

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

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

**20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 16 June 2016.

#### **Update on initial focus of work in new PCC term**

##### **PCC Governance Arrangements**

As part of the arrangements for the implementation of the new Police and Crime Plan the PCC and the Chief Constable have 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 first meeting will take place later this month. 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.

##### **Representative Workforce**

The Commissioner continues to scrutinise the Constabulary's work in making the police service more representative of the communities it serves. The Constabulary would like to widen the talent pool of applicants, particularly people with disabilities, black and ethnic minority (BME) and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Recruitment for 128 new police officers and 64 Police Community Support Officer's (PCSOs) opened on September 5. In the lead up to recruitment targeted advertising took place on Ujima, BCFM and Made in Bristol. The Police Representative Workforce team gave talks at schools, colleges, Universities as well as holding webchats in Polish, Somali and Arabic. A number of activities are being carried out by the team, this work is called 'positive action' which aims to help employers identify and remove barriers and issues to the recruitment, retention and progression of people from 'under-represented' groups, whilst still employing people on merit. Activities include awareness days, workshops, training and familiarisation events. Following the previous round of recruitment at the start of 2016, nine applicants from 'under-represented' groups have passed their interviews to become a police officer.

##### **Criminal Justice**

The Commissioner has submitted a bid to the Home Office Police Transformation Fund in partnership with the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board to secure funding 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 review is intended to have national benefit in providing a model to drive service transformation in areas without the benefits of a coterminous HM Treasury Devolution Deal (as seen for example in Greater Manchester). The outcome of the bid is expected in early October.

## **Commissioning and Partnership Working**

### **Mental Health**

The control room triage service, funded by the PCC, Avon Fire and Rescue Service and Bristol, BANES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCGs launched on 5 September. The service will see mental health professionals from AWP based within the police control room. With access to relevant health systems, they will be able to provide advice, support and guidance to officers across the force area that come into contact with those experiencing mental health crises ensuring that they are able to receive appropriate care and support.

### **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 joint commissioning group has been established in order to lead this work and the group will be presenting an initial commissioning intentions document to the Wes of England senior governance board on 16 September. It is hoped that an externally commissioned, specialist support service will be in place by October 2017, with interim arrangements being developed with the current service provider in order to ensure that those already receiving support continue to do so whilst the commissioning process takes place.

A powerful advertising campaign was launched in September to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. Earlier this year, the Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board published the learning from the serious case review into Operation Brooke, a child sexual exploitation investigation in Bristol. Five of the children who were victims in Operation Brooke articulated important messages during the serious case review for professionals and other children at risk of sexual exploitation. Their message was clear professionals, parents and carers need to be aware of the signs and take action to help victims. They said: "Ask me. Ask me again. Keep asking..." and this is at the core of our public awareness campaign. The PCC has funded external advertising at transport hot spots such as Bristol Temple Meads, Bath Spa and local supermarkets across Somerset. While the Constabulary is working with local authority and health professionals to embed the key messages with staff across all partner agencies.

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

The Community Safety and Commissioning Group meeting (chairs, managers, Commissioner and Assistant Chief Constable) took place in August. Key items discussed included devolution (scope and possibility for collaboration of areas not in scope); development of the Police and Crime Plan; Reducing Reoffending – where the decision was taken to establish one Reducing Reoffending Board to cover Avon and Somerset, chaired by the Commissioner for the first year and; a presentation and discussion on Body Worn Video Camera.

## **OPCC Commissioning Budget - 2017/18**

The policing budget continues to be under pressure with ongoing reductions in government funding and increases in demand in areas of complexity. In particular the increased reporting of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and abuse. In the new Police and Crime Plan the Commissioner sets out the intention to invest in areas of increasing demand with a primary focus on supporting vulnerable victims. The current CSE support service and mental health triage project are funded on a temporary basis and longer term, sustainable funding arrangements need to be put in place.

As such the OPCC have written to all externally commissioned services and organisations asking them to model the impact of potential reductions in their budget for 2017/18 onwards. Services and organisations have been encouraged to consider innovative approaches, collaborative working and efficiencies in enabling functions in undertaking this modelling. Responses have been requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> September in order to allow for review by the Commissioner and notification of final allocations for 2017/18 in as timely a manner as possible.

Alongside this, and in a similar vein, Avon and Somerset Constabulary are also undertaking an ambitious savings programme in order to deliver £5 million of additional savings in order to reinvest in areas of demand.

## **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme**

It has been a busy quarter for the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Quarter 2 saw the start of the quarter-long trial of the ICVs introducing themselves rather than the escorting officer. The reason for this trial was due to the fact Avon and Somerset's scheme is one of the only schemes in the country to not use self-introduction, and as such refusal rates are much higher (a refusal means the detainee chooses not to speak to the ICV.) It is felt that there is so much disparity in the words and tone used by escorting officers and this has a huge impact on how the detainee views the visit from the ICVs. At the end of Quarter 2, there will be an anonymous survey sent to ICVs which will ascertain what method of introduction will be taken forward. Quarter 2 also saw the introduction of the ICVs asking questions based around the 2012 HMIC custody inspection recommendations. The aim of this exercise was to support custody staff in preparation for the impending inspection, which actually took place at the beginning of August. As of Quarter 2, ICVs now also check the CCTV footage for those detainees on Level 2 'Rouse and Respond' observations (30 minute checks) at the PCC's and CC's request.

## **Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF)**

The CCAF re-opened 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 (now closed)	End of October

1 December (re-opening for applications on 1 <sup>st</sup> October – see below)	End of January
1 March	End of April

The OPCC is working with the Police Community Trust to manage the transition of PCC priorities from the old to the new Police and Crime Plan. As such, the application form will be suspended for the month of September before relaunching on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, giving applicants two months to apply ahead of the December deadline.

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

### **Scrutiny and Inspections**

#### **PCC in Conversation**

This month we held our first live video event where the PCC put resident’s questions to the Chief Constable. The first event ‘PCC in conversation’ was held on ‘Facebook Live’ was themed around three topic areas including hate crime, recruitment and mental health and the additional topic of fire-arms capability was added from a member of the public. The live video was 20-minutes long and within the first 24-hours it was published it has been viewed 2,900 times. The video has also been published on the PCC website as well as across social media, and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://business.facebook.com/AandSPCC/?business\\_id=1031332530213433](https://business.facebook.com/AandSPCC/?business_id=1031332530213433)

The PCC plans to hold the ‘In conversation’ events with the Chief every other month after the Police and Crime Board.

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

The first Public Scrutiny Panel meeting (two meetings per year) was on 28 June 2016. This was attended by the Constabulary’s Lead Officer for Custody and a Taser Trainer, to inform the four Panel members (two Independent Residents’ Panel members and two Independent Advisory Group members) about the use of Tasers by Police Officers by both non-authorized and Authorized Firearms Officers (AFOs). The Panel’s report of the selected and reviewed Taser records has been published on the PCC’s website at:

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

The next Public Taser Scrutiny Panel meeting on 13 December 2016.

#### **Independent Residents’ Panel**

The Independent Residents’ Panel, that scrutinise completed complaints against the Police on a quarterly basis, are now in the Panel’s fourth year and the PCC is currently recruiting four more members to bring the Panel up to 12 members and also with the aim of returning to a more representative panel to include people with black and minority ethnicity. The Autumn meeting date was 9 September 2016 and as an audit each year, the most recently completed complaint cases were reviewed rather than a complaint theme, based on complaint categories set by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), such as incivility or failure in duty. The 10 June 2016 meeting theme was complaints against Police honesty and integrity.

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 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/ARCHIVE-2012-April-2016/Openness-2012-April-2016/Scrutiny/Independent-Residents-Panel.aspx>

### **Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel**

The June meeting of the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel scrutinised cases disposed by Community Resolution. Of the 28 cases drawn, 14 were considered appropriate, 8 appropriate with observations, and 6 inappropriate. The Panel report, together with the Constabulary response to recommendations, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Out-of-Court-Disposal-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

The Panel will meet in September to scrutinise the use of out of court disposals in cases relating to malicious communications.

### **Regional Update**

The Tri Force Enabling Services Programme has now been initiated and the Strategic Outline Programme document has been agreed by the 3 PCCs and 3 Chief Constables – the core enabling services included are ICT, Finance and HR but other enabling services are included. A programme team has been appointed and are working on the development of a Strategic Outline Case document following the Treasury 5 case model methodology. An interim Chief Information Officer has been jointly appointed by the 6 organisations and the Programme has been successful in securing a Police Transformation Fund grant to fund the development of a joint ICT business case. An early part of this work is a review of the adoption of a joint Enterprise and Resource Planning system.

The various existing 4 and 5 force collaborations with other forces continue and regional board meetings are held every 2 months. In particular, the regional team continue to work on the joint Emergency Services Mobile Communication Platform work.

Regular updates on the Tri Force work will be provided to the panel.

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