



Date: 15/10/2020

Mr Michael Lane
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Hampshire
(by email)

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Dear Mr Lane,

Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report

At the 2 October meeting, Members of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel reviewed the draft of your annual report for 2019-20. Following their review of your draft report Members have raised the following questions and recommendations for your consideration:

Keeping Residents and Communities Safer

Members asked a number of questions during the meeting regarding how activities taken across the year had enabled our local residents and communities to be safer, including how the impact of the projects and services funded were being assessed in delivering against this objective, as laid out within your Police and Crime Plan.

Members welcomed the offer made by the Chief Executive to provide further detail of the measures of success used for commissioned services, and would recommend that such information is brought, in the first instance, to the Panel's Plan Working Group.

It was further noted that the report outlines a spend of £16,000 to support actions in addressing rural crime. Through the meeting it was heard that additional financial support had been granted to enhance the analysis of rural criminality, and would recommend that this is noted within the annual report, to demonstrate further how the Commissioner is contributing towards tackling crime and improving outcomes for our rural communities.

Commissioning

It was noted that only 2,880 of the 62,271 individuals who were offered access to the Victim Care Service went on to receive support. It was heard during the meeting that the service was offered to any individual who was, or felt they were, a victim of crime and that support was made available to any individual who requested it. Members also acknowledged comments heard during the meeting regarding the cohesion in approach taken to delivering this service across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Members would recommend a more detailed explanation of the service provision rates is included in the report, for clarity, and welcome the suggestion that your office would continue its focus on ensuring that the offer of support provided to victims of crime is made clear to those who might benefit from it.

Whilst not related to the period covered by this annual report, Members were assured to hear that Restorative Justice Solutions had been supported financially by the PCC to continue to offer their services through digital provision during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members also observed the success of the Cyber Ambassador Scheme during the last year, including engagement with approximately 15,000 individuals. At the meeting it was heard that the technology developed for use under this project had gained significant international interest. We would encourage the Commissioner to keep the Panel regularly updated on the progress of this programme, particularly in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the use of online mediums by young people in our communities.

Public engagement

Whilst we were encouraged to hear of the enhanced approach being taken to bring public questions and concerns forward to be addressed at COMPASS meetings, we would suggest that this opportunity is made more visible to residents through the Commissioner's social media channels and through engagement with partner organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, who directly engage within communities.

During the meeting Members discussed how the content of the annual report could be conveyed to the wider public audience. It was heard that your office had planned to add a short executive summary to the final version of the annual report. To enable the Panel to provide feedback upon and suggestions for inclusion within the executive summary it would be helpful if such materials were shared in draft with Members when available. The Panel would further request that the Commissioner provides an update to the next meeting of the Panel as to the levels of public engagement, following publication of the digital report, and upon the success of any measures undertaken to promote public awareness.

The following questions were also raised at the meeting, to which your written response would be welcomed:

1. The 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?
2. 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?

We look forward to receiving, in due course, your response to the recommendations outlined above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr David Stewart

Chairman, Hampshire Police and Crime Panel