

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 3 JUNE 2012**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13**

**REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

*To formally present the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report for consideration by the Dorset Police and Crime Panel in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.*

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 Under Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act), the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to report to the Police and Crime Panel on the exercise of his functions in each financial year. Specifically, the annual report should report on:

- (a) the exercise of the PCC's functions in each financial year, and
- (b) the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

1.2 Clearly the 2012/13 financial year encompasses both a period when police authorities were in place and the opening months of my term of office as the elected Police and Crime Commissioner. In that regard, it is clear from the legislation that there is a requirement to issue an Annual Report for the 2012/13 financial year, but Home Office advice has confirmed that there is no requirement or expectation that the Annual report for 2012/13 will report on the work of the previous Police Authority during that year. It follows that the reporting requirement for that year is from 15 November 2012, the date of the PCC elections, to 31 March 2013.

1.3 Members will also be aware, of course, that my Police and Crime Plan relates to the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2017 and that my achievements and performance as Police and Crime Commissioner in terms of the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priorities will naturally be a key feature of future Annual reports to this Panel to be reported to the Panel in June each year. In the meantime, for the purposes of this 2012/13 Annual Report, the opportunity is taken now to provide members with a narrative about the key activities of the PCC over my first few months of office up to 31 March 2013.

**2. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR**

2.1 I was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset on 15 November 2012 and formally took up this role on 22 November 2012, replacing the Dorset Police Authority. As PCC, I am charged with securing efficient and effective policing over the Force area. My role also includes developing a Police and Crime Plan, setting the Force budget, appointing a Chief Constable and consulting with the public to understand their views on crime and policing in Dorset.

## PCC's Vision for Dorset

- 2.2 Early in my term of office, I set out my vision for Policing in Dorset. This included drawing on the Olympic surge in volunteers to engage the community more in policing. As Robert Peel said, "the public are the police and the police are the public". I pledged to re-start the recruitment of Special Constables to increase visibility. I also vowed to establish PCC Forums and Surgeries across Dorset at regular intervals throughout the year.

## Recruitment of Chief Constable

- 2.3 My first job was to recruit a Chief Constable to replace Martin Baker, who retired in September 2012. The recruitment process was launched on 26 November 2012. After a rigorous interview process on 21 and 22 January 2013, Debbie Simpson was selected as my proposed candidate. Her appointment was confirmed at a meeting of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel on 7 February 2013.

## Police and Crime Plan

- 2.4 At the February Police and Crime Panel meeting, members of the Dorset Police and Crime Panel reviewed my draft Police and Crime Plan for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole 2013-17. After further refinement in the light of views and contributions from Panel members and public consultation, my plan was subsequently officially launched on Thursday 28 March 2013. At the heart of the Plan are six priorities which are consistent with my manifesto pledges:

- to reduce the number of victims of crime;
- to reduce the number of people seriously harmed;
- to protect the public from serious threats;
- to reduce re-offending;
- to increase people's satisfaction in policing; and
- to support Neighbourhood policing.

- 2.5 For more information about the Police and Crime Plan policing plan, please click on the following link: <http://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk/Plans-and-priorities/Police-and-Crime-Plan-2013-17.aspx>

## Budget and Precept

- 2.6 The content of the Police and Crime Plan is closely linked to the budget for 2013/14. My proposed precept increase of 1.95% for 2013/14 was supported by the Police and Crime Panel. This equates to £181.51 for a Band D property – a rise of £3.51 on the previous year. The new budget will increase the number of special constables, the extension of mobile data and will improve support to victims.
- 2.7 The new budget will also secure the recruitment of another 12 police officers. Police Officer recruitment has been suspended since June 2010 and overall numbers are set to fall further as funding continues to decline. Against that background, the recruitment of new officers is important to bring in new blood and allow for balance within the workforce. The new intake of 12 police officers, to be recruited in June 2013, will result in a net reduction of 38 officers, rather than the originally anticipated reduction of 50 from the Force.
- 2.8 As PCC, I have also been active in calling for a fairer share of national funding for policing in Dorset and have lobbied for involvement in the national reviews of the Police Funding Formula. I have gained the support of local MPs and have written to the Chancellor and Home Secretary about this.

## Governance and Monitoring of Force Performance

- 2.9 I have approved a Corporate Governance Framework for the organisation and I attend key force meetings to monitor force performance and to monitor the outcomes of each of the priorities contained within the Police and Crime Plan. The Force Executive Board is jointly chaired by the Chief Constable and myself. I also attend strategic Boards that oversee key specific areas of business, such as Professional Standards and Equality, and was instrumental in establishing an independent Ethics and Appeals Sub-Committee to provide detailed oversight of complaints and professional standards.

## Special Constables and Volunteers

- 2.10 During my election campaign, I pledged to double the number of Special Constables in Dorset and to recruit rural and marine specials. Detailed plans are now in place to recruit 250 additional Special Constables over the next four years and recruitment campaigns are already ongoing. Working with the Force, I have been instrumental in the establishment of a strategic Force Volunteers Board which will oversee the opportunities to make more effective use of Special Constables and volunteers to support the effective delivery of policing services and to help to make the Police more public facing and integrated with their communities. The Chief Constable and I are also exploring more innovative ways to use Special Constables, e.g. marine special constables, wildlife special constables etc.

## Retention of Marine Section

- 2.11 Earlier this year, the Force and the Office of the PCC (OPCC) carried out a review into the future of Dorset Police Marine Section. The decision was taken to retain the Marine Section, but to boost staffing by the introduction of Marine Special Constables. The Section will be based in the Dorset Police marine office at Poole Harbour and will come into effect in late May 2013. Dorset Police has entered into an agreement with Poole Harbour Commissioners where for 100 days a year they will conduct joint patrols. This solution delivers a better service to the public for less cost. The OPCC and Dorset Police are continuing to explore further collaboration options with other police forces and agencies, including Hampshire Police.

## Community Issues

- 2.12 Community Issues are another key area of work for me. Cutting crime and anti-social behaviour in Boscombe continues to be a challenge and I made the decision in March 2013 to recruit a PCC Advocate for the Boscombe area. The PCC Advocate, which is an unpaid voluntary role, provides support to me by working on community issues and helps to drive ideas forward. Their role is essentially to act as my eyes and ears in Boscombe and to support my work in this location. Community issues are complex multi-agency challenges that need investment in time and resources. The Advocate will represent me at community meetings and work with key local partners, stakeholders and members of the public in tackling the multiple issues that exist in the Boscombe area. I will look to roll out the PCC Advocate scheme to other high crime areas in Dorset, and will also select people to represent different community groups, such as older people and the Polish community.

## Engagement and Consultation with the Public

- 2.13 In my manifesto pledge, I vowed to consult the public over policing and crime issues in Dorset. I also promised to listen to the public. Key initiatives that lie at the heart of my community engagement strategy include the establishment of a programme of PCC Forums to be held across the County, supported by a programme of PCC Surgeries.

- 2.14 The PCC Forums comprise representatives from the local community and will afford them the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and concerns directly to me. At the same time, I will take the opportunity to seek the views of Forum members to assist in the development of my plans and initiatives. The PCC Surgeries are 20 minute confidential sessions to enable individual members of the public to meet with me to discuss specific issues or concerns. Fifty people attended the first PCC Forum which took place in Shaftesbury on 22 March 2013 and the 2 hour surgery that took place on the same day was fully booked. PCC Forums and Surgeries will now be held at various locations across the county at regular intervals throughout the year. To view the full list please click here: <http://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Public-Forums.aspx>

#### PCC Website, Social Media and Newsletters

- 2.15 The online profile of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset continues to develop. A website has been created along with social media sites. People can follow the work of the PCC on Twitter at @PCCDorset and on Facebook at PCC Dorset. The number of followers is steadily growing. The needs of people who do not use the internet are also recognised and quarterly newsletters to be published in hard copy as well as electronically are now in place. A distribution list has been set up and copies of the newsletter are being sent to parish councils across Dorset. To visit the PCC Dorset website or the most recent quarterly PCC newsletter, please click here: <http://www.dorset.pcc.police.uk/Home.aspx>

#### Victim Services

- 2.16 The development of victim services is a key strand in the Police and Crime Plan. Nationally, I was chosen to showcase my vision for Dorset at a key Victim Support meeting in London in January, one of two PCC's invited to contribute to this. Further national meetings have also taken place since. Work has also focused on the creation of a Victim's Bureau for Dorset which will be the first Victim's Bureau in the country to operate on a multi-agency level. The enhanced service will improve the Criminal Justice journey, and will also lead to more consistency in the updating of victims and a more professional service for victims. I have also pledged to hold Victim Forums in Dorset, with the first event scheduled for September.

#### Pan Dorset Multi-Agency Hub

- 2.17 A key priority in the Police and Crime Plan is to reduce the number of people seriously harmed in Dorset. Work is underway to establish a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on a Pan Dorset basis to enhance information sharing and risk management. The MASH will help to protect the vulnerable, including children and victims of domestic abuse and missing people, from harm, neglect and abuse. Better coordination between agencies will lead to an improved service for children and families.

#### Early Intervention

- 2.18 I am working with the Force and Partners to expand Early Intervention from birth. Bids for participation in Early Intervention Foundation pilots have been submitted by the three local authorities in Dorset, a process that I have personally overseen. There are just 20 places available nationally. Work is focused on identifying the root cause of social problems rather than spend years afterwards treating the symptoms.

### Restorative Justice

- 2.19 Work continues on building on the restorative justice approach. I am working with the Force and partners on a mentoring scheme for offenders who pose the highest risk of reoffending. Greater support will be given to offenders, to access housing, training and employment. They will also be supported along recognised pathways out of offending. Both the Force and I have also committed funds for the more advanced tagging of offenders.

### Neighbourhood Watch

- 2.20 The important role that is carried out by thousands of people in Dorset through Neighbourhood and Home Watch groups needs to be recognised and encouraged. In that regard, I have agreed to allocate £2,000 to the Association of Dorset Watches to assist with their work and money is being set aside to support a revamped community messaging system to enable the inclusion of text messages and the use of social media.

### Promoting Cross Boundary Collaboration

- 2.21 I have developed cross boundary relationships with PCC's and Chief Constables across the South West. Regional meetings of the PCCs and Chief Constables are taking place regularly to discuss collaborative working to improve efficiency and effectiveness. These monthly meetings are attended by the PCCs for Dorset, Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and Wiltshire. I am also developing close working relationships with key figures in Dorset, including MPs and Councillors. The Chief Constable and I are also in dialogue with our counterparts in Hampshire to explore further collaborative opportunities.
- 2.22 The safety review of the A31 is a practical example of cross-boundary collaboration. I have worked with local MPs, Councillors, partners and the Hampshire PCC Simon Hayes to monitor safety and to help address key safety concerns on the A31. Simon and I added our endorsement to proposed measures to make the road safer, which was recognised and supported by the Transport Minister. I remain committed to ensuring that the Force and partners continue to focus on and prioritise matters of road safety across Dorset.

### Estates Strategy

- 2.23 I am committed to the development of a long-term estates strategy and work will be proceeding in conjunction with the Force, and key partners, to develop the strategy to service the policing needs of Dorset in the longer term. The strategy will embrace the need and opportunity for the sharing of resources and estate between partners.

### National Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.24 It is important for me to be fully sighted on national threats and opportunities facing policing, community safety and criminal justice. This of course includes being well sighted on national developments affecting these areas and the ongoing difficult financial context all public services are facing. It also includes being well sighted on the national threats that the police must address and the policing capabilities and resources locally, regionally and nationally to counter such threats in accordance with the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement.
- 2.25 Nationally, I am an active participant in the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and a member of the APCC Reference Group. I am a member of the PCC Victims Group and serve on the Police Negotiating Board, the Police Support Council and the Police Advisory Board.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 I was elected as Dorset's first Police and Crime Commissioner in November last year and I am sure members will appreciate just how busy this period will have been for me. My first Annual Report collects together the key developments and initiatives from my opening few months of office up to 31 March 2013 and a great deal has been achieved in such a short space of time. There is much to do now to take forward my vision for Dorset and the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan for 2013 to 2017. I look forward to reporting future progress to the Panel and working with members in the coming months and years to deliver my vision, priorities and plans, for ***Working Together to Keep Dorset Safe***.

3.2 I would like to thank the outgoing Police Authority for the steps it took to ensure such a smooth transition. May I also thank the Dorset Police and Chief Constable for working so effectively with me since my election in November. I would also like to thank Partners and the Police and Crime Panel for their help in moving key agendas forward over the last six months and, of course, I want to thank my own hardworking staff. Finally, I want to thank the public of Dorset.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 Members are recommended to consider my Annual Report for the financial year 2012/13.

#### **MARTYN UNDERHILL MSc PGCE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

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