

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 10
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Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”) with the outcome of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (“the Commissioner”) review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and how they have used their crime and disorder reduction grants to help secure the reduction of crime and disorder in Cambridgeshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the 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 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables Police and Crime Commissioners, as the elected local policing body for a police area, to make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person. A crime and disorder reduction grant is a grant which, in the opinion of the elected local policing body, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body’s area. The elected local policing body may make a crime and disorder reduction grant subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) which the body thinks appropriate.
- 4.2 In Cambridgeshire, the Commissioner has awarded grants to a number of organisations across a range of preventative agendas such as: substance misuse, mental health issues, youth offending and safeguarding. These grants are transparently displayed within the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) and budget papers regularly brought to the Commissioner’s Business Co-ordination Board meetings. Grants are also awarded to the six CSPs across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire¹ to allow them to tackle local issues identified within their local strategic assessments.
- 4.3 The CSPs faced a 5.1 per cent grant reduction in funding from the Commissioner in 2015/16. However, the awards for 2016/17 next year will remain at 2015/16 levels.

¹ Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, Safer Peterborough Partnership, and South Cambridgeshire

4.4 The Commissioner has monitored how grant recipients are meeting the terms of their grant award. This responsibility will continue under the new Commissioner.

5. REVIEW OF THE WORK OF CSPs TO SECURE THE REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

5.1 It is important to note that CSPs are scrutinised by their respective Council Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, Councils are under an obligation to allocate this function to one of their Committees. Therefore, it is not the Commissioner's role to repeat this work.

5.2 The Commissioner may make a crime and disorder reduction grant (to a CSP) subject to any conditions which the body thinks appropriate. In Cambridgeshire, the Commissioner places a number of formal and informal conditions on grant recipients. Formally this includes the promotion of safeguarding of children and partnership working through the use of the ECINs information sharing system. Informally this includes a seat at every CSP partnership which allows the Commissioner to monitor the use of the crime and disorder reduction grants he awards to CSPs at every stage of the commissioning cycle, as detailed in sections 6 – 9 below.

5.3 The Commissioner does not sign off each individual allocation of funds by a CSP, but requires each CSP to submit both a financial and an outcome monitoring form on a six monthly basis. These forms enable the Commissioner to understand the activities funded and how they support the delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Objectives as set in the Plan. Clearly not all activities have quantifiable outcomes and are evidence-based longer-term preventative activities or contribute to building community resilience.

5.4 Representatives from a range of CSPs are invited to the Commissioner's 'Star Chambers' meetings on a rotational basis. This forum enables both the CSP representative to explain what they have done to secure a reduction in crime and disorder and for the Commissioner to support and challenge.

5.5 Finally the Commissioner has taken on responsibility for organising the Cambridgeshire County-wide Community Safety Strategic Board and now the Officer Group. Both of these meetings enable the local CSP representatives to come together at a tactical and strategic level to look at working together to reduce crime and disorder. It also enables the Commissioner to scrutinise county-wide working. The next County-wide meeting is being held on the 31st March 2016. The agenda is being prepared, with particular focus on the current Police and Crime Objectives set within the Plan.

6. UNDERSTAND - DEVELOPING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR GRANT FUNDING

6.1 CSPs are tasked with securing the reduction of crime and disorder within their locality. Each Cambridgeshire partnership commissions Cambridgeshire County Council Research and Performance team to carry out quarterly Strategic Needs Assessments which collectively enable them to 'Understand' the current picture of crime and disorder in their locality. In Peterborough this research is done by partnership staff.

6.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary ("the Constabulary") support this process by providing the detailed crime and incident data required to ensure a complete picture of reported crime and disorder is available. These reports are in turn shared with the Constabulary to ensure they inform local tasking and are fed back into the county-wide Strategic Needs Assessment. These needs assessments also take into account the Police and Crime Objectives set within the Plan and the Commissioner's personal pledges.

7. PLAN – SCOPING THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED

7.1 The Commissioner, his deputy or a member of his office, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), attend the majority of CSP meetings. The completed plans are reviewed by the whole partnership at the start of each financial year with an OPCC representative in attendance. This allows the Commissioner to have sight of the CSP's early

funding intentions and how they intend to measure success through outcome measures. The papers and strategic plans of each CSP are submitted to the OPCC before each meeting to enable scrutiny.

8. DO – AWARDING GRANTS TO THE PROVIDERS

8.1 The Commissioner's Outreach Workers have worked in partnership on many of the activities funded by the CSPs. This allows the Commissioner to closely monitor the delivery of many of the projects and on some occasions extend the work countywide. Fenland's CSP pilot funding of a support programme for female victims of domestic abuse and their children was seen as innovative and in line with the county's Victim Strategy. The Commissioner was able to secure the programme across the whole county with funding from the Ministry of Justice's Victims' Service grant – formal evaluation is expected later this year. In South Cambridgeshire an Outreach Worker supported an organised anti-trafficking event while in Cambridge the CSP's initiatives to reduce alcohol-related crime tied in with the Commissioner work to tackle alcohol misuse in the county.

9. REVIEW – EVALUATING THE OUTCOMES

9.1 A review of the entirety of the 2014/15 CSP budget funded activities revealed that spending was broadly equally spent on building community resilience and safety, tackling anti-social behaviour through diversionary activities and children and young people initiatives. Two examples of this work are given below.

9.2 There has been a programme of Healthy Relationship inputs into local secondary schools to reduce incidents of child sexual exploitation, domestic and sexual violence. This supports the Commissioner's 'Objective 4 Keeping People Safe'. As referred to in 5.3, this is an example of an upstream preventative activity without a short-term quantifiable outcome. Inputs delivered by Centre 33 in East Cambridgeshire, where for example, the learning outcomes are monitored.

9.3 Work with vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour in Huntingdonshire has contributed to a 3.6 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour reports supporting the Commissioner's 'Objective 2 Reducing Crime and Disorder'. An example is where the CSP has a working group in place focussing on supporting vulnerable families on the Oxmoor estate.

9.4 This calendar year Fenland CSP and the Safer Peterborough Partnership were invited to discuss their work to secure crime and disorder reduction at Star Chamber meetings (referred to in 4.4). These meetings are held mid-way through the year so facilitate support and challenge. Final outcomes from each calendar year are submitted mid-April and therefore not yet available for 2015/16.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The Commissioner has been satisfied all six CSPs have funded activity which is evidence-based (through their local strategic needs assessment), is supported by a wide range of partner agencies and is influenced by the voice of the people – through local representation on each panel. The activities are also supportive of the Objectives set within the Plan.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 'Police and Crime Plan Variation – Appendix 1 Finances Update 2015/16', Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, March 2015

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/documents/s23123/6.%20Budget%20-%20Appendix%201%20Finances%20Update%20Report%20-%20CPCP%20-%20150318.pdf>

Police and Crime Plan Variation – Appendix 1 Finances Update 2016/17, Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, March 2016

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=543&MId=3476&Ver=4>

'Community Safety Partnerships', Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel, September 2015

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=543&MId=3474&Ver=4>