



## **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel**

**14 June 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 February 2019 - any of which the Commissioner would be happy to expand upon further.

#### **1. Policy developments**

##### Summer policing

The impact of tourism on our policing service is an issue that is recognised by the Police and Crime Panel and is one of the reasons that we continue to argue for a new, better funding formula for policing that reflects the impact of tourism as well as our resident population.

Analysis of ONS travel survey data indicates that 12% of domestic overnight stays in England and Wales take place in Devon and Cornwall (40 million out of a total of 321 million overnight stays) as well as around 64 million day visits a year. This is a significant increase in our population for which we currently receive no additional finance through the existing outdated funding formula.

Following discussions with the Police and Crime Panel in February 2019, as part of consideration of the policing budget for 2019/20, the Commissioner and Chief Constable have announced that they intend to put a bid into the Home Office for a special grant to support the additional costs of summer policing. The special grant fund is a Home Office initiative that helps police forces deal with unexpected or exceptional events within their area.

The Policing and Fire Minister Nick Hurd MP has suggested that he is open to discussing options about the summer policing challenge and initial meetings have taken place between Home Office and OPCC and Force officials.

Summer policing and the plans to submit an application for a special grant are the subject of a separate agenda item to this meeting.

##### New Plymouth Sexual Assault Referral Centre

Plymouth's new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) was formally opened on 5 February, coinciding with the start of national Sexual Violence Awareness Week. The facility which began operating shortly before Christmas, is run by Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT), is a new, purpose-built environment that will provide support to people who have experienced rape or sexual assault.

The premises located in Estover were formally opened by HM Deputy Lieutenant of Devon, Brigadier Simon Young, who was joined by a representative of the OPCC, NHS staff, members of Plymouth City Council and representatives from other local organisations. Funding to secure the premises was provided by both the OPCC & NHS England.

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 in October 2018.

#### Blue light collaboration

The new Tri-Service Safety Officers (TSSO) had their formal passing out parade on 8 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. There are now 10 permanent TSSO posts across Cornwall in Bude, Liskeard, Hayle, St Just, St Ives, Perranporth, Fowey/Polruan, Looe, Lostwithiel and St Dennis.

In Devon, the new Community Responders form part of an innovative police and fire collaboration project funded by the Commissioner. This unique pilot project is a national first, encompassing the skills of an on-call firefighter and special constable in a single post. The new community responders are based in Cullompton, Crediton, Dartmouth, Honiton, Okehampton, Newton Abbot and Totnes .

#### Evening and Night Time Economy Best Practice Seminar

In February 2019 the Commissioner was pleased to co-host a Best Practice Seminar in Plymouth with the Portman Group exploring and showcasing innovation and best practice in managing the night time economy. The event – which was attended by practitioners, organisational leaders and the third sector covered a range of topics, including notable good practice being driven forward in towns and cities across Devon and Cornwall. This included the work being carried out in the two Home Office Local Alcohol Action Areas (Cornwall and Exeter) and the contribution that initiatives such as Best Bar None and help zones make to keeping people safe in the night time economy.

#### Development of the Peninsula Strategic Assessment for 2019/20

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 year's PSA is the first time that all local authority areas 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 2018/19 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 with the police and community safety partnerships. The Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2020 ‘safe, resilient and connected communities’ reflects these threats and action is being taken, by the OPCC, policing and partners to address those threats, many of which are detailed in this paper.

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.

#### CCTV Investment

The Commissioner 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.

As part of the continuing growth of an integrated CCTV network across Devon and Cornwall, recent developments have included:

- PCC Capital Investment Grants paid: Bodmin, St Austell, Penzance, Wadebridge, St Ives, Torbay, Dartmouth.
- PCC grants approved for: Tolvaddon control room expansion, Stoke Village (Plymouth)
- Councils intending to apply for capital funding support from the PCC: North Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Exmouth, Liskeard, Budleigh Salterton.

A number of other towns in Devon and Cornwall are currently considering investment in CCTV systems and are likely to apply for funding support in the next two months.

In addition the OPCC have begun to work with Devon and Cornwall Police and with local authorities 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.

#### Cornwall Sexual Violence Awareness Conference

On 5 February, the OPCC formally opened the Cornwall Sexual Violence Awareness Conference at the Post Graduate Centre, Royal Cornwall Hospital in Treliske as part of National Sexual Violence Awareness week. The event showcased a range of services dedicated to supporting victims of serious sexual violence.

### National Volunteer Police cadets

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) is a nationally recognised police uniformed youth group throughout the UK. The national team is led by Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and supported by funding from the Home Office, individual forces and Youth United provides a national framework, curriculum, training and resources for cadet units operating across the country. Volunteer Police Cadet Units are now operating in every Local Policing Area in Devon and Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Police encourages young people from all backgrounds to join the VPC, including those who may be vulnerable to the influences of crime and social exclusion. More information about police cadets is available through the police website [www.dc.police.uk/cadets](http://www.dc.police.uk/cadets). Units normally meet at a local community venue and are led by police officers, police staff and volunteers. Cadets develop their leadership skills by undertaking challenging social action projects in their communities with an expectation they will volunteer a minimum of three hours each month. This voluntary work offers opportunities to learn new skills including working alongside officers and PCSOs at events, giving out crime prevention advice, promoting the cadet programme and participating in social action projects, amongst others.

In May 2019 the Commissioner co-funded the first Devon and Cornwall wide cadet camp for all units operating in our policing area which took place at Taw Bottom Camp on Dartmoor. At the camp, cadets from across Devon and Cornwall came together with cadets from Wiltshire to carry out a series of challenges and team building and leadership exercises across the 3 day camp.

### PCC Approach to Business Crime

The Commissioner will be hosting the first quarterly business forum on 24 June in Exeter. This will bring together representatives of the business community to discuss opportunities to work more closely and increase the reporting of crime against business.

The Commissioner will take this opportunity to launch the PCC's Approach to Business Crime which has been developed following consultation with business networks across the counties. This approach sets out opportunities for towns to establish Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, encouraging businesses to report crime and incidents through the range of online channels, encouraging businesses to employ ex-offenders. This complements in excess of £400,000 provided by the PCC for investment in CCTV across the peninsula.

### Tackling Modern Slavery

As the Panel are aware from previous reports Devon and Cornwall Police are the host force for the national Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme, which has been funded by the Home Office Police Transformation Fund. The Unit which began operating in 2017 brings together over 70 personnel based in enforcement organisations across the country under the stewardship of Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and is led by the national unit based in Exmouth.

In April 2019 the Home Secretary confirmed that an additional £3.1million funding would be provided for 2019/20 to allow the unit to continue its work for a further 12 months. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable have welcomed this additional commitment from the Home Office which allows this important work to continue and they will be working closely with the Home Office and partners over the coming months to seek a longer term solution to the national infrastructure required to support the law enforcement response to this terrible crime. In 2019/20 there will be a particular focus on enhancing preventative work within the law enforcement community and on tackling specific issues linked to the risk of re-trafficking of victims and the important areas of child trafficking.

The primary focus of the transformation programme is to deliver enhanced intelligence, improve investigative skills and create analytical products and best practice to enhance the police response to this heinous crime. Police and Crime Commissioners have an important role to play in helping to transform the response to modern slavery and the Commissioner, as Chair of the Strategic Oversight Board for the Programme has been working closely with Mark Burns Williamson who chairs the PCC National Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network to drive forward work in this area, in particular in two key areas:

#### *Trading Standards Pilot to expand the Buy With Confidence Scheme*

Supported by funding from the national programme, Devon and Cornwall OPCC has been working with Devon Trading Standards to deliver a pilot which extends the established Buy With Confidence to include modern slavery. Trading Standards have introduced a new Modern Slavery clause into their admissions audit for new members which provides that all new businesses are free of any practices that could relate to Modern Slavery. On January 23rd, Trading Standards held a formal Modern Slavery training day for their auditors, with speakers from the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and Unseen UK, a charity that supports victims of modern day slavery and promotes action to tackle the problem, supported by a training video and further materials. The training video can be viewed online at: [https://youtu.be/lo\\_6Dr-OCx8](https://youtu.be/lo_6Dr-OCx8).

This is a national pilot and the Devon Trading Standards Team and the Modern Slavery Unit will be presenting on their work at the upcoming Trading Standards Symposium in June 2019. During 2019/20 the OPCC will be working with trading standards colleagues to support wider adoption and roll-out nationally.

#### *PCC Modern Slavery Toolkit*

The OPCC has worked closely with West Yorkshire OPCC and partners including the National Network of Anti Slavery Partnerships to prepare a Modern Slavery toolkit to support PCC's in helping to tackle modern slavery and scrutinising performance and delivery in their own policing area. The toolkit will ensure that all PCC's in England and Wales have a good understanding of modern slavery and are suitably equipped to tackle this serious and organised crime. To support the rollout of the toolkit, the two OPCCs hosted nine workshops across England and Wales which were well attended by Commissioners, Deputy PCCs and OPCC staff. The workshops were a great opportunity to enhance their understanding of modern slavery, learn from colleagues about how to use the toolkit effectively and share best practice. In 2019/20 the OPCCs will be continuing this work with follow-up workshops being held later in 2019 to evaluate learning and identify any further enhancements to the toolkit.

#### Devon and Cornwall Police Stalking Conference

In February 2019 victims, police officers and experts participated in Devon and Cornwall Police's first ever stalking and harassment conference. The aim of the event jointly hosted by the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police was to improve the way in which the police handle crimes where someone is being harassed before the situation escalates and serious harm is done. Victims and their families were at the centre of the conference. Delegates heard a moving talk from Clive Ruggles whose daughter Alice was tragically murdered by her stalker.

When stalking was made a crime in 2012 a parliamentary inquiry estimated there were about 120,000 victims in England and Wales, but only 53,000 incidents were being recorded as crimes by police, and only one in 50 of these led to someone being jailed. There is evidence that more victims are feeling confident that their cases will be taken seriously by police and they are coming forward with complaints.

Stalking clinics will be piloted in Cornwall with a view to them being rolled out across the force area. The clinics will combine Probation staff, Crown Prosecution Service experts and Police officers. Meeting once a month they will identify those offenders demonstrating high risk behaviour and manage and review these cases with the aim of reducing the chance of reoffending.

The force is also asking stalking victims to become involved in reviewing call handling and asking for advice on how it can be improved.

#### Rural engagement surgeries

As the Panel are aware from previous reports a new Rural Crime Team has been established by Devon and Cornwall Police to enhance its response to rural and wildlife crime. Two specialist officers have been appointed and will work with local police officers, partners and communities across the policing area to identify and respond to rural crime issues. To support this and improve engagement and connectivity with rural communities the Rural Crime Team are working with the OPCC to hold a series of rural engagement surgeries. The first rural engagement of the year took place in Cullompton in February. OPCC staff were joined by police officers and PCSOs at the surgery. This is one of a programme of engagement events which are taking place across rural parts of Devon and Cornwall this year as part of a new partnership between the rural affairs team and the OPCC.

The Commissioner has also provided seed funding to the Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin Moor Rural Crime Partnerships to support initiatives to prevent crime in these rural areas.

#### Drugs Harm Reduction Seminar

The Commissioner is hosting a Drugs Harm Reduction Seminar on 18 June. The event will bring partners together to explore current practice, new opportunities and where change needs to be seen. Delegates will hear from a number of organisations who help those with drug problems cope plus from those impacted by the harm caused by drug addiction.

Workshop sessions will consider issues including.

- Heroin Assisted Treatment;
- Support for families impacted by addiction;
- Exploring the specific challenges faced by women and mothers;
- Dual Diagnosis (mental health and substance misuse);
- The commissioning gap between primary and secondary health care;
- The challenges faced when running supported accommodation for people with complex needs, including short term commissioning and dual diagnosis;
- Illegal drugs in prisons, how the prison are managing this and what support they need. Treatment services within the prison and resettlement in the community.

#### 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 Commissioner's own definition of scrutiny and what she expects to change as a result of good scrutiny practices. The document also describes how the Commissioner 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 already providing valuable scrutiny and assurance. A new scrutiny section of the Commissioner's website went live in February 2019 at [www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/scrutiny](http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/plan-and-performance/scrutiny). The Commissioner's scrutiny

timetable is now also available on the website along further information about the findings of each panel. The Commissioner's staff have received scrutiny skills training from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and training has now also been provided to relevant staff and officers from Devon and Cornwall Police.

### Transparency

For the fourth consecutive year the OPCC has received a prestigious Open and Transparent Quality Mark, awarded by CoPaCC (Comparing Police and Crime Commissioners - an independent organisation established in 2012 to monitor policing governance in England and Wales).

Each year, CoPaCC undertakes an independent analysis of the ease with which members of the public can access information about how they work – particularly through their website. Of the 42 OPCCs, 23 were this year judged to demonstrate they are transparent in what they do, meeting relevant legal requirements.

### Devon and Cornwall Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Devon and Cornwall's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme has been recognised in an awards ceremony held in the House of Lords. The Devon and Cornwall scheme received code compliant status meaning it has achieved a good status of recruitment and training, managing its volunteers, transparency and looking after detainee welfare from the inaugural Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA\*) Quality Assurance awards on 15 May 2019. ICVA is the national organisation which supports, leads and represents locally-run custody visiting schemes. Schemes manage teams of independent volunteers who visit those detained in police custody.

Independent custody visitors are members of the local community that volunteer to visit police stations unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held and ensure that their rights and entitlements are being observed. The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory responsibility to provide an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Volunteers make unannounced visits to police custody to check on the rights, entitlements, well-being and dignity of detainees held in police custody, reporting their findings to Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Authorities who in turn hold Chief Constables to account.

## **2. Road Safety developments**

### 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 Commissioner 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. Progress has been made in addressing backlogs that had arisen in areas such as training and site assessment and a Speedwatch Development Group chaired by Superintendent Drummond-Smith from East Cornwall and

supported by the OPCC has held several meetings 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 (with 4 pilot areas from existing CSW units) the potential benefits that innovations such as the CSW online system might bring to Speedwatch volunteers in the peninsula.

#### Driving for Better Business Initiative

The Commissioner has backed the Driving for Better Business Scheme organised by Highways England. This encourages private and public organisations 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. The Commissioner will be hosting a regional launch event for Driving for Better Business in the autumn.

#### Transport Committee Inquiry into Road Safety

Parliament is holding an inquiry into Government's approach to road safety. The Transport Committee is concerned that reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads has levelled off and is to scrutinise the Government's approach. The inquiry will investigate which changes would be most effective at reducing the number and severity of road traffic accidents.

The OPCC submitted written evidence to the Parliamentary enquiry which is available here: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/transport-committee/road-safety/written/101405.html> . As national lead for Road Safety, the Commissioner also co-ordinated a submission based upon views provided from PCCs across the country. Following this submission the OPCC was pleased to participate in an informal roundtable discussion on 22 May in the House of Commons with members of the Select Committee to inform them in taking their inquiry forward.

#### Road Safety Summit

The Commissioner has been engaging with statutory road safety partners across Devon and Cornwall for some time to explore opportunities to improve the strategic response to road safety across the peninsula. From these initial discussions in 2018, a new strategic needs analysis was commissioned for Devon and Cornwall along with a review of existing local and national road safety strategies to identify themes and areas of shared interest. The Commissioner and Dr Virginia Pearson, the Director of Public Health for Devon and Cornwall hosted a Road Safety Partnership summit in the first week of June to further explore how partners can work together to keep our roads safe.

#### Submission of dash cam footage

The Devon and Cornwall Police Road Safety Strategy includes a commitment to introduce dash cam reporting for road offences. Discussions have taken place with the company that provides the portal and preparations are underway for its adoption in Devon and Cornwall which is expected to take place by the end of July. The Commissioner has been working jointly with Chief Constable Anthony Bangham the NPCC Roads Policing Lead to distribute £100,000 of funding from the Department for Transport to police forces to assist them in adopting dash cam reporting.



Twelve forces including Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police were awarded funds to support roll-out.

#### National Collision Investigation Pilot - RAC Foundation Trust

Devon and Cornwall was approached by Department for Transport to participate in a 3 year pilot to enhance understanding of the causes of road accidents and their wider societal impact. Devon and Cornwall was chosen because of its rural nature and the scale of our road network. The Department for Transport are providing £480,000 to support the project nationally and Devon and Cornwall are one of three forces engaged in the pilot. The funding will include payment for additional analytical capacity within Devon and Cornwall to deliver the pilot activity. The pilot is due to commence this summer.

#### Immersion Challenge

The OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police have been continuing to work with Exeter City Futures and Dorset OPCC on the development of the immersion challenge competition. The funding for the project has been provided jointly by the two PCCs. The purpose of the challenge is to tap into wider private sector innovation to design a solution that will reduce by 50% the time taken for roadside investigation following a road traffic collision whilst not compromising the integrity of the investigation. The competition launched in May and an information event for potential bidders is being held in mid-June.

#### APCC Deep Dive on Road Safety

The Commissioner has secured an APCC deep dive afternoon on road safety for July 2019. This is an important opportunity to move forward collective PCC views on key issues, such as enforcement capacity, education and legislative priorities.

#### No Excuse team

The No Excuse Team have been operating since October 2018, based out of Bodmin and Exeter. The Team are working collaboratively with partners, including through the Peninsula Road Safety Partnership. Between 1st October 2018 and 10th May 2019, the No Excuse team conducted a wide range of operations which saw 1639 traffic offences reported, 697 vehicles seized, 146 arrests and 72 drivers reported at the roadside as well as activities such as drug and alcohol testing and stop and search.

#### Cornwall Road Safety and Community Speed engagement event

The OPCC was pleased to participate in this event hosted by Cornwall Council on 14 May at County Hall, Truro. The event was attended by a wide range of partners from across the county including highways, the police and many local town and parish councillors.

### **3. Transforming Justice and the 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 several notable 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. Discussions on how to establish a model in Devon and Torbay have now started.

- The multi-agency victim and witness forum, initially focussing on delivery of the Victim Code of Practice is now well established.
- Recruitment of two co-opted representatives from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector onto the LCJB is currently ongoing.
- The Board are now regularly holding discussions with our Crown Court Resident Judges and are working with them to improve prison escort services for women and young people.

#### HMP Exeter Check Out and Departure Lounge

The Panel have received previous reports on the establishment of this innovative pilot at HMP Exeter as part of the wider Transforming Justice Project led by the OPCC and supported by Home Office Police Transformation funding.

Since September 2018, 162 people received a bespoke service focused on addressing any immediate needs that may have put the individual at increased risk of reoffending. These included phone calls, charging phones, giving breakfast and coffee, sorting out medications issue, calling probation, speaking to family, handing out clothing and more. Initial reports are that housing is the main concern for prison leavers and two housing navigators funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will be employed to work within HMP Exeter to complete housing referrals and plans. User feedback is positive with 80% of prisoners stating their attendance at the Check Out lounge improved their confidence that they would be able to stay out of prison when released.

#### Julian House - Supported Housing Solutions for ex-offenders

The Julian House Devon & Cornwall Prison Resettlement Service (Supported Housing) commenced on 1st August 2018. Sixteen shared and single dispersed housing units in Devon and Cornwall (with a target of 20 units) provide accommodation on a gender specific basis, any and all can be configured specifically for either gender depending on referrals. This is now funded to March 2020 and the additional four units are being sourced.

#### Enhancing employment solutions for ex-offenders

The New Futures Network is a new department in Ministry of Justice (MOJ) created following the MOJ Education and Employment Strategy published in May 2018. It was formed in October last year to help find work in prisons, work outside on Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) and employment opportunities on release. Exploration of opportunities with national companies to widen employment opportunities in areas such as driving and construction are continuing.

The OPCC has also met with locally based construction firms to discuss employment opportunities for ex-offenders and have shared their opportunities for their Skills Academy (onsite training facility) with the Local Criminal Justice Short Term Prisoner Resettlement Group whose members include Probation and the Prison Service. This training facility provides opportunities such as construction based theory and practical courses and onsite work placements and controlled practical work experience.

#### Short Term Prisoner Resettlement

The Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) Short Term Prisoner Resettlement Group have finalised a referral process for those in the criminal justice system under the Homelessness Reduction Act and are monitoring referrals. The group is also monitoring prisoners leaving HMP Exeter, HMP Channings Wood and HMP Eastwood Park and who have no settled accommodation.

## **4. National developments**

### Government decision on the future of the probation service

In May the Ministry of Justice published its proposals for the future of Probation Service in England and Wales in which it was announced that the supervision of all offenders on probation would be put back in the public sector from December 2020. This will bring to an end the arrangements where Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managed low and medium risk offenders. The management of those offenders who posed the most serious threat had remained with the National Probation Service for England and Wales.

The Commissioner, along with other PCC's, has been lobbying Ministers for the change for some time following an inspection report which was strongly critical of probation services in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. The Government's proposals include a regional approach with clear responsibility for strengthening engagement in local and regional partnerships. This aims to ensure there is greater transparency around probation performance that services are responsive to local priorities, and opportunities are taken to co-commission those services that are key to reducing re-offending with partners including PCCs, local authorities and health commissioners.

The Commissioner welcomes the Government's decision and pays tribute to those who have worked in probation during this challenging period.

### Home Office to abolish 101 call charges

On 28th May the Home Secretary announced that the existing 15p charge for calling 101 will be removed. The move will make the number free of charge for all members of the public, including victims of crime, from April 2020. The cost of providing this service will be met by the Home Office – at an estimated £5million per year. Nationally the 101 non emergency number receives around 30 million calls annually. Currently, callers to the 101 number are connected to their local police force, or a force of their choice, and charged 15p a time.

The Home Office is continuing to work with PCCs and Chief Constables nationally to support the development of a new national website, the Single Online Home, to provide the public with additional options for reporting crime online. The Panel will be aware that Devon and Cornwall Police currently have a number of existing options for reporting issues to the police, including the online crime reporting form, email services and the new webchat service.

### New Victims Commissioner

Following the completion of Baroness Newlove's term of office as the government's Victims Commissioner the role will be taken by the current Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird QC.

The Commissioner expresses her gratitude and thanks to Baroness Newlove for the work she has done to champion and enhance the support provided for victims nationally and for the support she has shown for our local victim care services when she visited the Victim Care Network in 2017.

### Government's Consultation Response on Police Pursuits

In May 2018, the Government published a consultation inviting comments on reforms to emergency service exemptions from certain aspects of road traffic law, the tests set out for the offences of careless and dangerous driving, police guidance and training; include both pursuit and response driving. This will give police officers greater confidence that they will be appropriately protected by the law if they drive in accordance with their training with a view to

protecting the public. The consultation response is available here [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/797817/The\\_Law\\_Guidance\\_and\\_Training\\_Governing\\_Police\\_Pursuits\\_-\\_Response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/797817/The_Law_Guidance_and_Training_Governing_Police_Pursuits_-_Response.pdf)

### Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Act

The Animal Welfare Act 2019 received Royal Assent on 8 April. The Act, often referred to as Finn's Law after the police dog who received severe injuries whilst protecting its police handler from an armed robber, makes prosecution easier in cases where a police dog or police horse is intentionally injured in the course of its duties by removing a loophole that served in a defence.

The Commissioner wrote in support of the campaign to Justice Secretary David Gauke MP and strongly backed this legislation whilst it proceeded through Parliament. The Commissioner would like to pay tribute to the Finn's Law team including local campaigner Nicola Skelley, an employee of Devon and Cornwall Police.

### Offensive Weapons Act

The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 received Royal Assent on 16 May, bringing in new measures that strengthen law enforcement's response to violent crime. The Act will make it illegal to possess dangerous weapons in private, including knuckledusters, zombie knives and death star knives, and will make it a criminal offence to dispatch bladed products sold online without verifying the buyer is over 18.

The Act includes a number of other measures to tackle serious violence, including:

- a ban on selling bladed products to a residential address without age verification
- changing the legal definition for threatening someone with an offensive weapon to make prosecutions easier
- banning the sale of corrosive products to under 18s
- making it an offence to possess a corrosive substance in a public place

### Draft Domestic Abuse Bill

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill was published on 21 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

The Joint Committee was taking oral evidence from witnesses in May 2019.

## 5. Estates

The central focus of the Estates team is to deliver an investment led dynamic asset management approach to our property portfolio.

During 2018/19, the Estates team worked to establish the three key strategic drivers for the year ahead in 2019/20, which would enable the OPCC and Force to make informed decisions, these are outlined below:

- To implement the newly formed Compliance Framework, which covers 14 key strands across the asset base. During 2019/20, the team will be targeting asbestos, fire safety and stock condition data, ensuring we provide safe and healthy work environments for our staff and the public.
- The formation of an agreed medium to long term business plan for our property portfolio.
- To embed the Estates Governance and associated Estates change process to deliver strategic decision making across our property portfolio.

An update has been included below on key estate projects:

Exeter Police Station – The £29 million new build remains on target to complete in early 2020 and will accommodate 450 officers and staff across a range of operational functions.

Liskeard Police Station – The new build is on target to complete in the spring of 2020.

Camborne Police Station – The first phase of the refurbishment and remodelling has been completed. The second phase is due to commence in the summer 2019.

Bluelight collaboration - fire stations – Officers in Devon have access to a number of rural fire stations which can be used to assist them in carrying out their duties in the local area. Following the success of these arrangements in Devon 5 key fire stations have been identified in Cornwall where police officer and PCSO access will be provided.

## 6. HMICFRS Publications

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue services (HMICFRS) has published three reports which relate to Devon and Cornwall Police in the period since the February 2019 Police and Crime Panel meeting. Two of these reports are thematic reports covering policing as a whole while the third report relates to an inspection of Sussex Police which resulted in recommendations for all police forces.

### ***The police response to domestic abuse – an update report***

This report published on 26th February 2019 is the fourth in a series of thematic reports, which consider the response the police service provides to victims of domestic abuse. In March 2014, HMICFRS published their first report in this series (Everyone's Business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse).

Since that time, HMICFRS reports that the service the police give to victims of domestic abuse has improved markedly. Victims are now better supported and better protected. The report does not include any national recommendations to forces. But it does comment on progress made since its previous reports. HMICFRS will be inspecting all forces in this area as part of the next round of Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy inspections (PEEL).

Report here: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/the-police-response-to-domestic-abuse-an-update-report.pdf>

The Commissioner's response is available here

<https://devonandcornwall.s3.amazonaws.com/Documents/Our%20information/Response%20to%20HMIC%20reports/Domestic%20Abuse/HMICFRS%20Police%20Response%20to%20Domestic%20Abuse%20-%20response%20of%20the%20Devon%20and%20Cornwall%20PCC.pdf>

### ***Fraud: Time to Choose – An inspection of the police response to fraud***

This report, which was published on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 is a thematic report based upon data provided from 11 police forces, the nine regional organised crime units, the National Crime Agency, Action Fraud, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and Europol. Devon and Cornwall Police was not one of the 11 forces inspected.

The inspection focused on the effectiveness and efficiency of the police response to fraud, including online fraud. Including whether:

- Law enforcement has a well-designed strategy for tackling fraud;
- Organisational structures provide the necessary capacity, capabilities and partnerships;
- Victims of fraud receive a high-quality response.

The inspection included fraud against individuals and businesses but not fraud against public authorities. The report is available here <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/fraud-time-to-choose-an-inspection-of-the-police-response-to-fraud.pdf>

The Commissioner's response has been published <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/response-to-hmic-consultations/hmic-responses-may-2016-onwards/>

### ***Stalking and harassment***

In December 2018, upon the request of the PCC for Sussex, HMICFRS conducted an inspection of the way Sussex Police deal with stalking and harassment. As part of their inspection report HMICFRS have published new national recommendations applicable to all Chief Constables.

The report is available here: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/stalking-and-harassment-inspection-sussex-police-commissioned-pcc-update-national-recommendations.pdf> The Commissioner's response has been published <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/response-to-hmic-consultations/hmic-responses-may-2016-onwards/>

## **7. Staffing developments**

The Chief Constable has appointed Jim Colwell as Assistant Chief Constable Innovation and Demand from 1 July 2019. Mr Colwell was formerly BCU Commander for North, East and West Devon prior to attending the Strategic Command Course.

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Dave Thorne will return to his substantive post of Chief Superintendent Commander for Plymouth in mid August once ACC Colwell takes up his new role.

## **8. OPCC Communications and engagement**

### PCC's Annual Report

The Commissioner has a legal obligation to complete an annual report. This has been co-ordinated by the communications and engagement team and a draft report for the 2018-19 financial year awaits approval from the Police and Crime Panel. The draft annual report includes a section on the progress against the 2017-2020 Police and Crime Plan, in addition to the usual annual updates and budgetary information. The Commissioner's draft Annual Report is the subject of a separate item on this agenda.

### Councillor advocates

The councillor advocate programme remains an integral part of the Commissioner's effort to better connect communities with the police. Local councillors have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of their communities and we want to work with them to help the police to engage with communities and to engender a better understanding of policing within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Since January the responsibility for running the scheme has been taken on by the OPCC's Communication and Engagement team.

Councillor advocates are invited to quarterly seminars on policing matters, with advocates invited to suggest topics or themes for each seminar. They are also provided with bespoke and consistently communicated information throughout the year to support them in their role. They are provided with details of their local policing team and encouraged to make regular contact with them.

Since the Police and Crime Panel last met the OPCC has:

- Held councillor advocate seminars in Devon and Cornwall, on the subjects of working with partners to reduce reoffending and using police intelligence to target county lines drug trafficking networks
- Begun a review of the scheme to ensure consistency in delivery across the force area
- Identified gaps in local authority participation and taken steps to engage upper tier local authorities with few or no councillor advocates
- Reviewed and updated the Councillor Advocate Information Pack

### Devon BASH awards 2019

The OPCC was proud to support this year's Devon BASH awards which recognise the achievements of people from disabled communities in line with being active, being safe and being healthy – which is where the name BASH derives.

The awards are organised jointly by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Devon and Cornwall Police in collaboration with Devon Link Up and ROC Active - two of the county's key charities involved in supporting those with learning disabilities. This year there were seven award winners from over 70 nominations. A list of award winners can be found here <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-blog/multimedia-hub/celebrating-our-disabled-communities/>

### Devon and Cornwall Policing Volunteer Awards

The Commissioner was delighted to recognise the contribution made by police volunteers to policing and community safety in an award ceremony held on 4 June. The Chief Constable and Commissioner presented awards to a number of members of the police family who give their time freely to support Devon and Cornwall Police in the event held at St Mellion near Saltash.

Included within the awards was the PCC's Team Award which is for a community group which demonstrates an outstanding ability to galvanise activity in support of a variety of local causes and keep our communities safe. The 2019 winner was Cornwall Trading Standards Volunteers who provide help, support and advice to vulnerable people to protect them from scams and cyber crime. In addition to the winner, Highly Commended certificates were provided to: the South Asian Society of Devon and Cornwall for their work to build community cohesion; and Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group for the vital contribution they make to keeping people safe on the moor and the surrounding area.

The Commissioner would like to thank all volunteers who give their time to assist the police and those who work in their communities to keep people safe.

### Media releases/responses

Between January 1, 2019 and May 23, 2019, the team had issued 83 press releases/blogs or responses to media enquiries compared to 43 over the same period last year.

### Engagement diary

The OPCC's 2019 events commitment extends to more than 100 events across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. These include:

- Meet your PCC events
- Rural crime roadshows in collaboration with the force's rural engagement team
- Community talks delivered by Community Engagement Workers
- Diversity/Pride festivals
- Country shows

The events give the public the opportunity to speak to OPCC staff about the work of the office, take part in surveys and polling work and engage directly with the commissioner. This year's commitment represents an increase on last year's, with additional effort being made to engage in city centres, where the OPCC was under-represented in relation to rural areas last year.

### **Contact for further information**

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Report prepared May 2019