



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

17th September 2021

DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025

This paper provides an update to the Police and Crime Panel on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop her Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2025. The paper seeks the comments of the Panel on the draft plan in line with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Police and Crime Plan is a statutory requirement for all police force areas introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Plan is both a planning tool for Police and Crime Commissioners and an important mechanism for communicating the Commissioner's intentions to the public, police, partner agencies, Police and Crime Panel and other stakeholders.
- 1.2. The Plan must determine, direct and communicate the Commissioner's priorities during their period in office and set out for the period of issue:
 - the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for the area;
 - the policing of the police area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
 - the financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable;
 - the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner on the provision of policing;
 - the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured.
- 1.3. Following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021, the Commissioner has developed a new Police and Crime Plan. This is the third Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and the second published by the current Commissioner. This Plan builds on the success of the delivery of the previous plan, but represents a fundamental shift to focusing on four key priorities as set out. The draft Plan is attached at **Appendix A**.



- 1.4. As required in statute, the draft Plan covers the period up to 31st March 2025 – the end of the financial year within the subsequent Commissioner’s first year of office (the next Police and Crime Commissioner elections are scheduled for May 2024).
- 1.5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Police and Crime Commissioner to:
- a) prepare a draft of the plan
 - b) consult the Chief Constable in preparing the Plan
 - c) send the draft Plan to the Police and Crime Panel
 - d) have regard to any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft Plan
 - e) give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
 - f) publish any such response.
- 1.6. The Commissioner is also required to seek the views of people and victims of crime in Devon and Cornwall on the draft Plan before it is published. This paper outlines process undertaken to develop the Plan, the content of the Plan, the feedback gathered from stakeholders, the public and victims of crime, and the next steps which the Commissioner will undertake to finalise the Plan.

2. Developing the Plan

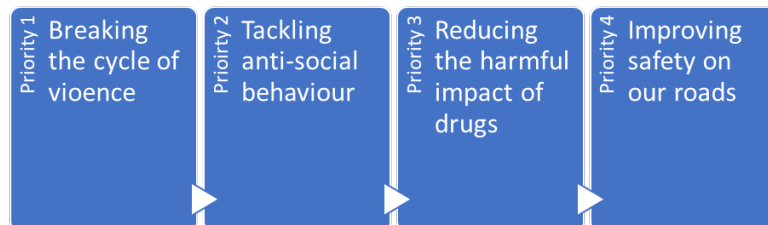
- 2.1. The draft Plan has been developed by:
- Reviewing data and intelligence
 - Listening to the public and learning from previous surveys including the Budget Survey 2021
 - Reviewing and integrating with existing regional strategies and plans such as the Peninsula Strategic Assessment
 - Engaging with partners and key stakeholders
 - Undertaking a public engagement exercise.
- 2.2. The data and evidence as set out in the cover paper demonstrate a need to focus on violence, anti-social behaviour, drugs and road safety. This was further supported by the Budget engagement survey 2021 which highlighted drugs, anti-social behaviour and road safety as the public’s priorities.
- 2.3. Stakeholder feedback was undertaken in July and August 2021. In addition to working closely with the Force Executive, a number of stakeholder groups were consulted including Victim Support, Councillor Advocates, Fire and Rescue, Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) subgroups, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), representatives of business and rural communities and representatives of minority groups. A briefing for Members of the Police and Crime Panel was arranged on 15th July 2021 but did not attract the attendance of any Panel Members.

2.4. Following careful review of the data and feedback from stakeholders a draft Plan was developed, which focuses on delivering the vision of Safe, Resilient and Connected communities. The draft Plan aims to:

- Keep communities safe by breaking the cycle of crime through prevention and innovation, maximise visible policing, support businesses to prevent crime and reduce opportunities for people to reoffend.
- Specifically focus on the four community priorities of breaking the cycle of violence, tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing harm caused by drugs and improving safety on our roads.
- Make communities more resilient by increasing public participation in policing, making the police and criminal justice services more sustainable, helping young people to reduce the chances of them falling victim to crime, influencing Government on local issues and investing in crime prevention to strengthen rural communities.
- Better connect the police and public by increasing access points to contact the police, developing easy-to-use digital services, building trust and supporting people with diverse needs, collaborating to tackle crime in partnership and improving public confidence through world class local policing.

2.5. The plan is structured as follows:

- A vision with three key aims, **Safe, Resilient and Connected**, supported by 15 objectives.
- Four priorities or focus areas for the delivery of the Plan:



- An approach with four themes:
 - People
 - Place
 - Partnerships
 - Prevention



2.6. The Police and Crime Plan will be supported by an action plan focusing on the four priorities (violence, anti-social behaviour, drugs and road safety) which will be reviewed and updated annually. This will allow the delivery plan to be agile and responsive to local and national circumstances, emerging evidence, community need and new requirements from Government. The Police and Crime Panel will be presented with an annual report on the delivery of the Plan.

3. Data and evidence

3.1. An evidence-based approach has informed the four priorities identified as set out below.

3.2. Tackling all forms of violence – this covers a broad spectrum of crime types and accounts for around 37% of all recorded crime in Devon and Cornwall. Results from the OPCC Budget Engagement Survey 2021 found that reducing serious violence was one of the top three priorities for the public - 45% of survey respondents felt this needed to be addressed in their community.

3.3. Tackling anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity. The Peninsula Strategic Assessment (PSA) 2020-21 identifies a rising trend in ASB and heightened tensions and reduced tolerance. ASB is consistently high on the agenda for residents and businesses and the OPCC Budget Engagement Survey 2021 reaffirms this point, with 50% of respondents identifying ASB as the priority that most needs addressing in their community. ASB is consistently one of the top three concerns the public raise with the Commissioner.

3.4. Reducing the harm caused by drugs – substance misuse is one of the key drivers of crime. Problem drug use (including drug related deaths) is also assessed as a high-level threat in the 2020/21 PSA. It is clear from recent public consultation that drug dealing and consumption and the consequences of drug activity are a real concern to local communities in Devon and Cornwall. The OPCC Budget Engagement Survey results show that disrupting drug supply was the second highest rated concern to respondents (72%) of the national priorities and that drug dealing was the second highest of the local priorities (44% of respondents).

3.5. Improving the safety of our roads – road safety is a significant issue for communities across Devon and Cornwall and is frequently raised as a concern to the Commissioner by members of the public. In 2019/20, 48 people lost their lives on Devon and Cornwall's roads with 793 seriously injured. In 2020, 6,792 people from Devon and Cornwall responded to the APCC Road Safety and Enforcement Survey in which over 75% of respondents stated they witness road traffic offences on the roads where they live at least once a week. Prioritising road traffic offences was the third highest priority that the public felt most needed to be addressed in their community in the OPCC Budget Engagement Survey.

4. Stakeholder feedback

4.1. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has engaged with a range of stakeholders and partners to inform the development of the draft Plan.

Stakeholders were provided with an early draft of the plan outlining a draft vision, objectives and priorities.

4.2. Feedback has been carefully considered and has been taken into account in the development and drafting of the Plan. Key themes of the feedback from victim groups and stakeholders included:

- Vulnerability and trauma – Stakeholders recommended that the plan should include information on how support will be offered to people with complex vulnerabilities and needs, and reflect a trauma informed approach. Following review, the Plan is now explicit on this in our approach, including a preventative approach taking vulnerabilities into account. The Plan has been developed in consultation with Victim Support and advised by a number of trauma informed practitioners. The Plan takes a public health and preventative approach and focuses heavily on activities such as restorative justice. The aim of the plan is to reduce crime and disorder, thereby reducing harm and trauma.
- Causes of offending/reoffending – Stakeholders recommended a clear focus on breaking the cycle of crime, and addressing criminogenic need factors and wider determinants of crime. The Commissioner has reflected this throughout the draft Plan, with a particular focus on breaking the cycle of crime in the delivery of the ‘safe’ vision and the priority in relation to violence. This is also addressed in the Plan approach.
- Women, children and families – stakeholder feedback included recommendations to include specific focus on women, children and families in the delivery of the plan. Following careful consideration the Commissioner has opted to address the needs of these groups throughout the Plan having consideration for the impacts of the four priorities (violence, drugs, anti-social behaviour and road safety) on women, children and families. In particular, the priority of breaking the cycle of violence will address violence against women and girls, and the needs of young people affected by violent crime through a public health approach. In addition, the commitment to support young people to reduce the chances of them falling victim to crime addresses the needs of children and young people.
- Health (including mental health) – Stakeholders recommended taking a ‘public health’ approach in the delivery of the plan, to address the health needs of the public including mental health needs. After careful consideration the Commissioner has opted to focus the scope of the draft Plan on policing and criminal justice, whilst reflecting the wider determinant needs of the public that may make them more vulnerable to becoming victims of crime or being drawn into crime.

5. Public survey

5.1. In August 2021 the OPCC embarked on a public engagement exercise to inform the development of the new Police and Crime Plan. The engagement exercise ran from 10th August to 2nd September 2021 via an online survey. The survey asked members of the public for feedback on key aspects of the plan, including:

- The strategic objectives of Safe, Resilient and Connected communities
- The aims sitting beneath each of the strategic objectives
- The four community priorities of tackling all forms of violence, tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing harm caused by drugs and improving safety on our roads.

5.2. In total the survey received 2,212 responses. Overall, results show that all 18 of the Commissioner's objectives were supported by the public, with most respondents stating that they were either 'fairly' or 'very' important. The objectives that were most likely to be deemed 'fairly' or 'very' important by respondents included; reducing anti-social behaviour (97%), preventing young people becoming victims of crime (97%), reducing the opportunity for people to re-offend (95%) and improving public confidence in the police (95%).

5.3. When asked to rank the four community priorities in order of importance, preventing serious violence was deemed the most important by the majority of respondents. This was followed by tackling anti-social behaviour, reducing the harm caused by drugs and improving safety on our roads.

5.4. A full analysis of the survey results is included at **Appendix B**.

6. KPIs and National Priorities for Policing

6.1. The draft Plan has been developed with regard for the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Beating Crime Plan 2021 and the National Policing Priority Measures 2021.

6.2. The national priorities for policing are specified in the Police and Crime Measures: reduce murder and other homicide, reduce serious violence, disrupt drugs supply and county lines, reduce neighbourhood crime, tackle cyber crime and improve satisfaction among victims with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse. The Commissioner will use these national measures as core key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor the success and impact of the Police and Crime Plan, alongside additional KPIs as set out in the draft Plan.

6.3. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 requires Police and Crime Commissioners to provide a statement on the contribution of their force to achieving improvements against the National Policing Priorities, and that this statement is published at the same time as the Policing and Crime Plan. This statement will be presented to the Panel at their next meeting in November 2021.

7. Finalisation of the Police and Crime Plan

- 7.1. Views are sought from the Police and Crime Panel on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025. In line with Section 5E(6)(d) of the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Commissioner will have regard for any report or recommendations made by the Panel in relation to the draft Plan and give the Panel a response to any such report or recommendations.
- 7.2. The Commissioner requests that feedback is provided to her following the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 17th September 2021 and before the 30th September 2021. The Commissioner will review and consider feedback and provide a response to the Panel with the intention of publishing the Police and Crime Plan at the beginning of October 2021.

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