

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: General Issues Report

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Panel



PPP Meeting – April 2016

The PCC Policy Planning and Performance meeting was held on 6 April and the link is available below.

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/agendas-and-minutes/policy-planning-and-performance/>

Points to note:-

Finance (page 20) – the financial position for the year remains positive, with an overall expectation that the Combined Force and PCC controlled budgets will remain within the approved annual revenue budget. Productivity work for both current and future years is ongoing to ensure savings continue to be achieved.

HMIC and Consultation Tracker (page 35) provides information on the Force and PCC response to HMIC reports. Section 4 (page 46) also provides a response from the PCC to open consultations such as complaints and enabling closer working between the emergency services.

Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan (page 50)

The Delivery Plan developed by the Chief Constable sets out the various actions which the Chief Constable will manage to ensure that the Force fulfils its role in respect of the Police and Crime Plan. There is no legal requirement to produce a Delivery Plan, however the Chief Constable has a statutory duty to have regard to the Police and Crime Plan. The police play a central role in the development and delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the Chief Constable's contribution to the delivery of its objectives forms an important element of his accountability to the PCC.

Links with Work Programme

- P53 Improving response to cyber crime (Objective 1)
Investigate, develop and implement opportunities to deliver services collaboratively with Force and local partners to reduce demand through problem solving (Objective 2)
- P54 Implement and embed the agreed recommendations from the Neighbourhood Policing Review
Respond effectively to reports of FGM and work with partners to develop preventative strategies and community engagement (Objective 3)
- P56 Continue to improve trust and confidence in the service provided by Thames Valley Police amongst Gypsy, Romany and Traveller Communities (Objective 7)

Response to reports by HMIC

- Value for Money Profile (page 74)

Thames Valley is a low cost police force with a lower number of supervisory officers compared to constables. The Force has high levels of staff turnover compared to the average. Page 75 shows where the Force is identified as an outlier in costs compared to other Forces with an explanation. The number of emergency incidents per 1000 population is above average – this will require further analysis through the development of the new operating model to ensure that their grading model is operating efficiently. In terms of crime outcomes one area that was referred to was that 52% of rapes in the Thames Valley were still being investigated compared to an average of 31% in England and Wales.

- The depths of dishonour: Hidden Voices and shameful crimes (page 78)

Thames Valley Police were identified as 'not yet prepared' against the four domains identified by HMIC e.g there is no obvious lead for Honour Based Abuse (HBA), front line staff felt ill-equipped to deal with incidents of HBA. The newly established Vulnerability Strategic Co-ordination Group will look at this issue. Whilst it is acknowledge that a step change is needed to provide a consistently effective service to victims of HBA across TVP, a lot has been achieved by TVP in tackling vulnerability and they will build on this to address HBA.

- PEEL – Police effectiveness 2015 – Thames Valley Police were judged to be good at protecting vulnerable people from harm and supporting victims. HMIC commented that the Force would benefit from a system to share local initiatives to other areas of the Force.
- A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse (discussed at the last meeting)

Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel (page 104)

One issue raised in the minutes related to the PEEL Legitimacy inspection report for TVP which included a review of TVP handling of complaints and misconduct. The PCC met with representatives from the IPCC who raised matters with him regarding performance statistics in the report, given the inconsistency of outcomes between TVP and similar forces' statistics. A report would be presented to the next Panel meeting on 27 April 2016.

OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan – 2015/16

Particular areas to note:-

- PCC has taken over chairmanship of the Local Criminal Justice Board and will be able to actively monitor File Quality Performance.
- Currently developing an OPCC e-learning package which picks up the new elements of the Victims Code.
- New website for victims which is on-track for April 2016 (NB This implementation date has now been put back to the end of June)
- New procedures being developed and implemented with regard to the OPCC Complaints Handling procedures and practices.
- Implement a programme of all year round PCC public engagement events
- Public Engagement Strategy agreed in principle early this year - within it there is an action to identify hard to reach groups and to develop some performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of public and partner engagement.
- Sharing best practice in relation to key areas of the Police and Crime Plan – the OPCC are considering whether to hold a conference later this year.
- Cyber Crime – OPCC monitors at a strategic level the Force's ability and performance (capacity, capability and effectiveness) to deliver against the '4Ps' (Prevent/Protect/Pursue/Prepare) via the Force's 'Cyber Investigation Steering Group'. OPCC Research of CSP plans and feedback from the previous CSP Forum highlighted differing local buy-in to cyber crime.
- OPCC have a 'holding to account' scrutiny framework which will include scrutiny of ad hoc topical operational matters at monthly liaison meetings.
- Explore options for alternative distribution of the Community Safety Fund in 2017/18 and later years – PCC to consider future options (post-election).

- Draft the OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan (target date June 2015)
- Develop a new OPCC website – now live.

Decisions under the Scheme of Governance (listed on page 96 of the agenda)

Local media news

Teenage who drowned in the River Thames

The Independent Police Complaints Commission will carry out a thorough investigation of this tragedy to see whether any lessons can be learned. Thames Valley Police cut its specialist search and recovery team, which carried out underwater operations as a result of budget cuts in 2014.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-36274470>

Police apology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsrcdM131SM>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b079rtpm/bbc-oxford-news-12052016>

Crime in the Thames Valley rises for the first time in ten years

Reported crime in the Thames Valley has risen by 7.2% since last year - the region's first rise in crime for 10 years. Thames Valley Police said the rise, between April 2015 and March 2016, was largely due to changes in recording practices.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36158899>

<http://www.jackfm.co.uk/oxfordshire/news/oxfordshire-news/child-gun-crime-arrests-rise-by-almost-15-in-the-thames-valley/>

Modern Slavery (Crime and Disorder Scrutiny item)

An item on modern slavery was presented at the Buckinghamshire County Council Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee and the webcast can be viewed below.

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=789&MId=6930&Ver=4>

Modern Slavery deprives people of their most basic human rights and freedoms, poses a huge risk to their health and wellbeing and is a major source of revenue for serious organised crime. The Modern Slavery Act became law in March 2015. The Government has also published a Modern Slavery Strategy. There is a statutory duty to notify the Secretary of State about potential victims of modern slavery. However, there is currently no additional funding available from central government to support the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act. The Government believes local Serious and Organised Crime Partnership arrangements will play an important role in co-ordinating work around modern slavery.

In July 2015, the UK appointed Kevin Hyland OBE to be the first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. In October 2015 the Commissioner published a two-year strategic plan to combat modern slavery which has two aims:-

- To see an increase in the number of victims identified and referred for support
- To see an increase in the number of prosecutions and convictions for traffickers and slave masters.

Video to spot signs of modern slavery.

<https://modernslavery.co.uk/#home>

There is limited data to gauge the level of modern slavery locally. One previous case (in Bedfordshire) was referred to at the meeting.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-14888183>

In 2015, the Police & Crime Commissioner commissioned a number of victim services across the Thames Valley. This includes a two year pilot Independent Trauma Advisory (ITA) Service. The purpose of the service is to provide emotional and practical support for individuals identified as experiencing exploitation/slavery.

The schemes are running in Oxford (run by Elmore Community Services) and Reading (entitled 'Rahab' and run by The Mustard Tree). Findings from the pilot can be used to develop future services for victims.

Oxford Mail - Restorative Justice

Victims of crime can now directly confront criminals as part of an extended "restorative justice" scheme in the Thames Valley.

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14421105.Victims_can_confront_criminals_as_part_of_extended_restorative_justice_scheme/

Slough Observer – Legal Highs

National news reported by Slough on concerns around legal highs

http://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/14508559.Warning_over_legal_highs_after_three_men_collapse/

National media/information

Policing and Crime Bill Update

This has now reached the report stage of the House of Commons.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2016/march/commons-policing-and-crime-bill/>

Hampshire Constabulary new Chief Constable

Olivia Pinkney takes over from former Chief Constable Andy Marsh

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-35960211>

PCC Elections/review of their four year term

Declaration of results

<http://thamesvalleypccelection.co.uk/role-of-the-pcc/>

All Thames Valley candidates signed up to the ethical checklist

<https://policinginsight.com/analysis/which-pcc-candidates-have-signed-up-to-behaving-ethically/>

Has the PCC signed up for the Ethical Checklist (Committee for Standards of Public Life)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/committee-calls-on-pcc-candidates-to-sign-up-to-ethical-checklist>

Home Affairs Select Committee report 'PCC's here to stay' –

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmhaff/844/844.pdf>

"The introduction of elected commissioners, and the structures to support their operation, represented a major reform. The system is continuing to develop as lessons are learned and the individuals involved adapt to their roles. This is particularly true of Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) where adapting to the change from the old system of police authorities seems to have taken some time to bed down. A number of PCCs described initial problems with their PCPs but reported that effort on both sides had sometimes led to improvement. It is essential that the checks and balances on commissioners which PCPs are intended to provide operate effectively. For this to happen, panel members need to be properly trained, resourced and supported. We are not convinced that this is yet the case in all police force areas. PCPs are the only effective means of holding PCCs to account between elections. Meetings between commissioners and panels should therefore take place more frequently, and at least every two months. It is far from clear that this is currently happening in all cases.

We recommend that the Home Office, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and the College of Policing work together to assess what additional support PCPs need to operate more effectively, and that they take more collective action to spread good practice amongst panels. "

Updated guidance on Female Genital Mutilation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

Lottery funded initiative on Domestic Abuse

<http://safelives.org.uk/node/821>

[Crime, Policing and Fire News Update](#). Summary from the Director General

This month saw the annual Police Federation Conference where the Home Secretary gave a powerful speech that focused on Hillsborough and the police response to domestic abuse and vulnerable victims. In her speech, the Home Secretary also recognised the progress made towards reforming the Police Federation, and challenged the organisation to finish the job of reform.

The Home Secretary also gave her first speech on fire policy since the Home Office took over responsibility for fire services in England in January. Speaking at an event hosted by Reform, the Home Secretary unveiled a programme of reform for fire and rescue services that promises to be as radical and ambitious as that delivered in policing since 2010. The reforms, which will be delivered over the next four years, will make the fire and rescue service more accountable, more effective and more professional than ever before.