

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

13 DECEMBER 2017

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 24 October 2017.

Police and Crime Plan Update

As reported at the last meeting, the OPCC and the Constabulary have agreed that there should be a minor update of the existing 2016-21 Plan to be published in January 2018. This will be followed by a more thorough refresh in time for publishing at the start of the 2019/20 financial year. The light refresh will include referencing key findings of the Constabulary's Strategic Threat Assessment (2017) and implications for resourcing, as well as update the position on Collaborations. The draft addendum will be presented to Members for consideration at this meeting under a separate agenda item.

Commissioning and Partnership Working

A&S Criminal Justice Transformation Project

As Panel Members will recall, the Commissioner was awarded Home Office Police Transformation 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. Funding has been secured from criminal justice partners, match-funded by the Commissioner for the appointment of a Senior Responsible Officer for a two-year period to lead and deliver a programme of work to take forward recommendations of the review and associated work to transform the local criminal justice service. Following a recruitment process, the successful candidate will take up post in the new year. The Criminal Justice Transformation Project Steering Group has agreed an implementation plan and priorities, setting out the initial focus of work for the SRO upon appointment. The scope goes beyond recommendations of the review report to focus on multi-agency issues with potential to make the biggest impact, maximise emerging opportunities, and in recognition that a number of recommendations have been superseded. Reviewing recommendations of the Lammy Review on disproportionality in the criminal justice system has been identified as an early priority for the SRO.

Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board

Members will recall that Behavioural Insights were commissioned to undertake an offender recall piece of work to build a picture of recalls to custody in Avon and Somerset and to identify recommendations to ensure that when an offender is recalled to custody, this is managed in a way that supports rehabilitation and desistance from crime and minimises harm. Behavioural Insights presented their final report to the Reducing Reoffending Board on 9 October. It was agreed that a small group – a Reducing Reoffending Integrated Commissioning group – that has been meeting over recent months to steer this work, will come together again to consider and begin to implement the recommendations.

The OPCC has also recently been approached by Crest Advisory (a consultancy working with a small number of PCCs across the country) to develop options for local flexibility to strengthen delivery of criminal justice services. The work will focus on current arrangements in relation to low-level probation, including oversight of the CRC contract and broader offender management services and co-commissioning of offender management services. Crest will be working closely with a range of criminal justice agencies and aim to have their report complete by the end of November.

Work continues between the Constabulary, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company to review, refresh and reinvigorate the approach to Integrated Offender Management. Similarly significant work has been undertaken to finalise a Reducing Reoffending Strategy and performance framework. Crest will be assisting with the performance framework element of the work.

Following the last meeting of the Board the OPCC (in the capacity as chair of the Board) wrote to all partners to set out and reaffirm key workstreams and to request that partners consider resources available to support these, as this is posing a significant challenge. A number of Community Safety Partnerships have also tabled Reducing Reoffending at recent meetings – primarily to discuss the strategy and how local work will support the Avon and Somerset wide approach.

Victim Services Recommissioning

The initial suite of victim services commissioned by the OPCC when responsibility was devolved from the Ministry of Justice in 2013 are now in their final year of three year contracts. The OPCC has invoked the clause to extend the services for an additional year (2018/19) and work has now commenced to recommission these services. The first key piece of work in this process is to commission and deliver a needs assessment – bids have come in and are in the process of being evaluated. A Victims Recommissioning Board has also been established and it has been agreed that the panel link member for vulnerability will sit on this Board.

Joint Commissioning Work

SARC Services

Bids are currently being evaluated for the provision of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across the South West. NHS England is the lead commissioner working with local OPCCs. Members will recall that this stage has come after an engagement process and will see enhanced services across the region. The Panel will be updated in the new year on the decision following the standard processes to award the contract. The new service will commence in October 2018 allowing a 6 month mobilisation period.

Custody and Courts Referral Service Consultation

The formal procurement process for the Custody and Courts Referral is now in the final evaluation stage. This new service sees the OPCC working with NHS England to jointly commission a single integrated referral service covering police custody, courts and voluntary attendances across Avon and Somerset. The successful provider of this service is due to be

announced in December with mobilisation due to start on January ready for service launch on 1st April 2018.

Mental Health

Members will recall that Partners across the Avon and Wiltshire area 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. The involvement of Alexander Group has now come to an end with health partners taking on programme management and strategic governance. The first revised governance group chaired by Julia Ross of BNSSG CCGs took place on 20th November where it was agreed that implementation should be complete by 1st April 2018.

Child Sexual Exploitation

On 30 October, the OPCC hosted a film screening at the Watershed in Bristol to showcase three films which have been produced by young people receiving support from the Barnardo's BASE service. The films are of three spoken word performances, using poets to deliver the words and expressions of the young people as survivors of sexual abuse, through the viewpoint of the older self, giving strength to the younger self. Young people led all stages of the project, from recruiting the production company, identifying poets, supporting filming and organising the launch event. Board Members can view the films at the following link: www.youtube.com/AvonandSomersetPCC

Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF)

The Police Community Trust met at the end of October to allocate grants for Quarter 3 of 2017/18. A total of **£41,127** was awarded to 18 of the 23 applicants to the Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF). The Trust will meet to make their decisions for Q4 applications in late January 2018. The timetable for the remaining deadlines and decisions dates for this financial year is set out below:

Application Deadline	Decision Date
1 December '17	End of January '18

Governance, Scrutiny and Inspections

HMICFRS Inspections

The 2017 PEEL Effectiveness Inspection 'hot debrief' took place at the end of November and the findings will be known in February 2018. The PEEL Efficiency inspection report was published in November with the Constabulary graded as 'good'. The report answers how well the force understands demand, uses its resources and plans for the future. The Constabulary was found to have an 'outstanding' understanding of demand and was rated as 'good' for use of resources and planning. Thematic reports were recently released on modern slavery and domestic abuse, and the PEEL Legitimacy Inspection report is expected to be published in the coming weeks. The completion of all recommendations made within inspection reports is monitored within the Police and Crime App, and scrutinised at the Joint Audit Committee, and the Constabulary have a well-established working group, overseen by the Deputy Chief Constable to ensure actions are progressed.

Service Delivery Assurance – Vulnerability

Work is ongoing by the OPCC team have been designing a service delivery assurance process to provide assurance on behalf of local people that necessary lessons have been learnt from the troubling and tragic case of Bijan Ebrahimi, and that processes that the Constabulary and partners have in place in relation to understanding, preventing and protecting our most vulnerable local residents have been put in place.

A multi-agency enquiry day will be held in March 2018. The purpose of this will be to hear from key agencies including Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Bristol City Council and Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI) about the individual lessons which have been learnt from Bijan Ebrahimi's case, but also crucially to understand how the agencies now work together to share information, carry out early intervention and to protect vulnerable residents within Bristol. Other activity to inform the design of the enquiry day will be carried out – looking at force-wide process and practices, and all will inform a report to be published subsequently.

Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

The third Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel meeting will take place on 19 December 2017, this time at Patchway Police Centre, with the newly elected Chair and two Vice Chairs appointed and having planned the agenda and meeting format. Cases are randomly selected during each meeting and at the beginning of the next meeting there will be a Constabulary update on use of police powers, use of force, and Stop and Search statistics, including the new publication of data. Panel members review Body Worn Video (BWV) camera footage of incidents of Stop and Search within the 3 categories of under 16s, BME and removal of more than a Jacket, outer garment or gloves, noting whether or not the Grounds for the Stop and Search were appropriate as well as the Officer handling of the situation. Stop and Search grounds are also reviewed for the appropriateness of encounters where there is no BWV footage. Panel members will be given statistics for 3 months from 1 September to 30 November 2017 for Taser use, stop and searches. Spit guard use will be a review item for the future meeting agenda in 2018. The Panel's reports are published on the PCC's website at:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Scrutiny/Scrutiny-of-the-use-of-Police-Powers.aspx>

Independent Residents' Panel

The Independent Residents' Panel (IRP) scrutinised completed cases of complaints - made by members of the public against Avon and Somerset Police - at their meeting on 7 December 2017. The themes selected by the Panel were complaint allegations under the IPCC category of 'Other neglect or failure in duty' (the largest number of complaint allegations for Avon and Somerset Constabulary, 458 allegations this financial year, 1 April to 30 September 2017) and 'Other irregularity in procedure' (23 from 1 April to 30 September 2017). Also, particular attention was given during the complaint case reviews to ensuring that the Complaints Investigation Officer updated the complainant at least every 28 days. Also, as standard practice, a selection of complaints are reviewed that have been resolved by the 'informal/early resolution' method. During October 2017 the total number of successfully completed informally resolved complaints was 32. There were also 74 formally recorded complaints. The Panel's reports are published on the PCC's website at:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Scrutiny/Independent-Residents-Panel.aspx> .

Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel

The Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel will meet on 6 December to scrutinise cases involving drug misuse. 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>

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Recruitment is currently taking place across all 3 custody unit panels (Keynsham, Bridgwater and Patchway). The support of Panel Members in promoting current and future volunteering opportunities would be welcome. The closing date for this round of recruitment is Friday 1st December 2017 with the induction training taking place in late January 2018. Further information about the scheme can be found at the following link: <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/Custody-Visiting.aspx>

Regional Update

The Regional PCCs and Chief Constables have agreed to develop proposals for increased regional collaboration for Specialist Capability policing such as Major Crime, Serious Organised Crime and Specialist Operations. A proposal for a more integrated regional employment and business model is also being developed. This proposal will be discussed at a meeting later this month and is supported by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

National Update

The Commissioner was asked to give evidence in relation to Police Funding at the Home Affairs Select Committee on 14 November and described the issues set out in the Tipping Point paper especially around the challenges of increased costs and increased pressures on partners. The PCC and the Chief Constable also met with the Policing Minister and with local Members of Parliament to discuss funding and other issues.

The Constabulary has secured £3.2m funding from the Home Office to carry out a multi-agency data analytics project in Avon and Somerset. The Chief Fire Officer for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has been seconded as the Programme Director.

The OPCC was notified in mid-September of the success of its bid to provide early legal, financial, HR and other technical advice to support Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to consider options for joint working between Police and Fire under the powers of the Police and Crime Act 2017 and inform possible future business case development. A contract is in the process of being awarded and the OPCC will commence work with the contractors imminently. The final report will be published before the end of the current financial year.

Through this work the OPCC is liaising with a number of other OPCCs and the Home Office. The Home Secretary has now approved the Essex PCC's business case to become the country's first Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. A number of other PCCs are progressing business cases to take on governance of their local Fire and Rescue Services.

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