

# HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

## Report

<b>Date Considered:</b>	13 April 2018	<b>Item:</b>	8
<b>Title:</b>	Community Strategy 2017 - 2021		
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### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the progress made towards the development of a Community Strategy (2017 – 2021) by the Police and Crime Commissioner and his office.

1.2 Members of the Panel are invited to note this report.

### 2. Background

2.1 In his Police and Crime Plan, the Police and Crime Commissioner gave a commitment to champion community needs and to work together with partners to create vibrant and inclusive communities. As part of this commitment, the Commissioner's office continues to develop a Community Strategy.

2.2 The Community Strategy seeks to ensure the work of the Commissioner and his office engages directly with communities and community organisations, so that communities can become more self-reliant in keeping themselves safer, more connected and better informed. Delivery of all plan objectives continues whilst this strategy is being developed.

2.3 The Commissioner has identified a number of key principles which he wanted the new Community Strategy to follow; a bottom up approach, be developed with communities, be progressed with communities and be an overarching framework to all activities within his office.

### 3. Consultation & Methodology

3.1 To facilitate the creation of the Commissioner's Community Strategy, a small working group consisting of staff from teams across the Commissioner's office was formed. As community views would inform the development of the new strategy, it was agreed to engage with and consult with a range of individuals who represent communities or are actively part of communities to gather their views about what support communities needed to become self-reliant, better connected and better informed.

3.2 An online survey was produced which ran from 4 September until 31 December 2017. The survey was circulated amongst the voluntary sector, community safety managers, colleagues within local authorities who work with communities (particularly diverse communities) and every organisation which had bid for funding from the Commissioner's office during the previous three years. These groups and organisations were also asked to disseminate the survey amongst their network of contacts.

3.3 To gain as many responses as possible, the online survey was prominently displayed on the Commissioner's website. Paper copies of the survey were sent to libraries within each of the 14 council areas as well as to all the Citizen Advice Bureaus within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, to NHS walk in centres and social housing providers.

3.4 With the help and support of the Youth Commission the survey was targeted at education institutions and young people's organisations to increase the number of young people completing the survey. The survey was also sent directly to BAME organisations and the Hampshire inter-faith network to increase participation and the response rate from diverse communities. The survey has been accessed by 1,702 people and represents one of the most successful surveys run by the Commissioner and his office.

3.5 Four facilitated workshops were held with community representatives who had expressed an interest through the survey to take part in workshops. The content of the workshops was partly determined by the headlines which were taken from the survey which was still active, and areas for further discussion determined by the working group. The purpose of the workshops was to explore in more detail the contents of the strategy. The workshops were held in accessible community venues and facilitated by staff from the Commissioner's office. The workshops were held on the following dates and venues:

- 28 October 2017      Basingstoke      Discovery Centre  
                                 Southampton      Spectrum CIL
- 4 November 2017      Portsmouth      John Pound Centre  
                                 Newport (IOW)      Quay Arts Centre

3.6 The Commissioner attended and opened the sessions in Basingstoke, Southampton and Newport. In total 37 people attended the workshops, 10 in Basingstoke, 8 in Southampton, 12 in Portsmouth and 7 on the Isle of Wight. Each session was recorded and transcribed to help inform the development of the Community Strategy.

## 4. Results

4.1 Below is a summary of the results from the survey:

- 93.1<sup>1</sup>% (1,565<sup>2</sup>) of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following definition of a community, *“a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common”*.
- 59.8% (1,088) of respondents felt either very connected or fairly well connected to their community, compared with 40.2% (679) of respondents who felt either a little connected or not at all connected with their community.
- Nearly 69.9% (966) of respondents identified as being members of one or more organised community organisations with neighbourhood watch, local community group and local religious groups being the most popular whilst 30.1% (416) of respondents stated they were not members of any community organisations.
- The top 3 responses to how the Commissioner and his office could support individuals and their communities were:
  - Information about how to keep yourself and your community safer (including data) – 58.4% (699)
  - Advice and expertise – 34.8% (399)
  - Networking opportunities with similar groups – 19.5% (213)
- 39.0% (493) of respondents stated that they and their community were linked with similar groups who shared their views and concerns compared with nearly 52.6% (663) of respondents who stated neither they nor their community were linked with similar communities. However 8.4% (106) of respondents who were not linked to any other community would like to be.
- 79.1% (933) of respondents did not want to be connected with any other groups or communities.

4.2 About the respondents:

- 44.8% (572) of respondents were male whilst 53.1% (678) of respondents were female.
- 25.4% (327) of respondents identified as being members of the 65 – 74 age bracket – the largest age category
- 92.3% (1,175) of respondents identified themselves as white whilst 2.5% (31) of respondents identified themselves as being from another ethnic background, 5.1% (65) preferred not to say.

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<sup>1</sup> All %'s rounded up to the nearest decimal point

<sup>2</sup> Figures in brackets denotes the actual number of respondents.

- 83.4% (1,071) of respondents identified themselves as not having a disability.

4.3 Headlines and key messages from the consultation have been promoted by the Commissioner's office through social media and on the Commissioner's website.

4.4 Following the analysis of the survey results and workshop feedback, key themes were identified by the working group which have been refined to create strategic objectives which will make up the back bone of the new Community Strategy, these are:

- **Information:** Sharing data, local information and intelligence

To provide communities with accessible information and data so that they are better informed and more engaged with authorities to tackle crime

- **Education:** Seeking to prevent and protect through learning, advice and sharing expertise

To educate and inform communities about modern policing threats and how best to protect themselves

- **Communication:** Opening channels and creating networks

Ensuring effective two-way conversation between the Commissioner, community safety partners, and communities

- **Facilitation:** Joining up partners and communities

To instigate and help support the coming together of partners with communities and communities with communities

## 5. Next Steps

5.1 An early draft of the strategy is currently being reviewed.

5.2 The results of the survey and draft outline of the strategy have also been shared with those participants of the survey and workshops who indicated that they would like to be involved further.

## 6. Recommendations

6.1 Members of the Panel note the progress made against the creation and development of the Community Strategy.

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

Police and Crime Plan - A plan to keep us safer 2016 – 2021

<https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/plan>