



## **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel**

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **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 2020.

#### **1. Policy Developments**

##### **1.1 COVID Response**

The police involvement in managing the pandemic continues to be an evolving picture with policing playing a pivotal role in the coordination of the local and national effort. The policing approach throughout has been to support the public in following the regulations by engaging, explaining and encouraging, and enforcing with a fine as last resort. However, where it is clear that the public are not responding to policing interventions then there will be a need to move more quickly to enforcement by issuing a fine. In October the Prime Minister announced a 'three-tier' system of COVID restrictions and the implementation of these requires the close cooperation of policing with local partners, and the successful partnership of the Health Protection Boards with the Local Resilience Forum to manage the implications.

With the country now in a new national lockdown, and new national regulations and guidance issued policing remains at the forefront of the response.

The Prime Minister recently committed to providing local authorities and police forces with additional funding to enhance their enforcement activities to help in the management of COVID.

There are three streams of funding which have been announced which are available to Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly:

- The reimbursement of the medical grade PPE. Up to the end of September 2020, approximately £700k has been reclaimed against COVID related expenditure of £1.5m.
- The £30m COVID surge grant recently announced for policing has seen Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly allocated £705k. This funding will be used in accordance with an Enforcement Plan which was submitted to the Home Office by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- The Income Loss Recovery Scheme enables recovery of some of the income lost as



a direct result of COVID. The scheme allows for 75p in every £1 of lost income (after a 5% deductible) to be reclaimed. A claim for £217k has been submitted to cover April to July 2020. The majority of this income relates to road safety.

## 1.2 Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Funding

In mid-August 2020 the Home Office announced that £5 million was available to Police and Crime Commissioners to support the introduction of perpetrator-focused domestic abuse programmes in their area. The grant stipulated that all funds secured from the Home Office must be spent by 31 March 2021. The deadline for bids was 29 September 2020 and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly submitted a bid for £417,395 which has been approved. With total local match funding secured of £215,959 this amounts to an overall programme total of £633,354.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in partnership with domestic abuse commissioners from Cornwall Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council, and Devon County Council, applied to this fund to help create a community and system wide response to domestic abuse perpetration to reduce harm and improve outcomes for people affected by domestic abuse. The proposal seeks to directly work with those who harm others through domestic abuse and the families of those individuals throughout Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

The proposal has 5 objectives as follows:

1. To lay the foundation for an improved whole systems response to and understanding of domestic abuse perpetration by building on the existing infrastructure and strengthening our response.
2. To share learning about perpetrator interventions to influence organisational, societal and cultural change.
3. To upskill staff and develop the workforce by raising awareness, inspiring confidence and encouraging action.
4. To begin dialogue / start a conversation with our communities that supports a shift in attitude towards perpetration with the aim of empowering communities to evolve their response and approach to perpetration.
5. To intensively working with perpetrators.

It is based on 4 tiers of activity:

- Tier 1 – action through awareness – this would be predominantly delivered through bystander interventions
- Tier 2 – action through ownership – this work uses training/interventions to broaden intervention opportunities in organisations outside of the specialist domestic abuse arena (i.e. elsewhere in ‘the system’)
- Tier 3 – action through targeted intervention – this work would strengthen existing provision in our area for those who perpetrate domestic abuse, as well as supporting the development of new provision in one geographical area
- Tier 4 – action through evidence – evaluations to help us understand what works in which areas, and why.

One local commissioner of specialist domestic abuse services described the process as: “I thought the final bid and supporting narrative was really good – well put together and comprehensive, showed some real strategic thinking rather than just chasing the cash”.

### 1.3 Direct intervention to change lives: Modular Housing Project

The Commissioner is sponsoring an innovative pilot project that aims to address a construction skills shortage, high reoffending rates and homelessness.

In 2019 the PCC developed an new innovative modular housing project in partnership with Torbay Council, a modular housing provider (AGILE) and HMPPS Leyhill to provide a single dwelling in Torbay, made and assembled by prisoners and assembled with the help of a prisoner, released on temporary licence (ROTL) from HMP Channings Wood. It will be occupied by young mothers, who would otherwise be in unsuitable accommodation and are in need of support to develop life skills for independent living.

It is the first low carbon, affordable modular home is to be made by prisoners at HMP Leyhill. The PCC is supporting this intervention as a proof of concept with the aim of assessing the ability to scale this project up with regional colleagues. The project will provide an affordable dwelling for to assist the local authority and will provide meaningful work for prisoners as part of their rehabilitation. Due to COVID this intervention has been delayed, and work is now recommencing with the hope that the dwelling can be delivered early in 2021.

### 1.4 Mental Health Community Sentence Treatment Requirement for Cornwall

Following the success of the Mental Health Treatment Requirement programme with the Courts in Plymouth, the LCJB led by the Commissioner is working with Cornwall Council are working with partners to introduce the scheme through integration with their commissioned drug and alcohol service. Reoffending rates, are significantly higher for those released from short-term prison sentences and therefore reducing the number of mentally ill people going to prison and instead get them treatment and help there is a better chance they will not end up back behind bars, lives can be put back on track and pressure on the Prison Service relieved. The current steering group, which manages the Plymouth pilot will be expanded to include strategic management of the Cornwall scheme and will continue to work with the LCJB Mental Health Partnership and NHS England to plan roll out in Devon during 2021/22.

### 1.5 CCTV investment update

The Commissioner is pleased to provide financial support to Exeter City Council to assist with its upgrade of its CCTV suite and monitoring facility. Police and Crime Panel members will be aware that a decision has been awaited from Exeter for some time upon its intentions for CCTV investment. Following their decision to proceed, the PCC is making available a £80,000 contribution to part-fund the technical refurbishment. When complete, this will improve both the quality and reach of the city’s CCTV coverage and allow Exeter to offer monitoring services to other towns across Devon. Along with Tolvaddon (Camborne), Plymouth, Torquay and Barnstaple – all of which have received similar ratios of funding from the PCC, Exeter’s upgraded facility will increase the options available for towns wishing to connect into a monitoring service. The timeframes for the completion of Exeter’s works is yet to be confirmed but it is likely to be Spring 2021.

The Commissioner is making £30,000 available to Devon and Cornwall Police to improve connectivity between the two police control rooms and from the local authorities' CCTV monitoring rooms. The investment will provide the hardware to allow the trial of new software to enable the Force Incident Managers to have sight of camera feeds from the CCTV hubs mentioned above. The project will also enable the police control rooms to have live access to officer's Body Worn Video feeds.

#### 1.6 SW Peninsula Road Safety Partnership

The SWPRSP Board, chaired by the Commissioner and comprising representatives from each highways authority, elected members and the emergency services met on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The partnership's vision for zero death and serious injury on the road network was restated and the partnership Board agreed to adopt the new name of VISION ZERO SOUTH WEST in place of the existing SWPRSP.

Tragically between 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 (the date of the last meeting) to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 26 people lost their lives on our roads and a further 27 were critically injured. In keeping with practice for each meeting the names and ages of the 26 people who had died were read out, following which the Board held a minute's silence.

The Board received an update on progress provided by each of the 8 theme leads as follows:-

1. Route based interventions – Devon and Cornwall Police
2. Young drivers – Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service & Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
3. Motorcycling – Cornwall Council
4. Older drivers – Highways England
5. Business drivers – Driving for Better Business - Highways England
6. Cyclists – Devon County Council & Plymouth City Council
7. Pedestrians – Devon County Council
8. Post-Crash Response – University Hospitals Plymouth and OPCC

There then followed a more in depth presentation from both the Young Drivers and Driving for Better Business theme leads. Board members were asked to formally sign up to the Driving for Better Business programme and consider how this could be promoted further not only within individual organisations but through procurement and for employees who use their own vehicles for work purposes (the grey fleet).

Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, the partnership participated in project EDWARD (Every Day Without a Road Death) which involved a week of enforcement activity coordinated between the Police and partners on a number of high risk routes in Devon and Cornwall as well as a range of partnership activity aimed at promoting road safety awareness and education. The main focus for this year for project EDWARD was Work - Related Road Risk.

The learning from this week of action will be used to inform further partnership route-based intervention over the forthcoming year and a schedule of this and other road safety activity will be published in November.

As part of project EDWARD, Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September was earmarked as 'Leadership Day' and the partnership used this to promote its strategic vision and casualty reduction target as part of a 'hard launch' of the partnership across Devon and Cornwall, led by the OPCC and Local Authorities.

Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November is 'United Nations World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims' and the partnership intends to take appropriate action to acknowledge victims of road crashes and their families and make it a major advocacy day for road traffic injury prevention.

The precise arrangements are in the process of being developed, led by the OPCC Comms and Engagement team supported by comms representatives from all partner organisations. The approach taken will be aligned to and in partnership with RoadPeace, a national road safety charity which was responsible for the inception of the day of remembrance which was later adopted by the UN.

## 2. National Developments

### 2.1 Road Safety Survey

In September, the Commissioner led a national road safety and enforcement survey on behalf of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). The poll covered a small number of questions relating specifically to the adequacy of current enforcement of traffic laws, strength of feeling for increasing traffic fines, and views of reinvesting that money into enforcement and road safety.

This is the first time the APCC has backed and co-ordinated a survey by all PCCs. The poll, which was open for the whole of September, received a total of 66,266 responses from members of the public from every part of England and Wales. 6,792 responses were from residents of Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

<b>To what extent do you feel safe on the roads where you live?</b>		
	Devon & Cornwall	National
Very safe	9.22%	7.54%
Safe	35.63%	34.76%
Neither safe or unsafe	25.62%	26.61%
Unsafe	24.29%	25.21%
Very unsafe	5.24%	5.88%

<b>To what extent do you witness road traffic offences on the roads where you live? (e.g using a mobile phone, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt etc)</b>		
	Devon & Cornwall	National
Daily	52.94%	55.59%
Weekly	22.25%	21.52%
Occasionally	17.86%	16.67%
Rarely	5.77%	5.25%
Not at all	1.18%	0.97%

<b>To what extent do you agree that offences that occur on roads where you live require more enforcement?</b>		
	Devon & Cornwall	National
Strongly agree	45.67%	47.87%
Agree	33.55%	33.88%
Neither agree nor disagree	12.51%	12.17%
Disagree	5.32%	4.08%
Strongly disagree	2.94%	2.00%

<b>To what extent do you agree that fixed penalty fines for road traffic offences like speeding (currently £100 fine) and failure to wear a seatbelt (currently £100) should be increased to be in line with other serious offences like using a mobile phone whilst driving (currently £200) to serve as a greater deterrent?</b>		
	Devon & Cornwall	National
Strongly agree	43.86%	43.10%
Agree	25.4%	27.30%
Neither agree nor disagree	13.18%	14.52%
Disagree	11.01%	10.20%
Strongly disagree	6.55%	4.88%

<b>To what extent do you agree that some of the money raised through fixed penalty fines should be reinvested into enforcement and road safety measures to deny criminals the use of our roads and keep us safer?</b>		
	Devon & Cornwall	National
Strongly agree	61.07%	60.49%
Agree	25.06%	28.38%
Neither agree nor disagree	6.33%	5.85%
Disagree	3.34%	2.59%
Strongly disagree	4.20%	2.69%

These results were included in the Commissioner's submission to the Department for Transport's Call for Evidence on roads policing. The Call for Evidence is a key part of the Government's two-year review of roads policing.

The Commissioner remains convinced that increasing traffic fines with the additional revenue being invested into local enforcement and road safety schemes improve road safety without placing an additional burden on taxpayers.

PCCs from across the country discussed the results of this poll at the Road Safety Roundtable on 21<sup>st</sup> October and the individual Force results have been shared with the National Police Chiefs Council Roads Policing lead, Anthony Bangham for circulation amongst chief constable colleagues. The results have also been shared with local MPs.

## 2.2 Home Office National Review of Police and Crime Commissioners

Part one of the national policing review has now been undertaken with a variety of stakeholders asked to submit their views to the Home Office. Part two of this review will be scheduled for after the PCC elections in May 2021. Nationally there have been a series of workshops between the Home Office and PCCs to discuss the PCC Review. The discussed

have been has been focused around transparency and accountability; resilience of PCCs; scrutiny and accountability; PCC oversight of Chief Constables; Other governance models including Mayoral models and Fire governance; and the potential to expand the PCC remit. The results of the part one findings are anticipated to be made available at the end of November.

### 2.3 Spending Review 2020

It has now been formally announced that the Chancellor will deliver the 2020 Spending Review (SR) alongside the OBR forecast on the 25th November, setting out spending plans for the next year. The Comprehensive Spending Review already announced for 2020 has now been amended to a one year CSR rather than multi-year with an announcement of the department allocations anticipated in late November. The timescale for the announcement of the detailed settlement is, as yet, uncertain but anticipated to be before Christmas. The government remain committed to the national uplift in police officer numbers and a focus on crime.

### 2.4 New National Sport and Youth Crime Prevention Board

The Commissioner has accepted the opportunity to join the new National Sport and Youth Crime Prevention Board. This Board will enable PCCs to input to and access the latest thinking and opportunities in areas of intervention, (what works) research and insight whilst addressing cross-cutting themes such as BAME and vulnerable women and girls. This strongly links to the Commissioners own work with the Chief Constable of prevention of serious violence and supports the Commissioners own Commissioning Intentions Plan development.

### 2.5 National recognition for PCC Commissioned Services

The Howard League for Penal Reform annual awards are for the country's most successful community projects encouraging desistance from crime. Projects which help to keep people out of the criminal justice system by providing alternative, proportionate, effective and targeted interventions will help reduce the risk of re-offending.

These annual awards celebrate best practice in diversionary work and champion work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it with children, women, mental health programmes or restorative approaches. The awards recognise projects and organisations whose work and practice is delivered above and beyond normal service delivery.

In October 2020, three services supported or commissioned by the PCC in Devon and Cornwall received awards:

- Make Amends Restorative Justice  
Shekinah Mission, was the winner of the 'Restorative approaches' category. Make Amends is a restorative justice service delivered in partnership with Shekinah and commissioned by the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (Devon and Cornwall).

- Trevi House Womens Centre in Plymouth

Winner of the 'Women' category. Trevi House is a charity based in Plymouth that provides safe and nurturing spaces for women and their families to heal, grow and thrive. In its 27 years of operation, the charity has helped to transform the lives of thousands of women and their children. It runs three centres.

Another South West charity, Shekinah Mission, was the winner of the 'Restorative approaches' category. Make Amends is a restorative justice service delivered in partnership with Shekinah and commissioned by the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (Devon and Cornwall).

- Circles South West

Circles South West were Commended in the Community Award in the "Children in Care and Care Leavers" category. Circles are one of the services the commissioned by the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (Devon and Cornwall).

This follows on from the success in 2019 when the overall winner of the overall award of the Pathfinder scheme, another intervention developed by the PCC which forms part of her Police and Crime Plan.

### **3. Budget Engagement with the public 2021/22**

As part of the development of the budget the PCC is required to engage the public in her proposals for the entirety of the police budget. The legislation is very broad, and therefore allows PCCs a wide discretion as to how views may be obtained. There is, for example, no express reference to public polling, community engagement events or any other particular mechanism for consultation. Therefore PCCs have flexibility as to the precise method by which public views are sought. A new national best practice document has been developed to assist PCCs in this activity and this has been led by the OPCC Chief Executive of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

In previous years residents of the Devon and Cornwall Police force area have helped the Police and Crime Commissioner set the strategic direction of the force and influenced decisions to increase taxation and bolster police officer numbers. This year the Commissioner has launched her most comprehensive survey into attitudes towards policing and community safety in preparation for the 2020/21 budget development on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Last year an increase in the precept was increased by the commissioner. It helped the force cope with rising costs and assisted in funding a rise in force strength of 50 additional police officers for the 2020/21 financial year.

This year's survey takes a little longer to complete than those of previous years. Its results will be vital in helping us plan and build a force that moves even further towards reflecting the wishes of the people it serves. The survey takes around seven minutes to complete and can be found online [here](#) or via the Police and Crime Commissioner's website at [devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk](http://devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk). Those without access to the internet can call the office on 01392 225555 to request a paper copy or complete over the phone. Alternatively they can

write to The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Andy Hocking House, Alderson Drive, Exeter, EX2 7RP, and a paper copy will be sent to them. The survey will run until midnight on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

### 3.1 Government consultations

#### (i) Funding allocation methods: new domestic abuse duty

The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently undergoing its passage through the House of Lords having completed its passage through the House of Commons prior to the Summer Recess. The Bill includes a new duty on local authorities in England to provide support for victims and their children within safe accommodation. Subject to the successful passage of the Bill, the new duty will commence in April 2021. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on the allocation method to distribute the new burdens funding associated with the duty.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-allocation-methods-new-domestic-abuse-duty>

The consultation will close on 13 November 2020. The OPCC is engaging with local authority partners regarding the consultation and is intending to make a response to this consultation, in particular highlighting the need for: the funding mechanisms to take account of the existing challenges associated with delivery of such services in rural areas, adequate time to be allowed for local authorities to prepare for this new duty; and the need for multi year funding awards to support development of meaningful services for victims .

#### (ii) Review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders

The government's consultation on proposed amendments to the highway code to improve road safety for cyclists and pedestrians closed on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Commissioner submitted a response to the consultation which focused on clarifying and strengthening the Highway Code and its protections and highlighted the importance of additional protections to support horse riders in particular on rural roads.

#### (iii) Roads policing review: future methods to improve safety and reduce casualties

This Call for Evidence on roads policing closed on 5th October 2020 and the Commissioner submitted a local response in her capacity as PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as well as leading the national APCC response. The Commissioner's response was informed by the national APCC survey on roads policing and the enforcement of road traffic laws which received 6,792 responses from within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Commissioner's response includes a call for stronger national leadership and the setting of targets to support greater focus on road safety and more enforcement of road traffic laws, including a strengthening of existing penalties for many road traffic offences and reinvestment of penalties into road safety activities.

#### (iv) Pavement Parking: Options for Change

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on options for change to the current national rules relating to pavement parking, which closes on 22 November 2020. This is an

issue that the Commissioner has previously campaigned for action from government on, including through engagement with the Transport Select Committee. The government is seeking views on 3 options:

- Improving the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, under which local authorities can already prohibit pavement parking.
- A legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'.
- A legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England.

The Commissioner has been encouraging local interest groups to engage with the consultation and will be submitting a response to the consultation *[add something from Richard on what the PCC's position will be]*.

(v) Root and Branch Review of the Parole System

The Ministry of Justice is currently consulting on whether some parole board hearings should be opened up to attendance by victims of crime or wider persons. This consultation was launched on 20 October and will close on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/root-and-branch-review-of-the-parole-system>

The Commissioner is currently considering whether to submit a response to the consultation in particular with respect to the proposals impact on victims of crime. The Commissioner has also sought to publicise the consultation across victim care services within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to ensure that they are aware of the consultation and can respond if they wish to do so.

(vi) Expanding the offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving to include non-connected mobile application actions

The Department of Transport is currently consulting on changes to existing legislation to broaden the offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving so that it captures standalone mode functions as well as the existing interactive communication functions. This is an important amendment to address an emerging loophole within the existing law and is supported by the Commissioner, both locally and in her role as national road safety lead for PCCs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/expanding-the-offence-of-using-a-hand-held-mobile-phone-while-driving-to-include-non-connected-mobile-application-actions>

The consultation will close on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and the Commissioner will be making a submission to this consultation. The Commissioner is also continuing to campaign nationally for increases in the penalties associated with other road traffic offences, such as speeding to give them parity with the current mobile phone offences and to utilise additional revenues from such an increase to support local road safety activities.

(vii) Serious Violence Protection Orders

The Home Office consultation on the design of a new court order to target known knife and offensive weapon carriers closed on 8 November 2020. The Commissioner has submitted a response to this consultation supporting the APCC's views but also highlighting the work taking place locally, funded by council tax payers, to prevent serious violence within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

3.2 Justice Select Committee Inquiry into Court Capacity in COVID 19

As the Panel are aware from the PCC Update Report to its meeting in September 2020 the Justice Select Committee is currently carrying out an inquiry into court capacity issues during COVID 19. The Commissioner submitted written evidence to the Committee – supporting the broader response provided by the Association of PCCs but also highlighting four specific issues of concern:

- The scale of the backlog locally and nationally and its impact on victims and witnesses in terms of delayed trials, including the impact on victims of modern day slavery in her capacity as Chair of the Strategic Assurance Board for the National Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit
- The need for transparency in local backlog data and recovery plans to enable the public, community leaders and others such as Police and Crime Panels to understand the scale of the challenge and to scrutinise the planned response
- The need to bring criminal justice agencies into Local Resilience Forum and emergency planning structures – to enable faster and more localised decision making and action in future emergency situations (and as we progress through the pandemic)
- The unsustainability of the existing virtual remand court arrangements – recognising that Devon and Cornwall Police will cease the provision of staffing for the operation of virtual remand courts within police custody units from the end of November 2020 due to its impact on police officer resources.

The Committee has not yet commenced its oral evidence sessions on this inquiry.

3.3 Engagement with local MPs

The Commissioner is continuing to provide fortnightly briefing calls for all MPs across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. These calls provide an opportunity to brief MPs on policing issues and to address any emerging issues or questions that MPs have. These fortnightly briefings, which are supplemented by regular written updates, cover activities by Devon and Cornwall Police in response to the ongoing pandemic, crime levels and issues such as the police budget, capacity concerns within the courts, the need to consider blue light services in planning reforms and support for victims of crime. The Chief Constable or Deputy Chief Constable joins the call at least monthly to provide an operational update.

Constraints within the criminal justice system locally and nationally remain of particular concern to the Commissioner, who is actively working with MPs and with colleagues across the APCC to raise these issues within government and to seek greater action and urgency. This has included joint letters from the Commissioner and a number of MPs, working with MPs to have issues raised in Parliament through Parliamentary Questions and direct dialogue with Ministers.

## **4. Formal Scrutiny of Policing**

### **4.1 101 Scrutiny Review**

The Commissioner's Scrutiny Review of 101 is taking place between October and December 2020. The 101 Scrutiny Panel will be meeting on three occasions over November and December 2020 and will consider a range of evidence in exploring the terms of reference that were set out in the report to the Panel in September 2020. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Taking account of the feedback received from the Panel, the scrutiny review will also explore views on the levels of investment that may be required to 101 service as part of that review.

The scrutiny panel will be considering a range of evidence, including national best practice, force strategies and processes, public survey information and correspondence received by the OPCC. The Panel will also be conducting a listening exercise of a dip sample of 101 calls to support its consideration of quality of service.

## **5. Summer Policing and surge demand**

### **5.1 Summer Policing**

Devon and Cornwall Police instigated its summer policing strategy from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, operating under a silver command structure and supported by an additional £400,000 in funding from the 2020/21 budget to support summer. This was on top of the additional pressures from managing the COVID pandemic. The summer policing plan operated until the end of September 2020 and saw the policing response supported by a number of innovative practices. This included the expansion of collaborations with partners such as the operation of joint mental health response units across the geography and the Domestic Violence Advocate Car. Unfortunately due to capacity constraints within partners it was not possible to operate the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Car across all areas and the Commissioner is keen to see these capacity constraints addressed for future summers given the potential for this intervention to enhance the service received by victims and to relieve pressures on police response units.

It was an extremely busy summer as we saw increased levels of domestic tourism, the unlocking of restrictions due to COVID 19 and a series of protests across the police force area. Devon and Cornwall Police faced high levels of demand, with both the police and SWAST recording their busiest ever day in control rooms during the summer. Demand for policing was up 8% in terms of calls for service overall across the summer period.

For example, Devon and Cornwall Police answered almost 2000 more 999 calls in August 2020 compared to August 2019. This resulted in an average wait of 17 seconds to answer, compared to 12 seconds in August 2019.

Devon and Cornwall Police also attended more immediate incidents than in the previous year over the summer, attending an additional 413 immediate incidents in August 2020

compared to the previous August (a total of 7031 immediate incidents). Despite this increase attendance times remained good in the busiest time of the year, with an average attendance time of 8 minutes and 11 seconds compared to the previous August of 8 minutes 0 seconds. 86.8% were attended within 20 minutes compared to 87.7% the previous year. The Panel will recall that in 2018 the Commissioner carried out a scrutiny review of response times – at that time the annual percentage of immediate incidents attended within 20 minutes was at 70%. This reflects the increased focus placed on response times and additional investments made in strengthening response units through police officer uplifts funded by local council tax precept increases as well as the start of increased officer numbers through the national uplift programme (FTE in post in response/patrol is 15.5 FTE higher on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 than on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018).

The full Devon and Cornwall Police debrief of Summer 2020 will conclude in December.

## 5.2 PCC's COVID 19 Safer Summer Scheme

In July 2020 the Commissioner pledged up to half a million pounds to launch a Summer 2020 COVID 19 and alcohol related anti-social behaviour (ASB) fund. The fund, formally known as the 'Covid-19 Safer Summer Scheme', provided targeted measures to help tackle ASB in 20 hotspot locations across Devon and Cornwall as a direct response to the unlocking associated with COVID 19 and the anticipated rise in anti-social behaviour.

Full details of the scheme were detailed in the Commissioner's report to this Panel in September 2020.

The total costs for the delivery of the COVID 19 Safer Summer Scheme is £393,533.26 based upon the final CSP returns at the end of October 2020. The full evaluation report is currently being drafted and is due to be published before the end of November 2020, following feedback from the CSPs. An interim set of findings have been shared with all local authorities through the LRF to support them in considering their own marshal arrangements as part of the £30 Million funding announced by the government in October.

In addition the Commissioner worked with Dartmoor National Park Authority to repurpose an existing funding allocation to support the challenges As restrictions on people's movement have eased in early summer, Dartmoor experienced a significant increase in visitors to the area including a rise in the number of individuals camping overnight, many of whom were breaching National Park bylaws. Beauty spot Bellever in particular has recently seen unsustainable levels of anti-social behaviour with littering, human waste and fires causing damage to habitats and animals. To help assist with enforcement and to help keep the area safe, National Park Rangers were joined by National Park Marshals at Bellever thanks to funding from the Commissioner's office.

## **6. Estates**

### 6.1 Investment

The PCC has agreed the purchase and development of a facility in Plymouth. The capital project will cost approximately £7m and provide a support function to the Force across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

## 7. Communications and Engagement

### 7.1 Spotlight programme on policing



The communications and engagement team worked with the BBC to organise the first regional news programme broadcast live from Middlemoor police headquarters and focussed on policing matters. The programme, broadcast on the evening October 6, 2020 from the Exeter contact centre, consisted of a discussion around Covid-19 policing and the Covid-19 marshals funded by our office through the Safer Summer Scheme.

A pre-shot package centring on the work of the Roads Collision Immersion Challenge. Funded by Dorset and Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioners, this project seeks innovative solutions to reducing the time spent investigating serious road traffic collisions.

The programme gave the OPCC and police force an opportunity to reassure communities and reinforce community safety messages.

### 7.2 The Councillor Advocate Network

The councillor advocate scheme continues to improve communication between local councillors, the police and the police and crime commissioner. The scheme works by improving the consistency and frequency of communication, offering advocates face-to-face discussions, access to a quarterly meeting with police at a local level, access to councillor advocate themed seminars and access to a named contact within the commissioner's office. The scheme has replicated good practise in the Devon and Cornwall Police force area and assists in community connectivity at a time when due to coronavirus restrictions physical events and meetings have not been possible. The number of councillor advocates continues to increase, particularly in Cornwall due to an effort by Community Engagement workers to address a historical under-representation from the Duchy. Council.

Numbers at October 10, 2020, were as follows:

	October 2019	October 2020
Devon	63	157
Cornwall	25	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>256</b>

Recent developments include:

- The setting up of virtual meetings between neighbourhood Inspectors
- A chance to put questions to the Chief Superintendent in charge of Covid-19 policing
- Streamlining/assistance of a councillor advocate looking to set up a Speedwatch scheme
- The setting up of a live question and answer session with new basic command unit commanders

**Contact for further information:**

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