

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (RESPONSE TO PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS)

Introduction

- I intend to provide an immediate response to as many of the recommendations as possible and will start with those.
- Some of the recommendations clearly relate to operational areas for which the Chief Constable has responsibility. My office has begun to discuss these issues with the Chief Constable's office and a further update will be brought to a future meeting of the Panel on those matters.

The Recommendations:

- 1) That the PCC champions and celebrates the role of NHWs and promotes and supports them as part of his volunteering offer in relation to the part the public can play in community safety, having regard to the following:
 - (a) With regard to Watch offices, that the provision of them (including access to and use of office space and resources) continues to be provided within the police estate and such offices are moved with any police station moves so that they remain located together. Also, that the aim for Watch offices to become the focal point and hub for activities is promoted including the change of the focus of NHW from just crime to wellbeing as a whole through the Neighbourhood Healthwatch Movement;
PCC and Police support for the NHW was made clear at the Panel meeting, and both the PCC and the Police will work together to promote this. The comments made with regards to estates are noted and as we move forward with our estates programme we will engage with NHW.
 - (b) That IT training for Co-ordinators is supported to ensure that they are IT literate and able to use email, whether through the provision of training or by a buddying system;
This matter is being considered by the Police.
 - (c) That the use of the Our Watch website be promoted as a means of effective communication for Co-ordinators and Neighbourhood Alert be promoted as a means of sharing information with partners;
We support the broadening of community messaging services. The Police are of the view that the new Neighbourhood Alert messaging system will come to the forefront as we move forward - providing additional functionality to the StreetNet system which is purely an information exchange process. The focus will be on effective and consistent engagement approaches.
 - (d) That a monetary contribution towards the production of leaflets be provided to DaCCWA if possible;
The PCC is open to discussing this matter with DaCCWA to consider how we can assist in such production.
 - (f) That the PCC supports NHW promotional events in person if able, providing money

towards them if possible and considers a publicity relaunch of NHW via the media as part of his volunteering offer;

The PCC confirms that he is prepared to support promotional events personally, and will look at the possibility of providing a small financial contribution if possible within existing budget constraints.

- (e) That the PCC ensures that CSPs in the peninsular have regard to NHWs as part of the voluntary sector;

PCC confirms that he is happy to promote a stronger connection between NHW and CSPs.

- 2) In relation to providing assurance to the PCC and PCP, that the Chief Constable provides a report to cover the following:

- (a) What the definition of neighbourhood policing is and means, what the offer is, what can be shared with partners and what can and ultimately cannot be done;
- (b) What resources and accommodation there are to support Watch schemes and community messaging;
- (c) The feasibility of rolling out Newquay's Streetnet across the force area as a means of community messaging and communication through beat officers.
- d) The feasibility of rolling out the Citizens in Policing pilot across the rest of Plymouth and, potentially, across the force area;

These are questions for the Chief Constable and the PCC has asked him to consider these matters. The future of Neighbourhood policing is a key issue to be addressed in the reports to be brought to the February budget/precept setting meeting of the Panel.

The PCC is very supportive of the Citizens in Policing pilot in Plymouth and would welcome a wider roll-out of the initiative.

- 3) That the PCC provides the PCP with information regarding the following:

- (a) What can be put in place to better understand how crime differentiates between Watch and non-Watch areas;
- (b) What can be put in place to measure NHW's effectiveness in reporting and reducing crime;
- (c) What can be put in place to strengthen the numbers of NHWs in areas with the highest crime

These questions relate to operational areas which are under the command of the Chief Constable. The PCC has asked the Chief Constable to give consideration to these issues and a response will be brought back to a future meeting of the Panel, or fed back to members via the Chair.

- 4) (b) What resources and accommodation there are to support Watch schemes and

community messaging;

There remains considerable work to be done to deliver a step change in how we support volunteering in policing across the board. Following completion of the Volunteering Review we can start to move forward on making sure we get the structures and support right for volunteering. The PCC continues to offer his full support to organisations such as NHW who play a crucial role in helping to keep our communities safe. The PCC is open to further discussions with NMW about how the Force and the PCC can work together and support them going forward.