

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

21 MARCH 2014

ITEM 7: COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

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

Flooding in Somerset

The Commissioner has visited Muchelney, Thorney, Moorland and Fordgate to speak to residents affected first-hand by the flooding. Her latest visit on 13 March to flooded areas in Sedgemoor was kindly supported by Cllr Swayne.

The Commissioner has also visited the police silver control in Taunton observing a morning briefing and visited the logistics cell at County Hall where provisions and sandbags were distributed. She has attended one of the community meetings held on Wednesday evenings in Bridgwater and has visited members of the campaign group FLAG – Flooding on the Levels Action Group.

The Commissioner has fed back concerns raised by residents and the response to the floods remains the priority item in her 1:1 meetings with the Chief Constable. The police response has been based on the priorities of protection of life and property. The Constabulary has put in place a dedicated flooding beat team comprising 6 PCSOs, 6 Beat Managers and 3 double crewed patrol cars on 24/7 shift patterns for the 26 square miles that are flooded. Meetings will be held with local residents and agencies involved in the response to ensure that lessons are learnt.

Mr Batook Pandya MBE

The Commissioner was shocked and saddened to hear about the sudden death of Batook Pandya MBE. Mr Pandya made a significant contribution to promote diversity and improve community relations, and had been closely involved with SARI, a charity run by and for victims of racial harassment or attack since it was established in Bristol in 1988. The Chief Executive and representatives of the Commissioner's office attended the funeral on 27 February.

Stop & Search

Stop and Search was among the topics under discussion when the Commissioner took questions on Bristol's community radio station BCFM on 12 March. The Commissioner has contributed to the Home Office review Stop and Search to highlight concerns around the potential impact of the power on community

confidence in policing, particularly if stop and search is not used openly and transparently. A recent report highlighted that people from black, minority ethnic communities were six times more likely to be stopped by the police in Bristol. These figures were from 2011 and the current data shows that the disproportionality rate is now 1.5 for BME communities and 2.5 for black communities. The Commissioner continues to meet with the Force lead on Stop and Search for assurance about the appropriate and proportionate use of Stop and Search.

Estates Strategy

The Constabulary Estates Strategy is currently being finalised following consideration by the Chief Officer Group in February before coming to the Commissioner for decision. The Constabulary estate currently comprises over 80 freehold property assets with some £140m, with an annual cost of £7m for utility bills and maintenance. The future Strategy is based on the move this year into 3 new, purpose-built new facilities enabling the disposal of buildings that are not fit for purpose. The desire to protect neighbourhood policing is at the heart of the strategy. Discussions at the last Panel meeting highlighted the significant opportunity for co-location with local partners in Local Authority One-Stop-Shops, the Gateway Integrated Services in North Somerset, and other similar community facilities.

Independent Residents Panel

The Avon and Somerset Independent Residents Panel approach continues to attract interest, with visits from PCCs in other parts of the country. The Panel continues to meet to dip-sample complaints files, and review issues to provide assurance to the community. The Commissioner has recently asked the Panel to review data protection issues following a report that highlighted high levels of data breaches in Avon and Somerset. Further information about the Panel and reports on their findings can be found at the following link:

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

Stage 2 Transfer

Panel Members will recall that the Commissioner is required under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to agree in consultation with the Chief Constable the Home Office to the transfer of staff for employment under the Chief Constable or the Commissioner as appropriate. The final 'Stage 2 Transfer' scheme has now been submitted to the Home Office, as previously circulated to the Panel. The transfer will take effect from 1 April 2014.

Partnership Working

Mental Health Concordat and A&S Mental Health Conference

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat was launched on 18 February. This national document sets out a strategic level framework to improve multi-agency support to individuals experiencing mental health crisis. In response to this, the

Commissioner will be hosting a conference on 30 April, bringing together key local partners to begin the development of the Avon and Somerset crisis care declaration.

Community Safety Grant Allocation 2014/15

The Commissioner has considered bids submitted to the Community Safety Grant for 2014/15. Funding available to Community Safety Partnerships for local community safety project doubled from 2013/14 levels following redistribution of funding previously allocated to three Positive Futures youth projects in Bristol, and reinvestment of savings made through Avon and Somerset-wide commissioned service for drugs and alcohol referral service. A broad range of bids were received for local projects to support delivery of the PCC Priorities, identified following processes run by CSPs. CSPs were asked to ensure that projects put forward included projects specific to Children and Young People. CSP Chairs and Managers have been advised of decisions and have been asked to respond to requests for further information by 21 March.

Performance meetings have been set up with each area to agree outcomes for the coming year. A rolling programme of visits to projects will be built into performance monitoring arrangements following the success of visits to projects of high value or where there had been concerns over performance in the current year. The OPCC Commissioning Team will work with Community Safety Partnerships at an early stage to inform the Commissioning Strategy for 2015/16. It is the intention to direct a portion of Community Safety Grant funding to commissioning victim services from April 2015 – consultation is currently ongoing until end May 2014 to inform proposals for victims commissioning.

The PCC has been working positively as part of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Commissioning Board to review the current provision locally and is also working closely with NHS England as part of the changes to the SARC commissioning landscape.

As reported at the last meeting the contract for the drug and alcohol substance misuse arrest referral intervention service has been awarded to Swanswell. The team have been working with Swanswell to ensure a smooth implementation of the contract and are on course for commencement on the 1 April. Work is being undertaken to ensure appropriate linkage between this service and locally commissioned treatment services.

Partnership Audit

The Commissioner has sought the views of senior leaders from across partner organisations on progress to date as Avon and Somerset's first Police and Crime Commissioner. Feedback is currently under review and will inform areas for improvement for 2014/15 and beyond. Further details of the outcomes of this work will be available by the end of March.

Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board Partners Event

An event will be held on 4 June for people working in the field of criminal justice in Avon and Somerset. The aim of the event is to review progress in delivering priorities identified by the Board, hear about progress in the development of the Integrated Victim Care approach and discuss how all partners can contribute to improving the criminal justice service. The theme of the event is *Putting Victims at the Heart of the Criminal Justice System*.

Commissioner's Community Action Fund

In May 2013 the PCC donated £200,000 to the Police Community Trust to issue grants from the Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF). The PCC set up this fund so that community and voluntary organisations could set up projects relating to her Police and Crime Plan priorities. The PCC is delighted to be continuing this fund with the Police Community Trust in 2014-15 with a donation of £200,000. The PCC is a Trustee of the Police Community Trust, a board of individuals who decide on the funds awarded across a range of funds, including the CCAF.

In its first year the fund has been overwhelmed with applications. Trustees were delighted to award funding to 60 outstanding projects across the police force area in 2013/14 to the sum of over £190,000. Some examples include:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – targeted support via football training for young people on the Bournville Estate, Weston-super-Mare who are either not in full time education or whose school attendance is low, with the aim of reducing ASB.
- **Violence against Women and Children** - Weekly group as part of the multi-agency Halcon 1 Team Project in Taunton to support victims of domestic abuse
- **Victims** - Funding to support the work of the Bristol South Community Watch who support victims and witnesses of crime to report to the Police.
- **Burglary** - Materials for the Senior Citizen Liaison Team to work with older adults with regard to doorstep burglaries across Avon and Somerset.

Further information about the scheme and a full list of grants awarded is available online: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Commissioners-Community-Action-Fund.aspx>

Campaigns and Engagement

This is Not an Excuse Campaign

Safer Bristol last year successfully secured funding through the Community Safety Grant, issued by the Commissioner, for a Violence Against Women and Children communications campaign. Safer Bristol designed and launched a campaign in and around Bristol which challenges the perception that women are often to blame for being raped, sexually assaulted and domestically abused. The 'No Excuse'

campaign has been launched in two phases. The first *This is not an excuse to rape me*, was launched successfully in November 2013. The second phase of the campaign *This is not an excuse to abuse me*, launched in March. Following its initial success, the Commissioner has further funded work to make the campaign Avon and Somerset wide supported by Avon and Somerset Constabulary and the five local councils who will all assist in spreading the campaign throughout the whole force area.

Youth Engagement and South Gloucestershire Youth Board Forum

The South Gloucestershire Youth Board has been working with the OPCC to canvas the views of local young people on their relationship with the police. The young people involved designed their own questionnaire and spoke to over 160 of their peers. The results were fed back to the Commissioner at an event on 11 March. The results will be used to inform a youth forum event in the summer with the theme of relationships with the police. This event will aim to bring together young people from across the force area along with constabulary representatives to deliver workshops and interactive sessions looking at how we might improve relationships and perceptions from both sides.

COPACC

In February 2014 the Avon and Somerset OPCC responded to **Compares Police and Crime Commissioners' (COPACC's)** information request relating to public engagement. COPACC was seeking evidence from OPCCs and other parties in order to judge the effectiveness of PCC's public engagement and make comparisons nationally. On the 7 March it was announced that the Avon and Somerset OPCC had been shortlisted for an award. The final thematic report is due by the end of March and this will also see the awarding of a Gold Award, Highly Commended and Commended. Awards will be published online: <http://copacc.org.uk/awards/>

The Avon and Somerset OPCC's submission is available online:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Take-Part.aspx>

Regional Update

The Commissioner continues to work closely with regional PCCs in the South West of England to progress the regional collaboration agenda. Current work includes: ongoing work on the 3 successful regional in bids to the Home office innovation fund relating to forensics collaboration, body worn videos and a common communications IT platform. We are also working closely with regional colleagues on the victims commissioning project to ensure that this is carried out in the most efficient way possible across the South West of England. The scope of work for the regional procurement review has been agreed and Wiltshire's PCC is leading on commissioning this review.

National Update

MPs briefing

Panel Members will have received a copy of the first MP's Briefing, highlighting information about initiatives in Avon and Somerset and issues that the Commissioner is pursuing at a national level. Recent examples of national activity can be found below.

FGM

6 February 2014 was International Day for Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This time of year saw a number of important steps forward in tackling FGM:

- The PCC and Constabulary submitted a joint response to the Home Affairs Select Committee on FGM: www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/FGM_written_evidence.pdf
- The PCC supported Fahma Mohamed's campaign, backed by the Guardian, requesting the Education Minister to write to all schools about FGM. The campaign was successful and the Minister has subsequently written to all schools. <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/News-Archive/2014/Feb-/Sue-Mountstevens-signs-petition-in-support-of-schools-teaching-risks-of-FGM.aspx>
- On International Zero Tolerance Day the PCC and Chief Constable attended a celebratory event at the City Academy Bristol
- The PCC funded prevalence report in Bristol is due to report in March

Home Office VAWG Strategy

On International Women's Day 2014 (8 March) the Home Office published an updated version of its 'A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls: Action Plan'. Via the Association of PCCs (APCC) examples were sought for the document to illustrate best practice. Avon and Somerset's innovative use of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) to hear the voice of the victim along their journey via a survey, was selected for the final publication. The case study can be found on page 33 of the action plan, available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/287758/VAWG_Action_Plan.pdf

Home Affairs Select Committee 'Police and Crime Commissioners: Progress to Date'

Panel Members will recall that the Commissioner appeared before the HASC on 21 January 2014 to give evidence as part of the Inquiry on *Police and Crime Commissioners: Progress to Date*. This inquiry is ongoing with further sessions held on 4 February featuring representatives of Police and Crime Panels in Surrey, West Yorkshire and Hertfordshire, and 25 February when the Committee heard from the

PCC in Kent as well as Rt Hon Damian Green MP, Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

Transforming Rehabilitation

The Commissioner remains concerned at opportunities for engagement by PCCs in the competition process for future local probation services. The PCC's office continues to work closely with Constabulary and Probation colleagues, and regional PCCs within the Contract Package Area (Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire) to contribute information and briefing materials to potential bidders and plan for the transition to new arrangements. It is proposed to establish a Reducing Reoffending Board, with membership by the three Commissioners, to ensure oversight of Transforming Rehabilitation.

Forward Dates:

Out and About Days:

1 April	South Gloucestershire
15 April	North Somerset
24 April	Bristol
30 April	BANES
7 May	Somerset
13 May	South Gloucestershire
28 May	North Somerset
4 June	Bristol
12 June	BANES
19 June	Somerset
24 June	South Gloucestershire

Proposed Summer Engagement Activity:

5 May	North Somerset Show
28-31 May	Bath and West Show
14-15 June	Avon and Somerset Constabulary Open Days
21-22 June	Weston Air Show
5-6 July	Dig for Victory Show
12 July	Bristol Pride
18-20 July	Bristol Harbour Festival
12 August	Honiton Agricultural Show
1-2 August	Taunton Flower Show
7-10 August	Bristol Balloon Fiesta
12 August	Bike Safe
13 September	Frome Cheese Show