



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 28 October 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 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (OPCC) activity to deliver the ‘broader partnership support’ priorities set out in the Communities section of the Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”). This report will also update the Board on OPCC activity to deliver against the ‘inspire all public servants to maintain the highest levels of ethical behaviour priority as set out in the Communities section.

1.2 This report is an update of activity since the report to the July 2020 Board Meeting.

2. Recommendations

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

- update on work to progress the OPCC and Constabulary’s Independent Scrutiny Group;
- enhanced accessibility for communities to access online support;
- progress against the Safer Streets Fund.

3. Background

3.1 As an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Acting Commissioner”) can exercise all the powers that elected Police and Crime Commissioners have apart from varying or issuing a Plan (as provided for in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011), the Acting Commissioner had already determined that the priorities of the Plan should remain for the coming period. Now that his term has been extended to 2021 he reaffirms them.

3.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") progress around these Constabulary priorities is reported in a separate paper – see Agenda item 8.1

4. Independent Scrutiny Group

4.1 The Acting Commissioner has discussed with the Chief Constable the need for an independent scrutiny group – one that has a remit to look at the Constabulary's use of stop and search and use of force, amongst other things.

4.2 The Acting Commissioner is clear that having in place a group that is independent and representative of the communities the Constabulary serves will be hugely beneficial. It will bring community perspective to gain an understanding of the extent of any local concerns regarding integrity issues and an insight on policing policies and practices and their impact within these communities.

4.3 The Acting Commissioner is pleased that following his discussions with the Chief Constable, the Constabulary has undertaken the first steps in the process to get this independent group in place. The OPCC and the Constabulary will continue to work together with an independent advisor to take this one group forward.

4.4 Once the fundamental building blocks are put in place regarding its governance, the group will be led by the community with oversight from the Acting Commissioner and will act as a critical friend, providing constructive challenge, and influencing change.

4. Engaging communities and building resilience

5.1 The Acting Commissioner continues to support the joining up of service provision to listen and respond to day to day community safety issues during Covid-19.

5.2 He continues to represent the voice of communities, holding opportunities for stakeholders and members of the community to raise concerns about policing and crime. Following the need to adapt during Covid-19, the OPCC holds a range of 'listening and responding' opportunities online (both geographic and crime specific) such as briefings, round tables and surgeries.

5.3 A recent example of which is a Round Table held to mark **National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2020**. The Acting Commissioner and the Chief Constable hosted an opportunity for over 30 Community Leaders from across the county (including those representing faith and disability groups) to discuss community concerns and listen to presentations which included an update on the Acting Commissioner's plans for an Independent Scrutiny Group, the importance of policing by consent, the ways in which victims of hate crime can report incidences and how victims are supported through the Victims and Witness Hub.

5.4 **Online Accessibility:** Attendees were also reminded of an additional accessibility tool (Recite Me) now added to the Cambridgeshire Victim Services website. The same Accessibility Tool has also been added to the Acting Commissioner's website to enable additional support for users. **Recite Me** enables users to select their individual access requirements from whatever device they are using including screen read outs, font increasing, an, 'Open Dyslexia' and 100 languages (including 35 with screen read out).

5.5 Since July, the Acting Commissioner has continued to award funding to charities supporting young people to adapt delivery of their services from his **Youth and**

Community Fund, with £32,675 awarded between 1st April 2020 until 30th September 2020.

- 5.6 The Acting Commissioner remains an active member of the county's **Vision Zero Partnership** (formerly known as Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership) which has the objective of no one being killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the county's roads, and a reduction of KSIs by 50% by 2030. He continues to support preventative and educational road safety interventions through his Casualty Reduction and Support Fund. The Acting Commissioner is mindful of the role that Policing has in achieving Vision Zero, and has been pleased to see the Constabulary well engaged in the partnership.
- 5.7 The OPCC recently supported a national road safety and enforcement survey commissioned through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC). In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the survey received 2,220 responses out of a national total of 66,266 from all Force Areas across England and Wales.
- 5.8 In July, the OPCC coordinated a bid for over £545k from the **Home Office's Safer Streets Fund** together with partners from across the public and voluntary sector. The fund provides targeted home security improvements for vulnerable residents living in at risk properties. These will be complemented by a programme of community development events to provide residents the opportunity to shape how they would like to see residential burglary prevented in their community.
- 5.9 Investment will be focused around the Arbury area of Cambridge City. During bid development, partners identified it as an area which met the Safer Streets Fund criteria set by the Home Office and was primed for residents to gain the most direct benefit from the funding.
- 5.10 The delivery of the bid is progressing in line with the milestones agreed with the Home Office. The work is also being monitored via the Constabulary's Force Performance Board. Several community engagement events have been held, and key community and partner contacts established. Work to identify properties for interventions has begun and the delivery partners agreed. Works will be carried through Cambridge City Council contractors as well as the Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme.
- 5.11 The Acting Commissioner held a meeting of the **Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board** on the 20th October bringing together Responsible Authorities and representatives from the County's Community Safety Partnerships and key strategic boards to consider current community safety concerns. The Board met for the first time in six months (previously scheduled meetings were removed from diaries to reduce the demand on the county's senior leaders time during the Covid pandemic as oversight and governance of this work was in place in other forums), and the Commissioner was keen to ensure that organisations remained in a position to coordinate preventative work, as well as responded to emerging risks.

6. Citizens in policing – Watch Schemes

- 6.1 More than 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.

- 6.2 The Acting 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.

7. Complaints

- 7.1 The new complaints system is working well in terms of the way the Constabulary are handling complaints through their Incident Resolution Team which aims to resolve complaints ‘there and then’.
- 7.2 There have been over 260 complaints logged between April and June 2020 with the vast majority of these (over 240) resolved. If complaints are not resolved at this stage, the complainant has the right to make a formal complaint should they wish. Formal complaints are recorded by the Constabulary’s Professional Standards Department (PSD). For the period April to June 2020, PSD recorded 79 cases compared to 120 cases during the same period in 2019.
- 7.3 Learning is key from complaint handling and the OPCC continues to work PSD to ensure any learning and observations from handling complaints and reviews is captured and cascaded into the Constabulary.
- 7.4 The Acting Commissioner has dip sampled over 40 complaints through his oversight role since October 2019.
- 7.5 As reported to this Board in July 2020, as of the 1st February 2020, the Acting Commissioner became the relevant review body for low level complaints and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) being the responsible body for serious complaints such as Chief officer complaints or gross misconduct. To date the OPCC has received a total of nine complaint review requests since the 1st February 2020.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular the:
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 - enhanced accessibility for communities to access online support;
 - progress against the Safer Streets Fund.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Police and Crime Plan http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/
Contact Officer	Jim Haylett, Acting Chief Executive, OPCC