

AGENDA ITEM:6

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 15 MARCH 2013

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN CONSULTATION

PURPOSE

1. To present a summary of the consultation and engagement undertaken in relation to the Police and Crime Plan and to provide an overview of the feedback.

APPROACH

2. A variety of methods have been utilised for undertaking consultation on the Police and Crime Plan. Firstly a consultation questionnaire has been available since the middle of December and has been available in a variety of formats – online, hard copy versions and completion over the phone. The questionnaire asked questions on both force wide priorities and local priorities. A number of opportunities were provided for participants to provide free text answers in order to enable the richest possible information to be provided.
3. Consultation events have been held in each police district (and indeed in every local authority area). These were varied by both the time of day held and venue – for example community centres, supermarkets, museums, council premises, leisure centres, libraries etc. The events were also set up to ensure that views could be captured from those who proactively planned to come along (and/or had heard about the events beforehand) but also enabled engagement with passers by and/or those that were unaware that the event was taking place. Officers also handed out consultation cards in the nearby locality to alert people to the events or encourage them to take part in the consultation questionnaire. The events were well supported by local police officers, PCSOs and local authority staff, which ensured that any immediate issues that arose were able to be addressed.
4. Responses were also encouraged via social media by using the hashtag #ourplan and asking social media users to respond using this hashtag.

PROMOTION

5. Significant efforts have been made to promote the availability of the various consultation and engagement opportunities outlined above. E-newsletters, information on websites, social media, press releases, radio interviews, posters, information in libraries and direct targeting of local and hyper local news agencies, parish councils and community groups have all been utilised. Neighbourhood Inspectors, local authority officers and voluntary sector organisations have also assisted in this process.

OTHER SOURCES

6. In addition to the processes outlined above the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has been out and about engaging with individuals and organisations since taking up office. Many of these individuals expressed views in relation to policing priorities and as such these have been taken into consideration in the development of the plan. Examples of visits, groups and individuals include refuges, homeless shelters, substance misuse services and youth clubs. Similarly other groups and individuals have led consultation to feed back to PCCs and where this has happened their feedback has been taken into consideration in developing the plan – a particular example is Force Forward (a project to engage young people in the lead up to PCC elections and influence PCC priorities).

FEEDBACK

7. The questionnaire was completed by 1179 individuals (of which 52% were victims of crime), whilst 519 people were engaged with at the various public facing sessions. There was discussion on social media in relation to police and crime issues which resulted in a number of individuals submitting priorities directly via this route. As mentioned above the PCC has engaged with a range of individuals since taking up office (who, as part of these discussions have provided views and opinions on priorities for the Police and Crime Plan). It is difficult to accurately estimate how many individuals this involves in total, the main point to note is that a significant majority of these people had been victims of crime and/or were from minority groups. Across Avon and Somerset 500 young people took part in the Force Forward project and their priorities were fed back to the PCC in January.

8. Feedback was sought from participants as to their views on the four priorities proposed by the PCC. Via the questionnaire individuals were asked to rate how important they felt each priority was to them and also to residents in general. The results are as follows

Priority	Important or Very Important to them	Important or Very Important to residents
Anti Social Behaviour	75%	83%
Burglary	79%	84%
Violence against Women and Girls	69%	80%
Victims	68%	73%

9. Qualitative free text data was categorised and it was subsequently found that the following four areas were emerging as key themes – visibility, road safety, relationships and comments in relation to existing priorities.
10. Visibility was cited by 15% of people as an Avon and Somerset wide personal priority, 13% who felt it was an Avon and Somerset wide community priority and 14% cited it as a local priority via the questionnaire. Similarly visibility was mentioned by a number of people on the various public consultation days and through the other channels of engagement.
11. Road Safety was cited by 14% of people as an Avon and Somerset wide personal priority, 9% who felt it was an Avon and Somerset wide community priority and 20% cited it as a local priority via the questionnaire. Road Safety was also raised at the various public consultation sessions. However there was a variance in what road safety meant to individuals depending on the local area. In Bristol this was primarily in relation to cycling (illegal / anti-social), in South Gloucestershire a mix of road safety issues (use of mobile phones, speeding, anti social cycling) and in all other areas a significant focus on speeding.
12. Relationships were cited at the public consultation events and came across strongly at the sessions with the groups and individuals which have taken place since the election (e.g. with young people, victims of crime, refuge visits, visits to homeless shelters etc). This ranged from feedback and support for victims to engagement between the general

public and the police on a day to day basis. This was also supported by comments in the survey.

13. Comments were also received in relation to the existing four priorities – 8% made comment in relation to them in relation to a personal priority, 7% made comment in relation to them as an Avon and Somerset wide community priority and 23% made comment in relation to them as a local priority. In relation to anti social behaviour the comments all gave examples of very local issues. Similarly burglary comments often provided information as to when an individual had been a victim of burglary and to a lesser extent emphasised the need for public education as to how to make properties safer. Comments were made in relation to the Violence against Women and Girls priority. Namely that this should be widened to children (rather than solely girls). A lesser number of comments were made in relation to widening this priority to include men. The use of restorative justice was the most commented issue in relation to victims, along with the need for timely and effective follow up and support.
14. A number of issues were raised via the questionnaire and public consultation events that were specific to other agencies – primarily local authorities. These have been captured and will be shared with partner agencies in the coming weeks. Similarly, OPCC officers will be working with Constabulary colleagues to work through local issues identified in the feedback.

Next Steps

15. The feedback received has been utilised to develop the next draft of the Police and Crime Plan and a summary of the main changes made as a result of the consultation can be found in the next paper relating to the Police and Crime Plan.
16. The questionnaire and public consultation events allowed participants multiple opportunities to enter free text and as such there was a large amount of rich information available which has been utilised in developing the plan and is summarised above. Data of use to the Constabulary and partners will be shared with them as appropriate in the coming weeks.
17. Work will also commence imminently in planning the (O)PCC's summer consultation and engagement. The focus of the consultation is still to be determined, however it is intended that there will be a

concerted effort to seek feedback from the public in relation to the budget and primarily the precept in order to inform future decisions in relation to these. The OPCC is seeking to identify significant summer events to pursue attendance at (such as the Bath & West Show, St Paul's Carnival etc) and would welcome suggestions from partners as to potential opportunities.

Equality and Diversity

18. All sections of society across Avon and Somerset have been encouraged to participate in the questionnaire and at the public consultation events. In addition questionnaire participant levels were monitored repeatedly throughout the period of the consultation. Those groups that were highlighted to be underrepresented (examples being children and young people, black and minority ethnic, disabled) were then targeted for promotion in order to increase participant levels of these groups. Questionnaire translation options were provided on the consultation website in order to try and enable the widest possible participation. Public consultation was held at a variety of times and locations in order to try and facilitate access for a range of groups and individuals.
19. As outlined earlier in the report visits and meetings have taken place with groups and individuals since the election. These have often been to hear from underrepresented groups and/or from victims of range of crimes.

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