



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Constable

Date: 10 May 2018

A report updating the current position on Citizens in Policing (CiP) within Cambridgeshire.

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) with developments surrounding the CiP strategy over the last 12 months.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 The contribution of volunteers to the voluntary and community sector, public services and to society as a whole is invaluable.

3.2 Volunteering is defined as any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to, close relatives. Central to this definition is the fact that volunteering must be a choice freely made by each individual.

3.3 Volunteering can include formal activity undertaken through public, private and voluntary organisations, as well as informal community participation and social action. Everyone has the right to volunteer and volunteering can have significant benefits for individuals, organisations and communities

3.4 CiP is an umbrella term for volunteers who support the police service either directly or indirectly. It includes four distinct groups:

- Volunteers directed, trained and controlled by police forces, including Special Constables, Police Support Volunteers and Volunteer Police Cadets.
- Volunteers engaged with and partially supported by police forces including watch groups, chaplains, street pastors, witness services and Crimestoppers.
- Volunteers who hold the police to account or assist in the design of services including Independent Advisor Groups, Independent Custody Visitors and Appropriate Adults.
- External volunteers that are linked by wider social aims, for example youth and sports clubs, self-help groups and the voluntary sector.

3.5 The national CiP Strategy complements the Cabinet Office's Social Action aims. Social Action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve problems that are important in their communities. One of the Cabinet Office's aims is to encourage the role of social action to be considered in the design of public services.

3.6 The Strategy has three strategic priorities:

- Lift Volunteers' Profile
- Widen Opportunities
- Develop the Services.

3.7 It gives all forces the opportunity to review their framework for volunteer engagement by considering the "5Cs" criteria: capacity; contributions; capabilities; consistency; connectivity.

3.8 A National CiP Coordinator has now been appointed to help drive and coordinate activity across forces. The Coordinator is based in North Yorkshire where the NPCC national lead was also located. However last week CC Dave Jones retired suddenly and as yet there is no information about who may replace him as the lead for CiP. The ambition is to have the National Coordinator supported by nine Regional Coordinators but, at the time of writing this structure is not in place.

3.9 The Eastern NPCC has agreed to fund a Regional CiP coordinators post (yet to be advertised). The Regional NPCC lead is ACC Rachel Kearton from Suffolk but the Coordinator can be based in any of the six regional forces as well as Kent who have also part funded the post. The Constabulary will be working hard to ensure that work practices support local delivery.

4.0 Current Picture in Cambridgeshire

4.1 The Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a joint strategic volunteering vision. There are five aspirations:-

- To set out clearly defined roles.
- To ensure there are clear pathways into volunteering.

- To match volunteers' skills, knowledge, experience and personal interests to volunteering opportunities.
 - Reward and recognise the contribution committed volunteers make.
 - Fully integrate volunteers into Cambridgeshire's policing culture.
- 4.2 The strategy is now supported by a detailed delivery plan (see appendix).
- 4.3 The Cambridgeshire Citizens in Policing Strategy is owned by the Partnerships and Operational Support Dept. (PaOSD) but due to staff abstractions over the last 12month, progress on this agenda has not been as swift as originally expected. However, the department has undergone significant restructure as a result of the findings of the Local Policing Review (LPR) and its subsequent recommendations regarding the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing.
- 4.4 Under the LPR, Superintendent Laura Hunt has redesigned the PaOSD making Mr Vic Kerlin both the Head of Special Constabulary and Citizens in Policing giving him strategic responsibility for all aspects of the CIP strategy and the delivery plan. He is now supported by two police constables and the Force Watch Scheme Coordinator. This improved staffing resilience and leadership will enable greater progress to be made under the LPR structure.
- 4.5 As part of the delivery of the new Neighbourhood Policing Model a Community Resilience Tactical Delivery Group has been set up under the chair of Mr Kerlin. The groups aim is build strong safe communities within Cambridgeshire and a major tactic is the delivery of the CiP strategy. Mr Ray Bisby DPCC is a standing member of the group.
- 4.6 The Constabulary is an active member of regional groups focussing on the Special Constabulary, Police Support Volunteers, Police Cadets and CSAS. Mr Kerlin is also a member of a newly formed national group looking at the development of Employer Supported Policing.
- 4.7 The Community Speedwatch Scheme is thriving under the stewardship of Mr Mike Brooks and there are now more groups and deployments than ever before which is very encouraging. This extension in Speedwatch activity we be supported by a recent successful submission to the Safer Roads Partnership for money which will be used to purchase additional Speedwatch equipment.
- 4.8 In relation to Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), there is a similarly encouraging update in that there has been the launch of an initiative that has recruited and trained NHW coordinators to visit dwelling burglary victims (with their permission) to offer additional crime prevention advice and to make the victim aware of their local NHW scheme. This initiative present real opportunities to engage NHW in the wider Community Resilience building work.
- 4.9 In addition to the above, please be advised that there are, currently 90 Police Support Volunteers assisting the organisation in various ways and a Volunteer Fair is in planned to take place in June 2018 as part of National Volunteers Week.
- 4.10 The Constabulary also continues to support seven active Police cadets groups.

- 4.11 Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch (CCW) remains active with c700 members. It provides the Rural Crime Action Team with a mobile phone to engage with CCW via “WhatsApp” providing a fast link between police, public and Fire Service. CCW WhatsApp, texts and emails give up to date information on rural crimes, empowering people to help themselves and keep their community safer. The scheme has supported the Fire Service’s Operation Armitage against Stack Fires, Environment Agency and Local Government Enforcement Officer’s work against Fly Tipping and the National Farmers’ Union on farm-specific crime. CCW has trained 120 Probationer Police Officers on rural crime, attended crime prevention events and visited members of the public, businesses and victims of crime advising on security. CCW members regularly supply information and evidence of crimes leading to the recovery of equipment like the stolen JCB Fastrack found in March, the apprehending of two cars causing criminal damage or the location of cannabis farms.
- 4.12 It is anticipated that due to the new level of resourcing that good progress will be made against the CiP delivery plan in 2018/19.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	CIP Strategy and Delivery Plan
Contact Officer(s)	Vic Kerlin-Head of Special Constabulary and Citizens in Policing.