

AGENDA ITEM NO:9

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

10 JUNE 2015

OPCC Business Plan 2015/16

Following the outcome of the General Election, the OPCC Business Plan for 2015/16 will focus on the following key areas of business:

- Post-election: future police governance including developing the role of PCCs and the introduction of a new Policing Bill;
- Preparation for PCC election in May 2016 including transition planning and engagement with candidates;
- Ensuring delivery of the Police & Crime Plan, including the new priority on road safety;
- Increased scrutiny and transparency, focusing on three key areas of policing: accessibility, visibility and civility, alongside morale; and
- Detailed scoping and development of the Strategic Alliance with Wiltshire.

Revised Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2015-17

The revised Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2015-17 was launched on 17 March, following consideration by the Panel. The revised plan, together with nine local plans to cover each local authority area, can be accessed at the following link:

www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-Crime-Plan-2015-2017.aspx

Commissioning Update

Victim Commissioning

Commissioned support services for victims went live on 1 April, following extensive work over the past year. The OPCC continues to work with providers to develop the Outcomes Framework to assess the extent to which services help victims to cope with and start to recover from their experience. A thematic PCC Out and About Day is being planned for 23 June, featuring visits to newly commissioned services.

Lighthouse Victim Care

Referral figures to end April 2015 are set out below:-

| Crimes | # Month | % Force | Incidents | # Month | % Force | C & - | # Month | % Force |
|--------|--------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|---------|-------|--------------------|---------|
| | 3056 | 47.0% | | 1869 | 75.8% | | 4925 | 54.9% |
| | Year to Date (YTD) | | | Year to Date (YTD) | | | Year to Date (YTD) | |
| | 17277 | 41.6% | | 12805 | 77.3% | | 30082 | 51.8% |

Restorative Justice

Significant progress has been made in delivering the Restorative Justice Implementation Plan. Restorative Justice Coordinators are now in post, and a range of activities are

underway to promote use of restorative justice through training, briefings and internal communications campaigns. The bid for a Neighbourhood Restorative Justice service to cover Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire was awarded in March and the new service is now live. Arrangements have been agreed to ensure continuity of pre-sentence restorative justice provision beyond the close of the Pathfinder, and support the extension of provision across both Crown Courts as well as to Magistrate Courts.

Home Office Innovation Fund Bid: Child Sexual Exploitation

Members will recall that the Commissioners in Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire 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 bid was successful, and in excess of £1m of Home Office funding has been secured for a two year project. Significant work is underway with partners to implement proposals, and a launch event was held on Thursday 21 May. A Senior Responsible Officer has been appointed to oversee delivery of the programme.

Funding for Specialist Victim Services

The Commissioner has been proactive in promoting opportunities for additional funding to enhance provision of specialist victim services, and support bids where appropriate. Organisations in Avon and Somerset have been successful in securing a total of £276,814 from the Home Office Sexual Abuse Fund. The Commissioner has also supported Local Authority bids to DCLG funding for refuge provision.

Local Funding Allocations

There has been a change of approach in the allocation of funding for the 2015/16 financial year, with decisions on allocation of the Commissioner's Community Safety Grant being taken at a local level by Community Safety Partnerships and Youth Offending Teams. A local funding formula has also been developed to inform investment by the Commissioner and Constabulary to support the work of Safeguarding Boards and MARAC Coordination for the coming year. Details of local funding allocations for the coming year can be found at the following link:

www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/GrantsawardedbythePCCfor201516.aspx

The OPCC will continue to monitor performance against projects funded by the Commissioner through quarterly report submissions alongside a programme of visits.

Commissioner's Community Action Fund: Quarter 1 Awards

The PCC donated £200,000 to the Police Community Trust to award grants from the Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF) for 2015/16. Grants have been awarded for the first quarter totalling £36,212. Successful projects this quarter demonstrated the diverse range of ways that communities and organisations can address the PCC's priorities:

- A service which supports victims of domestic abuse by providing temporary foster care for pets to that their owners can leave their abuser and find a safe home.
- Films, resources and events to raise awareness of modern slavery.
- Contribution to the 2015 Bristol Pride event including resources, volunteer support and materials relating to hate crime, domestic and sexual abuse.

A full list of grants awarded can be found on the PCC's website. The next deadline for applications is the 1 June with decisions to be made at the end of July.

Panel members may also wish to note that the Police Community Trust holds a separate Road Safety Fund.

Partnerships Working Update

Working in Partnership with Housing Associations

The Commissioner will host an event on 1 July to explore joint working with Housing Associations across the Force area. The event will explore existing approaches and opportunities for partnership working in relation to domestic abuse, hate crime and restorative justice.

Mental Health Update

The OPCC has worked closely with the Constabulary and partners to ensure that local Action Plans were in place to meet the deadline set down within the Mental Health Concordat. A Partners Event will be held on 3 June to discuss key issues including changes in legislation whereby young people can no longer be detained in police custody.

Safeguarding Chairs meeting

The Commissioner will meet with Safeguarding Board chairs on Monday 8 June. This will be the first bi-annual meeting since the introduction of new statutory requirements for safeguarding vulnerable adults, through the Care Act.

Community Engagement

Summer Consultation Events

A programme of consultation events will take place over the Summer as part of the Commissioner's commitment to spend time in communities across Avon and Somerset to meet local people and listen to their views about policing in their area. The programme includes the following events:

| Event | Date | Attendees |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Royal Bath & West Show | 25 May, 10-1pm | Sue and OPCC Team |
| Weston Air Show | 20 June, 12-3pm | OPCC Team |
| Bristol Pride Festival | 11 July, 12-3pm | OPCC Team |
| Dunster Country Fair | 29 July, 12-3pm | Sue and OPCC Team |
| Taunton Flower Show | 7 August, 11-2pm | OPCC Team |

Neighbourhood Policing Awards

Nominations are open for the 2015 Neighbourhood Policing Awards. The awards recognise the work of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and individuals and the role they play in helping the communities of Avon and Somerset to be safe and feel safe. Nominations are invited for the following categories: Neighbourhood Beat Team of the Year; Neighbourhood Beat Manager of the Year; PCSO of the Year; Special Constable of the Year; Volunteer of the Year;

and the Outstanding Customer Service Award. This year the awards will also be looking to recognise the work of Volunteer Police Cadets. An independent panel will select winners across the policing areas and an awards ceremony will be held on 26 November.

Support of Panel Members in promoting the awards locally would be welcome. Further details and nomination forms can be found at the following link: www.neighbourhoodpolicingawards.co.uk Nomination forms are also available in police stations in hard copy. The closing date for nominations is 4 August 2015.

Scrutiny Update

Service Delivery Assurance Sessions

As reported to the Panel in March, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will carry out a series of Service Delivery Assurance visits during the summer, covering the three Local Policing Areas. The visits will be conducted with a panel made up of members of the Independent Residents Panel, partner organisations and OPCC officers. Panels will review closed case files to assess the extent to which the voice of the victim has been considered, and the quality of the police response. A representative of the Police and Crime Panel has been invited to attend to observe each session. Reports, alongside the Constabulary response, will be published on the OPCC website.

HMIC Peel Inspection

Inspectors will be on site during June to carry out field work in Avon and Somerset for the HMIC Peel Inspection. The focus for the Inspection is vulnerability. An update will be provided to the Panel when the outcome is known.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Annual Report

As Members will be aware, the Commissioner is responsible for running an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, enabling volunteers from the local community to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which people are detained in police custody. The Scheme provides an independent check on the operation of statutory and other rules governing the welfare of people in custody and helps to promote greater understanding and confidence in this process. There are currently 56 volunteers involved in the Avon and Somerset scheme. The Annual Report for 2014/15 will be published on the following page: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Custody-Visiting.aspx>

Changes to police complaints, misconduct and police appeal tribunal regulations

New regulations came into force on 8 April 2015 regarding contractors. Key changes include the introduction of regulations relating to handling of complaints against force contractors and subcontractors. Regulations also became effective from 1 May 2015 for the requirement that Misconduct Hearings may be held in public and from January 2016 Misconduct Hearings will have a legally qualified Chair. Police Appeal Tribunal rules have been amended from 1 May 2015 to allow the Tribunal Chair to make arrangement for the publication of certain information about an appeal hearing.

Regional Update

Strategic Alliance

Scoping work continues following agreement to form a Strategic Alliance with Wiltshire. The appointment of a Programme Director is underway, to lead and design the detailed scope of the programme. Updates will continue to be brought to the Panel as the programme develops.

Forward Dates

Out and About Days

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday 27 May | Mendip |
| Tuesday 2 June | West Somerset |
| Tuesday 23 June | Victims Services Day |
| Wednesday 1 July | Bristol |

PCC Public Forums

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|------------------|---|
| Wednesday 3 June | North Somerset (Gordano School, Portishead) |
| Thursday 9 July | West Somerset |
| Thursday 17 Sept | Bristol |