



# Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

## Police and Crime Panel Meeting 7 February 2014 Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

### POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT – February 2014

#### 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 20 December 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
18 December 2013	Stage 2 Transfer in principle agreement	Sets out the terms of the division of assets and resources between the PCC and Chief Constable.	To follow

#### 3. Activities and developments since report to December 2013 Panel meeting

##### PCC invites supermarkets and retailers to alcohol talks

Tony Hogg has called upon supermarkets and retailers to join the fight to reduce alcohol related crime and misuse. Devon and Cornwall has higher than expected levels of violent crime, as confirmed by the latest crime statistics released by the Office for National Statistics in January.

Alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour costs around £366m per year across the force area affecting individuals, families and communities and places a huge financial burden on policing and health services

Mr Hogg has written to major supermarkets and retailers, along with some smaller outlets, asking them to play a part in reducing the problem by attending a 'round table' discussion in March.

Among the issues that the PCC wants to discuss are changes to drinking patterns and the easy availability of low cost and super strength alcohol and the considerable impact this makes on 'pre-loading'.

Responses from retailers has been good. The Police and Crime Panel will be kept updated on developments.

## **PCC frustration over further budget reductions**

Tony Hogg has confirmed that the 2014/15 police budget will be reduced by £2.5m following the Government's decision to fund the expansion of major national policing projects by top-slicing the police force grant.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission, the College of Policing and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary will receive additional money from funds which had been previously intended for police forces.

Mr Hogg is also disappointed that a Government review of the formula used to calculate police force funding will not be completed before next year's General Election. The current funding arrangement takes no account of the influx of tourists to the area and does not recognise the added complications posed by policing over 500 miles of coastline.

The PCC has met with a number of local MPs to discuss funding matters and has sought their support to press Devon and Cornwall Police's case in Parliament.

## **25 projects awarded in first round of PCC Small Grants Scheme**

As reported in December 2013, the PCC's Small Grants Scheme had been launched to provide funding to projects which support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. The maximum available award is £5,000. The application process for the first tranche of applications closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and 171 applications were received. 25 applicants were successful – with a total of £98,318 awarded to a range of projects relating to the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. Applicants were informed of the outcome of their applications in December 2013.

55 applications sought to address more than one of the Police and Crime Plan priorities. The highest number was concerned with Youth, the second with Reducing Reoffending. The third biggest number of applications related to CCTV. The process of selection included representatives from Devon and Cornwall infrastructure organisations. It took over two days to moderate and mark applications. The process was reviewed by the Commissioning and Scrutiny Board. The full list of awards is set out below.

In terms of distribution: 48% of successful applications were focused on Devon; 24% were Devon and Cornwall wide (including Torbay and Plymouth); 8% were focused on Cornwall; 4% were focused on Torbay, 8% were focused on Plymouth; and the remaining 8% were focused on Devon and Torbay.

Applicants were notified of the outcome of their application in December 2013. Unsuccessful applicants were provided with a list of alternative funders and grant bodies. More detailed feedback has been provided by the OPCC on request from 64 applicants.

The second round of the PCC's Small Grants Scheme is now open and will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May (to be awarded in July 2014). The application form has been amended to include an equality and diversity question.

<b>Sum of Amount</b>		
<b>Area covered</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cornwall focus</b>	<b>Cube Theatre</b>	<b>1900</b>
	<b>WRSAC</b>	<b>3360</b>
<b>Cornwall Total</b>		<b>5260</b>
<b>Devon focus</b>	<b>Community Housing Aid</b>	<b>3484</b>
	<b>Devon People First</b>	<b>4840</b>
	<b>Exeter Community Initiatives</b>	<b>5000</b>
	<b>Grow 4 Good</b>	<b>2789.02</b>
	<b>Njenni Enterprise</b>	<b>2700</b>
	<b>North Devon Homes Ltd</b>	<b>3000</b>
	<b>R.O.C</b>	<b>4989.75</b>
	<b>SAFE</b>	<b>5000</b>
	<b>Step Up Devon</b>	<b>4850</b>
	<b>Street Pastors</b>	<b>750</b>
	<b>Tarka child contact centre</b>	<b>1200</b>
	<b>Young Devon</b>	<b>4941</b>
<b>Devon Total</b>		<b>43543.77</b>
<b>Devon and Cornwall wide focus (including Plymouth and Torbay)</b>	<b>Circles SW</b>	<b>4999</b>
	<b>Crimestoppers</b>	<b>1058</b>
	<b>Living Options</b>	<b>5000</b>
	<b>R J workings</b>	<b>5000</b>
	<b>S W C C</b>	<b>4757.5</b>
	<b>Safe South West</b>	<b>4450</b>
<b>Devon and Cornwall Total</b>		<b>25264.5</b>
<b>Plymouth focus</b>	<b>Devon and Cornwall Furniture Reuse Project</b>	<b>5000</b>
	<b>Whizz Kids</b>	<b>5000</b>
<b>Plymouth Total</b>		<b>10000</b>
<b>Torbay focus</b>	<b>Great Parks Community Centre</b>	<b>5000</b>
<b>Torbay Total</b>		<b>5000</b>
<b>Devon &amp; Torbay focus</b>	<b>Mencap (Exeter)</b>	<b>4250</b>
	<b>SOS Global</b>	<b>5000</b>
<b>Devon &amp; Torbay Total</b>		<b>9250</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>98,318.27</b>

### **PCC meets with Independent Custody Visiting volunteers**

Tony Hogg has met with members of the public who volunteer as Independent Custody Visitors across Devon and Cornwall. The PCC operates this voluntary scheme whereby those held in custody by the police are visited to ensure they detained in accordance with their rights.

The ICV scheme currently has approximately 40 volunteers across Devon and Cornwall who commit to make unannounced visits to the custody centers in Barnstaple, Camborne, Exeter, Launceston, Newquay, Plymouth (Charles Cross), and Torquay plus a further nine police stations, on a regular basis. Custody visitors report their findings to the Scheme Administrator who ensures that appropriate action is taken to address any issues that are found.

The ICV Scheme Administrator produces an annual report each year which is available from the OPCC website.

Tony Hogg recently met with custody visiting volunteers whilst they were attending a training event and thanked them for their commitment. Volunteering and public engagement in community safety will be a key part of the PCC's strategy for the coming year.

### **PCC praises police response to recent bad weather**

Tony Hogg has praised police officers and staff for their commitment to community safety and keeping people safe during the recent inclement weather.

Mr Hogg recognised the perilous situations officers and staff put themselves in to help members of the public and communities who were in trouble. Officers and staff offered emergency assistance to members of the public who faced challenging situations and coping with stressful circumstances.

The Force also plays a leading role in coordinating the multi-agency response to incidents of weather crisis.

## **4. Community engagement and meetings**

The Commissioner has undertaken the following engagements since the last Panel meeting on 20 December 2013. .

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.

### **January appointments and meetings**

- Meeting with Devon Living Options, Exeter
- Attend Cornwall Health and Wellbeing Board, Truro
- Attend Devon and Cornwall Police Awards Ceremony, Truro
- Attend Criminal Justice Council, London (on behalf of the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners)
- Meeting with Lord Wasserman, House of Lords
- Meeting with Gordon Oliver, Mayor of Torbay, Torquay
- Address Newton Abbot Town Council
- Attend Plymouth Health and Wellbeing Board, Plymouth
- Meeting with Police Force Chaplin, Bodmin
- Attend Independent Custody Visitors lunch, Bodmin
- Meeting with Chief Superintendent Julie Fielding, Cornwall Police Commander, Bodmin
- Attend Association of Police & Crime Commissioners meeting, London

- Meeting with PCCs and Chief Constables from south west region, Swindon
- Meeting with Dame Suzi Leather, Plymouth Fairness Commission, Exeter
- Filming documentary on Alcohol related crime, Exeter
- PCC on the Beat – Bodmin
- One Plymouth strategy meeting, Plymouth
- Attend Transforming Rehabilitation Conference, Plymouth
- Speak to Penwith Area Crime Prevention Group, Penzance
- Meeting with Ian Acheson, Chief Operating Officer, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Exeter

### **February appointments and meetings** (to 6 February)

- Meeting with Alison Saunders Director of Public Prosecutions, Bristol
- Meeting with Rob Menary Chief Executive Probation Service, Exeter
- Meeting with police Superintendents' Association, Exeter

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

## **5. Correspondence received**

The OPCC received 158 items of correspondence between 3 December 2013 and 23 January 2014.

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).
- Traffic safety 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 2,506 followers on Twitter (up from 2,284 in December) and 163 'likes' on Facebook (down 13). The OPCC website received over 39,000 unique visits during 2013.

The PCC issues an e-newsletter on a regular basis. Currently 1,500 people are signed up to receive this service.

## **6. Selected media activity**

### **January**

- Briefing with editors – including Bill Martin (Western Morning news)
- Interviews with ITV Westcountry, BBC Spotlight, BBC Radios Devon and Cornwall regarding the PCC's announcement that he is to host an alcohol summit with retailers
- Interviews with Western Morning News and broadcast media regarding the latest Office for National Statistics Crime figures.

## **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.

### **Contact for further information**

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