

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 7 July 2021**POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND FIRST 100 DAYS UPDATE****REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To present members with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's approach to his Police and Crime Plan, as well as an overview of the work underway during his first 100 days in office.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was elected to office following the polls which took place on Thursday 6 May 2021. He had spent the previous three years talking with hundreds of people and regularly attending the Police and Crime Panel. Alongside 18 months of 'seeing practice' with Dorset Police, the PCC used this research to inform his election manifesto.
- 1.2 Since taking up the role, the PCC has continued to receive hundreds of items of correspondence from members of the public and has received a series of detailed briefings from the Force, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and partner agencies.
- 1.3 His vision is that Dorset should be the safest county in England and Wales. He believes that this can be achieved by cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and by putting victims and communities first. In particular, he has determined that with an increase in resources, the public will rightly expect that the Force reduces crime and ASB.

2. ANALYSIS

- 2.1. In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) the PCC's Police and Crime Plan must be published by 31 March 2022. The Plan can be revised or reissued at any time.
- 2.2. In developing the Police and Crime Plan, the PCC is required to consider the views of the local community and victims of crime, as well as have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement. He is required to prepare a draft of the Plan and consult the Chief Constable in preparing this draft. The draft must be sent to the Police and Crime Panel, with the PCC having regard to reports or recommendations made by the Panel. He must provide the Panel with a response about any such report or recommendations and this response must be published.
- 2.3. Legislation sets out a range of areas that must be included in the Police and Crime Plan – this includes, but is not limited to, the PCC's police and crime objectives; the policing that the Chief Constable is to provide; and the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured.

- 2.4. Bearing in mind these requirements, balanced alongside the extensive preparation already undertaken by the PCC, and a fast-track approach developed by OPCC to facilitate early delivery, the PCC intends to issue a Police and Crime Plan by the end of October 2021.
- 2.5. To achieve this, the OPCC will be undertaking additional consultation over the next few months – taking advantage of the summer events season to reach as many of Dorset's communities as possible.
- 2.6. In terms of the PCC's first 100 days in office, there is, of course, no statutory requirement for the PCC to report on such activity. Nevertheless, the PCC is keen to ensure that members of the public are aware of his priorities and can better understand the direction of travel for his office.
- 2.7. Equally, the PCC is keen to demonstrate that the delivery of important work, and beneficial change for the people of Dorset, has already commenced ahead of the formal publication of the Police and Crime Plan later this year.

3. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PROGRESS

- 3.1. As already outlined, the PCC has a clear vision and, through the research he has already undertaken, has identified six priorities. These priorities, which follow on from his election manifesto, are:

- Cut Crime and ASB

The police will robustly prevent and detect crime and tackle the constant grind of ASB – so people across Dorset see a clear difference and feel safer.

- Make Policing More Visible and Connected

To increase the number and visibility of police officers in our neighbourhood teams so police again fulfil a prevention role. Contact and connectivity between police and public will be improved.

- Fight Violent Crime and High Harm

To tackle organised gangs, be tough on drugs and tackle high harm incidents such as child abuse, domestic abuse, hate crime and modern slavery.

- Fight Rural Crime

To significantly increase the rural crime team and their capabilities and to have specific strategies for crimes and issues affecting the rural community.

- Put Victims and Communities First

Support all victims – particularly older people and those most vulnerable – and build community strength by working together and addressing needs.

- Make Every Penny Count

By resourcing and transforming the frontline and reducing administration, so patrol and response teams can spend more time in communities and making residents feel safer.

- 3.2. The priorities are closely linked and activity is required across all of these areas in order to achieve the PCC's aim of making Dorset the safest county. In recognition of the

shorter than usual PCC term, as well as the level of ambition of the PCC, he is minded for the plan to span a longer time period than the traditional single term of office.

- 3.3. The PCC and OPCC are working alongside the Force and partner agencies to bring together the content for a draft plan. This follows initial conversations with key stakeholders which have already demonstrated strong synergy between the PCC's ambitions and those of partner agencies. The same can be said for the local priorities identified by the PCC and national priorities, as outlined by the Government.
- 3.4. The PCC has also provided an early insight into the Police and Crime Plan development with members of the Police and Crime Panel via an introductory meeting in early June.
- 3.5. The OPCC are working to finalise the consultation material for this summer's events. In addition to the surveys and research undertaken by the PCC prior to his election, the OPCC will undertake digital and face-to-face engagement to ensure that the Plan is best informed by the views of Dorset's communities.
- 3.6. Although ongoing COVID-19 restrictions will likely have some bearing on this consultation work, it is nevertheless anticipated that a large number of people will be able to hear about the PCC's emerging Police and Crime Plan and share their views.

4. FIRST 100 DAYS PROGRESS

- 4.1. The PCC has immediately commenced delivery against each of the six priorities, with the OPCC working to ensure that a number of initiatives are progressed without delay.
- 4.2. The OPCC will ensure that activity undertaken within the first 100 days is clearly and proactively communicated to internal and external audiences. The engagement work over the summer period will also serve as a valuable opportunity to highlight the achievements within the first 100 days.
- 4.3. At the time of writing, around six weeks into the PCC's tenure, the following has been achieved:

Cut Crime and ASB

- 4.4. The PCC has begun regular meetings with partners to ensure that there is a joined-up focus on 'hotspot' areas throughout Dorset. This has included meetings with council leaders, chief executives, and key community safety personnel. He has visited priority areas within Poole and Bournemouth to discuss local issues and solutions with neighbourhood policing teams, councillors and other community representatives. He is due to visit priority areas within Weymouth by the end of June.
- 4.5. The PCC has been briefed on Dorset Police's review of school education and support and is now working with the Chief Constable to implement the findings. Key partners will have been brought together by the time the Panel meets to discuss the next steps for this important area of preventative work.
- 4.6. The PCC has highlighted the risks associated with the increased use of E-scooters and supported the Force's recent day of action. Similarly, he has used his public platform to draw attention to the increase of catalytic converter thefts and share crime prevention advice.

Make Policing More Visible and Connected

- 4.7. The PCC is working with Chief Officers to ensure the maximisation of uplift to community policing. He has received detailed briefings from the Chief Constable about the recruitment and training progress made to date and has already secured additional investment in the frontline.

- 4.8. The PCC hopes that the Force will soon be in a position to announce an increase in special constable recruitment, as well as further detail on the much-anticipated expansion of the Police Cadet scheme. The desire is for cadet units to soon be established in Poole and Weymouth and the PCC has urged the Force to bring forward its plans in this area so that even more young people can benefit from this opportunity.

Fight Violent Crime and High Harm

- 4.9. The PCC has agreed to fund You First for the provision of an Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) for the next two years. He is aware of the severe distress that stalking and harassment causes to victims, as well as the fact that such crimes can prove complex for crime fighting agencies to detect and prevent. The ISAC helps to bring key information and partners together as part of dedicated case conferences and has helped to secure justice for victims.
- 4.10. Alongside this funding announcement, the PCC has also sought assurances from the Force that it will continue to support the role of Vulnerability Lawyers, whom make use of powers such as Stalking Prevention Orders, while continuing to prioritise the use of domestic violence protection orders and sexual harm protection orders.
- 4.11. At the time of writing, the OPCC is working with the Force and local authorities to prepare bids to a range of national funds, such as the third round of the Safer Streets Fund. The PCC is scrutinising the Force's response to counter violence against women and girls, particularly in light of the anticipated removal of COVID-19 restrictions later this summer.
- 4.12. Also at the time of writing, the Association of PCCs is in the process of assigning 23 national portfolio responsibility areas to PCCs. The Dorset PCC will jointly lead on the Alcohol and Substance misuse portfolio with Durham PCC Joy Allen. The PCC will be seeking assurance from the Force that the approach taken toward substance abuse is appropriate and that its work in tackling county lines and drug dealing is robust.

Fight Rural Crime

- 4.13. The PCC has secured a doubling of the rural crime team, with a further commitment to strengthen this team in the coming years. It is hoped that the rural crime team will be further assisted by the introduction of rural specials, which are currently being explored by the Force's Citizens in Policing Team.
- 4.14. The PCC is due to hold a series of roundtable events in the weeks and months to come. These include meeting with key rural partners and agencies to scope the PCC's plans for his 'Country Watch' initiative.
- 4.15. As a candidate the PCC successfully lobbied for a national Pet Theft Taskforce to be launched. He has already worked to provide assurance and increase awareness of this issue since becoming PCC, with a blog and video being issued in early June.

Put Victims and Communities First

- 4.16. The PCC will soon meet with key figures in the county's Watch schemes to best understand what support they need in the future and how such schemes can be strengthened across Dorset. He wishes to build on the the considerable community spirit that has been demonstrated by so many people throughout the pandemic crisis.
- 4.17. The PCC has also had regular interaction with the county's business community and is especially keen to meet with business representatives and bodies to understand how the Force's approach to retail crime and cyber-crime might be improved.

- 4.18. The PCC will continue to highlight issues that affect Dorset's communities throughout the year by supporting national awareness weeks.

Make Every Penny Count

- 4.19. The PCC has been briefed on the existing OPCC and Force financial and audit arrangements. He is assured that they are fit for purpose. He is reviewing the joint governance arrangements and will discuss these with the new Chief Constable, once appointed.
- 4.20. The PCC will consider the value for money profiles as produced by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and is due to be briefed ahead of the forthcoming inspections of Dorset Police this autumn.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. The PCC will create a draft of the Police and Crime Plan this summer. This draft will be shared with the Police and Crime Panel at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure that the Panel's reports and recommendations can be carefully considered.
- 5.2. The Police and Crime Plan will also be informed by the consultation activity that is also taking place this summer. Details about this consultation, including event dates, will be published in due course and will also be shared directly with the Panel for their information.
- 5.3. A formal update on the Police and Crime Plan will be presented to a future Police and Crime Panel meeting.
- 5.4. The OPCC will continue to publicise achievements secured by the PCC and his office within his first 100 days. A summary of this period, which ends in late August, will also be publicised, with a formal update also being provided to the Panel.

6. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1. Work to develop the Police and Crime Plan is well underway and the PCC is on track to issue his Plan by the end of October 2021. This would be several months ahead of the statutory deadline.
- 6.2. The PCC and OPCC will continue to consult and engage with the public, Dorset Police, partner agencies and the Police and Crime Panel throughout the Plan development process.
- 6.3. A range of activity is already being delivered by the PCC and his office and this will be proactively communicated throughout the PCC's first 100 days in office and beyond.
- 6.4. Members are asked to note the report.

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