

Cllr Roger Croad
Chair, Police and Crime Panel
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27 January 2015

Thank you for your letter dated 21 January 2015 following the Police and Crime Panel's (PCP) scrutiny of partnership activities at its meeting in December. I note that the report remains in draft and that it will be formally reviewed and considered at the next meeting in February.

Ahead of your next meeting, where my team will be given the opportunity to comment on the report and respond to its findings, I thought it would be useful to write setting out my thoughts.

Before I do so, I would like to make a general observation that I believe that partnership activity is working well. We cannot be complacent and as we move forward with ever tighter budgets we all need to devote even more effort to working together – to ensure we can provide the best service possible to our communities. On the whole I find partners are positive and willing to engage with me and my team and I hope that this will continue to be the case over the coming months and beyond the General Election.

Your recommendations

In general I agree with and support your recommendations and many of the actions have already been discharged or are in train. Annexed to this letter is a line by line response to each of the 22 bullet points set out in your letter. However there are a couple of points which I would like to draw out here;

The full effectiveness of services to the victims of serious sexual violence, domestic abuse and child abuse in terms of helping the victims to recover, are heavily reliant of the availability of therapeutic care and other core commissioned services e.g. mental health. There evidence is that where such services exist they are heavily oversubscribed. This is a matter which other partnership forums, such as health and Wellbeing Boards need to address.

I remain concerned about the number of people with mental illness coming into contact with the criminal justice system. Mental illness increases the vulnerability of individuals to becoming the victim of a crime, too many individuals are still being taken to police cells as a place of safety and too many are being arrested for criminal offences.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Hoce." with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Police and Crime Commissioner



ANNEX

The recommendations

- To continue to influence the Home Office and the MoJ to ensure any funding they discontinue in respect of Victim and Witness Fund (IDVAs and therapeutic care) and Violence Against Women and Girls Funding (IDVAs) is passed on either via the PCC or other channels so that the funding stays in Devon & Cornwall to continue services. ***This activity will continue and I call upon our partners to work with us and support this activity via their own contacts.***
- To continue to work with Health & Wellbeing Boards to ensure there is a stronger emphasis on/join up of issues of community safety including mental health and alcohol issues. ***My work in this area will continue but I need the Boards to take up this mantle and fully embrace community safety issues as part of their wider focus on 'wellbeing'.***
- To consider attending Plymouth's Health & Wellbeing Board in person. ***Where possible I look to attend these Boards, but sometimes a diary clash is inevitable as I am not consulted on the dates before they are set. Where I cannot attend one of my senior team will be present.***
- To work with Health and Wellbeing Boards and Community Safety Partnerships to explore the benefit of, and best way for, developing an engagement plan to raise the public's awareness of them. ***I fully support this recommendation and will look to work with them over the course of 2015 to improve their visibility and the public's understanding of their roles and their work. I intend to make a specific reference to this in my refreshed Police and Crime Plan***
- To review and learn from the Cornwall pilot for improving volunteering with a view for wider roll out across the force area. ***I fully intend to learn from this pilot and to push forward greater progress in this area in 2015.***
- To explore with the Chief Constable his view on the current programme of volunteering, whether it is fit for purpose, how the Chief Constable can assist with widening the involvement of volunteering beyond the traditional ways and how a new relationship and mind-set within the Police for working with volunteers can be developed. ***This work is underway and will continue over the next few months as part of our work on the volunteering review.***
- To discuss with Chief Superintendent Andy Boulting what support is being provided in respect of Neighbourhood Watch in Plymouth. ***I have asked my team to look into this matter with Superintendent Boulting and I will advise the Panel accordingly in due course.***
- To review whether community involvement in Neighbourhood Watch is reducing across the force area as a whole, how this can be addressed, to what extent the Police are continuing to support Neighbourhood Watch and how a mechanism for the community and police address Neighbourhood Watch capacity together can

be implemented. ***Neighbourhood Watch remains an extremely important part of the community safety landscape and I am committed to supporting our hardworking watch volunteers. I have no plans at this stage to launch an area wide review of the operation of Neighbourhood Watch but I have asked my team to look into this matter further and I will report to the Panel in due course.***

- To review the cost of meeting the new PHE user requirements for SARC as each centre becomes a 24/7, 365 days a year provision for adult and paediatric services and consider options for funding these.
Arrangements are in place for a multi-agency review to be completed involving all interested parties following publication of the PHE user requirements.
- To review the lack of facilities and individuals with the appropriate qualifications to provide a service for children at Plymouth's SARC that will enable the facility to be provided closer to users' homes and continue a dialogue with commissioners about how any funding gap for SARCs can be closed in the new financial year.
This point will be addressed through the planned multi-agency review referred to above.
- To work with the LCJB and CSPs to form a view as to who is best placed to be responsible for holding the new Probation/CRC arrangements to account. ***We must all play an active role in overseeing the new rehabilitation arrangements and holding them to account. The contract management arrangements are critical to this and we will take this forward with our partners at LCJB and the CSPs.***
- To provide a report to a future Panel meeting on how the Victims Care Unit meets the 'victim's code' and 'EU directive'. ***Any report must have a wider remit and consider the victim services commissioning arrangements in their entirety as opposed to just the Victim Care Unit. We propose that a report is provided after the summer once the new arrangements have bedded in.***
- To provide a report to a future Panel meeting on how the PCC intends to 'transform' policing to cope with future demands that consider ways of defining and safeguarding neighbourhood policing, the resources needed, and how it can be protected as a mechanism for prevention. ***Considerable work will take place over the coming year as we prepare for the financial challenges we face in years 3 and 4. I and my team will be working closely with the Chief Constable on this pivotal issue and I will keep the Panel informed as this work progresses and provide a report in due course.***
- To deliver a business based budgetary mechanism that both addresses and ensures there are sufficient resources to tackle the two new threats of cybercrime and child sexual abuse/exploitation and to ensure that these new threats are included in the new Police and Crime Plan. ***This has been addressed in the budget papers for this meeting.***
- To provide the PCP with the results of the review being undertaken in relation to what individual victims of crime can do to prevent re-victimisation and to provide the PCP with the results of the survey of the Devon and Cornwall Business Council which was undertaken to understand what crimes are being committed in relation to businesses, how much is reported and what businesses need in terms of support.
A full report containing the requested information will be prepared when the work is finalised regarding the prevention of re-victimisation and the support to be provided to businesses subjected to crimes.



- To provide a more detailed report to the PCP in respect of the innovative ways being considered for income generation for policing. ***These issues have been covered in the budget papers submitted to this Panel meeting. Further work is ongoing to assess the extent to which the police can develop property to generate an ongoing income stream and more detailed information will be provided to the Panel once this matter has been resolved. Work on the development of a new fundraising strategy is covered elsewhere within the papers for this meeting, although this work is at a very early stage. We are waiting to hear whether we have been successful in seeking funds from the Home Office to facilitate this project and will update the Panel further on this matter in due course.***
- To evaluate the 'Street Triage' schemes in Plymouth, Devon and Torbay, review options for continued funding for existing arrangements and options for extending the service beyond March 2015 and consider extending the schemes across the force area. ***The evaluation of the pilot scheme has been completed but the national review has yet to be published. This means that no national funding will be available for 2015/16, so we are looking at commissioning options with key partners. An update on this matter will be provided to the Panel at its meeting in April.***
- To implement the relevant recommendations of the new S136 Review, which has just been published by the Home Office, where appropriate. ***The Home Office are currently consulting on the findings of their recent published review into crisis care and mental health. While the Commissioner welcomes many elements of the report the findings do not go far enough in some instances. The Commissioner will be responding to the Home Office consultation and will send a copy of his response to the Panel.***
- To reconsider contributing towards the funding of CCTV. ***The Commissioner has been clear that he does not consider that the police or the Commissioner should be responsible for CCTV provision within the area. That is not to say that the police have no role to play – but that any involvement must be part of a wider partnership solution. It is important that we properly recognise the role and responsibility of local authorities in this area.***
- To provide the PCP with the results of the review regarding the effectiveness and integration of the Special Constabulary. ***This will be provided to the Panel at a future meeting.***
- To provide a report to the PCP describing how the PCCs investment in funding across a wide range of projects and partnership activities is being evaluated, and what impact this investment has had on performance and driving down crime across the force area. ***Where funding is provided to other agencies / organizations performance measures and evaluation criteria are agreed. These are reviewed by the OPCC and reports provided at the end of the performance year (March 2015).***
- To provide a report to the PCP regarding what issues and changes, other than alcohol, the PCC is lobbying for change and seeking to influence, regarding decisions made in Westminster that reflect the needs of the force area. ***In***

addition to lobbying nationally for action to tackle alcohol related crime and harm the Commissioner is working with PCC colleagues and independently to influence national thinking on a range of issues. These include the need to make significant reforms to crisis care in the area of mental health, to better protect police funding and to ensure that the funding formula reflects the impact of summer policing and to ensure that the new arrangements for rehabilitation services contain robust contract management arrangements that will help us reduce reoffending.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Hoee.", with a stylized flourish above the first letter.

Police and Crime Commissioner
cc sarah.hopkins@plymouth.gov.uk