

**COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

**16 JUNE 2016**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 14 March 2016.

**Transition to New PCC Term**

The OPCC Election Board maintained oversight of arrangements to plan for the PCC election and ensure a smooth transition to the new term of office. This included liaison with the Police Area Returning Officer, engagement with candidates, publication of briefing information and planning sessions for the OPCC team. The start of the new term was marked with the Declaration of Oath ceremony, held at the Trinity Arts Centre, Bristol.

**Initial Focus and Current Developments**

The Commissioner has held a series of internal meetings and discussions with the OPCC and with the Constabulary to develop plans for this term. Key areas of work include: collaboration; representative workforce; child sexual exploitation; partnership working and governance. A paper setting out the plan for developing the Police and Crime Plan and initial priorities is set out on the agenda to this meeting.

**Partnership Working**

**Mental Health**

Alongside CCG colleagues from Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset, the Commissioner has invested in a control room triage pilot which will see mental health professionals situated in the police control room with access to relevant health systems, offering advice and support to police officers and partner agencies such as Avon Fire and Rescue Service and Ambulance. Funding has been secured for an initial period of two years. Recruitment of staff is currently taking place and it is anticipated that they will take up post from August 2016.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May the Commissioner hosted a meeting of the Avon and Somerset wide Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat group. The major item for discussion at this meeting was the changes which are due to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 when police custody will only be used for those detained under s136 of the Mental Health Act in exceptional circumstances. Partners were asked to identify local pathways which should be used when specialist s136 provision is full. Following the meeting, the Commissioner and ACC Nikki Watson wrote to partners highlighting again the need for pathways to be identified prior to 1<sup>st</sup> June to ensure operational staff are able to offer the necessary support to those individuals who need it.

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

The West of England child sexual exploitation victim identification and support service which is jointly funded via the Home Office innovation fund, the Commissioner and local

authorities is due to come to an end in March 2017. Work is currently underway with Avon and Somerset partners to look at sustainable approaches for continuing to support these victims beyond this date. A multi-agency workshop has been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> June, with all Directors of Children’s Services invited, to take this work forward.

### **Community Safety & Commissioning Group**

The Community Safety and Commissioning Group meeting (managers only) took place in April. Key items discussed included the partnership landscape – in relation to mapping out the landscape with an aim to reduce the number of meetings; reducing reoffending; domestic abuse – both prevention and current provision of support services and; planning for the PCC election. The next meeting of the group is due to take place in July and will include both managers, Community Safety Partnership Chairs and the PCC.

### **Community Safety and Youth Offending Grant Funding - 2016/17**

The Commissioner has allocated funding to support local partnership working in community safety and youth justice. Funding levels for 2016/17 are set out below:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Community Safety Grant</b>	<b>YOT Grant</b>
BANES	£53,647	£18,119
Bristol	£222,252	£93,848
North Somerset	£68,975	£27,178
Somerset	£169,784	£65,043
South Gloucestershire	£74,870	£28,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>£589,528</b>	<b>£232,296</b>

As in 2015/16, decisions on allocation of local funding rests with local partnerships. A breakdown of projects in receipt of funding will be published at the following link:  
<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Grants-awarded-by-the-PCC.aspx>

### **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme**

The Annual Independent Custody Visiting conference took place on 14<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by both the PCC and the Chief Constable. The theme for the day was Mental Health and Healthcare more generally and saw presentations from the Liaison and Diversion (CARS) team, the leading Matron from the Mason Ward at Southmead Hospital and from the healthcare provider in custody. The Independent Custody Visitors were joined by visitors from Wiltshire and a small number of Avon and Somerset Appropriate Adults.

### **Commissioner’s Community Action Fund**

The OPCC is working with the Police Community Trust (PCT) to prepare for the re-opening of the Commissioner’s Community Action Fund (CCAF). It is planned that the fund will open for applications on the 1 June, with the first deadline for applications on the 1 September for an end of October decision. The CCAF runs alongside existing PCT funds which runs on the following annual cycle:

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>
1 June (now closed)	End of July (no CCAF awards to be made)
1 September	End of October

1 December	End of January
1 March	End of April

Details of all grants awarded are published on the Commissioner's website.

### **Scrutiny and Inspections**

#### **Service Delivery Assurance**

The Commissioner held a Service Delivery Assurance session to explore the quality of police service delivery, focusing on call handling and initial police response. The report has been published at the link below. A further Service Delivery Assurance session is being planned for Summer 2016, on the theme of mental health.

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/ARCHIVE-2012-April-2016/Openness-2012-April-2016/Scrutiny/Service-Delivery-Assurance-Panel.aspx>

#### **Scrutiny of Taser Use**

The first Public Scrutiny Panel meeting will be on 28 June 2016. This will be attended by the Constabulary's Lead Officer for Custody and a Trainer, to inform the four Panel members (a sub-group of the Independent Residents' Panel) about the use of Tasers by Police Officers by both non-authorized and Authorized Firearms Officers (AFOs).

#### **Misconduct Hearing Outcome**

The misconduct meetings and misconduct hearings for Police Officers and Staff linked to the murder of Mr Bijan Ebrahimi have now been held and since the last Police & Crime Panel meeting there have been 3 Officers dismissed and 1 subject to a final written warning relating to the death of Mr Ebrahimi. The Constabulary have been working on an extensive programme of work focused on making improvements to the service to vulnerable victims and also on an internal training and communications programme. Notice of future misconduct hearings and their subsequent outcomes are published on the Avon and Somerset Police website at: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/about-us/publication-scheme/our-policies-and-procedures/misconduct-hearings/>

#### **Regional Update**

Since the election the PCCs and Chief Constables of Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire have met to discuss collaborative opportunities in the areas of enabling services and building on the existing specialist operations collaborations. These discussions have been encouraging and scoping and timetable discussions are ongoing. The regional PCCs and Chief Constables have also agreed to work together in relation to the implementation of the national Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.

#### **National Update**

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners met on 25 May 2016. The Home Secretary spoke to the PCCs about a number of matters including the reform of fire authorities, working with criminal justice and collaboration. The Home Secretary also discussed the National Policing Vision and Police Transformation.

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