

Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 8 September 2017, in Olympic Room Aylesbury Vale District Council Gatehouse Road Aylesbury Bucks HP19 8FF, commencing at 11.00 am and concluding at 1.15 pm.

Members Present

Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Derek Sharp (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Cllr Arvind Dhaliwal (Slough Borough Council), Julia Girling (Independent Member), Cllr Tom Hayes (Oxford City Council), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Chris McCarthy (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Cllr Emma Webster (West Berkshire Council), Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council) and Cllr Barry Wood (Cherwell District Council)

Officers Present

Clare Gray

Others Present

Matthew Barber (Deputy PCC), Katy Barrow-Grint (Thames Valley Police), Adrian Foster (CPS Thames and Chiltern), Francis Habgood (Thames Valley Police), Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC) and Debbie Johnson (National Probation Service)

Apologies

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Tony Page (Reading Borough Council) and Councillor Carol Reynolds (West Oxfordshire District Council)

122. Declarations of Interest

Emma Webster declared an interest on the topical issues item as a Member of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

123. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

PCC Annual Report – Strategic Objective 4

Cllr Hayes referred to the minute on hate crime and commented that his question related to the rise in hate crime and whether this was prompted by terror attacks or whether this was outside the timeframe. He also referred to Brexit and the impact this may have. The Chief Constable reported that there was a correlation between Brexit and terror attacks which coincided with publicity from the OPCC to encourage reporting which increased figures. He would be happy to send the Panel a copy of the graph showing hate crime figures.

Action: Chief Constable

Strategic Aim 6

Cllr Webster referred to the minute on Reading festival and concerns around security and passed her thanks to Thames Valley Police for an excellent job in keeping people safe.

124. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

125. Themed Item - Partnership with Criminal Justice Agencies

Panel Members in previous meetings have agreed that it would be useful to have a themed item on the PCC's partnership with criminal justice agencies. As part of this item a smart survey was sent to partners of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and a copy of the response is attached to the report. Members also welcomed two expert witnesses:-

Debbie Johnson – National Probation Service

Adrian Foster – Chief Crown Prosecutor (Thames and Chiltern CPS)

Debbie Johnson introduced herself and reported that she was the Chair of the Reducing Reoffending Group of the LCJB and a Member of the Sub-Group which was looking at domestic abuse. They are commissioning, with funding from the OPCC, a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme with the Police Integrated Offender Management Team to better manage certain low and medium risk offenders whose cases would not be going to court. The new Positive Relationships Programme would be going live in November.

In terms of reducing reoffending they had a Delivery Plan for the next 12 months. One of the areas that the Group had some areas of concern was the long standing issue of a lack of accommodation for offenders post sentence being released from prison. This matter had often been raised at Community Safety Partnerships and Integrated Offender Management meetings, however, the response had been limited and reflects the low level of available suitable accommodation in local authority areas. A recent national article stated that only 2% of 98 prisoners assessed had been found accommodation via the 'Through the Gate' Programme and 10 started their licence period with no fixed address. More widely it is said that 1 in 7 prisoners are being released without knowing where they would sleep the first night. Without the stability of accommodation it is difficult for agencies to support offenders to ensure that they can access benefits or secure Education, Training or Employment or to protect the public if the offender could not be located.

Debbie Johnson reported that this has been raised at the Joint Chief Executive Meeting recently and she had been heartened by the response by Councils. She commented that agencies needed to work together on this area particularly with public sector budget restraints and with the increase of rough sleeping and tented communities. At the meeting attendees agreed that a partnership event should be organised to look at possible solutions and she asked Panel Members to inform her of any key people that should attend and to raise awareness of this issue.

Action: Panel Members

Cllr Bendyshe-Brown commented that CSP's recognise the situation but with huge pressures on housing services with vulnerable clients it was a difficult area to address. Debbie Johnson referred to work with Local MAPPA's (MAPPA is a mechanism through which agencies can better discharge their combined responsibility for Public Protection. This mainly involves coordinating risk management of certain categories of High Risk Sexual and

Violent Offenders) and the need to prioritise this area as prison release offenders were also vulnerable and at risk of repeat offending and causing harm to the public if the right provision was not put in place e.g. could be a child protection issue. If prisoners did not have access to the right accommodation this could make them accessible to people who preyed on and manipulated the vulnerable e.g. serious organised crime gangs which would lead them back into criminal behaviour.

The Chief Constable reported that there was a change in law with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 where local authorities would have a statutory duty to house ex-offenders; the definition of priority need has been extended to encompass ex-offenders. Debbie Johnson reported that conversations needed to be had about the new legislation and to look at creative ideas about how best to deal with ex-offenders to help produce better outcomes.

Cllr Dhaliwal asked about the possibility of perpetrators making contact with victims. Debbie Johnson responded to say that where there was a high risk of harm the ex offender would be put into approved premises with a risk assessment undertaken and tests would be carried out about how they engaged with the community. The Victim Liaison Unit would provide information to the victim. The Licence conditions should prevent contact with the victim and specify areas the ex offender would not be allowed to enter. There are a variety of ways to protect the victim.

Cllr Macpherson commented that in terms of the partnership event it would be helpful to invite employment agencies. She also referred to youth offending rates which were very high and the recent Lammy review which reported that young offenders from ethnic minorities would become the next generation of criminals because of bias found in the criminal justice system – the review found that the system discriminates in treatment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds. Debbie Johnson reported that this was a client group that she didn't particularly work with and that the Youth Offending Service would be best to respond to this. There is a lot of work put into the transition from child to adult and this is being looked at by the Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group. Probation Officers had been seconded from her office to work with the high risk clients in the Youth Offending Service. Cllr Macpherson welcomed that this area was being addressed in the Delivery Plan.

Adrian Foster

As the Chief Crown Prosecutor, he has responsibility for the prosecution of most criminal cases across five counties: Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire - which form the Thames Valley Police force area - and Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, which have their own police forces. Every year, they prosecute about 38,000 cases across those areas. They prosecute about five-and-a-half thousand of those in the Crown Court - the most serious cases - and they have an eight-in-ten success rate.

He has a number of specialist lawyer teams dealing with the most serious casework and also a specialist legal team that deals with Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, and they have a particular priority in terms of other offending - Domestic Violence is one of those; Hate Crimes; Hostility based on sexual orientation; and they make sure that the Proceeds of Crime from criminals get back to the public. Individual victims and witnesses are taken into account and they are supported throughout the process. The Chief Prosecutor works closely with the Chief Constable and his Assistants. He also works closely with the PCC, who is also Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board. They have a Planning Event at the beginning of each year to look at their vision and priorities and to ensure an efficient and effective criminal justice system. A number of Sub-Groups are in place, which are fit for purpose and able to deliver initiatives in support of those priorities.

Superintendent Katy Barrow- Grint has been Head of Criminal Justice since July 2017 and has wide ranging duties including:-

- 400 staff including being the Lead on Custody Suites
- responsibility for compliance with the Victims Code of Practice. She has been working with the Policy Manager in the OPCC on the Victims First website.
- There has been a large amount of work on improving file quality to make sure that the case is ready for court and important to train investigators to make sure everything is covered.

- introduction of the new pre-charge bail limit of 28 days which was introduced as part of the Policing and Crime Act. It is possible to secure an extension beyond the initial 28 day bail period where it is appropriate and necessary. An extension of up to 3 months can be authorised by a senior officer at Superintendent level or above.
- Digitalising the criminal justice system – with associated training/cost/implementation

The Deputy PCC reported on his and the PCC's role in relation to criminal justice. He referred to the smart survey and the Crest Report. (Information on the Crest Report is detailed in the agenda papers. The report comments that whilst PCC's have a mandate to improve policing and cut crime, their leverage over other parts of the criminal justice system is negligible and that there is no clarity about what success looks like with performance information being limited and uncoordinated).

There were a number of very positive comments in the smart survey such as 'I think that the LCJB within Thames Valley does work effectively as demonstrated by consistently positive outcomes across the partnership'. However, the following comments were made:-

- The work of the sub groups is not really held to account at the LCJB and the plans are not outcome focused.
- Lot of good intentions and activity with poor view of the horizon
- There is often a clear focus on process rather than people – focus on people is fundamental to ensuring that all victims and witnesses are provided with the support they deserve
- The PCC could do more to champion the need for putting victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system.
- The complexity of the partnership arrangements makes communication difficult, particularly at local authority level there is limited joint working or commitment to joint working – a one day conference should be hosted to look at concerns over accommodation for released prisoners
- It would be good to link PCC funding to agencies that actively support the work of the LCJB
- Limited challenge from the chair
- Be responsible for co-ordinating/overseeing auditing of different agencies using key measures – if agencies are not performing the PCC should be robust in challenging poor practice and directly engaging with Chief Execs

The Deputy PCC reported that Thames Valley LCJB partners were working well together as a Board but there was always more work to be done and it was helpful to obtain the views of the survey. Partners involved in criminal justice were wide ranging and the discussion previously on emergency accommodation for ex-offenders showed that there were difficult issues to tackle. In an ideal world the journey through the criminal justice system would be seamless but it is not. If PCC's were given responsibility for criminal justice then the Government would have to give them additional powers and resources to do so.

He raised the issue of file quality and reported that file quality was improving at every performance review.

The Chief Constable also referred to the huge breadth of partners involved in the criminal justice system. One area he specifically referred to was Aspire Oxford who were working with ex-offenders delivering training and skills for people who have survived adversity and are committed to making remarkable changes to their lives. There is a lot of performance data that is published already around the court process and it was also important to note that the financial challenges around the criminal justice system as well e.g magistrate court closures and the need to increase the use of technology.

During questions the following points were noted :-

- Cllr Bendyshe-Brown asked the Deputy PCC what the impact had been of the split in probation services (The 35 probation trusts in England and Wales have been partially replaced by 21 community rehabilitation companies (CRCs), run by private companies with payment-by-results contracts that kicked in from February 2015. Existing staff have been split between CRCs and the National Probation

Service, with many teams now operating alongside each other). The OPCC Chief Executive reported that the national press had portrayed some concern about this but it was important to keep a watching brief on this area.

- Cllr Macpherson asked the Deputy PCC whether he was confident that the National file quality assessment (page 59) will improve the quality of prosecution files? Have you made an estimate to what figures will look like next year for files with minor deficiencies and those insufficient to proceed (one of the reasons for files being graded as insufficient is the lack of any Victim Personal Statement (VPS))? The Chief Crown Prosecutor answered this question by saying that if a case was received with information missing then they do a report back and say it has not met the standard. Cases, where information is lacking are being picked up before they reach the Prosecutor so that TVP can correct them. He commented that there had been a significant increase in quality going from a 20% failure rate to 8%. Training is taking place to help improve file quality. Superintendent Barrow Grint reported that through the Learning and Development Department they were working closely with CPS on the more serious cases. There was a general training scheme which also looked at the victim personal statement. There has been a significant improvement in work with victims which has fed into the quality of files. Court timescales were very tight and it was important to ensure that the file was ready before it went to court. Cllr Macpherson asked that a report be submitted to the Panel in Spring 2018 to provide assurance that performance continued to be improved.

Action: OPCC

- Cllr Mallon referred to hate crimes and the use of the caste system in this Country which was leading to discrimination. He asked whether this had come to the notice of the courts? The Chief Prosecutor reported that they prosecute inter-ethnic offending but this was not an issue that had been raised specifically. They had race related figures and information on Islam phobic incidents but it was not generally split into ethnicity. Cllr Mallon raised the issue of race around the Bullfinch case and the recent concerns of a MP stating that there needs to be an honest open debate on CSE including racial motivation. The Chief Crown Prosecutor commented that he would bear this in mind.
- Julia Girling (Independent Member who volunteers for Victim Support) asked why there was no resident CPS staff based at the courts and commented that they tend to get a different paralegal in everyday, so handovers can be difficult, take time and don't offer a continuity of service for witnesses coming back the following day. Also with trials listed to start in the afternoon (after legal arguments a jury has been sworn in and opening speech done) there is little chance of witnesses being started, so why do they warn them to attend? The Chief Crown Prosecutor reported that there should be a paralegal in every court and they will attend the first day of any case that they have looked after. Paralegals will assist in court on a rota basis. Julia Girling also referred to the remote live link which was a good initiative but she gave an example where a witness with special needs had an intermediary who had to attend the ground rules hearing at the trial court and then travel 2 hours to the live link location while the victim had to wait. She suggested that the ground rules could have been completed the previous day. Katy Barrow Grint reported that the video links were generally working well and they had used it for example when a suspect was unwell. She reported that Thames Valley Police had an excellent Witness Care Unit. The Deputy PCC reported that because of pressures on the court service there was limited lead in times and that efficient use of court time had to be pushed to its maximum. It was important that agencies worked in partnership in this area to provide an efficient and effective system for all.
- Cllr Wood commented that the public did not really distinguish between the police and criminal justice system and that published performance information on outcomes for a joined up system would be extremely helpful e.g. information on letting offenders out half way through their sentence. The Deputy PCC reported that they were monitoring progress and actively working together, particularly through their Planning Day to ensure that there were joint outcomes. The Deputy PCC agreed to look at whether the Board was adequately monitoring their own priorities but in terms of PCC taking overall ownership it was very difficult to take on accountability without power. Superintendent Barrow Grint reported that the Business Manager of the LCJB was looking at improving communications through the use of the internet and twitter. Panel Members then agreed the following recommendation:-

The Chairman thanked Adrian Foster, Debbie Johnson and Katy Barrow-Grint for contributing to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the PCC, in consultation with the LCJB may wish to consider the performance monitoring suggested by the Crest Report to ensure that there is a single overarching vision for the LCJB which is outcome focused.**
- 2. That the PCC, in consultation with the LCJB should revisit their decision on publishing further information on their website on performance monitoring**
- 3. That consideration be given to more robust challenge/influence from the PCC, where there is poor practice or where partners were not engaging (e.g holding a one day conference to look at accommodation for released prisoners) and that the Plans and actions from Sub Groups should be challenged by the Board to ensure the most effective outcome for the criminal justice system as a whole.**

126. Performance Monitoring of Police and Crime Plan

6A Specific – Modern Slavery

April McCoig attended the meeting to discuss the issue of modern slavery and reported that she had just been appointed into the post of Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator within Thames Valley Police. This was an important partnership post to liaise with multi agency partners to ensure that services were consistent across the Thames Valley. Local Authorities also have a significant role in terms of detecting and combatting modern slavery.

Local Authorities are one of a number of agencies identified within Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act as 'First Responders' along with the Police, the Salvation Army, UK Visas and Immigration etc. First Responders are specified statutory authorities who have a responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the UK Human Trafficking Centre. They must submit referrals into the National Referral Mechanism or for any victims who do not wish to be referred into the NRM, First Responders must submit a Duty to Notify form to the Home Office (to build up a picture of what was happening nationally). However, if the victim does not consent to go through the NRM then responsibilities may exist through other legislation that may impact Local Authorities.

In England and Wales, if a victim of modern slavery is found not to be a victim of trafficking, the Competent Authority must go on to consider whether they are the victim of another form of modern slavery, which includes slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. The NRM grants a minimum 45-day reflection and recovery period for victims of human trafficking or modern slavery. Trained decision makers decide whether individuals referred to them should be considered to be victims of trafficking according to the definition in the Council of Europe Convention.

Thames Valley Police have recorded 150 unique victims between February 2016 and 2017 and there was an even split between male and females. The main nationalities affected were British, Vietnamese and Romanian. There is a huge increase of organised crime gangs using modern slavery particularly with crimes of sexual exploitation and supplying drugs. Victims of forced labour crimes tend to be vulnerable. County Lines is a model of drug distribution where a single telephone number is given to sell drugs and other people are used to run drugs using vulnerable adults and children. Another term 'cuckooing' is used where gangs take over the properties of vulnerable people and use their property to undertake criminal acts.

The aim of the new co-ordinator role was to set up Anti Slavery networks which now existed in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and parts of Berkshire e.g Slough. In October the chairs of each area will meet with the Force Tactical Lead to help co-ordination across the Thames Valley. There was also a Modern Slavery Vulnerabilities Strategic Group.

In October 2017 there would be a campaign called 'Hidden Harms' which will communicate on a number of issues such as Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Violence and Modern Slavery.

Reference was made to Operation Aidant which was linked in with the National Crime Agency co-ordinated week of action. TVP had executed five warrants across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire relating to sexual exploitation in Modern Slavery. This operation also ties in with TVP Stronghold campaign which aims to work in partnership with communities and agencies to tackle serious organised crime such as modern slavery. Operation Stirling also managed to sentence perpetrators of modern slavery.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news/general/thames-valley-police-take-action-under-operation-aidant/>

Modern Slavery should be a high priority on Local Authority agendas and could link into a number of areas such as the Localism Act, Safeguarding Teams and Health and Wellbeing. A number of Authorities were undertaking good initiatives in this regard such as West Berkshire who were running sessions on county lines which was being rolled out to professionals and young people. Buckinghamshire had also undertaken some work with the Jill Dando Institute to provide clarity to partners on where to focus resources and priorities when action planning. They were also undertaking a Select Committee Inquiry into modern slavery. Slough Borough Council has commissioned a report in relation to the victim response to modern slavery. Training has been set up by <http://hopeforjustice.org/>

Modern slavery also needed to be a priority for businesses and there was a duty for organisations with a turnover of more than £36m to issue a slavery and human trafficking annual statement.

The key area for Local Authorities was the identification of victims and the support that could be provided e.g. housing. Cllr Dhaliwal asked what the PCC was doing to raise awareness around reporting suspicious activities and the Deputy responded that it was up to Community Safety Partnerships who had more localised knowledge to undertake this. April McCoig referred to the Hidden Harms Campaign which would be carried out in October.

Cllr Hayes referred to the inspiring work carried out by Oxfam who had set a benchmark for organisations to follow. He also expressed concern that there was no clear information as to what happened to victims beyond the statutory 45 day recovery and reflection period (where they may not have access to Welfare Benefits) and no system to make sure that survivors from slavery don't fall back into exploitation. The Deputy PCC reported that with the redesign of Victims Services improved specialist support will be provided to victims of crimes according to their needs. He also commented that there had been discussions about whether the PCC could sit on Health and Wellbeing Boards as a voting member. However in the meantime he could sit as a non voting Member.

Reference was made to the Rahab project which was dedicated to identifying and supporting those who are or have been affected by any form of exploitation by offering support and empowerment.

<http://rva.org.uk/organisation/rahabtherahabproject/>

Thames Valley Police have submitted a bid to the Police Transformation Fund for nearly £1m over 2 years. If successful then additional funding will not be required (as at August the result of the bid is unknown). If the bid is unsuccessful this may impact on the Rahab Service and funding for this would be sought through partnership contributions in addition to a PCC grant funding bid. Rahab also get voluntary contributions. The outcome of the bid should be known in the next two weeks.

Following the comprehensive presentation by April McCoig the Panel **recommended:-**

To Panel Members

That they work with their Councils to ensure that they are doing all they can to identify and combat modern slavery in all its forms and provide an update to the Scrutiny Officer on how this is being undertaken

To PCC

- 1. That he ask TVP to provide a checklist for all Councils to ensure that they are meeting their obligations in terms of the Modern Slavery Act and that where there were gaps in services that he address this**

through his powers to require a report from a CSP where he was not content that the CSP is carrying out its duties efficiently and effectively.

2. That he ask for a steer to be given on how Health and Wellbeing Boards should tackle the issue of modern slavery
3. That data be provided to the Panel on repeat victims of modern slavery where they have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism more than once and that the PCC inform the Panel how he will ensure that victims who are at risk of being re-trafficked are being minimised.

6B Strategic Aim 4 Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism

The Deputy PCC reported that the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for operational policing across the Thames Valley. The PCC attends monthly Service Improvement Reviews across Local Policing Areas in the Thames Valley, and also Force Performance Group meetings whereby he can witness the Chief Constable and his Deputy to hold relevant operational staff to account for their specific aims, objectives and targets.

Operation Stronghold is Thames Valley Police making a commitment to seeing a reduction in levels of serious and organised crime in the region. Working closely with partners TVP aim to achieve better knowledge sharing and suitable resourcing to disrupt and prevent the work of organised crime gangs and provide safeguarding to the innocent victims. For example 9 people were arrested in Reading where officers seized drugs and a machete and relates to individuals who have been supplying drugs who were operating across County lines.

At the SE Regional Collaboration Board the PCCs for Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Thames Valley collectively hold the chief officers to account for the delivery of effective regional services, such as serious organised crime and counter-terrorism.

All officers and staff working within SEROCU and SECTU are under the direction and control of the chief constable of Thames Valley Police. In addition, although the Thames Valley PCC has responsibility for holding the TVP chief constable to account for policing services provided by TVP, including the SEROCU/SECTU which the force hosts, the four other PCCs also provide formal oversight and scrutiny through regular regional governance board meetings.

The PCC is also a Member of the national Specialist Capabilities Board which is looking at developing collaborative operational and governance arrangements for the most effective delivery of specialist policing capabilities at the local and regional level.

During discussion the following points were made:-

Cllr Bendyshe Brown commented that crime across the Thames Valley had gone up by more than seven per cent in the in the past year and asked the PCC what he was doing to reassure the public ? The Deputy PCC reported that these figures were similar to rises in crime nationally and that he could share some benchmarking information with Members. He specifically made reference to the rise in organised crime and also burglaries and drug dealing through County lines which was being seen nationally. Crime was changing and new tactics were being employed.

Action: OPCC

The Deputy PCC then referred to the new operating model which had a 'bumpy' start but was now settling down. There had also been a large spike of '999' calls during the summer. The Chief Constable was having regular discussions with Local Area Commanders to see how the new model was bedding down but overall the new model should provide a better intelligence picture.

Cllr Bendyshe Brown commented that he had tried to ring TVP via the 101 telephone number to report a suspicious matter but gave up after he could not get through and considered that this was unacceptable. The

Chief Constable reported that they were doing a press campaign at the moment to stop people misusing '999' calls and a piece of work was being undertaken by the Force. Performance was being picked up with 70% of calls being answered in less than a minute.

Cllr White reported that concerns had been raised about the 101 system for a number of months and was concerned that this was not being addressed. The Chief Constable reported that there was a huge spike in calls over the summer and TVP only had a finite number of resources. This also had an impact on the operating model going live in June. Calls were being monitored carefully – he did not have the latest information to hand but performance had improved considerably.

Cllr Hayes reported that his Council was concerned about the length of time to respond to 101 calls (17 mins) and also asked for clarification on grant funding. He expressed his thanks to TVP over the summer months and the level of reassurance given to the public with armed police on patrol to protect them from terrorism. Cllr Hayes referred to a street operation to address aggressive street culture which was very successful and asked whether this would be repeated. He also mentioned the amount of stress that police officers were under due to the new operating model and the impact of their job on their mental health.

The Deputy PCC reported that he would respond in writing on the street operation and whether it would be repeated. He commented that enforcement was not the only answer to address aggressive street culture.

Action: OPCC

In terms of the impact on officers of the new operating model the Chief Constable reported that a survey had been carried out to look at any concerns by officers. There would always be concerns over changes in shift patterns and there was flexibility to change shifts if necessary. He felt that the issues around stress were not directly linked to the new operating model but they were monitoring the situation.

With the new operating model there was an increase in workload in the summer months but this experienced nationally. There was also an increase in demand due to the terrorist threat and an increase in serious incidents.

The Deputy PCC reported that there was an error in the agenda papers and that £100,000 was now being given through the 10% top sliced community safety grant for cyber-crime prevention activities, rather than the £75,000 quoted (the remaining £100,000 for female genital mutilation).

Cllr Macpherson asked whether Thames Valley was prepared for an attack in terms of their capacity (the Level 1 minutes say that interim arrangements are in place whilst a longer term solution was developed to increase capability) Have many officers left to join the Met Police and is there a shortage of officers generally, particularly constables and inspectors ?

The Deputy PCC reported that the Force was well prepared. Police officers did naturally leave the Force and apply to work with other neighbouring forces. TVP regularly did an advertising campaign for new recruits and also looked at terms and conditions to retain officers, for example ensuring sufficient car parking was available for police officers and staff at police stations and administrative premises to minimise potential travel to work problems.

Cllr Dhaliwal asked the Deputy PCC if he was happy that the PCC was fulfilling his legal duties under the PREVENT strategy and how was he working with partners? What funding and activity will he undertake to support local plans and if there is any misalignment with these Plans how will he co-ordinate this to ensure the strategy is being delivered for the Thames Valley?

The PCC would provide a written answer to this question.

Action: OPCC

The Panel recommended that the PCC provide a report to the Panel at its next meeting on:-

- **the 101 service and what actions have been taken to improve response times**
- **the new operating model and how its success was being measured**

- a response to the actions outlined above
- an update on the dare to share culture which had not been included in the OPCC report under Strategic Aim 4

127. Recommendation Monitoring

Information was circulated on a powerpoint in relation to unauthorised encampments and this would be circulated to Members. The Chief Constable reported that some training had been undertaken within TVP to ensure that a consistent approach was being taken across the Thames Valley in their approach to unauthorised encampments and the application of legislation. There was also a Task and Finish Group looking at rural crime and this issue in particular. A guide would be produced on the steps that need to be taken and working with landowners to help address concerns. Once the Task and Finish Group had concluded their work the findings would be circulated to the Panel. The Deputy PCC commented that he had talked to Local Area Commanders to ensure that there was a consistent approach taken but also that it was a complex area of law. Cllr Webster also asked whether the Group could look at illegal raves and the ability of residents to contact TVP late at night to ensure an appropriate response.

Action: Chief Constable/Scrutiny Officer

128. Topical Issues

The Deputy PCC provided an update on fire collaboration. The Deputy PCC reported that he and the PCC had met with the three fire and rescue services and a decision had been taken not to pursue the transfer of governance responsibility for them to the PCC in the foreseeable future (e.g. at least until after the next PCC elections in 2020). Instead they would continue to explore and develop more collaboration options between the three fire and rescue services, and between them and the police, to deliver operational and financial benefits to the public.

PCCs in other areas in the Country were moving ahead with transferring governance, such as Essex, but they had only one fire and rescue service so it was easier to effect than in the Thames Valley. The Deputy PCC commented that he would be extremely happy with one Thames Valley Fire Service but because of the difficulties of currently having three fire and rescue services, pushing forward with any governance changes currently would derail the great collaboration work being produced e.g. they were currently working with the fire service over the use of drones.

The Deputy PCC also referred to discussions with senior officers over closer collaboration with the ambulance service, particularly as the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) covered the Thames Valley and Hampshire geographical area, where there was already significant police service collaboration. However, one of the potential stumbling blocks was the Isle of Wight, which was covered by the Hampshire Constabulary but not the SCAS.

Cllr Bendyshe Brown asked about early adopters. The Deputy PCC reported that there was 2/3 PCCs who were looking to take over governance of their fire and rescue service in October. The Government would like to see other PCCs go down this route as soon as possible. However, with the three fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley it was more productive to look at areas for encouraging operational collaboration, such as sharing personnel and assets (equipment and premises), rather than seeking to take over governance responsibility in the face of likely resistance.

Cllr Hayes asked whether the PCC Office had considered the Deputy having a full time role and also whether they had met with the Home Secretary/Policing Minister. The Deputy PCC reported that the Panel had voted in favour of his appointment as a part time role at his confirmation hearing. If the PCC wanted him to work full time that was for him to determine. He was currently looking at how he could engage with Health and Wellbeing Boards across the Thames Valley and to ensure appropriate engagement with partners over a three

day week. The PCC had met with the Policing Minister and the Prime Minister (with her previous local connections) but not the Home Secretary.

The Chief Executive reported that there were no changes to the Community Safety Fund grant allocation model. The Deputy PCC commented that Local Area Commanders signed off local CSP spending initiatives to ensure that the Fund was being appropriately spent.

CLlr Bendyshe Brown asked about police funding for future years. The Deputy PCC reported that he was not expecting any changes to funding but that increases in demand were being experienced across the Country. They would need to address this in the next budget round. The Chief Executive also referred to the reduction of funding to partner agencies and how this impacted on the Force, and that a wider public sector view of resources needed to be considered.

With the changes to the complaints regime some aspects of the discretionary powers were not welcomed by Thames Valley PCC. However, the PCC was obliged to assume responsibility for receiving and responding to appeals from mid 2018 that are currently handled by the Force's Head of Professional Standards Department (PSD). The Office of the PCC and the Head of PSD were currently looking at the operational and resourcing issues and the implications of this mandatory transfer of responsibility e.g. whether relevant dedicated 'appeals officers' in the PSD should transfer to the OPCC or, given as they were located in neighbouring offices, whether it was simpler to leave the PSD officers in their current location to minimise disruption. Further meetings would be arranged with the Chief Constable to finalise the details. This transfer of responsibility may also have a potential knock on effect to the workload of the Panel if the PCC's new responsibility gives rise to an increased volume of complains made against the PCC's handling of, and decisions concerning, appeals.

In respect of recent media attention over the summer the PCC was asked to provide the Panel with a written report on the current position regarding his office to demonstrate that it is operating efficiently and effectively, and that any previous conflicts in the office have now been resolved. The Deputy PCC reported that this media attention related to a personal and private matter involving individual staff members and that there had been no performance issues which impacted on the Office.

Action: OPCC

129. Victims Redesign Project - update from Policy Development Manager

Members noted the written update in the agenda and had no further questions.

(i) Update from PCC Public Meeting (Level 1 with Chief Constable)

Members noted the report and had no further questions.

130. Work Programme

The Work Programme was noted and the Scrutiny Officer asked Panel Members to submit items for next year to her.

Action: Panel Members

131. Date and Time of Next Meeting

17 November 2017

CHAIRMAN

