



Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 11 July 2013

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT - July 2013

1. Introduction

This report presents to the Police and Crime Panel a summary of the activity conducted by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the weeks since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting on 9 April 2013. The report also looks forward to forthcoming planned events and engagements in coming weeks.

2. Decisions taken by the PCC

Date	Decision taken	Details	Link to decision register on PCC website
12 March 2013	Treasury Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides for an Investment and borrowing strategy ▪ Approves use of PCC bankers and investment fund managers 	12-25/2/13
2 April 2013	Performance Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provides for a framework for holding the Chief Constable to account ▪ A project plan for next steps is developed to include targets and milestones 	15-11/3/2013
2 April 2013	To issue the Police and Crime Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal decision to issue the Police and Crime Plan 2013/2017 	14-25/3/2013

Joint Audit Committee

As reported to the Panel in February, the Commissioner convened a Joint Audit Committee (JAC) early in his term of office. The JAC is an independent advisory committee providing assurance to the Commissioner and the Chief Constable regarding the adequacy of the risk management framework and the control environment.

The members of JAC were appointed following an open recruitment exercise which was widely advertised across Devon and Cornwall. In addition, a wide range of community groups were contacted with details of the vacancies. JAC members are Steve Haworth, Helen Donnellan, Mark Seymour and Jo Norton.

Appointments and Remuneration Committee

As reported to the Panel in April, an Appointments and Remuneration Committee (ARC) was established in March 2013. The ARC provides advice to the Commissioner relating to the pay and conditions for OPCC staff and police staff members of the Chief Officer Group of the Force.

The Committee comprises three independent members selected following an open recruitment process which also shared details of the vacancies with community

groups across Devon and Cornwall. The independent members are John Rom, Michael Munro O'Brien and Rachel Young.

Standards Committee

In coming weeks, the Commissioner is to convene a Standards Committee. This will provide a check and balance on the staff and committee members of the Commissioner's office. The Police and Crime Panel will be updated on progress in due course.

The terms of reference and meeting papers for the Joint Audit Committee and Appointments and Remuneration Committee are available on the OPCC website

3. Significant developments

Recruitment of police officers

The PCC is delighted to announce that the recruitment of police officers has resumed following a three year freeze. This follows the PCC's Police and Crime Plan priority to halt the further decline of police officer numbers coupled with the bold decision to raise the council tax precept in February. Twenty student officers started their police training in April, followed by a further twenty in June. An additional eighty trainee officers will commence the initial 18 week course at Middlemoor by March 2014 bringing the total to 120 this year. The officers will then spend 12 weeks conducting operational duties with a tutor constable with the first cohort of probationers available for deployment at the beginning of November 2013.

Collaborating to make Devon and Cornwall safer still

In May, the five PCCs and Chief Constables from the south west region (Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) signed a deal that will improve the way the region prevents terrorism. A collaboration arrangement has been agreed that will see the five forces sharing resources and joining up services in order to boost the service provided by Special Branch officers across the south west. This is the first five-way agreement between south west police forces and marks a significant step on the road to greater collaboration in the future

Performance and Accountability Board convened

May saw the launch of the PCC's new Performance and Accountability Board. The inaugural meeting established the mechanisms by which the PCC will formally hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the police force and set a work schedule for the year to ensure all policing areas receive appropriate scrutiny.

The PCC has clearly expressed his wish for his intention to move towards open meetings which would include the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. The format of an open element for meetings would be given further consideration and developed. In the meantime, a performance update following the meeting will be made available on the PCCs website along with notes from the meeting and a video of the PCC questioning the Chief Constable.

Police and Crime Commissioner's office restructure

The Chief Executive has been leading an office review over the last few weeks to ensure the Commissioner has a staffing complement that is able to support him appropriately in his work.

Most of the current staff within the OPCC transferred from the former Police Authority. The role of the PCC is different to the police authority and enjoys a very much broader remit containing numerous statutory responsibilities including commissioning services and issuing grants. The PCC has previously informed the Police and Crime Panel that he intends to grow his office staff complement minimally in order to ensure he is appropriately supported in fulfilling his statutory duties and develop an office of public engagement.

The Commissioner is currently appointing, through an open recruitment process, to a number of new posts within the OPCC. The Panel will be kept updated on progress. In the meantime, a number of temporary appointments have been made to assist the Commissioner through the intervening period.

Temporary secondment to the OPCC from the voluntary sector

In order to support the OPCC through its office restructure and in recognition of his commitment to work closely with the voluntary and charitable sector, the Commissioner is pleased to announce that Sarah Carlsen-Brown from Devon Reform has agreed to work with the OPCC on a secondment for several months. Sarah's role will be to assist with gaining an understanding of partnership plans and priorities, assessing common approaches to delivering the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

The secondment was agreed following a call for expressions of interest from across the voluntary sector.

4. Community engagement and meetings

The Commissioner has undertaken the following engagements in recent weeks. In addition to these listed below, the Commissioner meets with the Chief Constable at least once a week. The Commissioner also holds formal weekly meetings with the Chief Executive and Treasurer, and Joint Management Board meetings with the Chief Officer Group once a month.

April appointments and meetings

- Attendance at East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership Annual Conference, east Devon
- Launch of Torbay Neighbourhood Watch 'Feel Safe' scheme, Torquay
- meeting with Torbay Voice, Torquay
- Interview with Torquay Herald Express
- meeting with Dru Sharpling, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
- meeting with Mark Castle, Association of Police & Crime Commissioners
- meeting with SEEDS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Domestic Abuse Services), Exeter
- hosted meeting of Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables from the south west region, Exeter
- meeting with Sir Hugh Orde, President of Association of Chief Police Officers
- Question time event, Chudleigh
- meeting with John Tucker, Devon & Cornwall Probation Trust
- Visit to Shekinah Mission, Plymouth
- Attendance at Devon & Cornwall Advisory Committee (magistracy), Exeter

- Meeting with Victim Services Alliance, Exeter
- Meeting with League Against Cruel Sports, Exeter
- Talk to Ivybridge Town Council
- Victim services consultation events, Okehampton and Wadebridge
- Attend CATS (Community Action Through Sport) awards, Bude
- Attend Taxi radio scheme launch, Newquay
- Visit Community Payback in action, Newquay
- Attend South Devon and Dartmoor CSP Forum, Rattery
- Visit Crown Prosecution Service, Exeter Magistrates Court
- Meeting with SOS Global (social enterprise promoting positive lifestyles), Exeter
- Meeting with Chris Pomfret, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership.

May appointments and meetings

- Visit to Truro Crown Court
- Visit to Cornwall Youth Work Partnership, Redruth
- Meeting with Rob Fenwick, National Offender Management Service, Exeter
- Attend South West Devon Magistrates AGM, Plymouth
- Meeting with Craig McArdle (Head of Service for Commissioning) Plymouth City Council
- Meeting with Lee Howell (Chief Fire Officer) Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Service, Exeter
- Talk to Cheriton Bishop Neighbourhood Watch
- Visit to Community Action North Devon, Barnstaple
- Visit to Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association, Penzance
- Host visit of Coalition for Action on Learning Disability Hate Crime, Exeter
- Interview by Radio Devon on rural crime
- Attend Local Criminal Justice Board, Exeter
- Visit to CCTV unit at Launceston Police Station
- Talk to Callington Rotary Club
- Question and answer event, Devon County Show, Exeter
- Attend visit of Her Majesty The Queen to St Ives
- Talks with Baroness Newlove (Victims Commissioner), Newquay
- Attend Torbay Youth Offending Team, Torquay
- Attend Devon Strategic Partnership Conference, Exeter
- Attend PCSO Passing Out ceremony, Exeter
- Meet Devon Youth Offending Team, Exeter
- Talks with Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables from the south west region, Portishead
- Tim Francis Adult Mental Health Commissioning Manager, NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
- Attend Devon Mediation AGM, Exeter
- Attend Local Criminal Justice Board Restorative Justice event, Plymouth
- Visit Crimestoppers, Crownhill Police Station, Plymouth
- Meeting with the Editor of the Western Morning News, Plymouth
- Visit Dreamscheme, (project encouraging youngsters to play a part in transforming their local community). Plymouth
- Talks with Rob Menary of Devon & Cornwall Probation Trust, Plymouth.

June appointments and meetings (up to 21 June)

- Meeting with Rachel Cerfontyne, Independent police Complaints Commissioner
- Meeting with Kim Hager (Joint Commissioning Manager – Cornwall Council / Council of the Isles of Scilly / NHS Cornwall and IoS), Truro
- Attend Cornwall Magistrates AGM, Truro
- Meeting with Devon Bench Chairmen and Local Magistrates Association branches, Exeter
- Attend Health and Wellbeing Board, Plymouth
- Attend Michelmores Solicitors Business Breakfast, Exeter
- Joint surgery and open public meeting with Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Totnes
- Meet with Flying Start Family Resource (Support services for families with children), Exeter
- Meeting with the Editor of the Western Morning News, Plymouth
- Meeting with Councillor Tudor Evans, Plymouth City Council, Plymouth
- Attend Health and Wellbeing Board, Truro
- Interview with myCornwall tv, Truro
- Visit Plymouth Community Payback Event, Plymouth.

The Commissioner's weekly diary of engagements is published on the OPCC website [here](#). A calendar of forthcoming events can be found [here](#).

The Commissioner has also made a number of short video clips which are available from the PCC's YouTube channel, available [here](#).

To mark six months in office, in May the Commissioner took part in an hour long live interactive web chat. It gave the chance for the public to ask questions, share opinions and discuss policing strategy and priorities for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The web chat can be read again at the OPCC website.

Also, the Commissioner recorded a video to talk about what he had achieved in his first half year in the role. He set out his agenda for next 6 months and highlighted priorities for the summer. The video can be viewed [here](#).

5. Correspondence received

The OPCC received 327 items of correspondence between 9 April and 21 June 2013.

The most common topics of correspondence received were

- Budget / Commissioning
Queries regarding the council tax and bids for funding.
- Conduct of police officers or police staff
These complaints were forwarded to the Police Force's Professional Standards Department.
- Police service level / response
Some of the letters are applauding good service however the majority were from individuals dissatisfied with the service they received when engaging with the

police Examples include: rationalisation of staff to central points; concern about lack of cover in areas; and lack of response by police to noise nuisance issues.

- **Miscellaneous**

There was also a large amount of correspondence that did not lend itself to categorisation. Examples include: a request for an offensive website to be taken down; concern about a neighbour's vulnerability; request for information about consultation activity; raising awareness of child sexual exploitation issues; questions about Force vehicles; request for assistance with medical authorities; and, information about heritage crime.

- **Roads policing:**

The majority of these letters related to parking issues. An emerging theme appears to be a lack of clarity amongst the public about which agencies issue parking tickets.

Social Media

The PCC has 1494 followers on Twitter (up from 1075 in April) and 150 followers on Facebook (up 32). The OPCC website received 5,115 unique visits between 1 March and 31 May 2013. This compares to 9,019 visits in the three months from 1 December 2012 to 28 February 2013.

The PCC issues an e-newsletter on a regular basis. Currently over 900 people are signed up to receive this service.

6. Media activity

April

- Pirate FM radio interview (general topics)
- Torbay Herald Express interview
- Knife Crime interviews on local radio, OPCC film (SOS Global event).

May

- BBC Radio Devon rural crime interview
- Rural crime forum at Devon County Show. BBC TV and local radio interview
- Various 6 months in office radio interviews. OPCC film
- ITV interview (regarding the above)
- Regional PCC meeting and radio interviews (Special Branch collaboration)
- Dreamscheme launch radio interviews and OPCC film.

June

- BBC Radio Cornwall interview (Office structure/costings)
- Radio Exe, Palm Radio and Radio Plymouth interviews regarding regional collaboration
- Interview 'myCornwall' magazine and TV.

7. Responses to national reports

The Police and Crime Commissioner has issued a response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's national report into allegations against the late Jimmy

Savile. The HMIC report entitled '*Mistakes were made*' and the Commissioner's response can be viewed [here](#).

8. Complaints handling

The OPCC has accepted a delegation from the Police and Crime Panel to conduct initial handling of non-criminal complaints.

This is subject to a separate update to the Police and Crime Panel.

The majority of complaint- related correspondence received by the Commissioner's office has been outside the remit of the OPCC and has been passed to the Force's Professional Standards Department in accordance with statutory regulations. These are predominantly individual cases with specific issues and therefore themes are not evident.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITY

9. Key meetings and engagements currently scheduled for July

In addition to the events diarised above, the Commissioner is organising a full programme of engagement events in the summer months. This will be published as soon as possible.

10. Planned OPCC events

Launch of Small Grants Scheme

11. Forthcoming publications

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary are to publish their value for money report for all police forces on 18 July. This will comprise a national thematic document indicating the progress being made to deliver improvements in policing, protecting the frontline and making the savings required from the police grant reductions as well as a local report tailored to Devon and Cornwall Constabulary's particular circumstances.

The OPCC will publish its Annual Governance Statement in September.

Contact for further information

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