



Police and Crime Panel

2 February 2018

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 - any of 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

Police funding announcements 2018/19 and 2019/20

Shortly before Christmas the Government announced its funding intentions for policing for the coming two years. The proposal is for an additional £450m to be invested in policing nationally with £270m of this proposal relating to freedoms to increase the council tax precept by £12 for 2018/19. The Police and Crime Commissioner has welcomed the Government's stance of recognising the increasing demands, including non-crime demand on policing and providing greater flexibility to Commissioners with regards to the council tax precept. The better than anticipated settlement has afforded the opportunity to consider more options for service delivery and investment than was expected. The Commissioner's proposals for Proposed Precept, Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19 - 2021/22 is the subject of separate report to this meeting.

The Government also announced that any decisions with regard to the police funding formula will be addressed at the time of the next Comprehensive Spending Review, which is currently envisaged to be 2020. The Commissioner has consistently campaigned – with local MPs and other PCCs for reform of the funding formula to ensure that it better reflects the costs and challenges associated with rural service delivery and tourism. The Commissioner will continue to campaign for such reforms and will, with her team, be playing an active role in national development work ahead of the review.

Victim Strategy

The PCC and Chief Constable are determined to continuously improve the services provided to victims of crime. Victim services have been enhanced in recent years

through the provision of a Victim Care Unit and a network of support providers to assist victims of crime to cope and recover from their experiences. This is a good foundation on which to build the next stages of improving victim care. The PCC and Chief Constable have set out their intentions for the future of victim services in a new strategy, available via this link

https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Key%20document/Victim_Strategy_Booklet_Jan_18_Web.pdf

The Victim Strategy renews the PCC and police commitment to:

- Improve the experience of victims throughout the criminal justice system. We will continue to work with our local criminal justice board (LCJB) partners in order to achieve this.
- Ensure that victims understand what is happening with their case by providing timely and relevant updates to them in accordance with the Victim Code.
- Continue to listen to the views of victims and their representatives and to use their feedback to develop and improve the service and support we provide.

Exploring a potential merger with Dorset

At its last meeting, the Police and Crime Panel were informed of the early developments to examine the benefits of a full merger between Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police. This work has progressed to the appointment of Local Partnerships, a joint venture between HM Treasury and the Local Government Association, to conduct an assessment of the benefits, costs and risks likely to arise from a full merger and the development of an outline business case. The Local Partnerships Team will be carrying out a number of in depth interviews as part of that analysis process. A number of business cases and communications strategies from other public sector organisations, predominantly PCC and Fire combinations are being reviewed for best practice and it is intended that a number of these organisations will also be visited to allow some more in depth discussions on their progress and lessons learnt.

The project team are developing a stakeholder mapping process across the three counties, this work will feed into the communications and stakeholder strategy for this work, recognising the importance of effective communication and dialogue.

The Panel will be kept regularly updated on progress of this work.

Connectivity Framework

Following the presentation by the Chief Constable at the October 2017 Police and Crime Panel work on the connectivity framework has progressed. This has included the development of a series of essential components and will move forward for 2018 with local connectivity plans. A public document setting out the new connectivity framework 'connect to protect' is being finalised and the Police and Crime Panel will receive a further update on this in April 2018.

PCC's Councillor Advocate Scheme

OPCC staff are in the process of engaging with the councillors who have confirmed that they either wish to be part of the Councillor Advocate Scheme, or have expressed an interest in potentially joining the scheme. To date the majority of interest has been expressed by parish councils with around 40 signed up. The scheme will finally launch in February 2018.

Following a suggestion from one of the councillor advocates a bespoke crime prevention directory has been drawn up by the OPCC and police for the advocates. The general aim being to provide councillors with a reference tool, where they could access information (and importantly, contacts and resources) about a diverse range of crime/community safety matters. The draft covers:

- Adult abuse and neglect
- Antisocial behaviour
- Burglary
- Child abuse, neglect & CSE
- County lines
- Cyber crime
- Domestic abuse
- Hate crime
- Licensing issues
- Lost and found property
- Modern day slavery
- Road safety
- Rural crime
- Scams
- Sexual violence
- Violent extremism

A number of the new councillor advocates will be involved in reviewing and shaping the directory before the final version is published.

An induction document has also been produced to explain the scheme, the role of advocates, the role of police and others in the scheme, along with a role profile for the advocates. This will soon be made available to all those within the scheme (or interested in joining the scheme). Following discussions at the December 2017 Police and Crime Panel meeting further consideration of how the scheme can support and enhance arrangements in the main urban conurbations is being considered and the OPCC will be meeting with councillors from those areas to discuss their thoughts.

As part of the scheme councillor advocates will be provided with:

- regular and consistent access to their local policing team via quarterly advocate meetings
- regular information from the Police and Crime Commissioner (including a newsletter and key topic briefings) which they can input into
- a crime prevention pack providing information and signposting on a range of topics
- regular communications about key projects and topics in policing, including the current review of neighbourhood policing
- an invitation to attend four councillor advocate seminars each year, each with a different theme (e.g. Neighbourhood Policing/Project Genesis; Police Telephone 101 Service; Antisocial Behaviour; and Road Safety)
- use of a dedicated advocate email address to ensure efficient communication with the office of the police and commissioner

The OPCC is currently working with policing teams throughout Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and the first Councillor Advocate meetings will take place in the coming weeks.

CCTV Investment Strategy

The PCC set out her support for CCTV in the Police and Crime Plan, highlighting the protection CCTV affords to vulnerable people, the reassurance it brings to members of the public generally, and the operational benefits for policing in areas such as deterrence, investigation and conviction.

Since the last meeting of the Panel in December 2017, the PCC has made decisions to offer grant funding support for CCTV capital projects to three areas: Torbay, St Ives and Bodmin. Further applications for capital funding support have also been received or are anticipated from further towns across Devon and Cornwall.

Development work is continuing to enable local authority and fire control rooms to connect into police control rooms with the aim over the next two years of creating a fully integrated network of CCTV systems across Devon and Cornwall. This will be the first such integrated network in the country. The OPCC office is also working closely with Dorset to share learning and to explore wider opportunities for connectivity across the two police force areas.

Operation Encompass

As reported to the Police and Crime Panel in December 2017 the Commissioner is delighted to be supporting the roll-out of Operation Encompass in Devon and Cornwall (<http://www.operationencompass.org/>). Operation Encompass is a simple yet highly effective scheme which was initially devised in Plymouth by David and Elisabeth Carney-Howarth but is now in operation in a number of counties across England and Wales. Under the scheme the police will inform a school before 9am if they have dealt with a domestic incident at which school age children were present. This enables the school to better respond to a child's needs that day and to engage with them with a much better understanding of how they might be feeling. To operate the scheme schools are required to nominate a dedicated lead and to undertake specific training.

The Commissioner, along with national patrons including Dame Vera Baird the PCC for Northumbria and the national lead for PCCs on victims attended the formal launch event for Operation Encompass in January 2018 at Pentillie Castle in Cornwall. A number of Police and Crime Panel members, including Councillor Downie and Councillor Croad were also in attendance.

Pathfinder Deferred Charge Scheme Pilot

The premise of Pathfinder is based on a simple yet effective model that has been proven to reduce costs to justice agencies and improve victim satisfaction. This scheme has been operational since summer 2017 but due to additional training requirements only became fully operational on 19th July 2017.

The 13 skilled key workers and a manager are employed by the force, all with experience previously in working in either mental health, domestic abuse, probation, education, drugs/alcohol, or with prisoners and offenders now provide a bespoke and individually tailored contract for individuals deemed suitable for the scheme. The individual signs up to a contract with up to 5 conditions. These include a mandatory agreement not to reoffend for the duration of the contract (4 months), a victim led restorative approach with the offender making amends for the harm caused, interventions around the individuals critical pathways of need (accommodation, employment, education and training, finances, mental health, physical health, substance misuse, alcohol misuse, relationships and abuse) and voluntary work in the community. Over 3,000 hours of voluntary activities have already been undertaken by Pathfinder clients and many of those that have completed are continuing with their engagement after the end of the contract.

If the individual complies there is no further criminal action. The scheme is victim led and the keyworkers also engage the victim through constructive communication around their victim care needs and the offer of restorative justice. The victim is advised of the outcome in each case. Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma, substance misuse, poverty, learning disabilities and in particular, domestic and sexual abuse (both historic and current) are a common theme within the caseload (80% of the female cohort in Plymouth had been or were victims of domestic and sexual violence). All female offenders are offered a female worker in line with the recommendations within the Corston Report (2007). Offenders with learning disabilities, often young men on the autistic spectrum have featured regularly and are often socially isolated and pose a risk to themselves and others, particularly close family or when they misuse of substances. The evidence so far through feedback and results has proven to be very positive.

The team are carrying 192 live cases. As Pathfinder has only been fully operational for 6 months and it is a 4 month contract, only 20 contracts have been completed, but only 6 of those accepted onto the scheme have disengaged (218 were accepted so this is just 2.8% of the cohort) and 3 have sadly reoffended. It is anticipated now the scheme has been imbedded and with changes to the referral process, that this will increase to the maximum prescribed of 390 live cases. In order to assist the key workers a role profile for a 'Pathfinder Volunteer' was signed off at the December Volunteering Board, so can now proceed to recruitment. Whilst they will not be providing any interventions, they are key to ensuring the individual is able to attend appointments to address their needs or voluntary working etc. The pilot – which is scheduled to run until March 2019 is being evaluated by Professor Larry Sherman of Cambridge University.

Local Criminal Justice Board and the Transforming Justice Project

The Commissioners Update in December 2017 reported on the work being carried out under the Transforming Justice project to explore how services can be enhanced and improved locally – to tackle reoffending and improve outcomes for our communities. This work is supported by Home Office Police Transformation Fund funding until 31st

March 2018 when a Phase 2 scoping report is due to be completed. The development of that work is progressing and is focused on three core areas which are being taken forward jointly with partners through the Local Criminal Justice Board. These are: Through the Gate Services for offenders leaving prison, developing a whole system response to women at risk of offending and their children, specifically focused on trauma, and rough sleepers with complex needs. The project team are working closely with all partners, including the voluntary, charitable and social enterprise sector (VCSE) and have been holding a series of engagement events to support this work. The governance for this work and its future leadership will be provided by the new Reducing Offending Board that has been set up in Devon and Cornwall under the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Reducing Offending Board

In line with their 2017/18 plan and in support of the Transforming Justice project, the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) has set up a pan Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Reducing Offending Board. The Commissioner led a summit to discuss the terms of reference and membership. It was well attended by statutory criminal justice agencies, local authorities and VCSE colleagues who work with offenders or those at risk of offending. Our next meeting is on 20 February. The Commissioner will continue to chair the meeting, whilst a chair is sought from one of the LCJB member agencies. Expressions of interest for a vice chair will also be extended to VCSE organisations. Alongside the reducing offending board, we aim to set up a strategic criminal justice commissioning group with membership from CJS agencies, local authorities and health. The terms of reference and remit of this group are currently being developed.

Stakeholder engagement and discussion with partners from prisons and probation

The Commissioner visited Dartmoor Prison in January to learn more about the realities of prison and the people who live and work in them and to discuss joint working between the Prison Service, my office and the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board. I also joined Johnny Mercer MP to visit the Community Rehabilitation Company premises in Plymouth to discuss their work, current challenges and future opportunities.

LCJB Sub Group on Mental Health

The sub-group is making good progress, with a number of tangible actions already underway. There is significant commitment from the members, we have excellent attendance from health partners (both commissioners and providers) across Devon and Cornwall, criminal justice agencies and the local District Judge. One area of work, in support of the Judge is a business case for submission to the Ministry of Justice with a new process to reduce the amount of time it takes to get a psychiatric report to court and the Parole Board. Subject to our local developments, this will have regional and potentially national implications.

Street Pastors – Response Pastors Training – January 2018

The Commissioner was pleased to be able to support and fund the training of a new initiative 'Response Pastors' on Saturday 20 January 2018 at Devon and Cornwall Police Headquarters in Exeter.

Response Pastors are Street Pastors who have received enhanced training to enable them to deploy to emergency situations anywhere in the UK. Response Pastors form a direct part of a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to events (for example extreme flooding, fires and terror related incidents) and their role is to provide an additional valuable resource to the emergency services so that they can focus their efforts and skills where they are needed the most, and to provide compassion, care and help to both the public and staff from the emergency services.

Response Pastors are volunteers and during a deployment (such as Grenfell Tower) can work alongside emergency services for long shifts in incredibly busy and traumatic circumstances. Thanks to the training, Devon and Cornwall now have a fully trained Response Pastor Team ready to deploy should they be required.

Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton opened the event and also provided an input to the pastors. Sergeant Jeff Coe the Police and Crime Commissioner's Staff Officer thanked the pastors for their work on behalf of the commissioner, and also on behalf of operational police officers who work with Street Pastors throughout Devon and Cornwall on a weekly basis.

Estates Update

Following the agreement of the Commissioner's Estates Strategy in December 2017 work is continuing in a number of key areas to support delivery of that Strategy and ensure that the police estate meets the needs of Devon and Cornwall.

Appointment of a Head of Estates. A new Head of Estates has been appointed following a full application and selection process. The role will have responsibility for a combined estates function under the Strategic Alliance with Dorset.

Southside Development. The development of the new county HQ, including custody and operational hub in the Southside area at Middlemoor is now in the pre-construction phase, with designs being finalised. Consultations with residents in the surrounding area, as well as internal consultations, were carried out in late 2017 and engagement will continue throughout the process. There are plans for a new county HQ for Cornwall that are contained in the budget proposal that has been submitted to the Police and Crime Panel.

Northside Development. The Northside Development covers the area previously designated for a supermarket. This site was put out to the market in the latter part of 2017 and a competitive bidding process run by Savills, has been carried out. The process has now closed and a number of submissions have been received which are

currently being evaluated by a team led by the OPCC Treasurer who is responsible for the Estates Strategy.

Cornwall Safer Towns programme

In January 2018 the Commissioner and Safer Cornwall have joined forces to extend the county's existing Safer Town's scheme. There are four Safer Towns partnerships already in existence – in St Austell, Newquay, Truro and Penzance – but from April this will be extended to include Falmouth, Bodmin, Camborne, Redruth, Liskeard and Saltash.

Safer Towns will provide a partnership response to local community safety issues, aiming to reduce crime/anti-social behaviour and will allow for a coordinated response in the local areas. The PCC has committed £50,000 to kick start the extended programme. The work in each Safer Town will be informed by a strategic assessment of the multiple crime and disorder issues in that town and will be driven through a detailed action plan. The Safer Towns will be accountable to the Safer Cornwall Partnership.

Devon and Cornwall OPCC receives transparency award

Devon and Cornwall's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been recognised for its continued commitment to operational transparency in an awards ceremony held in London on 9 January 2018. CoPaCC is an independent organisation that compares OPCCs across the country on their statutory requirements to be open and transparent.

Devon and Cornwall OPCC is one of five to receive the highest 'very good' in the Transparency Quality Mark award presented by Bernard Rix, CoPaCC Chief Executive. Eleanor Tanner and Andrew Kirchin from the OPCC attended the awards on behalf of the OPCC and have been instrumental in the hard work required to achieve this high standard.

HMICFRS Reports

On 12 December 2017, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a national overview and separate Force report on police legitimacy which grades Devon and Cornwall Police as 'good'.

In the HMICFRS Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme (PEEL) Legitimacy Inspection for Devon & Cornwall 2017 the force has been graded **good** across most elements of the PEEL Efficiency programme.

Summary:

- Overall judgement – **good**
- To what extent does the force treat all of the people it serves with fairness and respect – **good**
- How well does the force ensure that its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully – **requires improvement**

- To what extent does the force treat its workforce with fairness and respect - **good**

Overall the findings rate the force as delivering a 'Good' level of legitimacy and leadership. Concerns are highlighted about the recording of grounds for stop and search procedures and specific areas of the complaints processes including the investigation of allegations of discrimination and the provision of updates to complainants. Further improvements are needed in the management of workforce performance.

Overall HMICFRS have recognised that Devon & Cornwall Police treat the public with fairness and respect and work hard to provide a good service. The report particularly highlights the force wellness agenda as offering outstanding support to its staff.

Related to the matter of legitimacy the Panel is reminded that the Commissioner is working together with the Commissioner for Dorset to respond to government proposals to reform the way that complaints against the police are dealt with. These reforms will provide a stronger role for PCCs in ensuring that expressions of dissatisfaction by the public are appropriately responded to and will help to address some of the concerns raised in this report.

Personnel changes

Retirement of the Chief Constable of Dorset Police

Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable of Dorset Police has announced her decision to retire from the force in April 2018. Martyn Underhill, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset, has taken the decision to temporarily appoint Deputy Chief Constable James Vaughan as chief constable when CC Simpson leaves. This will require some changes to the Devon and Cornwall Police Leadership arrangements as Deputy Chief Constable Vaughan is currently the Chief Operating Officer for both forces and the Panel will be updated once those arrangements have been finalised.

Devon and Cornwall Police – Chief Officers

Following the retirement of Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Russ Middleton and ACC Andy Boulting two temporary ACCs have been appointed by the Chief Constable. ACC Debbie Marsden has responsibility for Crime and Criminal Justice while ACC James Colwell will be responsible for Connectivity and Local Policing. Many of you will know ACC Colwell as the Devon Commander who appeared before you at the Police and Crime Panel meeting in October 2017 to discuss connectivity.

OPCC Management Changes

Lyn Gooding has been appointed the OPCC Criminal Justice, Partnerships and Commissioning Manager with immediate effect.

Dr Karen Mellodew, the OPCC Performance and Customer Services Manager will be leaving the OPCC in February 2018 to take up a role with Lincolnshire Police.

Candice Sainsbury has joined the OPCC on a part time basis from Plymouth City Council on a short term secondment to support the Transforming Justice Project and in particular the development of a commissioning map and schedule for offender support services.

National developments

Stalking Protection Bill

The Stalking Protection Bill received its Second Reading in the House on 19 January where MPs voted for it to be sent to a Public Bill Committee for scrutiny.

The Bill introduced by Dr Sarah Wollaston MP would secure greater protection for victims by introducing a number of measures including a Stalking Prevention Order. This would enable the police to take steps to offer greater safeguards to a victim whilst they conduct investigations into the alleged stalking offences. It would also allow police officers to seek a court order to restrict the actions of a perpetrator and possibly require the perpetrator to undergo a course of rehabilitation.

The police will investigate cases of stalking where the evidence presents itself but building a case against a perpetrator can be time consuming and complex. Whilst the police conduct their investigations and the CPS consider a case, the intervening period can leave a victim feeling vulnerable and helpless.

The Commissioner wrote to Devon and Cornwall MPs at the beginning of January urging their support for the Bill. The Bill was passed to the next stage of the Parliamentary process.

Independent Office for Police Conduct

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) launched in January 2018 and replaces the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

The IOPC now oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. It will have the power to:

- initiate its own investigations without relying on a force to record and refer a particular case for investigation
- reopen cases it has closed where there are compelling reasons, such as new evidence
- increase the IOPC's independence from the police by abolishing 'managed' and 'supervised' investigations
- investigate all disciplinary investigations against chief officers
- present cases against officers in the police disciplinary process when the force disagrees with the IOPC's findings

The IOPC will make its decisions independently of the police and government.

National Economic Crime Centre

In December the Government announced plans to tackle economic crime by establishing National Economic Crime Centre (NECC).

The NECC will be hosted within the National Crime Agency (NCA) and will task and coordinate the national response to economic crime, backed by greater intelligence and analytical capabilities. It will draw on expertise from across government, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, as well as new resources provided by the private sector.

To further improve the coordination of the law enforcement response, the government announced new legislation which will allow the NCA to directly task the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) to investigate the worst offenders. The SFO will continue to act as an independent organisation, supporting the multi-agency response led by the NCA.

The Home Office also announced it will establish a new economic crime strategic board chaired by the Home Secretary. It will convene the relevant ministers from across government to agree strategic priorities. Accordingly, the Minister of State for Security, Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, has been re-designated as Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime

Meetings with Parliamentarians

Roundtable discussion with south west MPs

The Commissioner and the Chief Constable met with Devon and Cornwall's MPs in Westminster in early December for roundtable discussions on a number important policing matters. The discussions focused in particular on police funding, workforce transformation, anti social behaviour and modern slavery. Further briefing sessions are being set up for 2018 to support closer working with our MPs on key issues.

Contact for further information

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