



**Police and Crime Panel Meeting  
7 October 2016  
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

Since taking up office on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the Commissioner has been working intensely with the OPCC Team, the Chief Constable and wider partners to develop my Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 which will set out her priorities and focus for the term of office. A significant programme of consultation has taken place over the summer and a separate report to the Panel at this meeting sets out the Commissioner's planned revisions to the Police and Crime Plan as a result of that consultation process.

Alongside this important work, other activity continues. The Commissioner has continued to meet with a wide range of stakeholders and partners (with more planned over the coming months) and has held a number of public events to talk to the people of Devon and Cornwall about policing issues and seek their views.

This report draws your attention to a number of matters. The Commissioner would be happy to expand upon any of the issues covered if helpful to Panel members.

**1. Policy developments**

*Collaboration with Fire*

The Commissioner intends to work closely with local fire services to enable greater efficiency and effectiveness across all blue light services. Scoping work to identify opportunities is well advanced –led by Devon and Cornwall Police. The Commissioner has already had a number of positive discussions with fire colleagues across the peninsula and will be working closely with them through the South West Emergency Services Forum to drive progress over the next few months. The Commissioner is seeking deep operational integration with both local fire and rescue services and will consider all integration proposals that will help to keep our communities safe and to promote efficiency in policing services.

*Victims Care Services*

The Commissioner has recently approved a new 12 month pilot, with Young Devon, Young People Cornwall and Kooth to deliver enhanced victim care services for young victims of crime. The intention of the pilot, which will run from October 2016, is to test whether a specialist service for young victims of crime is the best approach for meeting their needs and helping young people to access additional services. It will particularly

focus on providing easy access to wide-ranging practical and emotional support that builds on the learning so far from Young Devon on the need for low level mental health interventions for young victims of crime. The overarching aims are to:

- ensure that all young victims of crime (aged 11 – 25) are able to access timely, child and young person centred support in ways that works for them
- Provide a consistent service to young victims of crime across both Devon and Cornwall.
- establish partnerships across county borders with youth organisations that improve the quality of service provision to victims of crime
- enable quick access to low level mental health support and referral to more intensive support if required
- Develop specific resources relevant for young victims of crime for use both on online and through existing participation work that will raise awareness of crime, support networks and prevention.
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of young victims of crime (especially through outcome measures that capture the ‘victims’ voice’) both reported and none reported. This will be shared to inform the learning of both statutory agencies and other victim care network providers.

### Child Sexual Abuse

The Ministry of Justice’s Victim Care Grant for 2016/17 included £139,000 to provide additional practical and emotional support for child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse. On 24<sup>th</sup> May the OPCC launched a call for grant bids locally and we received 14 bids with a total value exceeding £555,000. Following an initial evaluation of applications, the OPCC consulted commissioning partners to seek their views and ensure there was no duplication of effort in commissioning similar services. Eight local organisations were awarded new money through this process to help child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation – with a decision made to focus on applications which will help to reduce waiting times for trauma counselling and support services. The awards have been made to:

- Children’s Society
- Devon Rape Crisis
- North Devon Against Domestic Abuse
- Tor Support
- Victim Support
- Spiral Pathways (collaboration involving CLEAR, Women’s Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, and Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre)

### Single Remand Court Pilot

Work to establish a Centralised Virtual Remand Court across Devon and Cornwall has continued and an extended 3 month pilot will go live in October 2016. The pilot has been developed by a multi-agency team, with the PCC as the Local Criminal Justice Board sponsor. The pilot is focused on delivering a single dedicated court sitting in a Magistrates Court in Devon and Cornwall hearing all remand hearings by video. This is part of our broader work to improve efficiency in the criminal justice system and access to justice. Defendants appearing by video will be held in police custody at a custody

centre and will appear via video-link at the daily designated remand court. The pilot will be fully evaluated before decisions on wider roll-out are made.

### Police Estate

Following direction from the Commissioner upon taking up office May 2016, the OPCC has been engaged in discussions with a number of partners to ensure that the physical local policing presence is maintained or enhanced across the force area. The previous strategy of a significant reduction in locations has been placed on hold whilst a wider review is undertaken which will conclude before XXX. In the meantime, discussions have been taking place about the potential for co-location with partners in Looe, Ivybridge, Bideford and Launceston.

### Local Policing in St Ives and Hayle

The Commissioner called a public meeting in St Ives on 1<sup>st</sup> September following a significant campaign from the residents of St Ives and Hayle opposing the removal of their long standing sergeant. The Deputy Chief Constable also attended the meeting. Following the public meeting and the receipt of the public petition organised by the campaign the Chief Constable agreed to provide an additional Police Constable for the locality (supported by a financial commitment from the Commissioner).

### Police Funding Formula

The Police and Crime Panel will recall that significant work took place in 2015 on the Government's proposals for reforming the police funding formula. In September 2016 we have been informed by the new Policing Minister Brandon Lewis, MP that this work will recommence in the autumn with a view to issuing proposals for consultation in spring 2017. Significant engagement with Police and Crime Commissioner's at an early stage is planned by Home Office officials and initial discussions are already underway. The Commissioner made a clear promise in her election pledges to seek a fairer funding deal for Devon and Cornwall, in particular to reflect the impacts of reality and tourism and this is reflected in the proposed Police and Crime Plan which is set out in a separate report to this meeting. The Commissioner and the OPCC Team will be working closely over the coming months with other rural PCCs as well as MPs and local authorities to make the strongest case possible on police funding for Devon and Cornwall.

## **2. Legislative developments**

### Policing and Crime Bill

The Policing and Crime Bill has progressed to Committee Stage in the House of Lords which is expected to conclude in October 2016. Current expectations are that the Bill will receive Royal Assent by the end of the year, although this will be dependent on wider house business and on the scale of amendments made within the House of Lords.

The Bill includes a number of key policy developments, including fire collaboration, police complaints reform and volunteering and wider use of police powers. The Government has also announced its intention to introduce a series of amendments into

the House of Lords at Committee stage to implement commitments made in its Modern Crime Prevention Strategy earlier in 2016 on alcohol policy and licensing law.

These proposed amendments, which include reforms to the late night levy system as well as wider licensing law, will deliver into law some of the key reforms that PCCs have been pressing for nationally and is a clear recognition of the important contribution made by my predecessor and the OPCC Team who have driven the national alcohol agenda for PCCs over the past two years.

### Investigatory Powers Bill

The Investigatory Powers Bill is now in Committee stage in the House of Lords, having completed its passage through the House of Commons. The Bill remains contentious in terms of civil liberties issues.

### Online Safety Bill

This report previously provided an update on the Online Safety Bill. This Private Members Bill was introduced in the House of Lords in early 2016. It contained a number of provisions to promote online safety – including requiring information to be provided about online safety by internet service providers and mobile phone operators and to make provision for parents to be educated about online safety. This Private Members Bill was not progressed beyond Second Reading before the end of the 2015-2016 parliamentary session and is no longer under consideration by Parliament.

## **3. National Police Reform Programme**

Work on the national programme of reform has been slower than expected but is expected to gather significant pace over the next few months with an interim report on specialist capabilities now due in October/November. This fundamental piece of work will shape policing structures nationally, locally and regionally is being led jointly by PCCs and Chief Constables through a newly established Police Reform and Transformation Board. The Board has been tasked with building a clear vision for policing services and will be supported in its work through the administration of a significant investment pot from the Home Office (the Police Transformation Fund).

An interim bidding round for the Police Transformation Fund was issued in July 2016 which closed at the start of September 2016. This bidding round relates to in-year spend with £21million available before the end of 2016/17 but PCCs were able to submit multi-year bids.

The Commissioner supported a number of bids, in line with the criteria for the fund, which relates to the transformation of policing services. This included two national bids: a modern slavery national resourcing bid and a bid to support the work of local resilience forums across the country. Five further bids were submitted – covering ICT investment, service re-design for command, control and public contact and the establishment of a new pilot scheme on better managing offenders at an early stage in the offending cycle. Decisions on the award of funds under the Police Transformation Fund are expected in October 2016.

#### **4. HMIC Reports**

There has been one HMIC Report issued since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting.

#### **Devon and Cornwall – National Child Protection Inspection post-inspection review (July 2016)**

As part of a rolling programme of child protection inspections of all police forces in England and Wales, HMIC published an initial report in July 2015, on the child protection work of Devon and Cornwall Police. This found that, despite a clear commitment to protecting children, there were areas of concern that meant children were not receiving the service they deserve.

HMIC carried out a post-inspection review in April 2016, and was pleased to find that the force has made some improvements in relation to how it recognises and responds to child sexual exploitation (CSE). It noted improvements in the force's referral and risk assessment processes and the implementation of a programme to provide additional vulnerability training to all frontline staff resulting in increased staff awareness of the link between those who regularly go missing from home and CSE.

However, inspectors were concerned to find unnecessary delays in some child protection investigations allocated to non-specialist teams. In some cases the risk of a child being sexually exploited was not always responded to quickly enough – some children were still being reported missing a considerable number of times before any meaningful intervention. Finally the force's arrangements for dealing with children in custody still requires improvement.

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/devon-and-cornwall-national-child-protection-inspection-post-inspection-review/>

#### **Contact for further information**

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