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| CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL | Agenda Item No. 6 |
| 20th September 2023 | Public Report |

Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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HARM TO HOPE DRUG STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with details of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) approach to supporting partners in delivering against the Government’s Harm to Hope Drug Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

Item 8 - To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) the Panel has a role in scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions.
- 4.2 As well as the Commissioner’s duties for holding the Chief Constable to account, the Act places wide-ranging statutory duties and powers on Commissioners relating to working in co-operation with community safety partners.
- 4.3 The levers in the partnership arena are different from policing. The legislation does not provide for a holding to account role, rather reciprocal duties, and powers for co-operation. This includes:
- mutual duties for co-operative working;
 - having regard to respective priorities;
 - PCC powers to convene community safety and criminal justice partners and ask for reports; and
 - PCC power to make grants.
- 4.4 The Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) which sets out how he will deliver against his statutory role set out in the Act. At the heart of the Plan

for 2021-24 is the Commissioner's role in preventing and reducing crime, as well as his expectations of robust enforcement.

5. CROSS-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Government's 'From harm to hope' 10-year drug strategy (the "strategy") was published in December 2021 and picks up on the findings of Dame Carol Black's review. Drugs are a global problem, causing considerable harm around the world. Dame Carol Black was commissioned by the Government to carry out a two-part review of drugs policy. Part one was a broad assessment of the evidence on illegal drug supply into the UK and how criminals meet the demands of users. Part two made specific recommendations for improving prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- 5.2 The strategy aims to cut crime and save lives through:
 - Breaking drug supply chains
 - Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system
 - Achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
- 5.3 This is important. The Government has stated previously that the financial cost of drug misuse is £20 billion a year, something like £350 for every person in England. The human costs are also significant, sadly including in lives lost. There are impacts on communities from those vulnerable victims drawn into being exploited, to burglaries, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.4 Breaking drug supply chains is about making it harder for organised crime groups to operate. Tackling all stages of the supply chain. From preventing drugs entering the UK, disrupting drug gang operations nationally, regionally, and locally, and protecting prisons.
- 5.5 Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system is about providing additional capacity in substance misuse services, to improve quality and outcomes to help people to break the cycle of addiction. This includes ensuring appropriate referrals from the criminal justice system and keeping people engaged in treatment after release from prison. But it also links to the wider integration of services, making sure that people's physical and mental health needs are addressed, improving access to accommodation, and improving employment opportunities. It also includes reducing drug-related deaths.
- 5.6 Achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs is about changing attitudes in society – recreational drug use is not harmless. This includes building the evidence base and supporting prevention and early intervention in school and with those young people and families most at risk of substance misuse.

6. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- 6.1 Policing clearly plays a key role in breaking drugs supply chains through their enforcement work. In the year ending 31st March 2023, targeted police work to disrupt county lines and take drugs off our streets led to police identifying 36% more drug trafficking and 34% more drug possession offences. Operation Hypernova, the county's biggest ever operation set up to tackle exploitation and illegal drugs resulted in 31 people charged for 139 drug and human trafficking offences, the dismantling of 30 county lines and the seizure of £600,000 worth of drugs. In June, targeted work against cannabis growing facilities across the county saw cannabis worth more than £3m seized following 19 drug raids. Arrests and charges were made. An imitation firearm was also recovered and a vulnerable adult safeguarded.
- 6.2 Drug treatment and recovery services for adults and young people are commissioned through public health. Change Grow Live are the current provider of these services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust running the child and adolescent service for Cambridgeshire. Additional national

funding has been allocated in 2022-25 to boost treatment services. This includes early 'enhanced' funding for Peterborough. A 'menu' of suitable interventions is provided by the national team. The additional grant investment has been primarily invested in front line and support staff, as well as additional rehab placements. As part of the increased capacity, additionality within the treatment services includes bespoke support for people from ethnic minority backgrounds, a young person worker, hospital discharge workers, additional dedicated criminal justice workers and targeted support to those impacted and exploited by county lines. The additional funding means more staff are available to support more clients. Also, in terms of improving quality as increased capacity should result in smaller caseloads. It has also helped with ensuring specialist skills are in place (e.g., mental health) and upskilling staff and partners through specialist training. These services continue to perform well against national indicators. Oversight is undertaken through the relevant Committees within Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

- 6.3 Partnership working is key. A local delivery plan is overseen by the Drug and Alcohol Misuse Delivery Board. Previous priorities were mapped against the new national strategy and also updated in light of the needs assessment. Links to wider services such as housing, health, employment and targeted support for young people and families are supported through the delivery plan and Board membership. Local performance is also monitored through the Drug and Alcohol Misuse Delivery Board, with oversight through the High Harms Board.
- 6.4 Additional grants are also received by the two upper-tier local authorities which are also connected to the national drugs strategy. Recently these have included grants for rough sleeper outreach and specialist housing support. Additional funding linked to the drugs strategy has also been received by other local organisations. This includes the Constabulary, to further develop drug testing on arrest. Probation have also put in place funding for a Health and Justice Co-ordinator and for drug and alcohol support workers to be co-located in probation. The partnership arrangements at both an operational and strategic level help to ensure these different, and complex, funding streams work in tandem to improve pathways for service users.
- 6.5 A successful pilot project to prevent avoidable deaths from overdoses from drugs like heroin was also extended to Fenland last year after several lives were saved across Peterborough and Cambridge since the pilot was launched. This is also being rolled out to Huntingdonshire. The nasal spray 'Naloxone' counters the effects of an overdose and can be administered by trained police officers if they are first to attend an overdose situation. It has been used by officers on a number of occasions, potentially saving lives in these cases.

7. PCC ROLE

- 7.1 There is no statutory role for PCCs in relation to the drug strategy. However, the Commissioner recognised the importance of galvanising the partnership response from the outset, this included hosting a visit and partnership discussion with Dame Carol Black in the summer of 2022. This links to the wider PCC role in supporting co-operative working across the system.
- 7.2 Furthermore, the Commissioner has taken on the role of 'Senior Responsible Owner,' to provide oversight for the delivery of the drug strategy locally. This has included supporting and ensuring national governance expectations have been met, and reporting on these to

the Government. The OPCC supports the Commissioner in carrying out this role, forging links, supporting, and monitoring progress.

7.3 The Commissioner also chairs the High Harms Board which provides oversight across four priority issues:

- Harm to Hope Drug Strategy;
- serious violence;
- violence against women and girls; and
- serious and organised crime.

The OPCC has ensured that regular updates on progress against the national strategy are brought to the Board for consideration.

7.4 The Commissioner provides Crime & Disorder Reduction Grants to public health as a contribution to both Cambridgeshire & Peterborough treatment services. In Cambridgeshire this supports the criminal justice pathway within the service. In Peterborough it supports a high needs support worker post which is able to provide more intensive support for some of the more complex criminal justice cases.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

'From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives', HM Government
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024
<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>