

**Police and Crime Panel Meeting
9 December 2016
Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PERFORMANCE
REPORT**

1. Introduction

In response to the feedback from the Police & Crime Panel at the last meeting this report presents an update on a limited set of the performance measures set out in the previous Police and Crime Plan 2015/16. It is focused on the data in relation to the priority “To make our area a safer place to live, work and visit – reducing the likelihood that people will become victims of crime”.

As previously it includes the baseline data against each headline measure, plus attainment data, unless otherwise stated, for the 12 months to the end of February 2016. This is followed by a narrative description of the presented data which includes additional explanatory material. Finally the report sets out the OPCC's judgment on police performance against each measure – using a red/amber/green grading to illustrate how strong or at risk the OPCC considers force performance to be against each measure.

A more detailed narrative about those measures that are currently showing as red against the expected attainment is contained in the following section.

2. The OPCC's assessment of performance against the headline measures set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2014-2017

The OPCC's assessment of performance to-date against the headline measures for the performance year ended 31st October 2016 is contained in Appendix 1.

The latest reported public confidence data indicates that the public of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has the highest rate of confidence in the police nationally. Three performance measures in Appendix 1 are shown as not meeting the expected attainment level.

Domestic Abuse

The previous Police and Crime Commissioner set an aspiration to increase public confidence to report domestic abuse. This has been monitored historically through the expectation that reported domestic-related crime and incidents would increase.

Over the period we have seen increases in relation to recorded domestic violent crime and sexual offences. These represent those domestic incidents that are at the more serious end of the spectrum of incidents and are the most easily recognisable

by victims and witnesses as being abuse. The narrative below on '*Other Violent Crime*' equally applies to domestic-related violence. In particular, that the shift of offences of harassment and intimidation into the online environment has driven much of this. By contrast domestic offences such as burglary and non-crime incidents have reduced.

The considerations that drive victims to report and engage with the police or other partners are complex. Over the last two years we have sought to increase our understanding of this, in collaboration with other stakeholders and by the introduction of victim surveys. Despite this it remains difficult to explain the differences in trends, especially in relation to non-crime incidents.

Other Violent Crime

Violence with injury has increased against an expectation that the offending rate would reduce. A significant proportion of this increase is attributed to a focus on the recording of dangerous dogs act (1991) offences within this category. Violence with injury offences have increased by 6% in Devon and Cornwall compared with a national increase of 12%. This might indicate that further increases can be expected.

Violence without injury offences have increased by 15% in Devon and Cornwall compared to 35% in England and Wales overall. The increase in Devon and Cornwall is due to the addition of four new categories of offending that relate to online harassment to the home office counting rules. Offences recorded under these new categories almost entirely account for the increase in Devon and Cornwall.

Considerable work has been undertaken over the last two years to understand the nature, extent and changes taking place in violent crime in Devon and Cornwall. This has highlighted a number of significant emerging themes including violence among young people, neighbour disputes and non-domestic violence within the home. In many cases these offences and incidents will involve alcohol. The Commissioner will continue to work closely with partners under the new Police and Crime Plan to reduce alcohol related crime and to keep safe people who may be vulnerable due to excessive consumption of alcohol.

3. Future performance reporting

A new suite of strategic measures will be put in place to guide the work under the new Police and Crime Plan and are set out in the draft Police and Crime Plan which is under a separate item on the agenda. Initially these strategic measures will be reported to the Police and Crime Panel using the existing format although new and more publicly accessible formats are being explored and will be discussed with the Panel. The framework will see a shift towards using more qualitative data with a stronger emphasis on the views of the public. This is consistent with the feedback received from the public concerning the importance of ensuring that they feel more connected to local policing.

Contact for further information

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