

AGENDA ITEM:8

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 5TH JUNE 2013

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the previous Panel meeting.

Six Months in Office

The Commissioner celebrated six months in office on 22 May. To mark the occasion, the Commissioner signed the contract for Bristol's PCSOs with Mayor George Ferguson, unveiled the PCC's Pride Awards, recognising outstanding contributions to work in the community, and spent the night on the beat with officers in Yeovil.

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan

Following consideration by the Panel in March, the first Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan has now been published, along with plans for the six policing Districts and an easy-read version. The final version takes into account comments made by the Panel. A Police and Crime Plan Performance Scorecard has been developed to track performance against the objectives identified in the plan as well as supporting measures. The Scorecard has been circulated to the Panel at Agenda item 9 for consideration.

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment process for next year's plan is currently being developed, working closely with the Constabulary and community safety, criminal justice and health partners. The Project Plan has been circulated to the Criminal Justice Board, Community Safety Partnerships and other key partnerships. There will be a specific focus on the Police and Crime Plan priorities and specific areas of commissioning responsibility to inform activities for the coming year, including commissioning of victim services and to inform the review of the Police and Crime Plan. Timescales are set out below:

June-September	Collate and review partner assessments and analytical products Carry out supplementary analysis
September	Identification and review of key findings
October	Partner and Practitioner Event
November	Final Police and Crime Needs Assessment issued

We welcome Panel Members' input into the Needs Assessment process and in encouraging participation from partners.

Community Safety Grant Allocation 2013/14

The Commissioner has now allocated the £2.4m Home Office Community Safety Grant. A full list of projects can be found within the Annual Report (Agenda Item 9). Contracts have been issued to all projects and quarterly performance monitoring will

commence in July. A decision on the remaining allocations for Somerset (£10k) and South Gloucestershire (£38k) will be made in June. The Commissioner has agreed work programmes with the Community Safety Partnerships and other relevant partnerships to support monitoring and oversight of the grant, and to inform decision making for next year.

Launch of the Commissioner's Community Action Fund

The Commissioner's Action Fund was launched on 1 May 2013. The fund of £200k has been made available in 2013/14 to enable communities to come together and tackle issues in their local area relating to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Groups are able to apply for grants of up to £5k. The fund will be administered by the Police Community Trust. Applications will be considered on a quarterly basis. Applications for the first quarter closed on 1 June – over 40 applications were received. Further details can be found at the following link:
www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Commissioners-Community-Action-Fund.aspx

Governance and Accountability

A first **PCC Public Forum** meeting was held at the Cheese & Grain, Frome on 16 April. Following its success, a series of future meetings have been planned:

- 25 June 2013, 6pm: Cameron Centre, Lockleaze, Bristol
- 3 September 2013: South Gloucestershire (venue tbc)
- 27 November 2013: B&NES (venue tbc)
- 28 January 2014: North Somerset (venue tbc)
- 25 March 2014: Somerset West (venue tbc)

Governance arrangements between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable include:

- Chief Officer Portfolio update meetings;
- Public Forums;
- Mutual attendance at Senior Leadership meetings;
- Bilateral meetings between the PCC and Chief Constable; and
- District visits.

Review of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner has now completed a review of support arrangements within the Office of the PCC and confirmed that she will not seek to appoint a Deputy. Instead, the Office has been restructured, to include the following new appointments:

- Health & Wellbeing Officer and Youth Champion
- PA to Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and Contact Handling

The Commissioning and Partnerships team has also been reorganised and Marc Hole has been promoted within the team to lead that area. In addition, a University placement student will support the team as Events and Engagement Coordinator (funded by the Constabulary). The team will be working to the recently finalised OPCC Business Plan. A copy of the Business Plan and revised team structure are available at the following links:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/PCC-team.aspx>

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

Recruitment for additional Independent Members to join the Joint Audit Committee, as well as the Volunteer Panel to review complaints is also underway.

Commissioning of Victim Services

One of the major pieces of work for this coming year will be preparing for commissioning of local victim services. The Commissioner hosted a Roundtable Event on Friday 17 May to enable early discussion with local partners to inform planning. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has since published the Commissioning Framework and confirmed that commissioning will start in October 2014, later than April 2014 as originally proposed. The MoJ has written to Commissioners to outline a number of areas for further consideration and development. We will be publishing a report from the Roundtable Event, together with issues highlighted by the MoJ for further consideration, to invite input from a wide range of stakeholders at this early stage of planning and would welcome Panel Members' support in this.

New Custody Centres & Drug Commissioning

Discussions are underway to explore the potential for a single Avon and Somerset-wide commissioned service for drug and alcohol arrest referral in police custody from April 2014, to coincide with the rationalisation of custody sites as new-build custody suites open in Filton, Bridgwater and Keynsham in March 2014. Arrangements for the secondment of a lead commissioner from one of our local authority partners are currently being finalised.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

The Commissioner has continued to hold introductory meetings with Chairs and Lead Officers of the Health and Wellbeing Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Responses have been submitted to consultation on Health and Wellbeing Strategies and the Commissioner attended the Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board for the first time on 23 May to discuss areas of joint interest and future working relationships.

Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board

The Commissioner attended the Criminal Justice Board on 9 May 2013 to discuss priorities for the Board and the work programme for the coming year, following the appointment of the Chief Constable as Chair of the Board. A Planning Event will be held in July for criminal justice partners to develop the work programme and specific areas of work.

Update on Other Initiatives

- Following a series of scoping meetings with business leaders and groups including FSB, Chambers of Commerce, NFU, Retail groups the **Business Crime Forum** will meet for the first time on 18th September at Leigh Court. This event will be chaired by the PCC and attended by the Chief Constable and will enable business leaders to share their concerns regarding business crime issues and priorities and develop with the Force better communication processes and review how best to share best practice in crime prevention and detection. In the meantime the PCC has agreed with the Constabulary that business crime is now, for the first time, being flagged on the Force's Guardian crime recording systems to establish in 2013/14 a baseline for this type of crime – that will be

scrutinised, tracked and targeted for reduction at future Business Crime Forum meetings

- Following a recruitment campaign, 46 applications were received for the **Volunteer Panel**. Interviews have been held and vetting and references are now being taken up for the successful candidates. The Panel will meet for the first time for a training session in early July, with the first dip-sampling exercise taking place in early September.
- The Commissioner has commissioned reviews from the Constabulary on PCSO powers and Road Safety Cameras. An update on the current position will be given at the meeting.
- The Constabulary has commissioned a report on the nationality of residents of Avon and Somerset which has just been completed and will inform a review of their arrangements for consultation and specifically translations of consultation activity.
- The Commissioner and the Chief Constable attended a recent Licensing Scrutiny Board meeting in Bristol to consider the use of the Late Night Levy and Early Morning Restriction Order tools in Bristol. The Commissioner is supportive of a “polluter pays” model and would be happy to discuss with the Council and other partners the use of any funds raised by a late night levy.

Regional Issues

The South West regional PCCs and Chief Constables met for the third time on 29th May at Portishead and agreed an expanded 5 force Special Branch collaboration as well as a Tri-Force collaboration (with Wiltshire and Gloucestershire) in relation to roads policing, dogs and firearms. There was also a topping out ceremony for the Tri Force firing range which had previously been agreed by Police Authorities. The PCC also recently accepted a Regional Organised Crime Unit grant from the Home Office on behalf of the region.

National Issues

- The Commissioner has responded, jointly with the Constabulary to Ministry of Justice consultation on the revised Victim Code of Practice. .
- The Ministry of Justice has announced proposals for the future of the Probation service following *Transforming Rehabilitation* consultation. Proposals include a role for PCCs in the tendering process and in monitoring. In light of her significant concern on the proposals and the impact on Integrated Offender Management arrangements in Avon and Somerset, the Commissioner is representing the South West PCCs on a working group established by the APCC.
- The Ministry of Justice is also carrying out a consultation into the future of legal aid. The OPCC has recently met with residents who have contacted the PCC with concerns and does plan to submit a response.
- The PCC has recently held meetings with MPs and written to Ministers about a range of issues including funding formula, the redesignation of Ashfield as a sex offenders institution and the provisions for funding for British Transport Police in any extension to the Great Western rail franchise.

Forward dates:

- The next **Out and About Day** will take place on 20 June in Bristol. Out and About Days will then resume in September following the Summer Consultation and Engagement Programme.

- Indicative dates for the **Summer Consultation and Engagement Programme** are below. The focus will be seeking feedback on policing aspect of Council Tax levels. Findings will form the focus for the Panel meeting in October. Details of the final programme will be published on the Commissioner's website.

29 May	South Gloucestershire Family Day, Kingswood
30 May 1 June	Bath & West Show, Shepton Mallet
15 June	Chipping Sodbury Festival
22 June	Weston Air Show, Weston Super Mare
6 July	St Paul's Carnival, Bristol
13 July	Bristol Pride
13 July	Keynsham Summer Fun Day
27 July	Harbour Festival, Bristol
3 August	Taunton Flower Show
10 August	Balloon Fiesta, Ashton Court, Bristol
14 August	Minehead Festival
13 September	Annual Crewkerne Community Safety Event
14 September	Frome Cheese Show
21 September	Yate International Festival
28 September	Bridgwater Fair

SUE MOUNTSTEVENS
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR AVON AND SOMERSET