



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 23 January 2020

POLICE & CRIME PLAN – COMMUNITIES THEME - OPCC WORK TO DELIVER BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on OPCC activity to deliver the ‘broader partnership support’ priorities set out in the Communities section of the Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”).

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular consider:

- Progress made against the Think Communities approach and developing place-based leadership and delivery
- The early summary of public responses to the Commissioner’s Precept Survey

3. Background

3.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner’s Plan became effective from the 1st April 2017 and is structured around four key strategic themes: Victims, Offenders, Communities, and Transformation. Each theme has its own aim and has a framework through a series of shared outcomes to enable all agencies with a part to play in community safety and criminal justice, to strategically direct the future delivery of services through these common goals. Each theme is supported by key objectives and priorities for action.

3.2 The Constabulary has a key role in delivering the Plan and on April 4, 2019 brought a set of refreshed comprehensive Constabulary priorities to this Board. These were welcomed by the Commissioner and were seen to address key areas of work, such as progressing the emerging work on Think Communities.

3.3 The progress around these Constabulary priorities is reported in a separate paper – see Agenda item 5.1

4. Think Communities: understanding need and managing demand

4.1 Think Communities is a system underpinned by a culture of understanding and responding to local needs utilising existing resources. Creating this change will require front line staff to be able to act more flexibly to work with clients and communities to resolve entrenched issues that matter to them.

4.2 Think Communities is about creating “a public sector workforce that listens, engages with and aligns to communities and each other, through mobilisations of citizens and communities into positive action. For Think Communities to work it requires the system to commit to delivering services in ways that support communities to drive lasting change”.

4.3 The Think Communities approach requires eight streams of work to be driven forward:

- Strategic Coherence & System Facilitation
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Data and Intelligence
- Estates and Buildings
- Funding and Resources
- Technology and Digital
- Workforce Reform

4.4 A Think Communities Executive Board has been established and will facilitate joint working. The OPCC is providing representation, and where required leadership at this Board.

5. Developing place-based leadership and delivery

5.1 Place-based leadership and delivery is important to a huge number of different public, private and voluntary sector mechanisms across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A key statutory mechanism for place-based leadership and delivery is Community Safety Partnerships.

5.2 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a system that involves statutory coordination of direct action through place-based structures to reduce or prevent crime. The culture of each CSP varies in response to local priorities, however common themes include: protecting vulnerable people & places, taking a preventative approach, evidence based priority setting.

5.3 The Countywide Community Safety Agreement identifies the priorities for coordinated action, and the structures that are accountable for managing these. CSPs are place-based leads on intervention and prevention, while Delivery Groups working countywide manage high risk and vulnerability cohorts. Leads for prevention work streams are constantly being sought, and CSPs have been able to access grants to support and then to act as leads for developing prevention work streams.

5.4 Supported by documents such as the Partnership Matrix, the Agreement provides a blueprint for how different structures can interact with each other as a system to coordinate their direct action.

5.5 CSPs are collectively working to develop a coordinated response to Domestic Homicide Reviews, with a key objective being to better share and implement learning from DHRs at a countywide level.

5.6 It is increasingly clear that Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Boards and CSPs are operating in the same space with respect to vulnerability. Moving forward there are

opportunities to look at formal alignment of their cultures, structures and the direct action they deliver, commission or coordinate.

- 5.7 The OPCC continues to engage with and support continued transformation of CSPs, Health and Wellbeing Boards, and Safeguarding Boards directly and through partnership mechanisms such as the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board.

6. Engaging communities and building resilience

- 6.1 Cambridgeshire OPCC have provided support to **The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP)**, recognising this was both an issue of significant public concern and an area where the assets and skills of the community can be used to address risk.
- 6.2 A model has been developed by the Partnership using an asset based community development approach which successfully builds on the strengths within communities.
- 6.3 The Partnership continues to go from strength to strength with its first utilities company, Anglian Water now joining the existing 20 partners to support communities against fraudsters.
- 6.4 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, on behalf of the **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership** is facilitating a review of its strategic approach to preventing road deaths and reducing injuries.
- 6.5 A review has been launched for local people to provide their views about road safety issues to ensure future plans reflect the needs of local road users.
- 6.6 A link to the survey is available here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/33PW2/> and the survey closes on 6th February.
- 6.7 Through this review, the Partnership will look at how organisations can work better together with communities to progress a 'Vision Zero' where no one is killed or seriously injured on the county's roads.

7. Citizens in policing – watch schemes

- 7.1 2,000 members of the public have now signed up to Cambridgeshire's Speedwatch scheme to help keep the county's roads safe. Volunteers continue to act as eyes and ears in communities alerting the Constabulary to local issues. The scheme continues to rely on the support of community volunteers and is proving an effective resource in tackling speeding.
- 7.2 The Commissioner continues to support Neighbourhood Watch volunteers across the county, supporting activities where possible and using these as opportunities to thank volunteers and remind them of the vital role they play in terms of providing local intelligence to the Constabulary.

8. OPCC Precept Survey

- 8.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner launched a survey seeking the views of members of the public with regards to funding the police service on Wednesday 8th January.
- 8.2 The survey runs until Monday 27th January at 5pm.
- 8.3 The survey has been promoted via the OPCC's social media accounts and through a media release and is available both online and in hard copy. A link to the online survey is here: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/>.
- 8.4 Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby is also visiting the 6 districts of the county to promote engagement with the survey.

- 8.5 With a delay from government about the rules over how much the policing part of council tax can be raised and the grant settlement for 2020/21, the survey was launched to provide a narrative to communities about cost pressures facing the force. Whilst the 62 new officers from the government’s national 20,000 uplift are very welcome, the existing 1,500 officers and the infrastructure that supports them still needs maintaining and developing.
- 8.6 An indication of what a 2% increase would mean (a 37p increase per month for a Band D property) has been provided in the narrative.
- 8.7 To date (Jan 15th), just over 1,000 people have completed the survey with over 70% selecting ‘strongly agree’ to the 3 questions:
1. To what extent do you agree the police office visibility in your community is important? (72%)
 2. How important is it that police officers are adequately supported to carry out their duties in terms of equipment and training? (83%)
 3. With an increase in population, how important is it that police staff levels are maintained in order to support policing in Cambridgeshire, for example call handlers, training officers? (76%)
- 8.8 A total of 167 comments have been received to date with police visibility being one of the most prevalent.
- 8.9 Sample comments are provided below:
- “Police are overstretched and un-staffed.”
- “We need more visibility of police presence.”
- “Police should be funded properly by government and not constantly asking local residents to keep paying more.”

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular consider:
- Progress made against the Think Communities approach and developing place-based leadership and delivery
 - The early summary of public responses to the Commissioner’s Precept Survey

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Police and Crime Plan http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/
Contact Officer(s)	Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive, OPCC