

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

1 FEBRUARY 2018

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 13 December 2017.

Commissioning and Partnership Working

A&S Criminal Justice Transformation Project

As Panel Members will recall, partner funding has been secured, 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 transform the local criminal justice service. The successful candidate took up post in January and will present an implementation plan and proposals for work to trial changes in ways of working to the Steering Group meeting in early February. Coordinating the local response to recommendations of the Lammy Review on disproportionality in the criminal justice system and findings of the government's Race Disparity Audit is an early priority, including contributing to work by the Bristol Manifest for Race Equality on this issue.

Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Board

The Reducing Reoffending Board met on 24 January to consider findings of a review carried out by Crest Advisory on current arrangements for offender management in Avon and Somerset and options for future local flexibility to strengthen delivery in the future. The Board will also consider proposals for future governance and support arrangements following the first year of operation. The OPCC has been successful in securing resources through a 6 month secondment from the Civil Service Faststream Scheme to coordinate and support development of the Reducing Reoffending agenda in the coming year. Following the request for partners to consider resources available to support delivery, partners have come forward to lead workstreams established to deliver priorities set out in the strategy. A report on progress in relation to Reducing Reoffending, including an update on work carried out by the Behavioural Insights Team on recall to custody will be brought to the Panel in March.

Victim Services Recommissioning

Preparatory work continues to commence recommissioning of local victim services. As Members will recall, current services were commissioned by the OPCC when responsibility was devolved from the Ministry of Justice in 2013. The OPCC has invoked the clause to extend services for an additional year (2018/19). A Victims Recommissioning Board has been established, with membership including the PCP Link Member for Vulnerability. A Commissioning Support Officer has been appointed on a fixed term contract to support this area of work, and will take up post at the end of January. The first key piece of work in this process is to commission and deliver a needs assessment – work is well underway with the final report due in February.

Joint Commissioning Work

SARC Services

The Evaluation and Moderation phase of the procurement will shortly reach its conclusion with successful providers due to be announced in February 2018. The new service will commence in October 2018 allowing a six month mobilisation period.

Custody and Courts Referral Service

Following a commissioning process, the successful provider of the Custody and Courts Referral service will be announced. The OPCC and NHS England will be working with the successful provider as part of the mobilisation period. The new service, which sees existing Liaison and Diversion and AIRS services come together into a single integrated service is due to launch on 1st April.

Commissioner's Community Action Fund (CCAF)

The Police Community Trust will meet at the end of January to allocate grants for Quarter 4 of the 2017/18 round of the Commissioner's Community Action Fund. Further information about how to apply and details of projects supported by the fund can be found at the following link:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Partnerships/Commissioners-Community-Action-Fund.aspx>

Governance, Scrutiny and Inspections

HMICFRS Inspections

The PEEL Legitimacy Inspection report was published on 12 December. The Constabulary was graded 'good' overall and improved in two areas: receiving an 'outstanding' rating for the fairness and respectful way it treats the people it serves (previously 'good') and judged as 'good' at treating its workforce with fairness and respect (previously 'requires improvement').

The Commissioner has published responses to the PEEL Efficiency inspection report (where the Constabulary was graded as 'good') and to recently published thematic responses on modern slavery and domestic abuse. The 2017 PEEL Effectiveness Inspection 'hot debrief' took place at the end of November and the findings will be known in February 2018.

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

The OPCC team have been carrying out assurance activity aligned to the Plan's primary priority of 'Protect the most vulnerable from harm'. This has involved carrying out an audit on information held on policing systems in relation to individuals who have reported they are persistently targeted victims of anti-social behaviour, commissioning related internal

assurance work for reports to come to the Police and Crime Board, understanding the design principles of the newly developed victim management App, observing Local Tasking Meetings, and organising a multi-agency enquiry day.

The enquiry day will be held on 9 March 2018. A panel comprising the Commissioner, the Bristol Mayor and a member of the Board of Trustees for SARI will 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 the tragic and troubling case of Mr Bijan Ebrahimi, and to understand how the agencies now work together to share information, carry out early intervention and to protect vulnerable residents within Bristol.

Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

The third Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel meeting took place on 19 December 2017, 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 considered 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 met on 6 December to scrutinise cases involving drug misuse. The theme was selected in recognition of the impact of alcohol harm and drug

misuse on society and as a 'driver of demand' for the emergency services. In preparation for the meeting, Panel Members were invited to view the BBC documentary, *Drugsland*. The series was filmed in Bristol and follows police, council and drug support agencies working to tackle drug misuse and highlights the complex underlying issues, challenges in policing and the impact on local communities. The series features the work of the Drugs Education Programme, offered as a diversion for first-time offenders caught in possession of drugs. A total of 22 cases were scrutinised. The Panel found that 6 were appropriate, 9 appropriate with observations and 7 inappropriate. 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>

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 Panel will recall that 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. Progress will continue to be reported to the Panel.

As Panel Members will recall, the Commissioner has secured Home Office funding 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. Contractors have now been appointed and a final report will be published before the end of the current financial year.

The OPCC continues to liaise with a number of other OPCCs and the Home Office in relation to governance of local Fire and Rescue Services. In addition the OPCC has responded to consultation on Home Office regulations with respect to PCC representation on Fire Authorities.

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