

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Themed Item – Collaboration

Date: 21 October 2016

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Background

The reason for this item is to look at the PCC's performance on collaboration and how the Chief Constable is being held to account for the collaborations the Force is involved in.

1. Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) have a legal duty to collaborate (work together) where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own or another police force. Working together in this way is an important tool, allowing police forces to achieve savings and to deal more effectively with crimes that go beyond a single force's borders. Collaboration agreements between police forces can also include other public sector organisations as well as the private sector. PCCs will need to collaborate to meet their responsibilities under the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).
2. The SPR sets out a broad range of national threats which require a commitment from police forces and other agencies to work collectively in providing a suitable response. The SPR supports Chief Constables and PCCs to ensure they fulfil forces' national responsibilities. It:
 - helps PCCs to plan effectively, in consultation with their Chief Constable, for policing challenges that go beyond their force boundaries;
 - guides chief constables in the exercise of these functions; and
 - enables and empowers PCCs to hold their chief constable to account for the delivery of these functions.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417116/The_Strategic_Policing_Requirement.pdf
3. Collaborative working has increased over the last few years and all police forces now collaborate to tackle terrorism (through regional counter terrorism units and counter terrorism intelligence units) and organised crime (through regional organised crime units). But there are still opportunities to use collaboration to bring about further improvements. A recent Home Office report (August 2016) states that since 2010/11 Forces have saved in excess of £290m through better procurement and collaboration, but new information released shows that there are still many areas where forces could work together to identify savings.

4. There is no single 'one size fits all' model of collaboration that can be applied to every policing function in every part of the country. PCCs and Chief Officers will need to consider all possible models and decide on the most effective and most suitable for their circumstances.
5. PCCs must hold their Chief Officers to account for the collaborations their force is involved in. They must also make arrangements for doing so jointly with the PCCs for the other forces involved. How this is done will be for the PCCs to decide, taking into account:
 - the particular circumstances of the collaboration;
 - the different resources provided by each force;
 - where the services will be based; and
 - which chief officer will have direction and control over officers and staff.

Local information

The OPCC has provided an overview (attached) of how the PCC (in conjunction with the Chief Constable) is discharging his duty to consider and utilise opportunities to collaborate with partners in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors and what governance arrangements are in place to enable the PCC to hold those collaborative functions to account for their performance. Performance reports regarding the SE Regional Organised Crime Unit and SE Counter Terrorism Unit collaborative functions are restricted but the PCC can respond to any questions on performance and effectiveness.

The OPCC will provide further information but currently collaboration covers the following areas:-

- SE Regional Organised Crime Unit – this is hosted by Thames Valley and brings together the current regional organised crime units under one structure. It is operationally aligned with the SE Counter Terrorism Unit.
- SE Counter Terrorist Unit – there is a joint Assistant Chief Constable who works directly to the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police to exercise overall command of the regional crime and counter terrorism functions and also represents serious organised crime at the Regional Governance Board.
- Chiltern Transport Consortium – a new governance structure was implemented in 2014/15. The Governance Board is chaired by the PCC.
- Fire and Rescue Services (property) – a memorandum of understanding has been agreed with the three Fire and Rescue Services regarding exploring collaborative opportunities in the sharing of premises.
- Bi-lateral collaborative arrangements with Hampshire Constabulary.

There is a Hampshire/TVP Bilateral Collaboration Governance Board and a South East Regional Governance Board which looks at collaboration between Forces across the SE Region. The PCC Draft Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 stated that a number of formal Hampshire/TVP Bi-lateral Collaboration Governance Board meetings were cancelled and not rearranged during 2015/16 but in future, a greater emphasis will be placed on ensuring that governance meetings are held in accordance with the requirements of the formal Section 22A agreement (the relevant legislation that governs collaboration in the police service see link below on statutory guidance).

HMIC Report – Collaboration

- Thames Valley Police has established a well-managed collaboration programme with Hampshire Constabulary to jointly deliver a range of services including information and

communication technology, joint information management unit, firearms, police dog section and roads policing.

- Collaboration with Hampshire Constabulary has been well planned, and is achieving efficiencies and resilience in services with additional collaborative working opportunities being actively explored.
- Thames Valley Police has already achieved efficiencies and improved service as a result of collaborative working with Hampshire Constabulary in IT, information management services and a joint police operations unit. It is now extending this collaboration to manage jointly public contact centres for the two forces. The force is also assessing the viability of outsourcing the running of some back office functions such as the payroll service and its duties management system.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/thames-valley-police-efficiency-2015.pdf>

HMIC - Strategic Policing Requirement

PCC Anthony Stansfeld's comment on HMIC's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) inspection (2014)

"In their national report, HMIC provides assurance that Chief Constables are having regard to the SPR, but identifies that much more needs to be done by forces to secure the levels of preparedness that are necessary for them to collectively respond to all of the national threats. Thames Valley Police were not one of the 18 Forces directly inspected as part of the inspection process, although the Force is cited in various sections of the report.

The Force is well placed to deal with the following:-

- Threats to Public Order - Thames Valley Police has continued to meet its SPR requirements in relation to public order and public safety policing which will be further enhanced in 2014/15 through wider Joint Operations Unit and regional collaboration.
- Civil Contingencies - The force is well positioned to deal with the identified threats that the Thames Valley faces. It is a key participant of the Local Resilience Forum and has well established and productive partnerships with other key agencies. There are well established processes for the identification and mitigation of risk and capabilities are regularly exercised, tested and the lessons learned.
- Firearms (Thames Valley Police & Hampshire Constabulary Joint Operations Unit) The firearms collaboration between Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police has increased both forces' ability to support the response to the challenges presented within the SPR with the concept being proven through recent national deployments. This has been achieved through a focus on interoperability and adopting national standards ensuring capability has been maintained. The overall RAG status is 'green'.

Related background information

Statutory Guidance for Police Collaboration

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117559/police-collaboration.pdf

Collaborations with services without blue lights are just as important

<http://www.polfed.org/newsroom/3659.aspx>

Collaboration between academics and Forces

<http://www.college.police.uk/News/College-news/Pages/COP-collab-academics-forces.aspx>

Collaboration with Hampshire Constabulary

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/aboutus-parts-hants>.

Police procurement

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34166603>

East Midlands Police Forces Collaboration

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/media/working-together-east-midlands-police-forces-collaboration.pdf>

http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/uploads/holding/projects/police_force_collaboration.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-calls-for-greater-collaboration-between-police-forces-to-drive-down-costs>

<http://www.apccs.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Emergency-Services-Collaboration-2014.pdf>