

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

15 MARCH 2017

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 8 February 2017.

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan

OPCC have produced delivery plans and developed an assurance schedule in consultation with the Constabulary. The Constabulary's proposals to restructure the organisation have design principles that include capability and capacity to deliver the Plan. Key indicators of the performance framework are in place and monitored within a Police and Crime 'App' using newly acquired software (Qlik Sense). Performance against the plan is being published at the following link: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Reports-and-meetings/Police-Performance.aspx and next month a new Police and Crime Plan website will be launched.

Development of Local Plans

Work has progressed in South Gloucestershire and in Bristol to develop Local Plans. This has seen the merger of the local Police and Crime Plan with the plans of the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership and the Safer Bristol Partnership. Drafts have been developed for discussion and should be adopted in April 2017.

An internal debrief will then be arranged in order to evaluate key learning before engaging with other Local Authorities to agree next steps. Panel Members are invited to feed in any thoughts to support development of local plans.

Commissioning and Partnership Working

Criminal Justice Transformation

As Panel Members will recall, the Commissioner has been awarded £190,000 from the Home Office Police Transformation Fund to deliver a whole system review of the local criminal justice service, with the aim to improve the experience of victims and drive locally-tailored service transformation. The proposed review is intended to accelerate and enhance local delivery of national criminal justice efficiency and reform programmes, and take forward new national developments giving PCCs a strengthened role in the governance and commissioning of criminal justice services.

The project continues to progress at a fast pace. Phase 1 of the project, to deliver a comprehensive needs assessment and identify priorities for in-depth work, was completed on 10 February 2017. Phase 2 is exploring the following issues, and is due to report on 8 March 2017:

- Low use of Out of Court Disposals;
- High use of remand in police custody overnight;
- Incorrect Anticipated Pleas;

- Charging Decisions / File Quality;
- Handling of Specialist Cases;
- Case Listing;
- High levels of failure to appear;
- Special measures & victim entitlements;
- Proportionality;
- Communication with Victims.

Additional work will be carried out utilising project funding to support development of the new Integrated Offender Management strategy, and work of the new Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board.

The project has attracted national interest and findings will be shared with national forums to share learning and good practice and influence national policy. Findings will be shared with Panel Members on completion of the project.

OPCC Commissioning Budget 2017/18

Work is currently being undertaken to put in place grant agreements with all services/partnerships funded by the OPCC on an annual basis, including funding provided to local areas in the form of Police and Crime Grants (which replaces the Community Safety Grant and Youth Offending Grant).

Members will recall that a process was put in place to review the Restorative Justice delivery model across Avon and Somerset. Proposals were received in February and considered by a specially convened panel. The Panel's recommendation was approved by the Commissioner at the Police and Crime Board on 1 March.

Home Office Violence Against Women and Children Transformation Fund

As part of the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, the government has announced changes to the way part of their national funding for this agenda will be distributed. Until March 2017, the VAWG Fund contributes to a number of core services across the area: Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). This fund in its current form will cease and from April 2017 be replaced by a VAWG Transformation Fund. The OPCC has decided to prioritise bids that cover lost capacity while bringing transformation.

The OPCC has submitted a bid entitled: *Working together to improve lives and build resilience for the most vulnerable victims of sexual assault (SA) with additional needs linked to either learning difficulties (LD) or mental ill-health (MH) across Avon & Somerset*. This project aims to cover lost ISVA capacity as well as provide stepped care options for victims to help them engage, cope and recover. It will also increase multi-agency working across the Sexual Assault Sector and also with specialist Mental Health and Learning Difficulties agencies.

The PCC has also supported a MARAC proposal submitted by Bristol City Council on behalf of the five Local Authorities in Avon and Somerset, working with the Constabulary.

Funding is due to commence from the 1 April so notifications of grants awarded is anticipated mid-late March.

A number of other local authority / health commissioners may have also submitted bids.

Joint Commissioning Work

The NHS England needs assessment for Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Services across the South West (Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) has now been published and presented to stakeholders. A Procurement Steering Group will shortly meet to look at the recommendations and consider the design of SARC services across the South West before engaging with stakeholders.

Work is underway in producing a draft commissioning plan for consultation in relation to referral services within courts and police custody. The plan is being developed in partnership between NHS England and the OPCC following a needs assessment looking at Liaison and Diversion and arrest referral services which took place towards the end of 2016.

Future Devolution of Victim Services

As Members will recall, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has written to PCCs confirming the intention to consider further devolution of nationally commissioned services for victims and witnesses. A national working group, led by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and MoJ, has been formed to consider options and provide evidence for Ministers. Membership includes a representative of the Avon and Somerset OPCC and the team will support this piece of work ahead of a Ministerial decision.

Little progress has been made on this work nationally by the Ministry of Justice and the future direction for devolution of services remains unclear.

Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board

The first full meeting of the Board took place in early February, with wide ranging representation. Two clear messages came across at the meeting. Firstly all agencies involved in reducing reoffending have faced significant financial challenges, have different jurisdictional responsibilities and have had to restructure themselves to meet those challenges over the last few years. This has taken its toll on the overall effectiveness of reducing reoffending in Avon and Somerset. Secondly all the attendees (and a number of other relevant agencies) have a clear commitment to work together to mitigate the impact of these challenges and to increase the overall effectiveness of reducing reoffending in Avon & Somerset. It was agreed that Integrated Offender Management remains the right model and right approach moving forwards, although the focus may need to change. A number of actions were agreed to take away and progress and will be reported back on at the next meeting on 13th April.

Mental Health

Members will recall that Partners across the Avon and Wiltshire have recently been engaged in a system wide review of S136. The review was facilitated by the Alexander Group and involved partners and service users from across the system. Phase 2 of the review, which looked at 'to be' options is due to report soon. It has been agreed that the PCCs for Avon

and Somerset and Swindon and Wiltshire will Chair the governance board which will take forward the recommendations from the review, with partners due to come together from across the area on 17th March to progress.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Members will recall that the OPCC are leading on the commissioning of a specialist support service for victims of child sexual exploitation in partnership with the five top tier Local Authorities across Avon and Somerset. The procurement process for the service is expected to go live on 20th March, with the new service anticipated to be in place by October 2017. This service is intended to form a legacy for the West of England project which is due to formally end on 31st March 2017.

Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF)

The CCAF re-opened for applications on the 3 January 2017. The CCAF runs alongside existing Police Community Trust funds which runs on the following annual cycle:

Application Deadline	Decision Date
1 March '17	End of April '17
1 June '17	End of July '17
1 September '17	End of October '17
1 December '17	End of January '18

The Trustees will be considering applications that were submitted ahead of the March meeting at a meeting at the end of April, following which successful applicants will be notified.

Governance, Scrutiny and Inspections

Police and Crime Board

As Members will be aware, the PCC and the Chief Constable agreed to set up a Police and Crime Board which will oversee delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and other performance issues as well as being the forum for formal decision making by the PCC. The Board continues to meet on a monthly basis. The Chair of the Panel will be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to observe the means by which the PCC will be holding the Chief Constable to account. Agendas and notes of the Board meetings are published at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Reports-and-meetings/Police-and-Crime-Board.aspx>

HMIC Inspections

The Constabulary have been graded as 'good' for its effectiveness, meaning that it has received 'good' ratings for all PEEL inspections (Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy). This reflects significant improvement since the previous inspection.

As anticipated, the Constabulary received a rating of 'requires improvement' for its Crime Data Integrity inspection despite making significant improvement since the previous one. Actions are already underway to improve further and address the recommendations within the inspection.

The completion of all recommendations made within inspection reports is monitored within the Police and Crime App; and the Constabulary have a now well-established working group to ensure actions are progressed.

Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

The Commissioner is proposing to set up a Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel based on the successful models of the Independent Residents' and Taser Scrutiny Panel. The intention is for this Panel to take over from the Taser Panel and the Constabulary's existing Stop and Search Panel. It would scrutinise areas such as use of Stop and Search, Taser and Body Worn Video. Consultation with Staff Associations, community groups and the Independent Advisory Groups are ongoing. It is hoped the Panel will meet in the summer.

PCC Shadowing Scheme Launch

The Commissioner has launched a scheme to offer the opportunity to shadow her to give an insight into the role of a Police and Crime Commissioner both at Police Headquarters and in the Avon and Somerset community. The scheme has been launched with the aim to encourage a greater diversity of candidates for directly elected roles. The opportunity is open to all, however it is hoped to attract interest from under-represented groups, including women, BME, LGBT and disability, in order to encourage greater representation and involvement from all parts of the community. Further information about the scheme and an application pack is available at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Shadow-Sue.aspx> The closing date for applications is 31 March 2017. The support of Panel Members in promoting this opportunity would be welcome.

Independent Residents' Panel

The Independent Residents' Panel (IRP) of 12 members, representative of the local population demographics, scrutinise completed complaints from members of the public against the Police. The Panel have met on a quarterly basis since June 2013. The next meeting is on 9 March 2017, to include Chair and Vice Chair(s) annual elections. The IRP have requested completed complaint cases within the three IPCC categories of: Incivility, impoliteness and incivility; Sexual assault; and Oppressive conduct or harassment (use of force). Also, as standard practice, a selection of complaints resolved by the triage/'service recovery' method (aiming to finalise within 72 hours) will be reviewed.

The Panel's quarterly report of the selected and reviewed complaint records, including a response from the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department, is sent to the PCC to review as standard practice and assists the PCC in discharging her duty to have oversight of complaints against the Police. The reports are published on the PCC's website at: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/IRP/Independent-Residents-Panel-Reports.aspx>

Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel

The Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel met on 2 March to scrutinise cases on the theme of Domestic Abuse. The theme was selected in order to scrutinise appropriate use of disposals in cases of domestic abuse, ensuring outcomes were victim-focused and that appropriate referrals were made with respect to victim care and safeguarding

considerations. The Panel had previously noted the anomaly in national guidance, whereby Conditional Cautions may be used only in exceptional cases involving domestic abuse, whereas the lesser disposal of a Simple Caution can be used.

The Panel reviewed four Community Resolutions in relation to a Serious Sexual Offence (in accordance with the Panel Terms of Reference), all found to be appropriate. The Panel reviewed 12 cases with a 'Domestic Abuse' tag. Five were found to be appropriate, four appropriate with observations, and three cases inappropriate. The Panel report, together with the Constabulary response to recommendations, will be published at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Out-of-Court-Disposal-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx> The Panel will meet in June to scrutinise cases disposed by Simple Caution.

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