



Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

**Police and Crime Panel Meeting
11 October 2013
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT - October 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 in July 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
10 June 2013	Approves year-end appropriations to reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves year-end appropriation to a new Remuneration Reserve • Approves revenue & capital carry-forward requests; • Delegates decision on a new processes for funding Police and Crime Plan initiatives and Force Programme Projects in 2013-14 to the Joint Management Board 	21-10/6/13
10 June 2013	Acceptance of Regional Organised Crime Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accepts Grant offer from Home Office to police forces in south west region on behalf of Devon & Cornwall 	20-10/6/2013
24 June 2013	Approval of Devon & Cornwall's inclusion in five force Special Branch collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Devon & Cornwall Police in Special Branch collaboration arrangement with Avon & Somerset Police, Dorset Police, Wiltshire Police and Gloucestershire Police 	17-24/6/2013
4 July 2013	To issue PCC's Annual Report 2012/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Report presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 11 July 2013 for scrutiny and public questions ▪ Annual Report covers period 15 November 2012 to 31 March 2013. 	19-4/7/2013
12 September 2013	Stage 2 transition submission to Home Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A scheme of transfer and explanatory document submitted to the Home Secretary. 	21-12.09.2013

3. Significant developments

Tony Hogg hosts Alcohol Think Tank

The PCC hosted a major conference in Plymouth on 20 September looking at what can be done to tackle the problems of alcohol abuse across the Peninsular.

Over 60 delegates attended the PCC's, 'Action for Change' alcohol think tank, at Plymouth's Mount Batten Centre to hear speakers from the licensed trade and academia outline the impact any strategy would have in social, health and economic terms.

Delegates discussed the range of approaches already underway across the region to tackle the harm caused by alcohol. This ranged from local interventions to wide ranging publicity campaigns to raise awareness to binge drinking.

Tony Hogg called on council leaders, licensees, the police and health sectors to work with him by leading a change in direction where attitudes to alcohol abuse are more stringently challenged and better education is provided.

PCC Tony Hogg said *"Our task is to make sure the benefit of a thriving economy is not offset by its cost. There is no easy answer but we need to initiate cultural change in our cities, towns and villages. We all need to ask ourselves what kind of place we want to live in"*.

Tony Hogg chairs first public Performance and Accountability Board

The first public meeting of the PCC's Performance and Accountability Board was held in Plymouth on 5 September. The meeting was chaired by Tony Hogg and attended by the Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent Boulting, Plymouth Police Commander. The meeting covered a range of topics including scrutiny of the latest crime figures and looked at issues affecting Plymouth in particular.

The meeting was broadcast live over the internet along with a Twitter feed. The Board meets each month with every other meeting open to the public and held at venues throughout Devon and Cornwall.

Further information on the performance board, and reports of previous meetings, can be found on the PCC's website.

Police and Crime Commissioner launches Small Grant Scheme

In September, the PCC provided community groups in Devon and Cornwall the opportunity to bid for a share in £200,000. The PCC's Small Grant Scheme supports the commitment in the Police and Crime Plan to put charitable and community organisations at the heart of policing.

Groups are invited to bid for grants of up to £5,000 for projects which will have a positive impact on crime prevention, safeguarding the vulnerable or community safety as set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The scheme has two phases. The closing date for applications for phase one is 31 October 2013 and phase two is 31 May 2014.

The first round of successful bids will be released in December 2013 with a second announcement in July 2014.

Further details of the PCC's Small Grant Scheme and details of eligibility and how to apply can be found on the OPCC website [here](#)..

Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes recruitment of Special Constables

In his Police and Crime Plan the PCC pledged to boost Devon and Cornwall's Special Constabulary from 600 to 800 by 2017 and provided Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer with the funding to do this.

Mr Hogg has hailed the planned recruitment pilot as groundbreaking in its use of distance learning and new technology and its inclusivity.

To achieve the PCC's aim of 800 Specials the Force needs to train an additional 65 recruits this financial year, on top of the 120 it had already budgeted for. Additional recruitment and training above the planned 120 might also be required in the following years.

Each cohort of recruits numbers 40 students and sees each undertake 12 weekends' residential training at police headquarters in Exeter. This can prove limiting for potential recruits with existing weekend work commitments, childcare issues or who simply finds it difficult to travel regularly to Exeter.

Adding two extra courses to the Force's training schedule would also cause capacity issues within the training department.

The Force's solution is to deliver an additional traditional, classroom-based course for 40 recruits alongside another distance learning course for 25 students, who will use tablet based training modules to complete much of their course. This will be combined with four or five weekends of operational training.

Anyone interested in joining the Special Constabulary should visit the Force website for details.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary publish report into effectiveness of Devon & Cornwall Police in meeting the funding challenge

In July 2013, HMIC published its study into how police forces in England & Wales are coping with the budget cuts brought about by the Spending Review and the associated impact this was having on service delivery.

HMIC's findings are published in a national report, '*Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge*' available [here](#), and in individual Force reports. The Devon and Cornwall report is available [here](#).

HMIC found that the progress the Force had made in the last twelve months meant it was in a much stronger position to manage future reductions. However, the inspectorate found that Devon & Cornwall Police faced a particular challenge given its geography and huge increase in population in the summer months.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has published his response to the report, along with that of the Chief Constable. The response is available on the OPCC website [here](#).

Commissioner signs Say No to Hate Crime pledge

Tony Hogg along with the Leader of Cornwall Council, John Pollard and other community leaders has signed a pledge to help end hate crime in Cornwall.

Others who signed their pledge to Say No To Hate at the event in Truro included Chair of Safer Cornwall Des Tidbury; Chief Superintendent Julie Fielding; Interim Cornwall Council Chief Executive Paul Masters and Rob Cooper, Chair of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Adults Board.

Commissioner calls for action against Legal Highs

On a visit to Barnstaple, Mr Hogg confronted staff in a shop where legal highs were on sale. The PCC is concerned that families in Devon and Cornwall are at risk from these freely available substances.

A number of local incidents have occurred in recent weeks where young people have been hospitalised after taking so-called 'legal highs', Tony Hogg is urging all sections of the community to join forces to counter the danger posed by an increasing trade in the drugs.

Tony Hogg pledged to meet with local authorities and MPs to ensure that everything is being done that can be to stop the peddling of these potentially lethal substances on our high streets. Also, that legislation is considered which makes retailers liable for any harm caused by the products they sell. He said *"Allowing suppliers to hide behind loose disclaimers should be no defence when a substance is clearly sold for its psychoactive properties"*.

Police and Crime Commissioner's office restructure

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

The PCC reported to the Police and Crime Panel in July that a recruitment process was underway and pledged to keep the Panel and public updated on progress.

The recruitment round has now concluded and the following managerial appointments have been made

Performance Management & Customer Services Manager – Dr Karen Vincent
Criminal Justice, Partnership & Commissioning Manager – Ian Ansell
Engagement & Volunteers Manager – Justin Wiggin
Strategy & Planning Manager – Lisa Vango

Two additional posts, an Engagement & Volunteer Officer and a Performance Officer, have also been appointed.

Transfer proposals submitted to the Home Office

In November 2012, all police staff, assets and liabilities transferred from the former Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Home Secretary has

stated that by April 2014 the PCC, in consultation with the Chief Constable, must decide which staff and assets will be retained by the PCC and which will be transferred to the Chief Constable. This process is referred to as Stage 2 transfer.

The PCC submitted his proposal for Stage 2 transfer to the Home Secretary by the deadline of 16 September 2013. A paper setting out more detail of the proposed transfer is included on the agenda for the Police and Crime Panel meeting for 11 October 2013.

Collaborating to make Devon and Cornwall safer still

On 20 September, the PCCs and Chief Constables of Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset and Wiltshire signed an agreement to improve the way the region prevents terrorism. A collaboration arrangement has been signed that will see the four forces sharing resources and joining up services in order to boost the service provided by Special Branch officers across the south west.

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.

July appointments and meetings

- Meeting with Plymouth Guiding Partnership
- Attendance at Devon Drug & Alcohol Action Team, Exeter
- Meeting with Georgie Constable, Victim Support
- Meeting with PCCs and Chief Constables from south west region, Gloucester
- Police and Crime Panel, Plymouth
- Visit to Dracaena Centre (community regeneration partnership) Falmouth
- Visit to Cornwall Air Ambulance HQ, Newquay
- Attend Special Constables Passing Out Parade. Exeter
- Greet the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, Bude
- Attend Stithians Show, Truro
- Visit Devon Rape Crisis Service, Exeter
- Visit Wings (youth work charity), Bideford
- Press conference and radio interviews (following release of HMIC report)
- Attend Devon Safeguarding Children's Board, Exeter
- Meeting with *Stop Abuse for Everyone* (domestic abuse charity), Exeter
- Attend Cornwall Health & Wellbeing Board, Truro
- Attend Mid Devon Show, Tiverton
- Attend Local Criminal Justice Board meeting, Exeter
- Meeting with Dru Sharpling, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Exeter
- Attend Yealmpton Show, Plymouth
- Meeting with Chief Executive of Young Devon (youth charity), Exeter

August appointments and meetings

- PCC on the Beat with Scenes of Crime Officers, Newton Abbot
- Meeting with Marc Kastner, Chief Officer, Devon & Cornwall Special Constabulary, Exeter

- Meeting with Community Safety Team, Torbay
- Briefing about Operation Zephyr (serious and organised crime unit), Exeter
- PCC on the Beat, Sidmouth
- Public Surgery, Barnstaple
- Meeting with regional representatives of Federation of Small Business, Exeter
- Attend Okehampton Show
- Meeting with Senior Supporting Families Manager, Cornwall Council, Truro
- Attend police officer graduation ceremony, Exeter
- Meeting with Cllr Croad, Chair of Police and Crime Panel, Ivybridge
- Meeting with Virtually S@fer (on- line safety for children), Exeter
- BBC Radio interviews
- Attend Anti Social behaviour conference, Newton Abbot
- Sign up to 'Say No to hate Crime', Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service, Truro

September appointments and meetings

- Meeting with three domestic violence charities, Exeter
- Meeting with Plymouth Drake Foundation (community charity), Plymouth
- Visit to Plymouth Highbury Trust, Plymouth
- Attend Torbay Health & Wellbeing Board, Torquay
- Talk at Teignmouth Rotary Club
- Attend Plymouth Guiding Partnership meeting
- Attend Devon Federation of Small Businesses Awards Luncheon, Torquay
- Public surgery, Torquay
- Meeting with Chair and Chief Officer of Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, Exeter
- Visit to Plymouth Magistrates Court
- Visit to Broadreach House (drug and alcohol treatment charity), Plymouth
- Meeting with Devon CAP (child abuse prevention project), Exeter
- Meeting with Community Council Devon, Exeter
- Briefing with Exeter City, Plymouth Argyle and Torquay United Football Clubs, Exeter.
- Attend meeting of Devon Independent Custody Visiting volunteers, Exeter
- Meet with CSP Chairs, Plymouth
- Attend launch of Local Heroes event, Plymouth
- Meeting with Cornwall People First, Penzance
- Attend meeting of National Association of Retired Police Officers, Shortlanesend
- Meeting with PCCs and Chief Constables from south west region, Winfrith, Dorset

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 13 new short video clips which are available from the PCC's YouTube channel, available [here](#).

5. Correspondence received

The OPCC received 358 items of correspondence between 22 June and 23 September 2013.

The most common topics of correspondence received were

- The non emergency enquiry centre
There continues to be a number of letters sent to the PCC regarding the police non-emergency enquiry centre (101). This correspondence generally relates to the time taken to answer the call.
- Conduct of police officers or police staff
These complaints were forwarded to the Police Force's Professional Standards Department and generally relate to incivility or poor standards of service.
- Roads policing matters:
The majority of these letters related to parking issues and general behaviour by road users (mainly car drivers) such as use of mobile phones whilst driving, and non compliance with the Highway Code.

Social Media

The PCC has 1,877 followers on Twitter (up from 1,494 in June) and 166 'likes' on Facebook (up 16). The OPCC website received 8,435 unique visits between 1 June – 31 August 2013. This compares to 5,115 visits in the three months from 1 March and 31 May 2013.

The PCC issues an e-newsletter on a regular basis. Currently 1287 people are signed up to receive this service.

6. Media activity

July to September

- Briefing with editors – including Bill Martin (Western Morning news)
- Reaction to HMIC report '*Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge*' (ITV Westcountry Tonight, BBC Radio, Western Morning News and associated newspapers)
- BBC Radio Cornwall – live Laurence Reed 'phone in' before Truro public meeting
- Feature interview Western Morning News regarding launch of PCC's Small Grant Scheme
- BBC Spotlight/ Politics show – reaction to Spending Review announcement tied to budget and protection of officer numbers
- 'Head shop' newspaper and broadcast media interviews
- Alcohol event – Live interviews and lunchtime debate
- Newspaper coverage of first webcast Performance & Accountability Board (Plymouth Evening Herald, WMN) including comments regarding election expenses.
- Media coverage of Special Constable recruitment including live BBC radio interview
- Various quotes regional/local newspapers regarding policing issues

7. Responses to national reports

'Stop the Drift 2'

The Police and Crime Commissioner has issued a response to a joint report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate which looked at the end-to-end (arrest to disposal) processes within the criminal justice system.

This report entitled '*Stop the Drift 2*' followed a similar HMIC study in 2010 which found a lack of clarity about what type of cases should enter the CJS; a lack of systematic control of costs and regulation of the criminal justice process; excessive bureaucracy and an historical, piecemeal approach to reform.

The PCC's response to the report and that of the Chief Constable can be found on the OPCC website [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.

Contact for further information

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