



# Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

**Police and Crime Panel Meeting  
20 December 2013  
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

## **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT - December 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 October 2013. The report also looks forward to forthcoming planned events and engagements in coming weeks.

### **2. Decisions taken by the PCC**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Decision taken</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Link to decision register on PCC website</b>
25 November 2013	To appoint interim Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fixed-term appointment until 30 April 2014</li><li>• Fulfils statutory requirement for PCC to have a Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer</li></ul>	To follow

### **3. Significant developments**

#### **PCC marks one year in office**

On 22 November 2013, the Police and Crime Commissioner marked the first anniversary of taking office by setting out his agenda for year 2 and highlighting some of his main achievements so far.

This includes:

- Halting the decline in police officer numbers;
- Greater force performance analysis;
- Major funding contributions to community projects;
- Launch of £250,000 Small Grant Scheme to support Police and Crime plan;
- Value for money analysis and regional collaboration (including Special Branch);
- Doubling public engagement (compared to former Police Authority);
- Appointment of victim's advisor.

To mark his first anniversary, Tony Hogg recorded a video clip for the PCCtv site on YouTube reviewing his first year and looking forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

### **Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day**

Tony Hogg also marked his first year by taking part in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day. Now in its seventh year, the day offers children and young people across the country the chance to work alongside adults and be involved in decision-making. The day relies on the support of people and organisations, businesses and schools across the country to make it a success.

Tony Hogg invited eight Community Police Cadets to visit the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and take part in a number of activities including analysing data to see who is most at risk of being a victim of mobile phone theft. The cadets created a series of crime prevention tips which are published on the PCC website.

Later, the young people took the opportunity to grill the PCC in a question time-style event which was filmed and collated into a You Tube video. The day concluded with a visit to police headquarters.

### **PCC grant prevents closure of rape crisis service**

Devon Rape Crisis Service, which last year prevented 800 women in Devon and Torbay becoming victims has been saved from closure with an emergency grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The centre faced closure when its funding from central Government came to an end, Tony Hogg has provided £20,000 to ensure this vital service can overcome its funding shortfall.

The DRCS was set-up in May 2011 and has received tapered funding from the Ministry of Justice for the first three years. In challenging economic times, it has struggled to replace the reducing Government money with independent financial sustainability.

The Commissioner's grant will ensure DRCS can continue its vital work into 2014/15 when it will be much better placed to secure long term funding.

### **Tony Hogg appoints Victims Advisor**

The Police and Crime Commissioner is continuing his fight to give victims of crime a greater voice by appointing a Victims' Advisor.

Georgie Constable who has more than 40 years experience working in the voluntary sector has agreed to work alongside the Commissioner and his team to deliver the Police and Crime Plan.

Georgie, who is Divisional Manager of Victim Support in Devon and Cornwall, took up the unpaid position in September.

### **Tony Hogg appoints interim Chief Executive**

Following the departure of Sue Howl, Tony Hogg appointed Andrew White to act as interim Chief Executive until 30 April 2014.

Mr White has a broad experience of policing governance having previously been the Chief Executive for the Police and Crime Commissioner in Hertfordshire and prior to that was Chief Executive of Hertfordshire Police Authority. He has a strong

understanding and experience of partnership working, police force collaboration issues as has senior central government experience.

Mr White undertook some work for the PCC's office over the summer and from this has important knowledge of local matters and issues affecting the Force, community safety partnerships and businesses in the area.

Beyond the normal duties of the Chief Executive, Mr White will review recent changes in the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

The PCC intends to begin a recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive in the new year.

### **PCC hosts Plymouth public meeting**

Tony Hogg hosted a public consultation and question time event in Plymouth on 27 November which was broadcast live by BBC radio across Devon and Cornwall.

The open meeting, attended by 49 members of the public, put a range of questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner, who was accompanied by the Chief Constable.

The Commissioner took the opportunity to meet with a number of members of the public on a one-to-one basis ahead of the live 90-minute broadcast.

The PCC will hold similar meetings across Devon and Cornwall on a quarterly basis.

### **PCC launches Christmas Drink Drive Campaign**

Tony Hogg has given his full support to the police Christmas Drink Drive campaign.

This year a convicted drink-driver has joined forces with Devon and Cornwall Police to highlight the consequences of driving under the influence.

The 33-year-old Plymouth University student was caught drink driving in November 2012 and lost his licence for 12 months. The first time offence had a 'catastrophic' impact on his life, job prospects and his personal relationships.

Tony Hogg has campaigned throughout the year for an attitudinal shift in the part alcohol plays in society and for an increased awareness of the harm it can cause.

### **Police and Crime Commissioner signs up to new regional forensic collaboration**

Exeter will be the base for one of three regional centres for police forensic services after the five south west Police and Crime Commissioners agreed to a new streamlined state-of-the-art service.

Currently each force has both fingerprint and chemical laboratories but under the new agreement this will reduce to three with fingerprint services being delivered in Exeter and Portishead and the chemical service in Gloucestershire and Exeter.

By using existing estate and capacity the five forces expect to save around £1.9 million in the short term. By 2018-19 it is forecast that regional savings from the collaborative project could be as high as £6.6m.

The collaboration was given the green light at a south west regional meeting of Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables on 27 November 2013.

The decision follows several months of negotiation between PCCs as part of their efforts to reduce budgets and increase efficiency for the future. It will mean forces sharing systems and services and adopting a similar process for ICT systems already in place in other parts of the UK. That Devon and Cornwall is the only Force chosen to host two of the laboratories is testimony to the expertise and quality of those providing the forensics service for the peninsula.

This is the first of a three phase programme of work looking at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of forensic services in the region. Phases two and three will follow next year.

#### **Refresh of Police and Crime Plan**

The PCC is under an obligation to keep the Police and Crime Plan under review to ensure it remains appropriate to the needs of communities and responds to changing circumstances.

The PCC and his team have commenced a review of the current Plan including a reassessment of the risks and opportunities facing the police and community safety partners. The Police and Crime Panel will be kept updated on progress.

#### **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.

##### **October appointments and meetings**

- BBC Spotlight interview
- Meeting with Dave Wright, Insight and Impact Team (Hate Crime) Devon County Council
- Visit to Kingsbridge Police Cadets
- Attend Encompass (domestic abuse and schools link-up) Relaunch Event, Plymouth
- Visit PIETY Centre (Islamic Education Centre), Plymouth
- Attend screening of short film '*Drink Drank Drunk*', made by a former alcohol addict
- Attend Plymouth Respect festival
- Attend meeting of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, London
- Meet with Devon and Cornwall MPs, London
- Hosted meeting of PCCs and Chief Constables from south west region, Exeter
- Meeting with Lord Lieutenant, Sir Eric Dancer, Plymouth
- Meeting with Students Union, University of Plymouth
- Attend reception with the Prime Minister, London
- Meeting with Dr Peter Aitken, Neighbourhood Health Watch, Exeter
- Conference call with Ben Bradshaw MP

- Conference call with Gordon Oliver, Mayor of Torbay
- PCC on the Beat, Penzance
- Participate in interview with Dr Rachel Ash, Cardiff Business School
- Meeting with Mark Sedwill, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, Exeter
- Lunch with retiring Independent Custody Visitors, Lifton
- Attend HM Courts & Tribunals Service: South-West Devon Advisory Sub-Committee, Bodmin
- Meeting with Bernadette Rheeder, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist (Cornwall Foundation Trust), Bodmin
- Public Surgery with Councillor Dominey, Bodmin Town Council
- Meeting with High Sheriff of Devon, Crediton
- Meeting with - Olly Giddings and Charles Drew of Amber (charity for disadvantaged unemployed young people), Chulmleigh
- Speech to students at University of Exeter
- Meeting with Kim Hager (Joint Commissioning Manager), Cornwall Council, Truro
- Attend launch of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Partnership, Bodmin

### **November appointments and meetings**

- Meeting with Anne Marie Morris MP, regarding Parents All United Lifesaving Youngsters (PAULY), Newton Abbot
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award presentation evening, Penzance
- Interview on Radio Plymouth
- Host Public Open meeting, Devonport. Plymouth
- Attend Devon Health and Wellbeing Board, Exeter
- Conference call with Tracey Lee, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council
- Attend Restorative Justice Day, Bodmin
- Public Surgery, Bodmin
- BBC Spotlight interview and filming to mark first anniversary, Camborne
- Visit Cornwall Youth Offending service, Camborne
- Attend meeting of Devon Youth Parliament, Exeter
- Speak at Torbay Licensing Forum, Torbay Council
- Hold press conference to mark one year in office, Exeter
- Speak at Torridge Neighbourhood Watch, Bideford
- Meeting with Devon and Cornwall Magistrates Chairs, Exeter
- Participate in *Children in Need* event, St Luke's High School, Exeter
- Meeting with Tim Morris, Chair of Wessex Branch Labour Party regarding legal highs, Exeter
- Talk to Plympton Community Council, Plymouth
- Meeting with police Diverse Communities Team, Exeter
- Attend and speak at Cornwall Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference, Newquay
- Meeting with Professor Harry Blagg (Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice Directorate), Plymouth Law School
- Meeting with Ministry of Justice on Commissioning Process for Transforming Rehabilitation, Exeter
- Talk to Christian Fellowship Group, Sidmouth
- Attend Newton Abbott Police Cadets Annual Awards Ceremony, Newton Abbot
- Participate in Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, Exeter
- Conference call with Clive Lewis, SW Alcohol and Drugs lead, Public Health England

- Attend presentation ceremony Rotary Club, Dawlish
- Attend State Divine Service with High Sheriff of Cornwall, Truro Cathedral
- Attend Health and Wellbeing Board peer challenge event, Truro
- Conference call with Adam Fouracre, Stand Against Violence charity
- Meeting with PCCs and Chief Constables from south west region, Bristol
- Visit to Operation Zephyr (serious and organised crime unit), Bristol
- Host Plymouth Public meeting, Plymouth Guildhall
- Interviews with BBC radio Devon and Cornwall
- PCC on the Beat, 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 19 new short video clips which are available from the PCC's YouTube channel, available [here](#).

## 5. Correspondence received

The OPCC received 321 items of correspondence between 23 September and 2 December 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 inability to receive an answer from the 101 service and/ or frustration at needing to book an appointment through 101 to access some local stations.
- 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.
- Lack of evidence issues  
Correspondence received by the public questioning the police response to an incident or where there is '*insufficient evidence*' to proceed.

## Social Media

The PCC has 2,284 followers on Twitter (up from 1,877 in September) and 176 'likes' on Facebook (up 10). The OPCC website received 10,682 unique visits between 1 September and 30 November. This compares to 8,435 visits in the three months from 1 June – 31 August 2013.

The PCC issues an e-newsletter on a regular basis. Currently 1,283 people are signed up to receive this service.

## **6. Selected media activity**

### **September to December**

- Briefing with editors – including Bill Martin (Western Morning news)
- Reaction to Lord Stevens' Independent Commission on Policing in Western Morning News and associated newspapers
- BBC Radio Cornwall – live 'phone in'
- Double page feature in Western Morning News highlighting PCC's first year in office
- Answering readers' questions in Cornish Guardian (and associated newspapers)
- Fronting annual police drink-driver campaign, BBC tv and ITV.
- Various quotes regional/local newspapers regarding policing issues

## **7. 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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