



Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 20 December 2013

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Introduction

This report to the Police and Crime Panel presents an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's objectives as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The report also gives an account of Force performance against the four-year, high-level improvement targets as set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

2. PCC Achievement on Objectives

The Police and Crime Plan sets out a number of different objectives for the Police and Crime Commissioner. The section below provides a brief update on some of the main actions and achievements.

Tackling alcohol abuse by working with partners

This is a clear priority in the Police and Crime Plan. The impact of excessive alcohol consumption is wide ranging and there are many organisations with an interest in tackling this issue. In September 2013 the Police and Crime Commissioner convened an 'Action for Change' Think Tank event in Plymouth bringing together a wide range of organisations who are involved in tackling alcohol abuse. This event reflected the Commissioner's initial priority which has been to listen and to learn. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is not to replace existing work but to support and complement it and it is important to work collaboratively to avoid duplication and to prevent gaps emerging given the scarce resources within the public and voluntary sectors. One recent example of working with others was that the OPCC Interim Chief Executive spoke at a regional trading standards conference about the campaign and how trading standards might become involved.

As a result of the discussions at the 'Action for Change' event, the Police and Crime Commissioner has committed to:

- Work with a full range of other organisations and authorities to co-ordinate action through the Peninsula.
- Engage supermarket leaders (either nationally or locally) to highlight the impact some of their sales are having on communities
- Support improved educational programmes to promote safe drinking.
- Ensure that all statutory agencies work together to tackle the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol.

Work is underway in all these areas and I will provide a further update on progress at the next meeting.

Launch of the £250,000 Small Grant Scheme

The Small Grant Scheme was launched on 20 August 2013. It will make grants of up to £5,000 available to community projects, which demonstrate a contribution towards the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Grants will be awarded twice in

the next 12 months – in December 2013 and July 2014. 176 groups from across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have met the first deadline of October 31 to apply for funding.

3. Force Performance to 2nd December 2013 against targets in the Police and Crime Plan

Reducing crime and bringing offenders to justice

To reduce crime

	Force Target	Rolling 12 months	Performance year to-date
%age reduction in total crime	-2%	-3.1%	+1.2%

Total crime has reduced by -3.1% as compared to the 12 months to 2nd December 2012. However for the 7 months from 1st April to 31st October 2013 there was a +1.2% increase compared to the equivalent period in 2012. This means that it is unlikely that the Force will deliver the target reduction of -2%. The PCC and his officers have held detailed discussions with the Chief Constable and his team, as part of their scrutiny role, to seek an early and sustained improvement to this position.

To reduce violence against the person

	Force Target	Rolling 12 months	Performance year to-date
% reduction in violence against the person	-2%	-2.2%	+1.5%

Violence against the person (excluding domestic), although currently meeting the target reduction for the rolling 12 months to 2nd December 2013, for the 7 months from 1st April to 31st October 2013 there was a +1.5% increase compared to the equivalent period in 2012. This makes delivering the target of a -2% reduction by the end of March 2014 very challenging for the Force. Improvement plans in relation to violence are being developed and delivered locally to ensure that plans are relevant to local variation in the drivers of violent crime trends.

Giving victims and witnesses a stronger voice

To increase the percentage of crimes which result in a positive outcome

	Force Target	Force Actual
Positive outcome rate	38.0%	33.4%%

The positive outcome rate remains below the Force target at 33.4% and is on a declining trend. This suggests that achieving an increase in positive outcome rate for this year will remain challenging and achieving the target of 38% even more so. A performance improvement programme is being developed. This is focusing on delivering sustainable improvements without compromising on the quality of service provided to victims.

To increase victims' satisfaction with the police

	Force Target	Force Actual
Overall satisfaction	88.0%	85.0%

The victim satisfaction rate remains below the Force target at 85%. Although trends have been generally stable for the last year, there have been slight improvements since June. Performance improvements appear to be driven by improvements in vehicle crime satisfaction following changes to the crime screening policy resulting in officer attendance to every vehicle crime. Violent crime satisfaction rates remain low.

Listening and responding to the public

To increase public confidence in the police

	Force Target	Force Actual
Public confidence (local survey)	64.0%	64.4%

The public confidence rate as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales has increased recently and is currently achieving the attainment level. Local survey trends suggest that this measure is stable/increasing and will achieve the target at the end of the year.

To increase satisfaction with the police response to a non emergency matter

The 101 caller satisfaction rate indicates 84.7% satisfaction after 6 months of surveying. 10% of callers stated that they were dissatisfied with the service provided. There is no target for this in 2013/14 as the survey measure is in development and we are seeking to establish a baseline.

Providing strong leadership at all levels

To increase the percentage of the workforce who state they are well led.

The survey to establish this measure is currently in development. Early results should be available at the next meeting.

Investing in policing for the future

To begin recruitment in order to maintain an establishment of at least 3,000 police officers

Recruitment is underway and transferees will be recruited into hard to fill posts. It is anticipated that current officer numbers will be maintained above the 3000 target until the end of the performance year. It remains the Commissioner's intention that this will be a sustained ambition in his Police and Crime Plan going forward.

To begin recruitment in order to achieve an establishment of at least 650 special constables by 31st March 2014.

Recruitment is underway, however attrition rates are currently high, especially with the opening of recruitment for police officers. Although the current strength is at 571, there are plans in place to ensure recruitment to the target level by the end of the year.

4. Budget Outlook

The medium term financial strategy for the next four financial years is currently under preparation. A key assumption over this period is the maintenance of police officer numbers above 3000. This in itself provides a major challenge against a backdrop of declining financial resources with the position in 2016/17 and 2017/18 reliant upon the significant use of reserve funding. In order to respond to expected grant reductions of 1.6 % (nearer 4.5% pa including inflation) in the next four years a programme of cost reduction will take place including a reduction in the numbers of police staff and savings of over £3m in non staff costs. However to meet latter year reductions will require new and innovative ways of working and a specific working group is being set up by the PCC to investigate and explore the cost saving options.

5. Police and Crime Plan Review

We are reviewing the existing Police and Crime Plan to reflect experience in the first year and to address emerging threats and challenges. The updated plan will provide a greater focus on priority actions and activities – to focus the work of the OPCC, the police service and partners. The overriding priority within the Police and Crime Plan is, and will remain, the need to make people safer and to reduce crime.

Contact for further information

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