

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

5 FEBRUARY 2019

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 13 December 2018.

Governance and Scrutiny

Police and Crime Needs Assessment and Plan Refresh

No new information relevant to refreshing the Police and Crime Needs Assessment was received by the 14 December deadline. This is attributed to it being a new process and the workshop planned for 22 March should help to gather momentum for the assessment remaining a relevant strategic document rather than having degrading relevance as time passes.

Development continues to refresh the Police and Crime Plan (to run 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021). The priorities and objectives have been agreed in draft form and work is underway to evaluate the fit with the Constabulary's delivery plan and assurance framework and to consider relevant partnership contributions and linked KPIs.

Once the objectives and performance framework are agreed upon in draft, narrative will be shaped. The Panel have reviewed the draft objectives at their development day and the Joint Audit Committee members have had a similar opportunity (challenging the set objectives and offering thoughts on the assurance framework that should underpin them).

Performance is published quarterly on the OPCC website:

<https://www.avonandsomersetplan.co.uk/performance/>

Police and Crime Board

Agendas and minutes of the Police and Crime Board are published at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Reports-and-meetings/Police-and-Crime-Board.aspx>

Key Decisions

No new decisions have been made since the last meeting. Decision notices and accompanying documents are published at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Decisions.aspx>

In order to strengthen the approach to pre-decision scrutiny, a draft Forward Plan is attached at Annex A.

Independent Residents' Panel

The Independent Residents' Panel (IRP) scrutinise completed cases of complaints - made by members of the public against Avon and Somerset Police – and their last meeting took place on 13 December 2018. This session reviewed specific complaints within the theme of complaint allegations in the category 'incivility, impoliteness and intolerance' (Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) category U). Also, locally appealed complaints were reviewed as well as the standing item of reviewing informally resolved (referred to as 'early intervention') complaints. This complaint case review was in advance of the Panel Chair's Annual report in December 2018 which was discussed at the Panel meeting.

During November 2018 the total number of successfully completed informally resolved (logged, early intervention) complaints was 46 (compared to 56 in November 2017). There were also 76 formally recorded complaints (compared to 73 in October 2017).

The total number of complaints recorded from 1 April 2018 to 30 November 2018 are 588. This compares to 606 during the same time period in 2017.

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 5 December to consider cases involving stalking and harassment. The Panel scrutinised 24 cases: 3 were found to be appropriate, 8 appropriate with observations and 12 considered to be inappropriate. The Panel did not reach consensus in one case. The next meeting will scrutinise youth cases on the theme of knife crime and adult cases on the theme of hate crime. Panel reports, together with the Constabulary response to recommendations are published at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/Scrutiny/Out-of-Court-Disposal-Scrutiny-Panel.aspx>

The Panel continues to support the Constabulary in implementation of the new two-tier framework for Out of Court Disposals, simplifying the previous range of disposals to use only Community Resolutions and Conditional Cautions. ASCEND (Avon and Somerset Constabulary; Engage, Navigate, Divert) went live on 5 November for a two-year pilot which has seen the introduction of 6 new staff roles to assess needs and work with offenders who are in receipt of an OOC (disposal options for low level offending). Since the launch, 268 appointments have been held with ASCEND workers; 314 conditions have been set; 66 cases have been referred to the Victim Awareness Course; 56 cases have had a condition where the offender has had to write a letter of apology; 38 cases have had a condition to pay compensation, 38 to pay reparation and 15 to pay a fine; 51 cases have been referred to the drugs awareness intervention and 45 to the alcohol intervention. The top five offence types are: violence against the person (33.4%); drugs offences (20.3%); theft (15%); arson and criminal damage (13.5%); public order offences (13.5%).

Authorisation has been received from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to utilise conditional cautions with appropriate DA cases, enabling the introduction of an intervention specifically for this crime type in the New Year, using the Project CARA model developed in Hampshire. Work is ongoing to address the remaining gap in interventions in relation to hate crime, and securing dispensation from the DPP. Avon and Somerset, Hampshire and West Midlands are the first forces to be working collaboratively to take this forward.

Commissioning and Partnership Working

A&S Criminal Justice Transformation Programme

A new Senior Responsible Officer (Michael Flay) has been in post since 3rd December and has experience working within the local criminal justice system. Prior to his appointment, Michael attended the Steering Group meeting on 23rd November where partners discussed the state of the programme and the focus needed to deliver 'transformational' changes to the local criminal justice system over the remaining duration of the programme funding. One of many outcomes of these discussions was the proposal to hold a multi-agency planning day early in 2019.

The programme planning day was held on 8th January with excellent representation across the criminal justice agencies along with representatives of the Behavioural Insights Team. Led by Michael, the group discussed a range of topics from programme governance, the interdependent projects that exist within the programme and agreed in draft, the principle strategic objectives for the programme along with how these will be measured in respect of measurable benefits and ongoing sustainable performance. The group also reviewed the existing delivery plan actions with a view to updating on a number of outstanding activities in order for the SRO adequately review and refresh governance and reporting mechanisms associated to the delivery of the programme, which include improved formal reporting to the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) co-chaired by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

The work streams within the programme, referred to as individual projects with interdependencies are:

1. Listings and Hearings
2. File Quality and Case Building
3. Custody, Charging and Charging Decisions
4. Victim, Witness and public experience

Each project has an identified appropriate lead from each organisation responsible for ensuring delivery of their respective part of the overall delivery plan.

The programme feels reinvigorated, with partners working closer together and along with the new SRO there is real optimism that the programme can begin to lay the ground work for and begin to deliver transformational change in the local criminal justice system.

In addition, the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan provides an opportunity to incorporate the priorities for the Criminal Justice Transformation Programme into the strategic plan to guide the work of the Commissioner, Constabulary and local partners over the coming years.

Victims Governance

In line with the current review of criminal justice governance arrangements, a newly formed Victims Governance Sub-Group met for the first time on 7 December. The group is chaired

by the OPCC and brings together statutory partners with a role in delivering services for victims of crime with the aim to improve victims' experience of Criminal Justice Services (CJS) in Avon and Somerset. At the meeting the group agreed the terms of reference and then main areas of focus, as follows:

- a) Supporting the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan by improving victims' experience of criminal justice services;
- b) Supporting the Criminal Justice Transformation Project by ensuring it is informed by the views of victims;
- c) Developing monitoring arrangements to provide assurance with respect to compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP);
- d) Developing and applying mechanisms to capture victim feedback to improve the experience of victims in the CJS, such as:
 - o A single victim satisfaction survey;
 - o Multi-agency complaints handling/resolution/oversight; and
 - o Effective links with victim service providers / service user groups to receive feedback and address issues

Discussions at the first meeting included how to develop an agreed set of measures to ensure compliance with VCOP; current arrangements for gathering feedback from victims/service users and how this is currently utilised and; the role of the group in supporting the work of the criminal justice transformation project.

The group will report to the A&S Criminal Justice Board and agreed to meet on a bi-annual basis moving forwards.

Lammy Review

The Lammy Review Criminal Justice Sub-Group continues to meet to look at implementation of the Lammy Review in Avon and Somerset. Representatives include: the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company, Bristol Prison, the Crown Prosecution Service, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Local Magistracy, the Police and Crime Commissioner's office and the Bristol Race Equality Commission. It is currently chaired by the Local Criminal Justice Board Business Manager.

It has been agreed that the OPCC will lead a process to appoint an Independent Chair to Chair the Lammy Review Group going forward involving key local stakeholders on the appointment panel and this process commenced in January.

Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending – Resolve

Executive Board

The membership of the Executive Board remains dynamic and we continue to seek engagement from Local Authorities across the area as well as ensuring the voluntary and community sector is effectively represented. The Board is scheduled to meet every six weeks for 2019 in a range of venues across Avon and Somerset, hosted by many of the different partner agencies represented on the board. The Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending initiative has been branded '**Resolve**' to reflect the commitment from all partners to work together to find solutions which will strengthen the personal resilience of ex-offenders.

Workstreams

There are 7 active work streams currently running within Resolve, each led by a different partner agency but all requiring commitment and engagement from a range of stakeholders across the region:

- Accommodation: chaired by NPS. This work stream is currently seeking funding opportunities for offender accommodation provision, reflecting on the implementation of the duty to refer under the Homelessness Reduction Act and seeking to steer and engage with the Accommodation pilot currently being initiated at HMP Bristol using MoJ and Department for Housing and Communities funding.
- Employment: chaired by the DWP. This workstream is seeking to arrange a series of employer events seeking to engage employers from across the region and support them in their concerns or knowledge gaps when employing ex-offenders. This workstream is also working with HMP Bristol to improve employability skills for offenders before their release.
- Gender Responsive Pathway: chaired by PHE. This workstream continues to grow in scope and size as partners from across the South West engage with Crest Advisory in an attempt to improve the offer made to offenders released from HMP Eastwood Park. There is also a sub set of the workstream which was granted funding to work with the specific needs of transgender offenders in custody and a bid has been submitted to improve the release experience of women from HMP Eastwood Park.
- Domestic Abuse Pilot: chaired by the Constabulary. This workstream is piloting the Integrated Offender Management approach to domestic abuse perpetrators. Providing intensive management and oversight and seeking to identify a provider to give specific IDVA intervention for perpetrators to allow for evaluation of its efficacy.
- Start to Finish: chaired by North Somerset Council. This geographically specific pilot seeks to work with a cohort of North Somerset offenders who have been identified as having a range of complex needs which need sequencing and enhanced support in order to reduce their risk of reoffending.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences: chaired by Golden Key. This workstream has appointed a psychologist to lead a Psychologically-Informed approach to working with statutory agencies to improve awareness and skill sets of staff who are dealing with offenders who have suffered ACE in their past. The workstream is also seeking funding for a pilot to work with offenders in custody to give them skills and understanding to help their own children manage their experiences under the Children and families pathway.
- POSitive Recall: chaired by the OPCC, HMP Bristol and Golden Key. This workstream amalgamates two previous pieces of work looking at the systemic failures leading to an increased risk of recall for offenders on licence. Taking a whole-systems approach, service user experiences and action learning sets to seek systemic solutions as well as working closely with a cohort of offenders identified as being high risk of recall to improve the information sharing, release experience and consequential thinking mind-set to implement the solutions generated by the action learning sets.

Performance framework

The creation of a Reducing Reoffending dashboard is ongoing, seeking to combine a range of data from different agency sources to provide some business as usual data in addition to the headline Reducing Reoffending data and the workstream tracking information.

Resolutions Conference

On the 10th January 2019 the Resolve Reference Board was convened for its inaugural conference. The focus was on sharing updates and seeking input from a wider range of stakeholders- including a strong number of voluntary and community sector organisations from Avon and Somerset. The afternoon was a CLINKs-facilitated session to look for improved ways of partnering through the Resolve initiative to successfully bid for grants when they are made available. It was a positive event and will be repeated in the summer of 2019.

South West Regional Reducing Reoffending Board

During the design process within the MoJ of the new probation structures for England, there has been identified an opportunity to form a Regional Reducing Reoffending board, pulling together OPCCs and other stakeholders from across the South West region. This proposal was accepted by the 5 PCCs in December and the initial meeting is being arranged for early March.

Victim Services Recommissioning

Following the procurement process for the recommissioning of victim services and the formal standstill period, stakeholder communications of contract award will be made in January 2019 for the following services:

1. *A Practical and Emotional Support Service for adult victims of any crime or ASB*
2. *An Enhanced Adult Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB*
3. *A Children and Young People's Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB up to the age of 18 (or 25 where there are additional needs)*
4. *An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service*
5. *A Restorative Justice Service for victims of any crime or ASB*

There will be a period of mobilisation ahead of service commencement on the 1 April 2019.

Therapeutic Services - The OPCC continues to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across Avon and Somerset to recommission acute therapeutic services for victims of sexual assault. The service being commissioned is as follows:

This is a service for Avon and Somerset being commissioned by Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group as the lead commissioner and Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England (Health and Justice) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset as associate commissioners.

This is an all age service to support survivors of sexual assault and is available to all genders. The service provides therapeutic interventions and counselling to support acute victims of sexual assault and abuse (i.e. where the offence took place within the last 12 months).

The initial contract term will be for 3 years from 1st June 2019, with an optional extension of any period(s) up to a maximum of a further 1 year, as defined and at the discretion of the

commissioners. The financial envelope is £215,000 per annum. Funding is provided by NHS England (Health and Justice) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset. This procurement is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the commissioners.

Value of contract - £860k (over the life of the contract: 01 June 2019 – 31 May 2023)

Closing date - 28 January 2019

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/7dc78eaf-97cd-4e35-91df-fdfe11510bee>

The OPCC will be part of the evaluation of tenders ahead of contract award and commencement.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Transformation Fund

Avon and Somerset's VAWG Transformation Fund Project has been recognised in a national media briefing prepared by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. Members will recall that this service, funded for three years from 2017/18 aims to transform the way agencies support victims of sexual violence and abuse specifically with needs linked to their mental health or learning difficulties. Specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) support is provided by Safelink and Befriending support is delivered by Womankind. Now approaching its final year, the service is due to be evaluated.

Regional Updates

There are a number of ongoing projects being reviewed on a regional basis. This includes recent agreement to adopt a regional approach to prison intelligence and a review of the employment model for the existing South West Forensics project.

In relation to Tri Force, discussions with Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset continue to finalise the return of Firearms, Dogs and Roads police and staff to local Forces from April 2019.

National Updates

Probation Consultation

The PCC represents South West Regional PCCs on the national PCC Reference Group in relation to the future of probation. Work is ongoing to take a South West regional approach to dealing with the new probation arrangements. The Panel will continue to be kept updated on progress over the coming months.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy

The Home Secretary announced in September that the Government would consult on a legal duty to support a public health approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. This would underpin the multi-agency and public health approach to tackling violence crime.

The consultation is expected to be published in late January and PCCs have been asked to contribute to options for inclusion in the consultation, including a potential role for Community Safety Partnerships.

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