

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
22nd July 2020	Public Report

Report of Acting Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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ACTING POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with responses to questions they have raised both on reports submitted to the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Acting Commissioner”) Business Co-ordination Board meeting and on other matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the Acting Commissioner’s responses.

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, a Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”). The 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. There are strong mechanisms in place, including the Acting Commissioner’s Business Co-ordination Board, to scrutinise the overall performance of Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”), including the priorities and outcomes set out in the Plan.

5. VICTIMS

5.1. **POLICE & CRIME PLAN - VICTIMS THEME - OPCC WORK TO DELIVER BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT**

Agenda Item 5.2, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

5.1.1 Question: There is no mention of Think Communities in this paper nor the Performance Report. Could the Acting Commissioner outline how best practice for referral and support of victims is being spread throughout the county's public-facing agencies and contractors, including those working in care homes, schools, social care visits, GP surgeries, homeless shelters, etc?

Response: The Victim and Witness Hub proactively contacts all victims of crime (where safe to do so) to make them aware of their service. The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) uses a range of communication channels to raise awareness of all the services available to victims across the county. In particular the Victims Services website contains details of local and national services. <https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/>

The wider model of support services includes many different agencies who all work in partnership to make people aware of what support they can access. These details are included in a wide range of printed and virtual resources, including those published by partner agencies and the Safeguarding Boards. The Local Authority Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Team has supported a range of national campaigns in recent months including partnering with pharmacies to create safe spaces.

5.1.2 *Ref: paragraph 4.2 - 'The staff were unable to contact a further 1,416 people (despite trying on three occasions at different times of the day)'*

Question: Given that this accounts for about 30% of victims, what additional measures will the Acting Commissioner be recommending to reach these people?

Response: All of the 1,416 people who staff in the Victim and Witness Hub were unable to contact were sent a letter/or an email to provide details of how they can access support in the future. It is worth noting that the Hub received 170 self-referrals last year alone.

5.1.3 *Ref: paragraph 4.3 - '50k enabled the Bobby Scheme to secure the homes of 983 elderly victims of property-related crime and provide face to face reassurance, advice and guidance'*

Question: This looks like excellent value for money. Surely it would be even better value for money if it were scaled up to proactively secure elderly and other vulnerable people's homes in advance of being a victim of crime in the first place, saving the entailed resource and social costs? Better still, taking a Think Communities approach, could not this scheme be combined with other services provided by local authorities and charities such as Age UK, such as:

- Check and install fire alarms
- Check and install carbon monoxide alarms
- Draughtproof doors and windows
- Fit mobility aids (grab bars)
- Provide panic buttons
- Test electrical RCCBs (protects people from electrocution)

Response: The report details how the OPCC use the funding provided by the Ministry of Justice to commission support for victims of crime (this funding cannot be used to prevent crime). The OPCC are one of a number of agencies from which the charity receives funding. We understand that The Bobby Scheme have previously worked with the Fire Service to carry out Fire Safety checks and have fitted carbon monoxide alarms. They have also been commissioned to fit Key Safes when elderly people are leaving hospital and need carers to come in. However, more detail on the charity's work is available <https://www.thebobbyscheme.org/>

5.1.4 *Ref: paragraph 4.3 – ‘The Restorative Justice Co-ordinator based in the Victim and Witness Hub explored restorative justice options with 104 victims of crime’*

Question: This seems a surprisingly low number given the reported benefits of Restorative Justice for victims and reducing reoffending. Could the Acting Commissioner please comment?

Response: The safety and wellbeing of victims of crime is paramount. The process of exploring whether Restorative Justice could help an often traumatised victim is never rushed. It can take many months of thought, planning, risk assessments and conversations to arrange a face to face conference. The Cambridgeshire Restorative Justice model has been awarded the Restorative Justice Quality Mark from the Restorative Justice Council for safe and effective practice.

5.1.5 *Ref: paragraph 5.2 - ‘In 19/20 a new Domestic Abuse Strategy developed a future model of support with a sustainable core and enhanced offer. However, Covid-19 brought with it additional short-term central government funding for the third-sector outreach provision delaying this cliff edge for another year’.*

Question: Assuming a “cliff edge” scenario is undesirable, what is the OPCC’s strategy in the event that direct funding is not renewed (e.g. budget reallocation)?

Ref: paragraph 5.3 – ‘The OPCC Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning and Local Authority Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager are now looking again at how a sustainable model could be developed within a further reduced funding pot’

Question: Surely another option is for funding to be reallocated to continue this important programme at full strength?

Response to both questions: The OPCC is supporting the local authority to develop an offer of Domestic Abuse services which manages the risks within the anticipated significantly reduced funding envelope. This partnership working will ensure there is an offer of support for all victims of domestic abuse. It will be based on the Domestic Abuse Strategy agreed by all public and third sector partners.

5.1.6 *Ref: paragraph 5.5 – ‘In particular issues around move on housing have been raised’*

Question: What does this mean?

Response: Before a victim can leave a refuge new housing for them to move onto needs to be identified. There is a shortage of local authority properties available in some parts of the county which means victims have to wait in the refuge until accommodation is available. There is work ongoing with the local authority housing providers to address this issue.

5.1.7 *Ref: paragraph 6.4 – ‘The project secured impressive outcomes for young people during the three years. This funding ended on March 31, 2020. A small amount of funding has been secured to operate this work on a reduced scale with pathways into Embrace from the Hub’.*

Question: Surely if a project has “impressive outcomes” for a key Police and Crime Plan objective, it should be a priority to secure continued funding – from elsewhere in the budget if necessary?

Response: A small amount of funding of £50k has been secured to continue this service and provide 1 to 1 counselling for 100 young victims of crime. A fifth of this (£10k) has been awarded from the Acting Commissioner’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Fund. The OPCC is actively supporting the charity to identify additional funding streams. The charity was successful in securing money from the recent Ministry of Justice Extraordinary Covid-19 Fund (see paragraph 5.1.9 below).

- 5.1.8 *Ref: paragraph 7.1 – ‘The reduction in the Victim and Witness Hub’s court workload enabled them to provide an interim solution to the Bobby Scheme’s inability to safely support elderly victims of crime.’*

Question: Could the Acting Commissioner describe how this has worked out?

Response: The Bobby Scheme has now re-opened (following the Covid-19 crisis) and is now picking up the support for elderly victims of property-related crime. Prior to that staff in the Victim and Witness Hub had been contacting these victims and offering emotional telephone-based support. They dealt with 75 referrals.

- 5.1.9 *Ref: paragraph 7.4 – ‘A new fund has just been released which will provide contingency funding for specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence support services based in the county. This money, which is coming from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice is being managed by the OPCC. Details on the process being used to allocate funds will be available on the OPCC website in due course’*

Question: Are these funds now being allocated?

Response: Cambridgeshire OPCC received 14 bids for the £288k fund which were assessed by two experienced commissioners: the OPCC’s Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning and the Local Authority Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager alongside an independent consultant. Recommendations were presented to the Acting Commissioner for sign off before being submitted to the Ministry of Justice for final approval. The Ministry of Justice approved all awards and the following 12 organisations were made aware on the 24th June 2020 that they were successful:

- **Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership - £41,269.52**
The service is continuing to develop the virtual support model and future proofing to deal with increased demand. The bid included funding for secure online counselling rooms, online meeting space, appropriate support and governance (HR, IT), contribution to staff overheads and additional equipment. The service is also building capacity through additional volunteer recruitment and training through online mechanisms.
- **The Meadows Children and Family Wing – £13,825.94**
Increased staff hours to meet increased demand; technology to develop virtual support model. The service has an evidenced demand and families waiting to access support.
- **Choices - £27,228.41**
Increase in staff hours to support and manage increase in demand and need for counselling provision. The charity will offer symptom management sessions and are developing a virtual 'self-help' resources (webinar). The bid includes resources to enable the service to evolve into a new way of working.
- **One Voice 4 Travellers - £20,122**
This bid builds on the initial work to enable the ongoing running of the services through a remote working model in response to an increase in demand for support. This provides a service to a traditionally hard to reach group of survivors.
- **NSPCC - £1,542.12**
This bid funds individual issue resources for young people accessing locally commissioned services to enable practitioners to hold effective virtual therapy sessions.
- **Refuge - £27,213.24**
This bid funds increased staff hours to enhance the support provided to clients. It also provides flexible funding to provide families moving into safe housing with domestic equipment which would be usually be funded from donations.

- **Peterborough Women's Aid - £29,796.95**
This bid funds increased staff hours to enhance the support provided to clients. It also provides flexible funding to provide families moving into safe housing with domestic equipment which would be usually be funded from donations.
- **Family Action - £23,056.80**
This bid funds increased staff hours and resources for locally commissioned service to respond to increase in demand for support for children affected by domestic abuse. It also provides additional resource to support for families affected by child to parent violence through the virtual delivery of family-support interventions.
- **The Hampton Trust (Hampshire and The Isle of Wight) - £12,672**
This bid funds the development of a virtual support model for low-level relationship domestic abuse offenders to address heightened stress in households caused by lockdown. The service is already commissioned locally.
- **Embrace Child Victims of Crime - £37,400**
This bid funds the development of a new way to deliver counselling to respond to increased demand which cannot be safely delivered through traditional methodology. In particular the charity, which is commissioned locally, is exploring walk and talk counselling and offering online service provision.
- **Cambridge Women's Aid - £35,039.20**
This bid funds increased staff hours (and technology to enable access) to enhance the support provided to clients. It also provides flexible funding to provide families moving into safe housing with domestic equipment which would be usually be funded from donations and additional resources required by families.
- **Cambridgeshire Deaf Association - £9,941.71**
This funds additional staff resources and technology to meet increased demand for services for a traditionally hard to reach group of survivors. It will enable staff to quickly respond to vulnerable victims through 1-1 video conferencing.

Information on the fund and these funding awards was reported to the Acting Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board on the 2nd July 2020 - 'Covid-19 Extraordinary Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services, Agenda Item 12.

5.2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN VICTIMS THEME PERFORMANCE REPORT

Agenda Item 5.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

- 5.2.1 *Ref: paragraph 4.1.3 – '56.4% of people surveyed in the 12 months ending March 2020 agreed that the Constabulary was dealing with the things that matter to people in their local community ... in Fenland where confidence levels fell below 50%'*

Question: What is the Acting Commissioner's strategy in addressing these poor confidence levels?

Response: The number of people in Fenland surveyed was a low number and consequently is reflected as a bigger percentage. The Assistant Chief Constable has tasked the Constabulary to look if there are any underlying issues, however, confidence has risen in the last two months. Officers continue to work closely with the community and publicise the good work they are doing.

The Acting Commissioner's Engagement Strategy plots out a series of opportunities, including monthly surgeries, offered via Teams, in line with social distancing requirements and representative Parish Council briefings to feedback local concerns in a timely manner. The next Parish Council for the Fenland area will be held on the 14th September 2020.

- 5.2.2 *Ref: paragraph 6.1.4 – ‘CARA went live in January. This enabled us to refer low risk Domestic Abuse offenders in the programme. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this has unfortunately now been suspended’*

Question: What is CARA?

Response: CARA stands for ‘Caution and Relationship Abuse’, which is a project run by the Hampton Trust. It is an intervention designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and is open to an offender as part of a conditional caution. CARA is geared towards drawing the offender’s attention to their negative behaviours, and offer strategies to de-escalate conflict and improve family relationships. The Constabulary’s Out of Court Disposal Team will carry out three tests to ensure that the candidate is capable of taking part in the course and engaging in group activities. Those suffering from minor issues will not be prevented from attending however, it maybe decided to add rehabilitative conditions as well as attendance on the course.

- 5.2.3 *Ref: paragraph 6.1.5 - ‘There continues to be scrutiny around the use of positive action and presumption of bail (over RUI) for Domestic Abuse Cases. One-to-one feedback is provided to officers where it has been identified that they have incorrectly stepped outside of force policy and not taken positive action’*

Question: It is unclear from this what the scale of the problem is. Could the Acting Commissioner comment?

Response: The Constabulary some time ago made changes in its policy over the use of bail and Released Under Investigation (RUI) for higher harm/risk thematic areas such as Domestic Abuse. There is a presumption of bail over RUI for Domestic Abuse with officers having to justify stepping outside this policy. There has been a noted increase in the use of bail over RUI for Domestic Abuse. The Assistant Chief Constable has tasked a review of all vulnerability strands and this will be reported to the Constabulary’s Force Performance Board in July.

The courts continue to see high numbers of Domestic Abuse cases being dealt with by postal court requisitions rather than charge and bail, given that the majority of the court work has been adjourned since the end of March. The Acting Commissioner is aware of the efforts being made by the Constabulary in addressing this. It is still very much on the Criminal Justice Board’s agenda and will continue to be reviewed going forward.

- 5.2.4 *Ref: paragraph 6.1.5*

Question: The Law Society wrote in November 2019, “We are calling on the Government to improve RUI by introducing a range of measures including placing time limits on their usage and ensuring it is no longer used for people who are a potential risk to the public.” Would the Acting Commissioner like to comment on this?

Response: The consultation in relation to bail and RUI provisions ran between the 5th February to the 29th May 2020. The outcome of the consultation has yet to be published, but legislative change to address the concerns are likely, including time limits. Both the Acting Commissioner and the Constabulary welcome and support this.

6. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – COVID-19 CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Agenda Item 9.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

- 6.1 *Ref: paragraph 4.4 – ‘Whilst regular calls, and oversight of custody records is a positive step that maintains a level of oversight, it is still not an ideal medium-long term replacement for face-*

to-face visits with detainees. Cambridgeshire OPCC will be keeping a close eye on innovations being trialled by other schemes, such as video visits, to understand how these processes could be utilised in Cambridgeshire'

Question: Surely the resource implications for video-calling (or even just telephoning) people in custody are low enough to implement now, rather than wait?

Response: The Acting Commissioner recognises the need to move as quickly as possible to re-introduce more in-depth processes. The matter was discussed with the Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) at their panel meeting on the 1st June 2020. The aim was to establish what they, as volunteers felt was desirable, achievable and most importantly safe and secure to implement in the absence of physical visiting. A number of ideas were put forward which will be explored by the OPCC Scheme Manager.

Any additional measures, or new processes need to ensure they continue to allow for consent of the detainee, allow the safe and secure transmission of any data, including video / audio, and do not place the welfare of ICVs, detainee or staff at risk. The key issues for consideration are:

- ICV access to technology - not issued force laptops
- Consistency in approach - not all ICVs have the same access to technology
- Safety and security of information
- Demand on custody suites video technology given the increased use of virtual courts means the technology is in constant use.

7. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – OFFENDERS THEME – OPCC AND BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

Agenda Item 5.2, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

7.1 Ref: paragraph 6.3

Question: How is the impact of the increased grant (45k) to Peterborough Outside Links being measured?

Response: The Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant recipients in 2020/21 remain largely unchanged. In this way, £30k was allocated to the Outside Links service at the start of this financial year. But it was recognised that this should be kept under review given the increased demand from the Constabulary's Out of Court Disposal Team that has been in place since December 2019. Following monitoring of demand placed on the Outside Links service in the first quarter of the Constabulary's Out of Court Disposal Team's work, it was confirmed that additional resource would be required so a £15k uplift was agreed. This will be subject to the usual regular monitoring requirements required for Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants.

Compliance with the diversions put in place remains strong (over 90%). As the Constabulary report highlights, within the first four months of the Out of Court Disposal Team being introduced, 886 offenders had been diverted away from the Criminal Justice System. Many of these investigations would previously have resulted in No Further Action by police, due to insufficient evidence or the victim not supporting prosecution. A small sample of victims were contacted about their experience of the Out of Court Disposal process. Most were content with the outcomes and additional communication has been built into the process to address the concerns of the small number who were not satisfied or did not understand the process. An evaluation will be carried out after the first twelve months which will consider the impact on reoffending.

7.2 Ref: paragraph 7.5

Question: How effective is the Partnership model described in addressing vulnerability and reducing re-offending

Response: The Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board, chaired by the Acting Commissioner, ensures a countywide strategic overview and co-ordinated multi-agency response. High risk delivery groups, key countywide prevention workstreams and Community Safety Partnerships all contribute to work to keep Cambridgeshire safe.

Across the partnership landscape there is a strong consensus on the need to build on existing services and to work in a more holistic way, breaking down traditional boundaries between services. Flexible ways of working have been established across a range of services during the pandemic. The recovery infrastructure and planning put in place in Cambridgeshire should enable the system to consider how these positive aspects might be built on in the future. However, pressures on resources are recognised, with upper tier authorities having to make significant savings even before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Partnership arrangements will be considered at the next Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board in the Autumn.

8. DEMAND HUB

'Police and Crime Plan Victims Theme Performance Report', Agenda Item 5.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

'Demand Hub Review', Agenda Item 8.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

- 8.1 *Ref: paragraph 4.1.1, 26th May 2020 – 'The latter remains a key inhibitor to achieving sustainable improvements. This is being considered as part of the Demand Hub review; which aims to deliver recommendations by the end of May'.*

Question: Is the review complete? Is the Acting Commissioner satisfied that the review's recommendations will address reduced performance in responding to 'Prompt' graded incidents?

Response: The review is complete and a report was presented by the Chief Constable to the Acting Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board meeting on the 2nd July 2020.

Recent improvements have been achieved in the last quarter with prompt grade incident attendance, including prompt graded domestics. This coincides with the Covid pandemic, which, during the lockdown period, resulted in reduced calls for service increasing capacity for officers to attend all incidents far quicker. The focus of the Demand Hub is on maintaining call handling times and the timeliness of the initial response.

The Demand Hub have also developed and proposed a new grading procedure which will ensure prompt grade incidents are in receipt of extra scrutiny and are afforded increased priority compared to incidents with less risk. This grading procedure, which is in line with national best practice, was supported by the recent Demand Hub review and is now subject to local governance checks prior to implementation.

- 8.2 *Ref: paragraph 4.4, 2nd July 2020 – 'Collectively the principle issues across the business areas for further development can be summarised as: Training, Supervision, Working practices, including multi taskings for staff, Capacity and growth to match demand*

Questions:

Given these areas for development are having an impact on effective and efficient service delivery:

- Is the Demand Hub model the right one?
- Does it have the right mix of services within it?

- Is the timescale set out for improvements swift enough?
- How are these areas for development being prioritised? Which is being tackled in which of the two Phases mentioned?
- What impact measures will be applied to ensure improvement actions have been successful?

Given the Demand Hub went Live 2018 I note that it is working below establishment with staff multi-tasking and making mistakes (errors) off the back of this. (Agenda 8 Point 4 Key findings) What impact is this having on the Investigation Management Unit and outcomes of investigations? Are prosecutions & ongoing investigations being jeopardised or put at risk because of these issues while we await the review?

Response: The Acting Commissioner considers that the Demand Hub is a vital area given that so much of the Constabulary's service delivery starts from this first point of contact with the public. He is pleased that the review is complete and progress is being made to the address findings.

The response to those findings is one for the Chief Constable and his team to deal with as it is an operational matter. However, the Assistant Chief Constable has provided the Acting Commissioner with assurance regarding the review and the outcomes in order to deliver the continuous improvement, cultural and training recommendations. It is anticipated that these will create efficiencies which will reduce the need for some of the additional resources within these initial recommendations. This work will allow the Constabulary to feed more refined resource requirements into the financial planning cycle in November.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY

9.1 Question: *It appears that the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board has not met since January. What is the future role and programme for this board?*

Response: Strong partnership working has been the backbone of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) structure throughout the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic. The thematic delivery groups, who co-ordinate high risk areas of work such as domestic abuse, were intrinsically linked into the both the Response and now the Recovery meetings. Therefore, the July meeting was removed from diaries to reduce the demand on the county's senior leaders time as oversight and governance of this work was in place in other new forums. A meeting is being arranged for early Autumn to bring partners together to draw out new ways of working and re-focus on the prevention agenda. The Constabulary are committed to driving this approach.

At the 2nd July Business Co-ordination Board, the Assistant Chief Constable updated the Acting Commissioner on the Constabulary planned partnership approach to prevention and problem solving, which includes a partnership event later in the year. The Acting Commissioner will be provided with a further verbal update as to the approach following the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board meeting in the Autumn, with a full report on the outcome of the partnership event submitted to the Business Co-ordination Board in December 2020/January 2021.

9.2 Question: *I note that the Community Safety Accredited Scheme is being reviewed. Could the Acting Commissioner provide an update on the role he sees for CSAS going forward, and how he is contributing to the Constabulary's review.*

Response: The Acting Commissioner is supportive of the purpose of Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and is clear that the Constabulary should never work in isolation. Collaboration with partners is key to ensuring the public feel they receive the right support from the right place at the right time. He is supportive of the delegation of powers where the Chief Constable feels these are appropriate to deliver outcomes for community safety, thus ensuring by working together Cambridgeshire is safe place. The OPCC will link with the Constabulary

regarding the review and will report back to the Panel as required.

10. ROADS POLICING

10.1 Question: In light of the Secretary of State for Transport's commitment in Parliament (in response to a question) on 2 July to enable Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, permitting local authorities to use civil enforcement powers for additional classes of moving traffic offences, will the Acting Commissioner be seeking to assist local authorities to take up these powers, in particular the districts that currently do not make use of civil enforcement powers? There would be clear benefits to the constabulary in reducing workload and, importantly, redirecting the public's expectations of the police to enforce traffic offences that rarely rank highly on an assessment of threat, risk and harm. There are also large social benefits deriving from local authorities being able to keep cycle and bus routes clear of parked vehicles, improving the safety of cycling and reliability of bus services.

Response: Whilst we acknowledge the Secretary of State's commitment to bring into force Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act, both the Constabulary and the Acting Commissioner would have to await the details of what this means in practice before decisions can be made regarding any enforcement.

However, the Acting Commissioner is clear and supportive of partnership working being key in dealing with issues of community concern, and that the most appropriate authorities deal with matters using the powers available to them. Should any partners wish to explore the use of any civil powers that maybe available to tackle offences that otherwise the Constabulary would have to deal with, then the Chief Constable would discuss any proposal with the Acting Commissioner before a decision is made.

10.2 Question: How is the Acting Commissioner's office responding to the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety's report on Roads policing and its contribution to road safety.

Response: The Commissioner is committed to improving road safety within the county and in supporting the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership. The OPCC recently commissioned a Road Safety Partnership Strategy which will be published shortly.

The OPCC is not intending to respond directly to the Parliamentary Advisory Council's report. The Acting Commissioner's focus in respect of roads policing will be on the forthcoming report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on roads policing. HMICFRS were asked by the Department for Transport to carry out a thematic inspection of road policing, the scope of which is given below regarding:

- how well understood and applied are national and local police strategies for roads policing;
- how well resourced forces are to carry out road policing related enforcement and investigative activity;
- how effective forces are at engaging with public and partners to reduce road casualties;
- how forces ensure that officers and staff are appropriately trained to provide effective first response and specialist capabilities.

Following consideration of the findings in the published report, the Chief Constable will submit a report to the Acting Commissioner's Business Co-ordination Board for discussion as to how any recommendations will be dealt with by the Constabulary. This will then able the Acting Commissioner to undertake his statutory duty to prepare comments on the report, and publish these together with the Chief Constable's comments those of the Chief Constable, and send these to the Home Secretary and HMICFRS.

10.3 Question: Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are implementing temporary traffic management schemes to support active travel. Is the Acting Commissioner monitoring compliance with these and discussing with Highways officers and the constabulary where enforcement is needed?

Response: The Acting Commissioner is mindful that he is not able by law to get involved in operational policing or enforcement matters. Discussions regarding any operational enforcement is the responsibility of the Chief Constable and relevant partners.

11. COVID-19 CRISIS

11.1 Question: Could the Acting Commissioner give the panel some indication of measures that are being put in place now to allow for the assessment of the effect of the pandemic on the work of the police, both in the short- and long-term.

Response: The Acting Commissioner has sought the Constabulary's response to this as it relates to operational policing matters.

The Constabulary worked with local partners from January to monitor the emergence of the Covid-19 virus. The formal establishment of structures (Strategic Coordination Group and Tactical Coordination Group) occurred in early March and these have continued at least weekly since. The Constabulary enacted standing business continuity plans in early March. A running approach of identifying issues, risks and opportunities, assessing and responding has been the backbone of the response. This has been accompanied by regular strategic and operational analysis of impact.

The demand for policing services saw a reduction in the early stages of the lockdown with reduced calls, incidents and reported crimes. It is hypothesised that crime levels are likely to maintain a level akin to normality and there is nothing currently to suggest any likely spike in crime or disorder beyond normal fluctuations. Nationally there has been an increase in reports of domestic abuse; the hypothesis being influence due to lockdown restrictions, closer proximity and greater general pressures in residential setting. The Constabulary continues to look closely and respond to this increase, with the OPCC recently securing £288k in additional funding to assist domestic abuse and sexual violence services.

Generally compliance with rules on the use of public spaces during lockdown were observed, with the Constabulary being one of the police forces using enforcement powers least nationally.

Public engagement has been weekly through an elected member's conference each Friday, where each public authority updates and takes questions. The LRF has a communities sub-group where third sector and public voices have been participants in work.

Following an initial "Response" phase, a move is made to "Recovery" which is seeking to move to a new normality, learn lessons and plan for the future. The Cambridgeshire LRF is currently running a concurrent phase. A longer-term Recovery phase is also in motion, looking at societal and economic impacts in Cambridgeshire and opportunities to build on the many positives that have been seen in the collective response so far.

11.2 Question: There is anecdotal evidence that there has been a significant impact on lack of schooling for many teenagers during the pandemic and that this has manifested itself in certain activities and behaviour. This clearly is an issue for the multi-agency task forces, but what if any has been the impact on the force, either in manpower or in direct financial resourcing, of the lack of schooling.

Response: The Acting Commissioner has sought the Constabulary's response to this as it relates to operational policing matters.

The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and partners have recorded a decrease during lockdown in terms of safeguarding referrals. However, as a partnership they are working hard to understand and mitigate the risk around 'hidden demand'. Safeguarding referrals have now returned to pre-Covid levels. What has been noticeable is where young people have come to

the attention of safeguarding services during lockdown, the risk has been high especially around missing episodes and possible exploitation. The Constabulary and their partners have flexed their resources to manage this risk. This has not had any real impact on resourcing as other areas of risk have fallen, as they are able to divert available resources to tackling the escalated risk. The Constabulary's Safer School Officers have continued with their work, adapting where necessary. The Constabulary is working with Pupil Referral Units which has helped.

12. STOP AND SEARCH

12.1 Question: Following on from the successful and thought provoking Black Lives Matters matters in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can the Acting Commissioner confirm how he has made sure that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough police do not behaviour in a racially motivated way, especially with stop and search tactics etc?

Response: Whilst the Acting Commissioner is satisfied that the Chief Constable has measures in place to keep our communities safe, he is clear that there is no room for complacency. What is important is that there are appropriate levels of scrutiny, challenge and support to ensure that policing principles and standards of professional behaviour are embedded in everyday policing; ones which the public can have confidence in.

One of the Acting Commissioner's priorities going forward is to further strengthen the way in which integrity is scrutinised. The Chief Constable is supportive of this.

Discussions have already taken place between the OPCC and the Constabulary on how the OPCC can learn from the Constabulary's current Stop Search scrutiny arrangements, with a view to the Acting Commissioner having an independent scrutiny group with a wider remit on integrity issues, such as stop search and complaints. The aims of such a group will be to achieve greater transparency and community involvement, and be representative of the communities the Constabulary serves. Although the details of group have yet to be decided, including its terms of reference, it will be empowered to make observations and feedback, which together plays an important role in monitoring performance and identifying opportunities for learning for the Constabulary.

12.2 Question: A couple of high profile social media complaints have been sent to the IOPC in regards to stop and search and what could be perceived as racially motivated. How has the acting PCC reassured himself that this is not behaviour as normal?

Response: The Acting Commissioner is unable to comment on referrals and or complaints that are being considered and or dealt with by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

However, both the Acting Commissioner and the Chief Constable are clear that integrity runs through all aspects of policing from recruitment, training, everyday policing, to supporting communities, and dealing with complaints when people feel dissatisfied with the service they have received. As stated in response to a previous question, the Acting Commissioner is satisfied that the Chief Constable has measures in place to ensure that policing principles and standards of professional behaviour are embedded in everyday policing; ones which the public can have confidence in.

Stop and Search powers are designed to enable the police to respond effectively to crime. Understandably, public interest in this police tactic remains extremely high, and there are public expectations that policing is legitimate, fair and effective. There are a number of independent checks and balances in policing in place to protect the rights and welfare of those who come into contact with the police. These are balanced against the importance of using the powers proportionately and having effective scrutiny mechanisms in place to provide community confidence in policing.

Training is a fundamental part of policing throughout the police service as a whole and throughout the career of those within it regardless of which force they are employed with or where they are deployed. Decisions in respect of any training requirements is one for the

police force itself, but mandatory equality and diversity training is undertaken, and training given on the use of Stop and Search.

13. COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS

13.1 Question: To that how many racial motivated complaints have been made against police officers in the past 5 years?

Response:

The Acting Commissioner has oversight of the police complaints system and undertakes dip sampling of complaints and monitors the work of the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department (PSD) in their handling of complaints and allegations made. Racial discrimination is a complaint allegation recording category. All discriminatory behaviour allegations are investigated by the Constabulary's PSD. Lessons learnt from complaints is key in order to improve the service to the public and communities.

The Constabulary may hold information on the numbers of complaints made over the past five years.

14. SOUTHERN POLICING HUB

14.1 Question: Given the new consultation on the proposed police hub move to Milton does the Acting Commissioner it appropriate to pursue public opinion when the matter has not been to planning committee as yet, given the plan are on green build land.

Response: The Acting Commissioner is committed to both supporting the Chief Constable's operational requirement for a new police station and to representing the views and concerns of the public.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service actively encourages applicants to engage their communities and stakeholders prior to submitting a planning application. This encourages the community to provide their feedback, and highlight concerns, and gives us the opportunity to consider the feedback and amend the application (if possible or necessary) to reflect this feedback.

14.2 Question: When can the panel view any proposed plans for the remaining Cambridge city centre police station, and when will Cambridge city residents be consulted on?

Response: The Constabulary expects to submit a planning application for the work required to move to the new city centre location in early 2021 and, if required, will consult on this proposal in more detail closer to the time. Proposed plans for the city centre police station will be provided as part of the consultation.

Should the planning application for the Milton station be successful, the Constabulary expects the city centre station to be operational before or alongside completion and transition into the new Hub.

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/>

'Police and Crime Plan – Victims Theme – OPCC work to deliver broader partnership support', Agenda Item 5.1, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

'Police Crime and Plan Victims Theme Performance Report', Agenda Item 5.2, Business Co-

ordination Board, 26th May 2020

'Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – Covid-19 Contingency Arrangements',
Agenda Item 9.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th May 2020

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-26th-may-2020/>

'Covid-19 Extraordinary Ministry of Justice funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence support services', Agenda Item 12.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

'Police and Crime Plan – Offenders Theme - OPCC and broader partnership support', Agenda Item 5.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

'Police and Crime Plan Offenders Theme – Cambridgeshire Constabulary work to deliver actions', Agenda Item 5.1, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

'Demand Hub Review', Agenda Item 8.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 2nd July 2020

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/decision-making/business-coordination-board/bcb-2nd-july-2020/>