

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Management Board Briefing from Chair of Cumbria Police and Crime Panel

1.0 Purpose of Update

- 1.1 This report updates Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) on the main policy updates from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner relating to policing and community safety.

2.0 Board Meeting Update

- 2.1 In the absence of a full Panel meeting in July an informal briefing was convened in which the Police and Crime Commissioner provided an update on the Covid-19 response and other policing matters.
- 2.2 The main points from the briefing are summarised below:

County Lines

- Cumbria Police are engaging with the National Crime Agency, who have recently carried out a major national operation against county lines drug trafficking to infiltrate supply chains.
- The Cumbria force has noted a decrease in county lines activity since the Covid-19 restrictions due to fewer cars on roads.

Police and Crime Plan

- The Commissioner will be updating the Cumbria Police and Crime Plan (originally covering the period 2016-2020) so that it's extended to 2021. This will be shared with the Panel in October for comment and feedback.

Commissioners Annual Report

- The Commissioner confirmed that he would be sharing his annual report with Panel in October. It will reflect recent programmes of work around the Covid-19 response.

Strategic Co-ordination Group and engagement with Chief Constable

- The Commissioner provided an update on the Police chairing of the Strategic Co-ordination Group, responsible for strategically overseeing the county's response to emergency incidents. Most historical incidents (i.e. flooding) have been time-limited but the longer-term nature of Covid-19 means there's no clear end-point to the work so further updates will be provided to Panel. Lessons learned will be shared at future meetings.

- A national review is currently being led by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC) examining how Police and Crime Commissioners fit into the overall emergency response hierarchy and structure as a result of experiences during the Covid-19 response.

Financial position – Police & OPCC

- The Panel received an update on the financial position of the Cumbria Police Force and Commissioner's Office.
- Cumbria has secured £189,000 from the Ministry of Justice to support Domestic Violence victims. The OPCC was also successful in bidding into the Rape Support Fund, securing £140k, to fund two additional Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisors (IDSVA).
- The Commissioner has launched a Covid-19 Community Recovery Fund, which is open to community groups to help them manage new issues arising in light of the coronavirus pandemic and as restrictions ease.

3.0 Additional Scrutiny activity undertaken by the Board

3.1 No additional activity has taken place.

4.0 Conclusion

3.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel is due to take place on 16th October. Further updates will be provided to Scrutiny Management Board.

Chair: Cllr William McEwan