

SHADOW CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
12 September 2012	

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A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO THE CREATION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Panel on work to ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner, on their arrival, has the information and infrastructure required to create a Police and Crime Plan which meets the duty to work in partnership to reduce crime and disorder within the timeframe dictated by Government.

To submit the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment, a commissioned evidence base for the Police and Crime Plan, to the Panel for their information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Panel are asked to note that the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment is being used to create an early dialogue with partners about how they can fulfil the 'reciprocal' partnership duty placed up on them to reduce crime and disorder. This work will gain momentum at 'Partners' Workshop' to facilitate discussions about the key issues senior stakeholders would like to see included in the draft police and crime objectives made available for the Commissioner. This work could be used to inform the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan which will be brought to the Panel for review in January 2013.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which abolishes police authorities, places a responsibility on the Police and Crime Commissioner to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year they are elected. The plan should set out the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for policing and reducing crime and disorder and the financial and other resources to achieve them. The Commissioner must consult the Chief Constable on the draft plan before sending it to the Panel to be reviewed. The Panel must make any recommendations on it and allow the Commissioner to have regard to the recommendations and issue the plan by March 31, 2013.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Commissioner and responsible authorities 'must act in co-operation with each other' to reduce crime and disorder and provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system. This reciprocal arrangement has been described by the Home Office as 'broadly defined' to allow for local arrangements. In exercising their duty to issue a Police and Crime Plan the Commissioner must 'have regard' to the crime and disorder reduction priorities set by partners, the strategic direction of the criminal justice system and the national strategic policing requirement.
- 4.2 This duty is new and means additional work has been undertaken to supplement the historical work to complete the Policing Plan. A key element of this work has been the Victim and Offender Needs Assessment.

Victim and Offender Needs Assessment

- 4.3 It has been recognised nationally that authorities need to ensure the building blocks to draft the first police and crime plans are in place before the November elections to allow for the plan to be issued within the tight time frames.
- 4.4 To create this foundation for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the authority, steered by an inter-agency group, commissioned Cambridgeshire County Council's Research Unit to conduct an assessment of the needs of victims of crime and offenders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 4.5 The assessment is 'people' focused. It allows us, for the first time, to have a joint understanding with partners of the numbers of victims and offenders and their needs. This complements, but does not duplicate, the existing police and community safety partnership strategic assessments and enables responsible authorities to develop a more comprehensive view of how crime and disorder can be jointly addressed.
- 4.6 The needs assessment identifies concepts such as 'prolific' offending, 'persistent' offending, the length of criminal careers and how they fit into the local context. It reveals most, but not all, persistent offenders within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough began their offending in the area at a young age. Many of the traits of those young people who could go on to become future persistent offenders are identifiable, and given the right interventions these young people could be successfully diverted away from crime. This would ensure a positive start to life for many children and their families.
- 4.7 The needs assessment also identified the link between high crime rates and a concentration of both victims and offenders in deprived areas. The focus on high risk offenders needs to be balanced with "upstream" preventative partnership work. This creates a safe environment and helps build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health where offending behaviour is reduced and victims and witnesses are well supported by their communities. The Family Intervention Projects are examples of this type of work.
- 4.8 Workshops with colleagues from a range of agencies were held to inform the needs assessment. At these sessions victim groups were identified. The first group identified was those at high risk of serious harm such as victims of domestic abuse (the largest group in this section), victims of sexual violence, hate crime, honour-based violence and people bereaved by murder, manslaughter or as a result of road traffic incidents. The needs assessment identified that broadly speaking these groups of victims require specialist protective services and long term support. Domestic violence has been prioritised within the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire making this an important shared agenda.
- 4.9 The next victim grouping included those that were not all at risk of serious harm, but featured a number of high risk cases. The biggest group was the victims of anti-social behaviour, however young victims, vulnerable elderly victims and those with mental health problems were also included. The needs assessment identified that broadly speaking these groups of victims require proper assessment to gauge vulnerability and the co-ordination of statutory and other services in order to meet their needs.
- 4.10 The crucial role played by witnesses in supporting victims and ensuring offenders are brought to justice is touched upon in the needs assessment. Further work in this area has now been commissioned to ensure the Commissioner and responsible authorities get a clearer picture of the needs, both met and unmet, of this group. The need to bolster information on the cross cutting theme of mental health has also been highlighted.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 This is a new era of partnership work and planning. It is important that a joint understanding is created regarding how all partners can fulfil the 'reciprocal' partnership duty placed up on them to reduce crime and disorder. The creation of the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment,

steered by representatives from the responsible authorities and voluntary sector, initiated the dialogue between partners. This assessment will then be used, alongside the Constabulary's Risk Assessment, to inform discussions between key stakeholders on what issues should be included in the police and crime objectives made available for the incoming Commissioner.

5.2 These discussions will take place at a Partners' Workshop on September 27 hosted by the Police and Crime Partnership Transition Working Group. This work could then in turn inform the future creation of a partnership-owned performance framework which publicly shows how the Commissioner and each of the partners have exercised their duty to reduce crime and disorder.

5.3 Elements which have historically informed the Policing Plan such as the Policing Strategic Assessment, Medium Term Financial Framework, IT strategy, workforce plan and collaboration initiatives have also been updated and reported to the 5th September Police Authority Finance and Resources Committee, <http://www.cambs-pa.gov.uk/meetingDetail.cfm?MeetingId=422> .

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Not applicable

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Significant consultation took place during the creation of the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment; the draft police and crime objectives which will be available to the incoming Commissioner will be drafted in consultation with partners.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The Police and Crime Plan, which will include the draft police and crime objectives and detail of any police and crime grants issued by the Commissioner will be brought back to the Panel for review in January, 2013.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment – Executive Summary. The full document is available on request.