

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

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

**15 DECEMBER 2016**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 12 October 2016.

#### **Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan**

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan 2016-21 has been finalised following consideration at the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 12 October. The plan is available at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-Crime-Plan-2016.aspx> An accessible, 'Easy Read' version can also be found at the link above.

Work is ongoing to finalise Delivery Plans against each priority, performance measures and assurance activity. Performance against the plan will be published at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Reports-and-meetings.aspx>

#### Development of Local Plans

Discussions are ongoing with Local Authorities and the respective Community Safety Partnerships to agree next steps in developing Local Plans for top-tier Local Authorities across the Force area. Contributions from Panel Members to support development of local plans would be welcome.

#### **Commissioning and Partnership Working**

##### **Criminal Justice Transformation**

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. A Steering Group has been established to take forward preparatory work, appointment of consultancy support and oversee delivery of the project.

##### **Victim Services – Best Practice Visits**

HMIC visited the Lighthouse Victim Care service during September as part of a series of visits to identify national best practice. The inspection team spent two days on site with the Bristol Hub, reviewing the Avon and Somerset approach to victim care, systems and processes and arrangements for onward referral. The Lighthouse service was also visited on 21 November by the Victim's Commissioner, Baroness Newlove. This was the second visit made by the Victim's Commissioner to the Lighthouse service since the service launched in October 2014. The service has to date supported more than 75,000 vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

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

As Members will be aware, the OPCC wrote to all externally commissioned services and organisations asking them to model the impact of potential reductions in their budget for 2017/18 and put forward ideas for innovative approaches, collaborative working and efficiencies in enabling functions. The intention is to enable investment in areas of increasing demand, with a primary focus on supporting vulnerable victims. This includes securing sustainable funding arrangements for Child Sexual Exploitation services (currently in receipt of significant short term funding via the Home Office Innovation Fund) and the mental health triage project, which is also currently funded only a short term basis.

The following recommendations were approved by the Commissioner at the Police and Crime Board on 10 November:

- Lighthouse – reduce funding, taking into account work underway by the Constabulary through the current priority based resourcing review.
- Arrest Intervention Referral Service - reduce funding by 15% (£109,000) by reducing administration hours, reducing attendance at police operations and reducing the number of recovery workers. The core service will not be affected.
- Community safety grant / youth offending team grant – reduce funding by 10% (£82,000). It is proposed that these grants are merged and provided to the local area as a Police and Crime Grant and will be paid to the partnership or body nominated by the local area, with a commitment to provide funding for a three year period (subject to any reductions in central government funding). This funding is to be allocated at the discretion of the local area, to meet local needs alongside other partner investment in services and to be prioritised in line with the Police and Crime Plan.

Budget levels will be maintained at the current level for the following services:

- Locally commissioned victim services (Victim Support, ISVA, AVoice, Young Victims Service, Unseen);
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Service;
- Child Sexual Abuse grant funded services (previously directly funded via national arrangements which ceased at the end of 2015/16);
- Appropriate Adult Service (for vulnerable adults).

A review of the Restorative Justice (RJ) delivery model is currently taking place. Current providers have been given until early February to come up with proposals for a revised service model that delivers savings, increases capacity and delivers high quality RJ. It is intended to take recommendations to the Police and Crime Board in February 2017 for decision.

### **Joint Commissioning Work**

The OPCC is working with South Gloucestershire Council on the recommissioning of domestic abuse services in the area along with community safety and public health colleagues. Part of the Community Safety Grant (from 17/18 the Police and Crime Grant) contributes towards local services. The new contract is due to commence on the 1 April 2017.

The OPCC is also working with NHS England on a needs assessment for Sexual Assault Referral Services across the South West (Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) and a separate assessment looking at liaison and diversion and arrest referral across Avon and Somerset.

### **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. At present, 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). Details of the new VAWG Transformation Fund will be announced imminently. The PCC has written to the government to express concerns at the possible impact on local services and the challenging timescales for applying for this funding.

The OPCC is working with relevant partners who commission the above services to minimise disruption to core services. Panel member may wish to note that IDVAs are commissioned by Local Authorities. The ISVA service is commissioned by the OPCC and MARAC processes are currently being reviewed by the Constabulary and Local Authorities partners.

### **Future Devolution of Victim Services**

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 in March 2017.

The MoJ has extended grant funding to nationally commissioned organisations for the period 2017/18 while options are considered regarding the future model of commissioning national and local services. MoJ grant funding for PCC commissioned services in 2017/18 will be confirmed following budget settlements for the next financial year.

### **Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board**

A stakeholder workshop was held on Wednesday 30 November to discuss the creation of an Avon and Somerset wide Reducing Reoffending Board, scope key issues and inform development of a strategy to be taken forward by the new Board. The Board will meet for the first time in the New Year, and will be chaired by the Commissioner for the first year of operation. The Board is being established in order to strengthen oversight and partnership working with regard to the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

### **Mental Health**

The control room triage service, which sees mental health professionals from the Avon & Wiltshire Partnership Trust based within the police control room, launched in September. The service enables access to relevant health systems, allowing provision of advice, support and guidance to officers across the force area that come into contact with those experiencing mental health crises, ensuring that they receive appropriate care and support.

Since its launch, the service has dealt with over 500 referrals, 449 of which related to individuals who were already known to services. The area with the highest number of calls was Bristol (316), followed by Somerset (144), Bath & North East Somerset (31), North Somerset (57) and South Gloucestershire (11). Of the referrals received, 36 were relating to the potential use of powers under s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Of those, 22 went on to use the power and 14 were diverted.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Consultation on the commissioning plan for the specialist Child Sexual Exploitation service, which will be jointly funded by the Commissioner and the five Local Authorities across Avon and Somerset, was launched on 11 November. The support of the Board in disseminating consultation among interested partners and responding to the consultation would be welcome. A stakeholder event will be held at City Hall in Bristol on 7<sup>th</sup> December. The consultation can be accessed at the following link- <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Consultation-Draft-CSE-Commissioning-Plan.aspx> Consultation will run for 12 weeks.

### **Children's Commissioner Takeover Day**

Young people from Integrate Bristol joined the OPCC on 18 November to shadow members of the senior leadership team as part of Children's Commissioner Takeover Day. The young people joined the team in a range of meetings, covering topics such as stop and search, professional standard and mental health.

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

The 2016/17 Quarter 3 awards from the CCAF were made at the end of October 2016 and included a number of grants issued to meet the priorities in the old Police and Crime Plan.

Following a subsequent period of closure due to the implementation of the new Police and Crime Plan, the CCAF will re-open for applications on the 3 January 2017. The fund will award grants of up to £3k for projects and services that contribute towards the new Police and Crime Plan priorities. The OPCC will be working with local VCSE infrastructure organisations to ensure that applicants are aware. The CCAF runs alongside existing Police Community Trust funds which runs on the following annual cycle:

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>
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

Details of all grants awarded are published on the Commissioner's website. It should be noted that the Police Community Trust also holds a general fund and a road safety fund.

### **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 will 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 PEEL efficiency inspection rated the Constabulary as 'good'. The legitimacy and effectiveness inspections have yet to be published but the draft legitimacy report and effectiveness debrief have both been positive. It is anticipated that the Constabulary will receive a rating of 'requires improvement' for its Crime Data Integrity inspection despite making significant improvement since the last inspection. However the publication of the report has been delayed while HMI carry out a review of the methodology, and therefore the rating may change.

### **Scrutiny of Taser Use**

The second Public Scrutiny Panel meeting (two meetings per year) was on 13 December 2016. This was attended by the Constabulary's Lead Officer for Custody to provide the Taser Use reports and give immediate feedback to the Panel members about the use of Tasers by Police Officers by both non-authorized and Authorized Firearms Officers (AFOs).

The Panel discussed their Terms of Reference and the agenda also included Panel member feedback on their observation and attendance at the November 2016 Taser Training Course for Police Officers.

The Panel's report of the selected and reviewed Taser records will be 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 will be in June 2017.

### **Independent Residents' Panel**

The Independent Residents' Panel scrutinise completed complaints against the Police by members of the public. The Panel meet on a quarterly basis and are now in the Panel's fourth year. The PCC appointed (after positive vetting and references) 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 as well as a young person. The last meeting date was 9 December 2016 and the Panel reviewed completed complaint cases where the complainant had appealed against the outcome. This review selection was a request by the PCC based on the IPCC reports for all Forces and Avon and Somerset Constabulary's report of the number of appeals and percentage upheld by the Constabulary compared to the IPCC. A selection of complaints resolved by the triage/service recovery method, aiming to finalise within 72 hours, were also 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 September meeting of the Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel scrutinised cases on the theme of Malicious Communications. The theme was selected given to assess outcomes in relation to this relatively new offence and in view of national media coverage of cases in which Cautions used with respect to cases including those of 'revenge porn' (the publication of sexually explicit material portraying someone without their consent) had been found to be inappropriate. Of the 35 cases drawn, 25 were scrutinised. Of the cases reviewed: 10 were considered appropriate, 7 appropriate with observations, and 8 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 December to scrutinise the use of out of court disposals in cases relating to hate crime.

### **COPACC Transparency Awards**

The OPCC were awarded an Open and Transparent Quality Mark for 2016-17 on 28 November. CoPaCC and Grant Thornton conduct an annual audit to review whether Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners are meeting their statutory requirements on openness and transparency. Paul Grady, Head of Police for Grant Thornton who hosted the event, commented that "Transparency is an essential part of the democratic process. For the public to be able gauge how successful their PCC is in delivering their electoral mandate, they need access to information that is accessible, easy to understand and fit for purpose.

CoPaCC is an independent organisation established shortly after the first PCC elections in November 2012 to monitor policing governance in England and Wales.

### **Estates Strategy**

The Commissioner published a revised Estates Strategy at the end of November. This continued the focus on Neighbourhood Policing Teams being located within their neighbourhoods, whilst moving from old, oversized and inefficient buildings to more fit-for-purpose properties. In addition, increased emphasis was put on engagement with local residents and stakeholders and collaborative solutions. The Commissioner has recently announced that the police will be collocating with Avon Fire and Rescue in Nailsea, with West Somerset District Council in Williton, and with Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue in Yeovil.

### **Regional Update**

As separately notified to Panel Members, the Commissioner and the Chief Constable decided to withdraw from the Tri Force Enabling Services Programme on 16 November in order to focus on the Priority Based Review process and the exit from the Southwest One contract. This followed a decision by Wiltshire and Gloucestershire PCCs to narrow the scope of the collaboration. Avon and Somerset intend to renew discussions about enabling

services collaboration with Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and others next year. The existing Tri-Force operational programmes will continue.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable continue to meet with Regional colleagues on a regular basis. At the most recent meeting in November they considered the regional approach to the National Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme and also the operational performance on the existing regional collaborations.

## **National Update**

### **APCC Conference**

The Commissioner attended the annual APCC Conference in November. Speeches from the Home Secretary and Home Office Ministers confirmed protecting vulnerable people and strengthening the response to vulnerable victims as the focus going forward. There was a strong emphasis on opportunities through Bluelight collaboration, in particular the PCC role in working with Fire Authorities. Progress in relation to changes in the police complaints system was outlined, highlighting success in the triage system operating in Northumbria in reducing complaints by 60%. Presentations were also given in relation to the Lammy Review of the Criminal Justice System, focusing on the disproportionate treatment of black men through the criminal justice system and at all stages. This issue will be taken forward as part of the proposed local Criminal Justice Service Transformation project.

### **APCC National Roles**

The Commissioner has been nominated to serve as Deputy lead on the APCC Criminal Justice Standing Group Efficiency Strand. This role will complement delivery of the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Transformation Project and provide an opportunity to influence national policy development including the future role of the PCC in criminal justice (as described below). The Commissioner has also been nominated to serve on the following Boards:

- Workforce & Equalities, Diversity and Human Rights
- Criminal Justice Service & Victims
- Finance & Reorganisation
- Undercover Oversight Group

### **Future role of the PCC in Criminal Justice**

The APCC convened a meeting of PCC and OPCC criminal justice leads to discuss the future role of PCCs in criminal justice following initial work by the MoJ and NCJB earlier in the year. The purpose of the meeting was to identify current activity underway to discharge the PCC duty to ensure an efficient and effective criminal justice system, and to test the appetite for the future development of the role. Issues discussed included current levels of engagement with Local Criminal Justice Boards and partnership arrangements; the role of PCCs in developing the link between criminal justice partnership working and health and wellbeing; PCC commissioning roles and oversight of commissioned services; 'devolution' models in development in Greater Manchester; and to test the appetite for the future scope of the role. Issues discussed will be taken forward by the APCC Standing Group on Criminal Justice, in consultation with the MoJ and NCJB.

### **Police Funding Formula Consultation**

As Members will recall, the Home Office has written to PCCs to advise that consultation will open in February in relation to the police funding formula with a view to announcing a new formula for the 2018/19 financial year. Members will be aware that the current funding formula is widely regarded as no longer fit for purpose. The effect of 'damping' has a disproportionate effect on Avon and Somerset resulting in a shortfall of £14m per year, which would secure a further 350 officers, PCSOs and staff for the area. The Commissioner met with the Minister for Policing and Fire, and together with the Chief Constable held a briefing for MPs on 29 November. The continued support of Board Members would be welcome in making the case for fairer funding for Avon and Somerset, taking into account changing demand and an increase in complex cases involving vulnerable victims.

### **Contact Officer**

John Smith, Chief Executive

[Johnr.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Johnr.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)