



**Police and Crime Panel Meeting
11 December 2015
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The PCC's report to the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 9 October 2015 included updates on the 101 Service, Volunteering and Custody. Each of these is the subject of a separate item on the agenda of the December 2015 meeting.

This report provides an update on the key developments since that meeting.

1. Update on the Fair Funding Campaign

Our main focus over the past few months has been on future police funding, through the PCC's Fair Funding Campaign. The Police and Crime Panel received a detailed update on the campaign at its October meeting at which the OPCC Chief Executive explained that the Home Office had published revised proposals on 8th October and intended to press ahead with implementation of the reforms for 2016/17.

The Home Office proposals were disastrous for Devon and Cornwall and would have resulted in the loss of around £15million in grant funding. The proposed formula was far too simplistic and failed to take account of the broad nature of deprivation, the pressures of policing a rural area, the impact of tourism on policing and the wider demands from non-crime calls for service. We also voiced considerable concerns over the process. The OPCC have devoted considerable resources to this work since the summer and submitted a detailed response to the October proposals identifying issues and suggesting alternative approaches.

Throughout this process the PCC has been working closely with other PCCs, local MPs, the Panel and partners to raise awareness of the issues and to persuade the Home Office to reconsider. On 3 November the PCC appeared in front of the Home Affairs Select Committee to give evidence to their inquiry into the funding formula review.

Following the revelation, by Devon and Cornwall OPCC, that significant statistical errors had been made in the Home Office calculations the Minister announced to the House of Commons on 9th November that changes to the funding formula were to be delayed for a year. Following the Home Office's decision to postpone the funding formula review the PCC chose not to continue his planned consultation on a potential 15% precept rise and announced that intention on 10th November.

The Home Office are now considering their next steps and we are engaging with them to understand how they intend to re-start the review process. We expect them to make a formal announcement on next steps within the next two weeks. The PCC has joined

with a number of other PCCs to call for the Home Secretary to appoint an independent board to carry out the review on behalf of the Home Office.

2. Police and Crime Panel requests for further information from the October 2015 Panel meeting

i) The Treasurer was asked to provide a breakdown of the assets reported in the Annual Report.

- ❖ In response to the panel question regarding assets the following information is available;

The analysis of the balance sheet figure in the annual report is:

	£'m
Assets Held for Sale & Surplus Assets	4
Vehicles including work in progress	8
Plant	0.1
IT hardware and software	6
Equipment	1
Total	19

- ❖ Included In the assets held for sale, i.e deemed at the Balance sheet date as surplus to requirements, were:

Devon House
Torbay House
Traffic and Driver Centre
The petrol station

- ❖ These are book values and do not necessarily represent market value and are connected with the re-development of the Middlemoor site.

ii) The Chief Executive was asked to provide a written response to an allegation that there had been misuse or improper use of police vehicles by civilian members of staff.

- ❖ In the case raised with the Commissioner the civilian member of staff had taken over the use of a car which had previously been used by a serving police officer, with the sirens and blue lights subsequently demobilised. The member of staff does not receive an allowance from HMRC and he makes the appropriate monthly tax contribution for use of the vehicle.

3. PROGRESS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES SINCE July 2015

Priority 1

To make our area a safer place to live, work and visit – reducing the likelihood that people will become victims of crime.

- ❖ Progress in delivering against Priority 1 is managed through the Performance and Accountability Board which meets publicly every two months and is webcast across the force area. The PCC's Performance Report is included as a separate item on the Panel agenda.
- ❖ The other key issue being progressed under Priority 1 is the 101 review which is the subject of a separate report to this meeting.

Priority 2

To reduce the crime and harm caused by the misuse of alcohol

- ❖ An innovative pilot has been launched across Devon and Cornwall to support vulnerable people in the night time economy. The OPCC have been working with national charity Drinkaware and local partners to launch the **Drinkaware Club Hosts Pilot** in Torbay, Truro, Exeter and Plymouth. The pilot, which will run for 6 months and be subject to full academic evaluation, will see club hosts operating in at least 6 venues across these towns to help safeguard people made vulnerable by excessive consumption of alcohol.
- ❖ The PCC continues to lead **national work for PCCs** to help tackle alcohol related harm. He has been working actively with the Home Office to inform their thinking on a range of issues as they prepare the Modern crime Prevention strategy for Ministers which will launch in 2016 – on key issues including licensing and reform of the existing late night levy arrangements. We are also working with a group of PCCs and Alcohol Concern to develop guidance on tackling street drinking.
- ❖ Wider implementation of the **#RU2DRUNK breathalyser programme** is continuing with roll-out commencing in Exeter. The scheme is now operating in a number of locations in South Devon as well as Truro and Newquay in Cornwall. We are currently exploring a number of options with Exeter University to access new research opportunities to build upon the initial research they carried out on the Torbay pilot.
- ❖ We are continuing to work with **local ENTE support schemes** and to offer help to them where we can. We have also begun to engage with the Portman Group to explore ways in which they can work with us in Devon and Cornwall to help tackle alcohol related harm and crime in our communities.

Priority 3

To make every penny count in protecting policing for the long term. We need to drive for further efficiency, work to secure more central funding and actively explore all avenues to deliver the significant savings we require from 2017/18 to sustain our services.

- ❖ A substantial update on the **Estates Programme** was provided to the Panel at its October meeting. This included an overview of the estates portfolio, the overall strategic objectives for 2015-21 and rationalisation targets. We also set out our

plans for future partnership work to explore projects with fire, ambulance, town and parish councils, ports and airports.

- ❖ In November 2015 the Devon and Cornwall Police Property Services Department transferred to the OPCC. This will support the delivery of the Estates Strategy 2015-21 and the new commercial approach to disposals. The OPCC will provide a lead in the areas of collaboration and new partnership approaches especially with local government, fire and health stakeholders.
- ❖ Significant work on the **Strategic Alliance with Dorset** is continuing, alongside work with our wider South West regional partners.

Priority 4

To promote an effective Criminal Justice System for our area, delivering a high quality service for victims, witnesses and society.

Mental Health

- ❖ The number of mental health detentions at police stations under S136 of the Mental Health Act has seen a significant reduction since March 2015. In the 7 months to August 2015 there were 96 detentions across the Force, which is a reduction of 81% compared to the same 7 months of 2014, with 421 less detentions. For juveniles only there have been 2 detentions, an 88% reduction with 15 less.
- ❖ Work has commenced to consider how to fund the successful street triage scheme across Devon and Cornwall in 2016/17. The commissioning partners will be asked to support a jointly funded scheme that has contributed to reducing the numbers of S136 detentions.
- ❖ The liaison and diversion scheme is operated in all Custody centres and aims to provide support to all detainees who disclose suffering from a mental illness, including when appropriate diversion from the criminal justice system. The latest performance data is as follows
- ❖ The data summary report for the 5 months to August 2015 is annexed to this Report. For comparison purposes it includes an analysis of data for all Wave 1 and Wave 2 services (*shown as 'National'*).

Out of Court Disposals

- ❖ We have now agreed a new process to support the scrutiny of out of court disposals and a date for the first meeting of the new Scrutiny Panel will be set shortly.
- ❖ The purpose of this new approach is to increase understanding, transparency and confidence in the use of out of court disposals by independently reviewing a selection of anonymised cases resolved by the use of an out of court disposal within Devon and Cornwall.

- ❖ Membership of the Panel will include CPS, HM Courts and Tribunal service, YOTs as well as representatives from our diverse communities, young people and victims.

Priority 5
To deliver a high quality victim support service across our area

- ❖ **Revised Victims' Code.** The revised Victims' Code came into force on the 16 November 2015. The main changes are that the entitlements now apply to all victims of a criminal offence not just those recorded under the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS); extended the number of organisations now required to comply with the Code e.g. the Serious Fraud Office and changes to the written information to be sent to a victim. These changes have been accommodated within force victim care arrangements.

- ❖ **Data from the 1 April 2015 to 19 October 2015**

The following data is taken from the performance reports of MY VCU. They are headline figures with some examples that demonstrate the value of a network approach that enables a breadth of needs and protected characteristics to be catered for (n.b. it does not cover every referral made):

Number of referrals	VCU to victim care network	1,023
Needs resolved within the VCU		720
Devon and Cornwall CABs (Finance and debt/legal advice)	Referrals accepted from the VCU	214
Young Devon (young people services)	Referrals from VCU	96
Cornwall People First (learning Disability/advocacy)	Referrals from VCU	26
Safer Stronger Consortium (access to 14 organisations)	Referrals from VCU	143
Victim Support General emotional and practical support	Referrals from VCU and national line/action fraud. Referral pathways to be resolved	572
Cruse bereavement	Referrals form VCU	6

- ❖ On 25 November there were 402 active cases with victims being supported and helped by the Victim Care Unit and the members of the Victim Care network.

- ❖ The Victim Support helpline service for victims of crime who do not want to report the crime to the police has been used by 9 people over the period from the 1 April to the 19 October. However, as previously mentioned the network of victim care organisations also act as gateways of support for those that choose not to report a crime. The OPCC receives a report directly from the network members each quarter that provides anonymous data about non reported crime covering:
 - The crime type
 - Whether the crime occurred within Devon and Cornwall or elsewhere
 - Whether the crime was historic i.e. prior to April 2015 (not in the current performance year)
- ❖ This data is mapped alongside the figures stored within the organisational performance reports from the My VCU system and forms the basis of individual discussions with each organisation about the outcome achieved and the level of demand there is for their services. The system is being updated to enable network members to run their own organisational reports.
- ❖ The Victim Outcome Survey is under review in order to improve the numbers being completed by making access easier and making the wording clearer. The OPCC has recently added the survey to snap link which will provide direct and easy access for victims to feedback their comments and surveys securely via this facility.
- ❖ A recruitment process has been held to find volunteers to work with the VictimCare Unit and to provide specialist support to the victims of fraud who often have complex needs in terms of support. Twenty volunteers have been interviewed and selected and will commence training in January 2016

Priority 6
To encourage and enable citizens and communities to play their part in tackling crime and making their communities safer”.

- ❖ A separate item has been included on the Panel agenda on volunteering.

4. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

December update

The following engagement activities have taken place since the beginning of October 2015;

1. Briefings

- ❖ The PCC is undertaking a series of briefings throughout November and December to update information about the fair funding campaign and the ongoing financial challenges facing the Devon and Cornwall force.

Fair Funding & Valuing Your Police briefings		
One to one meetings and discussions with SW MPs	w/c	12/10/2015
Home Affairs Select Committee		03/11/2015
West Devon District Council		17/11/2015
South Hams Council		26/11/2015
Exeter City Council		26/11/2015
North Devon Council		27/11/2015
Torridge Council		01/12/2015
East Devon		01/12/2015
Devon County Council		03/12/2015
Cornwall Council		07/12/2015
Torbay Council		09/12/2015

- ❖ The PCC has also met with Tudor Evans, Plymouth City Council (Oct 27th), the Radden Hills area of Parish Councils (20 Oct), and Mid Devon Scrutiny Committee (Nov 2nd)

2. Cornwall Community Network Panels

Network Panels	
Saltash	06/10/2015
Camborne, Pool & Redruth	25/11/2015
Bude (OPCC attending)	30/11/2015
Helston & Lizard	02/12/2015

3. Presentations

Group	Provider	Type of Group	Date
Exeter University student action	PCC	Community student	06/10/2015
Upton Pyne	PCC	Parish Council	20/10/2015
Sidmouth Methodist Wesley Guild	PCC	Community	17/11/2015

4. Takeover Day

- ❖ The OPCC once again took part in Takeover Day on 20th November. More than 200 young people applied to attend the day to learn more about how the Devon and Cornwall force and OPCC work. The level of interest in our activity was pleasing, and we had a very encouraging response and feedback from those who attended.

5. The following community days are scheduled

Community Day Falmouth (ASDA Supermarket meet your PCC)	14/12/2015
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6. Precept Focus groups

- ❖ The OPCC conducted two focus groups using independent market research company, Marketing Means. These informed our decision making process ahead of public consultation about potential precept rise, in particular the percentage increase under discussion for the process

Precept Focus Group Meetings	
Plymouth (University)	28/10/2015
St. Austell (Council)	03/11/2015

8. Awards Ceremonies

Cornwall Volunteering Awards	19/11/2015
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9. Correspondence

- ❖ The PCC has logged 185 items of correspondence since the beginning of October 2015.

5. **OPCC COMMUNICATIONS**

- ❖ The vast majority of the OPCC's communication and engagement work since the beginning of October has concerned the issue of police funding, with regard to ongoing CSR and the Government's funding formula proposals
- ❖ During the period 7 press releases have been issued to the media, 3 nationally. In addition comment was provided on several national stories. There was considerable media activity connected with the PCC's appearance at the Home Affairs Select Committee, and, following analysis submitted by the OPCC, the Government's decision to stop the funding formula revision proposals
- ❖ Other press releases concerned budget cut planning, police estate rationalisation, valuing the police and public consultation about potential precept rise
- ❖ The use of social media continues to develop. Currently the most active platform is Twitter. The office has increased its number of Twitter followers to 4,580 (up almost 200 from the last report). This continues to compare favourably to other PCC's.
- ❖ The Facebook presence has been redesigned and the OPCC is building conversations with communities through this format. The PCC's Facebook page has reached over 500 likes.
- ❖ The PCC also made appearances on several local TV and radio programmes, mainly news based. This included the BBC Sunday Politics programme on November 8th
- ❖ The PCC continues to make monthly appearances on Laurence Reed's BBC Radio Cornwall phone in (Nov 6th) and the Bill Buckley lunchtime phone in on BBC Radio Devon (Oct 5th and Nov 10th). The PCC also appeared on the Exeter University radio station Xpression FM as a guest on the monthly current affairs programme
- ❖ Further appearances on the BBC are planned for December. BBC Radio Cornwall (Dec 14th) and BBC Radio Devon (Dec 15th)

- ❖ The PCC took part in an ITV filming afternoon in Helston to discuss the funding cuts. This was transmitted to coincide with the launch of public consultation about potential precept rise.
- ❖ The PCC recorded an audio interview (Nov 4th) to help promote Restorative Justice week, and took part in the 'I've got something to say' social media campaign
- ❖ The PCC supported White Ribbon Day (Nov 25th) and took part in social media activity concerning this campaign to end violence against women.
- ❖ Filming and broadcast Q&As from the Performance and Accountability Board (PAB), via the website, continues. These broadcasts can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PCCTonyHogg>. To date the response from the Deputy Chief Constable to questions about hunting has received the most views

6. **FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

Decisions made

The following decisions and approvals have been made by the PCC in recent weeks:

- ❖ Internal Audit Annual Report 2014 -15
- ❖ To issue the PCC's Annual Report
- ❖ To approve the Police Property Act Fund 2015
- ❖ To agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Plymouth City Council to promote co –location of services; release land for housing and economic growth; and to maximise capital receipts and minimise public sector expenditure in relation to property assets and land.
- ❖ Transfer of Property Services Department to the OPCC.

Financial matters

- ❖ ***The Quarterly Financial Healthcheck report was received and noted***
The latest projected financial position for 2014-15 was considered at the Joint Management Board on 2 December 2015, and noted.

Recent HMIC Inspections

November 2015 – Witness for the prosecution: Identifying victim and witness vulnerability in criminal case files

This inspection sets out the findings of a review of the quality of criminal case files. It examines how effective the police are in providing accurate information of the circumstances of the case, identifying the vulnerability of victims and witnesses, and assessing and managing risks so the needs of witnesses and victims are met. The full report is available on the HMIC website.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/vulnerability-in-criminal-case-files-devon-and-cornwall/>

October 2015 – PEEL: Police efficiency 2015

As part of a new annual inspection of police forces in England and Wales , HMIC has published a thematic and individual force reports on the findings of inspections of policing efficiency. The reports are concerned with the question: How efficient are the police at keeping people safe and reducing crime? This inspection looked at how well forces understand the demand for their service and how well they match their resources to that demand and provides an assessment of their efficiency. The national overview report is accompanied by separate reports on each force, based on inspections carried out from March to June 2015, and data provided by forces on their spending plans for future years. The overall judgement provided for Devon & Cornwall was ‘good’.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/devon-and-cornwall-police-efficiency-2015.pdf>

Contact for further information

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