

Police and Crime Commissioner Report

Plymouth City Council Budget Scrutiny – Wednesday 8 January 2014

1. Context setting – national requirements and policy drivers

Priorities

The current Police and Crime Plan describes five high level objectives; reducing crime and bringing offenders to justice, giving witnesses and victims a stronger voice, listening and responding to the public, investing in policing for the future and providing strong leadership at all levels.

The Police and Crime Plan is currently being reviewed 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 (a strong link will be maintained with the Peninsula Strategic Assessment). Alongside this the PCC has clearly indicated his intention to prioritise work aimed at reducing the harm posed by alcohol given its significant social, economic and individual costs. The issue of mental health care, primarily the burden placed upon the police service in dealing with individuals suffering from mental illness and the importance of support services, including places of safety has also emerged as a strong area of concern. The importance of strong partnerships which offer effective/ timely solutions and focus on early intervention and prevention is essential to support crime reduction and community safety work in a difficult financial climate.

Commissioning: Community Safety, Safeguarding, SARC's, YOT's, Small Grants Fund, Victims and Restorative Justice

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides the PCC with the powers to make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any organisation that can contribute to reducing crime and disorder in the police force area. The PCC decided to maintain existing partnership funding levels for 2013/14 that had previously been provided from different central funds and local police commanders.

The PCC has agreed that where possible he will use existing structures for the delivery and control of grant funding. He therefore intends to route the majority of his grant funding through Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and Safeguarding Boards.

These multi agency bodies know their localities well and are best placed to assess local need and the tactics for maximising impact. The PCC is aware that the Public Sector Equality Duty is a continual one and non-delegable.

He will therefore expect the CSPs to take certain steps (such as monitor service users, or undertake consultation or needs assessments) in order to ensure that the PCC complies with his legal obligations in the commissioning process. The Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC's) will also continue to be directly funded by the PCC.

The PCC has decided to also route through the CSPs the funding that was previously directed to DAATs and Domestic Violence Units. The allocation of this wider funding to CSPs will increase their flexibility to effectively tackle the full range of crime and disorder issues, informed, where proportionate and relevant, by equality considerations and delivered through "joined up" partnership work.

The small grants fund was launched in July 2013. It made available £200,000 over a two year period to organisations that were outside the statutory sector. It consists of two funding rounds (one ending on the 31st of October 2013, the other to close on the 31st of May 2014). Each round has £100,000 available with a maximum award of £5000.

The PCC will also assume responsibility for commissioning victim services with effect from 1 April 2015. Work has commenced on completing a Victims Needs Assessment and on scoping the approach taken elsewhere in the South West. Funds have also been made available to the PCC to enhance the delivery of restorative justice approaches. A consultation process has commenced to decide how this money is best allocated.

2. Headline budget messages

The Commissioner is currently considering his budget options based upon retaining police officer numbers at above 3000. Early indications are that Devon and Cornwall Police will lose grant allocation equivalent to 4.8% of its total central funding making further savings in non front line areas necessary from 2014/15 onwards.

Community Safety Fund, through Plymouth Community Safety Partnership, 2014/15, **£426,071** (down 2.2% on 2013/14)

Plymouth SARC continued funding at 2013/14 level

Small Grants Fund – Two Plymouth Bids successful and six bids covering Plymouth and additional areas – total value **£40,000**

Funding for Safeguarding Children – 2014/15, **£13,920** (from £14,025)

Safeguarding Adults – 2014/15, **£4,540** (from £4,675)

Youth Offending Team - 2014/15, **£115,290** (from £117,820)

3. Risks and issues to delivering the city priorities including plans to tackle any underperformance and highlight areas of challenge where dependent on partners to resolve issues.

The Police and Crime Commissioner monitors crime related performance measures across Devon and Cornwall. The following data summarises performance within Plymouth for the performance year 2013/14 (April to December).

Overall performance

- Alcohol-attributable crime measures significantly worse when compared with England average (Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) 2012: Alcohol-attributable crime; Alcohol-attributable violence; Alcohol-attributable sexual offences.)
- In the 12 months to date (end of Dec 2013) total crime has decreased by 2.9% compared to 3.1% across the Force. The weekly total crime target has been missed most weeks since the start of the 2013/14 financial year, so achieving the year-end target of **2% reduction in total crime** is extremely unlikely. This is consistent with the Force trend.
- Violence against the person (excluding domestic abuse) has decreased by 2.2% but falls below the **3% reduction target**. The yearly percentage change is consistent with the Force average (-2.2%).
- For the 12 months to date 34.2% of crime resulted in a positive outcome which is significantly below the target of 41.0% but slightly above the Force average of 33.4%. This trend is consistent across the Force - all areas are facing challenges when it comes to positive outcomes.
- **Victim satisfaction rate has increased** – in the 12 months to October 2013 victim satisfaction stood at 85.8%. This is slightly above the Force average of 85.0% but remains below attainment target of 88.0%.
- **Encouragingly public confidence has increased** – in the 12 months to October 2013 public confidence stood at 78.0% and exceeds target of 75.0%. Plymouth is showing slightly stronger performance than the Force average (76.5%).
- Visibility – Foot Patrol at 42.1% is higher than the Force average (32.8%), Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (31.4%) and Devon (30.3%).

Specific offences

- **On a positive note robbery, burglary and vehicle crime are all down.**
 - Robbery – down by 20.7%
 - Burglary Dwelling – down by 10.7%
 - Burglary Non-Dwelling – down by 23.7%
 - Vehicle offences – down by 19.0%
- These trends are consistent with the Force average albeit robbery, burglary (non dwelling) and vehicle offences have all fallen at faster rates in Plymouth.

- Increases at the lower end of the violent crime continuum – ‘Violence without injury’ has increased by 12.7% over the last 12 months compared to the equivalent previous 12 month period. Public order offences have also increased by 13.7%.
- Over the same period ‘violence with injury’ offences have remained relatively stable (0.3% increase), however more recent data suggests higher increases and this is likely to continue sporadically between now and New Year.
- Domestic Abuse (including non-crime incidents) has seen a significant increase of 15.2%. This may be impacted by the impacts of austerity, but may also reflect an increase in confidence to report abuse.
- Rape is up by 3.5% - the increase may reflect an increase in confidence to report as well as an effect of high profile sexual offences.
- Other sexual offences have fallen by 2.7% in contrast to the Force which has seen an increase of 11.7% over the same period.
- Low level acquisitive crime (shoplifting and other theft) have increased by 7.1% and 7.1% respectively. This trend is consistent across the Force and is being seen nationally. The College of Policing are looking at welfare reforms and the impact on crime in more detail.

4. **Details of planned major changes to service delivery where the changes have the potential to impact on partners and communities e.g. through reduction in spend, significant changes to targets and level of service delivery or location of delivery.**

Targets for 2014/15 have yet to be finalised and agreed by the Police and Crime Panel. The Chief Constable and local commanders have operational control of the deployment and utilisation of resources.

5. **Critical risks to delivering services provided in partnership; including areas of support required from partners to improve delivery and identification of blockages.**

The police cannot act in isolation and to deliver a safer future for all of us we will need strong partnerships across the Peninsula which provide effective and timely solutions. We have one of the most challenging partner landscapes in the country – with 3 unitary local authorities and one two-tier authority (Devon) which encapsulates a number of district and city councils. This creates an extra layer of complexity in partnership working – with a large number of partners whose structures, priorities and ways of working all vary. The risk posed by budget cuts within partners is significant and could limit the effectiveness of action taken under the Police and Crime Plan and place additional burdens on other agencies.

The impact of planned reforms to the rehabilitation system are not yet quantified but could have a notable impact on reoffending levels.