

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present to the Police and Crime Panel a summary of the Police and Crime Commissioner's progress against the eight key manifesto commitments pledged to be achieved within the first 100 days of his new term.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was re-elected when Dorset residents went to the polls on 5 May.
- 1.2 The PCC has pledged that eight initial priorities of the 70 to be achieved in this term will be achieved within his first 100 days (by 20 August 2016). These are to:
 - Launch a charitable 'Safer Dorset Foundation' to support crime prevention and promote a safer and improved quality of life.
 - Introduce a 101 Service Improvement Panel to deliver ongoing public scrutiny of non-emergency telephone contact with Dorset Police.
 - Fund an extra post in the marine section to maintain cover across two separate shifts.
 - Implement a rural crime team to prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes specifically affecting rural communities.
 - Increase the availability of drug driving test kits across the force.
 - Continue to educate residents and businesses on how to stay safe online.
 - Commission a report to better understand what energy efficiencies can be made to reduce the amount spent on utilities across the force every year and to improve our carbon footprint.
 - Increase the number of officers dealing with cases of online child abuse in response to rising demand.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 All eight commitments were successfully delivered within the PCC's first 100 days of his second term.
- 2.2 The Safer Dorset Foundation was launched by its trustees and patrons, including

the PCC and Deputy Chief Constable James Vaughan on 15 August. The charity will work with Dorset Police, its partners and individuals to keep people and property safe. The charity will support crime prevention and promote an improved quality of life for those living and working in Dorset.

Initially, money raised will go towards projects which aim to help children achieve, protect vulnerable people from abuse and fraud and further enhance the services for victims in the county.

- 2.3 The launch of the new 101 Service Improvement Panel was announced on 12 August, with the first meeting scheduled for 3 October.

The panel will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, and will look closely at a random selection of calls that have come into 101 and review whether they have been dealt with in a timely, appropriate manner.

The panel – which includes members of the public, representatives from the voluntary and community sector, the Police and Crime Panel and the 101 call handling team – will also hear from members of the public, sharing their experiences of using the service.

- 2.5 A new member of the marine section has been recruited which brings the section from a three person team to four, almost doubling the time they are able to be on the water as the boat requires two people to operate it. They can now maintain coverage over two separate shifts, which will significantly increase the number of patrols the section can undertake.

The Marine Section is based in the marine office at Poole Harbour and is supported by specially trained staff who are responsible for all inland waterways from Lyme Regis to Christchurch, as well as being called upon for specific operations and patrolling.

- 2.6 A Rural Crime Team has been introduced to help prevent, investigate and prosecute crimes which have taken place in rural communities.

This new dedicated team will encourage reporting and act as a reassurance to those who may feel that their report is not being taken seriously. The team will also provide crime prevention advice to residents and business owners, including guidance around restricting access to land and property, ensuring homes and outbuildings are alarmed, immobilising farm vehicles when not in use and marking equipment with postcodes.

- 2.7 New mobile test kits enabling officers to perform roadside drug testing have been rolled out across the Force, giving police officers the power to detect for cannabis and cocaine use in drivers.

On 2 March 2015, changes to the Crime and Courts Act 2013 introduced a new offence of driving while over a prescribed drug limit. Since then, Dorset Police has trained all traffic and 'No Excuse' officers to conduct roadside screenings, leading to the arrest and subsequent charging of 90 people for being in charge of a vehicle whilst under the influence of drugs over the past 12 months.

Previously this equipment was already in use, but not widely available. Approximately 390 kits have been issued to Dorset Police officers and are in circulation to be used when necessary.

- 2.8 The Dorset Police Cyber-Crime Unit is already focused on ensuring the Force provides a quality response to all forms of online crime. On 1 August, a newly created post of cyber-crime prevention officer started, with specific responsibility for conducting educational talks and online safety guidance for schools, businesses and at events across the county.

Cyber-crime is a growing area, as more criminals exploit the relative anonymity of the internet to commit a range of criminal activities. The benefit of a strong preventative approach is widely expected to help stem this tide.

- 2.9 The PCC commissioned a report to help inform decisions about what energy efficiencies can be made across the Force to help improve their carbon footprint.

The solar panels on Blandford Police Station, installed in June 2015, save around £1,500 per year in electricity costs. It is often economically viable to undertake such investment when general refurbishment work is scheduled, and by ensuring that the Force considers energy efficient and energy saving options, better value for the public purse can be achieved.

- 2.10 Finally, three additional officers joined the Paedophile On-Line Investigation Team (POLIT) during August.

POLIT is part of the CAIT (Child Abuse Investigation Team) and is the Force's specialist response to subjects who view and/or distribute indecent images of children or who groom, incite and/or facilitate sexual activity with children through use of the internet.

POLIT officers proactively seek out offenders and are also responsible for reactive referrals from the community, National Crime Agency and other law enforcement agencies throughout the world. Their work also involves receiving referrals from social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, alongside national operations targeting known nominals and organised crime groups.

Within the first six months of this year, Dorset POLIT arrested 67 suspected perpetrators and 104 children were safeguarded or protected.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 The PCC has successfully delivered the eight manifesto pledges he committed to within the first 100 days of his second term.
- 3.2 Oversight of delivery of the remainder of the commitments will be undertaken by the Police and Crime Panel as part of the usual reporting cycle for the remainder of this term. The full list of commitments has been provided to the Panel in leaflet form and is also available on the PCC's website.

4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The PCC's Summer 2016 newsletter is given at Annex A. This document has been made widely available to the public, and provides further information on the delivery of the PCC's 100 day commitments.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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

Members' Enquiries to: Simon Bullock, Interim Chief Executive (01305) 229084
Press Enquiries to: Kristian Ward, Digital Engagement Officer (01305) 229088