

## **AGENDA ITEM NO:6**

### **AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**11 March 2015**

#### **COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 12 February.

#### **Victims Commissioning**

##### Lighthouse Victim Care:

New referral figures for January 2015 are as follows:

Crimes	# Month	% Force	Incidents	# Month	% Force	C&I	# Month	% Force	
	2421	42.0%		1967	81.8%		4388	53.7%	
	Year To Date (YTD)				YTD		YTD		
	9114	38.4%		7332	77.0%		16446	49.4%	

##### Commissioned Services:

Preparatory work continues before commissioned support services commence on 1 April 2015, following the announcement of successful providers in January. A partner's event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February for new providers to introduce their services, and participate in discussions to contribute to development of the Outcomes Framework and victim care pathways, and discuss future development of services. The afternoon session featured a networking opportunity with market stalls including both newly commissioned services and other local service providers.

Successful providers are as follows:

- Lighthouse – provided by Avon and Somerset Police
- Emotional Support Service – provided by Victim Support
- Adults Advocacy Service – provided by The Care Forum, with collaborative partners of Support Empower Advocate and Promote (SEAP) and Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)
- Young Persons' Advocacy Service – provided by North Somerset Youth Offending Team
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors – provided by SafeLink
- Modern Slavery Support Service – provided by Unseen UK

##### Restorative Justice:

Work continues to deliver the Avon and Somerset Restorative Justice Implementation Plan, in response to recommendations of scoping work carried out in Summer 2014. There has been significant interest in the approach taken by Avon and Somerset. The approach was highlighted at the Ministry of Justice Restorative Justice Conference on 18 February, which included a workshop run by Avon and Somerset representatives that was well received.

Restorative Justice Coordinators are now in post, working alongside Lighthouse Victim Care teams to assess risk and suitability and refer victims on to appropriate restorative justice facilitators.

As reported to the last meeting, the Commissioner has committed Ministry of Justice funding for the Somerset Community Justice Partnership and Bristol Neighbourhood Justice Panel, with new service specifications agreed to support delivery of the Restorative Justice Implementation Plan. An Invitation to Bid has been issued for the development of a Neighbourhood Restorative Justice service covering Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The deadline for bids closed on 6 March 2015.

#### **CSE Innovation Fund Bid**

Members will recall that the Commissioners in Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire have worked with Constabulary and Local Authority partners to submit a bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund to provide consistent and robust arrangements to identify and support victims of child sexual exploitation. The outcome of the bid is expected in early March and preparations are ongoing in consultation with partners.

#### **Partnership and Commissioning Update**

Community Safety Partnerships will be considering funding decisions for 2015/16 allocation of the Commissioner's Community Safety Grant at Board meetings over the coming weeks. Members will be aware that local decision making represents a change from the process applied in previous years, whereby CSPs submitted their preferred bids to the Commissioner for decision. The OPCC continues to work closely with both CSP Managers and Partnerships as part of the local allocation process and to agree outcomes and performance oversight arrangements for successful projects.

#### **Mental Health Concordat**

Following the signing of the local Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Declarations in December the OPCC is working closely with partner organisations to finalise and sign off the supporting action plans to achieve the ambitions of the Declarations. The action plans need to be submitted to the Department of Health before the end of March 2015.

#### **Road Safety Update**

On February 11, 2015 speed cameras across Avon and Somerset began to be turned back on. Starting with the static camera on the A4 at Saltford, a total of 29 cameras will become operational again for the first time since 2011.

The Constabulary bought six cameras for £1 each from Somerset County Council and 11 from South Gloucestershire Council. Two are owned by Bath & North East Somerset Council, one by North Somerset Council and nine remain the property of Bristol City Council.

Revenue from the cameras will be used in part to fund the camera's maintenance to ensure that their reactivation is cost-neutral for the Constabulary.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary has been praised by the Home Office for preparatory work and progress in embedding of the new tools and powers arising from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act of last year. The Force has been asked by the Home Office to chair an event in London in April to assist those areas struggling to get the tools and powers off the ground. Work continues to take forward new tools and powers (in particular the Community Remedy and other aspects of partnership working), and positive progress has been made. The Community Trigger will be formally launched on 27 April, showcasing several successfully resolved cases and highlighting lessons learnt so far. Dispersals have been working particularly well with several successful cases, most notably the closing of a 'Legal High' shop in Taunton. A meeting will take place with partners on 12 March for partners to develop the delivery plan for the coming year. The Commissioner intends to host an ASB Scrutiny event in October, similar to the Domestic Abuse event held late last year.

### **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme**

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme has continued to provide independent oversight through the move to new police centres at Bridgwater, Keynsham and Patchway. A recruitment process has increased volunteers to 16 visitors for each of the three new centres, and 8 at Yeovil. Visits take place once every five days, lasting 75 minutes. The OPCC is currently working on moving to an electronic reporting system to replace the paper report forms currently used. This method will be more efficient and cost effective; saving time, postage and paper. Currently the West Midlands is the only area to use an electronic reporting method so their system was used as a template to create a bespoke system for Avon and Somerset ICVs. The report form is currently being finalised and it is hoped that the electronic version will be ready to roll out in April. Avon and Somerset is working with Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire to move towards a standardised Regional ICV scheme. A working group has been set up of ICVs from across the region, looking into how the scheme is currently being run in their area and to identify best practice moving forward. This is an exciting development as the group will be the first regional ICV scheme amongst ICVA (the national Independent Custody Visiting Association) members.

### **Commissioner's Community Action Fund**

Awards have been made for funding from the Commissioners Community Action Fund for the final quarter of this financial year. Successful projects include a community transport scheme in Somerset for victims of domestic abuse to travel to court, a music outreach project for young people at risk of exclusion from school in Bath & North East Somerset, and a youth café in Bristol, run by young people with the aim to increase skills and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. A full list of projects funded during 2014/15 can be found at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Projects-supported-by-the-Fund.aspx>

### **Outcomes of Recent Events:**

#### **Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel (11/2/15)**

Representatives from MOPAC and the Met attended the meeting to observe the Avon and Somerset Panel in operation. A reciprocal visit is being arranged. The Panel Report, looking at the theme of Business Crime, together with the Constabulary response have been

published at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Avon-and-Somerset-Out-of-Court-Disposal-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

## **National Updates**

### **Pre-Election Period and Future Police Governance**

Ahead of the local and national elections, the OPCC in liaison with APACE is planning for the pre-election period and considering how this might affect OPCC activity during this time. In addition, early consideration is being given to the steps required for the possible scenarios following the formation of a new government, namely:

- Planning for a 2016 PCC election
- Planning for a new model of police governance

### **CPS Consultation**

The Commissioner has responded to consultation by the Crown Prosecution Service on guidance setting out the role of prosecutors in assisting witnesses to know what to expect before coming to court, feel prepared and able to give their best evidence. Improving the experience of victims at court is an issue that the Commissioner continues to pursue through her role on the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board, and commissioned services, as part of her priority to put victims at the heart of the criminal justice service.

### **Key Dates**

March 12 <sup>th</sup>	BANES Out and About Day
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	South Gloucestershire Out and About Day
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bristol Out and About Day
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sedgemoor Out and About Day
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	North Somerset Out and About Day
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	West Somerset Out and About Day
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	BANES Out and About Day
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	West Somerset Public Forum
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bristol Out and About Day
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	South Gloucestershire Out and About Day
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	North Somerset Out and About Day
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sedgemoor Out and About Day