

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Formation of Task and Finish Groups - Strategy for Violence against Women and Girls and on Road Safety

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BACKGROUND

The Chair of the Panel has suggested that consideration be given to the formation of two Task and Finish Groups to enable the PCP to scrutinise how the PCC holds the Chief Constable account in two areas:- Strategy for Violence against Women and Children and on Road Safety.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That approval be given to the setting up of two Task and Finish Groups - Strategy for Violence against Women and Children and on Road Safety.**
- 2. That the Panel be asked to comment on and approve the draft terms of reference attached and agree the timescales for the Task and Finish Groups to undertake their reviews and report back to the Panel.**
- 3. That the membership of the two Task and Finish be agreed. (Five Members on each).**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The rules on the setting up Task and Finish Groups are detailed in the Panel's Terms of Reference:

"10 Task Groups

10.1 The role of Task Groups is to undertake time-limited investigations into particular issues, such as a scrutiny topic review. They are informal working groups, and as such have no decision-making power. Task Groups will report back upon the completion of their work with a report and recommendations to the Panel.

10.2 The work to be undertaken by a Task Group will be agreed by the Panel. In commissioning the work the Panel will agree as part of the scoping document the following:

- terms of reference;

- purpose/objectives;
- approach to gathering evidence;
- resources to support the review;
- timescales for completing the work and reporting back; and
- membership.

10.3 Task Groups can only make reports or recommendations to the Panel. The Panel will consider reports it receives, and if agreed, such reports may be adopted as the Panel's report.

10.4 The Panel will appoint Task Groups. The Chairman of the Panel may make a recommendation to the Panel on the membership.

10.5 The maximum size of a Task Group shall be agreed by the Panel at the point that the review is commissioned. The minimum size is three members.

10.6 The Panel shall appoint a Chairman of the Task Group from within the membership of the Panel. The Chairman of the Panel may make a recommendation on whom to appoint.

10.7 The composition of a Task Group will be determined by the role it is to perform. Whilst issues of political and geographical balance may be taken into account, to help the effectiveness of the group consideration may also be given to:

- skills and expertise
- availability of members to undertake the work
- interest and commitment

10.8 The Panel may choose to co-opt non-Panel members onto a Task Group if it is considered that they possess skills, expertise, or a perspective which will assist the Group in its work. Co-opted members on a Task Group are non-voting members of the Group.

10.9 The following eligibility rules will apply to non-voting co-opted members of Task Groups:

must live and/or work in the Thames Valley Police Force area; and

must be able to provide expertise/layperson's perspective to assist the group in carrying out its scrutiny function. "

DRAFT

The PCC Strategy for Violence against Women and Girls Task and Finish Group

Objectives and Terms of Reference:

The Task Group will scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Criminal Justice Plan to assess his strategy on the measures Thames Valley Police are putting in place to prevent Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).

It should be noted that the Home Secretary had recently revised the national strategic policing requirement asking that PCCs should have due regard to including VAWG in their Police and Crime Plans because of the national threat of VAWG.

What do we mean by VAWG?

Violence against women and girls, as set out by the United Nations, is any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

It is clear that women and girls are disproportionately affected by these offences, so a specific Strategy is needed to address them

The Task and Finish Group's terms of reference will be:-

1. To obtain evidence on different forms and experiences of VAWG – for example rape, sexual harassment and abuse, domestic abuse, coercive control, street and online harassment, stalking, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence and abuse – and the differences between addressing VAWG in the public and private spheres;
2. How VAWG has changed and the impact modern technology / social media etc has had on VAWG
3. How VAWG affects young women and girls and particular groups such as migrant women, sex workers
4. The support organisations and the PCC's Victims First support service provide, that women and girls turn to for support and help engage with issues relating to VAWG and their role in tackling and preventing it.
5. The work which is being carried out on the prevention of VAWG to assess whether there is sufficient and appropriate support available for victims;
6. To assess how the PCC raises awareness and understanding of domestic violence and abuse and VAWG amongst the general public with the aim of reducing its tolerance of violence towards women and girls and to educate and inform young people, to enable them to construct and maintain relationships built on trust and respect.
7. What the role of organisations and institutions is in the prevention of VAWG (including the police and criminal justice system, schools, colleges and education institutions, employers and trade unions, social media companies, local community and specialist services);
8. To look at the measures detailed in the Police and Criminal Justice which look to counter VAWG and whether further consideration should be given by the PCC to make VAWG one of his main strategic objectives in his Plan.

NB. On 1 March 2023, the Home Secretary included violence against women and girls in the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

Witnesses invited to give evidence

PCC, Victims First, Domestic Violence, TVP, voluntary organisations, etc.

Resources

From within PCP budget

Membership

To be agreed by the Police and Crime Panel (up to 5 Members)

Timescale

To report back to PCP in January 2024

DRAFT

Road Safety Task and Finish Group

Objectives and Terms of Reference:

The Task Group will scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner on how he is holding the Chief Constable of TVP to account in relation to road safety issues.

Areas to be covered will be progress on TVP Road Safety Strategy, Community Speedwatch, Car Cruising and TVP enforcement.

The National Police Chiefs' Council National Roads Policing Strategy for 2022-2025 developed a strategy which all stakeholders who have a role within roads safety or roads policing could align to, that will make roads safer for everyone and can help reduce death and serious injury on our roads.

This strategy is built around four key pillars of activity:

- Preventing harm and saving lives
- Tackling crime
- Driving technology and innovation
- Changing minds.

The Task and Finish Group's terms of reference will be:-

1. To look at the work of the Roads Policing Unit which is joint force between Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary.
2. To receive information on the progress made in developing TVP Road Safety Strategy.
3. To understand the role that TVP, local authority highways teams, local authorities, schools etc have in relation to road safety
4. To look at how the PCC is holding the Chief Constable to account to align to the National Policing Strategy of preventing harm and saving lives, tackling crime, driving technology and innovation and Changing minds.
5. To review the PCC's Community Speedwatch (CSW) schemes which operate throughout Thames Valley and to understand what makes a successful CSW scheme.
6. To understand the current challenges and barriers which prevent the successful delivery of CSW schemes with positive outcomes
7. To understand the partnership work and communication which takes place between CSW volunteers and TVP to prevent speeding and improve safety
8. To look at what improvements need to be made to the CSW scheme to improve outcomes.
9. To receive information on the strategy to deal with the problem of "car cruising" which take place throughout Thames Valley.

Witnesses invited to give evidence

PCC and officers, CSW co-ordinators and volunteers, relevant TVP officers from Roads Policing Unit, officers from Neighbourhood Policing Teams, local parish councillors etc.

Resources

From within PCP budget

Membership

To be agreed by the Police and Crime Panel (up to 5 Members)

Timescale

Findings reported back to PCP March 2024