



Police and Crime Panel Meeting 19 December 2014

Scrutiny session “How is the P&CC strengthening relationships and showing leadership in Partnership Working?”

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) welcomes the scrutiny role performed by the Police and Crime Panel which is a key part of the revised democratic approach introduced in November 2012. This information note is provided to assist the Panel in its scrutiny function. It provides an overview of the partnership landscape within the region, highlighting the breadth and depth of partnership activity and identifying some particular activities that may be of interest to the panel.

Scope and scale of partnership work

The PCC and the team at the OPCC are actively working in partnership with a wide range of organisations in furtherance of the Police and Crime Plan objectives and on crime and policing issues more generally. Attached to this paper is a diagram setting out the key partnerships that the PCC and his office are working with.

These partnerships vary from statutory partnerships such as the five Health and Wellbeing Boards to local partnership initiatives with local authorities on issues such as mental health/alcohol to national and regional partnerships such as the SW Criminal Justice Board. We are actively working with the third sector in a range of partnerships, including our work with over 40 local partners to deliver a comprehensive and innovative approach to victim care through the new Victim Care Unit and website directory.

Nature of partnership working

The nature of partnership by the PCC can be broadly characterised into four areas.

Driving service improvement and working with partners to protect key services

The PCC and his team at the OPCC are working actively with partners to enhance and protect key services on issues such as safeguarding, substance misuse and Restorative Justice. For example we are working closely with safeguarding partners to deliver funding to support the enhancement of MASH services across the peninsula and on a number of alcohol related crime projects and pilots.

One notable example of the partnership approach adopted by the PCC is the development of new victim care arrangements across Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly which will come into effect from 1 April 2015. These new arrangements have partnership at their core. The OPCC Team has been working actively with over 40 third sector partners in the area to develop a comprehensive package of care that will be available to the estimated 85,000 victims of crime in our

policing area each year. This new approach moves away from a single provider and was based upon the findings of a significant victims needs analysis carried out in 2013 by the PCC's Office which was prepared in consultation with local partners. .

Acting on a pan-peninsula basis to joining up thinking and activity and to challenge established practice and inaction (locally and nationally) The PCC and his team sit on a wide range of groups and boards across the peninsula. This provides the PCC with a unique perspective within Devon and Cornwall – looking across the local authority structures to identify opportunities and gaps and to work with the partners to help address these issues. The PCC sits on all five Health and Wellbeing Boards across the peninsula and is able – from this perspective – to apply his wider perspective and is pushing hard for these Boards to take a greater interest in community safety and to prioritise action on issues such as alcohol and mental health. The PCC has an important role to play in supporting local partners but also in challenging delivery and identifying gaps in service, such as the PCC's continued push for an enhanced SARC service in Plymouth to cover paediatrics.

Providing financial support for projects and partnership activities The Commissioner continues to spend significant sums of money on commissioning key services to support community safety and crime reduction. This includes providing funding directly to Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams and Sexual Assault Referral Centres. Additional funding is also provided through the PCC's Small Grants Scheme of £100,000 per year and the PCC's support for bids to the Ministry of Justice's Competed Fund which delivered over £600,000 of funding into local projects for victims of crime in areas including domestic violence, equality and female genital mutilation.

Supporting the work of partners on key portfolio issues under the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC is able to leverage his local role nationally and to work with the other PCCs across the country to champion issues and push for change in Westminster. The PCC is also working closely with the 18 South West MPs to ensure that decisions made in Westminster reflect local needs within Devon and Cornwall. The PCC's chairmanship of the national PCC Alcohol Group is a key example of this role where he is working with senior police officers nationally to make the case for legislative reform in a number of key areas.

Areas for improvement

Partnership working within the peninsula continues to grow and develop. The continued challenges within the financial landscape for all parts of the public sector bring significant challenges for all parties but the answer lies in more (not less) partnership working. One area where we intend to develop our partnership approach in the future is in our work with business, building on the excellent work that has been taken forward as part of the development of the new victim care arrangements where we are actively working the Devon and Cornwall Business Council to understand the needs of business and to design solutions.

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