

Cllr. Dave Stewart
Chair, Hampshire Police and Crime Panel

BY EMAIL

Thursday 26 November 2020

Dear Councillor Stewart

Further to your letters and following the recent Police and Crime Panel, I would like to respond formally to the questions raised by the Police and Crime Panel at your meetings held on 3rd July and 2nd October 2020.

Question from Police and Crime Panel, 3rd July 2020

Given press reports on the financial difficulties being faced by other local authorities to meet the demands of the Covid-19 pandemic, can the PCC assure the Panel of the overall security of his financial position?

Yes. See answer to question 2 below, and additional paper attached.

In addition, the PCC (and Chief Constable) have been required to provide significant additional evidence to the external auditors (EY) as part of their work on and review of the final accounts. In particular, EY need to be satisfied that the PCC and Chief Constable are a Going Concern for the period of 13 months from their sign-off of the accounts.

Whilst we still await final confirmation from EY, the Going Concern consideration is not in doubt, we anticipate no issues, and our Chief Finance Officer's (CFO) discussions to date with EY support this conclusion.

An updated disclosure note (see attached) has been added to the final accounts, and in addition, a supporting cash flow statement has been provided to EY to demonstrate that the PCC has no liquidity issues and that cash balances remain very healthy for the foreseeable future extending well beyond the next 13 months.

It should be noted that EY continue to work with our CFO but their approach is extremely risk averse based on senior partner's exposure to personal liability. There will be some key lessons to learn as EY have now missed their own date for final sign-off of our accounts audit.

Questions from Police and Crime Panel, 2nd October 2020

Item 7 - DELIVERING POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC (COVID-19)

- 1. How are you working with criminal justice partners to address the pressures on central agencies (e.g. backlog in court cases) resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic?***

The Commissioning Team have had regular and wide ranging contact with contracted providers, grant aided providers and partners. Returns for information have been distributed and completed and keep us up to date with the evolving situation ensuring that the most immediate information is known.

There have been regular meetings such as the Domestic Abuse (DA) COVID meeting led by the police – all DA providers/commissioners have regular monthly/6 weekly meetings to identify issues, risks, concerns etc. There are regular contacts with Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) colleagues through thrice weekly team meetings to keep updated. A DA Executive Board has been established and a Covid-19 Strategic Partnership Plan developed. Membership includes commissioning leads across the 4 Local Authority (LA) areas, Hampshire Constabulary, OPCC, Public Health, Hampshire Children's and Adults Services/Safeguarding representatives. This included a coordinated communications plan in respect of DA.

The Commissioning Team have worked with colleagues from Hampshire Constabulary (HC), providers and wider Criminal Justice (CJ) professionals regarding the lack of Out Of Court interventions due to the unavailability of suitable venues. We launched the Covid-19 Response Fund following consultation with partners and providers about what the gaps were and emerging issues as a result of Covid. DA providers have submitted situation reports to enable commissioners to understand service pressures and demand.

The team has worked in partnership with other agencies to submit funding applications including the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Extraordinary Fund and Home Office (HO) Perpetrator Fund. The Violence Reduction Unit, led by the Commissioning Team, takes a coordinated approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, working with a network of partners across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The impact of COVID-19 has been a constant focus since March 2020, reflected in Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) leads meetings, the VRU Core Group, the Reducing Reoffending Board and requests for updates from the HO.

The VRU and 4 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) worked with the Commissioners Youth Commission to develop a survey for young people to understand their feelings about serious violence during lockdown. There have now been 2 surveys carried out to understand the views of young people. The four top tier local authorities and Hampshire Constabulary devised a process for identifying young people who were particularly vulnerable during lockdown to safeguard and reduce their risk of harm. Southampton's VRU Manager led a national forum around COVID and perceptions of Community Safety were captured through a COVID 19 Southampton City Council survey and No Limits Youth Advocates survey.

Micro Charities Funding was issued to 7 grass roots organisations to enable them to respond to the impact of COVID within their communities. This short-term fund supports families in need and helps services adapt to the current situation. The three Integrated Offender Management (IOM) houses remained open throughout.



2. How has Covid-19 effected delivery of the budget and the current reserves held?

The impact of Covid-19 has not had a significant impact on the delivery of the 2020/21 budget, and at the time of writing this response, the Constabulary anticipate that all Covid-19 costs can be absorbed within the budget.

The government have also recently introduced a number of Covid-19 specific funding streams, which the PCC/Constabulary can draw upon to support the in-year position:

i) Funding Reimbursement for Medical Grade Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The government have committed to fully reimburse the Constabulary (as part of a national scheme) for the costs incurred in procuring Medical Grade PPE for the period 27th February 2020 to 27th July 2020.

The Constabulary has submitted its claim and had confirmation that it will be reimbursed in full.

Going forward, the supply and funding of medical grade PPE for Policing will be met directly by the Department of Health and Social Care.

ii) Income Loss Reimbursement

Subject to the paragraph below, the Constabulary will be reimbursed for lost income as a result of Covid-19.

The scheme will involve a 5% deductible rate, whereby the Constabulary will absorb losses up to 5% of their planned 2020/21 sales, fees and charges income, with the Government then compensating the Constabulary for 75p in every pound of relevant loss thereafter.

iii) Non-Medical Grade PPE

The government is considering providing further funding to reimburse the cost of non-medical grade PPE that the Constabulary has purchased.

iv) Surge Funding

The government has announced new funding of £30m nationally for policing to fund increased enforcement activity linked to the new 3-tier Covid-19 alert system. This funding will offset the increased cost, which will be incurred going forward by Hampshire in undertaking increased visible patrol and enforcement.

There is currently confidence that the impact on costs of Covid-19 can be contained within the budget. However, should the overall additional costs not be containable within the budget, the PCC would be able to cover any shortfall from the reserves available.

The level of reserves would be more than sufficient to cover any potential shortfall in funding, and to date no draw from reserves has been required to support Covid-19.

3. How have you worked with partners to co-ordinate responses to the pandemic across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight?

- **What challenges were met in communicating with partners during this time, and how have they been overcome?**
- **Why have meetings with CSP managers been put on hold since the Covid outbreak and what options are being explored to hold these virtually?**

At the start of lockdown while providers were setting up homeworking facilities there were sometimes short delays in communication while providers adapted to working from home but not to the detriment of victims. Different platforms were used such as WhatsApp and Zoom but over time everyone has moved to a more common approach and using Microsoft Teams which has worked incredibly well with commissioners and providers.

As detailed above, Hampshire Constabulary were in a position to resume Out of Court Disposals (OoCD) interventions, however providers were struggling due to:

- staff/volunteers shielding
- lack of availability of suitable venues (some did not re-open, some were not suitable for social distancing measures)
- inability to mobilise some interventions remotely due to lack of confidence that perpetrators would have suitable technology to engage, how would we monitor compliance?

Through the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and DA Executive Board we raised the venue issue and this resulted in partners working together to identify other suitable venues that may not have previously been available to providers or affordable. Some VRU interventions continued as planned with social distancing or were provided virtually. Others were delayed and will take place with greater capacity later in the year (e.g. the grants rounds in Hampshire, Isle of Wight (IOW) and Southampton).

Where provision has been delayed due to COVID, local authorities have adapted their services to ensure no funding requires repurposing. All VRUs are now moving back to face-to-face support in a COVID safe way. Adaptions have helped diversify provision for young people in the online world, which suits some better.

The Restorative Justice (RJ) service has adopted a flexible delivery model during the Covid-19 pandemic to meet the needs of victims. As such, participants are offered the opportunity to progress cases either by telephone, video conferencing or, where practicable, through socially distanced face-to-face meetings in line with Government guidelines.

Some prisons still remain closed for visits but where this is the case practitioners have resumed contact with harmers through their Prison Offender Managers (POMs), telephone conversations or letters.

Community Safety funding was originally held by the, then, eleven Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Hampshire as well as Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. In Hampshire the fund was then transferred to the County Council who set up a County Strategy Group (CSG) to provide governance. In 2013/14 this money was then transferred from the four top tier authorities to

the newly created Police and Crime Commissioner. The CSG was disbanded and the Community Safety Alliance was set up along similar lines, with both Community Safety Managers and Partnership Chairs attending.

Following a Peer Review of Hampshire County Council it was recommended that the CSG should be recreated. For many participants there appeared to be considerable duplication with the same people meeting to discuss the same issues.

We recommend that this is now reviewed again as it is important that the Commissioner has the opportunity to hear directly from CSPs and local authorities about emerging issues in their areas.

The Community Safety Managers attend the Community Safety Practitioners Forum which is held on a quarterly basis. Representatives of the OPCC, including the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnership, attend this meeting to update the Managers on the work that is going on within the OPCC and listen to any concerns they may have.

4. Has there been an impact upon road safety measures during the pandemic? For example, are road safety mobile cameras now operating and have driver-training courses resumed without missed attendance?

From a road safety perspective, the decision was made to stop face-to-face engagement upon lockdown starting. A key role of the road safety team is community and resident engagements and events such as the close pass operations (educating drivers to give cyclists enough space when they pass them on the road), the older drivers forum and child car seat safety. Plans are in motion now to re-start this face-to-face engagement; however, the second lockdown has meant no date has been set yet.

Concerning the speed camera vans here in Hampshire, deployment and use of Mobile enforcement ceased in its entirety on the 23rd March 2020, which was a national decision from the NPCC's office CC Anthony Bangham. Hampshire continued to have no mobile enforcement and to support its partner agencies Her Majesties Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)/ Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA) due to backlog of demand until 29th June 2020, where there was 25% of mobile enforcement (2 x mobile enforcement vans out per day). Under normal business as usual there are 8 x enforcement vans working across Hampshire and the IOW on a rotating shift pattern where you would have a maximum of 5 vehicles out at any one time. The phased return continued at 25% for a month (July) then increased to 50% (4 vans per day) from August and then returned to normal BAU enforcement (8 vans) from the 1st September. Hampshire has 7 enforcement vehicles on the mainland and 1 unit on the IOW and continue to be the norm for enforcement.

Our Hampshire Constabulary driver-training department, an arm of the learning and professional development team, focus on training and upskilling our frontline officers. Driver training ceased 23rd March 2020 and started to resume training from August 2020. During this period 493 Officers and staff that were booked in for full courses and half-day check runs had their courses cancelled and postponed. Pre-Covid there would be three students to one instructor, now they operate at two students to one instructor. All have to wear facemasks when in the vehicles, and the students are offered the opportunity to wipe down the steering wheel, gear stick etc. after they swap over driving.

At the end of the day, the vehicle being used is wiped down with wipes on the internal doors, handbrake, gear stick etc. to ensure cleaning protocols are adhered to. It will take time to clear the backlog of officers and staff waiting to complete their course, along with the officer uplift, training is a priority.

5. It is widely recognised that domestic abuse is likely to have increased/intensified during the pandemic. Have you considered the potential financial impact resulting from increased future demand on support services?

We have been meeting with the Police, commissioning colleagues from all LA areas and providers through a number of different forums to monitor the increased demand as a result of Covid. Providers reported to us weekly during lockdown on referral levels, staff sickness, concerns/things they needed our assistance with. We have had regular task and finish groups regarding demand management for DA services.

We have a clear understanding regarding waiting lists and we have been working with partners to ensure that targeted messaging about the availability of services is communicated. We worked with providers to complete a needs assessment that was sent to the MOJ. This enabled the MOJ to make a true representation to the Treasury about the extent of the demand and anticipated demand for services in the coming months. When launched, we then facilitated a fair, transparent application process for DA and sexual crime services and recommended a number of local projects and services for Extraordinary Funding from the MOJ. We were successful in securing over £600K to enable services to work differently and cope with increased demand until 31st October 2020. This may be further extended.

We have recently completed a further needs assessment for the MOJ in the hope of informing future provision of funding until the end of the financial year.

The Commissioner also launched a Covid Response Fund to enable those who were not eligible for funding under the extraordinary fund to apply for support or to continue staff posts beyond 31st October. We are working with local commissioning partners and receiving situation reports from providers. The Commissioner has approved funding to Southampton City Council to enable them to extend their existing contract as a direct award to secure provision for the next financial year. We also, with partners, approved the extension of the Isle of Wight contract for which funds were already secured. We are working with our Performance and Information team and a range of partners on a DA data task and finish group so that we can understand trends and demand for DA services that can be used to help inform commissioning moving forward.

6. What is the purpose of the Community Partnership Information (CPI) forms, and have you discussed with the Chief Constable how the force are ensuring an appropriate and timely response to reports of crime made through them? (Give example)

CPI forms are the forms used to pass community intelligence to the police. We received a briefing from Hampshire Constabulary on these forms about 18 months ago. CPI forms are not used to report crimes, just to pass on intelligence. Some CPI forms will be submitted that cross the line between intelligence and crimes and these would be assessed and go through usual crime reporting standards.

7. Has there been any noted increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), resulting from a reduction in availability of diversionary activity and school closures, and how have your office worked with providers to enable such services to remain operational through the pandemic?

The Force area recorded a decrease of 5.83% in incidents of anti-social behaviour during the period 31st July 2019 – 30th June 2020, compared with the same period in 2018 – 19. This equates to 2,395 fewer incidents. All policing districts recorded a reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents, the level of decreases in the districts ranged between 2.60% (East Hampshire) and 15.4% (Fareham).

A number of the youth diversionary activity projects funded under the Safer Communities Fund were able to continue to provide activities to young people during lockdown by modifying their project to allow for alternative ways to meet and contact the young people, such as video conferencing and online chat facilities. 83% of projects (29) were able to continue their work without temporarily closing their service.

A further 11% (4) were able to restart their project after lockdown had finish and provide the much-needed services to young people. The OPCC have been in contact with all their commissioned services to understand the issues that have faced them over the last six months and how we can assist them to ensure that their project can continue to support the communities.

The Police and Crime Commissioner provided additional financial support to organisations that applied for funding to support communities affected by Covid19. A number of the applications were to allow organisations to work with young people in an alternative way and included online support to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, support for young people who had recently left care and were vulnerable due to the pandemic and online tools and resources for organisations to use with young people who were struggling to keep in contact with projects and services.

8. How are you maintaining a visible presence with local communities, when face-to-face contact opportunities are heavily reduced?

Due to the pandemic, our usual face-to-face events all moved online, including our annual Safer Together event. During the summer months, when we would usually be out at events, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) ran a virtual Safer Together Apart, which brought together a number of commissioned services that help to reduce crime and support the vulnerable, partners including Neighbourhood Watch and crime prevention police officers. Over a four-week period online advice and support was provided through the OPCC website and social media in a range of areas including fraud and scams, online cyber safety, domestic abuse, hate crime, and crime prevention.

The week achieved 2.1M social media impressions, in excess of 149,000 people reached on social media, more than 3,000 people engaged with on social media, over 3,300 people visited the website content and engagement with 20 partner organisations working with the OPCC. Through the week, we raised awareness of OPCC funding of local services, strengthened our partnerships, worked together with partners to reduce crime, promoted public safety, and helped to create vibrant and inclusive communities. We increased the PCC's engagement across our social media channels and Website, reaching and engaging with more people than our previous physical Safer Together events.



During the period of lockdown, the OPCC worked with colleagues from Hampshire Constabulary to produce a COVID-19 response survey asking residents of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton their thoughts and views around Covid-19, and the police response and how safe they felt. The aim of the survey was to help Hampshire Constabulary shape their policing response to the pandemic and enabled the Commissioner to engage with communities to understand their views on the police response and performance. The survey was hosted on the PCC website that also drove more traffic to the site.

The survey was run from 8 April to 3 July 2020 and achieved 44,592 completed responses from residents across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. Residents were asked to complete the survey each week and was promoted via our social media channels and Hampshire Constabulary's Hampshire and Isle of Wight Alerts email service. Data from the survey was analysed via district and the results sent to the local Member of Parliament in the local areas via letters.

Understandably, people living in our local communities have been focussed on the pandemic and how this impacts upon them. Therefore in order to support them and to continue to engage with our communities, we curated Coronavirus related content, and this single page has had over 50,000 page views and an average of nearly three minutes viewing time since publication at the end of March 2020. Mobile users are continuing to grow, so we are continuing to develop our website to accommodate that, such as with the latest policing budget survey.

Item 8 - POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - ANNUAL REPORT

9. How have you assessed the impact of the projects and services funded in keeping residents safer?

"We clearly define what we want the outcomes to be and review all the services of the commissioner against those. The team regularly review progress against those, hence producing the details in the annual report – I'm happy to pull together further evidence and offer back and show the analysis done against those."

In April we contacted our specialist grants and contracted services. We asked them questions around their staffing, logistics, referrals, demand on their service, Information Technology (IT) requirements and remote working, contingencies, financial impact and what support they may need from the OPCC. Weekly contact has been continued with these providers to ensure we are kept up to date with any additional requirements they may need or any issues they are experiencing.

In April we also contacted all of the grant-funded projects to ask them if they were still able to deliver their project, what modifications they had made, staffing issues and what support they required from the OPCC. We then contacted them again in June to ask them if anything had changed for them, an update on modifications to project delivery, what best practice/learning had been developed due to Covid-19 and if they needed any support from the OPCC. They have been asked to notify the OPCC if anything changes in their ability to deliver their project. However out of a total of 91 projects only 10 at present have been unable to recommence, mainly due to the requirement of the projects to go into schools, prisons or people's homes and the restrictions have not allowed them to be able to do this.

Providers have been able to continue their service/project delivery by a variety of means. Visiting young people in open spaces and observing social distancing, telephone support, video chat such as



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Zoom and Teams, email, online seminars, social media such as Facebook and Instagram and virtual training.

The MOJ also asked the OPCC to provide an assessment of need for services and projects that work with victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse against a set allocation. The Commissioning and Partnership Team pulled together a grants round so that providers could tell us of the needs in their particular area during the Covid19 pandemic. Each application was assessed against set criteria and those that presented with the greatest need in relation to Domestic and Sexual Abuse due to COVID19 were recommended to the MOJ for funding. The OPCC wrote to the MOJ at the same time to advise that the need in Hampshire, IoW, Portsmouth and Southampton was far above the amount allocated to our area and were successful in securing funding over and above that allocated under Domestic Abuse.

10. Only 2,880 of the 62,271 individuals who were offered support by the Victim Care Service were recorded to have been supported, what were the reasons for this? How has the outbreak of Covid-19 impacted upon delivery of support services to victims?

All individuals are offered support. Whilst it remains true that not all victims of crime take up this offer satisfaction from the service remains high.

All providers moved to homeworking which brought a number of challenges but providers have coped incredibly well. They have been busy setting up homeworking arrangements for staff members so they are able to work from home to provide support to victims, while ensuring the welfare of their own staff. Assessments are undertaken and subject to need, support is offered based on victim's requirements, whether it is telephone support or video conferencing support using media such as Zoom and WhatsApp.

Some face-to-face support for one-to-one and group work has now started for some providers, subject to COVID secure arrangements.

In general, support has been provided for longer and has often been more intense with complex needs often due to the living circumstances for some victims who may, for instance be living with abusive partners, lack of work, lack of financial support, lack of support network, mental health issues, or illness. Providers are reporting that some victims prefer the new diverse way that they can engage with services. Drop in sessions on Zoom or other platforms has enabled victims to engage when children have gone to bed when previously that may not have been possible.

11. Your report notes that 83% of offenders taking part in restorative justice have not reoffended, how does this compare with those who did not participate in the process?

Hampshire Constabulary have confirmed that a comparison of reoffending data would need to be like for like in terms of offence type, sentence type, time periods etc. The commissioned service provider, Restorative Solutions, has confirmed that in most areas they do not have any access to reoffending data at all, and as far as they are aware police forces do not routinely gather it - certainly not as a randomly controlled comparison (i.e. similar offenders/offences who did/did not participate in RJ) over a period of time. Their service in Lincolnshire does and that has similar reoffending rates.



RJ re-offending data locally is currently done through a manual trawl of Records Management System (RMS), one year after the offender participated in the RJ process. Another consideration is that the people analysed as this part of the performance monitoring process, could be offenders dealt with by means of an OoCD, community sentence or while in custody. It could also include offenders from historic offences or those never reported to the Police. In January 2020, the Government produced a 'Proven reoffending statistics quarterly bulletin, England and Wales, January 2018 to March 2018' – this shows a 28% reoffending rate for adults compared to only 17% of those who went through the RJ process in Hampshire. Adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months had a proven reoffending rate of 62.7%.

12. The PCC has given £16,000 to support actions around rural crime, which is welcome, can the PCC explain what how he is working with the constabulary to lower rural crime rates?

At the recent panel James Payne responded

“Assistant Chief Officer Maggie Blyth recently joined the Constabulary taking over rural crime, this sits in her portfolio to address this. The £16,000 is allocated specifically to bring in an analyst to focus and understand rural criminality. The chair of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) lobbied very hard to the PCC and suggests this might help tackling the specific changes happening in rural crime. This sum is to support the Chief Constable in identifying a specialist analyst within rural crime to improve the outcomes.”

13. What level of response has been received from residents in raising questions to be addressed at Commissioner’s Performance, Accountability, Scrutiny and Strategy (COMPASS) meetings, and how is this opportunity being promoted?

At the recent panel James Payne responded

“COMPASS provides a valued public opportunity for the PCC and the Chief Constable to discuss questions/queries received by post from the public, via MP surgeries and the OPCC’s own extensive networks. We have looked closely at how it is delivered and ensure the public is made aware it is happening through these networks – all contacts and support are welcome from public communities and streams to factor into the meeting.”

A month ahead of each COMPASS meeting a news release is issued to all local media inviting questions from the public; this generates coverage in local print media. The release and appeal for questions is featured on the home page of the OPCC website and social media posts are also scheduled inviting questions from the public. In addition, issues and questions that have been highlighted through the website and the PCC’s correspondence are also reviewed and inform the themes of questioning. As well as sending the wide appeal to the public, we also write directly to local MPs asking them to share issues they have heard from their constituents, we approach Neighbourhood Watch and CSPs to forward any questions or concerns that can be drawn upon by the PCC to put forward to Chief Constable on their behalf.

14. The report outlines a number of successful and innovative approaches taken last year. How are these successes being shared with other PCC's for adoption nationally?

At the recent panel James Payne responded

“This is done broadly through the PCC's Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, successes are shared – I will check with our PCC how this is done and feedback with a written answer.”

Through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Communicators Network case studies of good practice in the areas of engagement and communications are shared with colleagues in PCC's offices across the Country. Presentations have been made to this group in a number of areas including Safer Together Apart, budget consultation, Cyber Ambassadors and Youth Commission and our performance monitoring and evaluation dashboards. As a result of these presentations we have hosted visitors from other PCC offices to demonstrate our work in more detail.

To raise awareness of the role of PCCs, the APCC introduced a series of 'In Focus' thematic case study packs that are distributed nationally to ministers, MPs and shared on the APCC website and social media. The PCC has featured with other PCCs in three of these on prevention, serious violence and violence reduction units. This case study has also been shared through the OPCC social media channels.

The OPCC and PCC has also taken part in national round table discussions with Ministers and other PCCs on a range of important topics such as stalking and serious violence. This has given the opportunity to share background on what has been delivered in Hampshire and share best practice.

15. Last year the Panel suggested that the Commissioner include an executive summary to the beginning of the report, to make it more accessible to the wider public. Do you have plans to incorporate something similar this year?

At the recent panel James Payne responded

“As with every year, the first draft is provided to you as just the content of the report, any questions, concerns or responses from today will be added in, and then a public-friendly version is produced with pictures and an executive summary, and highlights things the public will be interested in which will be included – any suggestions to bring from the public would be helpful.”

All of the PCC's plans are also supported with a 'plan on page' that provides a summary of the longer more detailed documents. A two-page summary of the PCC's annual report 2018/19 was developed and added to the front of this plan, which is shown on the OPCC website: <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/publications>. This shorter summary version makes the plan more accessible and will be added to the annual report 2019/20.



16. How are you intending to share and publish the annual report?

At the recent panel James Payne responded

“The draft report is produced in October to give time to feed in any content and the final version is completed, ready to be published in November. The public engagement team test and carefully look at the demographics - advertising through Facebook, and targeting areas of the public, ensuring we offer the product to MPs. The PCC is very keen to ensure we communicate with leaders of Councils, it tunes the Council Tax leaflet in January, and signpost website links are added in. Our website was recently updated with accessibility now in place and the annual report highlighted; this will be signposted as with the budget leaflet in March/April 2021.”

The PCC’s annual report will be designed as an electronic page-turner and will be featured on the home page of the OPCC website and the scrolling bar, with a direct link to the plan. This is the most cost effective way of reaching a wider distribution. This year due to the new accessibility guidelines for the website, the plan will be designed in a simpler and clearer way, so that it is even more accessible when viewed online.

When the plan has been published on the website, the link will be shared with all stakeholders and partners and posts scheduled throughout the year on social media, directing back to the plan. In previous years we also internally print a few hard copies of the plan and take them to the public events that we attend, for members of the public if they would like to see a hard copy. We will look to do this, if we are able to physically attend events in 2021.

Item 9 - POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - POLICE AND CRIME PLAN DELIVERY

17. Following the deputation we heard today, can the Panel receive an update on the Safer Streets Fund, how spend from the grant is being evaluated and what the project intends to deliver?

The Home Office have appointed Kantar to evaluate the Safer Streets Project in Hampshire, to ensure that successfully funded crime prevention plans are evaluated in a consistent way, with a view to gaining long-term lessons from the Safer Streets Fund. The programme evaluation will look at both the impact of funding on crime and perceptions of crime within areas, and factors influencing whether implementation was successful.

Locally we will be monitoring the delivery of the project and evaluating interventions against our own local priorities both during and after the funding period to understand its impact.

We will measure the impact of interventions on crime and ASB levels against bench marked figures that we highlighted in our original proposal to the Home Office. We intend to run surveys/questionnaires during and post the funding period with local residents and stakeholders (e.g. local businesses and student population) to measure the impact of crime prevention and target hardening measures on levels of confidence.

The Safer Streets project intends to deliver the following deliverables in the Bargate Ward:

- Increased / Improved CCTV
- Improved lighting
- Updated security fencing
- Installation of automated gates
- New public use building in Hoglands Park
- Arboriculture (trimming and cutting back of tree branches and shrubs)

The intended outcomes of the project are:

- Reduction in robbery
- Reduction in theft from a person
- Reduction in shoplifting
- Reduction in burglary
- Reduction in bike theft
- Reduction in violent crime
- Reduction in sexual crime
- Increase in public confidence

Further funding is now being offered to further support delivery of Safer Streets projects that the OPCC will be bidding for.

18. How was the success of the first round of “a stitch in time grants” assessed, and what learnings from the first round have been applied to the second and third rounds of funding?

The Police and Crime Commissioner responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by setting up a dedicated grant fund to support a range of very local initiatives that help to keep communities safer in a timely manner.

The first round run in April/May 2020 provided funding to over 45 projects funding of a range of initiatives that helped support the vulnerable and reduce crime during the height of the pandemic.

During the first round the PCC received a number of applications for support in a range of areas, some of which were being supported through other local authority funds such as food banks. The PCC therefore adapted the criteria for the second round of the grants in July/August 2020 to specifically support initiatives that help to prevent and reduce crime and need immediate financial support to help them to keep our communities safer. A further 18 projects were supported through this round.

The aim of the third round of the keeping Communities Safer funding is to offer other areas in Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight the opportunity to apply for small grants of up to £500 for projects that emulate the aims of Safer Streets at a local community level. This round has therefore been adapted again to be more specific to crime prevention and opening funding more widely beyond Southampton that was benefiting from the Safer Streets funding. This round is still running.



I trust these responses provide the detail that the Panel needs to reassure themselves of the progress being made with the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2020 to 2022 that was revised and published earlier this year, continuing to build a bridge to our SAFER future.

Yours sincerely,



James Payne
Chief Executive

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