

## Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Author:** Clare Gray, Scrutiny Officer,  
Thames Valley Police & Crime  
Panel



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### PCC Engagement Strategy

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/engaging-communities/>

Communicating and engaging with the community, victims and other stakeholders is an important part of the role of the PCC and allows him to make evidence-based decisions which are centred on the views of the public.

The aim of the Community Engagement Strategy is to strengthen community and stakeholder involvement and improve the quality and consistency of the Office of the PCC (OPCC) engagement to allow opportunities for public and stakeholders to inform the PCC's priorities and activities.

The PCC is committed to following the following principles of engagement:

#### Transparency

- Make clear the purpose of any engagement activity and use the right methods to engage local peoples and stakeholders.
- Be clear about what can be influenced
- Use honest, accurate and unbiased information

#### Listening

- Listen and respond to individuals, communities and other stakeholders, enabling and empowering them to play an effective role of setting priorities and influencing decisions.

#### Inclusiveness

- Undertake fair and impartial engagement, aiming to seek the views of all communities, to ensure that they can inform issues that may affect them and make a difference.

#### Partnership

- Work with partners to reduce bureaucracy by having more joined up thinking, working and delivery.

The objectives of the Engagement Strategy are:

- To seek the views of local people, including hard-to-reach groups, voluntary groups and partner agencies to inform the PCC's Police and Crime Plan Objectives and to help him to hold the Chief Constable to account.
- To inform the PCCs funding decisions and other activity undertaken by staff of the OPCC under its Strategic Delivery Plan.
- To improve partnership working and coordination with partner agencies, including Thames Valley Police, to reduce duplication and improve consistency of services across Thames Valley.
- To obtain the views of victims and witnesses of crime in order to improve the quality of support services and victims' experiences of the criminal justice system.
- To communicate with the public on how the PCC is effectively discharging his duties, including holding the Chief Constable to account for policing in the Thames Valley.

Examples of other PCC engagement strategies can be found below:-

<http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Reports/Draft-Comms-Engagement-Strategy-2013-FINAL.pdf>

Nottinghamshire Consultation, Engagement and Community Involvement Strategy 2016-20

<https://goo.gl/DKk9en>

## **Thames Valley Police and Crime Plan**

The Plan was launched on 28 March 2017 and can be found below:-

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2017/03/police-and-crime-commissioner-launches-new-police-and-crime-plan/>

## **Eastern Region Police and Crime Panels Network Meeting (March 2017)**

(This includes Herts, Essex, Thames Valley, Beds, Norfolk)

- The Essex Police and Crime Panel have considered the business case of the PCC in relation to collaboration with the Fire Service and this is now out to consultation with a possible implementation date of October 2017.
- Bedfordshire Police Force was considered inadequate by HMIC in the last effectiveness review and they have expressed concern about this rating. From recent press articles there are questions about whether the HMIC Inspectors should be inspected.
- Hertfordshire PCC has published his latest Plan which is called Police and Criminal Justice Plan
- There was a discussion about regional collaboration and how this was scrutinised – in the Eastern Region each Panel has asked their PCC the same questions to compare answers.
- Complaints – changes in relation to the Policing and Crime Act. The Home Office are aware of the fact that training will need to be considered for Police and Crime Panels. A public consultation is expected on 'super complaints' which will provide an avenue for organisations such as charities and advocacy groups to raise issues on behalf of the public about patterns or trends that could undermine legitimacy and support for policing. OPCCs have highlighted concerns in that super complaints could undermine the PCCs role as they have a statutory duty to monitor trends in police complaints. There are no timescales yet for the appellant body model which is expected sometime in 2018. The Home Office has indicated that there is nothing to stop PCCs moving to the appellant body function ahead of the enactment. There is a mixed response from PCCs about which complaints model to adopt with only a few PCCs being public about their model of choice.
- The National Conference for Police and Crime Panels is on Monday 6 November at Warwick Conference Centre – if Members would like to attend please could they contact the Scrutiny Officer.

- National Association – a meeting was held with Panels led by Frontline Consulting to consider the potential formation of an Association of PCPs. The overwhelming consensus of participants at the meeting was in favour of establishing a National Association. A Steering Group has been set up and a more detailed paper is being prepared hopefully for the Summer. The following issues were made:-
  - Having a simple inexpensive and non bureaucratic structure
  - Engaging Members and Officers
  - Focus on lobbying
  - Providing a mechanism to consult and agree common positions to feed through to the Home Office, APCC and others
- Feedback from the National Conference 2016 – a booklet is available from the Scrutiny Officer which covers the keynote session ‘Policing accountability and expectations and the workshops undertaken.

## **PCC Policy Planning and Performance meeting (31 March 2017)**

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

## **HMIC – Police Effectiveness 2016**

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/publications/peel-police-effectiveness-2016-thames-valley/>

An effective police force is one which keeps people safe and reduces crime.

Overview – How effective is the Force at keeping people safe and reducing crime

Thames Valley Police is good at keeping people safe and reducing crime. The Force is good at protecting vulnerable people and anti-social behaviour and it generally investigates crime well. It is also good at protecting vulnerable people and provides the right support to them in conjunction with partner organisations. It tackles serious and organised crime effectively and is well prepared to respond to national threats.

Thames Valley is good but the report also identifies areas where they could do more:-

Overview

- Address the other types of harm that offenders can cause, including domestic abuse
- With tackling serious and organised crime it is good to see how the force includes partner organisations in some of these disruption tactics, but this is an area that would benefit from more consistent partnership involvement and, in particular better sharing of information. In other forces, organised crime partnership boards have been used effectively to include partner organisations in the fight against organised crime. Thames Valley Police should organise a partnership board structure to address this.
- The Force has good arrangements in place to ensure that it can fulfil its national policing requirements and is well placed to respond to an attack which might require an armed response. The Force’s assessment is that its capabilities need to be increased in this area, interim arrangements are now in place which it develops a long-term solution.

Preventing Crime, tackling anti social behaviour and keeping people safe

In order to understand the threat and risk faced by communities and to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour successfully, police forces need an effective model of local policing. The model should ensure that police officer and PCSOs can devote sufficient time to community engagement, targeted foot patrols and work with partners to protect communities and prevent crime. Thames Valley has good processes in place. The Force has good systems in place to collect and disseminate

data through the demand and vulnerability matrix. Thames Valley is good but the report also identifies areas where they could do more:-

- Engagement with the public – although in general the Force understands the communities across its area well, HMIC found that access to information about these communities is less assured. Many different ICT platforms are used to store this information and on occasion , the understanding of a community does not extend beyond the personal knowledge of important members of staff.
- HMIC found that staff in safer neighbourhood teams are sometimes taken away from their communities to cover staff shortage in other areas of the Force which can have a detrimental effect on community policing. A survey of members of neighbourhood teams, found that around half of all respondents from neighbourhood teams indicated that they performed duties away from this role at least once in the previous week.
- Officers in the Thames Valley make more use of powers to tackle anti-social behaviour than any other Force in England and Wales.
- The Force is keen to incorporate the concept of ‘evidence based policing’ in the services it provides to the public. Problem solving techniques undoubtedly have the potential to be strength in the Force. However, their impact is undermined by an inconsistent application of the techniques in some areas and the case management of problem solving operations is recorded differently across the Force area or is solely dependent on the knowledge of individual officers. This was identified as an area for improvement.

#### Investigating crime and reducing reoffending

- In Thames Valley the proportion of crimes where the outcomes includes action being taken against suspects slightly exceeds the proportion of crimes in England and Wales. The Force also arrests and prosecutes a greater proportion of offenders than elsewhere. The outcome framework gives a fuller picture of the work police do to investigate and resolve crime and over time all crimes will be assigned an outcome.
- The initial investigation response is critical for an effective investigation – it is important that Forces record evidence as soon as possible after a crime. However HMIC believe that the Office Based Research Team workload should be reviewed as some cases had a wait of up to four weeks before any active investigations begin. However, there are some assurances that all of these crimes are reviewed by supervisors who can escalate cases if necessary.
- During the last inspection there was a backlog for the forensic examination of some items of up to 8 months. This has improved to five months but further work needs to be undertaken.
- Supporting Victims – Service provided to victims is effective in most cases, however knowledge of the entitlements of certain victims, for example the right to give evidence by video link rather than attend court, was uncertain. There were also occasions when the obligation to keep the victim informed about the progress of enquiries had been overlooked.
- In terms of offending the Force takes a positive approach to apprehending people who pose a risk to the public. One of the areas noted was that knowledge of dangerous and sexual offender was less certain amongst front line staff. The Force is currently exploring more efficient working practices and has plans to increase the number of offender managers, as well as involving more neighbourhood officer and special constables in the monitoring of offenders.

#### Protecting the vulnerable and supporting victims

The Force has made good progress improving some areas of its work to protect vulnerable people and also in its ability to investigate so-called honour based abuse which has resulted in higher levels of identification of HBA in the Thames Valley.

- HMIC were impressed to see the level of analysis undertaken in the Oxfordshire MASH into the risks to missing children.
- Thames Valley has excellent processes in place to identify and assess vulnerability.
- HMIC noted that the Force does not have a consistent system for telling schools about pupils whose parents have been involved in domestic abuse. The Force recognises this is a gap as only those MASHs in the Force where there is an education department employee are able to exchange this information. The Force is planning to pilot a process known as Operation Encompass.
- There are robust and effective policies in place to identify links between missing children and CSE.
- Greater use is being made of Prohibition Notices – these measures restrain an offender from contacting a victim or returning to a victims home.
- HMIC was encouraged by the determination of the Force to prosecute offender even in the most difficult cases for domestic abuse.
- The Force use of community resolution was among the lowest in identified domestic abuse cases
- The rate of victims of domestic abuse who do not support police action is higher than the rate for England and Wales and the Force needs to understand the reasons behind this.
- Domestic abuse investigators still express concern about their individual caseloads and the Force is taking steps to address this.
- The Force has worked hard to develop MASH which work consistently well across several local authority jurisdictions.

#### Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

As at 1 July 2016 the Force was actively disrupting, investigating or monitoring 29 organised crime groups per one million of the population which compares to 49 OCGs across England and Wales. This low number could mean that the Force might not be identifying all active organised crime groups. It needs to build on its knowledge by using information from a wider range of sources.

- LPA staff identify groups of criminals who are referred to as Problem Crime Groups who present a threat which is not thought to be serious but nevertheless needs the attention of local officers. The Force should review its approach in this area as its current approach means that it does not have a single overall view of the nature of these groups which could mean some criminals are overlooked.
- HMIC also considers that the involvement of neighbourhood officers in tackling organised crime needs to be expanded.
- The Force generally responds effectively to organised crime, but it could improve results by making more effective use of partner organisations and by taking a longer term view of OCG management.
- Levels of knowledge about how to tackle organised crime are not consistent which could mean that they are over reliant on specialist staff to provide them with tactical advice.
- LPAs and CSPs have started to work together to tackle organised crime and this could be developed further is a strategic partnership board for the Force were to be developed.
- Thames Valley Police have been working with SEROCU to produce an action plan with Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex forces to improve collaboration arrangements and the

current action plan is more of a structured review of current arrangements. The Force need to ensure that the plan is agreed.

- HMIC also learnt that the Force does not routinely pass all of its highest risk OCGs to the SEROCU and uses its own resources to tackle them.
- HMIC believe more should be done to monitor the behaviour of OCG members in prison.
- The Force needs to do more to embed a longer term approach to dealing with organised crime.

### **Events organised**

- Cyber crime conference on 28 March 2017 organised by the Panel and Bucks County Council to look at developing an action plan across the Thames Valley to help Community Safety Partnerships address cyber crime.
- Taxi licensing event on 19 May 2017 to look at cross border issues and the possibility of a regional database.

### **Published documents**

Police Foundation blog – How efficient and effective are the police ?

<http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/news/256/15/How-efficient-and-effective-are-the-police>

A natural experiment into neighbourhood policing

[http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/uploads/holding/projects/changing\\_world\\_paper\\_4.pdf](http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/uploads/holding/projects/changing_world_paper_4.pdf)

### **Press Articles**

#### **Statement by TVP following the Westminster terrorist incident**

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/general/thames-valley-police-statement-westminster-terrorism-incident/>

#### **Use of Drones by the police**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/flying-squad-of-drones-aids-officers-fbrbdfhwh?shareToken=ed817f51fba9d8f57f2ac77c59d2a597>

#### **CSE**

SUSPICIOUS' bruising on disabled siblings abused by their carer was overlooked by police and council workers, a report has revealed. But Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire County Council's children's social care services missed an opportunity to uncover the abuse earlier, a serious case review by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) revealed.

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15125626.Opportunities\\_missed\\_to\\_uncover\\_despicable\\_child\\_abuse\\_earlier\\_report\\_reveals/?ref=ebmpn](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15125626.Opportunities_missed_to_uncover_despicable_child_abuse_earlier_report_reveals/?ref=ebmpn)

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15080604.Judge\\_demands\\_answers\\_from\\_police\\_after\\_delay\\_in\\_bringing\\_sex\\_offender\\_to\\_justice/?ref=ebln](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15080604.Judge_demands_answers_from_police_after_delay_in_bringing_sex_offender_to_justice/?ref=ebln)

Ten men have been charged with CSE offences

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-39442102>

#### **Unauthorised Encampments Summit Report (West Midlands )**

The summit, which was attended by MPs, other PCCs, senior police officers, council officials and members of the travelling community, heard how the number of unauthorised sites in the West Midlands has risen from 189 to 395 since 2011. An action plan has been drawn up, which will give greater protection for private businesses, increase the use of official transit sites with electricity and bathrooms and outline one set of protocols for all councils and the police to follow

[http://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/267027](http://westmidspcc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/267027)

[http://www.dudleynews.co.uk/news/15085107.Action\\_plan\\_to\\_tackle\\_unauthorised\\_traveller\\_camps\\_revealed/?ref=mr&lp=15](http://www.dudleynews.co.uk/news/15085107.Action_plan_to_tackle_unauthorised_traveller_camps_revealed/?ref=mr&lp=15)

Police in the Berkshire town have said that they will no longer chase shoplifters unless they steal more than £100 worth of goods.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/100-shoplifters-to-be-ignored-by-police-x859316qk>

[http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/15154434.Police dismiss claims they ignore shoplifters who steal less than 100/](http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/15154434.Police-dismiss-claims-they-ignore-shoplifters-who-steal-less-than-100/)

### **Expert Constables**

The pilot will run in the following forces: Thames Valley, Humberside, South Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, North Wales, West Yorkshire and the Metropolitan Police. The College of Policing (CoP) wants to recognise constables who are experts in their field by offering a select handful career development without promotion.

<http://constabulary.org.uk/2017/03/15/professional-recognition-for-expert-constables/>

### **Public Space Protection Order**

Vale of White Horse District Council received 193 responses to its consultation about a potential public space protection order (PSPO) in Abingdon. The move would allow police officers to fine people creating 'vehicle-related noise nuisance', including blaring radio stereos, screeching tyres and revving engines.

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15086180.Town reacts to plan to call in the noise police to tackle loud car revving your say/?ref=ebIn](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15086180.Town-reacts-to-plan-to-call-in-the-noise-police-to-tackle-loud-car-revving-your-say/?ref=ebIn)

### **County Lines**

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15149769.Hundreds of teenagers 39 being forced to run drugs for city gangs 39 /?ref=ebmpn](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15149769.Hundreds-of-teenagers-39-being-forced-to-run-drugs-for-city-gangs-39/?ref=ebmpn)

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15166520.Teenage 39 drugs runners 39 are spared jail/?ref=ebIn](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15166520.Teenage-39-drugs-runners-39-are-spared-jail/?ref=ebIn)

### **National articles**

#### **Taxi Licensing**

The government is being urged to create a central database for taxi drivers in England and Wales.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39248531>

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/historic-agreement-between-council-should-improve-taxi-safety-in-derby/story-30124186-detail/story.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2017/02/28/uber-claims-written-english-test-will-put-thousands-drivers/>

[http://www.apccs.police.uk/press\\_release/apcc-chair-calls-safeguarding-action-issuing-taxi-licences/](http://www.apccs.police.uk/press_release/apcc-chair-calls-safeguarding-action-issuing-taxi-licences/)

#### **Private bobbies**

Two of Britain's most experienced former detectives are setting up a private police force to patrol and investigate crime in three of the wealthiest parts of London.

<https://t.co/3a4t9603p0>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4283148/Private-police-force-investigate-crime-London.html>

#### **Fire Service Collaboration**

A council has rejected plans to give responsibility for the county fire service to the police and crime commissioner, it has been claimed.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-38907701>

Local Business Case for Essex

[www.essex.pcc.police.uk/.../Essex-Local-Business-Case-v7-1.12.16-PDF-for-FRA.pdf](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/.../Essex-Local-Business-Case-v7-1.12.16-PDF-for-FRA.pdf)