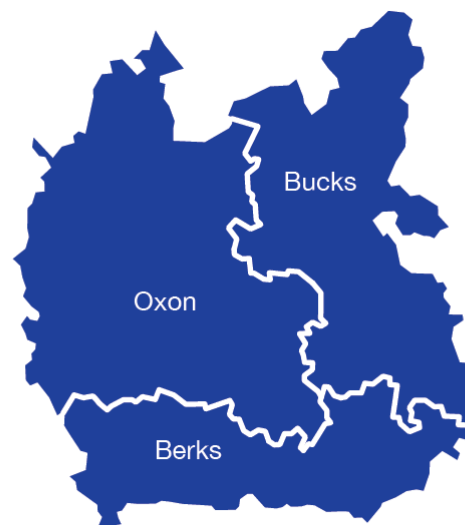


Agenda

- Date:** Friday 17 June 2016
- Time:** 11.00 am
- Venue:** Diamond Room, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury Bucks HP19 8FF



Map and Directions

The Briefing Meeting for Members will be held at 10am. There should be sufficient space in the car park at the Council Offices.

<http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/finding-us>

- 1. Election of Chairman**
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
- 5. Minutes**
To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2016

5 - 16

- 11.05am* **6. Public Question Time**

Anyone who works or lives in the Thames Valley can ask a question at meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, at which a 20 minute session will be designated for hearing from the public.

If you'd like to participate, please read the Public Question Time Scheme and submit your questions by email to contact@thamesvalleypcp.org.uk at least three working days in advance of the meeting.

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/5242/Public-questions-at-Panel-meetings>

<i>11.25am</i>	7.	<p>Themed Item - Community Safety Partnerships and Neighbourhood Policing</p> <p>Phil Dart Director for Communities, Health and Adult Social Care and Richard Webb Head of Trading Standards and Community Safety Manager will be attending for this item.</p> <p>The aim of this item is to look at the relationship of Community Safety Partnerships with the Panel and to specifically look at one area of CSP's which is Neighbourhood Policing.</p> <p>Also attached is an update from the OPCC on the Neighbourhood Policing Review.</p>	17 - 30
<i>12.25pm</i>	8.	<p>Post Election outline of PCC manifesto and challenges for the future</p> <p>https://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/candidates/thames-valley/anthony-stansfeld/</p>	
<i>12.35pm</i>	9.	<p>General Issues</p> <p>To note and ask questions on the general issues report.</p>	31 - 36
<i>12.50pm</i>	10.	<p>PCP Annual Report</p> <p>To adopt and publish the draft PCP Annual Report.</p>	37 - 48
<i>13.00pm</i>	11.	<p>Verbal update on proposed changes to national funding formula</p>	
<i>13.10pm</i>	12.	<p>Annual Review of Police and Crime Panel Rules of Procedure, Panel Membership and Police and Crime Panel Budget</p> <p>To review the Rules of Procedure and Panel Membership and approve the Panel budget.</p>	49 - 52
<i>13.20pm</i>	13.	<p>Work Programme</p> <p>To consider a request (using the Scrutiny Topic Selection Criteria) to add an item on the Work Programme in relation to speed cameras.</p> <p>For Panel Members to put forward items for the Work Programme including ideas for themed meetings.</p>	53 - 64

13.30pm

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

9 September 2016 at 11am at Aylesbury Vale District Council

Committee Members

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Patricia Birchley (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Derek Sharp (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor Sandy Lovatt (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Tony Ilott (Cherwell District Council), Councillor Robert Courts (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council), Julia Girling (Independent Member), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Tony Page (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Councillor Dee Sinclair (Oxford City Council), Councillor Paul Sohal (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Quentin Webb (West Berkshire Council) and Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council)

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Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 11 March 2016, in Council Chamber Wokingham Borough Council Civic Offices Shute End Wokingham Berks RG40 1BN, commencing at 11.00 am and concluding at 1.15 pm.

Members Present

Councillor Julia Adey (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Patricia Birchley (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Robert Courts (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Emily Culverhouse (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council), Julia Girling (Independent Member), Councillor Sabia Hussain (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Councillor Iain McCracken (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Tony Page (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Bob Pitts (Wokingham Borough Council) and Councillor Quentin Webb (West Berkshire Council)

Officers Present

Clare Gray

Others Present

Romy Briant (Reducing the Risk Charity), John Campbell (Thames Valley Police), David Carroll (Deputy PCC), Paul Hammond (Office of the PCC), Teresa Martin (Buckinghamshire County Council) and Anthony Stansfeld (PCC)

Apologies

Councillor Margaret Burke (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor Jesse Grey (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor Angela Macpherson (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Chris McCarthy (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor George Reynolds (Cherwell District Council), Councillor Dee Sinclair (Oxford City Council) and Councillor Ian White (South Oxfordshire District Council)

30. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

31. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

32. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

33. Themed Item - Domestic Violence

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Members of the Panel received an update on what is being undertaken in the Thames Valley to tackle domestic violence (Strategic Objective 2 and 3 of the Police and Crime Plan) including local initiatives in the Thames Valley. Romy Briant CBE provided a provider perspective (voluntary sector) and Teresa Martin (Community Safety Manager Bucks County Council) provided a commissioning perspective.

The following information was presented on the commissioning side:-

The Community Safety partners in Buckinghamshire work at the local level with the district based Community Safety Partnerships and County level through the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB). The SSBPB is the key partnership for promoting safer and stronger communities and crime and disorder reduction at the County level and provides the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner with a single point of contact and engagement in relation to Buckinghamshire wide issues.

The SSBPB is supported by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Co-ordinating Group (SSBCG) and sub-groups, including one for Domestic and Community Violence.

Bucks has an approximate population of over 520,000, and this is expected to continue increasing which will impact on the number of households vulnerable to domestic abuse. A planned expansion of housing across parts of the county will also put pressure on services due to the increasing population.

13.6% of the population (68,000 people) came from a non-white ethnic background. The child population is considerably more ethnically diverse than the older population, at 21.4%. It is interesting to note that a Needs Assessment of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) carried out in 2014 found that all minority ethnic groups were over-represented in those seeking support in Buckinghamshire, especially Asian ethnicities in Wycombe, while slightly under-representing white victims. This potentially reveals a very good minority group service and is thought to be primarily due to the specialist Asian Outreach Service in Wycombe. These findings were replicated in follow up analysis in 2015. Similarly, there is currently an over-representation of BME victims at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), with 37 BME cases referred into MARAC 1 April 2015 – 31 December 2015. Ongoing monitoring will take place to pro-actively pre-empt any major changes and fluctuations. Buckinghamshire is also seeing other changes in community types, with a large settled traveller-community and a growing Polish community. These specific community types join the increasing groups of people who have bespoke needs and vulnerabilities.

The gender split for the County is similar to national and regional averages, with 50.9% females and 49.1% males. The age profile for the County is similar to the national average at most ages.

Data and performance

Although believed to be still significantly under-reported, reports of DVA continue to increase year on year.

7,687 cases of domestic abuse were reported to the police in 2014/2015, an increase of 3% over the previous year. It is believed that this trend is due to increased awareness raising and training of professionals resulting in increased confidence to report. Focus groups with service users have also indicated an improved response from the police may have positively impacted on reporting repeat incidents.

Demand for support services also continues to increase. A total of 123 women and 140 children were accommodated in refuges in Bucks in 2014/2015, with a further 161 families being refused refuge due to lack of space. 515 women were worked with on an outreach basis and 754 clients were supported by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVA), both services seeing significant increases over the preceding year of 12% and 18% respectively. (Women's Aid, 2015).

Using the Home Office Ready Reckoner toolkit, over 16,500 women and girls aged 16-59 are estimated to have been a victim of domestic abuse in the last year.

The Government definition of domestic violence was widened in April 2013 and analysis was undertaken in Buckinghamshire in 2014 to determine the impact that this change in definition had on reports to the police of domestic violence to victims aged 16 to 17 years old. It was found that there were 119 reports to the police regarding a domestic incident in 2012/2013 where the victim was aged 16 or 17 years old and this increased to 160 reports in 2013/2014, representing an increase of 34%. During the same period, reports of domestic violence to the police overall increased by 1% (7349 to 7422). The widening of the DVA definition to include coercive control is also likely to have a further impact on the number of incidents reported.

Current and On-going Projects/Interventions

- **DV Integrated Commissioning** - DVA services have historically been commissioned by three different service areas within Buckinghamshire County Council (Community Safety, Public Health and Children & Young People). A new delivery model has been developed to join up the commissioning of DVA services across the Council and has recently gone out to competitive tender for integrated DVA services, with the successful applicant being Aylesbury Women's Aid who will be working in collaboration with Wycombe Women's Aid to deliver services across Bucks from 1 April 2016.
- **Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs)** continue to support the Multi Agency Referral and Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and following their intervention, the assessed risks experienced by those high risk victims managed by the MARAC has improved. A total of 709 clients engaged with the IDVA service in 2014/2015, and the service achieved a 75% reduction in risk category for these clients. The number of clients engaging with the IDVA service continues to rise and based on Quarter 3 data for 2015/2016. It is projected that the number of clients engaging will be in the region of 825. The Buckinghamshire service supports both female and male victims and is atypical in that it works with both medium and high risk clients.
- **DV Perpetrators** – Fresh Start delivers a programme of 121 sessions to perpetrators of DVA to address their unacceptable behaviour and also provides support to the partners and ex-partners. Analysis is being undertaken seeking to ascertain evidence of effectiveness and value for money. Perpetrator work is notoriously difficult to evidence effectiveness of and value for money, and could potentially be better sitting at a Thames Valley level, with a Thames Valley Perpetrator Programme Co-ordinator who would be able to co-ordinate and promote all the programmes and have responsibility for ensuring and monitoring good practice. The benefits of this of this approach would be to have a larger dataset which could help with evidencing effectiveness.
- **DVA Youth Worker** – A pilot is currently taking place for a DVA Youth Worker to work with 11-17 year old girls and boys in Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks with the principle aim being to provide a specialist service for young people who have experienced domestic violence, either within the family home or within their intimate relationships. Funding was secured to extend

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the project until March 2016. For the period October 2015 to December 2015, 15 young people have been referred so far, with 14 (93%) of them engaging in 121 work. 11 young people have exited the service in this period, all of whom have had a reduction in risk category. In addition, awareness raising sessions have been held in local schools which have reached 448 young people. Funding is being sought to continue this service from April 2016.

- **DVA In-Reach Worker** – A pilot within 3 GP surgeries in Chesham (New Surgery, Gladstone Surgery and Chess Medical Centre) aiming to train GPs and practice staff in identification and referral procedures and to directly support and respond to DVA victims subsequently referred to them with clients being seen within the GP setting for their initial appointment, with follow-up appointments according to client needs.
- **DVA Engagement Co-ordinator** – A pilot project whereby a worker was based within Thames Valley Police to pro-actively engage over the telephone with victims of reported standard risk DVA in Chiltern and South Bucks to provide information and signposting/referral to specialist agencies with the aim of earlier intervention which would lead to a reduction in the number of domestic related call outs to the police. Interim 6 month analysis demonstrated an impact on reporting of clients when compared to a control group. Follow up analysis was planned, however due to a gap in service provision this was not possible. This has highlighted challenges around single workers and the potential impact on the ability to gather robust data to evaluate a project. A recruitment process is currently taking place.
- **DVA Specialist Workers** – Buckinghamshire County Council commission 2 specialist workers (1 based in Aylesbury and 1 based in Wycombe) who sit within the First Response Team. They work with families to prevent or reduce the need for statutory services by providing support to the non-abusing parent and work in an advisory capacity with the Children In Need Unit. They also support the MASH and ensure BCC is supported at multi-agency meetings where DVA is a focus.
- **DVA Champions** – Buckinghamshire has focused on the revival of the Champions Network over the past year with the aim of reducing the number of clients going to different agencies before finding appropriate help and to ensure earlier intervention. Reducing the Risk was commissioned to deliver a ‘train the trainer’ session to a pool of 10 professionals. The training pool has subsequently delivered 6 DVA training sessions to a total of 82 champions, and there has been an increase in the network of an additional 78 champions, bringing the total in Bucks to 146 DVA Champions at the end of January 2016. Quarterly network events with guest speakers are also held.
- **LGBT Task and Finish Group** – Work to improve engagement with the LGBT community in terms of DVA has included a survey about promoting and providing more inclusive services which obtained 295 responses. These are currently being analysed to inform evidence base and commissioning need. Buckinghamshire has also been working with TVP to improve the response to LGBT victims of crime which includes trialling a Third Party Reporting Centre with Victim Support. Broken Rainbow were commissioned to deliver training sessions to 25 professionals (including police, health, social care, housing, Women’s Aid) and a professionals guidance pathway has been drafted. From 1 May 2016 a co-location with Terence Higgins is due to commence where LGBT victims will be able to get tested at the sexual health drop-in centres in Aylesbury and Wycombe and also disclose DVA to staff who have been trained by Broken Rainbow and who are DVA Champions. Following disclosure they will be given an appointment with the specialist DVA services who will meet with them at the drop-in centre. There will also be a police LAGLO (Lesbian and Gay Liaison Officer) scheduled weekly at the drop-ins in order to support the LGBT community, including domestic abuse, hate crime and other issues. Enhanced publicity is also taking place, including the development of LGBT DVA specific posters and leaflets, a social media campaign linked with ‘National Coming Out Day’ in

October 2015 and the imminent launch of the Bucks LGBT independent website. This will include specific information for the LGBT community in Bucks on DVA, help and support/how to report, housing, sexual health, fostering and adoption, civil partnerships, as well as promoting the work which has taken place to support provision for LGBT victims of domestic abuse. The website is being funded by the PCC via the funding granted to the Buckinghamshire Partnership.

- **Disability Task and Finish Group** - A DVA Disability Task and Finish Group has been set up and is currently working to improve the engagement of those who have a disability and are victims of DVA as well as educating professionals to spot signs of DVA and react positively in terms of either signposting or risk assessing and referral to MARAC. Health Watch are going to consult with disability organisation service users to understand and alleviate gaps and barriers, feedback on draft versions of the DVA disability publicity (available in different format suitable for those who are physically disabled or people with learning difficulties) and how to engage better and what would encourage them to report DVA. For people with learning difficulties information will be obtained via a different method in order to safeguard in case they are being abused by a carer. Both approaches will inform future work. Work is taking place with a local radio station to produce and air a DVA and Physical Disability advert, with a web tile available on the station website during the campaign which will direct them to further information. National research has highlighted radio as a key piece of publicity as it reaches those isolated at home. There was an increase of 42% in reporting over the White Ribbon week of 2014 following a pro-active campaign, and much of this increase is attributed to radio advertising. RESPOND are also being commissioned to train 15 professionals how to address issues that particularly affect people with learning difficulties in relation to domestic abuse, with these participants then cascading the training to their own organisations.
- **Males:** Male specific posters and leaflets are in production and will be printed by the end of March 2016. They are currently consulting with a male victim as to his thoughts on the visuals and overall conveyance of the messages of what domestic abuse is and how to seek help.
- **Other DVA Projects** – Includes closer working between DVA and substance misuse agencies in Chesham, Sanctuary Scheme, Freedom Programme, Helping Hands, children’s work in the refuges.

Additional Areas of Focus for 20 16/2017 include:

- Continuation of work on identifying DVA at an earlier stage as it is anticipated that this demand management approach will reduce the instance of repeat domestic abuse incidents.
- Continuation of work to increase reporting from groups with unrepresentative reporting.

Romy Briant then provided the provider perspective on Domestic Violence and the main points were noted:-

- Romy Briant chaired the charity Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse in Oxfordshire until January 2016 which was established to support partnership working to tackle abuse. The voluntary sector is a service provider but works with a number of agencies and their service is commissioned by the PCC. Romy Briant identified a need in the area of Domestic Abuse of aligning information across agencies to address abuse and for agencies to work better together and share good practice by having a multi-agency strategy and one stop shop with a core focus on safety.
- The County Domestic Abuse Strategy Group, of which Oxfordshire County Council and District Councils and the charity are members, together developed Oxfordshire’s Domestic Abuse Champions’ Networks. The network of front-line staff from a range of agencies,

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including District Councils, police, children and health services, were trained together and met to share practice and expertise across multiagency settings. They acted as a source of knowledge for their work colleagues and as a resource to those affected by abuse – responding safely, offering advice and support, risk assessing and safety planning and providing links to the services victims needed.

- The over-arching aim of the Domestic Abuse Champions' Networks is to keep adults and children safe through working together and developing effective multi-agency practice. Champions also encourage victims to seek help early and reduce the number of agencies a victim comes into contact with before accessing the advice and support they need.
- The Oxfordshire networks now comprise over 800 active Champions, and the scheme has won regional and national awards. The networks include staff based in over 150 schools across Oxfordshire, supporting and safeguarding children. The IDVA is also part of the network and provides risk management advice.
- A survey of the Champion approach found that 95% of professionals feel that as a result of being a Domestic Abuse Champion they are well supported and equipped to work with domestic abuse victims. Many regard the Champions' Network as professionally empowering and a collaborative, practice based approach to keeping victims safe.
- Once a referral has been made there is contact with the victim in one day and a risk assessment is undertaken and trust built so show a 'safe pair of hands'. Some victims are provided with refuges or helped along a path to remove themselves from their partners and to take control of their lives and lead independent lives e.g support with going to college.
- It was important for the police to respond quickly to reports of domestic abuse and for safe accommodation to be provided. It was essential that the Criminal Justice System prioritised keeping perpetrators away through the use of DVPO's etc. The increase in reporting was welcomed.
- Following its success, the Champions scheme is now established as a social enterprise. Reducing the Risk has to date delivered training, advice and support to establish Champions networks in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Havering and West Berkshire, with requests for advice and consultancy from other local government areas across the Thames Valley and Norfolk.
- During the commissioning preparation the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) commissioned a Domestic Violence needs assessment report to inform the future service commissioning strategy. A report by Karen Morton (Commissioning Domestic Abuse Services) highlighted the need for further support for Domestic Abuse victims with complex needs (e.g. mental health problems, self-harming, and substance misuse). Taking into consideration the findings of the report, the PCC agreed to grant fund 3 x county-based Domestic Abuse pilot projects for 18 months, to support Domestic Abuse victims (both male and female) with complex and/or specialist needs. The service is being delivered in:-
 - Oxfordshire by Reducing the Risk which includes a new initiative consisting of three consecutive groups running for six months each to work more effectively with victims whose fragile mental health and associated behaviours put them at additional risk; a wider scoping initiative with the aim of liaising and working more closely with mental health services in Oxfordshire; identifying important 'gateway' services to establish referral pathways and explore more effective ways of working together including links with primary care; further development of the domestic abuse champion training within mental health services to help promote greater awareness and capacity to support victims of abuse and strengthen early intervention pathways.

- Buckinghamshire by Smart
SMART run an outreach service to best meet the needs of complex clients experiencing domestic abuse with two dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) working across Buckinghamshire. The IDVA's case-manage complex needs clients at all risk levels, coordinating a multi-agency approach, working in close partnership with Women's Aid, structured drug and alcohol treatment services, mental health services, MARAC's and police across the region.
- Berkshire by Berkshire Women's Aid
This project is for domestic abuse victims with complex needs providing face to face support. This new, more structured approach to outreach enables some clients, who need more support, especially in the initial crisis stages, a more intensive outreach support service.
- With the commissioning process it is important to ensure that the Victims Fund is aligned to ensure value for money is obtained to achieve common and shared pathways. Three important components were children's services, the police and the voluntary sector and if one of these areas were missing the effectiveness of the other two agencies would be compromised. It was crucial to have enough funding to ensure that the victim could be supported through to the end where hopefully they could achieve a good outcome. Funding was required long term and also to help chaotic lifestyles. If any new services were introduced it was important to ensure that they were aligned to existing processes and did not confuse victims. As funding was often only confirmed year by year it was very difficult to plan and provide reassurance in services. One of the areas that could be looked at was national commissioning for areas such as domestic violence.
- There was a BBC Programme called 'Behind Closed Doors' which would be shown on Monday 14 March 2016 which looked at the Thames Valley and particularly focused on the criminal justice system.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- The PCC referred to the HMIC report which stated that the public can have confidence that generally Thames Valley Police provide a good service to victims of domestic abuse and help keep them safe. They achieved a good rating.
- Cllr Birchley commented that domestic violence can have profound consequences on the family and it was difficult for the victim who was worried about losing their family. Romy Briant reported that it was important to discuss choices with the victim and if they chose to stay at home to look at how to safeguard themselves. Some victims chose to return to perpetrators of their own accord which could relate to lose of confidence and being isolated from friends and family. It was important to provide help to keep the victim as safe as possible. Teresa Martin reported that domestic violence was often complex and it was important to challenge behaviour at an early stage and use local champions to help find the right solutions. Romy Briant commented that some perpetrators enjoyed domestic violence whereas as others had sought help. Some perpetrator courses had been held but they were expensive to run and there was not enough funding for these courses in Oxfordshire.
- Cllr Pitts asked about the percentage of male victims and whether the support from Women's Aid was as robust to males as females. Romy Briant reported that there were male refugees but it was harder for men to get help. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will suffer domestic abuse during their lifetime. Teresa Martin reported that Women's Aid helps all victims and there was also an IDVA for male victims who will give the same support. There were challenges around males engaging with services and they were using a joined up approach to address this.

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- Cllr Webb referred to the funding problems and having lots of small organisations working on domestic violence. Romy Briant emphasised the importance of working together as some small organisations had a core of expertise and larger organisations needed to ensure they met local needs. Funding was always a concern which was why it was important for all services to be fully commissioned. Funding could come through the PCC, through grants from the Home Office or through Community Safety Partnerships or through fund raising. Most funding is given a year at a time and allocated late and often at high risk of being cut. The Trustees look at risk factors around funding.
- Cllr Webb also asked a question about information from GPs and schools. Teresa Martin reported that they had been talking to schools and funding free sessions. There were youth workers and also the Local Authority Designated Officer. There are DVA workers in a number of schools in Bucks (19) giving help to approximately 400 children. Work was also being undertaken with Barnardo's 'Are you Safe' around Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation. There was engagement with GPs and GP champions with particular emphasis about early intervention.
- There were other issues linked to Domestic Violence such as CSE, modern slavery and Female Genital Mutilation. Training was being undertaken with professionals and agencies on these specific issues and raising awareness.
- Julia Girling asked what percentage of cases go to court. Members noted that the HMIC report stated that Thames Valley Police has one of the worst records in the country for the number of domestic abuse prosecutions that fail to result in a conviction. Romy Briant reported that she was unable to give specifics on the prosecution process but that this process had improved through the use of body worn cameras. The court process was incredibly difficult for victims who had left relationships and had to revisit their experience at court. The Deputy Chief Constable reported that of 11,000 offences 3,000 had resulted in a charge or caution and there had been a 20% increase in calls. 19% was repeat victimisation. The PCC referred to the definition of crimes and domestic violence in ethnic communities which could relate to forced marriage. This was an area where further work was required. Julia Girling emphasised the importance of specially trained officers who could make a real difference to supporting a victim through the court process.
- Cllr Courts referred to the report which stated that as at 14 January 2016, 16.4% of the 9,886 domestic abuse investigations, recorded between 1 April and 31 December 2015, had an outcome attached where no offender had been charged or summonsed for the offence. This compares with 57.3% last year. He asked the reason for the downfall. The Deputy Chief Constable reported that this was due to an increase in reporting volumes and that the police need to improve on recording crime and also to ensure that the case goes through the court system as soon as possible as it has a better chance of succeeding. In terms of third party reporting a police officer will attend the incident and take a record from the victim but the victim may not want to proceed. This was often the case for sexual violence. Cllr Courts expressed concern about the number of victims who did not want to take the case to court and the skills required now to work with historic abuse and the impact on victims.
- Cllr Hussain referred to victims being moved away from their locality which included their only links and friendships and what plans were put in place to help victims who have lost their local network. The PCC reported that if Victim Support refer a particular case this would be funded by the PCC of that particular area and that it was important to work seamlessly and provide the right support. Romy Briant reported that the voluntary sector have a part to play in this and look at relationship networks and support and all the agencies working together to achieve a good outcome.

Recommendations

1. That the PCC ensures that there is a consistent approach to tackling domestic violence across the Thames Valley:-

- Consider further integrated and wider partnership working – there are discussions planned with Oxford and PCCs office. It is important to maximise the benefits of closer working across the Thames Valley and to consider proposals regarding setting up a meeting of commissioners and follow-up meeting with providers. This should help to ensure that services the PCC commissions support and enhance but do not duplicate with existing provision.
- To help spread good practice across the Thames Valley on successful local in initiatives (the HMIC report states that the Force would benefit from a system to share local initiatives to other areas of the Force)
- .As perpetrator work is notoriously difficult to evidence effectiveness of and value for money, to consider whether there should be a Thames Valley Perpetrator Programme Co-ordinator who would be able to co-ordinate and promote all the programmes and have responsibility for ensuring and monitoring good practice. The benefits of this of this approach would be to have a larger dataset which could help with evidencing effectiveness.
- Consideration of one or two targets across the TVP for key areas of work, eg use of IDVA or to support benchmarking

2. As the PCC has recently taken over chairmanship of the Local Criminal Justice Board that he will be able to monitor and influence the following:-

- Promoting strong enforcement measures and ensuring use of DVPNs/DVPOs and enhanced evidence gathering to support cases where the victim is not able to support the court process.
- Improved victim and witness journey through the court system.

3. That the PCC give further consideration on how to influence or provide stable long term funding for domestic violence to help the provision of services and to give further consideration to the closure of refuges and accommodation for people with complex needs.

4. Future monitoring of areas for improvement from the HMIC report:-

- Inconsistency in compliance with the Victim's Code
- Frontline officers responding to domestic abuse need to focus more on listening rather than paperwork
- Comparatively low use of Domestic Violence Prevention Notices
- Improving the police response to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage
(See page 83 of the PCC Policy Performance and Planning agenda on 6 April for the Thames Valley Police response to the HMIC report)

34. Review of the Police and Crime Plan and Monitoring Reports

The purpose of this item was to look at how the PCC has addressed his six strategic objectives in his current tenure of office:-

Cutting Crime

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The PCC reported that all crimes have gone down considerably and overall crime has reduced by 8%. For example there has been a reduction on the level of violence against the person but there has been an increase in the number of sexual offences which can be related to better reporting. Burglary has decreased significantly and decreases year on year – the best example is Reading where burglary has been cut by 50%. The PCC expressed concern about integrated offender management and the need for GPS tagging for those offenders who are released early from prison. He commented that he wished that this had been included in the new Policing and Crime Bill.

Protecting Vulnerable People

The PCC referred to the setting up of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs in the Thames Valley which appeared to be working well, although he expressed concern about the number of MASH in Berkshire and the ability to resource them effectively. He also referred to the development and implementation of the local Mental Health Concordat. During 2015/16 the PCC has used the Police Property Fund to award £240,000 to 54 different organisations to help cut crime and protect vulnerable people.

Putting Victims and Witnesses at the Heart of the Criminal Justice System

This is part of the PCC's commissioning function and in October 2014 the PCC became responsible for commissioning new emotional and practical support services for victims of crime in the Thames Valley. He was responsible for commissioning both a 'non-specialist' overarching victim referral mechanism including onward support and more 'specialist' services for victims of crime, including Restorative Justice services.

Ensure Police and Partners are visible and act with integrity and foster the trust and confidence of communities

The PCC reported that he had set up the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel which was working well. When looking at complaints against the Chief Constable out of 11 complaints 10 had not been upheld by the IPCC. Some of these complaints were of a vexatious nature. They were also ensuring the adoption and implementation of recommendations from serious case reviews and looking at recruitment of special constables.

Communication with the public

There was an increase in the number of people engaging in Thames Valley Alerts and they had increased the level of targeted consultation and engagement activity. He had 'Meet the PCC' sessions and also had a public meeting called the Policy, Planning and Performance Meeting. A Neighbourhood Policing Review had also been undertaken to ensure that they were making the best use of resources for local policing.

Protect the public from Serious Organised Crime, terrorism and cyber crime

In the South-East, Thames Valley, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire are coming together to purchase police ICT. Fraud, terrorism and cyber-crime were a major issue and there were international border issues which presented major threats.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- Cllr Mallon referred to hidden crime amongst ethnic communities and expressed concern that in some communities the perpetrator was supported because of historical and cultural beliefs. Some victims who were moved to a different area could be subject to a 'witch hunt' and the victim could be bought back into the same position. The PCC also expressed concern about girls

who were sent abroad and were not safe and led into forced marriages. He commented that this was an issue for national policing rather than for local police forces.

- Cllr Webb asked what the PCC would like to change in the OPCC Delivery Plan. The PCC reported that the Thames Valley was a huge area and it was sometimes difficult to provide input at every local level. He specifically mentioned Health and Wellbeing Boards of which there were nine in the Thames Valley which were difficult to attend. He commented that if he was re-elected he would consider setting up regional offices to address local issues more effectively and also areas for collaboration. The PCC reported that he could see a tremendous change in policing over the next four years, particularly with having 42 police forces all different in size. There were only four police forces bigger than the Thames Valley. He could see the advantage of having a regional centre to look after firearms and police dogs etc with neighbourhood policing controlled more locally.
- Cllr Hussain asked about how he communicated to 'non English' speakers and what strategies he was using. The PCC reported that he visited every Council in the Thames Valley and attended many events across the region but very few public turn up to these meetings and events to question him. He has visited specific communities where concerns have been brought to his attention. He also receives lots of email and looked at any complaints which may be referred to the Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel.
- Cllr McCracken asked the PCC about financial pressures for the next four years. The PCC reported that a considerable amount had already been cut from the budget and pressures had been increased with a change in taxation and pension laws. He also expressed concern about cuts to the public sector in particular Local Authorities which would impact on policing such as CCTV, Police Community Support Officers and Youth Clubs. This would put further pressure on the police as the place of last resort.
- Cllr McCracken asked what he thought the Panel should look at in the future. The PCC referred to the rise in 'modern crime', the loss of frontline police, changes to the formula grant which may radically impact on the Thames Valley and the reduction in magistrates courts which means that victims will have to travel further.
- Curtis James Marshall referred to the police ICT strategy and plans for the future to link in with other agencies to improve policing. A National ICT Company had been formed to help ensure consistency in systems and it was important for forces to work together. However this was proving quite difficult and the next area to address would be bringing together the police and emergency services.

Members noted the report.

35. Verbal update on proposed changes to national funding formula

The PCC reported that with the initial proposals for the changes to the national funding formula set out in Autumn 2015 Thames Valley Police would have been a significant loser. In terms of putting new proposals forward for 17/18 it was hoped that there would be engagement with the police community before agreeing changes. No further decisions have been taken and it would take time to look at the options available. A further update would be given at the June meeting.

36. Report of the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee

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CLr McCracken presented the report of the CSE Sub Committee on 4 March 2016 and the following points were made:-

- Cllr Webb asked if there had been any response from the Berkshire Leaders particularly about engagement with Slough Borough Council. The Berkshire Leaders had responded that this issue should be raised informally with the Council itself.
- Cllr Mallon referred to the Bullfinch recommendation which had not yet been implemented particularly looking at perpetrator profiles. He had been disappointed with the police focus on lone offenders rather than organised crime groups. The Deputy Chief Constable reported that when looking at the perpetrator profile ethnicity was not seen as significant. Research was currently being undertaken by Oxford University on this area. It was important to look at the profiling and to understand the motivation behind it. Cllr Hussain commented that there was exploitation regardless of ethnicity and it was important to eradicate all forms of exploitation.

There was a site visit to the Oxfordshire MASH on 21 March 2016 and Members were invited to attend.

Members would be informed of the date of the next CSE Sub Committee which would be held in the Autumn. The recommendations and report were noted.

37. Update on Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel

The Annual Assurance Report 2015 from the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel to the PCC and Chief Constable was noted.

38. General Issues

The general issues report was noted.

Cllr Hussain asked about the current backlog to DBS checks. The Deputy Chief Constable reported that they were now back on track with national targets.

Cllr McCracken asked about the progress on the Emergency Services Network Programme and the Chief Executive of the OPCC agreed to provide a written response to Members.

39. Work Programme

The Work Programme was noted.

40. Date and Time of Next Meeting

17 June 2016 at Aylesbury Vale District Council

CHAIRMAN

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Themed Item – Community Safety Partnerships

Date: 17 June 2016

Author: Clare Gray, Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Officer, Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



Background

- 1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) were introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to be made up of 'responsible authorities' and some who sit as a result of local agreement. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 made no significant amendments to the role and remit of CSP's, however it meant changes to their working context as funding for crime and disorder reduction (or community safety) would be funnelled through the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It is worth noting that the former 'Community Safety Fund' initially allocated in 2013/14 has now been absorbed into the general Police Grant allocated to PCCs. Therefore, the allocation of funding at a local level for community safety and crime and disorder activities, and mechanisms for its distribution, are at the discretion of individual PCC's. http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7530798/L12_702+comm+safety+workbook_23400.pdf/bdcc7a4b-4dcc-4761-b465-06dc0bfd2548
LGA Councillor Handbook
- 2 Home Office Guidance (PCC Update July 2011) states that PCC's will be supported to work effectively with other local leaders to prioritise resources to suit local needs and priorities. There is a duty for both parties to co-operate and have regard to each other 'relevant priorities in carrying out their respective functions'. This duty to have regard to each 'others' priorities exists even if the PCC were not to provide funding to CSPs. PCC's have the authority to require a report from a CSP where they are not content that the CSP is carrying out its duties 'effectively and efficiently'.
- 3 CSP's are held to account by local overview and scrutiny committees using powers given by the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- 4 The statutory obligations for CSP's are as follows:-
 - Strategic Group to direct the work of the partnership
 - Regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them
 - Set up protocols and systems for sharing information

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- Analyse a wide range of data, including recording crime levels and patterns, in order to identify priorities in an annual strategic assessment
- Set out a partnership plan and monitor progress
- Produce a strategy to reduce reoffending
- Commission domestic violence homicide reviews

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-and-crime-commissioners-and-community-safety-partnerships>

5 CSP's are encouraged to take an actions orientated rather than a meetings orientated approach and also to focus on reduced bureaucracy, value for money and improved delivery of services. CSPs consist of five 'responsible authorities' - police, relevant local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation providers and Clinical Commissioning Groups and are under a duty to assess local community safety issues and draw up a partnership plan setting out their priorities.

6 The Thames Valley is made up of a complex partnership landscape comprising of a number of local government structures including two tier (District and County Councils, and Unitary, Authorities) working alongside a range of other organisations which also configure themselves at a local, County and Thames Valley level. These Local Authority areas vary in geography and demography quite substantially. One of the strengths of the Thames Valley is the diversity of its population. Universal priorities which affect all areas of the Thames Valley include violent crime, domestic and sexual abuse, anti social behaviour, burglary and theft and safeguarding issues. CSP's in the Thames Valley have many years experience of working collaboratively to maximise opportunities to reduce crime, disorder and anti social behaviour.

7 The PCC and CSPs have a duty to take each other's priorities into account and in the Thames Valley the PCC works closely with the CSPs to achieve this. The Office of the PCC (OPCC) attends most CSP meetings and fund and host regular Thames Valley wide events where all CSP Managers and the OPCC have the opportunity to come together to share learning and look at opportunities for joint working.

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/working-in-partnership/community-safety-partnerships/>

8 According to some research undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny relations between Panels and CSPs and Scrutiny Committees appear to be sporadic and ad hoc. In many instances, the fact that many Panel Members sit on CSPs is the only reason that any liaison does occur. There is often not an effective mechanism for intelligence and data to be shared between Panels, CSPs and their corresponding scrutiny committee. Updates are given on the work of the Panel to CSP's but Members may wish to consider whether this is sufficient or whether the Panel should be developing more formal mechanisms for information sharing and also feeding in information regularly from CSP meetings. It is important to note however that the reticence to engage with CSP's could be an issue of time and resources or it could be a concern about focusing on the operational business of CSP's rather than the need for the Panel to work more strategically. Where the Panel proposes to look at issues relating to the CSP, such matters should relate back to the PCC's strategic priorities, to the Police and Crime Plan and to the budget rather than to local concerns best dealt with by CSP Scrutiny Committees.

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/police-and-crime-panels-the-first-year/>

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/library-monitor-12-community-safety/>

CFPS Scrutiny of Community Safety Partnerships

9 This Panel previously had a local issues item where the local Community Safety Manager attended (at this point the Panel was rotating meetings around the Thames Valley) to provide an update. However, this was changed because there was a concern it detracted from the Panel's Scrutiny function. The Scrutiny Officer is making contact with Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Officers to find out their work programme for the ensuing year to feed this

information through to Panel Members. The Chairman has also been invited to become a Member of the Buckinghamshire Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board. The Vice-Chairman of the Panel is also a Member of the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Oversight Committee which is Member led and meets twice a year. Both Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire have an officer co-ordinating group which undertake a strategic and commissioning role, whereas the District CSP's work in partnership to tackle community safety issues.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/safer-oxfordshire-partnership>

10 Other areas which are important to note about CSP's are as follows:-

- Each year, the Strategy Group for community safety commissions the strategic assessment. This is an audit of all the crime and disorder, substance misuse and reoffending that has taken place across the CSP area over the previous year, and seeks to predict the key issues and identify priorities for the partnership by highlighting risk. The strategic assessment should be closely aligned to the background evidence underpinning the police and crime plan. Partnership priorities should be established via a combination of the hard quantitative evidence established in the strategic assessment and through consulting the community. This is a statutory duty on CSPs.
- Additionally each CSP needs to hold one face the public meeting.
- Many CSP's structure themselves to provide a strategic oversight and a number of delivery mechanisms to ensure that actions outlined in partnership plans are undertaken. This should be a highly tactical meeting bringing agencies together to problem-solve chronic issues on a geographical basis.
- Each CSP should have an information sharing protocol with a Designated Liaison Officer in each Responsible Authority to assist in the sharing of datasets, including depersonalised information. The best mechanism would be to utilise data in the form of analytical problem profiles to properly understand an issue, then apply problem solving methodologies to address them.
- Community Safety Partnerships need to work very closely with neighbourhood policing teams, and tackle the priorities highlighted by communities through consultation.
- Priorities for CSP's tend to include domestic abuse and reducing reoffending through Integrated Offender Management Schemes.
- A CSP can offer access to commissioning and procurement services to PCC's
- The key strength of CSPs is their ability to be flexible and design multi-agency responses around local need.

11 For Members information there is a briefing note attached (which has also been noted by the Panel) on the Police and Crime Plan which followed a scoping review of Community Safety Partnerships in respect of their strategic priorities.

<http://sbdc-spider2.southbucks.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=289&MIId=2384&Ver=4> (item 26)

12 Members may wish to consider whether it would be helpful to have some rules of engagement with the Panel and CSP's. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel have rules of engagement which have specified the role of the Panel and CSP's. This includes the following:-

- The CSP will help the Panel monitor the impact of different community safety interventions and commissioning approaches and to better understand the link between the strategic direction set by the PCC and its impact on crime and community safety in local areas.

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- The Panel can in turn scrutinise the decisions and actions of the PCC if he/she fails to have regard to responsible authority priorities or plans or if their funding arrangements and conditions places excessive demands on the CSP's.
- The Panel has an annual meeting with CSP chairs to engage in open discussion about the impact of the PCC and to raise any serious concerns which arise during the year.
- CSP chairs are also asked to brief their Authority's Panel Member in advance of any discussions on the Plan so that the local perspective is sufficiently understood.
- The CSP's are also asked to complete a quarterly briefing note (or the Scrutiny Officer can summarise issues being discussed by CSP's) and the Panel could provide the same for CSP's.

<http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/meetings/2015/friday-17th-july-2015> (item 10 and 11)

<http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/meetings/2014/friday-18th-july-2014> (item 6 Principles of Engagement and item 7)

Community Safety Funding

13 The PCC may made a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person if, in the opinion of the PCC, it will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction. The opinion of the PCC may make such grants subject to any conditions which he/she thinks appropriate. Not all PCC's give allocations to each Council in their area and bids have to be made through the commissioning process. In the Thames Valley as well as the PCCs Community Safety Fund, which is provided to Local Authorities, the Police Property Act Fund is also used to fund some of the activities and joint priorities of the PCC and Chief Constable in local areas. In previous years the PCC has provided funding to local authorities in the Thames Valley for community safety purposes. In 2014/15 the PCC provided over £3.7million from his Community Safety Fund to local authorities and Thames Valley Police to help implement crime reduction and community safety activities. This supports, amongst other things, activity undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams and Drug and Alcohol Teams across Thames Valley. All Community Safety funded activities are aligned to relevant objectives within his Police and Crime Plan. The current spending is £3.12 m or £1.33 per head of population.

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/performance/community-safety-fund/>

<http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/what-we-spend-and-how-we-spend-it/partnership-spending/>

14 However the OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan refers to exploring options for alternative distribution of the community safety fund in 2017/18 and later years. At present the PCC is one of only two PCC's that allocated their entire community safety budget to local authorities. The PCC currently gives flexibility to how the funds are spent and managed with monitoring in place. In West Yorkshire the PCC chairs a force-wide CSP Forum, who collectively agree how the grant monies will be spent for the benefit of their local communities. Other PCC's use a combination of direct commissioning, co-commissioning, earmarked funds for specific community safety purposes and open bidding for discrete fund and activities. Some also take a more holistic approach to the use of community safety and victims' service funding to ensure a more efficient and effective service is provided to some client groups e.g domestic abuse.

15 West Midlands Police and Crime Panel undertook an inquiry into community safety grants and the report can be accessed via the link below:-

<http://westmidlandspcp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Item-6-Evidence-Pack-WMPCP-23-NOV-15.pdf>

Different ways of funding Community Safety across the Country can be viewed via the links below:-

<http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/performance/community-safety-fund/>

<http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Our-Money/Grants-and-Funding/Community-Safety-Fund-2015-16.aspx>

<http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/apply-for-funding/>

<http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/grant-funding-opportunities/>

<http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Finance/Community-Safety-Fund.aspx>

<https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/community-safety.html>

Neighbourhood Policing

16 Members have asked that neighbourhood policing be looked at in conjunction with working with CSP's. Thames Valley Police have commissioned some work by the Police Foundation to inform their own internal review of neighbourhood policing (May 2015) and information from this review shall be referred to below. The review looks at literature on neighbourhood policing across the Country.

17 The report indicates that nationwide police forces are faced with difficult choices in responding to the need to make substantial budget cuts, including reviewing the role of neighbourhood policing. On page 8 of the Police Foundation report it comments that "Funding for neighbourhood policing is no longer ring-fenced, the number of Police Community Support Officers is falling fast and the future of neighbourhood policing is under threat. New and emerging crimes such as CSE pay little respect to traditional borders and present a whole new set of challenges for which the police service is ill equipped. With neighbourhoods becoming increasingly diverse, transient and fragmented, the task of neighbourhood policing is becoming harder as the skills and resources for doing it become scarcer and the pressures to resort to reactive, response-orientated policing rises...The key benefits of neighbourhood policing are long term, important and strategic and hence at risk".

www.police-foundation.org.uk/uploads/catalogerfiles/neighbourhood-policing-past-present-and-future---a-review-of-the-literature/neighbourhood_policing_past_present_future.pdf

18 There is good practice advice on how to maximise the benefits of neighbourhood policing as follows:-

- Allocating resources on the basis of a thorough analysis of demand
- Focusing activity on the reduction of risk, harm and threat
- Working closely with partner agencies to identify and resolve local problems
- Designing fully inclusive community engagement strategies that take account of the increasing diversity of local communities and the needs of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach.

19 Thames Valley Police in their Delivery Plan in 2014-15 had objectives to 'maximise patrol and uniformed deployment in the most efficient and operationally productive way' (2.2) and to review the approach of neighbourhood policing in light of best practice nationally and emerging evidence from the College of Policing (2.6)

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/aboutus/aboutus-stplan/aboutus-stplan-stratplan.htm>

20 In 2013 the National Policing Improvement Agency undertook a survey of all 43 forces to establish what is working well in neighbourhood policing and identify the key challenges that Forces face. Of the 43 Forces, 32 had reviewed or were in the process of reviewing neighbourhood policing. The main findings were as follows:-

- A clearer understanding of the role and function of neighbourhood policing and what should be prioritised, given the reduction in resources
- Forces need to obtain a better understanding of the demand profile for neighbourhood policing teams in order to design their service and allocate resources most effectively.
- Forces need to establish how best to balance proactive and reactive approaches including how to reduce the demand on response officers in order to free up resources for proactive,

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problem solving work and how to shift the focus to reducing risk, harm, vulnerability and threat.

- Forces are using different ways to maintain neighbourhood policing in the face of budget cuts, including ring fencing one officer or PCSO for each neighbourhood; extending the responsibilities of neighbourhood policing teams to include investigative and response functions; giving more responsibility to PCSO's; combining command functions; and integrating response, neighbourhood policing and CID. Most forces now expect neighbourhood police officers to investigate serious crime.
- Despite a few examples of good practice (eg Herts) most forces were finding it difficult to design and deliver cost-effective community engagement strategies. Public meetings were viewed as unrepresentative and engagement efforts as insufficiently targeted according to need/vulnerability, although some forces (Thames Valley) were using neighbourhood profiling tools to help tailor their community engagement methods. Some forces were also exploring ways of involving local citizens more directly in policing activity (Lancashire).
- Current performance frameworks do not adequately capture the impact or outcomes of neighbourhood policing.
- Partnership working through co-location and sharing resources was a key dimension of neighbourhood policing
- Neighbourhood policing teams needed to do more to manage high risk offenders and support vulnerable people in line with a force strategy.
- Officers needed better training in the Force's vision for neighbourhood policing.

21 The findings of the National Policing Improvement Agency review refers to the importance of partnership working and a key driver for the initial Crime and Disorder Act legislation was that addressing crime effectively should not be the sole responsibility of the police. Slough was given as an example where collaborative problem solving is used as a central premise of the Violence Multi-Agency Panel process, which has been set up to address the problem of recurrent violence. Alongside co-ordinating this the police provide core enforcement responses – such as the arrest and charging of perpetrators – but resolutions to recurrent violence may also necessitate additional or alternative partnership interventions, including mental health, drugs and alcohol, domestic abuse teams. This research which also looked at public perceptions of the police and research suggests that it is not contact per se which leads to lower confidence in the police but rather the quality of the encounter.

22 The Police Foundation Review concludes that ways to improve neighbourhood policing include:-

- Better training in interpersonal skills to improve officers handling of street/public encounters
- Greater more imaginative use should be made of technology and social media
- Better data sharing with local partners
- Problem solving with good analysis, joining up data sets and informing proactive tasking
- More inclusive and more relevant ways of community engagement
- Better ways to measure problem solving performance
- Neighbourhood police need to develop new skills and generate better intelligence on emerging and hidden crimes such as CSE and cyber crime
- Doing less but doing it better

23 The latest available open report on the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Policing is set out below. The PCC concluded in this report to the Planning Policy and Performance meeting in July 2015 the following statement:-

The Neighbourhood Review seeks to retain, but refocus, the concept of Neighbourhood policing. It is underpinned by the assertion that policing is best delivered locally and that only by trying new approaches will policing break free of the trap of seeking to do more with less but in effect doing the same only worse. Austerity will continue. The approaches of the past; pumping in more money, driving up performance through complex, costly processes and reducing 'supply' side costs through increased efficiency will no longer be sufficient and will not deliver necessary savings and service standards. "Supply side' cost management will only achieve finite savings. The Neighbourhood Strategy therefore focuses on addressing risk, harm and threat by promoting the principles of visibility, engagement, problem-solving and building community resilience and thereby reduce demand for "crisis" policing.

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=59930>

Milton Keynes will be initially used to pilot the problem solving approach. In other areas, LPA Commanders have now designated problem solving champions who have received training and are now expected to roll the training out within their area.

24 The Peel Report (HMIC) looks at police effectiveness for the Thames Valley (which received a Good rating) and refers to the neighbourhood policing review saying that the force is implementing the review findings and intends that its recommendations, along with the findings from its ongoing priority based budgeting process (PBB), will shape how in the future it prioritises the prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe. Other reference to neighbourhood policing include talking to neighbourhood policing staff. Most of the neighbourhood policing staff HMIC spoke to felt valued by the force and suitably trained and equipped for their role. However some officers expressed frustration about the number of occasions they were taken away from their neighbourhoods to supplement response officer numbers. This means that, on occasions, the necessity to perform other duties prevents neighbourhood officers fully engaging with problem solving and partnership work. The force is aware of this and intends to address it through its implementation of the neighbourhood policing review. An annual review of resource allocation takes into account emerging crime risks as well as the volume of crimes and incidents reported. Through its neighbourhood policing review, the force is refining this approach and working to develop a deeper understanding of the risk to each community to inform resourcing decisions.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/peel-assessments/peel-2015/thames-valley/>

<http://goo.gl/IuEkU4>

Safer Neighbourhood Policing in London (Parliament) – whilst it focuses on London there is mention of the good work in the Thames Valley and relates to the general debate about neighbourhood policing

Thames Valley Police – Responding to austerity (HMIC)

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/thames-valley-responding-to-austerity.pdf>

Neighbourhood Policing Articles

http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/crime/14286747.Thames_Valley_Police_receive_Good_report_rating/

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/faq/newsevents-pressreleases-item.htm?id=329341>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/12083545/Social-media-is-the-new-neighbourhood-policing-says-prize-winning-tweeting-officer.html>

<http://www.polfed.org/newsroom/3191.aspx>

Recent article on increase in recorded crime

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36158899>

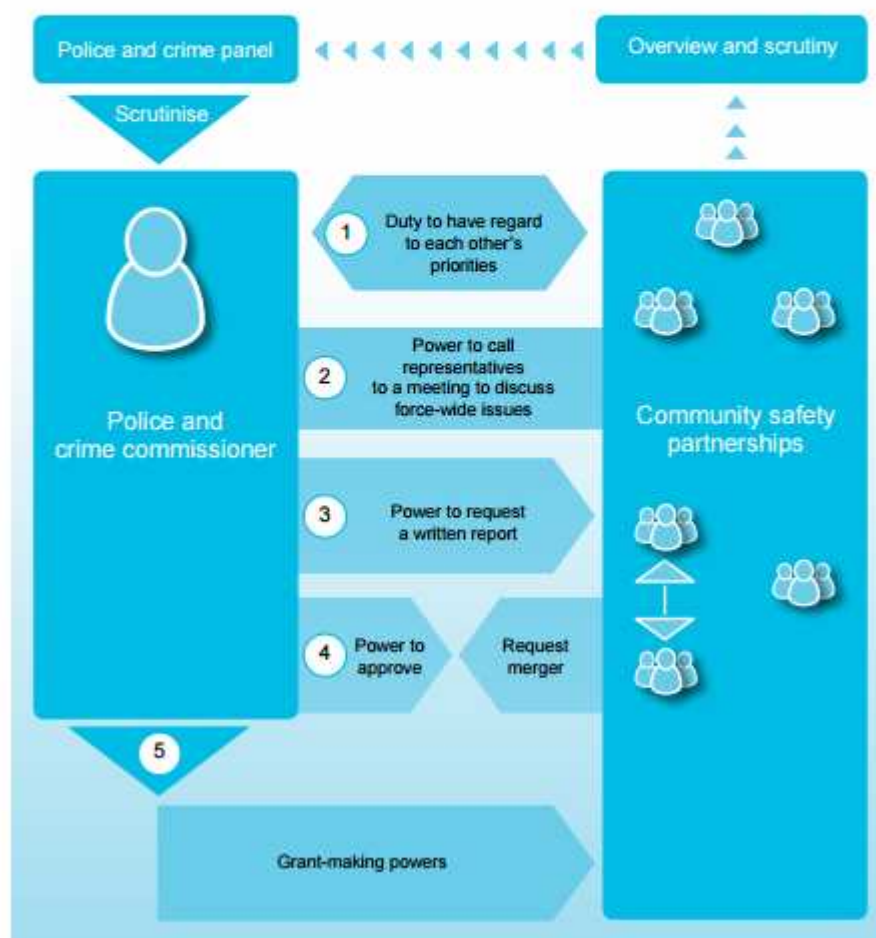
Proposed Recommendations

- 1 To keep Panel Members updated with the work being carried out by Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees across the Thames Valley and that each Panel Member feeds in any information from Scrutiny Committees to enable the Police and Crime Panel to review and scrutinise the decisions and actions of the PCC where necessary and appropriate.**
- 2 That the Panel consider whether they wish to adopt any means of formal engagement as set out in paragraph 12 of the report in order to work closer with CSP's to better understand the impact of the PCC on crime reduction and community safety within the Thames Valley and to enable it to prioritise key areas to scrutinise and monitor.**
- 3 To monitor the performance of the PCC on the impact of the Neighbourhood Policing Review.**

Diagram from LGA Document – Community Safety Partnerships – A guide for PCC's

How will CSPs and PCCs interact?

There are five key ways in which a PCC and the CSPs in the force area will work together, and these can be seen on the diagram below:



Report to the Police and Crime Panel

17th June 2016

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING REVIEW UPDATE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with a progress report of the Neighbourhood Policing Review and a summary of implementation activity that has been undertaken.

2 Overview

- 2.1 The 2014 -15 Thames Valley Police (TVP) Delivery Plan set an action to review the approach to Neighbourhood Policing in light of best practice nationally and emerging College of Policing evidence. It was also aligned with commitments under the Strategic Objectives in the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Police and Crime Plan. The subsequent Neighbourhood Policing Review report included 31 recommendations to inform the future delivery of Neighbourhood Policing (NHP) in Thames Valley and was signed off by TVP Chief Officers in April 2015.
- 2.2 The strategy for the delivery of neighbourhood policing in TVP is intended to complement our commitment of working together to make communities safer, and comprises the following four elements:
- Visibility - to increase public confidence and reduce crime
 - Engagement - to enable the participation of communities in policing at their chosen level
 - Problem solving - to identify, establish causation, respond and address local problems
 - Community Resilience - to increase public involvement in policing
- 2.3 A strong emphasis within the review was that policing services should be designed to meet, and better manage, demand. The ability to describe the demand for policing services, and the degree to which different activities absorb resources, should inform our priorities, early intervention, problem solving and preventative activity focused on reducing vulnerability and protecting the public.

The need to better understand policing demands and tailor services accordingly is both a local and national priority for forces.

- 2.5 Evidence shows that visibility and engagement are critical to effective problem solving. Local police officers, including Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who know their neighbourhood well are invaluable in this regard, listening to the local community and involving them in identifying solutions. Local officers, working with partners, should be able to guide problem solving activity and maintain a focus on areas of greatest risk, harm and threat.
- 2.6 By working with our partners and communities we should create opportunities to prevent some elements of demand. By focusing attention on those who cause harm to communities and areas that generate the most calls for service there is an opportunity to reduce demand and intervene much earlier.
- 2.7 The 'Citizens in Policing' strategy promotes the benefits of citizen engagement and social action through the Special Constabulary, Police Support Volunteers, Volunteer Police Cadets, and through links with others involved in voluntary, community action and active citizens groups such as Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Action Groups.

3 Highlights of Progress to date

- 3.1 A review of the work being undertaken by the various internal working groups has recently been undertaken to ensure it incorporates the Thames Valley 'Our Commitment' policing principles across the activities and services that will be delivered by Neighbourhood Teams. One working group is looking at opportunities to enhance and further develop our approach to integrated working with partners, both statutory and non-statutory. Highlights of work completed and ongoing that support implementation of the strategy are as follows:

Visibility

- PCSO recruitment processes have been reviewed to place a greater emphasis on representation from TVP communities and more training around problem solving and community engagement techniques.
- The provision of detailed 'demand data' to Local Police Area (LPA) managers means that LPA patrol plans can ensure key locations are identified and visited at the times of greatest impact and effect.
- During the summer (2016) the rollout of new mobile technology will enable patrolling officers to remain visible in the community to perform neighbourhood roles as they access information that would previously have only been available at police stations. The information available will also contain key local community contacts and ensure that all officers, whether response, CID or neighbourhood, can identify key individuals.

- A review of the administrative functions previously performed by neighbourhood staff has led to a reduction in bureaucracy thereby enabling officers and staff to spend more time visibly out on patrol.
- A review has been conducted of the deployment of neighbourhood staff to reports of volume crime, resulting in a better targeted approach based on the threat towards, and vulnerability of, victims. This has enabled an improved service to be delivered to those most at risk and greater opportunities to resolve issues at the earliest opportunity.

Engagement

- The Force has undertaken creative and innovative approaches to engaging with all our communities. An example of this was at Reading where a “World Café” event took place that was attended by a large number of people from a wide range of local communities who explored specific themes of local vulnerability and potential issues of local concern.
- Social media tools are being used to support engagement activity, for example, ‘Cover-it Live’ engagement events in Reading and Oxford LPAs. These were internet based interactive sessions that attracted viewing and feedback from several hundred people on-line.
- The TVP external Web site content and 'Have your say' activity has been reviewed and a revised version launches in June. The new version incorporates recommendations made to enable clearer access to information regarding what is going on at a neighbourhood level and will develop to simplify information on how to get involved and participate in engagement and problem solving activities.
- A new TVP web-site format went live on 1st June that provides clearer information. “Social Sense” training was completed during March. Social Sense is a social media management tool that is designed specifically for police forces. The system includes features that enable monitoring of incoming and outgoing messages, as well as offering the ability to pre-plan messages and respond to questions and comments from members of the public. An Engagement ‘App’ will also shortly be launched on the new force mobile telephones providing front-line officers with immediate and far more detailed information regarding community networks and contacts.

Problem Solving

- A Demand and Vulnerability Module (DAVM) has been launched. This intranet based resource allows officers and staff direct and immediate access to detailed demand data. Vulnerability data has now been received from HMIC and is in the process of being incorporated into the module to further inform local decision making and priority setting. Use of

this module enables LPA Commanders and neighbourhood staff to prioritise problem solving activity appropriately based on vulnerability and the reduction of demand.

- Problem solving training has been developed with Learning and Professional Development Dept., working with the Police Foundation and University College London, in order to develop the problem solving skills of officers to reduce repeat offending and repeat victimisation. 'Problem Solving Champions' were trained in April, including Community Safety Partner representatives, and this training is currently being cascaded to operational staff by the 'Champions' to ensure that departments own the delivery of training to their own teams, and the context and relevance to their area of work is maintained.

Community Resilience

- Intensive Engagement training has been delivered to PCSOs in Milton Keynes which is under evaluation. This training focused upon improving engagement and problem solving approaches in complex community settings. PCSOs are trained in techniques that help them better understand local issues and also to secure the participation of community members in resolving the issues. The Force is looking to extend the lessons of this approach across the Force, working with Partners.
- Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships (NPP) arranged and facilitated a series of County-Wide Integrated Working Seminars with Partners and the Voluntary sector on the following dates:
 - 21 April - Oxfordshire
 - 26 April - Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes
 - 11 May - Berkshire

The objectives of the seminars were to:

- Share good practice of integrated working.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership, with both statutory and voluntary partners, to reduce demand, harm and risk through early intervention.
- Agree next steps and key individuals who will support the development of a framework for local delivery.

The seminars, which included a series of speakers from local and national bodies, were attended by LPA Commanders as well as some Council Members and a variety of partners from Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Mental Health Services, Probation, Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards, Domestic Abuse, Voluntary Sector as well as other organisations which shared and identified opportunities of working in partnership to protect the vulnerable and reduce our demands.

Feedback from attendees led to numerous county level actions being identified and these are now being followed up with further meetings at county and local level.

4 Next steps

- 4.1 Weekly one-to-one meetings are being undertaken with LPA Commanders and their management teams to develop and embed the new neighbourhood policing principles and activities. This is supported by regular practitioner workshops with frontline managers and supervisors across the Force delivering practical toolkits that enable effective delivery of the new principles.
- 4.2 An LPA self assessment checklist has been developed to support implementation setting out how the strategy can be 'operationalised' with activities that will embed the "four pillars" approach incorporating evidence based practice.
- 4.3 The Neighbourhood Policing and Partnership Team has presented the strategy at a College of Policing conference on Local Policing, and the TVP model was used as part of a central input to the International Police Leadership Course in April 2016. Considerable interest was expressed in the work being undertaken within Thames Valley Police which is viewed as being at the forefront of national thinking as to how to sustain Neighbourhood Policing within the current policing landscape.

5 Summary

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Policing Review has led to a series of work-streams and activities that seek to retain, and refocus, the concept of Neighbourhood policing. The strategic recommendations have been incorporated into a structured programme of change and substantial progress has been made towards implementation. The four pillars of the strategy - Visibility, Engagement, Problem Solving and Community Resilience - remain central to TVP's delivery of the 'Our Commitment' policing principles and there is already significant evidence of change at both a tactical as well as a strategic level. There is still work to be done in order to fully implement the strategy within a new force operating model but the national recognition of our approach and progress to date demonstrate the Force remains committed to neighbourhood policing now and into the future.

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: General Issues Report

Date: 17 June 2016

Author: Clare Gray, Scrutiny Officer,
Thames Valley Police & Crime
Panel



PPP Meeting – April 2016

The PCC Policy Planning and Performance meeting was held on 6 April and the link is available below.
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/agendas-and-minutes/policy-planning-and-performance/>

Points to note:-

Finance (page 20) – the financial position for the year remains positive, with an overall expectation that the Combined Force and PCC controlled budgets will remain within the approved annual revenue budget. Productivity work for both current and future years is ongoing to ensure savings continue to be achieved.

HMIC and Consultation Tracker (page 35) provides information on the Force and PCC response to HMIC reports. Section 4 (page 46) also provides a response from the PCC to open consultations such as complaints and enabling closer working between the emergency services.

Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan (page 50)

The Delivery Plan developed by the Chief Constable sets out the various actions which the Chief Constable will manage to ensure that the Force fulfils its role in respect of the Police and Crime Plan. There is no legal requirement to produce a Delivery Plan, however the Chief Constable has a statutory duty to have regard to the Police and Crime Plan. The police play a central role in the development and delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the Chief Constable's contribution to the delivery of its objectives forms an important element of his accountability to the PCC.

Links with Work Programme

- P53 Improving response to cyber crime (Objective 1)
Investigate, develop and implement opportunities to deliver services collaboratively with Force and local partners to reduce demand through problem solving (Objective 2)
- P54 Implement and embed the agreed recommendations from the Neighbourhood Policing Review
Respond effectively to reports of FGM and work with partners to develop preventative strategies and community engagement (Objective 3)
- P56 Continue to improve trust and confidence in the service provided by Thames Valley Police amongst Gypsy, Romany and Traveller Communities (Objective 7)

Response to reports by HMIC

- Value for Money Profile (page 74)

Agenda Item 9

Thames Valley is a low cost police force with a lower number of supervisory officers compared to constables. The Force has high levels of staff turnover compared to the average. Page 75 shows where the Force is identified as an outlier in costs compared to other Forces with an explanation. The number of emergency incidents per 1000 population is above average – this will require further analysis through the development of the new operating model to ensure that their grading model is operating efficiently. In terms of crime outcomes one area that was referred to was that 52% of rapes in the Thames Valley were still being investigated compared to an average of 31% in England and Wales.

- The depths of dishonour: Hidden Voices and shameful crimes (page 78)
Thames Valley Police were identified as ‘not yet prepared’ against the four domains identified by HMIC e.g there is no obvious lead for Honour Based Abuse (HBA), front line staff felt ill-equipped to deal with incidents of HBA. The newly established Vulnerability Strategic Co-ordination Group will look at this issue. Whilst it is acknowledge that a step change is needed to provide a consistently effective service to victims of HBA across TVP, a lot has been achieved by TVP in tackling vulnerability and they will build on this to address HBA.
- PEEL – Police effectiveness 2015 – Thames Valley Police were judged to be good at protecting vulnerable people from harm and supporting victims. HMIC commented that the Force would benefit from a system to share local initiatives to other areas of the Force.
- A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse (discussed at the last meeting)

Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel (page 104)

One issue raised in the minutes related to the PEEL Legitimacy inspection report for TVP which included a review of TVP handling of complaints and misconduct. The PCC met with representatives from the IPCC who raised matters with him regarding performance statistics in the report, given the inconsistency of outcomes between TVP and similar forces’ statistics. A report would be presented to the next Panel meeting on 27 April 2016.

OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan – 2015/16

Particular areas to note:-

- PCC has taken over chairmanship of the Local Criminal Justice Board and will be able to actively monitor File Quality Performance.
- Currently developing an OPCC e-learning package which picks up the new elements of the Victims Code.
- New website for victims which is on-track for April 2016 (NB This implementation date has now been put back to the end of June)
- New procedures being developed and implemented with regard to the OPCC Complaints Handling procedures and practices.
- Implement a programme of all year round PCC public engagement events
- Public Engagement Strategy agreed in principle early this year - within it there is an action to identify hard to reach groups and to develop some performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of public and partner engagement.
- Sharing best practice in relation to key areas of the Police and Crime Plan – the OPCC are considering whether to hold a conference later this year.
- Cyber Crime – OPCC monitors at a strategic level the Force’s ability and performance (capacity, capability and effectiveness) to deliver against the ‘4Ps’ (Prevent/Protect/Pursue/Prepare) via the Force’s ‘Cyber Investigation Steering Group’. OPCC Research of CSP plans and feedback from the previous CSP Forum highlighted differing local buy-in to cyber crime.
- OPCC have a ‘holding to account’ scrutiny framework which will include scrutiny of ad hoc topical operational matters at monthly liaison meetings.
- Explore options for alternative distribution of the Community Safety Fund in 2017/18 and later years – PCC to consider future options (post-election).

- Draft the OPCC Strategic Delivery Plan (target date June 2015)
- Develop a new OPCC website – now live.

Decisions under the Scheme of Governance (listed on page 96 of the agenda)

Local media news

Teenage who drowned in the River Thames

The Independent Police Complaints Commission will carry out a thorough investigation of this tragedy to see whether any lessons can be learned. Thames Valley Police cut its specialist search and recovery team, which carried out underwater operations as a result of budget cuts in 2014.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-36274470>

Police apology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GsrcdM131SM>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b079rtpm/bbc-oxford-news-12052016>

Crime in the Thames Valley rises for the first time in ten years

Reported crime in the Thames Valley has risen by 7.2% since last year - the region's first rise in crime for 10 years. Thames Valley Police said the rise, between April 2015 and March 2016, was largely due to changes in recording practices.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-36158899>

<http://www.jackfm.co.uk/oxfordshire/news/oxfordshire-news/child-gun-crime-arrests-rise-by-almost-15-in-the-thames-valley/>

Modern Slavery (Crime and Disorder Scrutiny item)

An item on modern slavery was presented at the Buckinghamshire County Council Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee and the webcast can be viewed below.

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=789&MIId=6930&Ver=4>

Modern Slavery deprives people of their most basic human rights and freedoms, poses a huge risk to their health and wellbeing and is a major source of revenue for serious organised crime. The Modern Slavery Act became law in March 2015. The Government has also published a Modern Slavery Strategy. There is a statutory duty to notify the Secretary of State about potential victims of modern slavery. However, there is currently no additional funding available from central government to support the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act. The Government believes local Serious and Organised Crime Partnership arrangements will play an important role in co-ordinating work around modern slavery.

In July 2015, the UK appointed Kevin Hyland OBE to be the first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. In October 2015 the Commissioner published a two-year strategic plan to combat modern slavery which has two aims:-

- To see an increase in the number of victims identified and referred for support
- To see an increase in the number of prosecutions and convictions for traffickers and slave masters.

Video to spot signs of modern slavery.

<https://modernslavery.co.uk/#home>

There is limited data to gauge the level of modern slavery locally. One previous case (in Bedfordshire) was referred to at the meeting.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-14888183>

In 2015, the Police & Crime Commissioner commissioned a number of victim services across the Thames Valley. This includes a two year pilot Independent Trauma Advisory (ITA) Service. The purpose of the service is to provide emotional and practical support for individuals identified as experiencing exploitation/slavery.

Agenda Item 9

The schemes are running in Oxford (run by Elmore Community Services) and Reading (entitled 'Rahab' and run by The Mustard Tree). Findings from the pilot can be used to develop future services for victims.

Oxford Mail - Restorative Justice

Victims of crime can now directly confront criminals as part of an extended "restorative justice" scheme in the Thames Valley.

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14421105.Victims_can_confront_criminals_as_part_of_extended_restorative_justice_scheme/

Slough Observer – Legal Highs

National news reported by Slough on concerns around legal highs

http://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/14508559.Warning_over_legal_highs_after_three_men_collapse/

National media/information

Policing and Crime Bill Update

This has now reached the report stage of the House of Commons.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2016/march/commons-policing-and-crime-bill/>

Hampshire Constabulary new Chief Constable

Olivia Pinkney takes over from former Chief Constable Andy Marsh

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-35960211>

PCC Elections/review of their four year term

Declaration of results

<http://thamesvalleypccelection.co.uk/role-of-the-pcc/>

All Thames Valley candidates signed up to the ethical checklist

<https://policinginsight.com/analysis/which-pcc-candidates-have-signed-up-to-behaving-ethically/>

Has the PCC signed up for the Ethical Checklist (Committee for Standards of Public Life)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/committee-calls-on-pcc-candidates-to-sign-up-to-ethical-checklist>

Home Affairs Select Committee report 'PCC's here to stay' –

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmhaff/844/844.pdf>

"The introduction of elected commissioners, and the structures to support their operation, represented a major reform. The system is continuing to develop as lessons are learned and the individuals involved adapt to their roles. This is particularly true of Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) where adapting to the change from the old system of police authorities seems to have taken some time to bed down. A number of PCCs described initial problems with their PCPs but reported that effort on both sides had sometimes led to improvement. It is essential that the checks and balances on commissioners which PCPs are intended to provide operate effectively. For this to happen, panel members need to be properly trained, resourced and supported. We are not convinced that this is yet the case in all police force areas. PCPs are the only effective means of holding PCCs to account between elections. Meetings between commissioners and panels should therefore take place more frequently, and at least every two months. It is far from clear that this is currently happening in all cases.

We recommend that the Home Office, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and the College of Policing work together to assess what additional support PCPs need to operate more effectively, and that they take more collective action to spread good practice amongst panels. "

Updated guidance on Female Genital Mutilation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

Lottery funded initiative on Domestic Abuse

<http://safelives.org.uk/node/821>

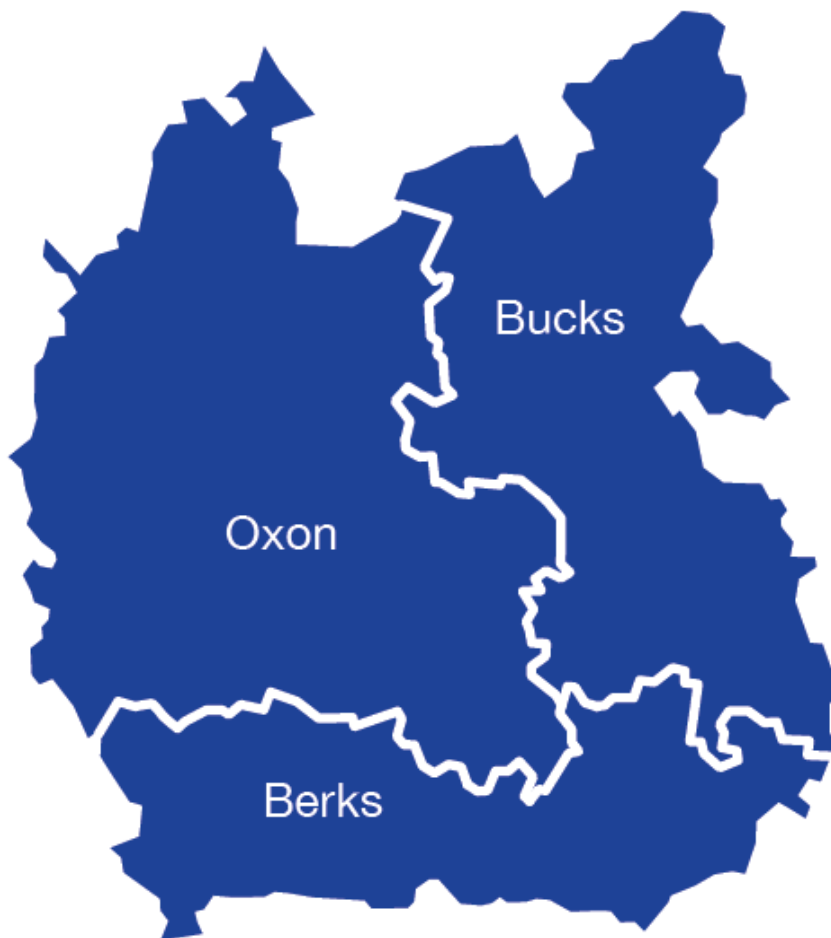
[Crime, Policing and Fire News Update](#). Summary from the Director General

This month saw the annual Police Federation Conference where the Home Secretary gave a powerful speech that focused on Hillsborough and the police response to domestic abuse and vulnerable victims. In her speech, the Home Secretary also recognised the progress made towards reforming the Police Federation, and challenged the organisation to finish the job of reform.

The Home Secretary also gave her first speech on fire policy since the Home Office took over responsibility for fire services in England in January. Speaking at an event hosted by Reform, the Home Secretary unveiled a programme of reform for fire and rescue services that promises to be as radical and ambitious as that delivered in policing since 2010. The reforms, which will be delivered over the next four years, will make the fire and rescue service more accountable, more effective and more professional than ever before.

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Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



Annual Report 2015/16

The Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel is currently hosted by South Bucks District Council on behalf of all 18 local authorities in Thames Valley.

It is a joint committee of all 18 local authorities, consisting of a representative from each and two independent co-opted members.

It can be contacted via the address below:

Police & Crime Panel Secretariat

Healthy Communities
South Bucks District Council
Capswood
Oxford Road
Denham
UB9 4LH

Telephone: (01895) 837529
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Website: www.thamesvalleypcp.org.uk
Twitter: [@ThamesValleyPCP](https://twitter.com/ThamesValleyPCP)



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley is Anthony Stansfeld.

He can be contacted via his office:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Farmhouse
Thames Valley Police Headquarters
Oxford Road
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OX5 2NX

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Chairman's Introduction

I am proud to introduce the fourth annual report of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. Since the Panel's inception in November 2012 I feel that we have made substantial progress in the way that the Panel works to both challenge and support the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. This is largely due to the hard work and dedication of my fellow Panel Members.



This will be the fourth year of the Panel's operation and also the end of the first tenure of office for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Having established good working relationships amongst Panel Members, with the new Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner and with robust procedures in place the Panel have demonstrated their part in the accountability structures for policing and community safety. Commissioners are here to stay for the immediate future and are powerful elected figures who are accountable to their communities. They have provided an impetus to reform, innovate and deliver policing more efficiently and will focus relentlessly on the job of cutting crime and keeping people safe. The Panel will continue to ensure that there is robust scrutiny of the Commissioner on his performance and effectiveness. The Panel will also continue to support the Commissioner by encouraging Local Authorities and partner organisations to work with him for the benefit of residents of the Thames Valley.

I feel that we have achieved a lot in this past year. At a recent national conference this Panel was highlighted for the work they have carried out on the scrutiny of a series of themed items and for the work of our Budget Task and Finish Group which looks at the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed budget and Council Tax precept. The Panel utilised their scrutiny skills to ensure that the Commissioner's proposed council tax precept increase of 1.99% was required to deliver a balanced budget and maintain frontline services.

The themed items that have been explored with the PCC included Victims Commissioning, Cyber Crime, taxi licensing and domestic violence. External witnesses were invited to speak at the Panel to gain an understanding of partner views on performance from across the Thames Valley. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their input into the Panel's work. A new Sub-Committee was set up last year to support, monitor and scrutinise the PCC on preventing and taking action with regard to child sexual exploitation and to provide assurance to Panel Members.

There are still challenges for the Panel in relation to its limited powers and resources, particularly in dealing with increasingly difficult issues such as cyber crime, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation. There is still some further work to do in terms of engaging with residents and key stakeholders and the Complaints Sub Committee continues to consider non-criminal complaints against the PCC and his Deputy. However the Panel continues to build on the healthy, effective and challenging relationships with the PCC which is essential for local communities who rely on fair accountability for excellent police services. This fourth annual report highlights the work and achievements of the past year and draws out some of the key areas of work that the Panel will be examining over the forthcoming year.



Cllr. Trevor Egleton

The Police & Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has formally been in post since 22 November 2012.

The Police & Crime Plan

The Police & Crime Commissioner sets out in a Police & Crime Plan his objectives for his four year term of office. This document is of great importance to the Police & Crime Panel as a point of reference in fulfilling its duty to scrutinise and review the actions and decisions of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan

The Delivery Plan is Thames Valley Police’s operational plan. It describes how the Force will address its objectives. It is of interest to the Panel because it is a reflection of the Police & Crime Commissioner’s Police & Crime Plan. The Delivery Plan should be clearly aligned with the objectives of the Police & Crime Plan.

The PCC’s strategic objectives

The Police and Crime Commissioner Strategic Objectives are set out below :-

- Cut crimes that are of most concern to the public and reduce reoffending
- Protecting vulnerable people.
- Work with partner agencies to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system.
- Ensure Police and Partners are visible, act with integrity and foster the trust and confidence of communities.
- Communicate with the public to learn of their concerns, help to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime.



Anthony Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley

- Protect the public from serious organised crime, terrorism and internet based crime.

The PCC Annual Report 2014/15 highlights a number of achievements as follows:-

- Reductions in overall crime
- Domestic burglary now at a 40 year low
- Rural crime has reduced by 19% (National Farmers Union Mutual Figures)
- Allocated £1.9m to support victims and witnesses in 2014/15.
- Local Mental Health Crisis Care Concordats have been signed throughout the Thames Valley.
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs have now been set up in the Thames Valley.
- Awarded grants worth over £187,000 from the Police Property Act Fund.
- Delivered £13.1m of planned cash savings in 2014/15.

The Role of the Police & Crime Panel

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel examines and reviews how the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley carries out his responsibilities to ensure that Thames Valley Police runs efficiently and effectively. In addition to this the Panel has a role to play in supporting the Commissioner in his work.

This year the Panel has:-

- Set up a Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Committee which is attended by the PCC, Force and external witnesses. Members have particularly focused on the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs and have visited the MASH in Oxford.
- Handled non-criminal complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner through regular meetings of its Complaints Handling Sub-Committee and receives updates from the PCC’s Complaints, Integrity and Ethics Panel.
- Reviewed the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept for the financial year and the PCC’s Annual Report .
- Held themed meetings and looked in detail at Victims Commissioning, Cyber Crime, Taxi Licensing and Domestic Violence.



- Held a Confirmation Hearing for the extension of

the contract for the Deputy PCC, had a presentation from the Chairman of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and the Programme Manager of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Members of the Panel

In the Thames Valley, there is one councillor from each of the councils in the area, meaning that there are eighteen on the Panel. They are joined by two independent co-opted members, recruited through a competitive process. The independent co-opted members have the same status and rights as the other Panel Members.

Each of the 18 councils below has its own process for appointing its representative on the Police & Crime Panel and the representatives for 2015/16 were:-

- Aylesbury Vale District Council— Angela Macpherson
- Bracknell Forest Council—Iain McCracken
- Buckinghamshire County Council— Patricia Birchley
- Cherwell District Council— George Reynolds
- Chiltern District Council—Emily Culverhouse
- Milton Keynes Council— Margaret Burke
- Oxford City Council— Dee Sinclair
- Oxfordshire County Council—Kieron Mallon
- Reading Borough Council—Tony Page
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council - Jesse Grey
- Slough Borough Council—Sabia Hussain
- South Bucks District Council—Trevor Egleton
- South Oxfordshire District Council—Ian White
- Vale of White Horse District Council—Chris McCarthy
- West Berkshire Council— Quentin Webb
- West Oxfordshire District Council—Robert Courts
- Wokingham Borough Council—Bob Pitts
- Wycombe District Council— Julia Adey

The two independent co-opted members were:

- Curtis James Marshall
- Julia Girling

Reflections of our Panel Members

Each Panel member was asked about what they felt the biggest successes and challenges were over the course of the past year for the Police and Crime Panel. Their reflections on the year can be viewed over the coming pages:



Councillor Angela Macpherson

Success and challenges—The challenge is to really ask probing scrutiny questions at the Panel and to have actions from each agenda item that we can monitor. If resources are an issue we need to be very careful about how many Sub-Committees are being set up.

Councillor Iain McCracken

As Chairman of the Budget Task and Finish Group I would like to thank my Panel colleagues and the Officers of the OPCC and TVP for the information they have provided and responding to our detailed questioning. Our recommendation to the full Panel was to approve the proposed precept. I am pleased to say that the work of this Group has been highlighted as good practice at a recent national conference for Panels. One of the challenges has been supporting the PCC when dealing with the new Funding Formula to ensure there is no adverse disproportionality to the Thames Valley. As Chairman of the new CSE Sub Committee my comments are included on page 10 of this report.



Councillor Patricia Birchley

Successes— Thames Valley Police is taking an important lead in revealing the extent of cyber crime which affects business and individuals alike. Children too can be victims and we need the public to be warned against this activity.

Challenges— The PCC work on prevention of terrorist activity is also vital if we are to keep our country safe for future generations.



Councillor George Reynolds

Successes— We continue to scrutinise the PCC and he is always very willing to attend the meeting and explain his and the Forces actions

Challenges— To ensure Members continue to attend and ensure that the PCC is open and willing to explain any problems regarding police and crime issues and the solutions to them.



Councillor Emily Culverhouse

Successes - As a new Member the work of the Panel has been a steep learning curve which I have enjoyed, particularly being Chairman of the Complaints Sub-Committee. As well as considering non-criminal complaints against the PCC we have submitted a response to the Government on the recent consultation on complaints against PCCs. In terms of the Panel I am eager to look into the prevention cyber crime in more detail. **Challenges** – One of the challenges of the Sub-Committee is the number of vexatious complaints that are still being received and for the Panel as a whole the amount of information and paper is rather onerous. Ways to receive information are being explored to make digesting the information more manageable enabling more effective scrutiny on targeted areas.



Councillor Margaret Burke

I am interested in the Government's post legislative scrutiny of the Act in relation to the powers of the Panel as I feel that currently it is difficult to challenge the PCC effectively and not stray into operational areas which is required in order to understand if the PCC is effectively holding the Chief Constable to account.



Reflections of our Panel Members



Councillor Dee Sinclair

Successes— The themed meeting on Taxi Licensing was well received and informative with recommendations for the PCC and all TV authorities to consider

Challenges— The continuing reduction in funding will remain challenging particularly in urban areas with the highest crime levels. Following the PCC elections it is clear there remains no clear understanding of the role for many and we need to improve that.



Councillor Kieron Mallon

Successes—The successful introduction of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs and reducing the risk of domestic abuse whilst giving victims the confidence to report crimes of violence

Challenges The potential rise of radicalism within the Thames Valley and the un-reporting of so called ‘honour’ based crimes



Councillor Tony Page

Successes and Challenges—At a time of increasing cuts to police and local government budgets the Panel will have an important role in holding the PCC to account in protecting front-line and neighbourhood policing.



Councillor Jesse Grey

Successes—Maintaining the support for the Community Safety Partnership

Challenges—That the level of support for Community Safety Partnerships and community policing may be challenged in difficult financial times.



Councillor Sabia Hussain

As I am still a new Member appointed at the end of this year I am learning about the role of the Panel. However I believe it has an important influence in sharing good practice in partnership across the Thames Valley region and an example of this was visiting the MASH and using this learning for the benefit of others and my own Council. One of the challenges is the difficulties of addressing modern crime with limited resources and the importance of supporting and challenging the PCC to ensure that he and partners achieve the best outcomes for local communities.



Curtis James Marshall Independent Member

Successes and Challenges—Coming together as Members and working with the PCC to consider what the best outcomes might look like in times of austerity and doing more with much less has been a challenge, but ultimately I think has worked.



Julia Girling Independent Member

Successes—Bringing key topics such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Rural Crime, Female Genital Mutilation and Taxi Licensing to the table, and voicing the concerns of the public.

Challenges— Convincing the general public that the panel is effective.

Reflections of our Panel Members



Councillor Ian White

Successes and Challenges—Since first taking office, the PCC has brought innovation resulting in major improvements in our Policing against a background of significant cuts. The introduction of the Multi Agency Support Hubs (MASH) has greatly enhanced child safeguarding and this will develop further. Our role as Panel Members provides support through scrutiny and challenge on behalf of members of the public and I am proud to represent them on the Panel. Looking to the future, there will be challenges and we will work with the PCC to meet these ensuring that the right priorities are set whilst maximising value for money."



Councillor Chris McCarthy

Successes – One of the successes of the Panel is its themed item which scrutinises the PCC on his wider community safety and local resilience responsibilities and does this through questioning the PCC and external witnesses and obtaining a Thames Valley wide view which is of benefit and learning to all Councils. **Challenges** – One of the challenges is engaging the public across such as a wide area such as Thames Valley. We have been criticised in the past for looking at operational issues but it is important to look behind the Strategy sometimes in order to effectively scrutinise and to look at items in a way that engage the public.



Councillor Quentin Webb

Successes- Having a very good working relationship with the Commissioner and good engagement with the Chief Constable. The co-operation of effective partnerships.
Challenges- Raising public awareness of the role of Commissioner, cyber-crime needs higher profile and resources and making the Panel as effective as possible within the current legislative framework



Councillor Robert Courts

Successes— the close and effective working relationship between the PCC and the Panel is apparent. We work not only to hold the PCC to account, but to ensure that information is fed from us to him and from him down to the communities we represent.
Challenges— ensuring that the public understand the role of the PCC and the value the role brings to policing, as well as ensuring that the PCC works with the Community Safety Partnerships in tackling areas of emerging concern, such as cyber crime.



Councillor Bob Pitts

Success and challenges—As a new member of the panel, I have been impressed with the way it works and also how they bring themselves up to speed with an ever changing set of events. I believe one of the most important things this year has been the setting up of the CSE Sub Committee together with a themed item on Cyber crime . The challenge is keeping on top of these issues. CSE seems to appear regularly in the news and Cyber crime has no physical boundaries.



Councillor Julia Adey

Successes—Themed meetings and particularly the visit to the Oxford MASH in raising members awareness for working within their own Councils.
Challenges— Keeping down expenditure whilst still achieving best results

Achievements 2015/16

Budget—The Panel undertook its annual review of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposed budget and Council Tax precept on 29 January 2016. In the build up to this meeting a small Task and Finish Group chaired by Iain McCracken met on two occasions to discuss the budget papers in detail and in so doing identified a number of questions for the Commissioner. The whole Panel then accepted the Task and Finish Groups report and following discussions agreed the precept. The impact of a new Funding Formula is of concern but updates will be given to the Panel from the OPCC at each Panel meeting.

Child Sexual Exploitation—Two meetings have been held since the Sub-Committee was set up in July.



The Chairman Iain McCracken has commented ‘this has been the first year of operation where Members have met with the PCC and the Force from which a series of suggested recommendations have been made aimed at spreading good practice across the Thames Valley . This is a difficult subject because of the a wide range geographical area that is Thames Valley and the different forms that CSE can take so it was important to take a general approach at the start and to develop a focussed/investigative approach as the work develops. CSE needs to remain a priority and one of the areas the Sub-Committee has looked at is effective MASH models, identifying good practice from those already operating in the area. Members visited the Oxfordshire MASH and the Kingfisher Unit as part of this work. Most of the MASH in the Thames Valley are now well established and are experiencing an increase in workload and the Bucks MASH has now

expanded their services to help adults”.

Themed Meetings as follows:-

Victims Commissioning the PCC now has responsibility for local commissioning of victims services including Restorative Justice. The Policy Manager and the PCC answered questions on a number of areas including governance, consistency of service and engagement with the public and hard to reach groups. There was a discussion about witness support and the correlation that good police support often meant the evidence given by witnesses at court was better. This was raised when the Programme Manager for the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) attended a Panel meeting.

Cyber Crime—representatives from the Force gave a presentation on cyber crime. Panel Members asked questions to the PCC and the Force about reporting cyber crime, building expertise to address cyber crime in the Force and using every opportunity to raise awareness of cyber crime. The Panel would like to set up a Working Group in this area but this is dependent on resources. www.getsafeonline.org

Taxi Licensing — Licensing Managers from Oxford City, Chiltern & South Bucks and Reading attended this meeting and the discussion centred around regulation, information sharing and safeguarding. A number of recommendations were made including part funding a dedicated officer, further improvements to information sharing and for the PCC to use his influence to change national standards of regulation.

Domestic Violence - Romy Briant MBE (Reducing the Risk Charity) and the Community Safety Manager (Bucks County Council) attended the Panel to discuss areas of good practice across the Thames Valley. Recommendations included ensuring a consistent approach to Domestic Violence and protecting and looking at long term funding for the service. As the PCC was now the Chairman of the LCJB he would have further influence on improving the use of Orders and Notices to help protect the victim.

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Review of Panel Rules of Procedure, Panel Membership and Budget

Date: 17 June 2016

Author: Clare Gray, Scrutiny Officer,
Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel



Background

1. The Panel operates in accordance with specifications outlined in Rules of Procedure and Panel Arrangements documents (link below). The Rules of Procedure were originally agreed by the Panel at its 19 July 2012 meeting and subsequently reviewed and agreed at the Panel's AGM on 12 July 2013.

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/5240/Thames-Valley-Police-and-Crime-Panel>

Annual Review of the Panel Rules of Procedure

2. The Panel Rules of Procedure stipulate that:

[1.3] *The Rules shall be reviewed annually at the Panel's Annual meeting ...*

[1.4] *The Rules shall not be amended unless written notification of the amendment/s required are received by the Panel Secretariat not less than fifteen working days prior to the Panel meeting ...*

3. No amendments have been received by the Panel Secretariat. However, Panel Members may wish to note that the Panel Secretariat will continue to hold meetings in Aylesbury as a central point for the Thames Valley but may look at alternative venues in the Aylesbury area. One of the areas that had been raised at previous meetings is the use of substitutes but Members have previously agreed that the Panel should not have substitutes because of continuity of Membership and knowledge. With the recent changes in membership there have been informal approaches from Council officers about the use of deputies to ensure their Council has attendance at the Panel meeting. However, it was agreed that Deputies could be appointed from within the Panel Membership to attend the Sub-Committee's and Task and Finish Group.

Consideration of Draft Panel Budget

4. The Panel Arrangements document states:

[5.1] *An annual draft budget for the operation of the Panel shall be drawn up each year by the Host Authority and approved by the Panel.*

Agenda Item 12

5. There has been no change to the Home Office Grant allocation for the Panel which is £64,340. The grant payment was consolidated into one single payment last year, with no ring-fencing for administration, expenses or translation costs to provide Panel's with increased flexibility over how to spend their grants. There is a transparency requirement that the Panel (via the Host Authority website) must publish as a minimum, details of all the expenditure including panel administration costs, translation costs and individual Panel Member claims for expenses. The Panel agreed that any allowances or expenses which may be made to elected Members arising out of the Panel Membership shall be determined and borne by the appointing Authorities for each Panel Member individually. Therefore, the only expenses that have been reimbursed are for the Co-opted Members which is £188.00. There have been no translation costs.
6. The grant returned to the Host Authority for 2015 was £34,444 for Buckinghamshire County Council for April to November and £29895 for South Bucks for November to March for services as outlined below. The full grant was claimed from the Home Office.
7. The budget will be managed by the Host Authority, which was South Bucks District Council from November 2015 (the Host Authority will normally be the same Authority as the Member representative who is Chairman).
8. The Host Authority will need to decide how to allocate the budget accordingly covering the following costs:-
 - Scrutiny, policy, management, communications, legal and democratic services support for the Panel, its Sub-Committees and Task and Finish Groups
 - Administrative costs such as venue hire, catering and webcasting
 - General expenses for travel and subsistence and training

Description	Amount
Cost of Frontline Consulting training, Regional Network and National Panel Conference	2900.00
Hosting meetings (including cost of venues) (approx.)	5000.00
Panel Administration, Support overheads and costs arising during the year e.g Scrutiny Officer salary costs and management time, conferences, expenses, Monitoring Officer role for PCP, ICT costs, office accommodation etc)	56,440.00
Total grant	64,340.00

Changes in Membership

9. The following changes in Membership have been reported:-
 Cllr Tony Ilott has replaced Cllr George Reynolds from Cherwell District Council,
 Cllr Sandy Lovatt has replaced Cllr Chris McCarthy from the Vale of White Horse District Council.
 Cllr Barrie Patman has replaced Cllr Bob Pitts from Wokingham Borough Council
 Cllr Derek Sharpe has replaced Cllr Jesse Grey from Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel:-

- i) Approve the budget set out above.**
- ii) Confirm that the Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Sub-Committee, Complaints Handling Sub Committee and Budget Task and Finish Group should continue with no changes to their terms of reference for the following year (subject to any legislative changes) and agree their membership.**

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Thames Valley
Police & Crime Panel

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Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Work Programme 2016

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
1/16	PCC precept 2016/17 Standardisation of Taxi Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public questions ● Budget Task and Finish Report ● Local Criminal Justice Board – Partnership working ● Annual Assurance Report of the Audit Committee ● Consultation on Complaints ● General Issues ● Work Programme
11/3	Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety Partnerships Police and Crime Plan review – how the PCC has addressed his six strategic objectives in the current tenure of office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public questions ● Report of the CSE/Complaints Sub Committee ● Six monthly review of finance, performance and risk monitoring report (information from January PCC public meeting) ● Verbal update on proposed changes to national funding formula ● Membership/Terms of Reference for Cyber Crime Working Group ● Update on Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel ● General Issues ● Work Programme

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
17/6	Post Election outline of manifesto/challenges for future Domestic Violence – update from the PCC on what is being done to tackle domestic violence (Strategic Objective 2 & 3) including initiatives with Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Election of Chairman/Appt of Vice Chairman ● Public questions ● Verbal update on proposed changes to national funding formula ● Report of the CSE/Complaints Sub Committee ● PCP Annual Report ● Annual Review of PCP Rules of Procedure and Budget ● General Issues ● Work Programme
9/9	Illegal traveller sites – police and local authorities working together to respond effectively to unauthorised encampments including consistent interpretation of legislation/guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public questions ● Report of the CSE/Complaints Sub Committee ● Six monthly finance, performance and risk monitoring report (information from July PCC public meeting) ● PCC Annual Report ● General Issues ● Work Programme
21/10	Future plans for regional collaboration and emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public questions ● Report of the CSE/Complaints Sub Committee ● Cyber Crime update ● General Issues ● Work Programme

 Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel		(01895) 837529 contact@thamesvalleypcp.org.uk www.thamesvalleypcp.org.uk @ThamesValleyPCP	
Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items	
16/12	Mental Health - delivering against the commitments of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Report of the CSE/Complaints Sub Committee • General Issues • Work Programme 	

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topic Selection and Referral
Protocol – Request regarding the
use of speed cameras

Date: 17 June 2016

Author: Clare Gray, Police and Crime Panel
Scrutiny Officer, Thames Valley
Police & Crime Panel



Background

1. In September 2012 the Panel agreed a Topic Selection & Referral Protocol which would perform two functions:

- i. It would allow potential scrutiny topics to be filtered to ensure that only appropriate topics make it on to the PCP work programme
- ii. It would enable those topics that are better dealt with by a different body to be referred on to that body

Link to Panel meeting (item 6)

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=751&MID=5448>

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s26181/TopicSelectionandReferralCriteria.pdf>

2. In March 2014 the protocol was used as a member of the public requested an item on the use of speed cameras. The Panel decided not to scrutinise this area as can be seen from the link below

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=751&MID=6088#A128767>

3. A letter has been received from the same member of public asking for consideration of this issue again. His reasoning is that since this time further compelling evidence in the form of Department for Transport (DfT) policy guidance has come to light that would give just cause for the Panel to reconsider this topic for inclusion within its work programme. In summary the DfT's policy guidance sets out the following requirements:

- (i) Where local authorities are contributing to the cost of speed or camera enforcement they should ensure deployment strategies are published alongside the information about collisions, casualties and speed information.
- (ii) Where local authorities are not contributing towards the costs of speed camera enforcement, the police should be '*encouraged*' to publish a deployment strategy.
- (iii) Police forces should publish total numbers of prosecutions arising or offences pursued from camera enforcement in a year (whether fixed or mobile).

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/la-letter-penning-20110627.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/working-group-speed-camera-report.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/dft-publication-of-speed-camera-information.pdf>

4. The member of the public also referred to the fact that some other areas were producing speed management strategy and sent this link as an example:-

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/l/18339258/speed-management.pdf>

5. Current information on speed cameras can be found on the Thames Valley Police website as follows:-

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/rdsafe/rdsafe-roadpol/rdsafe-roadpol-speedenforcement/rdsafe-roadpol-speedenforcement-cameras.htm>

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the topic scoring criteria in relation to the attached letter and whether the concerns raised in the letter to the Panel Chairman should be an area for scrutiny of the performance of the PCC in monitoring the Chief Constable's administration of speed camera's and therefore added to the Work Programme.

Topic Scoring Criteria- Use of Speed Cameras

Topic Scoring Criteria	Yes/No	Evidence/Comment
<p>Is the topic of significance to the region as a whole?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>Yes, speed cameras are present across the Thames Valley.</p> <p>According to the Thames Valley Police website:</p> <p><i>'There are currently approximately 291 fixed camera installations, 21 red light camera installations, and 242 mobile camera locations the number of which is subject to change.'</i></p>
<p>Is the topic of relevance to the work of the Police & Crime Commissioner?¹</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>This is not a Strategic Objective or Key theme in the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley's Police and Crime Plan.</p> <p>It should be noted that other Police and Crime Commissioners have made decisions about the strategic use and placement of speed cameras in their localities. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset and Avon PCC • West Midlands PCC • North Yorkshire PCC
<p>Does the topic fall within the remit of a scrutiny body other than the PCP?</p>	<p>If 'no' (+ 1 point)</p>	<p>The topic is within the remit of area-based overview and scrutiny committees with the responsibility for crime/community safety across the Thames Valley.</p>
<p>Is work already underway on this subject (i.e. will work by the PCP be duplicative)?</p>	<p>If 'no' (+ 1 point)</p>	<p>Having examined all of the overview and scrutiny work programmes across the Thames Valley there does not seem to be any work underway or planned on this topic.</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnerships across the Thames Valley are not undertaking any work in this area.</p>

¹ Policing Protocol Order 2011 highlights that the police and crime commissioner will be responsible for the totality of policing and that their conduct must abide by the seven Nolan principles of good governance in public life

The police and crime commissioner for a police area must—(a) secure the maintenance of the police force for that area, and (b) secure that the police force is efficient and effective.

<p>Is there any political / legislative change underway that may impact this topic?</p>	<p>If 'no' (+ 1 point)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Does the statistical evidence available support the need to scrutinise this topic?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>There is a split opinion on whether speed cameras are effective and whether Forces nationally are using them in the most effective manner. Further research will be required.</p> <p>Government, through the Commons library, has set out the legislative basis for Speed Cameras, including statistics to support their effectiveness in reducing collisions: http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN00350.pdf.</p> <p>The member of the public who has requested that this topic is examined by the Police and Crime Panel has provided statistical information outlining a case against the current use and placement of speed cameras in the Thames Valley region.</p>
<p>Does the qualitative evidence available support the need to scrutinise this topic?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>Not able to say at this stage without an in-depth review of information.</p>
<p>Can the public be engaged in the PCP's scrutiny of this topic?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Are PCP resources available to scrutinise this topic effectively?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Can the PCP expect to make a difference by scrutinising this topic?</p>	<p>If 'yes' (+1 point)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Would it be more appropriate to refer the topic to another body?</p>	<p>If 'no' (+ 1 point)</p>	<p>No- the Panel has a strategic view of the Force area and as such is best placed to carry out such a review. The Panel could refer this topic to local overview and scrutiny committees/panels, however there is no guarantee that these bodies will prioritise the work. Such action would also have resources implications for the PCC and Thames Valley Police as they may be called to attend a number of meetings to provide evidence across the region.</p>
<p>Are there any equality and diversity implications arising from scrutiny of this topic?</p>	<p>To be considered</p>	<p>No</p>

Cllr. Egleton (Chair)
Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
Walton Street
Aylesbury
HP20 1UD

14th March 2016

Dear Chair,

DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Thames Valley Police Community Road Safety Speed Camera Scheme.

1. By way of background I wrote to you in November 2013 inviting your Committee to consider for inclusion within its work programme, independent scrutiny of the impact and use of speed cameras within the Thames Valley; given that the Scheme currently operates in the absence of any published policies and procedures relating to performance and risk management, further that Thames Valley Police's own published road collision data shows the performance of Scheme to be poorly performing and calls into question the Scheme's true deterrent effect as currently operated.
2. On the 21st March 2014 your Committee controversially decided not to include this topic within its work programme; this despite the fact that merits of the case succeeded the Panel's own scored topic selection criteria.
3. Since this time further compelling evidence in the form of Department for Transport (DfT) policy guidance has come to light that would give just cause for your Committee to reconsider this topic for inclusion within its work programme. In summary the DfT's policy guidance sets out the following requirements:
 - (i) Where local authorities are contributing to the cost of speed or camera enforcement they should ensure deployment strategies are published alongside the information about collisions, casualties and speed information.
 - (ii) Where local authorities are not contributing towards the costs of speed camera enforcement, the police should be '*encouraged*' to publish a deployment strategy.
 - (iii) Police forces should publish total numbers of prosecutions arising or offences pursued from camera enforcement in a year (whether fixed or mobile).

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/la-letter-penninq-20110627.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/working-group-speed-camera-report.pdf>

<http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/dft-publication-of-speed-camera-information.pdf>

4. Further, professional policing guidance as set out in ACPO's Speed Enforcement Policy Guidance (2011-2015) see sections (6.2) & (9.1) clearly stipulates a requirement that such schemes operate under a systematic approach to performance and risk management by way of ensuring effective targeting and cost effective use of scarce resources.

http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/ACPO_HO_Speed_Enforcement_Guidelines_2011-2015_%282%29.pdf

5. It should be noted that the Chief Constable, Francis Habgood, has stated on record that he "has no current plans" to publish a Deployment Strategy.
6. The case for having a truly integrated Deployment Strategy is set out in my letter to the Policing Minister dated 6th November 2015 (para.13); which illustrates how performance and risk management frameworks can be used to inform a systematic approach in relation the intervention strategies of *enforcement, education and engineering*.

http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/Mike%20Penning%20MP_Speed%20Cameras_Nov15.pdf

7. Further, in terms of published road collision data my letter to the Policing Minister dated 6th November 2016 (Section.3) set outs the advantages and opportunities of adopting a 'Rated Performance' methodology in order to (i) improve the transparency and public accessibility of published road collision data and (ii) its ability to act as a powerful management tool in deploying a truly integrated community road safety strategy.
8. The desirability of Deployment Strategies when viewed against the national context of rising road fatalities and casualties are set out in my letter to the Chair of the Parliamentary Transport Committee dated 28th February 2016.

http://www.info4u-bucksspeedcameras.co.uk/resources/Louise%20Ellman%20MP_28Feb16.pdf

9. Finally, it is clear that maintenance of the *status quo* is untenable as it runs contrary to Government policy, professional policing standards and the public interest.

In terms of the use and impact of speed cameras locally, I respectfully submit that the issues I raise represent a transformational opportunity for your Committee to improve both public transparency and community road safety outcomes.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. S.', written in a cursive style.

cc:
Rt.Hon David Lidington MP
Cllr. Bill Chapple OBE.

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Chief Executives
English Local Highway
Authorities (outside London)

Dear Colleague

Further to the Government's commitment to increase transparency and the Coalition agreement, the Government is requiring local authorities to publish information about the impact and use of speed cameras.

A working group, including police, local authority and Government representatives, has reported to advise me what information should be published and how. I have considered the conclusions of the group's report, which is attached along with my decisions about what to do.

A central recommendation of the group is that site by site casualty, crash and speed information for permanent fixed camera sites – but not mobile enforcement camera sites - can and should be published by local authorities (or by other organisations, such as partnerships on their behalf). The information should usually include annual crash or casualty data back to 1990 for the numbers of killed and seriously injured and for all personal injuries. Please therefore arrange for this to be published.

The group has also recommended that the Department for Transport should set up a central hub providing links to the local websites where this information would be housed. Please notify road.safety@dft.gsi.gov.uk where the information for your authority's area will be published by 20th July.

The group has also recommended that those local authorities which support camera enforcement financially should ensure that a deployment strategy is published locally.

I am also writing to the Association of Chief Police Officers about the publication of offence information both at a local authority area-wide level and site by site for fixed camera sites. The police are responsible for providing this information. However I do emphasise the desirability of local authorities and the police working together so that all the information, being published about cameras in a local area, is accessible in one place and can be easily viewed as a whole by the public.

The Government is committed to reducing the administrative burden on local authorities. It has already increased the flexibility of its funding support for local transport including road safety. This requirement about speed camera information is an important priority, is based on using readily available information and is needed to improve transparency and accountability to the public.

MIKE PENNING