

<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
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## **Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Contact Officer – Dorothy Gregson**

**Contact Details – [cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk) 0300 333 3456**

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVE FOUR – KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) on the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) progress made towards Objective Four of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) – ‘Keeping people safe’.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the report.

#### **3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As 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, however I have never been one for targets and have always gone to great lengths not to set them. We want to improve public confidence in policing and in respect to this particular objective an increase in crime levels may reflect an increase in this confidence especially in cases of domestic violence and abuse. 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”).
- 4.2 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 their performance in respect of dealing with incidents of domestic abuse, work to safeguard vulnerable people, and satisfaction rates of victims or racist incidents. These reports are presented to me at the Business Co-ordination 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 Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

## **5. DOMESTIC ABUSE**

- 5.1 I have seen first-hand how the Constabulary is working in partnership with colleagues from other agencies to ensure an inter-agency approach to safeguarding the victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults is taken. The creation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has brought together staff from Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Probation. This Hub acts as the single referral point for concerns about people's safety and collectively staff can act quickly to reduce risk.
- 5.2 The level of reported incidents of domestic abuse has increased by nine per cent for the 12 month period November 2013 to November 2014. This demonstrates both a heightened awareness among officers and staff to safeguard vulnerable people but also an increase in the public's trust and confidence in the police. Officers are also encouraging the reporting of honour-based violence and have set up a special reporting hotline for victims within the Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit. Officers focus on safeguarding and to this end prosecution is not always the best outcome for victims.
- 5.3 I was encouraged to hear the Constabulary has been putting simple yet effective measures in place to help support officers and staff to keep people safe such as developing a 'tactical toolkit'. This guide has already been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary who has statutory responsibility for inspecting police forces.
- 5.4 Since taking over responsibility for the commissioning of victims' services I have ensured victims of domestic abuse are supported to cope and recover from their experience. This integrated support includes the creation of the Victims' Hub whose staff can help victims both over the phone and face-to-face. Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), based in the MASH and Women's Aid in Peterborough, provide more specialist intensive support to victims at high risk of murder or serious injury. Their role is to make the victim and their family feel as safe as possible. I am also funding an IDVA who specifically works with young victims.
- 5.5 A successful bid to the Ministry of Justice has also enabled me to fund the Cambridgeshire Shrievalty Trust's 'Bobby Scheme' to secure the home of domestic abuse victims, where the perpetrator has left, to help them and their family to feel safe in their own home.

## **6. INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 I am pleased to report that the Constabulary have continued to invest resources into the county-wide IOM Scheme which has been running since April 2011. The IOM scheme was set up to address issues of offending mainly around serious acquisitive crime and focuses on those committing dwelling burglary, one of my priorities, and vehicle related crime. Offenders are usually responsible for scores of offences and often have mental health and/ or substance misuse issues. We usually have 160-180 offenders of both sexes on the scheme at any one time. However the vast majority are male. The scheme is tailored to the types of offending common in each area.
- 6.2 The Scheme was recently evaluated by the College of Policing which revealed excellent evidence of reductions in reoffending. The Scheme is using innovative techniques such as the voluntary GPS tracking of offenders and the Empowering Communities Inclusion and Neighbourhood Management System (ECINS), the multi-agency information sharing

system which I have championed. Mental health pathfinders have also been employed to support offenders into treatment. The success in this area has prompted a similar model to be used in our new Victims' Hub to great success.

- 6.3 IOM continues to evolve and develop bringing on board new partners and extending the criteria through which people are accepted onto the scheme. This ensures the Constabulary focus on those which cause the most harm to the people of Cambridgeshire.

## **7. VULNERABLE PEOPLE – Child Sexual Exploitation and Hate Crime**

***PLEDGE*** – “I am committed to supporting work with young people to divert them away from a life of crime.”

- 7.1 The Constabulary has a Child Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit made up of 33 specially trained and qualified detectives. Six of these officers make up the Child Sexual Exploitation team who respond to incidents alongside social work colleagues. The team have the capacity to build relationships with young people to help them see themselves as victims and share their experiences to enable the offenders to be brought to justice. I have commended the Constabulary on a number of successful high profile investigations. In May last year two men were convicted of 24 charges (including rape and trafficking) of eight girls following joint proactive investigation between the Constabulary and Peterborough City Council's Children's Services. The case follows a successful prosecution at the Old Bailey earlier that year where five men and teenage boys were convicted of a catalogue of sexual offences against underage girls. Four were jailed for a total of 54 years. The Constabulary has been praised nationally for its work in this area.
- 7.2 I have also been able to significantly boost the support available for these young victims through the move from national to local commissioning of victims' services. I have funded two additional Independent Sexual Violence Advocates specifically to support young victims of sexual violence and place a post within the Sexual Assault Referral Centre to support the families of young people who have been sexually abused.
- 7.3 I have been working in partnership with the Constabulary to deliver on my pledge to divert young people away from a life of crime. This has included the successful introduction of a Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme in Peterborough, with 33 cadets, alongside the creation of my Youth Fund. The latter supports grass roots work to keep young people occupied and out of trouble such as boxing clubs, art projects, sport and outdoor activities.
- 7.4 With regards to Hate Crime I have supported the Constabulary's work with partners to create a shared statement of intent to tackle this crime in a victim-focused way. The crime has been vastly under-reported nationally so I have welcomed an increase in recorded hate crime in Cambridgeshire. The Constabulary has reported a small fall in the satisfaction rate for victims of racist incidents; in the 12 months to September 2014 the rate was 78.6 per cent compared to 83.2 per cent. A web survey is helping the Constabulary and partners better understand and respond to hate crime.

## **8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 8.1 Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 16 <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>

Hate crime – BCB paper February 2014 <http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/business->

[coordination-board/february-27-2014-bcb/](#)

Domestic Abuse – BCB paper October 2014

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/bcb-october-2-2014/>

9. **APPENDICES**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Police and Crime Commissioner Performance Update  
September 2014