

**Police and Crime Panel Meeting
15 April 2016**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
(RESPONSE FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY
TO PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS)**

Introduction

At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel in December 2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner responded to a number of recommendations made by the Panel following the scrutiny item at a previous meeting in relation to Neighbourhood Watch.

A number of recommendations were directly related to operational matters which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable. At the request of the Police and Crime Commissioner a written response has been provided by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Superintendant Matt Lawler will attend the Police and Crime Panel meeting for this item.

A report was requested on the following 7 questions.

- 1. 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;**

Neighbourhood Policing Principles

There are 10 Neighbourhood Policing Principles which shape the force approach:

- a) will protect the public and keep people safe from harm, especially those most vulnerable. This will require a greater focus on early intervention and the identification of hidden harm rather than reacting to crimes committed, in order to prevent and reduce crime and harm.
- b) Is a mainstream policing activity, integrated with other policing services, and reflects local conditions, by being flexible and adaptive.
- c) Will provide a service that is valued by the public and tailored to the level of threat, risk and harm to victims.
- d) Will work collaboratively to keep communities safe and enable those communities to play their part in securing their neighbourhoods.
- e) Provides an identified point of contact who will act as the lead for issues in that neighbourhood.
- f) Will provide ease of access to services, primarily on-line, delivering both a virtual as well as visible policing presence according to need, working directly with communities and engaging with a purpose.
- g) Deliver evidence based activity against identified need using community intelligence as a basis for deployment, and risk based modelling as the means of resource allocation.
- h) Requires effective multi-agency engagement with a purpose, communication and feedback together with a clear explanation of where accountability lies. This and other activities should assist in providing reassurance to our communities.
- i) Will embrace, support and champion volunteering opportunities.
- j) Should demonstrably deliver against clear local plans and commitments made to neighbourhoods.

2. What resources and accommodation there are to support Watch schemes and community messaging;

PCSOs have a primary role in supporting and developing Watch Schemes. There are a number of Community Hub Offices that are situated in police stations and run by Volunteers. These were highlighted in the original submission to the panel and will still receive the PCSO support that they received beforehand. There are 3 Community Messaging System (CMS) officers across the force and they are still in post and will be for the foreseeable future.

In addition to existing resources, a new "Police Community Management Officer" (PCMO) role is being piloted through a 12 month pilot commencing in May 2016 at 10 locations across the policing area. This role has at its core the need to build effective community engagement that leads to activity and support for NHW and our other Watch schemes is integral to this and reflected in the role profile to which these police staff members will work. A copy of the role profile is attached at Annex 1 to inform the Police and Crime Panel. This is a substantial increase in resources that will support both the principles of Watch Schemes and their development.

Embedding volunteering activity within mainstream policing has been identified as a particular challenge and this is being addressed through the new approach to volunteering across the policing area which is referred to in the answer to (d) below

3. The feasibility of rolling out Newquay's Streetnet across the force area as a means of community messaging and communication through beat officers.

As the discussion with the panel indicated last year, "StreetNet" is a response to particular circumstances in Newquay. It is an information exchange process that meets the operational need of the local police Inspector. CMS is the force messaging system and has 3 staff supporting it and sending out force messages. We are exploring our future approach to CMS with a view to ensuring we have a flexible, functional system that meets the needs of our local area. .

4. The feasibility of rolling out the Citizens in Policing pilot across the rest of Plymouth and, potentially, across the force area;

As mentioned in (b) above, the infrastructure of the force able to support both Watch Schemes and the wider Volunteering opportunities has been very limited in the past. Whilst the Plymouth area chose to invest a police officer NBM to developing the "Citizens in Policing" (CiP) agenda in that area, this was not replicated elsewhere.

The PCC has agreed to support the setting up of a resources framework to support the whole of the Citizens in Policing Strategy of the force. This includes administrative support for current specialists, extra resources in Vetting and People Services Centre to handle Volunteering applications and administration and an uplift in trainers to assist with Special Constables and Community Safety Accreditation Schemes (CSAS). This new approach will also see the creation of 3 "Citizens in Policing" police staff roles (one in each BCU). These posts are responsible for developing the CiP Strategy and will have NHW and other Watch development very much in their daily business. A separate report is provided to the Police and Crime Panel at this meeting on the future approach to volunteering.

5. What can be put in place to better understand how crime differentiates between Watch and non-Watch areas;

See below

6. What can be put in place to measure NHW's effectiveness in reporting and reducing crime;

See below

7. What can be put in place to strengthen the numbers of NHWs in areas with the highest crime

As we move forward with a new approach to CMS our ability to consider effectiveness will be improved along with a more detailed mapping of watch activity. Both the PCMO trial and the new CIP Officers will play important roles in the future shape and growth of NHW – working with local areas to consider whether the setting up of a Watch Scheme is an effective response to the crime issue under scrutiny.

Inspector Paul Morgan