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Edward Leigh  
Chair  
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel  
c/o Jane Webb  
Peterborough City Council

9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Edward

I would like to follow-up on the actions arising from the Police and Crime Panel meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

My response at Appendix 1 provides further information regarding the reports submitted to the September 2018 Panel meeting. I have noted the other actions, namely the report on Athena and the provision of up to date information for future reports.

I hope the Panel find the information useful. However, to reiterate should any Panel members have any operational issues in their local wards that they wish to discuss, then please do either their local policing team or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Ablewhite  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

### Response to points raised by the Police and Crime Panel, September 2018 Panel meeting

The Panel will note that some points they have raised are operational policing matters. The Policing Protocol enables the Panel to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions, but does not provide for the Panel to scrutinise the Chief Constable. The response below includes information relating to the Commissioner’s work, and in the spirit of the Protocol in respect of effective working relationship, information is provided which relates to the work of Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) and partners.

Some questions raised are considered to relate to operationally sensitive policing matters and therefore it is hopefully appreciated that such information should not be in the public domain.

Reference should also be made to the Offenders, Victims, and Delivery Plan reports that were submitted to the September 2018 Panel meeting.

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=543&MId=4201&Ver=4>

### Offenders

- **Indicators of progress with reducing re-offending** – Paragraph 7.2 of the Offender report submitted to the September Panel meeting contained an update on this specific project the OPCC has been leading, which has now been mainstreamed into ‘business as usual’ within the Constabulary. A further update was provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Business Co-ordination Board (BCB) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.  
<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-11-01-BCB-Agenda-Item-9.0-paper-re-tackling-re-offending-through-deferred-prosecution.pdf>
- **What milestones have been set?** In terms of indicators of progress with reducing reoffending, as noted in the Panel report, the overarching outcome of the offender workstream is that offenders are brought to justice and are less likely to re-offend. This is against a backdrop of increased and increasingly complex demand, alongside reducing resources across public services. It is widely recognised at a national level that reoffending is not where anyone would wish it to be. Over the summer, the Justice Secretary announced proposals to strengthen probation services, this includes a refresh of through the gate services for those leaving prison. The Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan highlights the importance of partnership working between prisons, probation and wider partners in the community who have responsibilities to help prisoners resettle. Individual projects, programmes and agencies operating in this arena of course have individual indicators to monitor their progress. It is worth noting that in terms of ‘proven reoffending’ there is a time lag in data publication as a proven re-offence is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period that leads to a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up or within a further six month waiting period to allow the offence to be proven in court. Recent Ministry of Justice data released in October 2018 indicates, that for the year January 2016 to December 2016, the proportion of offenders who reoffended in Cambridgeshire was 25.4%, and in Peterborough 31.3%. The average number of re-offences was 3.64 for Cambridgeshire and 4.24 for Peterborough. Changes in data collection mean that this cohort should not be compared to previous cohorts.

The snapshot of offenders at Appendix 2 (in the Panel report) was taken from the offender needs assessment. The focus of this, as outlined above, was to identify the scale of needs, and as such this involved considering the volume of people in contact with criminal justice services (not number of encounters). The report also brings together a variety of different data sources so there is likely to be a number of offenders known both to police and the probation services and at this time the data did not allow a calculation of the overlap. For these reasons therefore, the figures are presented as numbers rather than percentages. It is helpful to understand the volumes of offenders managed by different agencies. Understanding the demand for services currently can lead to improvements in the future.

- **What policies of local authorities, health service and other agencies are helping or hindering crime prevention?** As noted in the Panel report, the partnership governance mechanisms including the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board (CCSSB) and the Criminal Justice Board, chaired by the Commissioner, are being reviewed to ensure the system leadership required to keep Cambridgeshire safe is as effective and efficient as possible. The Panel report also highlighted that the Home Office innovation funding enabled the Commissioner to commission a needs assessment on offending prevention and management. This highlighted the scale of complex needs, especially in relation to housing, employment and skills, drug and alcohol misuse, and mental health. The priority issues identified by the needs assessment are being addressed through the appropriate partnership governance mechanisms. The Commissioner has continued to champion better partnership working and the need to develop stronger pathways between services.

## Crime

- **Analysis of unmet demand on police (because of lack of resource at the time, or operational priorities).** A useful overall reference point is the Constabulary's Force Management Statement (FMS) (a FMS is a self-assessment and provides an explanation of the demand the Constabulary expects to face in the next four years). The Constabulary's FMS provides statistics on their demand and information on how they prioritise and manage demand, and what actions they are taking to further understand future demand.  
<https://www.cambs.police.uk/assets/PDFs/About/Transparency/AboutUs-ForceManagementStatement-2018.pdf>
- **Are there areas where threat-risk-harm analysis is failing the public?** The Constabulary prioritise on a threat, risk, harm model and constantly evaluate calls for assistance they receive and prioritise those that have the greatest risk of immediate threat or harm to an individual. There are areas where it has been identified that additional partnership work is required to reduce threat, risk and harm. The CCSSB has Delivery Groups covering the following areas:
  - Child Exploitation, Gang Activity and County Lines
  - Criminal Justice Board Offender Sub-Group
  - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- Drugs and Alcohol Misuse
- Organised Crime & Modern Slavery
- Mental Health
- Prevent
- Road Safety Partnership
- Youth Justice Management

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/work/cambridgeshire-peterborough-countywide-community-safety-strategic-board/>

## Drug dealing

- **Are police getting on top of it, or is the challenge still growing? What do the police need local authorities and the general public to do (to reduce demand for drugs and gather more evidence)?** Tackling the challenge of drug dealing takes a partnership approach. The Victims Panel report indicates the Commissioner's commissioning aims regarding drugs. The Offenders Panel report cites drugs as an example of how the Offenders Hub is addressing such issues. The CCSSB helps the Responsible Authorities (Local Authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Community Rehabilitation Company) coordinate their duty to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. The CCSSB Drugs and Alcohol Delivery Group, which is co-chaired by the Constabulary and by the Director of Public Health, has the following objectives:
  - to strategically co-ordinate the delivery of the multi-agency response to drug and alcohol misuse within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by bringing together key agencies with responsibility for addressing different aspects of substance misuse and its impacts.
  - to focus on the multi-agency approach to tackling substance misuse through prevention, early intervention, effective treatment, harm reduction, recovery and re-integration.
  - to set out a joint drug and alcohol strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough reflective of national and local strategies and evidenced by local need.

All of the Delivery Groups report quarterly to the CCSSB. Links to these reports and associated documents can be found on the following link:

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/work/cambridgeshire-peterborough-countywide-community-safety-strategic-board/>

- **How is Cambridgeshire working with the metropolitan forces to tackle the County Line HQs?** An policing operational question. A "county line" is the method used by an urban organised crime group to extend their drug dealing into new locations. The Constabulary work with a range of partners to protect vulnerable people from harm and make Cambridgeshire a hostile environment for those involved in this criminality. County lines is a priority within Cambridgeshire and the Constabulary will maintain a zero tolerance approach towards it. This means taking a partnership approach with neighbouring forces

including metropolitan forces to tackle this kind of activity. Operationally in the way forces work with each other at neighbouring, regional and national level on such matters as intelligence sharing is operationally sensitive. However, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board report on 'Child Criminal Exploitation Strategy and Procedures' (as reported to the July 2018 CCSSB meeting) provides information in respect of the multi-agency partnership approach to tackling county lines. <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CCSSB-19-07-2018-Meeting-Paper-Pack.pdf>

- **Would legalisation of cannabis assist the police?** The National Police Chiefs' Council has stated that the police will enforce the law to deal with those found in possession of cannabis or who cultivate the plant using a range of options that are available depending on the individual circumstances of the case. The Commissioner's position is clear that police forces are committed to dealing with drug-related crime. As police forces are operationally independent, this means that Chief Constables are able to vary their approach to tackling offences involving cannabis, according to local circumstances. The Constabulary need to manage their resources carefully, and prioritise dealing with the most serious crimes. Police Forces are targeting the most dangerous and prolific criminals, including those organised crime groups and gangs which produce and supply cannabis. When appropriate, less serious offences are dealt with using out of court disposals.

#### **Rural crime**

- **Are police getting on top of it, or is the challenge still growing?** The Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) has proven that it is an effective solution at tackling rural crime; one which has received good community feedback. Combined with increasing levels of hare coursing and poaching, with the associated risk of violence, the demand for the services of RCAT is increasing. The Commissioner has provided funding to Countryside Watch, the Historic Churches Trust and other rural groups to help protect their property. The Constabulary continues to invest in our RCAT, including now offering investigative support. Information on incidents of rural crime are given in the Commissioner's Annual Report.
- The Commissioner agrees with the recommendation of the NFU Mutual Report, 'Taking the Fight Forward – Rural Crime Report 2018', that people should be responding as a community, taking measures to protect themselves and their land, such as digging ditches, installing fencing etc. It is clear that there is a need to have a national strategy on this, and the need to ensure a better deterrent. A change in the law is necessary for magistrates to be able to hand out appropriate sentences.

#### **Traveller trespassing**

- The lead role in the management of unauthorised encampments lies with a Local Authority or a private landowner. In cases relating to land owned by the Local Authority, the Local Authority should use their own powers to deal with the trespassers. Before police can act the landowner or someone acting on their behalf (cannot be the police)

must have taken reasonable steps to ask the trespassers to leave and the trespassers must have refused/failed to comply (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act). Failure to comply with the direction by leaving the land as soon as reasonably practicable is an offence.

### Reporting crime

- **What steps are being taken to increase reporting? How are the online reporting and webchat services being publicised? What steps are being taken to increase reporting?** This is carried out through general engagement opportunities, campaigns through the media, social media, and targeted advertising.
- **Are the police applying appropriate techniques to analyse CCTV footage, e.g. binary chop to spot bike thefts? Could police support volunteers help?** The Constabulary do use appropriate techniques and are currently using volunteers.

### Emergency response times

- **Initial insight into how this varies by area, day of week, time of day? Are criminals targeting areas that they know have slow response times?** This was informed by the Constabulary's Local Policing Review (LPR) to allocate and deploy resources that best fit the county's demand. There will be review of the implementation of the LPR and clearly if there is any disparity of demand across the county these will be considered.
- **Analysis of non-crime demand in terms of police time (to complement analysis by incidents).** In a recent speech, the Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council referred to unpublished police force data and how it showed '*concerns for safety, missing people and suspicious circumstances now account for 25 per cent of police time. Domestic incidents, not crimes, take up 10 per cent of police time. The data also shows a steady month on month rise in mental health incidents over 2017 and 2018. The peak time for incidents is around 4pm Monday to Friday – likely to coincide with when health services close*'. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable discussed this at their last Performance Working Group meeting in October, and the Chief Constable is now considering the information requirements for this.  
<https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/npcc-chair-sara-thornton-speech-apcc-and-npcc-summit-2018>