

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

Friday 1 December 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Croad, in the Chair.

Councillor Batters, Vice Chair.

Councillors Atherfold, Philippa Davey, Downie, Excell, Fairman, Hackett, Greenslade, Rule, Squires, Towill, Wingate and Wright.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Barker, James, Mathews, Sanders and Sutton and Sarah Wakfer, Independent Member

Also in attendance: Alison Hernandez – Police and Crime Commissioner, Lisa Vango – Strategy and Planning Manager, Frances Hughes – Chief Executive, Nicola Allen – Treasurer, ACC Andy Boulting – Devon and Cornwall Police, Amelia Boulter – Democratic Adviser and James Driscoll, Democratic Assistant.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.03 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

26. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests made.

27. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 6 October 2017 were agreed subject to the following amendments:

- a) Councillor Wingate was in attendance at the meeting and not absent as stated in the minutes;
- b) Councillor Greenslade was not included in the attendees but was in attendance at the meeting.

28. **Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

29. **Update on Neighbourhood Policing Review**

Alison Hernandez, Frances Hughes and ACC Andy Boulting were present for this item. It was highlighted to the Panel that –

- a) Project Genesis was progressing along the timelines as outlined in section 4 of the report;
- b) since the budget meeting in February 2017 they undertook a review on the future delivery of specialist policing in Devon and Cornwall and it was highlighted to the Panel that neighbourhood policing was not the sole deliverer of policing within communities;
- c) the project covers a number of areas such as demand modelling, connectivity, training and how we distribute the resources to enhance how we connect with our communities not just geographically but virtually;
- e) there was a need to invest in training for PCSOs and neighbourhood beat officers to enhance the offer and outcomes for communities;
- f) there were now 280 PCSOs remaining out of 360, with PSCOs either moving into the regular constabulary, police staff investigator roles delivering across the two counties and specialist problem solving looking at a higher levels of problem solving.

In response to questions raised, the Panel were advised that -

- g) Key Individual Networks need to reflect the local environment and would look different across different neighbourhoods. However those neighbourhoods with lack of police engagement would need to be addressed;
- h) it was inevitable that turnover of police staff would impact on the building of relationships in rural areas. The Councillor Advocate scheme could be the route to address with regular updates for elected members on police staffing in local areas;
- i) following the Police Community Management Officer (PCMO) pilot, seven new Professional Problem Solvers have been recruited. These specialist resources would be working closely with community safety partners to assist neighbourhood policing teams to keep communities safe;

The Panel noted the update on the Neighbourhood Policing Review.

30. **Blue Light Collaboration**

Lisa Vango and Alison Hernandez were present for this item and apologies that Tom Holmes was unable to attend the meeting today. A presentation was handed out to the Panel. It was highlighted that –

- a) this was collaboration in its widest and identified new ways to share back office functions to generate savings;

- b) the Home Office took over responsibility for the Fire Service in 2016 and under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 includes a formal duty for all three emergency services to collaborate.

In response to questions raised, the Panel were advised that –

- c) concerns were raised around PSCO's in a joint retained role, it was reported that the main role of a PCSO should be reassuring the public and traffic control;
- d) with regard to CCTV they were trying to link the towns within Cornwall but this was a real challenge. A realistic option would be to have an overall monitoring hub;
- e) the Coastguard were very closely involved in Cornwall and they would now explore links with the Devon Coastguard.

The Panel noted the Blue Light Collaboration Report.

31. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report**

Alison Hernandez provided an update and it was reported that –

- a) Operation Encompass was an incredibly simple scheme overseen by 2 dedicated individuals to help children affected by domestic abuse at home. A simple phone call to alert the school to ensure that support was given to that child. The Panel were encouraged to attend the launch in the New Year;
- b) the PCC had met with ministers recently to discuss a potential merger with the Fire Service, funding formula review and workforce efficiency;
- c) the modern slavery unit in Exmouth was leading locally and nationally on a programme of change to tackle human trafficking. They were now looking to work with businesses on this agenda.

The Panel noted the Police and Crime Commissioner's Update Report.

32. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Report**

Alison Hernandez was present for this item. It was highlighted that -

- a) the 101 service was green for effort and but marked as red in her judgement because of the inconsistency in the performance. They did not fully understand the problem and the lack of control when the demand fluctuates;

- b) the HMICFRS report published the results of their inspection into the accuracy and timeliness of crime recording and highlighted that Devon and Cornwall was 'inadequate'. Gold Group had been convened to address the concerns.

In response to questions raised, the Panel were advised that -

- c) 83.1% of 101 calls and 95.8% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds. Since last October calls had increased by 10%;
- d) the mental health and wellbeing of police officers was taken very seriously and that processes and support groups were in place if a colleague took their own life. This was not only a concern for serving police officers but recently retired police officers;
- e) the OPCC would look at the benchmark around mental health of police officers and feedback to the Panel outside of this meeting.

The Panel noted the Police and Crime Commissioner's Report.

33. **Non-Criminal Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner**

There were no non-criminal complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner made.

The Panel noted the Non-Criminal Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner report.

34. **Estates Strategy 2017 - 2021**

Nicola Allen, Alison Hernandez and Frances Hughes were present for this item. The Panel were provided with a couple of amendments to the strategy which included that there were 10 enquiry desks and not 9 as stated and that the gross internal area of approximately 10,000m² should in fact be 100,000m². It was highlighted that –

- a) the strategy would focus on accessibility, flexibility, integration, efficiency and wellness;
- b) the key features would ensure that the strategy was fit for purpose, flexible, sustainable and energy efficient with good connectivity with the community;
- c) the map outlining the asset list would be developed more as they move forward;
- d) they were looking to complete the key projects and strategies, reduce the number of leasehold and freehold properties whilst increasing co-location. They would maintain the current number of enquiry desks at 10;

- e) the strategy would be reviewed annually and reported to the joint Management Board and Police and Crime Panel as part of the annual report.

In response to questions raised, the Panel were advised that -

- f) with regard to custody arrangements for Bodmin, this would need to be explored further and that the custody review would look at travel times and fed back to the Panel;
- g) other areas use private companies to transport prisoners and there were no plans to close down any custody suites apart from Heavitree Road which would be replaced with a new custody suite in Exeter;
- h) with regard to the reduction in freehold and leasehold properties, they had looked at the facilities that were not fit for purpose which led to the numbers to reduce these properties by. The first priority would be to co-locate.

The Panel noted the Estates Strategy 2017 – 2021.

35. **Police and Crime Plan 2017 - 2020**

Alison Hernandez provided an update since the annual report was produced. It was highlighted that the report provides updates on progress against the milestones, it was reported that –

- a) the Police Service Standards which includes how to contact the police, public information, feedback, correspondence and I01;
- b) they were developing an overarching road safety strategy and the Police and Crime Commissioner was a national lead on road safety;
- c) with regard to the Evening and Night Time Economy (ENTE) they were continuing to work in partnership with local businesses and councils;
- d) they were undertaking a pilot for dealing with complaints from customers due to start in March 2018.

In response to questions raised, the Panel were advised that -

- e) with regard to lengthy road closures following an accident, it was reported that there was a challenge with resourcing but investments in new technology such as using drones to fly over the scene to capture the evidence would speed up the process;
- f) following a road accident there was a wider issue in helping families overcome the trauma of losing family members;

- g) with regard to excessive mess left on roads by farmers it was reported that prosecutions do take place in Cornwall and for the Mid-Devon Councillor to write to OPCC to look at how this could be resolved.

Alison Hernandez gave thanks to ACC Andy Boulting who is retiring in the New Year.

The Panel noted the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2020.