

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

11 March 2015

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

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

Victims Commissioning

Lighthouse Victim Care:

New referral figures for January 2015 are as follows:

Crimes	# Month	% Force	Incidents	# Month	% Force	C&I	# Month	% Force
		2421		42.0%			1967	81.8%
	Year To Date (YTD)			YTD			YTD	
	9114	38.4%		7332	77.0%		16446	49.4%

Commissioned Services:

Preparatory work continues before commissioned support services commence on 1 April 2015, following the announcement of successful providers in January. A partner's event was held on 13th February for new providers to introduce their services, and participate in discussions to contribute to development of the Outcomes Framework and victim care pathways, and discuss future development of services. The afternoon session featured a networking opportunity with market stalls including both newly commissioned services and other local service providers.

Successful providers are as follows:

- Lighthouse – provided by Avon and Somerset Police
- Emotional Support Service – provided by Victim Support
- Adults Advocacy Service – provided by The Care Forum, with collaborative partners of Support Empower Advocate and Promote (SEAP) and Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)
- Young Persons' Advocacy Service – provided by North Somerset Youth Offending Team
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors – provided by SafeLink
- Modern Slavery Support Service – provided by Unseen UK

Restorative Justice:

Work continues to deliver the Avon and Somerset Restorative Justice Implementation Plan, in response to recommendations of scoping work carried out in Summer 2014. There has been significant interest in the approach taken by Avon and Somerset. The approach was highlighted at the Ministry of Justice Restorative Justice Conference on 18 February, which included a workshop run by Avon and Somerset representatives that was well received.

Restorative Justice Coordinators are now in post, working alongside Lighthouse Victim Care teams to assess risk and suitability and refer victims on to appropriate restorative justice facilitators.

As reported to the last meeting, the Commissioner has committed Ministry of Justice funding for the Somerset Community Justice Partnership and Bristol Neighbourhood Justice Panel, with new service specifications agreed to support delivery of the Restorative Justice Implementation Plan. An Invitation to Bid has been issued for the development of a Neighbourhood Restorative Justice service covering Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The deadline for bids closed on 6 March 2015.

CSE Innovation Fund Bid

Members will recall that the Commissioners in Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire have worked with Constabulary and Local Authority partners to submit a bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund to provide consistent and robust arrangements to identify and support victims of child sexual exploitation. The outcome of the bid is expected in early March and preparations are ongoing in consultation with partners.

Partnership and Commissioning Update

Community Safety Partnerships will be considering funding decisions for 2015/16 allocation of the Commissioner's Community Safety Grant at Board meetings over the coming weeks. Members will be aware that local decision making represents a change from the process applied in previous years, whereby CSPs submitted their preferred bids to the Commissioner for decision. The OPCC continues to work closely with both CSP Managers and Partnerships as part of the local allocation process and to agree outcomes and performance oversight arrangements for successful projects.

Mental Health Concordat

Following the signing of the local Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Declarations in December the OPCC is working closely with partner organisations to finalise and sign off the supporting action plans to achieve the ambitions of the Declarations. The action plans need to be submitted to the Department of Health before the end of March 2015.

Road Safety Update

On February 11, 2015 speed cameras across Avon and Somerset began to be turned back on. Starting with the static camera on the A4 at Saltford, a total of 29 cameras will become operational again for the first time since 2011.

The Constabulary bought six cameras for £1 each from Somerset County Council and 11 from South Gloucestershire Council. Two are owned by Bath & North East Somerset Council, one by North Somerset Council and nine remain the property of Bristol City Council.

Revenue from the cameras will be used in part to fund the camera's maintenance to ensure that their reactivation is cost-neutral for the Constabulary.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Avon and Somerset Constabulary has been praised by the Home Office for preparatory work and progress in embedding of the new tools and powers arising from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act of last year. The Force has been asked by the Home Office to chair an event in London in April to assist those areas struggling to get the tools and powers off the ground. Work continues to take forward new tools and powers (in particular the Community Remedy and other aspects of partnership working), and positive progress has been made. The Community Trigger will be formally launched on 27 April, showcasing several successfully resolved cases and highlighting lessons learnt so far. Dispersals have been working particularly well with several successful cases, most notably the closing of a 'Legal High' shop in Taunton. A meeting will take place with partners on 12 March for partners to develop the delivery plan for the coming year. The Commissioner intends to host an ASB Scrutiny event in October, similar to the Domestic Abuse event held late last year.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme has continued to provide independent oversight through the move to new police centres at Bridgwater, Keynsham and Patchway. A recruitment process has increased volunteers to 16 visitors for each of the three new centres, and 8 at Yeovil. Visits take place once every five days, lasting 75 minutes. The OPCC is currently working on moving to an electronic reporting system to replace the paper report forms currently used. This method will be more efficient and cost effective; saving time, postage and paper. Currently the West Midlands is the only area to use an electronic reporting method so their system was used as a template to create a bespoke system for Avon and Somerset ICVs. The report form is currently being finalised and it is hoped that the electronic version will be ready to roll out in April. Avon and Somerset is working with Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire to move towards a standardised Regional ICV scheme. A working group has been set up of ICVs from across the region, looking into how the scheme is currently being run in their area and to identify best practice moving forward. This is an exciting development as the group will be the first regional ICV scheme amongst ICVA (the national Independent Custody Visiting Association) members.

Commissioner's Community Action Fund

Awards have been made for funding from the Commissioners Community Action Fund for the final quarter of this financial year. Successful projects include a community transport scheme in Somerset for victims of domestic abuse to travel to court, a music outreach project for young people at risk of exclusion from school in Bath & North East Somerset, and a youth café in Bristol, run by young people with the aim to increase skills and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. A full list of projects funded during 2014/15 can be found at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Projects-supported-by-the-Fund.aspx>

Outcomes of Recent Events:

Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel (11/2/15)

Representatives from MOPAC and the Met attended the meeting to observe the Avon and Somerset Panel in operation. A reciprocal visit is being arranged. The Panel Report, looking at the theme of Business Crime, together with the Constabulary response have been

published at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Avon-and-Somerset-Out-of-Court-Disposal-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

National Updates

Pre-Election Period and Future Police Governance

Ahead of the local and national elections, the OPCC in liaison with APACE is planning for the pre-election period and considering how this might affect OPCC activity during this time. In addition, early consideration is being given to the steps required for the possible scenarios following the formation of a new government, namely:

- Planning for a 2016 PCC election
- Planning for a new model of police governance

CPS Consultation

The Commissioner has responded to consultation by the Crown Prosecution Service on guidance setting out the role of prosecutors in assisting witnesses to know what to expect before coming to court, feel prepared and able to give their best evidence. Improving the experience of victims at court is an issue that the Commissioner continues to pursue through her role on the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board, and commissioned services, as part of her priority to put victims at the heart of the criminal justice service.

Key Dates

March 12 th	BANES Out and About Day
March 19 th	South Gloucestershire Out and About Day
March 24 th	Bristol Out and About Day
April 1 st	Sedgemoor Out and About Day
April 14 th	North Somerset Out and About Day
May 27 th	West Somerset Out and About Day
June 2 nd	BANES Out and About Day
June 3 rd	West Somerset Public Forum
June 11 th	Bristol Out and About Day
June 16 th	South Gloucestershire Out and About Day
June 23 rd	North Somerset Out and About Day
July 1 st	Sedgemoor Out and About Day

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
11TH MARCH 2015**

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN REFRESH 2015-17

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 In March 2013, the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner issued her statutory Police and Crime Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The plan set out the Commissioner's strategic priorities of:-

- Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour;
- Tackling domestic and sexual abuse, particularly towards women and children;
- Preventing and reducing burglary and fear of burglary; and
- Putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system.

1.2 In 2014-15, the Commissioner launched nine supplementary non-statutory plans covering each of the district and unitary authority areas within Avon and Somerset. These aimed to communicate the Commissioner's priorities to local residents, provide details of key activity in each area and inform residents on how they can get involved in delivering the plan.

1.3 The statutory Avon and Somerset plan and local authority level plans are revised on an annual basis to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date and take account of the changing social, economic and organisational environment. The plans are informed, in particular, by issues highlighted via the multi-agency Police and Crime Needs Assessment¹ and public and partner consultation.

1.4 The updated plans cover the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2017 and include an additional strategic priority to improve road safety for all road users. Progress in delivering the Police and Crime Plan is formally reported as part of the Commissioner's Annual Report in May each year.

2. PROCESS

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires that the Police and Crime Plan, and any subsequent update of the plan sets out for the Commissioner's remaining period in office² the:-

- policing of the police area which the chief officer of police is to provide;

¹ <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Needs-Assessment.aspx>

² Up to the point at which the following statutory Police and Crime Plan must be issued by (in this case 31st March 2017).

- financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the chief officer of police;
 - means by which the chief officer of police will report to the Commissioner on the chief officer's provision of policing;
 - means by which the chief officer of police's performance in providing policing will be measured; and
 - crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make and the conditions (if any) of those grants.
- 2.2 The plan has been developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, as required by the Act. This included dedicated review meetings to oversee development of the Plan and jointly develop the performance framework that will support it. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has also worked closely with Constabulary priority leads and key departments such as Strategic Service Improvement in developing the revised plan.
- 2.3 The plan has been informed by extensive public consultation, primarily via the Commissioner's Police and Crime Survey and local engagement activity and events. Key areas of consultation have included attitudes and preferences with regard to the policing precept and public priorities for policing in Avon and Somerset. The latter, in particular, has led to the inclusion of road safety as an additional priority as part of the 2015-17 Plan.
- 2.4 A wide range of partner organisations have been consulted on the draft Avon and Somerset and Local Authority level plans, including local authority, community safety and youth offending team partners, the Criminal Justice Board, Fire and Rescue services, Health and Wellbeing Boards, NHS and CCG Commissioners, Voluntary and Community sector umbrella organisations, children's Trusts and adult and children's safeguarding services.
- 2.5 The Police and Crime Panel, who are statutorily required to provide feedback on the Avon and Somerset plan, were also consulted during February and March 2015 before formally reviewing the draft plan on 11th March 2015.

3. KEY CHANGES AS PART OF THE 2015-17 PLAN REFRESH

- 3.1 The 2015-17 Police and Crime Plan introduces **Road Safety** as a police and crime priority for 2015-17 in response to a high degree of public concern and increases in risk of harm identified during 2014. The Police and Crime Survey identifies speeding and road safety amongst the issues residents would most like the police to prioritise – second only to increased police visibility and reassurance policing. The Police and Crime Needs Assessment also highlighted a 5% increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Avon and Somerset's roads since 2011, which compared to a 6% reduction nationally.
- 3.2 The revised plan introduces a **broader performance framework** that strengthens the focus on quality of service and wider aspects of the plan such as 'connecting the police

with local people', being 'open, transparent and accountable' and 'delivering greater value for money'. The performance framework has also been strengthened by the introduction of the annual HMIC PEEL assessment in 2014, which provides a more holistic and independent source of assurance on how well the Constabulary is tackling crime and ASB, protecting vulnerable people and delivering an efficient, fair and legitimate service. Despite these changes, the original suite of indicators set as part of the original plan in 2013 have been retained³ along with the ambition to become a top performing force across all priority areas by 2017.

- 3.3 Priority sections and objectives have been updated to reflect **new commissioning arrangements**, most notably with regard to victim services, restorative justice and the development of a framework to support victims and witnesses in coping and recovering from the impact of crime and ASB.
- 3.4 The plan includes the introduction of a **vision for the future of policing** in Avon and Somerset which will see better integrated and co-ordinated local services and greater collaboration – particularly with Wiltshire police in building upon the strategic alliance announced in 2015.
- 3.5 Details relating to **grants and commissioning** arrangements for 2015/16 and the **financial position** for the remaining period of the Comprehensive Spending Review have been updated to reflect the current profile. Progress in closing the organisation's funding deficit has also been included as part of the monitoring framework which supports the plan.
- 3.6 **Local Authority level Police and Crime Plans** have been fully updated in collaboration with the Constabulary, local authorities and community safety partners to reflect changes the changes set out above and progress in delivering the Police and Crime Plan.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Police and Crime Plans set a framework for the delivery of police and crime services and funding allocations between 2015 and 2017. The statutory plan includes details of the PCC's commitment to equality and diversity, including the commitment to monitoring the Constabulary Equality and Diversity Objectives.
- 4.2 Accessibility for all sectors of our communities is critical to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and consideration has been given to channels of communication which are tailored to different needs throughout the consultation and drafting process. The documents are available in 'easy read' format and can be made available on request in audio, Braille, large font formats or translated into other languages. Provision has been made to deal with such requests

³ Note: Police 'detection' indicators for burglary and serious sexual offences have been updated to reflect changes in the Home Office Crime Outcomes framework in 2014 and are now captured within the category of 'investigations fully resolved'.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to note the revised Police and Crime Plan for 2015-17.
- 5.2 The Panel is asked to note the responses to consultation on the revised plan which will be made available to the Panel following the feedback deadline of 10th March 2015.
- 5.3 The Panel is invited to make final recommendations on the draft Police and Crime Plan and ratify the Plan subject to those recommendations.

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