

# **CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Meeting date: 21 January 2019**

**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 15th October 2018 including*
  - *Progress on actions agreed at the October Panel meeting.*
  - *National policy developments.*
  - *The Panel's work programme.*

### **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 the work programme provided in Appendix 1 and provide suggestions for future topics or items for consideration by the Panel.

### **3.0 *BACKGROUND***

**Progress on actions agreed at the October Panel Meeting:**

3.1 At the last Panel meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> October it was agreed that:

- A Complaints sub-committee would be convened in November to consider two unresolved complaints. The sub-committee would be made up of the following panel members –

Ms J Cooke  
Miss H Fearon  
Mr W McEwan  
Mr P McSweeney (substitute)  
MrG Sunderland (substitute)

The sub-committee met on 28th November and resolved that the neither of the outstanding complaints required any further action. Minutes of this meeting will be available on the PCP website.

- Further information on the police handling of complaints be made available at the next meeting of the Panel. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) will now be attending the Panel meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March where Members will have the opportunity to explore the implications of the changes to the police complaints appeals process.
- Following the presentation on the annual report from the Joint Audit Committee and proposals for closer working with the PCP, Members requested further information on the remit, accountability and relationships between different committees linked to the Commissioner's Office. This will be provided to Panel before the next meeting in March.
- The new PCP website link be revisited to ensure it was functioning correctly. This has been checked and resolved. The website can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.cumbriapcp.org.uk/>

#### **4.0 HORIZON SCANNING**

***This section of the report provides members with an overview of some of the key issues with implications for policing and community safety in the near future.***

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Panel is asked to consider the content of this section of the report, and highlight, if required, issues that they would like more information on.
- 4.2 Outlined below are key issues of particular importance to the Police and Crime Panel:
  - Police Funding Settlement
  - Police Mergers
  - Serious and Organised Crime Strategy
  - HMICFRS report on Policing and Mental Health
  - National Protocol against the Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers

#### **Police Funding Settlement**

- 4.3 On 14 December, the Home Office announced the provisional policing funding settlement for 2019/20. In total, the government has provisionally increased police funding by £970m, which includes £509m calculated on PCCs increasing the local policing precept by the maximum £24 per year for a Band D property.

- 4.4 A further £153m of specific grant funding has been made available to support increases in forces' pensions contributions. The total cost to forces of the pension changes have been calculated at £420m.
- 4.5 The general government grants to PCCs will increase by £161m to a total of £7.8bn, including a £146m increase in core grant funding.
- 4.6 In Cumbria, the provisional change in total resource funding will translate to an increase of £7.1m. This is a rise from £102.9m in 2018/19 to £110.0m in 2019/20.
- 4.7 The national commentary relating to the policing settlement in 2019/20 as well as a benchmarking assessment of PCCs' precept proposals across England and Wales has been included in *appendix 2*.

### **Police Mergers**

- 4.8 Since 2015, Dorset Police has been working in a strategic alliance in back office and operational areas, including dogs, roads and firearms policing. A planned merger had been abandoned after Devon and Cornwall PCC's opposed this, citing council tax harmonisation issues.
- 4.9 In October, West Mercia PCC and Chief Constable announced that the police alliance will end by 8 October 2019, stating the intention to deliver a more effective and efficient service to communities and greater value for money.
- 4.10 Gloucestershire's PCC also decided to end the triple alliance in October, with Somerset and Avon police and Wiltshire police, which began in 2012 due to cost management and efficiency reasons. They will continue to work in collaboration.

### **Serious and Organised Crime Strategy**

- 4.11 In November 2018, the Home Office launched the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy which sets out how the government will build the UK's defences against SOC, and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.
- 4.12 Measures within the strategy include additional investment in the multi-agency National Economic Crime Centre; piloting new approaches to preventing people in engaging in SOC; and improving engagement with the private sector, particularly the information technology industry.

### **HMICFRS report on Policing and Mental Health**

- 4.13 Her Majesty's Inspectorate on Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published a report in November, which stated that 52% of mental health patients who need help in a place of safety are taken there in a police car rather than an ambulance.

- 4.14 The key messages from the report include concern that the police are operating beyond their duty, despite strong leadership on mental health within forces. Whereas forces are investing in mental health training, the quality is often inconsistent.
- 4.15 The report found that generally police forces are good at recognising when people are in crisis although there is a need for a clearer picture of mental health demand, which includes forces adopting a universal definition of mental health.
- 4.16 In December, the government announced that they will introduce a new Mental Health Bill to transform mental health care, following publication of the Independent Review's final report. The new Bill will include allowing those detained under the Act to nominate a person of their choice to be involved in decisions about their care.

### **National Protocol against the Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers**

- 4.17 As referenced to in the Serious Violence Strategy, the government released the National Protocol against the Criminalisation of Children Looked After (CLA) and Care Leavers. The protocol recognises that CLA and Care Leavers are more likely to be criminalised, offend or re-offend.
- 4.18 The protocol encourages local authorities and children's services to implement the protocol with their partners, including Police Forces, Youth Offending Teams, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Magistrates.
- 4.19 There is a greater emphasis on agencies realising the local and national factors which can increase children and young people's risk of being criminalised, such as children going missing and cross-area criminal activity such as county lines.
- 4.20 As children and young people on remand or custodial sentences are often highly vulnerable with multiple over-lapping risks and needs, the protocol focuses on the multi-agency oversight and support necessary, including from Youth Offending Teams, Children's Services, health services and custodial facilities.

## **5.0 ATTENDANCE OF NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- 5.1 On 12 November, Frontline Consulting hosted the PCP National Conference 2018, which Hani Cox attended. Items included the National Association of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels' AGM, an emphasis on the need for collaboration from the National Police Chiefs' Council and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, as well as several breakout sessions.

- 5.2 Issues which Panels were recommended to monitor and review within the next year included the complaints reforms being introduced early next year, which may impact on the scrutiny of PCCs in the future, as well as clarification on the direction of travel for police funding arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review in the spring.
- 5.3 On 4 December, Independent Member Judith Cooke attended the *Combating Gangs, Violence and Weapon Crime* conference. The main messages emphasised throughout the session were the following:
- A reduction in the provision of youth services and staff has led to rising youth dissatisfaction, which in turn contributes to some believing that gangs offer a sense of purpose;
  - The National County Lines Coordination Centre has been established and has had numerous successes, especially in relation to joined-up data sharing between forces;
  - Smaller forces are not always fully prepared for serious violence, such as drugs and knife crimes;
  - A holistic, whole-community approach is key – no single system approach will be effective which means the need for additional multi-disciplinary coordination and delivery plans is essential;
  - The power of social media and wider communication should be underestimated, which are often utilised for switching supply routes and identifying 'trap houses'.

## **6.0 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND DATES**

- 6.1 The meetings are generally held at Carleton Hall, Penrith at 10.00am unless otherwise notified.
- 6.2 An agenda for each of the public meetings will be published 5 working days prior to the meeting date. Minutes and appropriate reports will be published following the meeting. The upcoming Public Accountability Conference meetings are as follows:
- 20 February 2019 Budget Setting Meeting
  - 27 March 2019

### **Joint Audit Committee**

- 6.3 The Joint Audit Committee is composed of four members that meet five times throughout the year in line with the recommendations of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
- 20 March 2019
  - 23 May 2019
  - 24 July 2019
  - 19 September 2019

## **Ethics and Integrity Panel**

- 6.4 The purpose of the panel is to provide a forum which challenges, encourages and supports the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable in monitoring and dealing with integrity and ethical issues within each organisation.
- 6.5 The panel, which meets on a quarterly basis, therefore acts as a robust, independent and transparent system of oversight of the way complaints and misconduct allegations are made against police officers and staff are handled and investigated by the police. As the Panel is not a public committee, papers are available after meetings on the following webpage: <https://cumbria-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/ethics-integrity-panel/>.

## **Community Safety Partnership meetings**

### 6.6 North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership

- 26 February 2019, 2pm, Carleton Hall, Penrith
- 21 May 2019, 2pm, Carlisle East Community Fire Station
- 10 September 2019, 2pm, Carleton Hall
- 3 December 2019, 2pm, Carlisle East Community Fire Station

### South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership

- 23 January 2019, Barrow Police Station
- 9 April 2019, Kendal Police Station

### West Cumbria Community Safety Partnership

Dates to be confirmed with Panel

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 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.

Tim Gale, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Project Officer, CCC  
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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

Appendix 2: Assessment of PCCs' precept proposals (*To follow*)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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## APPENDIX 1 – POLICE AND CRIME PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Timeline/Date</b>
<b>Forthcoming PCP Items at Panel Meetings</b>	Police and Crime Plan 2017/18 end of year Update	To consider a report from the OPCC	March 2019
	Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 4 (a) Constabulary (b) Commissioner	To consider budget update reports from the OPCC.	March 2019
	Police and Crime Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 7: Spend Your Money Wisely</li> <li>• Objective 8: Supporting Young People</li> </ul>	To consider a report from the OPCC	March 2019
	IOPC to attend Panel	IOPC to update Panel on changes to complaints procedures and the work of the Commission	March 2019
	Police and Crime Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 6: Focus our Police on Online &amp; Sexual Crime</li> <li>• Objective 4: Ensure Offenders Face a Consequence for their Crime</li> </ul>	To consider a report from the OPCC	July 2019
	Commissioners Annual Report	To consider a report from the OPCC	July 2019
	Police and Crime Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 5: Always put Victims First</li> <li>• Objective 3: Tackle Crime and Antisocial Behaviour</li> </ul>	To consider a report from the OPCC	October 2019