

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
9th October 2019	Public Report

Report of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – VICTIMS THEME

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the "Panel") on the delivery of the Victims theme within the Police and Crime Commissioner's (the "Commissioner") Police and Crime Plan (the "Plan").

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the attached reports.
- 2.2 This new format of reporting given in this, and the Offenders theme report, seeks to provide the Panel with the opportunity to explore in-depth the progress on the Commissioner's strategy to deliver the themes within his Plan. However, the Commissioner invites feedback on this format of reporting and welcomes how such reporting can be improved in the future to enable the Panel to gain assurance of how the Commissioner is evaluating his strategy, and any obstacles and new initiatives to support that delivery.

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 Commissioner is required to produce a Plan. The Commissioner's Plan became effective from the 1st April 2017 and is structured around four key strategic themes: Victims, Offenders, Communities, and Transformation. Each theme has its own aim and has a framework through a series of shared outcomes to enable all agencies with a part to play in community safety and criminal justice, to strategically direct the future delivery of services through these common goals. Each theme is supported by key objectives and priorities for action.
- 4.2 There are strong mechanisms in place to scrutinise the overall performance of Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the "Constabulary"), including the priorities and outcomes set out in the Plan.

5. HOLDING TO ACCOUNT

- 5.1 The Commissioner received two reports on the Victims Theme of his Plan at his Business Co-ordination Board meeting (the “Board”) in May 2019. One report provided the detail of how his office, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and partnership activity was delivering the priorities set in the Offenders section of the Plan. This report enabled the Commissioner to hold the OPCC to account for their delivery, and to ‘hold the mirror up’ to those partners who also have statutory duties in their own organisational capacity which contribute to delivering the priorities in the Plan. This report is given at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The other report was from the Constabulary which provided an update on their activities to deliver the priorities within the Offenders Theme of the Plan. In line with The Policing Protocol Order 2011, this report enabled the Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to scrutinise, support and challenge the overall performance of the Constabulary against the priorities within the Plan. This report can be found at Appendix 2 as contextual information for the Panel given their remit to support and scrutinise the Commissioner and not the Constabulary.
- 5.3 The minutes of the Board meeting relating to the discussions and holding to account on these reports can be found in the minutes of the June 2019 Board meeting (link given below).

6. PANEL’S QUESTION AND RESPONSE

- 6.1 The Panel have already received the two Board reports referred to above for their consideration and invited to ask questions ahead of the Panel meeting. The response to the questions raised are given below.

- 6.1.1 *Question – Bobby Scheme - What is the Commissioner doing about get the Bobby Scheme more widely known in the community especially with an ageing population that are high risk group.*

Response – The Bobby Scheme are funded by the Commissioner to offer practical support such as ‘target hardening’ and advice on how to keep themselves safe. This enables them to better cope with their experience by restoring feeling of safety and empowerment and reducing potential future victimisation. The Scheme also accepts self-referrals and referrals from the Constabulary but this is limited to those people who are victims of crime. In 2018/19 the charity secured the homes of 622 elderly people with 99.1 per cent reporting increased feelings of safety. The charity does provide services for elderly people who are fearful of becoming a victim and the additional funding the Commissioner provides allows the charity to proactively contact elderly victims (60 years plus) of dwelling-related crime.

- 6.1.2 *Question – Domestic violence – In the safe lives report it says that on average a person suffers 50 attacks from their partner what is the Commissioner doing about encouraging people to report early?*

Response - The Commissioner works in partnership with other agencies to raise awareness of domestic abuse and how victims can access support and help through regular communication campaigns. The local authority domestic abuse and sexual violence partnership team have a network of 70 front line workers – called Domestic Abuse Champions – who educate colleagues about the domestic abuse and provide advice to potential victims.

The Commissioner developed a Victim Services website in 2018 which contains information on how people can access help. The Constabulary has a range of safeguarding processes used to highlight potential victims and provide them with advice and guidance at an early stage.

- 6.1.3 *Question – What is the Commissioner doing about this is the ethnic community especially with the recent incidents in the eastern European community.*

Response - As part of the integrated model of support services for victims of crime the local authority fund an Independent Domestic Abuse Adviser specifically for victims from A8 countries¹. The Commissioner also directly funds a Lithuanian-speaking Specialist Victim and Witness Care Co-ordinator who provide support to victims in their own language. The local authority have run targeted campaigns (including videos in Eastern European languages) to educate potential victims to spot the signs of domestic abuse.

- 6.1.4 *Question – What is the Commissioner doing about domestic violence as the national statics is 30% suffer from Domestic violence.*

Response - One of the Commissioner's staff sits on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group, which is a partnership group looking at ways to raise awareness of this issue. Work has included the third sector run Ask Me? Initiative training community ambassadors to spot the signs of domestic abuse and offer support. The Domestic Abuse Champions are front line workers who also extend the expertise of specialist organisations into the communities and other agencies.

- 6.1.5 *Question - About communication is the community I have had recently two case in my ward about the lack of communication towards the progress of the case. I would like to know the Commissioner's strategy on effective communication.*

Response - The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime sets out the responsibility of all agencies to keep victims up to date with the progress of their cases. This is something the Commissioner will be strategically monitoring through his role as Chair of the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board. The Commissioner cannot comment or get involved in individual cases and would urge anyone dissatisfied with how they are being updated to contact the investigating officer or their line manager.

- 6.1.6 *Question - What is the strategy when there is a breakdown of communication with the victims.*

Response - Officers and staff ensure when people report crimes such as domestic abuse, that they are provided with enough information to enable them to make an informed decision about how they want to proceed. Victims can also be referred to victim support services who can advocate on their behalf with other agencies, including the Constabulary.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

'Police and Crime Plan 2017-20 – Community Safety and Criminal Justice', Police and Crime Commissioner

<http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>

Business Co-ordination Board reports, 16th May 2019

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-16th-may-2019/>

'Approved Minutes 16th May 2019', Agenda Item 3.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 11th June 2019

¹ A8 countries – those that joined the European Union in 2004 namely: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – ‘Police and Crime Plan – Victims Theme – OPCC work to deliver broader partnership support’, Agenda Item 9.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 16th May 2019

Appendix 2 – ‘Police and Crime Plan – Victims Theme Cambridgeshire Constabulary work to deliver actions’, Agenda Item 9.1, Business Co-ordination Board, 16th May 2019