

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

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

**12 MARCH 2019**

The following briefing provides an update for Panel Members on key activities since the last Panel meeting on 5 February 2019.

#### **Governance and Scrutiny**

##### **Governance**

At the request of the PCP Chair, the Avon and Somerset PCC Governance, Decision Making and Scrutiny Policy, Avon and Somerset Policing Protocol and Terms of Reference with respect to PCC and Constabulary governance arrangements is attached at **Annex A**. This is the locally agreed version of the national Policing Protocol setting out roles and responsibilities with respect to police governance. This document is also available on the PCC website at the following link:

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/TERM-TWO/Policies-Procedures/2018-Governance-Scrutiny-Policy.pdf>

##### **Police and Crime Plan Refresh**

The final draft of a refreshed Police and Crime Plan (to run 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2021) has been prepared for the Panel to consider. The priorities are relatively unchanged from the previous Plan. The performance framework has been strengthened in terms of evaluating delivery of objectives and outcomes and also in better-reflecting partner contribution to Plan delivery.

There is a Plan and PCNA workshop planned for 22 March to update stakeholders on finalisation of the Plan and to begin the next iteration of the needs assessment.

Performance will continue to be published quarterly on the OPCC website:

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

with the first cut of measures against the refreshed Plan due for publication in July (reflecting April-June 2019 performance). Some measures remain unchanged from the previous Plan and therefore there will be some measures where trended information will still be shown.

##### **HMICFRS**

We have published a response to the Mental Health report ('Picking Up the Pieces') on our website.

The Constabulary are preparing their submission of Force Management Statements.

##### **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>

## **Performance**

In order to assist the Panel in development of their approach to performance scrutiny, discussions have taken place to agree the future approach to share regular performance information with Panel Members and thematic performance and assurance information through the new Link Member arrangements.

## **Key Decisions**

The following decisions have been made since the last meeting:

- Victim Services Recommissioning (6/2/2019)

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 B**. This will be developed with Panel officers in advance of the Annual Meeting.

## **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 next meeting is on 7 March 2019. This session is planned to review specific complaints from victims of rural crime and business crime and any repeat victims of crime, as well as cases with allegations in the category of 'Other neglect or failure in duty' (Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) category 'S'). As a standing item, the Panel also review complaints that have been informally resolved by the 'Early Intervention' timely process. During January 2019 the total number of successfully completed informally resolved (logged, early intervention) complaints was 38 (compared to 22 in January 2018). There were 75 formally recorded complaints (compared to 90 in January 2018). The total number of complaints recorded from 1 April 2018 to 31 January 2019 is 735. This compares to 767 during the same time period the previous financial year. The Panel's reports are published on the PCC's website at:

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

## **Scrutiny of the Use of Police Powers Panel**

The 7<sup>th</sup> quarterly Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel meeting took place on 27 November 2018 at Patchway Police Centre, with an HMICFRS inspector observing the Panel's work, as part of the PEEL Legitimacy inspection. The three sub-groups of members reviewed the high profile January 2017 Taser incident, which has been awaiting the Court hearing and Misconduct Hearing outcomes. Other Taser use, Stop and Search and Spit & Bite Guard use incidents were reviewed, during the time period of October to November 2018. Members reviewed the associated narrative from the Police 'Niche' record database as well as Body Worn Video (BWV) camera footage. During the meeting there was a Constabulary presentation on Mental Health from a Police perspective in handling incidents with members of the public and a Q&A session took place. The 'reading pack' circulated before the Panel meeting included the Lammy review monthly report (PCC's office); National Decision Making (NDM) model information; Quarterly bulletin for Stop & Search (July-Sep 2018); Mental Health and

Restraint: Article on Royal Assent of a new Law; Published article (3 parts) regarding Mental Health street triage and the Police service; the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) Learning the Lessons Bulletin – Nov 2018 – Stop and Search feature. On separate dates, two Panel members observed Officers' Taser training for the new 'X2' Taser (CED: Conducted Energy Device) and positive feedback summaries were circulated to Members. Once authorised, 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>

### **Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel**

The Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel will meet on 20 March to consider cases on the theme of domestic abuse in order to scrutinise the use of arrangements introduced in the new year which allow the use of Conditional Caution in domestic abuse cases where appropriate with referral to an intervention using the Project CARA model developed in Hampshire. Avon and Somerset is one of three Forces to have been granted dispensation by the Director for Public Prosecutions for the use of Conditional Cautions in relation to domestic abuse. The Scrutiny Panel has amended terms of reference to reflect their role in providing assurance around the use of the new Out of Court Disposals Framework.

### **Commissioning and Partnership Working**

#### **A&S Criminal Justice Transformation Programme**

The programme continues to strengthen its new approach under the incumbent SRO, and has been busy delivering a number of strands of work since the last update at February's panel.

The SRO has conducted a peer review of the police file quality plan during December 2018 and January 2019, reporting to Assistant Chief Constable Nikki Watson and John Smith, Chief Executive, OPCC on the findings in mid-February. The report highlights a number of areas for the constabulary to focus on including wider 'buy in' to the file quality improvements needed beyond the criminal justice department, some refining of the existing action plan and to give some consideration to the structure of how criminal justice department expertise is best aligned to support the operational policing teams.

While a number of programme activities classed as quick wins were completed in the last 12 months, the remaining activity is made up of transactional type actions across each agency and on the surface do not appear to be 'transformative' to the local criminal justice system. These transactional actions are however valid in their existence because there is common agreement among stakeholders that collectively we must improve how certain working practices and cultural issues continue to impact service delivery. It is the opinion of the SRO that these transactional activities will, if *all* of them are completed and the outputs of which deliver new capabilities, through the aggregation of marginal gains across the local criminal justice system *may* bring about a degree of transformation. Furthermore the achievement of some transactional change will provide a solid foundation for overlaying these achievements with further truly 'transformative' approaches which are being developed

Our first programme board under the new programme governance will review the status of each project but also be used as a forum to cultivate some initial ideas for further, truly transformation strands of work which can be aligned within each existing project.

On the horizon in the spring is the evaluation of the pilot activity for the Postal Requisition front sheets aimed to improving the Failure to Appear rate and testing of some of the behavioural science techniques identified through the work of the Behavioural Insight Team. This work is aligned to one of the programme projects and the evaluation will be undertaken by the police criminal justice department and finding shared with partners.

There is a strong relationship being fostered between the SRO and key partners, with a number of 1:1 stakeholder meetings being held and the SRO himself being actively mobile and working from partner locations across the area on a frequent basis.

Overall, based on the current path and assessment of all activity underway, the programme is on track to deliver the actions within its delivery plan but the SRO is being ambitious in wanting to go further and truly develop some sustainable transformative approaches that will improve the service for victims in the future.

#### Victims Governance

As Members will recall, a Victims Governance Sub-Group has been established. 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 in Avon and Somerset. The group reports to the A&S Criminal Justice Board. The group met for the second time on 7 February. The group considered a draft framework to monitor compliance with the Victims Code of Practice, development of the workplan and horizon scanning to identify changes in legislation, policy and organisational restructures which would have an impact on victims.

#### Lammy Review

The OPCC is leading a process to appoint an Independent Chair for the Lammy Review Sub-Group. The group was established to look at local implementation of the Lammy Review of BAME representation in the criminal justice system. 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.

### **Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending – Resolve**

#### Executive Board

The membership of the Executive Board has been strengthened with additional Local Authority representation and engagement. 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. The Ministry of Justice and Department for Housing and Communities Accommodation Project at HMP Bristol is due to award contracts in April 2019. The team are seeking to engage with Registered Providers at their existing Registered Provider Forum.
- 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. The Golden Key have recruited a specific member of staff to work on this project.
- 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. It is intended to closely link this project with the HMP Bristol accommodation pilot.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 taking place on 1 March. Discussions will include the announcement of the recent change in SW Community Rehabilitation Company provider.

### **Victim Services Recommissioning**

Following the procurement process for the recommissioning of victim services, contracts have been signed for the following services and mobilisation is underway ahead of service commencement on the 1 April 2019:

<b>Tender Lot</b>	<b>Successful Provider</b>
Lot 1 – Practical and Emotional Support Service for adult victims of any crime or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Victim Support
Lot 2 – Enhanced Adult Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB	Swan Advocacy
Lot 3 – Children and Young People Support Service for victims of any crime or ASB up to the age of 18 (or 25 where there are additional needs)	Young Victims' Service (North Somerset Youth Offending Service)
Lot 4 – Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service	Safelink
Lot 5 – Restorative Justice Service for victims of any crime or ASB	Resolve West (Bristol Mediation)

The OPCC very much values the work that Avoice (The Care Forum, SEAP and SARI) delivered to support adult victims of crime and ASB over the last four years. The OPCC will be working with both Avoice and Swan Advocacy to ensure an effective transition for the Enhanced Adult Support Service (Lot 2).

### **Therapeutic Services for victims of sexual assault**

The OPCC continues to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across Avon and Somerset and NHS England to recommission acute therapeutic services for victims of sexual assault. At the time of writing evaluation is ongoing. The new contract is due to commence on 1 June 2019.

### **Drug Education Programme (DEP)**

Under the delivery of the ASCC (Advice Support Custody and Courts) service (co-commissioned by NHS England and the OPCC) the DEP has been further developed and rolled out beyond its initial pilot in Bristol, to now include North Somerset. Since going live in the New Year, the North Somerset February course is full (13 people) and a further 6 have been referred so far for March. The DEP is a health based intervention that provides a one-time opportunity for those found in possession of drugs. This intervention seeks to educate and prevent further use; where attendees engage and comply, they will not receive a criminal sanction. Following its positive receipt in Bristol it will be rolled out by the delivery provider; across the force over the up and coming months. An academic evaluation is being sought.

### **Mental Health**

The Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire Mental Health Crisis Concordat Group has recently been re-established, chaired by BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group. At the first meeting it was agreed that the group need to focus on the most strategic and cross cutting themes of work. A number of areas were suggested and will be revised down, but included conveyancing, data sharing, integrated urgent care, night liaison, control and street triage, high intensity users, police access to primary care and acute behaviour disturbance. The Control Room and Street Triage Steering Group has also recently been re-established. Discussions at the meeting focused on the current success and challenges of triage. Ahead of the next meeting it was agreed the group should review the objectives of the service and ensure these are still relevant and appropriate. It was also agreed to commission an external academic review of triage to inform future commissioning of the service (the current service is funded until September 2020).

### **Recruitment Update**

Following a request from Panel Members, please find set out below an update on the latest position on actual police officer and PCSO numbers as at 1 April 2018 and 31 January 2019:

Staff Group (Holder)	FTE as at Apr-18	FTE as at Jan-2019
Police Officers	2,593.63	2,689.92
PCSOs	331.44	316.57

### **Standing Updates:**

Fire Governance: No further updates since the February meeting.

Estates: An update will be circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

### **National Updates**

#### Home Office Serious Violence Strategy

As Members will recall, 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.

In order to implement this strategy locally, the OPCC is undertaking a number of activities. These include:

- Secured Home Office funding for Behavioural Insights Team to support work to develop and Avon & Somerset approach / strategy;
- Arranging jointly with the Constabulary and A&S wide summit with partners to look at current good practice, opportunities to deliver the strategy in each Local Authority area;
- £100k match funding from the OPCC to support local delivery.

The OPCC will continue to support the development of local partnership approaches to tackling serious violence through engagement in partnership meetings.

**Contact Officer** - John Smith, Chief Executive