern and the challenge of people wishing to visit or utilise second homes across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Throughout this unprecedented crisis there has been the need for dynamic **risk assessment** on both the OPCC activities and those of the Force to ensure that the best possible decisions are made for the benefit of our communities. This risk management approach has been both in terms of operational delivery as the crisis has unfolded as well as having a clear focus on recovery and business change as a result of new opportunities which have presented themselves. One of the lasting legacies of COVID 19 will be the flexible approach to working enabled by IT solutions, which the Force and OPCC had utilised previously but not to the extent that was needed as a primary tool to do business. This will fundamentally change the way business is done in the future.

The **OPCC's Business Continuity Plan** provides resilience around the PCC and OPCC staff who have key decision-making roles and responsibilities within the schemes of consent and delegations, financial regulations and standings orders as to contracts.

The PCC's **evaluation and scrutiny work** continues to be risk-based and focused on those areas of significant public interest / concern, seeking to protect those most vulnerable from crime and ensuring the delivery of appropriate support services to those who become victims of crime.

1. **Police and Crime Plan Priority: Connecting communities and policing - the Local Policing Promise (Accessible, Responsive, Informative and Supportive)**

Policing received significant attention locally and nationally with the announcement of powers for the police to restrict movement and issue fixed penalty notices. Policing has always been by the consent of the public and this was the approach adopted by the Chief Constable. The number of fixed penalty notices issued by police forces in England was monitored nationally and as at 1st June 2020 975 fixed penalty notices were required to ensure compliance and the approach of 4Es (Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce) was deployed. This put Devon and Cornwall in the top five police forces in the country for enforcement. The Commissioner's arrangements have therefore included specific scrutiny and provided **checks and balances around the implementation of new police powers** introduced through the emergency provisions within the Act.

Part of this scrutiny included the Police undertaking an online survey with residents of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to assess how the public felt the policing approach was being implemented. Over 2500 residents completed the survey with 91.2% supporting the policing approach taken in Devon and Cornwall.

As the national guidance has evolved and changes to the restrictions have been lifted the Commissioner has discussed the enforcement approach with the Chief Constable at every stage.

Delaying and mitigating the spread of COVID 19 required Devon and Cornwall Police to work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations right across the peninsula and with other police forces in the region.

The Devon and Cornwall Local Resilience Forum (LRF) brings together frontline responders and other agencies with a significant role to play in managing and recovering from the effect of emergencies across the Force area. The LRF's COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordinating Group is implementing multi-agency emergency plans to mitigate the impact of the current COVID-19 outbreak on the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The most senior leaders from each of the relevant organisations are represented on this Group. Devon and Cornwall Police's representative and Chair of the LRF is Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Glen Mayhew. The Force has been chairing and leading the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) and Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as well as running their own command structures to maintaining policing specific issues. The OPCC has actively participated in all these structures, this has not been common across the country.

From 1st April, following a government decision made in 2019, all ***101 calls have become free for the caller***. The 999 services and 101 service have continued to receive large call volumes throughout the crisis.

Key to connectivity has been regular dialogue and communications with communities and the police and the OPCC have facilitated and supported much of this activity. In doing so and as part of wider considerations in holding the Chief Constable to account the OPCC has considered a wide range of information from a variety of sources, not limited to existing formal scrutiny processes.

Highlights include:

Information Conduits and exchanges

- Regular dialogue with ***MPs and their offices***. The Commissioner convened a weekly briefing with MPs and the Chief Constable. These meetings provided an opportunity for a two way dialogue to keep all apprised of policing style, new police powers and local challenges around tourism and second home usage. This process also provided the conduit for updates from the LRF to be provided to MPs. There was also an ongoing regular dialogue with MPs offices to dynamically address any emerging

concerns, help to resolve issues quickly and provide the opportunity to raise local issues with MPs for escalation nationally.

- Regular dialogue between the Commissioner and **Leaders of local authorities** to ensure all were moving at a similar pace across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and had access to up to date information and opportunity to raise issues about policing with the Commissioner.
- Weekly nationally call with the **Policing Minister** to discuss emerging issues in policing and criminal justice and to feedback any areas of concern.
- The Commissioner continues to be an active participant in the **Cornwall Leadership Board, One Plymouth and Torbay Together**.
- A regular email cascade to all participants in the **PCCs Councillor Advocate scheme** about local issues and emerging threats e.g. fraud, Domestic Abuse, sources of help and support in localities etc along with the opportunity to ask questions to be answered publicly via the audio blog or Facebook live.
- Maintaining services under the new **complaints legislation** where the Commissioner is the appellant body. This has included the negotiation, oversight and risk management of temporary delays in misconduct hearings due to availability of resources and social distancing requirements. Investigation of complaints have continued as usual. The Commissioner made personal contact with complainants linked to the policing response to COVID.
- The OPCC has continued to facilitate the provision of independent legal qualified chairs for police misconduct hearings throughout the period.
- Introduction of new weekly podcast with the Commissioner (and guests including the Chief Constable) to update the public on key issues and provide feedback on frequently asked questions and concerns
- **Supporting** wider economic activity
 - Understanding the opportunities to procure locally to support the local economy;
 - Work with partners to identify and support businesses which have an elevated risk of crime during this period and exploration of a business resilience centre;
 - Joint procurement of Personal Protective Equipment for policing with other Forces in the South West.

Direct action to support Policing

- **Redeploying OPCC staff** to critical functions within the Force at the start of the pandemic restrictions to provide surge capacity and help fill skills gaps e.g. Communications, Victim Care Unit.
- Participation in key policing workstreams to help to identify blockages, synergies and issues – including participation in organisational cells looking at recovery, summer policing, HR as well as attendance by OPCC statutory officers at bi-weekly Silver and Gold Meetings.
- **Supporting OPCC staff** to work from home or remotely.

- The ***Independent Custody Visiting Scheme*** forms part of the Commissioner's scrutiny and assurance arrangements. This is a statutory scheme involving volunteers who visit police stations unannounced to check on the treatment and welfare of those held in police custody. The Commissioner suspended visits undertaken in person to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, the OPCC has worked closely with the Independent Custody Visiting volunteers and the Force to implement revised arrangements. Such temporary arrangements have been aimed at providing adequate oversight and assurance on the welfare of detainees (as well as the welfare of police officers and others working in the custody setting), whilst not creating any additional risks. This has included a dip sample of custody records.
- The Commissioner opened Britain's ***newest police station, in Exeter***, two weeks early because the custody unit is better suited to dealing with COVID-19 detainees than the one it replaces. The OPCC's Estates team has also submitted plans for a ***new police station in North Devon*** to replace the current station with structural problems.
- The Commissioner ensured the continuation of the ***recruitment of new police officers*** and has supported the police to train new recruits as 101 and 999 call handlers to help with any surge demand in calls.

2. **Police and Crime Plan Priority: Preventing and deterring crime**

Throughout the crisis, ***business as usual policing has continued***. In some areas the police have had to prioritise service delivery based on threat, risk and harm and this resulted in different approaches and tactics deployed to provide services to the public. For example the Contact and Resolution Centre enhanced the triage of reported incidents based on the threat, harm and risk assessment. Incidents assessed to be of low risk were dealt with over the phone rather than deploying a resource. Between 23rd March and 21st May, 840 incidents were dealt with by this method.

The police have retained public access to all ***front desks*** associated with custody centres and where public access has not been possible access to blue police telephones which link to 101 and signposting to alternative methods of help and support have been provided. The remaining four front desks which are in the process of being reopened in accordance with COVID Secure guidance are Bodmin, St Austell, Camborne and Crownhill.

The Police and OPCC launched a new ***campaign targeting domestic abuse*** at the end of March 2020. This has been followed by other key campaigns to respond dynamically to areas of concern in terms of crime, including child sexual exploitation, fraud and road safety.

The OPCC have continued to support ***Community Safety Partnerships*** with their agreed levels of funding. Additional flexibility has been negotiated with the CSPs to ensure that they can divert some of the grant funding allocated to

emerging priorities and risks to meet the needs of COVID 19 impacts.

The OPCC has remained committed to working with the Force and partners to maintain long term planning and leadership in addressing the root causes of crime. This has included preparing our commissioned services and partners to be ready to respond to emerging issues such as mental health, drug and alcohol abuse once the pandemic abates. We have ensured the **continuation of services to victims of crime** and kept a close eye on the data trends. We have committed to ensuring that services are funded at the same levels until at least September 2020.

The OPCC also retained its commitment to drawing in national funding to support communities in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and worked with Plymouth City Council and partners to prepare and submit a PCC sponsored bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund for 2020/21.

Effective and targeted **communication and engagement** with communities has been vital in the OPCC response to COVID 19. This has been both bespoke messaging around emerging crime trends, as well as promoting the national messaging around social distancing, limiting travel and protecting the vulnerable in our society.

Work has continued on the **development of a new violent crime reduction approach** between the PCC and CC. The scope of the approach as now been agreed and a project team and governance structure set up to drive forward these interventions. Partnership engagement on this agenda will be escalated once the current crisis abates.

Highlights include:

Partnership Support

- Engagement with **Road Safety Camera Partnership** about revised service provision during the lockdown.
- **Support to Community Safety Partnerships** around funding decisions, gaps in service provision, risk management of local community safety issues.
- Flexibility in funding allocations to meet gaps in service e.g. **Operation Encompass** with the development of a new phone line to support teachers, which has now been expanded to provide a national service through government funding.
- Work with the Force to understand the **changing patterns of crime** and receiving a weekly briefing on the data trends.
- Support businesses and communities to remain safe online and promoting access to **resources for businesses**. The OPCC became a member of the South West Business Council COVID Task Force.
- Commissioner acted as a conduit for understanding the impact of the MOJ decision to **release prisoners early** under the agreed risk assessed approach.

- Regular social media profile and the development of the ***Hocking House VLOG*** which is a weekly audio interview with the Commissioner on key topics. This is in addition to a continued regular newspaper, TV and radio presence.
- Regular information cascades through ***Neighbourhood Alert*** and local community messaging
- Providing timely responses to ***requests for information*** from the public on the interpretation and approach in applying the new restriction on movement requirements.

3. Police and Crime Plan Priority: Protecting people who are at risk of abuse or who are vulnerable

We continue to support victims and support is available to any victim of crime, including domestic abuse. We have started our planned exploration of alternative service delivery models with our providers to ensure that we remain focused on harm reduction.

The OPCC continue to fund **Crimestoppers** and **DACCWA** to ensure that there are a variety of routes open to report crime and protection communities.

The OPCC has been working hard ***to ensure that the Commissioner's commissioned services continue to operate and support vulnerable people*** when they need them. Specific new services commissioned or co-commissioned by the Commissioner are:

- Access to Victim Support 24/7 online and by telephone
- Operation Encompass Teacher's Helpline
- Providing funding to Devon Community Foundation and Cornwall Community Foundation to their COVID Emergency Funds

The OPCC has been working hard to ensure that existing victim services remain robust and accessible to those who need it and may not be in a secure environment. This includes:

- Operating a ***regular cascade with the Victim Care Network*** to ensure that contingencies are in place to minimise the impact on victims of crime.
- Reassurance to commissioned services and a ***commitment to current funding levels for the next 6 months.***
- ***Lobbying for additional funding*** for victim services with Ministry of Justice and Home Office.
- Supporting the ***Victim Care Unit*** delivery within Force, including through the secondment of OPCC personnel to boost capacity within the service.
- Enabled people affected by crime to access self-help resources and wellness programs through ***Silver Cloud***
- Assessing the impact on the provision of public and third sector support services of ***changes in demand for victim services.***

- Contributing to a small **grant scheme** through Devon and Cornwall Community Foundations for small community organisations.
- **Facilitating funding applications** with our statutory partners for funding to support the recovery of victim services.
- Facilitating additional communications including a video of ten providers of victim services promoting that they are all still open and **encouraging victims** to access shared widely on social media channels.
- Dynamically amended the **scrutiny approach for custody** to observe the social distancing requirements but still provide a level of assurance through a new quality assurance system via scheme coordinator direct contact with custody sergeants
- **Facilitated a £3Million bid into government to support voluntary and community organisations** with additional central funding to support vulnerable people through the £750M announced support for charities by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the start of April 2020. Bids were required to be coordinated over the Easter weekend and coordinated by PCCs offices with strict criteria on eligibility.
- Similar support has been provided through grant funding made available specifically for **domestic abuse and sexual violence services** at the end of May. The OPCC has run a process in accordance with Ministry of Justice guidance to distribute approximately £600k funding to services in Devon and Cornwall. <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/commissioning/covid19-extraordinary-funding-for-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-services-across-devon,-cornwall-and-the-isles-of-scilly/>
- Increased the number of **Councillor Advocates** across Devon and Cornwall to 140.

The OPCC has recently published a briefing on the support provided to victims of crime during the pandemic which is available on the OPCC website at <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/commissioning/>

4. **Police and Crime Plan Priority: Supporting victims/witnesses and helping victims to get justice**

The unprecedented social distancing requirements have temporarily changed the way in which our communities live and work and with it there was an anticipated greater risk for those who are vulnerable, victims of crime and for those who were part way through a criminal justice process, either as a victim or an offender. The Commissioner has been supporting community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that they can continue to offer vital services through new and innovative approaches to protect those who find themselves in distress.

Regular contact with Criminal Justice Partners has been essential in understanding the complex landscape for criminal justice components. **Devon and Cornwall's Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)** is made up of those key partners who work in the criminal justice system e.g. the police, Crown

Prosecution Service, courts, prisons, probation services, local Judges, Youth Offending Teams, etc. Criminal Justice partners have provided excellent commitment and support to the Commissioner through:

- **Weekly LJCB calls** to manage the complexities of keeping the justice system running, accessible and proportionate;
- Overseeing **new protocols to support those in custody**, voluntary attenders and defence solicitors in terms of duty of care during COVID 19 to ensure adequate support and appropriate social distancing and remote contact is in place
- Facilitating investment in resources to bring forward the **Virtual Remand Court** into police custody as one of the first areas of the country to be enabled. Virtual court processes were stood up and tested within 2 weeks across the criminal justice partners in Devon and Cornwall in advance of the national roll out. Additional capacity was supported by the OPCC and hosted a specialist officer. The remand court service commenced in Bodmin on 20th April 2020 and Exeter on 27th April 2020.
- Working with partners to assess the impact on partners and communities of early prison releases.
- Facilitated the development of a partners cascade for LCJB partners to update and provide reassurance to all parts of the sector and the changes to processes
- Ensuring that continuation of core elements of the Pathfinder interventions and protection of the deferred charge elements are kept under review;
- The OPCC have convened **a new partnership between domestic abuse service commissioners**, community safety leaders and service providers have been working together to sustain domestic abuse (DA) services during and after the pandemic. It was vital that those who were most vulnerable could access services when they needed them the most. This newly formed partnership has worked at pace and for the collective good of prioritising an area of service delivery most at risk of demand. Working together across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, this group have achieved amongst other actions:
 - Lobbied the government for funding for LAs / Victim Services and Housing
 - Shared intelligence and our local picture at a national level through our respective associations;
 - Shared resources, including leaflets, guidance and training resources
 - Mapped and articulated our ask around perpetrator programs to be ready if future funding is released;
 - Significantly improved the victim care website;
 - Submitted a financial application to central government through a number of specific bids;
 - Identified the risks to recovery of DA provision in the short, medium and long term;

- Proactively worked with our Victim Care Network to understand the opportunities for how it could help our DA / Sexual Violence services going forward
- Supported the data and intelligence gathering activity being presented alongside reported police data;
- Supported a successful DA Communications Campaign across the peninsula including the exploration innovative new approaches locally to service delivery (DA support in supermarkets and pharmacies);
- Ensured that national services understood our local offer.

The Commissioner has also been lobbying nationally for the reopening of all courts with appropriate COVID secure measures to ensure that the backlog of cases can be cleared expediently and that those awaiting trials and victims and witnesses receive justice.

5. Police and Crime Plan Priority: Getting the best out of the police

There is no doubt that all parts of the public sector have been under considerable strain in responding to the global pandemic. In such circumstances the way in which policing responds to lead across agencies is relied upon by other agencies and partners as a pivotal coordination role. With a global and national emergency of the scale of COVID the police have fulfilled their coordination role on behalf of the wider public sector as well as continuing to deliver their ***“business as usual”*** policing functions.

The checks and balances in place to ensure that policing in Devon, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly remain effective and well supported have continued.

Strong ***financial and risk management processes*** have been providing assurances to the Commissioner that the financial position and balance of risks is proportionate given the emerging circumstances. This has included the monitoring of the financial markets to ensure liquidity and investment approaches remain correct during the period of uncertainty, managing grant opportunities from central government and renegotiating funding agreements with partners.

Independent Audit Committee (IAC). This statutory Committee provides assurance around the effectiveness of the Commissioner’s and Chief Constable’s arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment and reporting on financial and other performance. IAC has had a heightened role in providing assurance on the robustness of Force and OPCC arrangements in mitigating risks presented by the coronavirus, whilst delivering the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Risk assessed accountability and scrutiny processes adapted to meet current circumstances have been implemented to maintain a focus on key areas of business.

The new Corona virus regulations brought in new police powers to ensure that health protection was not compromised. This included the power to issue enforcement notices on those who were not complying with the restrictions. The

Commissioner convened a **scrutiny panel** specifically to provide an assurance to the commissioner and to the public that Devon and Cornwall Police are using their new powers in response to Covid-19 legitimately, appropriately and proportionately. The outcomes of the scrutiny review have been published on the OPCC Website.

Devon and Cornwall Police also undertook a “pulse” survey of the public. There were over 2500 respondents with 91.2% in support of the Devon and Cornwall Policing approach.

This has also included:

- OPCC representation at **Police Gold Group** to ensure good governance and oversight.
- OPCC representation **at Police Silver Group** to ensure good governance and oversight.
- Oversight on **new legislative powers** at Joint Leadership Board (JLB)
- **PCC Scrutiny panel repurposed** to include a review of the new legislative powers.
- OPCC CEO Participation at **Force Performance Board**.
- **JLB and Resources Board** continued to meet throughout COVID 19
- Oversight of the relationship that the Force has with local communities whilst the police have extra powers to deal with members of the public
- Oversight of service provision and reprioritisation at times of reduced staffing ensuring that resources re allocated to greatest risks, threats and harm
- **OPCC representation in delivery cells such as HR, Recovery and Summer Policing** to ensure that the Force is supported to recover as soon as practicable but also to ensure that innovative practices, in particular around remote and agile working, are retained and mainstreamed where appropriate.
- **Oversight of Op Uplift and continuing recruitment processes** e.g. support to the training of new officers in a new online format
- Supporting the Chief Constable’s decision to **train student officers** to provide support within Force Contact Centre which answers 999 and 101 calls
- Expectations of **additional usage of special constables** and opportunities for retirees to return to work
- **Oversight of accessible PPE to police officers**, staff and those for whom the police have a duty of care
- OPCC Chief Executive providing **independent assurance** on senior staff recruitment panel for Assistant Chief Officer role both as OPCC and independent HR oversight.
- Regular **welfare checks with Chief Constable and Senior Team** to ensure welfare issues identified early and adequate support over time in place

Estates Management

Estate management by the OPCC has had to adapt to ensure that the significant estate across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly remains fit for purpose, adequately maintained and complaint. All estates functions have continued including:

- Continuing to operate the maintenance helpdesk and repairs.
- **Barnstaple Police Station relocation** progressed to deal with urgent structural issues
- Facilitated the advanced **migration of Custody and front desk to Exeter Police** Station two weeks ahead of schedule to support enhanced social distancing in custody and facilitate the new virtual remand court arrangements
- Ensuring that **partnership opportunities** are explored to ease pressure across the public sector e.g. utilisation of some police estate as places of safety, changing layouts to accommodate virtual courts,
- Coordinating the **waste disposal arrangements** for the PPE, classified as clinical waste required across the Force
- Implementing **COVID-secure workplaces** across the entire police estate to facilitate the return to work of staff in key areas and the phased return to work of the entire workforce;

Crime during COVID 19

Since the Government announced the UK lockdown on the March 23rd, Devon and Cornwall Police have monitored, crime trends, as well as many other datasets to assist with operational policing on a weekly basis. This information has been shared with operational partners across Devon and Cornwall, including representatives of all upper and second tier local authorities, through Local Resilience Forum structures to assist with the COVID-19 response.

The latest published information on recorded crime levels is available on the Devon and Cornwall Police website and relates to the 12 months to 31st May 2020 which includes the first ten weeks of the COVID-19 restrictions. The key points that the Panel may wish to note from that information are:

- In the 12 months May 2020, 96,977 crimes were recorded in Devon and Cornwall. This is an 8.8% decrease or 9,313 fewer recorded crimes compared with the equivalent period a year earlier.
- The last 3 months (March; April; May) of the 12 months to May 2020 have been a significant contributor to those decreases and gives an indication of the impact that COVID-19 and lockdown measures has had on total crime levels.
- Significant decreases across the spectrum of acquisitive crimes have predominately contribution to the fall in crime levels year on year
 - Residential burglary decreased by 12% from 2,502 last year to 2,200 crimes this year;
 - Commercial burglary decreased by 17.1% from 3,178 last year to 2,636 this year;
 - Vehicle offences decreased from 5,502 last year to 4,259 this year;
 - Shoplifting decreased by 24% from 7,360 last year to 5,594 this year;

- Other theft decreased from 11,872 last year to 9,071 this year.
- In the 12 months to May 2020, Violence with injury offences decreased by 6.5% from 15,908 last year to 14,881 reported crimes this year.
- Overall victim-based crime (excluding Domestic Abuse crimes) decreased by 14% in the 12 months to May 2020 from 67,854 to 58,359 recorded crimes.

The Road to Recovery

The planning for recovery from the pandemic to a “new normal” by the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police is well underway and the transition phase has been in process for some months. The expectation is that neither organisation will return to the business as usual which existed pre-COVID with learning and improvements identified during COVID being incorporated into new ways of doing business. This comes at a time when the surge demand in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly during the summer months also needs to be managed. The area has gone from a time of just managing its inherent population with movement restrictions, where overall crime demand levels fell in some areas, to a position where the needs of summer policing and an increased volume of visitors to the area may dramatically increase and with it the challenge of policing where many partners services were not yet available. It is easy to forget that Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is the number one domestic visitor destination in England outside of London, and that was before trips abroad where significantly curtailed. Summer policing plans have therefore been developed and implemented in earnest throughout the transition phase, and the OPCC will continue to make the case for additional resources to cope with this additional pressure.

Contact for further information:

Frances Hughes

Chief Executive

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

frances.hughes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Report prepared on 9th June 2020