



**Police and Crime Panel Meeting
20 June 2014
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

This report provides an update on the activities of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner over recent weeks.

Following feedback from the Panel we have made changes to how this update is presented – providing a clearer delineation between issues and referencing the Police and Crime Plan priorities. We would welcome the Panel's views on this new format and whether they would like to continue to receive reports in this format moving forward.

1. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN DELIVERY UPDATE

The refreshed Police and Crime Plan was published on 3 April 2014 and is available on the OPCC website along with a summary document and videos explaining the Plan¹. A British Sign Language version² and an easy read version³ have also been prepared and are available on the website.

Priority 1: Keeping people safe

In most instances progress against Priority 1 will be tracked through the Public Accountability Board. The OPCC's progress on its actions linked to Priority 1 will be managed through the OPCC Enablers Action Plan. These include the review of the 101 service as well as other cross cutting work such as commissioning of community support services and the PCC Small Grants Scheme.

Recent activities

- The OPCC is working together with the force to review the 101 service provision. This review will include consideration of the current service offering, identification of any service issues, including options to survey or dip sample any issues identified and recommendations to address any shortcomings. The review will be run alongside the force internal review of their contact strategy. It is anticipated that the review will be complete by the autumn.
- The second round of the PCC Small Grants Scheme closed on 31st May 2014 – 145 bids were received. Those bids are currently being reviewed by the Assessment Panel which includes external representatives as well as OPCC staff. Decisions on this second phase of the scheme are due in early July.

¹ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2014/PCC-Tony-Hogg-publishes-revised-Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>.)

² <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2014/PCC-Tony-Hogg-publishes-revised-Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

³ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/CENG-DOC-Easy-read-PCP-020614.pdf>

Priority 2: Reducing the harm caused by alcohol-related crime

The Strategic Delivery Board is being led by the OPCC Strategy and Planning Manager and the Assistant Chief Constable for Operations and Local Policing and Partnerships. The Board will work with the Peninsula Drug and Alcohol Group. Clive Lewis from Public Health England will also join the Board.

Five broad work streams have been identified and action plans are being developed for agreement by the Board. These Action Plans will then be published on the OPCC website. The five areas of work identified are:

- i. Action on enforcement and licensing
- ii. Improving education and awareness
- iii. Influencing nationally and locally to deliver change
- iv. Preventing alcohol related crime and ASB and boosting community safety
- v. Data, knowledge and research

Recent activities

- We continue to work to support greater action by retailers and other parts of industry in helping to tackle alcohol related crime and harm. This includes work to support Torrington Council in its recent 'Stop the Strength' campaign.
- The PCC is also actively lobbying the Home Office to take greater steps to tackle cheap super strength alcohol. This includes steps to correct a major flaw in recent legislation banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty+VAT which makes the treatment of super strength cider unclear and will notably hamper enforcement activity. The PCC has been working with Dr Sarah Wollston, MP on this issue.
- We are currently developing (in consultation and discussion with the Force and partners) a number of potential pilot projects that we hope to see taken forward over the next few months. These include work to develop a new educational programme for young people as well as a pilot to deal with the problem of pre-loading.
- Forty percent of the funding available for phase 2 of the PCC's Small Grants Scheme (£40,000) has been ringfenced for alcohol projects.

Priority 3: Efficiency and long term financial security

The Strategic Delivery Board is being led by the OPCC Treasurer and the Force's Chief Finance Officer. External membership of the Board has been confirmed as Tony MacGregor (former Group Finance Director, Devon and Cornwall Housing). The first Board meeting will take place in early July.

Recent activities

- The development of the joint Financial Roadmap has begun, with an introductory seminar on 19 June 2014 with Chief Constable and PCC to inform and explore the content of the Roadmap.
- To support our initial investigations we have brought in LPP (who are an HM Treasury and Local Government Association-owned consultancy) to look at cost areas where further savings may be generated. A comparative study will launch in June looking at charges made by other forces to identify enhanced opportunities for income generation.
- Work exploring the potential scope for a Strategic Alliance between Devon & Cornwall and Dorset is continuing. The joint programme team have submitted an initial report to the PCCs and Chief Constables of the two force areas which is currently being considered.
- The PCC submitted a total of 8 bids into the Home Office Innovation Fund 2014/15. In addition we already have Home Office funding secured for 2014/15 for two

additional projects from the 2013 bidding process. A number of these bids are joint bids with other police force areas. In total these bids represent over £2million of funding contribution from the Home Office.

- The Chief Constable is currently consulting with Unions regarding the proposed closure of a number of Public Enquiry Offices. The PCC has supports the findings of the review but has sought assurances from the Chief Constable that contact between the police and the public will not reduce. Over the next few months work will be undertaken to consult with local communities to explore ways in which the police can maintain and improve engagement in areas where the Enquiry Office is expected to close.

Priority 4: An improved Criminal Justice System

The Strategic Delivery Board (Criminal Justice) will review activities being taken forward by the OPCC and the Force (jointly, individually and with partners) in the following areas:

- Transforming Rehabilitation
- Delivering the LCJB action plan
- Services to witnesses
- Mental Health
- Electronic tagging
- Out of Court Disposals
- Youth Reoffending – including use of RJ to reduce reoffending
- File quality
- Action to improve investigation outcomes
- Asset seizure (POCA)

Recent activities

- We continue to work with the Commissioning Team from the Ministry of Justice ahead of the upcoming reforms to rehabilitation services. The PCC is represented on the Local Consultation Panel.
- There is considerable activity around both revising the peninsula section 136 Protocol and preparing a local version of the mental health concordat that was launched nationally earlier this year. The OPCC is taking an active role in this work, including through participation in the Force mental health working group chaired by the force and an action learning set being led by the South West Strategic Clinical Network.
- The OPCC is closely scrutinising the use of Out of Court Disposals to ensure that they are used in appropriate circumstances. A Performance and Accountability Deep Dive will be held on this topic in August 2014 which will involve independent persons such as local magistrates.

Priority 5: High quality, accessible help for victims of crime

The Strategic Delivery Board will be led by the OPCC Partnerships and Commissioning Manager. The Board will drive this joint project to commission a full range of victim services and to achieve full compliance with the revised Victim's Code. A Project Manager has been appointed to co-ordinate the work involved and the External Member of the Board has been confirmed as Jayne Zito.

We have identified five groups who will report back to the Board on progress. Projects timelines are being prepared. The five task groups are:

- Processes,

- Direction,
- Victims Needs Assessment,
- Metrics and
- Compliance with the Victims Code

Recent activities

- Extensive consultation has been conducted with groups and organisations across Devon and Cornwall who are interested in providing services to victims.
- 16th May – Engagement event with VCSE potential providers of support services to form basis of directory/referral tool for proposed Victim Care Unit. Expression of interest and applications to be part of the directory and network of support services are being undertaken by VCSE organisations via Bluelight and coverage across all victim care pathways will be identified.
- An audit is being undertaken to clarify the complex nature of services available across the peninsula, for the victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse.
- A stakeholders/Commissioners meeting is planned for the 7th of July to update them on the progress of our work on victim services commissioning.
- ‘MY RJ’ online secure system purchased as a multi agency licence for use across the peninsula.
- RJ Project Initiation Documents have been agreed and Community safety Partnership RJ forums are being established in order to furnish potential demand for victim led RJ interventions.
- The PCC is currently consulting on the Community Remedy mechanism (see separate report to this meeting) and the OPCC is working with the force on local implementation of the recent Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- In February 2014 the Ministry of Justice announced a Competed Fund of up to £12m for Police and Crime Commissioners for victims’ services commissioning in 2014/15. All PCCs have been given an opportunity to bid for further funding to support priority categories of victims of crime (as defined in the Victims’ Code) to help them cope with the immediate impacts of crime and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced. This fund is a one year fund. The OPCC has submitted 17 bids to the Competed Fund totalling over £650,000.

Priority 6: Greater public involvement in policing

The Strategic Delivery Board for Priority 6 will be led by the OPCC Engagement and Volunteers Manager and the Assistant Chief Constable for Operations and Local Policing and Partnerships. External representation on the Board will be provided by the CVS sector in Devon and Cornwall.

Recent activities

- The terms of reference for the Volunteering Review are under discussion, including the timeframe for the review. The review will include consideration of sustainable support structures and effective promotion of volunteering as well as increased diversity and volunteer satisfaction.
- We are working with a number of organisations to look at possible ways the OPCC can support current initiatives, including:
 - Safer Places Scheme – reviewing the current scope of this scheme with current delivery partners to see how we can boost and support ongoing delivery mechanisms.
 - Community Capacity Building Scheme - working with partners to identify mutual issues of concern, and the cause and effect of policy changes in one organisation impacting on another.

- The first PCC Volunteer Awards will take place on 26 September 2014. The awards are being held in partnership with Devon & Cornwall Police, Devon & Cornwall Community Watch Association and CrimeStoppers. Nominations will be invited for each of the twelve award categories – and members of the public and community groups will be able to make nominations.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The PCC is stepping up its programme of engagement by taking advantage of the range of summer public events and rural shows. The PCC and his team have had stands at a number of events to date including the Royal Cornwall Show, Devon County Show, Exeter Pride, Exeter Respect, Plymouth Blue Light Day and Saltash Regatta. Attendance at a further 12 shows is planned between now and October 2014.

In order to maximise the value we obtain from attendance at these events we are holding three consultation exercises at our stands. Two of these are very informal ‘coin drop’ exercises to get a ‘straw-poll’ view and to engage visitors to our stands in conversations. The final consultation is a more substantive consultation on the new community remedy mechanisms introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Coin drop

- Assessing interest from young people in joining the police cadet schemes.
- Seeking views from the public on the main cause of alcohol related issues – with participants asked to identify which issue they believe contributes more to alcohol related issues in the night time economy.

Community Remedy Consultation

The PCC is currently consulting on how new community remedy arrangements under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 should operate in Devon and Cornwall⁴.

There has been significant press coverage for the Community Remedy including Plymouth Herald, Western Morning News and Devon and Cornwall radio stations. The Association of the Police and Crime Commissioners has also identified the consultation as best practice and shared the document and approach with all PCC’s across England and Wales.

In addition to the online consultation we have been asking visitors to our stands to complete a paper copy of the survey. To date 864 people have completed the consultation response at the shows. The community remedy consultation is covered in more detail in a separate report to the Panel.

3. OPCC COMMUNICATIONS

Since the beginning of April to 6 June 2014 the OPCC has issued 16 press releases. Many of these have been to publicise the PCC’s Small Grants Scheme and have been issued jointly with organisations that were successful in round one of the scheme. These partners include Crimestoppers, Great Parks Community Centre (Paignton) and Circles South West (Exeter). Other matters covered in recent press releases has been the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan, the importance of increased reporting of sexual offences, the Chief Constable’s proposal to close a number of Police Enquiry Offices, our

⁴ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2014/Communities-will-get-chance-to-set-own-list-of-restorative-sanctions.aspx>

current consultation on the Community Remedy and on the upcoming transfer of responsibility for commissioning of victims services to the police.

The media also reported the OPCC response to Devon County Council's consultation into youth services although this was not as result of a press release.

In May this work resulted in 89 press and media articles which reached a total audience of 2,001,389.

The office issued 87 tweets and by encouraging conversations with our communities in this way during that period the office increased its number of Twitter followers to over 3,000.

Tony Hogg has also made numerous appearances on local TV and radio programmes, mainly news based. Some of these recordings have been provided by our 'in house' team to ensure that radio stations who are unable to visit our office or meet Tony personally have audio material available to them should they wish to use it editorially.

Tony Hogg, alongside Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer, appeared in a joint BBC Radio Cornwall / Devon #hotseatlive event from Camborne which featured the alcohol debate (and other topics raised by the public). The editorial control of this evening broadcast was controlled by the BBC. Similar, events are planned for 2 July from Newquay to be aired by BBC Radio Cornwall and Torquay broadcast by BBC Radio Devon. The broadcasts so far have been well received and engage many 1000's of local people in the policing debate.

Tony Hogg has also recorded an extended interview for the Channel 4 programme 'Dispatches' regarding alcohol-related crime and misuse. This is scheduled to be broadcast on 30 June.

OPCC communication does not rely on the established media to speak to communities neither does it base its public engagement purely around social media. In recent months, the OPCC has issued three newsletters, one to promote the Police and Crime Plan, a scheduled issue of the Quarterly report and another primarily to promote the office consultation into Community Remedy. Each newsletter is sent to over 2,000 recipients.

4. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Transparency

The OPCC and the Force are taking steps to boost transparency of the existing governance mechanisms, such as the Joint Management Board.

A new statement of transparency has been included in the updated terms of reference for each Board. In general, the following principles will be adhered to:

- PAB. Bi-monthly meetings will be open to the public and webcast. Summary reports, minutes and key decisions relating to PAB meetings will be posted on the website.
- JMB. Meetings of JMB will be held in private and the minutes of each meeting will be closed. The agenda and a summary of the key issues discussed at each meeting will be published on the OPCC website.
- Strategic Delivery Boards. Meetings will be held in private. A quarterly report and the Action Plan will be published on the OPCC website.

Decisions made

The following decisions have been taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in recent weeks.

- 28 February 2014 - Statutory Staff Transfer Scheme⁵
- 26 March 2014 - Treasury Management Strategy 2014-15⁶
- 1 April 2014 - Adoption of Governance Framework⁷
- 2 April 2014 – Appointment of Chief Executive

Integrity

The College of Policing's final version of their Code of Ethics for policing has now been published. Once it has been before Parliament it will have statutory effect (meaning for example an officer or policing staff member in breach of the Code could face dismissal proceedings).

The Association of PCCs have proposed an ethical framework for PCCs to adopt. The OPCC Team are working to adapt that framework to reflect Devon and Cornwall requirements. It is expected that the framework will be finalised in Summer 2014.

Financial matters

The annual accounts for 2013/14 are in the process of closure and we expect to publish our 2013/14 Annual Report in July 2014.

5. HMIC INSPECTIONS

The HMIC Inspection programme for 2014/2015 represents a significant burden to both Devon & Cornwall Police and the OPCC. The load for thematic inspections remains as great as ever, if not increasing, while HMIC are also striving to introduce the new all-force inspection programme (Police Efficiency Efficacy and Legitimacy – PEEL). Usefully HMIC are using the thematic inspection programme to trial aspects of the new PEEL programme but it is unlikely that the PEEL programme will reduce the burden of thematic inspections on police forces.

Inspection reports that have recently been published are:

Joint inspection of Devon and Cornwall police custody suites

A good report for Devon & Cornwall. However two issues were highlighted as requiring further action. The first related to the availability of alternative places of safety for section 136 detainees and the second to the availability of courts and court accommodation leading to longer times spent in custody than might otherwise be necessary. The OPCC is working with the Force and other partners including LCJBs to address these issues.

⁵ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Decisions/Statutory-Staff-Transfer-Scheme.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Decisions/Treasury-Management-Strategy-2014-15.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Decisions/Adoption.pdf>

***'Everyone's business'*: Improving the police response to domestic abuse**

This report highlighted a number of concerns that needed to be addressed and in particular a lack of consistency of approach across Devon & Cornwall especially in relation to medium and low risk domestic abuse. Devon & Cornwall Police had already identified most of these issues through the Safeguarding Vulnerable People Review and have a number of action plans in place to address. The OPCC recently held a deep dive scrutiny meeting to examine in greater detail progress in meeting some of these challenges. This will be fed back to the public at the next Performance & Accountability Meeting in July.

The Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of the arrangements that police forces have in place to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement

A national report which did not focus specifically on Devon & Cornwall Police. However the recommendations from the report have been added to the forward agenda for OPCC deep dive scrutiny meetings.

Crime recording: A matter of fact – interim report

This was an interim report which included data from the inspection of Devon & Cornwall. However the data presented did not include those cases (representing 40% of the total) where the offence was direct crimed and would have increased compliance. We have reviewed the interim report but are of the view that until the final report for Devon & Cornwall is available there is little actionable information. We continue to monitor crime data as always.

In addition to the above published reports we are awaiting publication of the Road Traffic Collisions, Making Best Use of Police Time and Value for Money inspections. Forthcoming thematic inspections include Integrity and Corruption and Child Protection as well as the interim report of the PEEL programme expected in the autumn.

Contact for further information

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