

Title: Update Report – Police and Crime Commissioner

Wards Affected: All Wards

To: Health and Wellbeing Board **On:** 24 April 2014

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1. Achievements since last meeting

1.1 *Police and Crime Plan 2014-2017 published*

The Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) has been reviewing the Police and Crime Plan published last year to take account of experience gained in the first year and to reflect emerging threats and issues. A brief consultation was conducted in February included formal presentation to the Police and Crime Panel. The finalised Plan was published earlier this month.

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the Commissioner's six priorities and the identified actions that he proposes to take to deliver against them. It also sets out clearly what the Commissioner expects of the Chief Constable and the activities he will be looking to take forward with partners.

The overall vision that underpins the revised Police and Crime Plan is to ensure that Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. To keep crime levels low; to improve confidence in policing; to support the economy; and to encourage people to work together to make our communities safer.

Six priority areas of activity have been identified.

To make our area a safer place to live, work and visit – reducing the likelihood that people will become victims of crime. The overriding objective is to keep crime levels low. The Plan reinforces the Commissioner's commitment to neighbourhood policing and his pledge to keep police officer numbers above 3000 for the duration of this Plan. Specific actions are identified in the Plan to address particular crimes, such as violent crime, sexual assault and domestic abuse – in addition to the wider policing mission.

To reduce alcohol related crime and the harm it causes. Alcohol related crime and harm is a significant concern within our area. It places significant costs on our public

services and affects our communities and individuals in many different ways. We need to create an environment where consumption of alcohol is undertaken responsibly and with recognition of the impact that alcohol can have on others and the community at large and where tolerance is low for those who engage in crime as a result of excessive drinking. The actions and activities set out in the Plan are focused on achieving this. The police, local authorities, partner agencies, businesses, communities and the third sector all have a role to play in reducing the harm that alcohol related crime has on our society and we will be looking to work closely with them to deliver this Plan.

To make every penny count in protecting policing for the long term. To drive for further efficiency, work to secure more central funding and actively explore all avenues to deliver the significant savings we require to sustain our services. The funding landscape for policing over the coming years is challenging. Significant efficiency savings have already been made in our area but further action is needed to ensure that over the longer term we are able to deliver a high quality police service for our communities. Alongside ongoing work to explore the scope for a possible Strategic Alliance between Devon and Cornwall and Dorset, a comprehensive project has been launched to identify how we can avoid a structural deficit from 2017/18. It will explore the scope for collaboration and partnership, how we might increase policing income as well as the capacity for further efficiency savings. All options will be considered and inevitably we could face some tough choices but it is right that this work is progressed to protect policing over the longer term.

To promote an effective criminal justice system that delivers high quality services for victims, witnesses and society. It is essential that all stages of the criminal justice system function well and that each of the key agencies work together in an efficient and effective way. It must support the successful prosecution of offences, with robust and well run cases. It must provide an appropriate range of mechanisms for dealing with offences – including the use of out of court settlements, asset recovery mechanisms and restorative justice where appropriate. Finally it must deliver a reduction in reoffending through the provision of high quality and robust rehabilitation services. The Commissioner has a statutory duty to work with criminal justice bodies to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area and the Plan identifies a range of actions that will be taken forward by the Commissioner and the police service, working closely with partners. The most significant issue on the horizon for the coming year is the planned reform of rehabilitation services and we will need to work closely with all partners to ensure that the new arrangements being put in place meet our local needs.

To deliver a high quality victim support service across our area. It is vital that timely information, support and care is delivered to all victims of crime and that the services provided meet their needs and that the new Victims Code is effectively implemented within our area. From April 2015, the Commissioner will take direct responsibility for the commissioning of victims services across the peninsula and we will be working closely with partners to ensure that we have a coherent and comprehensive approach that meets the needs of victims.

To encourage and enable citizens and communities to play their part in fighting crime and keeping their communities safe. A stronger emphasis is placed in the Plan on the need to stop crime from occurring and on the role that

citizens, businesses and communities can play in helping us to achieve this. We will be working closely with the police service and partners to engage these groups more closely in work to prevent crime and to improve community safety. A review of the role of volunteering within the wider policing family will be carried out to support delivery of this priority.

1.2 Mental Health

In the week following publication of the national Mental Health Concordat on 18 February 2014, a Call to Action Conference was arranged by the South West Strategic Clinical Network was held at St Mellion, Cornwall. This event was attended by service commissioners, providers and users from across the peninsula and there was a clear consensus that a local mental health crisis care version of the Concordat was needed for Devon and Cornwall.

A peninsula mental health steering group has been established, jointly chaired by Amanda Fisk, Director of Operations for NHS England (Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) and Ian Ansell, Mental Health lead for the OPCC. A Task and Finish group has commenced work to draft the local concordat and another to examine policy and practice around place of safety arrangements under Section 136. In particular, there is an urgent need to ensure that suitable places of safety are available for children and young people to avoid detention in police stations. The Mental Health Act states that police stations should only be used as a place of safety in exceptional circumstances. Devon and Cornwall has recently been criticised in a report by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) for having one of the highest national rates of detentions in police stations under Section 136. A range of options are being progressed to significantly reduce these numbers by examining the circumstances leading to any detention, including the street triage pilot.

On 6 March 2014, street triage pilot scheme started enabling operational police staff to seek advice from a qualified mental health practitioner when coming into contact with someone who could have a mental health issue. The practitioner has access to medical records enabling them to discuss the situation with the police officer and to help an informed decision to be taken about possible risks to the individual and others. The pilot covers Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and the initial outcomes suggest a substantially reduced number of detentions in police stations (out of 75 referrals to the end of March only two detentions for assessment were deemed necessary of which only one led to a detention at a police station).

2. Challenges for the next three months

- 2.1 Key challenges for the next three months include the commencement of key projects to support that Plan: including work on the development of a Financial Roadmap to ensure a balanced budget from 2017/18 and driving forward work on alcohol.
- 2.2 The final adjustments are being made to a new mechanism to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. This includes establishing Strategic Delivery Boards, comprising OPCC, police and independent observers, tasked with taking forward the actions identified through each of the Plan priorities and reporting jointly to the PCC and Chief Constable. These Boards will begin to

meet next month and public update reports will be posted on the OPCC website and provided to the Police and Crime Panel.

3. Action required by partners

- 3.1 We would also ask partners to consider how we can work together in delivering against this Plan and the specific 'asks' identified in the Plan that are relevant to you. We seek your assistance in driving forward progress against the Plan and in helping us to identify and remove any barriers to effective delivery.
- 3.2 Finally, we would be grateful for Health and Wellbeing Board members to inform colleagues of the Police and Crime Plan and draw attention to the six priorities.