

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

24 OCTOBER 2013

ITEM 5: COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

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

Police and Crime Needs Assessment and Police and Crime Plans

A further meeting of the multi- agency group of analysts involved in the Police and Crime Needs Assessment took place last month. The draft Needs Assessment has been circulated to partners with a multi-agency event to review the draft taking place on 30 October. Initial discussions have taken place about the Police and Crime Plans for next year. It is not anticipated that the 4 key priorities will change significantly. A report on findings from the Needs Assessment work is attached at Agenda Item 6 for Members' consideration.

Victims Commissioning

There have been a number of critical national and regional meetings over recent weeks to consider PCCs preferred approach to victims commissioning. We are expecting further information from the MoJ in the coming weeks on the outcome of these discussions. In Avon and Somerset we are progressing our victims commissioning as one strand of a significant programme of work to transform victim services in the Constabulary, criminal justice agencies and wider partners. A multi-agency governance board has been established to oversee this programme with representation from partners including Local Authorities, Community Safety Partnerships, and health partners. Cllr Lisa Brett has been invited to join the Board in her capacity as Police and Crime Panel link member for this area of work.

Priorities in progressing this area of work are:

- Working with partners and service providers to understand service provision and funding arrangements, and issues/risks in planning for October 2014
- Development of the Needs Assessment to inform victim commissioning
- Consultation with victims and provider organisations including focus groups and an online survey to seek service-user feedback

The MoJ has indicated that information will be circulated to PCCs in October 2013 to confirm details of services to be nationally commissioned and indicative funding levels and grant conditions. An updated version of the Commissioning Framework is also expected.

Drug and Alcohol Arrest Referral Commissioning

The commissioning of a single Avon and Somerset-wide 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) is now well underway. The Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Manager from South Gloucestershire has been seconded in to lead this commission, working closely with all the drug and alcohol

teams across Avon and Somerset. This post has been co-funded by all five Drug and Alcohol Action Teams across the Force area.

Draft Commissioning and Grants Strategy

A draft Commissioning and Grants Strategy has been developed by the Commissioner and the office outlining commissioning and grant giving proposals for 2014/15. This builds on the approach initiated for allocating the community safety grant this year. The draft strategy is currently out for consultation until the 15th November and can be found at http://www.consultation.avonandsomerset.police.uk/pcc/commissioning-and-grants-strategy-consultation/consult_view

Partnership Working

The Commissioner has approved the formal merger of the Safer Somerset Partnership. The partnership has been working informally for over two years as the Community Safety Partnership for Somerset and sought the Commissioners approval to formalise this arrangement.

Projects that received funding from the community safety grant are currently in the process of submitting half yearly performance reports. These are being tabled at each Community Safety Partnership meeting for discussion and scrutiny.

There have been a number of national and local initiatives around the impact of mental health issues on the Criminal Justice system recently. In particular the Commissioner wrote to the Chairs of the 5 local Clinical Commissioning Groups last month asking them to work with us towards an ambition that people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act should not be detained in police custody from next April. We have had a positive response from CCGs and will continue to work with them to deliver on this important issue and the wider mental health issues in Avon and Somerset.

Independent Residents' Panel

The first meeting of the residents' panel set up to look at police complaints took place on 4 September. The initial session focused on dip sampling incivility complaints. Members of the panel reviewed completed files and fed back comments to a senior officer from the Professional Standards Department. A report of the findings of the panel has been published and can be viewed at the link below. We are also looking at other areas of work that the panel may get involved in.

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Independent-Residents-Panel.aspx>

Stage 2 Transfer

The Home Secretary is requiring Police and Crime Commissioners to carry out a Stage 2 transfer of police staff and to consider the legal employment of staff between the Office of the Chief Constable and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner has written to the Panel explaining the proposed approach in Avon and Somerset. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable have agreed a draft Transfer Scheme and submitted this to the Home Secretary as required by 16 September 2013. The principles of our approach are to meet the Home Office principles, as far as possible to retain a single organisation with an operational arm and a governance arm and to ensure that any structure is the most efficient and effective to ensure the delivery of police and crime services in Avon and Somerset. A Stage 2 implementation board has been established and reviews were carried out of the service which was required by the OPCC in the areas of strategic planning, performance monitoring, community engagement and consultation and

corporate communications. Following those reviews and discussions it was agreed that Service Level Agreements would be drawn up between the Office of the Chief Constable and the Office of the PCC in these areas; that the existing Office of the PCC staff would remain in the legal employment of the PCC but otherwise all police staff would transfer to the legal employment of the Office of the Chief Constable. Otherwise all existing arrangements in areas such as ownership of assets, letting of contracts and holding of reserves would remain the same as currently underpinned by a detailed scheme of governance. The Home Secretary is expected to respond to the submission in November.

Constabulary Change Programme

The Chief Constable is leading a major change programme within the Constabulary. This includes a proposal to design and implement a new operating model for the force. This will include looking specifically at how the force manages calls for service and investigations, how it supports victims and how it manages its people and assets. The intention is to have a model and service which is much more responsive to the needs of local people and more efficient in how it handles calls from the public. There is a consultation with the public and stakeholders on the service proposition underpinning the operating model on-going until 26 October.

Private Sector Partnering

One aspect of the programme is ensuring that the move to the new Custody and Investigation Centres next year is done in the most efficient way possible. The Commissioner has written to the Panel and has agreed that the Constabulary can explore a private sector partnering model for the delivery of custody services. The Constabulary have commenced a procurement process to ensure that a fully developed business case can be provided for my final decision in January 2013. The Commissioner proposes that more details about the Operating Model are provided by the Chief Constable at the next meeting in December.

Tri Force Firearms Training Facility at Blackrock Quarry

Members will be aware of the fire at the firearms facility last month. The building has been handed over to the building contractor who is commencing reconstruction. The opening date of the building is expected to be delayed into 2015 in the worst case scenario, and this is still under active discussion. Under the terms of the Private Finance Initiative responsibility for reinstatement costs lies with the contractor, Bluelight Partnership. The 3 forces involved in the collaboration (Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset) are committed to collaborating from January 2014 to deliver the firearms training service from their existing facilities.

Regional Work

The 5 PCCs in the South West of England continue to meet monthly to develop and progress collaborative opportunities. Since the last panel meeting a 4 force Special Branch Collaboration and Tri- Force Specialist Operations Collaboration (relating to dogs, firearms and roads policing) both involving Avon and Somerset in a key role have been signed off by the relevant PCCs and Chief Constables. A detailed business case for a multi phased forensics collaboration is due to be agreed at the meeting in November. Regional PCCs are also collaborating actively on a number of key projects such as victims commissioning and the response to the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

National Work

Justice Select Committee

The Commissioner was invited to the Justice Select Committee with other PCCs Alun Michael and Katy Bourne on 11 September to give evidence about the Committee's report into crime reduction policies. Key points made by the Commissioner included the importance of local solutions in reducing crime; the success of Integrated Offender Management locally and the importance of retaining that approach within the Transforming Rehabilitation (TR) proposals; the importance of joined up thinking in relation to Mental health issues and especially section 136 and: the need to take account of unreported crime as well as recorded crime when looking at crime reduction.

The Commissioner has been invited to be part of the national Policing Oversight Group which is a national policy group set up by the Home Office and including the National Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Inspector of Policing and the College of Policing to look at key police and crime policy issues. The Commissioner has also agreed to be part of two national reference groups looking at issues which she considers to be of critical importance namely the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme and Police Integrity. The Commissioner has written to the Home Secretary along with 4 other Commissioners calling for reform of the police complaints process from a grass roots level and offering to develop suggestions to improve the system to increase public confidence.

Other Areas of Work and Key Upcoming Events

A series of other events and activities have recently been organised and run and further ones are planned including:

- The first meeting of the Avon and Somerset Business Crime Forum took place on 18 September.
- A Rural Crime Forum took place at the Dairy Show at the Bath and West Show Ground on 2 October.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Awards will take place on 24 October. This event recognises the contribution made by neighbourhood policing teams, inviting nominations from local people.
- The next Public Forum will take place in The Guildhall, Bath on Wednesday 27 November, 7-9pm.
- An event has been arranged by the Commissioner and the Mayor of Bristol looking at road safety issues in Bristol. The event will take place on 11 December 2013.
- The Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel is currently being set up and a training session has been planned for 8 January 2014.
- Out and about days re-commenced in October and upcoming dates and locations are as follows:
 - Tues 29th October- Somerset East
 - Tues 26th November- Somerset West
 - Tues 10th December- North Somerset
 - Thu 19th December- B&NES
 - Thu 9th January- Bristol
 - Thu 16th January- South Glos
 - Thu 30th January- Somerset East