

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
24th March 2021	Public Report

Report of Acting Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner

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NON-CRIME RELATED DEMAND ON POLICING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with information regarding the non-crime demand on policing within Cambridgeshire Constabulary (the “Constabulary”) in response to a request from the Panel at their 3rd February 2021 meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this 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 Following on from the 3rd February 2021 Panel meeting, the Panel asked for a report on the following:

- Analysis of the oft-cited “80% non-crime related demand on policing”. As far as reasonably possible we would like a breakdown that is quantified in terms of time and money. The report should identify areas where the police shares responsibility with partner agencies, especially where this has changed over time, necessitating the police to assume greater responsibilities.

- 4.2 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) the Panel has a role in scrutinising the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Acting Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions. The Policing Protocol Order 2011 (the “Protocol”) is clear that an effective, constructive working relationship between Acting Commissioners, Chief Constables, and Panels is more likely to be achieved where clarity of understanding are at their highest as this will enhance policing for local communities. The Protocol goes on to state that whilst Panels provides checks and balances in relation to the performance of the Acting Commissioner, they do not scrutinise the Chief Constable.

- 4.3 Recognising the spirit of the Protocol, the Acting Commissioner asked the Chief Constable to provide information for this report. As such information regarding demand and partnership working is provided. However, the Panel are asked to note that the request in terms of quantified data in terms of time and money has not been provided. The Acting Commissioner is cognisant of the current demands on the Constabulary in respect of dealing with the Covid pandemic, and as such the need for proportionate governance is key. It is also worth noting that the Acting Commissioner does not currently feel the need for him to ask the Chief Constable for this information in order to hold him to account. As the Panel will be aware from the Business Co-ordination reports they

receive, the Acting Commissioner receives regular performance reports from the Chief Constable in respect of how the Constabulary are dealing with the demand placed upon them. The Panel will also have seen the monthly and detailed revenue and capital budget monitoring reports.

- 4.4 However, for reference, the Constabulary's Force Management Statement provides detail on the current and future demand the force expects to face, costings, and how the force will change and improve its workforce and other assets to cope with that demand.

5. DEMAND OVERVIEW

- 5.1 For the purposes of this report, the Constabulary have reviewed the incoming demand via calls, online and webchat and identified what categories of policing these relate to and how many crimes were raised.
- 5.2 A Demand Overview for the Constabulary has been provided at Appendix 1. This demand overview provides a high-level summary of the demand on the Constabulary and what areas of policing these falls into.
- 5.3 The data set used is for 12 months ending December 2020. It should be noted that this reporting period is in part during the Covid pandemic and therefore this data is not representative of the volume of business in a usual year but is representative in terms of general profile.
- 5.4 The data does not include demand that has been self-generated by officers or staff, such as stop-search, traffic stops, community events or general engagement. Equally it does not include demand generated by members of the public entering the Enquiry Offices or directly into the Constabulary through agency links such as within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- 5.5 Not all calls/reports will result in an incident or a crime being raised. In some cases, a call will be dealt with at the first point of contact, or the caller signposted to the appropriate agency. A member of the public may be calling to provide an update about an existing incident or an ongoing investigation, therefore there will be no need to raise another report. There may also be multiple calls received about the same incident; this is often the case for example with road traffic collisions.
- 5.6 Over the 12 month period, more than 178,000 incidents were raised, with the majority (ca. 90%) originating from a 999 or 101 call. 18% of those incidents were closed as crime, or crime related, and the necessary crime, or crimes, recorded. Over the same 12 month period, more than 63,000 notifiable offences¹ were recorded. Some of these were raised directly on the crime system without an incident record being created; others will have been reported as an incident and then recorded as a crime, typically after officer attendance.
- 5.7 The majority of incidents into the Constabulary are for police related matters and the highest proportion of those being Public Safety followed by Crime. The 44.3% of Public Safety calls have varying categories, 51.7% of calls in this category are for potential high harm issues of safety/security concern for someone.
- 5.8 The data provided demonstrates the varying responsibility and work the police undertake which is wider than dealing with just crime.

6. PARTNERSHIP WORKING – OPCC UPDATE

- 6.1 The Constabulary work closely with partner agencies in varying ways. It cannot easily be determined of the calls/reports into the Constabulary what percentage are diverted to partner agencies rather than police to deal. A definite figure cannot be provided over the incidents/calls that involved partnership engagement to address the matter.

¹ A Notifiable Offence is any offence where the police must inform the Home Office by completing a crime report form for statistical purposes.

- 6.2 Recognising that non-crime related issues can drive significant demand for policing, and in order to make the best use of limited resources and avoid duplication, the police understand they must work closely with partners, coordinating resources and sharing information to find sustainable solutions.
- 6.3 Like all public sector agencies, the police operate within a complex landscape where a number of different factors drive people interaction with the criminal justice system as victims or offenders. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment for Victims, Suspects and Offenders 2019/20 tells us that the impact of crime on victims varies depending on personal circumstances like health and finances. It also tells us that most offenders have multiple and complex needs, and the impact of no or inappropriate accommodation is an important driver of reoffending, as are education, training and employment, mental health problems and substance misuse. Need or vulnerability in one area drives demand for several organisations, and organisations needs to work together, looking at issues holistically in order to manage, and ultimately prevent problems.
- 6.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gives statutory responsibility to the police, along with other “responsible authorities”, including local authorities to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their communities, and therefore a key delivery vehicle to coordinate activity, share information and promote community safety in Cambridgeshire are the six Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) operating within District/Unitary Council boundaries.
- 6.5 The six CSPs in Cambridgeshire have identified several areas of work where the complexity or wider impact of those issues would suggest that a joined-up approach would add value, not only at a thematic level (e.g. drug and alcohol misuse) but at a place-based level (e.g. a countywide approach). Accountability for delivery remains with the Responsible Authorities and statutory CSPs, but partners work together to deliver more efficient and effective responses to problems.
- 6.6 The police understand that key to preventing crime is tackling the drivers of crime, and do step forward to offer joint leadership within this partnership landscape, even in areas that may typically fall more to health partners, for example mental health, or drug and alcohol misuse. However, it is clear at a strategic and operational level change in police policy and procedure alone will not change the system. For example, police officers are often the first point of call in a crisis, and can receive training on how to better respond to someone in mental health crisis, recognising vulnerability rather than criminality, and seeking to divert people away from the criminal justice system and into support. However, ultimately the police have no say in the long-term care or treatment available to that person, and without the appropriate support in place, the likelihood is that someone will face continued crisis and trauma and increasing their chance of entering the criminal justice system as a victim, and offender or both.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary Demand Overview – 12 months ending December 2020

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

‘Police and Crime Plan 2017-20 Community Safety and Criminal Justice Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/10/Police-and-Crime-Plan-Aug-2019-1.pdf>

‘Cambridgeshire Constabulary Force Management Statement’, May 2019

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/assets/PDFs/About/Transparency/AboutUs-OurForce-ForceManagementStatement-2019.pdf>

‘Victim and Offender Needs Assessment’, Agenda Item 7.0, Business Co-ordination Board, 26th November 2020

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

'The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Needs Assessment for Victims, Suspects and Offenders 2019/20', October 2020

<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/communitysafety/topics/victims-and-offenders/>

'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Safety Agreement 2017'

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/02/FINAL-Countywide-Community-Safety-Agreement-2017-20-Website-Copy.pdf>