

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
5 NOVEMBER 2014	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact Officer – Dorothy Gregson

Contact Details – cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk 0300 333 3456

OBJECTIVE THREE – CONTINUE TO TACKLE CRIME AND DISORDER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) on the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) progress made towards Objective Three of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) – ‘Continue to tackle crime and disorder’.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As Police and Crime Commissioner I have worked to deliver the actions and outcomes specified in my Plan and to deliver my Pledges. Each quarter I monitor the overall trends with respect to crime and recorded levels of crime. Reported crime has fallen since I took office but I am acutely aware that people do not report every crime and these figures are not always believed by the public. I have never been one for targets and have always gone to great lengths not to set them. The Pledges in my Plan are based on what the public have flagged up to me and what they would like to see from Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”). The overall goal is to reduce crime and improve public confidence.
- 3.2 In order to track progress against the Plan I request detailed quarterly reports from the Chief Constable and his team on the key elements of the Plan including Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and burglary. These reports are presented to me at the Business Coordination Board (BCB), a forum which enables me to discuss, scrutinise and hold the Chief Constable to account for efficient and effective policing and his decisions and operational activity. The BCB reports are published on my website providing transparency and accountability in decision making and demonstrating how I am delivering against my Pledges. My office also actively engages with partnership monitoring of areas such as drugs.
- 3.3 If any Panel members wish to view more detailed statistics relating to the Pledges and Measures, in particular those related to ASB, burglary and drugs misuse to which this report covers, I would like to refer them to the Performance Reports, a link to which can be found at the bottom of this report.
- 3.4 The Constabulary deal with all incidents within a Threat, Risk and Harm framework with an overall focus on vulnerability. As such, my office is working with the Constabulary to review the Performance Framework within my Plan to ensure that in the future the Performance Framework reflects the increased focus on vulnerability.
- 3.5 I have championed both the needs of victims and the desire to build safer, stronger and supportive communities in Cambridgeshire: communities with low crime rates, low numbers of victims and high numbers of people willing to be witnesses. Victims of crime including, ASB, burglary and drug related crime, will now benefit from the Constabulary’s Victims’ Hub (which

- launched on the 1st October 2014) to enable them to cope and recover from the impact of crime.
- 3.6 We are one of seven areas leading the way nationally to provide a local service for victims from which a range of support can be accessed. By involving local people with local knowledge we are able to develop local solutions which provide the victims with the level of support they need. This integrated service allows us to quickly assess the needs of individuals and co-ordinate the delivery of the right services from across a range of agencies – particularly important for the most vulnerable in our society.
- 3.7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has recently carried out an independent inspection of all 43 police forces looking at 'Interim Crime Inspection methodology and judgement criteria' which looked at how effective forces are at reducing crime and preventing offending; investigating offending; and tackling ASB. In particular the inspection focussed on: amongst other crime types, dwelling burglary and the response to ASB. The inspection had a focus on victims in particular how forces understand the needs of victims for these crime types, and how forces work with partners to inform operational activity for crime and ASB. The immediate debrief given by HMIC following their inspection of the Constabulary was positive overall and one which I welcomed. The HMIC report will be publicly available.

4. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PLEDGE - *"The effects of anti-social behaviour can be far more wide reaching than offences. It can damage the quality of life of a whole community. It must be systematically tackled."*

MEASURES

Victim based crime is reduced over the next 12 months

Maintain the low levels of perceived anti-social behaviour

The level of anti-social behaviour does not increase over the next 12 months

- 4.1 We continue to take a partnership approach to tackling ASB with many organisations working together to address the issue. The low levels of perceived ASB remain.
- 4.2 Since coming into office I have provided over £500,000 of grants to Community Safety Partnerships to tackle and reduce local fear of crime and ASB at a very local neighbourhood level. This is part of our work to create safer, stronger communities by tackling crime and reducing victimisation.
- 4.3 Their activity includes preventative work with young people to reduce ASB, initiatives for families, working with the vulnerable and supporting victims. This work helps build cohesive, safer and confident communities by driving down rates of reported crime and ASB. It allows local solutions to be developed to meet local needs as different areas will have different priorities.
- 4.4 I have personally championed the use of the innovative information sharing system ECINS. The system, which was initially for ASB, brings together partners from across the county in a virtual world to manage and task across agency boundaries in real time. This not only saves time and money but ensures a 'whole agency' approach is taken to support victims. The system is now used to co-ordinate partnership work for integrated offender management, troubled families and even the misuse of alcohol through monitoring licensed premises. Feedback from partners that use ECINS has been extremely positive and use of the system continues to grow.
- 4.5 The launch of Neighbourhood Alert in September 2013 demonstrates my commitment to Neighbourhood Watch.
- 4.6 The Neighbourhood Alert system allows messages to be targeted at street level to subscribers by email using the E-cops system, allowing Neighbourhood Watch and the Constabulary to talk directly to the people they need to, quickly and effectively. This is a good example of how technology is being used to improve communication to tackle ASB, burglary, drugs and other crime issues.

- 4.7 I have made available a £40,000 per annum Youth Fund for charities and community groups to bid into for individual grants of up to £2,000. These projects must be related to activities that have the potential to reduce youth crime, linked to my pledge to continue to tackle crime and disorder, such as ASB, burglary or drug related matters.
- 4.8 I have visited some of these projects, such as the Peterborough Amateur Boxing Club which received £1,500 grant funding to purchase new equipment which supported young people. Other projects that have benefited from funding have been the painting of a mural in community gardens and a project to restore old bikes. I have just invited further bids from my Youth Fund and hope to visit these new projects in the future.
- 4.9 The Cambridgeshire Police Cadets Scheme launches in November 2014 at the Thomas Deacon Academy in Peterborough. This supports my Pledge to “*support work with young people to divert them away from a life of crime*”. The Cadet scheme will involve around 35 young people between the ages of 13 to 18 to attend after school sessions that teach them about policing, citizenship and community in a positive and enjoyable manner. The sessions will be staffed by volunteers. Around a third of the cadets will be those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Following this pilot scheme I hope to set up cadet schemes in other parts of the county.
- 4.10 With my full support, the Chief Constable has given extra responsibilities to PCSOs who now have all the powers they are allowed under legislation to deal with specific issues relating to low level crime.
- 4.11 There is a national drive to focus on Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is a process which “brings those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward”. ASB, burglary and drugs are all within the scope of Restorative Justice.
- 4.12 Part of the Restorative Justice agenda is the Community Remedy. I will provide the Panel with details on the Community Remedy in the report they have asked me to produce for their January 2015 meeting.

5. BURGLARY

PLEDGE - “*All burglaries should be investigated by the police within an appropriate time of the offence taking place. We need to catch burglars. I will be monitoring burglary detection rates.*”

MEASURES

Reduction in the number of dwelling burglaries

Improved detection rate

Increased in percentage of victims who were satisfied with the service provided by police

- 5.1 I have been clear with the Constabulary that my Pledge is that all burglaries should be investigated within an appropriate time of the offence taking place is key. I am pleased to report that the Constabulary fully recognise this and to demonstrate this commitment, in June 2014 the Constabulary’s scenes of crime attended 100% of all dwelling burglaries in Cambridgeshire. The default position is to attend upon receipt of a report wherever possible.
- 5.2 I called for a report on burglary from the Chief Constable for the July 2014 BCB meeting for the purpose of updating me on the Constabulary’s progress in respect of burglary investigations and particularly the associated satisfaction levels. I was able to scrutinise the current performance position in detail including victim satisfaction. In particular, I sought assurance from the Constabulary that they are feeding information back into Neighbourhood Watch.
- 5.3 The July 2014 report demonstrates the proactive work the Constabulary has undertaken in relation to dwelling burglary which resulted in burglary victim satisfaction being the highest of all crime types surveyed. Victim satisfaction for the 12 months to June 2014 was 94.5%. This is an outstanding result and is better than peer forces.

- 5.4 The level of recorded burglary remains static while overall burglary detection levels continue to fluctuate.
- 5.5 The Constabulary's burglary performance is now a standing agenda item at their monthly Force senior investigator meetings, with meetings also taking place at District level. I will continue to monitor the Constabulary's performance relating to burglary attendance and detection rates.
- 5.6 I contribute £50,000 towards supporting the Cambridgeshire Shrievalty Trust's 'Bobby Scheme'. This scheme provides a free service to victims of burglary aged 60 or over who live in the county. Security advisors repair minor damage caused by the criminal and then install locks, bolts, peepholes, door chains and alarms, providing vital reassurance to victims of burglary. The Scheme also helps older people who have not been victims but who are at high risk or feel vulnerable and asks for a small contribution to its costs from this group.
- 5.7 Tackling burglary in rural areas continues to be a priority. As well as investigating domestic burglary, considerable resource is dedicated to combating Organised Crime Gangs (OCG). The Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) is a collaborated unit that targets serious and organised crime across the region. The unit combines resources from across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Its aim is to identify, disrupt and dismantle OCGs impacting on the Eastern Region. The unit comprises a number of highly specialised teams working closely together and has embedded partners from other policing and enforcement bodies.
- 5.8 Along with other forces, the Constabulary has strong evidence that crime is moving from the traditional, well-reported methods such as burglary and theft from person and or vehicles to more modern, often unreported methods such as computer enabled crime taking money from bank accounts. I know that the Chief Constable, and our colleagues around the country, share this concern and are all the time introducing new ways to tackle the problem of computer enabled crime head on.

6. DRUGS

PLEDGE - "I am supporting work with partners to tackle drug misuse and associated crimes."

MEASURES

Reduction in the percentage of respondents who consider drug misuse to be a problem in their area

- 6.1 Recognising the measure of success in my Plan relating to this Pledge, the percentage of those who consider drug misuse to be a problem in their area has fallen since my Plan was first published in March 2013. I welcome this.
- 6.2 In line with my Pledge to support work with partners to tackle drug misuse, since coming into office I have granted significant funds for programmes to enable partners to deal with drug related issues. These activities include reducing the impact of drug related offending, thus creating fewer victims of crime and to build more cohesive, safer and confident communities.
- 6.3 By working in partnership through the Cambridgeshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), there is a coordinated approach to tackling drugs issues. Priorities include:
- Targeting treatment and interventions at groups/individuals causing most harm to themselves and others.
 - Preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug and alcohol misuse.
 - Ensuring effective treatment pathways are available to ensure individuals can be reintegrated into the community and develop their full potential.

- Providing a range of treatment options to enable individuals better participate in their recovery programme.
 - Protecting communities through robust enforcement to tackle drugs supply and related crime and ASB.
- 6.4 The DAAT has commissioned a piece of research to ascertain the levels of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) across the county. Locally we are working to build up an understanding of the issues and risks associated with the use of NPS and club drugs in order to respond appropriately and to provide targeted education and harm reduction information/material. We are asking frontline staff who come across NPS use if they could complete an NPS surveillance form which will help us build a picture of need across the county. We are anticipating that the early findings should be made available in early November 2014 and feed into the countywide Needs Assessment, which will be ready in January 2015.
- 6.5 Although tackling drugs misuse remains important there has been an increasing focus on the impact of alcohol misuse. This has not just been seen in the criminal justice system but also in the NHS, public health and social care system. We continue to work closely with a range of partners to deal with the misuse of both drugs and alcohol and its consequences.
- 6.6 In addition to local work, ERSOU plays an important role in tackling the organised crime aspect of the drugs trade, targeting international drugs trafficking and distribution.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 16 <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>
Performance Reports <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/may-08-2014-bcb/> &
<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/bcb-october-2-2014/>

This page is intentionally left blank