



Police and Crime Panel

6 October 2017

Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

This report draws the Police and Crime Panel's attention to a number of matters which the Commissioner would be happy to expand upon further.

A number of the most significant developments are the subject of individual reports to the Panel at this meeting.

- **Policy developments**

Pathfinder scheme

The Police and Crime Panel has been informed of the deferred charge scheme being piloted across Devon and Cornwall under the name of Pathfinder. This is where subject to certain criteria and the victim's consent, selected offenders are offered a repatriation programme as an alternative to a criminal justice sanction.

The Pathfinder scheme has proven to be successful in reducing re-offending rates in a scheme trialled elsewhere in the country. The PCC has secured a substantial Home Office grant in order to undertake a similar trial in Devon and Cornwall.

The scheme is still in its infancy but has already resulted in some positive outcomes for victims and offenders. An example of the positive impact this scheme has had so far is illustrated at Annex A.

Key to the scheme is developing relationships and creating connections between individuals and their communities. The scheme relies on partnership working with local charities/social enterprises and looks for businesses to offer opportunities to individuals on the Pathfinder scheme to make amends for their actions.

The Police and Crime Panel will be kept updated on the progress of the scheme.

Strategic Alliance

In September 2017 the Chief Constables of Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police announced plans to explore further collaboration and closer working between the two forces by exploring the possibility of a full merger uniting the two forces. The Police and Crime Commissioners of Devon and Cornwall and Dorset both support the exploration of

this matter. This work is at an early exploratory stage and no decisions have been made. There is a separate report and presentation on the Strategic Alliance on the agenda of this Police and Crime Panel meeting.

The Connectivity Framework and Connectivity Plans

Improved connectivity between the public and the police is a fundamental element of the Police and Crime Plan. The development of a Connectivity Framework has been taken forward by the Chief Constable over the last few months and a draft framework is presented to the Police and Crime Panel at this meeting for consideration. Once the framework has been finalised a series of individual Connectivity Delivery Plans will be put in place – for geographic areas and for centralised teams like roads policing, criminal justice and armed response. This broad approach to connectivity plans will recognise that all parts of policing have an important role to play in building connections with our local communities. Support structures and services such as estates and the volunteering strategy will need to support delivery of connectivity at the local level and existing strategies for Estates and Citizens in Policing will be revised to build these interdependencies.

Workforce Transformation

The Police and Crime Panel received an update report from Devon and Cornwall Police at its July 2017 meeting on the Neighbourhood Policing Review/Project Genesis. That report set out the key work packages and timelines for this work and identified the core principles that would guide neighbourhood policing in the future. At the meeting in July 2017 it was agreed that:

- A presentation on the Connectivity Framework and Connectivity Plans would be provided to the Police and Crime Panel Meeting in October 2017
- A substantive report on the wider neighbourhood Policing Review/Project Genesis would be provided to the December 2017 Police and Crime Panel meeting.

Road safety

The Police and Crime Plan sets out clear intentions to enhance and support the response to road safety problems by working with the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership, local authorities, charities and other stakeholders.

The OPCC is currently assessing the best way to augment current partnership arrangements across Devon and Cornwall – and in doing so is linking in closely with colleagues in Dorset OPCC as both Commissioners have included road safety as an important area of focus within their Police and Crime Plan.

The PCC has supported a number of initiatives locally including the joint production with Dorset Police of a 'No Excuses' road safety pamphlet for distribution across the three counties. The PCC is also backing the Close Pass Scheme currently being trialled in Plymouth and Exeter by Devon and Cornwall Police. This is an awareness-raising exercise to educate motorists who are found to be not allowing sufficient room whilst overtaking cyclists. The Commissioner's involvement includes providing funding for cameras and signage to support the scheme. The PCC continues to receive a number of letters each month from people concerned about the safety of cyclists navigating our road network.

The campaign has been effectively deployed in other parts of the country and the Commissioner is hopeful that the Close Pass Scheme will prove to be an effective way of addressing some of the most common cycling safety issues here too.

At the national level, the Commissioner has taken the lead nationally on road safety for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (jointly with the PCC for Dorset) and is currently seeking views from PCCs across the country to inform the development of the national road safety programme for the coming two years.

Young Victims of Crime pilot

The Young Victims of Crime pilot created a partnership between Young Devon and Young People Cornwall to deliver face to face support across Devon and Cornwall. The initial phase involved training workers and creating capacity within their skilled staff to give the learning from the previous Young Devon work with the Victim Care Network. Delivery began in November 2016 and has since worked with 161 victims of crime across the area in 39 different towns. The ages of the victims ranged from 9 to 26 with a variety of crime types, the most common being assault or sexual assault. 98% of young people felt they had been helped and 71% felt safer as a result of the intervention. As part of the pilot a partnership has been formed with Kooth to provide online support to young victims and a bespoke young victims of crime online resource was created – with a large volume of context relating to crime and support for young victims. So far 304 young people have accessed these information pages and 182 have accessed online counselling and discussed issues relating to crime. We are now in discussions with Young Devon who manage the entire service about commissioning a review phase of the pilot.

Essex: transfer of responsibilities for fire to the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner

In July 2017 the Home Secretary announced that she had approved a proposal to transfer responsibility for fire and rescue services in Essex to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Roger Hirst. This move, which has been supported by fire and rescue staff is the first approval in the country and follows the provision of powers within the Policing and Crime act 2017 to effect such changes.

Here in Devon and Cornwall there are no plans to seek to take a similar approach to fire and policing governance. We have close collaborative working between our respective services at strategic and operational levels, as evidenced by the signing in summer 2017 of new Memorandums of Understanding between Devon and Cornwall Police and our fire and rescue services and productive working through the wider Emergency services Forum. The Police and Crime Panel have asked for a substantive update on blue light collaboration at the next Police and Crime Panel meeting in December 2017.

Police and Crime Alison Hernandez appointed a SCAMBassador

The Police and Crime Commissioner was pleased to accept an invitation from National Trading Standards to become a SCAMBassador. Scams, essentially personal fraud, is when people are persuaded to part with money or personal data as a result of postal, telephone or electronic communication received into the home. Nationally, Action Fraud report that 53% of people aged 65+ have been targeted by scammers with an estimated at costing the UK economy between £5-£10b a year.

More locally the Director of Public Health for Plymouth reports the average age of victim is 72 and the average loss is £10,000. Elderly victims of fraud are 2.5 times more likely to die or go into care within 2 years than those who are not victims.

The Commissioner's role as a SCAMBassador is to raise awareness of the issue and influence policy makers and decision takers at the local and national level. This supports the national work PCC Martyn Underhill in Dorset is taking forward as part of the Fraud Task Force and links in well with both PCC's Police & Crime Plans to address the problem of scams and fraud.

- **HMIC reports update**

No inspection reports which relate to Devon and Cornwall have been published since the July 2017 Police and Crime Panel meeting.

In 2015, [Ipsos MORI](#) published the results of a survey, commissioned by HMIC, into [public perceptions of policing in England and Wales](#). This national survey forms part of the baseline for our own PCC perceptions Survey which will help us to measure success under the Police and Crime Plan.

In 2016, HMIC commissioned a follow up survey. This report sets out the results of this survey. [Public views of policing in England and Wales 2016/17](#)

Contact for further information

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Pathfinder Case Study

Tom* is a 24 year old male who has Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy. His Cerebral Palsy has left him with a weak left side, he has an awkward gait and his left arm is held in an unnatural position. He has also been unable to work because his Epilepsy has not been sufficiently controlled.

Tom's offending was a Communications Act offence, whereby he made verbal threats via his mobile phone to a male who he perceived to have been bullying a friend of his. Tom had some offending history but it was for minor offences, none of which were recent. He was offered the Pathfinder Scheme in the place of a simple caution and accepted.

After only one meeting with Tom, he identified that he had some social interaction issues and reacts badly to some stressful or confrontational situations. The Pathfinder Scheme allows clients to identify their own needs and they are then supported to find ways to address them. Tom identified that he would like help with coping with those confrontational situations, which he says stemmed from being bullied throughout his life because of his disability. He often just wanted people to stop the confrontation and aggression was the only way that he knew to do this. Tom also identified other areas that he would like help with. He stated that he was bored as he was unable to work, the few friends that he has are all working and so he found it difficult to motivate himself throughout the day. He expressed a desire to work but his doctor had signed him off because of his Epilepsy was not sufficiently controlled. He also raised his housing as a factor, he lives in a shared house with individuals who caused his anxiety levels to be continuously increased and expressed a desire to live closer to his family on the other side of town. He had issues with managing his money as his benefits were not sufficient for him and he also had a small amount of debt. Over the next few meetings Tom stated that he had always wanted to become a football coach, but because of his disability and the fact that others had told him that would not be able to achieve this, he had never explored this ambition. He stated is very interested in sport in general.

Tom is now halfway through his Pathfinder contract and through strategies explored with his Pathfinder Keyworker, he now feels much more able to cope with stressful situations and recently gave 2 examples where in the past he would have reacted aggressively but managed to deal with the situations calmly and without raising his anxiety levels. He felt a great deal of pride in doing this and I'm sure it has given him the confidence to continue in this vein. Since the start of the programme Tom has been having regular appointments with his GP and as result his medication has been changed and his epileptic episodes are now infrequent and less severe. With help he has managed to obtain an increase in his benefit allowances and had also reduced some of his outgoings and paid off his debt, as a result he is now some £120 better off per month. He has had meaningful discussions with his housing manager and explained that his living arrangements are detrimental to his health. After paying off some outstanding housing arrears it is looking hopeful that he will be able to rent a property nearer to his family.

As part of the Pathfinder contract Tom has to give something back to the Community and it was also felt that he would benefit from some mentoring with regard to becoming more positive and looking towards preparing him for a career. He had previously stated that he would like to work in accountancy as he is very good with numbers. Through the keyworkers contacts with various organisations he was aware of a Scheme run by a company called Westward Pathfinder, who help unemployed people back into employment through mentoring and education. They are the facilitators for a scheme for young people called Empowering Enterprise, which is a programme targeted at 18 to 24 year olds, with a view to giving them the skills, attitudes and education to obtain employment. The Scheme runs alongside a programme run by the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, which is essentially a mentoring scheme run by a professional athlete over a 4 week period, teaching young people how to overcome obstacles and personal issues to enable them to be positive about their lives. Tom has enrolled in this scheme and will start work with the athlete on the 26th of September, in this case the athlete is a Paralympian triathlete and Tom is really enthusiastic about being mentored by someone who understands disability. This scheme should help to boost Tom's confidence and give him even more skills to be able to cope with stressful and confrontational situations. The keyworker has also linked in with Football in the community, the charitable side of Exeter City FC. As a result of a number of conversations it was agreed that Tom could volunteer as a coach for the club's 12 Ability Counts teams on a trial basis. Tom was especially excited to engage with this as this was a lifelong ambition for him. Tom has now attended his first session as a volunteer and the feedback from his mentor was extremely positive. Tom has agreed to volunteer for the remainder of the football season and there is talk of the club potentially funding Tom to become a qualified disability football coach in the short term and perhaps moving on to become a coach of able bodied players in the future.

Tom has engaged very well with the Pathfinder Scheme and although the circumstances of him finding it are criminal he expresses that it is the best thing that could have happened for him. He has not reoffended to date and is really enthusiastic about engaging with both schemes. He is only half way through the Pathfinder programme but hopefully he will benefit greatly from it and will give him the tools and confidence not to reoffend and so reduce the numbers of future victims.

*Name changed