

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
24 SEPTEMBER 2012	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Insert name and portfolio of Cabinet Member(s)	
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DRAFT VICTIM AND OFFENDER NEEDS ASSESSMENT - A CONDUIT FOR FUTURE JOINED UP WORKING?

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Dr Dorothy Gregson, Cambridgeshire Police Authority	Deadline date : Ongoing
<p>The Board is asked to consider how the new Police and Crime Commissioner might work effectively with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Peterborough Partnership in the future.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board following a request from the Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 To inform the Board of the authority's strategic plans to enable completion of the county's first Police and Crime Plan by March 2013 using a Victim and Offender Needs Assessment as an evidence base.
- 2.2 This report is for the Board to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 1.1, 'to provide a strategic leadership forum focussed on securing and improving the health and well being of Peterborough residents'.
- 2.3 To seek the views of Board members on how the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment could engender a joined up health and police/crime/community safety approach to strategy setting.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which abolishes police authorities, places a responsibility on newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners to issue a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year they are elected. Commissioners must keep this plan under review and may at any time vary the plan, or issue a new plan.
- 3.2 Commissioners must consult Chief Constables on their draft plans before they are sent to the police and crime panels for consideration.
- 3.3 The plans should set out the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for policing and reducing crime and disorder. In exercising this duty 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.

- 3.4 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.

Victim and Offender Needs Assessment

- 3.5 The Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment provides all agencies with a picture of the needs of both victims and offenders which hasn't been considered before. There is clearly much cross-over in the work undertaken by all agencies to meet their needs. While the move towards co-commissioning is a long way off, members of the Board are urged to consider how this work could inform their future strategy setting and how the new Police and Crime Commissioner might work effectively with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Peterborough Partnership in the future.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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 which 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.
- 3.11 Several workshops with colleagues from a range of agencies were held to inform the needs assessment. At these sessions several 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 abuse has identified in the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Peterborough as part of the 'Securing the foundations of good health' making this an important shared agenda.
- 3.12 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, which again reflects a shared agenda.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 A Partners' workshop is being held on September, 27 to consider the results of the Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment. It will enable those with a duty of partnership with the new Commissioner to feed into the work to inform the first Police and Crime Plan.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 5.1 The Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment provides all agencies with a picture of the needs of both victims and offenders which hasn't been considered before. There is clearly much cross-over in the work undertaken by all agencies to meet their needs. While the move towards co-commissioning is a long way off, members of the Board are urged to consider how this work could inform their future strategy setting, and how the new Commissioner might work effectively with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Peterborough Partnership in the future.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The work of Safer Peterborough Partnership has provided an effective forum to drive joint work to reduce crime and promote stronger communities. The Partnership's strategy has informed the Police Authority's strategy and vice versa. Linkages with health strategy have been less well developed.
- 6.3 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. These discussions will take place at a Partners' Workshop on September 27 hosted by the Police and Crime Partnership Transition Working Group.
- 6.4 With the importance of safe and stronger communities to health and wellbeing it is going to be important to understand the links between the work of the Commissioner and their new Police and Crime Plan, the Safer Peterborough Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Draft Victim and Offender Needs Assessment provides an evidence base of use to all three.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

At this stage no specific proposals are being put forward, although it is suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner is a member of both the Safer Peterborough Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) for the Police and Local Authorities, set out that 'Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can prevent,

a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and,

b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area.'

Clinical Commissioning Groups will be responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Victim and Offender Needs Assessment
Police Authority Transition Plan