

CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting date: 7 February 2020

From: Senior Manager – Policy and Scrutiny

PANEL UPDATE REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 *This report updates the Police and Crime Panel on:*

- *Key issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting on the 14th October 2019 including*
 - *Progress on actions agreed at the October Panel meeting*
 - *National policy developments.*

2.0 ISSUES FOR THE PANEL

- 2.1 Note the range of activity set out in the report and highlight, if required, issues that they would like more information on.
- 2.2 Note where more information may be required and/or more formal reporting from the Commissioner's office at a future Panel meeting.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Progress on actions agreed at the October Panel Meeting:

- 3.1 The substantive item for consideration at the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 14th October 2019 was around Support for Victims. Panel noted the report and update and requested that a map be provided showing the currently activity across the county around support for victims of crime. This will be provided to Panel.
- 3.2 The Panel also received the following reports:
- Joint audit committee Annual Report
 - Revenue budget monitoring reports – Quarter 1.



- 3.3 Specific action arising from the October meeting:
- For a map to be made available indicating what support for victims of crime is available in each area of the county.

4.0 HORIZON SCANNING

This section of the report provides members with an overview of forthcoming key issues with implications for policing and community safety.

RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Panel is asked to consider the content of this section of the report, and highlight any issues that they would like more information on. Scanning for significant national and local policy developments helps to inform and formulate the Panel's future work programme content.
- 4.2 Outlined below are key issues of particular importance to the Police and Crime Panel:
- Police Funding Settlement 2020/21
 - New Government's Legislative agenda
 - Serious Violence update
 - Domestic Abuse update
 - Police Complaints changes

Police Funding Settlement 2020/21

- 4.3 On 22 January, the Government announced the Police Funding Settlement for financial year 2020/21. The amount of funding available to the policing system in England and Wales will increase by £1.1bn, totalling £15.2bn. In total, £700m of this additional funding will go directly to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
- 4.4 This represents an almost 10% increase on the core resource grant provided to police forces last year. It also includes the flexibility for PCCs to increase local funding in England by setting the council tax referendum limit to £10 for a Band D property. This is a decrease from £12 in 2018/19 and £24 in 2019/20.
- 4.5 The settlement includes the £750m announced by the Chancellor last year to enable forces to meet their officer recruitment targets. The Government has set a target for the recruitment of 6,000 of the 20,000 additional police officers by the end of March 2021.
- 4.6 Other announcements from the Police Funding Settlement include the following:
- £150m to fight serious organised crime, and tackle online child abuse

- £39m to tackle serious violence, which includes £20m for county lines drug dealing
- Year-on-year increase of £90m for counter-terrorism policing, totalling £906m in 2020/21

New Government's legislative agenda

4.7 Following the General Election, in December 2019 the new Government outlined the following key bills, which will be laid within the term of the current Parliament.

- **Serious Violence Bill** – Create new duties on a range of specified agencies across different sectors to work collaboratively, share data and information, and ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
- **Counter-Terrorism Bill** – Includes a 14-year minimum sentence for the worst terrorist offenders, an increase from the s 3 years.
- **Domestic Abuse Bill** – Includes creating a statutory definition of domestic abuse, establishing in law the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, providing for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Protection Order, and placing a duty on tier one local authorities – ie. County Council – to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- **Sentencing Bill** – More robust community sentences which punish and address offenders' needs, and changing the automatic release point from halfway to the two-thirds point for adult offenders sentences for serious violence and sexual offenders.
- **Police Powers and Protections Bill** – Implement the Government's commitment to establish a Police Covenant on a statutory footing, and ensure that Parliament has the opportunity to scrutinise progress made against the Covenant.
- **Victims Law reform** – A revised Victims' Code, which will clearly set out the minimum level of service victims can expect from the criminal justice agencies, will be published early this year. The main elements on which the Government expects to consult include strengthening the Victims' Code, and exploring enhancing powers for the Victims' Commissioner to better hold the Government to account.

Serious Violence update

4.8 In December, the Home Secretary announced that 18 PCCs will receive an additional £35m to continue funding Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). These bring together different organisations including police, local government, health, and other key partners. This funding is in addition to £35m already committed earlier this year. Cumbria Police is not included within the 18 police force areas.

- 4.9 On 10 January, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected how county line drug trafficking is dealt with at local, regional and national levels. Although it identified many instances of good practice, the Inspectorate concluded that there needs to be a more coherent and integrated system of national tasking, intelligence sharing and response.
- 4.10 On 15 January, the Prime Minister ordered that a cross-Whitehall taskforce designed to crack down on criminal gang activity be set-up. The Prime Minister will take personal charge of a new cabinet committee to tackle knife crime and violence, with a particular focus on county lines drug gangs.
- 4.11 The St Giles Trust in January found that excluded pupils have become the dominant recruiting ground for county lines gangs. Through its intensive, peer-led approach used in the SOS Project, it reported that all of the 100 teenagers referred to it after being caught up in county lines gangs had all been excluded or spent time in a pupil referral unit (PRU) because of their behaviour.

Police complaints changes

- 4.12 In January, the Home Office introduced *The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2020*, which will ensure that complaints can be dealt with quickly, effectively and proportionately. The new regulations became operational from 1 February.
- 4.13 The changes mean that PCCs will have a greater role to increase independence and improve complaints handling. The reforms will deliver a more efficient system for dealing with police misconduct. It also includes a requirement to provide an explanation where investigations take longer than 12 months.

5.0 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND DATES

- 5.1 Dates and information are provided below for meetings that may be of interest to Panel Members. For Members interested in attending either of the two conferences below, travel and further background and supporting papers will be arranged ahead of the event.
- 5.2 Public Accountability Conference meetings are as follows (the meetings are generally held at Carleton Hall, Penrith at 10.00am unless otherwise stated). The next meetings are:
- 19 February 2020 (Budget Setting Meeting)
 - 4 March 2020
- 5.3 Joint Audit Committee
- 20 November
 - 18 March 2020

5.4 LGA Annual Police and Crime Panel Workshop

- 18 March 2020 (Venue TBC)

5.5 Police and Crime Panel Conference

- 23-24 November 2020, Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The Police and Crime Panel are invited to consider issues that have been highlighted in this report, and whether they would like more detailed reporting from the PCC in future on any of these topics, or any other topics they consider pertinent.

6.2 **Work Programme** – officers will work with Panel Members to bring forward topics for consideration at future Panel meetings based on national and local policy scanning including the contents of this and future Panel Briefings.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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