



**Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel  
8 February 2019  
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 that have arisen or progress that has been made since the last Panel meeting in October 2018 - any of which the Commissioner would be happy to expand upon further.

*New Years Honours List*

**Chief Constable awarded QPM**

The Commissioner is delighted at the announcement that Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer is awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the New Year's Honours by Her Majesty the Queen. The QPM is awarded to those in the service who have shown gallantry or distinguished service. For over 30 years Chief Constable Sawyer has had a profound impact on modern policing and has fundamentally changed the culture of safeguarding in policing. The Chief Constable has also led progress in policing nationally on key areas including volunteer police cadets, modern slavery and organised immigration crime. The Commissioner congratulates the Chief Constable on his award.

The PCC was also delighted to see that Mary Shead who has been a tireless champion of neighbourhood watch in Cornwall for many years and was instrumental in the establishment of the new St Ives CCTV system was awarded with an OBE for her services to policing and the community.

**1. Policy developments**

*Tri-Service Safety Officers in Cornwall*

The new Tri-Service Safety Officers started work on 1st November and will have their formal passing out parade on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The role is a collaboration between Cornwall Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, South Western Ambulance Service (NHS) Foundation Trust and Cornwall Fire, Rescue & Community Safety Service.

The tri-service role was developed in 2013 and there are now 10 permanent posts across Cornwall. The tri-service officers are located in areas where the police, the fire and ambulance services have a limited presence and where it is difficult to deploy a resource from a single agency. The posts have been joint funded by the three emergency services.

The tri service officers are trained medically, to a co-responder standard, and receive firefighter training. They also have powers under the community safety accreditation scheme and have instant access to police, fire and ambulance IT systems to enable a better immediate understanding of the situation. The 10 officers will be located in Bude, Liskeard, Hayle, St Just, St Ives, Perranporth, Fowey/Polruan, Looe, Lostwithiel and St Dennis

#### *New blue light 'community responders' for Devon*

This innovative police and fire collaboration project is funded by the Commissioner and will improve access to the emergency services for communities in Devon. The community responders who are currently in training will have the ability to go to both fire and police incidents, increasing both police presence and the number of available on-call firefighters in communities. This unique pilot project is a national first, encompassing the skills of an on-call firefighter and special constable in a single post. Seven 'community responders' have been recruited so far into locations where a need has been identified based on risk, vulnerability and harm.

The new community responders will be operating in Cullompton, Crediton, Dartmouth, Honiton, Okehampton, Newton Abbot and Totnes in the spring of 2019. Existing special constables are also being offered the opportunity to train as on-call fire fighters to support further expansion of the scheme.

#### *New Rural Affairs Officers for Devon and Cornwall*

The Commissioner is pleased to welcome the appointment of two dedicated rural affairs officers for Devon and Cornwall. PC Martin Beck (Devon) and PC Chris Collins (Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) will work in partnership to deliver effective problem solving and support neighbourhood officers and other staff.

Crime affecting rural, often isolated communities is an area of concern for the Commissioner. In last year's survey rural crime conducted by the National Rural Crime Network found that 52% of Devon and Cornwall farmers and rural-specific business owners had been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months, with 26 per cent saying they were fairly or very worried about becoming a victim in the future. And there's a perception that policing in local communities is poor, with only 27 per cent of respondents nationwide say their local police were doing a good job – 11 per cent lower than when the same question was asked in 2015. In Devon and Cornwall, the survey revealed that 26 per cent felt their local police were doing a good job.

The Rural Crime Team will focus on improving how the force receives, allocates and investigates reports of rural crime in order to support delivery of local activity in support of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Rural Affairs Strategy. The officers will be supported by a Specialist Problem Solver and Field Intelligence Officer and will work closely with the Force Wildlife Crime Officers and with the Rural Engagement Team led by the Special Constabulary.

One of the first actions completed by the rural crime team was establishing a new Rural Crime Partnership for Dartmoor. This is to be chaired by the Chief Executive of the National Park Authority and comprises representatives from local authorities, Highways, Environment Agency, Trading Standards and Fire and Rescue Service and will operate along similar lines of the partnership already in place on Exmoor. Plans are in place to convene a similar group for Bodmin Moor.

### *New Devon and Cornwall Crimestoppers Manager*

The Commissioner has been pleased to be able to provide funding to support the appointment of a dedicated manager for Crimestoppers in Devon and Cornwall to support and enhance the work of the existing Crimestoppers Committee and volunteer network. Crimestoppers plays an incredibly important role in work to keep our communities safe, providing an anonymous route for members of the public to report crime. The new Devon and Cornwall Crimestoppers Manager started work in January 2019 and will be working closely with communities to enhance the role that Crimestoppers can play in tackling local issues as well as strengthening the links between Crimestoppers and other initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch.

### *Pathfinder – Unlocking Futures*

The Pathfinder programme was developed jointly by the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall police supported by funding from the Home Office Police Transformation Fund. The programme was launched in 2017 and is continuing to make a valuable contribution to our work to prevent future offending and crime and is now a core part of the local response to reducing offending within our communities.

From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 the Pathfinder Team have had contact with over 834 offenders. Offenders who chose to participate in the scheme work with their allocated keyworkers and other statutory services to address the underlying causes of their offending, with the team making an average of 30 referrals a month to different statutory agencies. All offenders engaged in the programme have to undertake voluntary work as part of their commitment and to date almost 9,000 volunteer hours have been recorded.

The programme is being formally evaluated through a Randomised Control Trial with Cambridge University but local data indicates a very positive impact in terms of reduced reoffending rates.

The success of Pathfinder was recognised nationally at the end of 2018 when the programme won the Policing and Adults category at the 2018 Howard League for Penal Reform Community Awards.

### *Tackling Modern Slavery*

A new scheme has been launched by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards (who are enlisting trusted local businesses in the fight against modern day slavery). From December 2018 a small team of specialised trading standards auditors are being trained to check that local traders who are part of the Buy With Confidence scheme have taken steps to ensure their supply chains treat everyone fairly and ethically.

The pilot scheme, which has been funded by the Home Office Police Transformation Fund, will help consumers make informed decisions about where they are purchasing products or services locally. Buy With Confidence is a national directory of trading standards-approved businesses who have demonstrated that they trade in a fair, honest and legal way. Once this initial pilot is completed, the aim is to roll the scheme out across the country, with over 4,000 businesses participating nationally in the Buy With Confidence scheme this provides a valuable opportunity to better involve smaller businesses in our collective efforts to tackle modern slavery.

An application has been made to extend the operation of the National Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit which is hosted by Devon and Cornwall Police which is funded through the Home Office Police Transformation Fund until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The Unit has made a significant

contribution to policing's response to this terrible crime, with the £8.5 million funding provided to this national programme over the past 2.5 years leading to a significant increase in intelligence, understanding of the threat, sharing of best practice and delivery of prevention. We are currently awaiting formal confirmation from the Home Office regarding the Unit's funding for 2019/20.

The PCC has published a modern slavery statement online at <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/key-documents>.

#### Neighbourhood Liaison and Diversion

The new Neighbourhood Liaison and Diversion Mental Health pilot became fully operational across Devon and Cornwall in late 2018. The pilot is being evaluated by Plymouth University.

#### Spit and Bite Guards

Between 2016 & 2017, 216 officers and staff were spat on in Devon & Cornwall alone, accounting for 18% of all assaults against our staff. The Panel may be aware of the recent announcement made by the Chief Constable regarding the use of spit and bite guards within Devon and Cornwall. The Commissioner supports the decision to adopt the use of spit and bite guards which will protect police officers and other front line staff from these serious assaults. 26 other police forces are already deploying spit and bit guards in operational and detention settings in order to protect police officers, staff and detainees. Training for officers and staff on their proper use has commenced and will be completed by April 2019. The Panel may wish to note that the Assaults on Emergency Workers Act 2018 doubles the maximum penalty available for offenders who assault emergency workers, including spitting which is an important recognition of the dangers that spitting and biting pose for those who are there to keep the public safe.

#### New Plymouth SARC

On 21<sup>st</sup> December the new Plymouth Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) was opened. This important local facility, which is operated by North Devon Healthcare Trust provides a vital service for victims of sexual assault. This opening links to the wider developments reported to the Panel at its meeting in October 2018 regarding the commencement of the new Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy service run by First Light which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October and the new SARC contract which was awarded to North Devon Healthcare Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

#### New MOJ Funded Outreach Support Service

Following a formal bidding process the OPCC has been awarded £234,238 by the Ministry of Justice for a pilot project to deliver an Outreach Support Service for women in Devon and Cornwall until March 2020.

The OPCC brought together a number of partners working within the sector to develop a bid to collectively represent the interests of women service users across Devon and Cornwall and submitted a bid in partnership with the Alliance. The Alliance consists of Resilient Women CoLab, (Exeter), Sunflower Women's Centre (Plymouth) and Women's Centre Cornwall (Bodmin). The funding will be equally divided amongst the partners to enable them to employ Outreach Support Workers covering Exeter, North Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Cornwall.

The Outreach Support Workers will reach out across our vast geography to provide intensive trauma informed support for women with complex needs, who are in or on the cusp of the Criminal Justice System and who have previously struggled to access services, particularly women who live remotely. The Outreach workers will provide a wrap-around provision tailored to the individuals needs to support her to lead a crime free life and tackle the issues underpinning her

offending. The Outreach Support Service is expected to support at least 150 women across Devon and Cornwall.

The Outreach Support Worker will provide continual support throughout a woman’s journey in the CJS, taking referrals from Pathfinder and the NHS Liaison and Diversion scheme (which provides early intervention for vulnerable people as they come to the attention of the CJS); providing pre-court support; working alongside probation for community based sentences (thereby making a community sentence a more robust and effective option for Sentencers to reduce short term custodial sentences); and finally offering support in prison and post release to resettle a woman back into the community and prevent escalation into crisis. The pilot will be subject to external evaluation.

Young Victims of Crime

The existing young victims of crime pilot run by Young Devon, Young People Cornwall and Kooth is funded until April 2019. The Commissioning Team are currently working with South West Procurement in formally commissioning a bespoke young victims of crime service. The invitation to tender is drafted and anticipated to be published in early February with an anticipated go live date of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are currently awaiting the 2018-19 figures for the current service. The numbers in the table below reflect the period from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Face to Face	Total young people	288
	Devon	237
	Cornwall	51
	Sessions	1530
Group Work	Group sessions	1392
Online	Online Counselling	371
	Young People using info pages	468
	Pages relating to crime	62
	Forums	220

Peninsula Strategic Assessment

The 2018/19 Peninsula Strategic Assessment (PSA) brings together analysts from the Peninsula Crime Analysts Network and practitioners from across the Community Safety Partnerships in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to provide a shared view on community safety priorities within the peninsula. The PSA is an important tool for all parties with an interest in keeping communities safe and it plays an important role in informing the Commissioner’s activities and priorities and her commissioning plans.

This PSA is the first time that analysts have utilised the nationally accredited ‘Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE). MoRiLE was created in 2014 to provide a common methodology and language for the assessment of threat, risk and harm in relation to law enforcement. The model is a matrix which generates a score for each community safety issue based on the individual scores for: Impact; Likelihood; and Organisational Position.

The PSA identifies eight high level threats within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. A copy of the PSA can be viewed at [www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/performance](http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/performance). The eight high level threats are:

- Drug trafficking, including county lines
- Problem drug use, including drug related deaths

- Problem drinking and health related harms
- Domestic abuse, including domestic homicide
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- Rape and sexual assault
- Modern slavery
- Terrorism/violent extremism

The PSA also highlights two key emerging issues – ASB linked to street homelessness and youth gangs. The Commissioner and the OPCC have examined the PSA and have discussed the issues identified within the assessment. The Commissioner’s police and crime plan for 2017-2020 ‘safe, resilient and connected communities’ reflects these threats and action is being taken, by policing and partners to address those threats, many of which are detailed in this paper. The Commissioner does not intend to make any changes to the overarching police and crime plan in its final year but will draw upon the PSA findings throughout the year to support and inform her commissioning activities, work under the new scrutiny programme and her leadership of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Significant action is being taken by Devon and Cornwall Police on the issue of county lines, working with partners and through the new national County Lines Coordination Centre. It is important that decisive action is taken against these organised crime groups and to ensure that vulnerable people are protected from violence and exploitation. Our response to the threats identified in the PSA which link to substance abuse requires concerted action from community safety partners as a whole and other partners, in areas such as treatment, advice and housing and mental health services. Access to treatment and support is a fundamental part of that response such as the work being carried out in Axminster through local community based partners to provide locality based services to drug users within the area.

#### Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund

The Early Intervention Youth Fund is part of the Government’s Serious Violence Strategy which set aside £22m to target prevention activity and interventions by local, multi-agency partnerships working to reduce the levels of serious violence and crime amongst young people.

The Panel was advised at its October 2018 meeting that the Commissioner was working with a number of partners locally to develop bids to the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund. The Commissioner is delighted to advise the Panel that the Turning Corners bid developed in conjunction with Teignbridge and Torbay was successful in the bidding process.

The Turning Corners Project has been awarded a grant of £528,569 over two years. The grant will support a project that will deploy a Youth Exploitation Tracker Assessment across South Devon to identify those at significant risk of engaging in violence and gang activity, triggering tailored rapid intervention. The project will also support early identification of adverse childhood experiences at transition to secondary education, first time entrants and children at the edge of care to prevent escalation into violence. Although initially starting in South Devon, it is intended that the project will expand throughout Devon.

#### PCC’s Scrutiny Framework

In 2018 the Commissioner worked with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to review her approach to scrutinising Devon and Cornwall Police. In response the Commissioner has created a new scrutiny framework and infrastructure. The framework is a comprehensive and public facing document which details the PCC’s definition of scrutiny and what she expects to change as a

result of good scrutiny practices. The document also describes how the PCC uses scrutiny to inform policy and to hold the Chief Constable to account. It builds upon the existing scrutiny arrangements currently in place, such as the Use of Force Panel and the Out of Court Disposals Panel which are providing valuable scrutiny and assurance. A new section of the OPCC website will go live in February 2018 which will bring all scrutiny activity and projects together in a single part of the website. Following agreement of the framework in January 2019 work is taking place to finalise the 2019/20 work programme for scrutiny. The Centre for Public Scrutiny provided a scrutiny skills workshop for OPCC staff in January 2019 to support the implementation of the new framework. The framework is available on the OPCC website at: [www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/performance](http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/performance).

### Transparency

The Commissioner is committed to transparency and work is taking place within the OPCC to enhance the OPCC website content to ensure that the public and partners can easily access a wider range of information concerning local and national developments, commissioning activities, the PCC's scrutiny activity, the delivery of the plan and crime levels and performance.

A broader set of performance information will be published on the OPCC website from February 2019, bringing key information on areas such as citizens in policing, restorative justice, victims and 101. This will sit alongside the new crime profiles that have been created by the OPCC which are outlined in the PCC's Performance Report to this Panel meeting.

The Commissioner wishes to ensure that members of the public have a greater understanding of how the funding they provide to policing through the council tax precept is being spent. Decisions to seek an increase in contributions from local tax payers is not a decision that is taken lightly and the Commissioner wishes to ensure that council tax payers have transparency regarding how any additional funding is being spent. The established method for providing this information to the public is alongside the distribution of council tax bills by local councils. The Commissioner would like to thank the ten councils who have agreed to distribute information to the public in this way for 2019/20. Discussions with Plymouth City Council are continuing.

### Councillor advocate scheme

The Commissioner's Councillor Advocate Scheme continues to develop and is a key part of the Commissioner's work to improve connectivity with local communities. There are currently 91 people registered for the scheme.

On 28 November 2018 a councillor advocate seminar was held at Force Headquarters in Exeter and was attended by 18 delegates. At the seminar delegates had the opportunity to receive a tour of the Call Management and Contact Centre to meet call handlers and gain a greater understanding of the 999 and 101 services. Delegates also received a presentation on the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and had opportunities to ask questions of the Chief Executive Frances Hughes.

Further seminars are scheduled for February 2019 where advocates will be able to meet Devon and Cornwall Police's drone team and find out more about the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept consultation and budget plans for 2019/20.

Since the last Police and Crime Panel, the management of the councillor advocate scheme has transferred to the OPCC Communications and Engagement Team who will continue to issue regular updates to advocates on a range of issues.

### Staffing developments

Assistant Chief Constable Sharon Taylor has been appointed as the new ACC for Crime and Justice, taking over from ACC Debbie Marsden who is retiring from the service. ACC Marsden has played a pivotal role within Devon and Cornwall Police during her time with the organisation in key areas such as investigation standards and the Commissioner would like to thank her for all of her hard work on behalf of the people of Devon and Cornwall and welcome ACC Taylor into the role.

## **2. Road Safety developments**

### Improving the national response to speeding – PCC poll in November/December

In November the PCC launched an online poll to gauge public feeling towards raising the levels of fines issued for some road traffic offences on the condition that a proportion of the additional money raised is invested into local road safety with an emphasis on enforcement.

Currently those receiving a fixed penalty notice for breaking the speed limit face three penalty points and a fine of £100 – potentially less than those caught littering from a car. The penalty for those caught using a handheld mobile phone while driving doubled to a £200 fine and six points in 2017, and the maximum fine for those admitting littering from a car rose to £150, yet the fixed penalty charge for speeding remains at £100 and three points. Currently funds raised from the fines goes straight to the Government - not to the police, councils or highways authorities to support local activity to keep roads safe.

The poll ran from 27th November to 31st December and attracted 2,680 responses. The results showed strong support for more stringent enforcement of road traffic laws (85% in favour), stiffer penalties for those caught speeding (80% in favour) and for a proportion of the money from fines to come to local for road safety initiatives and enforcement (88% in favour).

The PCC will now take the results to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to discuss scaling up the survey and engaging in further discussions with the Government about how they can support greater local action on road safety. This survey was undertaken following a bigger piece of work where the PCC and her team spoke to more than 5,000 people at events over the summer where speeding ranked as a primary road safety concern.

### Community Speedwatch

One of the priority actions emanating from the Road Safety Strategy is to place Community Speedwatch on a firmer footing by providing sustainable support for the scheme and increase the number of active schemes in operation. It is accepted that some aspects of the central support for Community Speedwatch require improvement to ensure it remains an effective means for the public to volunteer their support.

The PCC remains very committed to Community Speedwatch and has provided support by way of funding the recent Speedwatch Review and additional administrative support for the scheme. An action plan has been agreed for Community Speedwatch which is being overseen by Assistant Chief Constable Paul Davies. Superintendent level leads for road safety have been appointed within each of the 4 geographic policing areas in Devon and Cornwall and they will play an important role to play in helping speedwatch develop. Good progress has already been made in addressing backlogs that had arisen in areas such as training and site assessment and a new Speedwatch Development Group is being formed to work with volunteers to identify future



developments and improvements to the scheme. The initial focus has been on ensuring strong levels of support for existing schemes before looking at opportunities to broaden the reach of speedwatch. The Commissioner has made available in her 2019/20 Commissioning Intentions Plan a dedicated fund to support infrastructure for speedwatch and the OPCC is exploring the potential benefits that innovations such as the CSW online system might bring to speedwatch volunteers in the peninsula. This will be explored further through the new development group and with CSW co-ordinators over the next two months.

#### *Brake Road Safety Week*

The OPCC supported the national Road Safety week organised in November by the charity Brake. The theme of this year's campaign was bike safety and the OPCC organised a cycle safety awareness session in Exeter in partnership with the Honest Truth charity, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, local police to draw highlight the unacceptable number of cyclists and motorcyclists killed or injured on our roads. Members of the public were invited to make a road safety pledge at the event. The event received excellent press coverage including from local television news bulletins and positive engagement from the residents of Exeter.

#### *Road Safety GB Annual Conference 2018*

The Commissioner addressed the national Road Safety GB conference in Brighton in November. The PCC shared the stage with the Road Safety Minister Jesse Norman MP and used her speech to outline the activity that she has taken forward as road safety lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Commissioner also called for police forces to sign up to the Driving for Better Business and Op Snap (a project for the submission of dash cam footage to the police) initiatives and launched the Devon and Cornwall OPCC road safety poll.

#### *Driving for Better Business Initiative*

The PCC has backed the Driving for Better Business Scheme organised by Highways England. This encourages organisations private and public to ensure they have the right processes and procedures in place to protect their staff, customers and the public from road risk. Organisations are encouraged to self-assess their vehicle fleet and those employees who drive for work to ensure they are compliant with road rules.

Along with Chief Constable Anthony Bangham of West Mercia Police - the National Police Chiefs Council lead for roads policing, the PCC has written to all PCCs and Chief Constables seeking their support to introduce Driving for Better Business in their police force. The Commissioner spoke at the national launch of the scheme in Westminster in January 2019 and announced that the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police were signing up to the scheme.

#### *Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy safety review*

In late November 2018 the Government published its response to the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy safety review. The report sets out a number of measures aimed at improving the safety of these vulnerable road users to encourage greater take up of both activities. Of particular note was the Government's announcement of a cash boost to assist the police manage helmet/ dash cam footage submitted to the police by cyclists and motorists. Op Snap which originated in Wales and has been introduced in several police force areas is proven to be a productive and cost effective way to address some of the poor driving behaviours displayed by dangerous motorists. The Commissioner raised this matter with the Road Safety Minister Jesse Norman when they met in October and is pleased to see this initiative. The wider roll out of Op Snap will enable the police to increase enforcement, remove dangerous motorists from the road

and protect vulnerable road users including cyclists and horse riders and the Commissioner is working with the Department of Transport to support this.

### **3. Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) developments**

The focus of the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board which is chaired by the Commissioner continues to be reducing offending and improving services for those with a mental health issue within the criminal justice system (CJS).

Amongst the wide range of work being taken forward through the Board the Commissioner would like to highlight to the Panel further developments in a number of important areas:

- The community sentence treatment requirement pilot in Plymouth, which the Panel was updated on in October 2018 has been extended with a welcome decision from the MOJ to provide funding for this pilot project until March 2021.
- The 'check in' and departure lounge' pilot at HMP Exeter which has been funded by the OPCC through Home Office Police Transformation funding is progressing well and has attracted the interest of central government departments. The pilot is being evaluated by a multi-agency panel working to the LCJB Reducing Reoffending Board who have taken overall management of the pilot development. Early feedback from the pilot is that there is a 90% attendance rate at the 'check in' service 2-3 weeks ahead of release with 90% saying that the process has increased their confidence that they will stay out of prison on release.
- Additional funding has been secured from partners for 2019/20 to continue the provision of enhanced accommodation services by Julian House for offenders being released from HMP Exeter
- Establishment of a multi-agency victim and witness forum, which will initially focus on delivery of the Victim Code of Practice.

The OPCC and wider partners are working collaboratively through the LCJB to contribute to the government's reform of the probation service, following the consultation issued in July 2018. We are engaged in positive dialogue across the south west region and with government around the proposals in order to ensure that any revision to the arrangements in place in Devon and Cornwall and the wider south west will provide an improved service for offenders and for the community as a whole. The timescales for taking this work forward are challenging and there is a considerable volume of work for OPCCs and wider partners, including the development of a regional data room to support the CRC process. In line with the national and regional changes the LCJB reducing offending work, will be influenced by development of a South West regional reducing reoffending board. This work is being led by the PCC in Avon and Somerset in the interests of all South West PCC's. A fuller update on this area of work can be provided to the Panel at a future meeting if that would be helpful.

### **4. National developments**

#### *Policing for the Future Report*

In October, the Home Affairs Committee published its Policing for the Future report and provides the findings from the Committee's inquiry of the same name. This report examines the changing demands on policing, and considers the extent to which the service is able to meet these challenges such as funding and investment; then at three specific areas of growing pressure on

policing—online fraud, child sexual abuse, and safeguarding vulnerable people; and the wider reforms that are required.

The Police and Crime Commissioner gave evidence to the Committee in May 2018 as part of the Committee's examination of Neighbourhood policing – the Commissioner is Deputy Lead for Local Partnerships and Policing for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. The PCC spoke of the importance of Neighbourhood Policing and its close linkages with public confidence, the important role played by Community Safety Partnerships and the critical role of prevention and reducing reoffending as part of addressing crime.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/515/515.pdf>

#### *New Serious and Organised Crime Strategy*

The Government published a refreshed Serious and Organised Crime Strategy in November. The strategy sets out how the government will prevent criminals from laundering money made from operations such as drug trafficking and human trafficking, build the UK's defences against serious and organised crime, track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752850/SOC-2018-web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752850/SOC-2018-web.pdf)

The Force has developed an action plan under the leadership of D/ Chief Superintendent Steve Parker, Head of Crime and Justice. Devon and Cornwall Police also hosted a regional workshop event for the Home Office on 29<sup>th</sup> January for policing and partners to explore the new strategy and consider local and regional opportunities.

The response to the Strategy from the association of Police and Crime Commissioners is available here <http://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/apcc-chair-welcomes-serious-and-organised-crime-strategy-2018/>

#### *Public Accounts Committee - inquiry of the financial sustainability of police forces*

In the final months of 2018 the Public Accounts Committee conducted an inquiry into the financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales. This followed the publication of a report by the National Audit Office raising concerns at the Government's approach to the police funding model. <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/financial-sustainability-of-police-forces-in-England-and-Wales-2018/>

The Commissioner was one of two PCCs invited to attend the Public Accounts Committee in late October 2018 to give evidence to the inquiry. The Commissioner's evidence focused in particular on the challenges of rurality and tourism, the difficulty of funding cliff edges and a lack of certainty over long term funding. The report from the PAC was published in November 2018.

The Commissioner and the OPCC are continuing to work with national colleagues from policing, local MPs and partners to make the strongest possible case for enhanced funding for policing as part of preparations for the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

#### *Remembrance Sunday*

On 11th November, the Commissioner joined many hundreds of people at Remembrance Services marking a century since the end of the First World War. Andy Hocking House, at Middlemoor was home to a moving and fitting tribute created with the help of the South West Police Heritage Trust, telling the stories of police officers who served both here and abroad during the war. Those police officers who were called up to serve in the First World War, and

who made the ultimate sacrifice, have been remembered in a stunning memorial at police headquarters which was painted by Sergeant Mark Cooper from Falmouth.

#### Draft Domestic Abuse Bill published for pre-legislative scrutiny

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill was published on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and introduced into the house for pre-legislative scrutiny. The response to the consultation process which ran in summer 2018 identifies nine measures that require primary legislation to implement which will be taken forward in the draft Domestic Abuse Bill:

- provide for a statutory definition of domestic abuse
- establish the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and DAPO
- prohibit perpetrators of domestic and other forms of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts (and prevent victims from having to cross-examine their abusers) and give the court discretion to prevent cross-examination in person where it would diminish the quality of the witness's evidence or cause the witness significant distress
- create a statutory presumption that complainants of an offence involving behaviour that amounts to domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts
- enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme on a statutory footing
- ensure that, where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy), this must be a secure lifetime tenancy
- extend the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales to further violent and sexual offences

#### PCC's call for Spice to be reclassified as a class A substance

As reported to the Panel at its meeting in October 2018 the Commissioner has been working with Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country urging the Government to reclassify the synthetic cannabinoid known as Spice as a class A substance. The Commissioner has received support from a number of local MPs and council leaders in her call to upgrade Spice to a Class A substance. Following this national work the Policing Minister announced in late 2018 that he had decided to refer the issue of reclassification of Spice to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for their views. We await further updates on this matter and will keep the Panel informed.

## **5. Estates**

Investment in our estate is being driven forward across both counties with the £29 million pound construction of the new Police Custody and Operational Hub at Middlemoor, Exeter, the establishment of a Cornwall County HQ in Bodmin and the exciting £1.8 million new build replacement Police station in Liskeard, Cornwall.

#### Exeter Hub

The Exeter build is due to complete in early 2020 and will accommodate 450 officers and staff across a range of operational functions currently located in the existing Heavitree Road site and some of our older buildings at Middlemoor HQ.

The 40 cell custody unit has been developed to comply with the Ministry of Justice Design Guide standards, with the involvement of multiple stakeholders including the LCJB, detention officers and partners. The design of this building enables the segregation of detainees in custody from those individuals attending the station on a voluntary basis for an interview outside of the custody environment. This is a significant step forward in design and function.

A new neighbourhood base for the Exeter policing sector has been established at Exeter City Council offices in the centre of Exeter, ensuring a central location for neighbourhood teams who will move out Heavitree Road.

#### Liskeard Police Station

The new build Liskeard development will complete in the spring of 2020 and replaces the outdated, structurally unsound station, providing improved opportunities for collaboration with our blue light partners and local community. The design of the building will promote agile working through open plan layouts and the utilisation of key environmental features which will reduce revenue costs and improve the overall working environments for our officers in terms of welfare and rest areas.

#### Cornwall County Headquarters

Our Bodmin Police Station became the designated County Headquarters for Cornwall on 28 January 2019, reflecting the strategic importance of its central location across the force geography. It will continue to accommodate key operational functions and will be developed further to include improved facilities associated with a Headquarters site.

Driving down the running costs of our buildings is a key target within our Estates Strategy and we are working towards a new specification standard which will promote more flexible, agile and sustainable buildings. In accordance with the Policing and Crime Act 2017, co-location opportunities are being explored and maximised wherever possible with both Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS), and an example of this is the Tactical Firearms Unit sharing Plympton Fire Station training facilities. Partnership working across the estate continues in its widest sense with other blue light and public sector partners.

## **6. HMICFRS Publications**

#### National Survey on Public Perceptions of Policing

In December 2018 HMICFRS published the results of its annual survey on public perceptions of policing. This is a national survey and does not provide a breakdown of data at the Devon and Cornwall level. The OPCC's own Public Perceptions Survey draws upon the questions asked regularly by HMICFRS and our work to analyse the results of that survey in February 2018 will include consideration of the wider national landscape through the HMICFRS work.

<https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/public-perceptions-of-policing-in-england-and-wales-2018/>

The Commissioner's responses to HMICFRS inspection reports can be accessed on the OPCC website at <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/response-to-hmic-consultations/hmic-responses-may-2016-onwards/>

Three police –related HMICFRS have been issued in the period since the October 2018 Panel meeting. Two of these reports are thematic reports covering policing as a whole while the third report relates to a targeted joint inspection in Cornwall.

*Policing and mental health: Picking up the pieces*

In November 2018 HMICFRS published a thematic review on policing and mental health which examined how effectively police respond to and support people with mental health problems. This report made five recommendations, of which three are for individual forces to consider. <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/policing-and-mental-health-picking-up-the-pieces/>

*Joint targeted area inspection of the multi agency response to sexual abuse in the family in Cornwall.*

This review looked into the effectiveness of partnership working and of individual agencies in Cornwall in response to cases of sexual abuse in the family. The review was undertaken in October 2018 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMICFRS and HMI Probation. The report requires the Director of Children’s Services for Cornwall to send a written statement of action to Ofsted by 6 March 2019. The report does not provide an overall grading but lists a number of strengths and areas for improvement. <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/joint-targeted-area-inspection-of-the-multi-agency-response-to-sexual-abuse-in-the-family-in-cornwall/>

*Joint inspection of the handling of cases involving disability hate crime*

In November 2018 a joint inspection report was published by HMICFRS and Her Majesty’s Crown Prosecution Inspectorate. The inspection report focuses mainly on CPS but makes 4 recommendations to policing nationally. The Commissioner’s response to this report will be finalised in February 2019 and will be available on the OPCC website. <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/joint-inspection-of-the-handling-of-cases-involving-disability-hate-crime/>

## **7. OPCC Communications and engagement activity**

October, November, December and January have been extremely busy for the communications and engagement team, who have completed the following activities:

*Road safety survey*

The team ran a road safety survey which is mentioned elsewhere in this report. It sought to establish whether people supported more robust fines for traffic offences is a proportion of the extra money was reinvested in roads policing. The poll launch was widely covered by local and national media.

*Precept poll*

The communications and engagement team’s poll into proposals to increase the amount of money raised through the council tax precept received widespread coverage in the regional media.

*Communications and engagement strategy*

Analysis of the effectiveness of the OPCC’s social media platforms and its media operation has been carried out to inform a new communications and engagement strategy and identify opportunities to improve engagement and how this is recorded. The strategy has a particular emphasis on road safety, Police and Crime Plan delivery and connectivity.

### Victim Care Unit Awareness Campaign

In January, a marketing campaign was launched with the aim of increasing awareness of the Victim Care Unit and referral rates. Early indications are that this is having a positive effect, therefore reducing the impact of crime in communities.

### Social media

- Facebook: During 2018 we attracted 335 additional followers to a total of 1,776. Our most successful post reached 11,756 people and resulted in 1,551 engagements.
- Twitter: Our Twitter performance year on year has improved significantly. In the last three months of 2018 we earned 459.6k impressions, had an engagement rate of 1.4% and generated 1.1k in clicks, with 830 retweets, 1.5k in likes and 150 replies. For the same period in 2017 these figures were 246k in impressions, 1.2% engagement, 536 clicks, 504 retweets, 757 likes and 64 replies.
- Instagram: Our Instagram account has the potential to engage with difficult to reach demographic groups. It has a modest number of followers (approx. 400) but is the largest account on the platform run by an OPCC.

### Events

During the 2018 calendar year the team attended 96 events, ranging from talks at Womens' Institutes given by one community engagement officer to specialist expos aimed at the business community. This year there are 66 engagement events in the diary with more to be added. There will be a greater emphasis on gathering data on the number of people reached at these events and evaluation.

### Community Engagement Workers

There are now a full complement of part time community engagement workers employed by the office to serve communities around Devon and Cornwall.

### Independent Custody Visitors

The PCC chose International Volunteers' Day on 5th December to celebrate the commitment shown by those dedicated volunteers supporting the police and community safety. The Commissioner met many independent custody visitors to check and report upon the welfare of those detained by the police. The Commissioner greatly appreciates the contribution of those who give up time to help their community, many of whom are working or studying full-time as well. At the event two independent custody visitors - Julie Downton and Maria Hassell were presented with Commissioner's Awards in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the scheme.

### **Contact for further information**

Fran Hughes

Chief Executive

[frances.hughes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:frances.hughes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Report prepared January 2019