

Mr Tony Hogg  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon,  
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Please ask for: Sarah Hopkins

*My Ref RC/SHIP&CP 6.2.15*

10 February 2015

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner,

**SCRUTINY BY DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL IN RESPECT OF YOUR PLANS TO REFRESH THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2014-17.**

I would like to thank your colleagues, on behalf of the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel (PCP), for attending the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel meeting on 6 February 2015 in respect of the above. I hope your colleagues felt the PCP provided them with the right balance of both support and challenge and a positive and useful exercise, which has since been fed back to you.

I am pleased to provide you with the PCP's draft report of comments made at the meeting, and recommendations formulated from these after the meeting, in consultation with the Chair of the PCP, for your consideration.

The report will be formally reviewed and agreed by the PCP at its meeting on 10 April 2015 and, following the meeting (and in accordance with Section 28 (7) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) it will be published on the Host authority's website and on the PCP website. At that meeting, you will be given an opportunity to verbally comment on and respond to the report. If, however, you also wish to provide a written response prior to the meeting, this response, along with the final draft of your refreshed Police and Crime Plan, will need to be forwarded to Sarah Hopkins by not later than Friday 27 March 2015 which will be included as appendices to the report and reviewed accordingly by the PCP.

I would like to remind you of your offer, which the PCP accepted, to keep the PCP informed, via myself as Chair, throughout the consultation process of the finalising of the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan (between now and the end of March 2015) of the progress being made with the option to comment on any significant changes.

  
Yours sincerely

Councillor Roger Croad  
Chair, Devon and Cornwall Police & Crime Panel

Cc: Andrew White, Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

(Plymouth City Council is the host authority for Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Panel and views expressed by the Panel are not necessarily those of the Authority.)

## **SCRUTINY BY DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL IN RESPECT OF YOUR PLANS TO REFRESH THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2014-17.**

### **Introduction**

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Section 28 (6) states that the PCP must “review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken by the PCC in connection with the discharge of their functions.” The PCP also recognises the importance of supporting the PCC in the effective exercise of his functions.

Section 5(1) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011<sup>1</sup> requires that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held or as soon as practical after taking up office. The Police and Crime Plan is both a core planning tool for the PCC and an important mechanism for communicating his intentions to the public, police, partners, the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) and other stakeholders.

In accordance with the legislation, before issuing or varying a Police and Crime Plan, the PCC must:

- a) prepare a draft of the plan of variation,
- b) consult the Chief Constable in preparing the draft plan or any variation,
- c) send the draft plan or any variation to the PCP,
- d) have regard to any report or recommendation made by the PCP in relation to the draft plan or any variation,
- e) give the PCP a response to their report and any recommendations, and publish the response.
- f) must have regard to the strategic policing requirement issued by the Secretary of State under section 37A of the Police Act 1996.

The PCP, at its meeting on 6 February 2015, reviewed the PCC’s plans for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17 and made a number of comments<sup>2</sup> at the meeting which, in liaison with the Chair of the PCP following the meeting, have been combined to formulate the following recommendations:

### **The Comments/Recommendations:**

- Give domestic abuse more distinct priority and prominence in the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan.
- Provide an update on the findings of the work being explored with Exeter in respect of improved data exchange between Police and Health re DA/DV.
- Provide a brief report to the Panel in respect of what has been done to address the current issues of tracking of repeat offenders of DA, hindered, apparently, due to two different reporting systems.
- That, at the top of page 3, fourth line down (para re Child Sexual Exploitation) of the PCC’s report “Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan for 2015/16” it states “*The PCC is **looking** to all public sector leaders to take responsibility in these areas and to drive progress.*” This terminology is to be amended and strengthened in the Plan.
- Be clear in the final draft of the Plan precisely what changes to be made to priorities 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 where emphasis and more resources are to be devoted.
- Report back on the impact specifically of closure of Truro Police station in financial and efficiency terms.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents/enacted>

<sup>2</sup> Checked against the archived webcast of the PCP 6.2.2015

- Reconsider the investment the PCC can make in respect of CCTV provision.
- Make Plan more 'user friendly' – less jargon, plain English and acronyms fully explained.
- Ensure 'statements' are supported with evidence and/or further commentary.
- In light of, for example, recent OFSTED feedback (Plymouth) and other concerns raised about Police presence, identify where Police are not currently engaged in safeguarding meetings, ensure there is stronger and longer-term support, commitment and more consistent policing presence as well as maintaining other resource in respect of; CSE/children's safeguarding boards/Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH)/Case Management meetings - and reference this in the Plan and PCC to make clear to the Chief Constable.
- Make a clearer commitment to 'hidden crimes' including hate crime and crime committed in respect of 'protected characteristics' and how the police will deliver equality and diversity in light of disbanding Equality & Diversity Teams.
- Make reference to the new 'Prevent Duty' and how the PCC and Police are expected to respond.
- In light of HMIC's concerns re the 'erosion of neighbourhood policing' - provide the Panel with the report the PCC has requested from the Chief Constable that defines neighbourhood policing in terms of function and resourcing that aims to better protect this foundation service to the public and source of intelligence.
- PCC to consider reflecting in the budget to CSPs funding for actively seeking views of communities and not just reacting to them along with a commitment to CSPs for administration in order to deliver against priorities in the Plan.
- Provide a report, as soon as possible to the Panel, on the transformation and efficiencies to be achieved from the Strategic Alliance with Dorset.
- Keep the PCP informed throughout the consultation process of the finalising of the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan (between now and the end of March 2015) of the progress being made and the option to comment on any significant changes via the Chair/Vice Chair of the Panel.

**Members present:** Cllrs Croad (Chair), Barker, Batters, Brown, Eddowes, Eginton, Excell, Penberthy, Rennie, Saltern, Sutton, Watson and White.

**Independent Members:** Yvonne Atkinson (Devon) and Sarah Rapson (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly).

**Apologies for absence:** Tony Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner, Councillors James, Rule (Vice Chair), and Sanders.

**Also in attendance:**

- Sarah Hopkins, Community Safety & Partnerships Manager,
- Jo Heather, Democracy and Governance Officer, Cornwall Council
- Pete Aley, Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods, Plymouth City Council,
- Andrew White, OPCC Chief Executive,
- Lady Jan Stanhope, Senior Advisor to the PCC,
- Dr Karen Mellowdew, Performance & Customer Services Manager (OPCC),
- Duncan Walton, Treasurer, OPCC
- Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer

**Final comments:**

Section 28(7) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that the PCP must publish any reports or recommendations. This report will be:

- Circulated to the Chair/Vice Chair of the PCP for initial comment and then submitted in draft form to the PCC for consideration.
- And will then be formally reviewed and agreed by the PCP at its meeting on 10 April 2015. Following the meeting it will be published on the Host Authority's website and the Police and Crime Panel website.

S Hopkins, Community Safety & Partnerships Manager, and  
Lead Officer for the Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Panel  
10.2.2015