

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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TITLE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

1.	PURPOSE
1.1	To provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with details of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) approach to criminal justice and community safety.
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	Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) the Panel has a role in scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) in the exercise of his statutory functions.
4.2	As well as the Commissioner’s duties for holding the Chief Constable to account, the Act places wide-ranging statutory duties and powers on Commissioners relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working in co-operation with community safety partners; and • with criminal justice agencies, making arrangements so that their functions provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mutual duties for co-operative working; • having regard to respective priorities; and • PCC powers to convene community safety and criminal justice partners.

4.3	<p>The Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) which sets out how he will deliver against his statutory role set out in the Act. Work to deliver against the Commissioner’s duties relating to criminal justice and community safety cover the breadth of the plan, with a particular focus through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting Communities first • Crime Prevention • Supporting Victims and Witnesses; and • Robust Enforcement.
5.	WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
5.1	<p>Given the reciprocal duties for co-operative working, delivery in this area is very much based on working in partnership with a wide range of local agencies and organisations. The Commissioner’s convening powers also enable him to provide leadership and transparency within the system. There are a wide range of partners that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (the “OPCC”) work with regularly. In addition to the police, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Departments – the Home Office is the lead government department for drugs policy, crime, counter terrorism, police. While the Ministry of Justice is the lead on justice and the justice system, courts, prisons and probation. • Local Authorities – under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 local authorities have wide-ranging duties relating to reducing crime and disorder. As well as specific responsibilities relating to issues such as anti-social behaviour and youth justice, other key responsibilities also impact on crime and policing, from housing to early help support for families and road safety. • The Probation Service – has responsibility for the supervision of offenders in the community and providing advice to courts for all offenders. A new probation service model was introduced in summer 2021 which has prompted significant change. Local links are focussed on the Local Delivery Unit for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as well as the regional team for the East of England. • Peterborough Prison – HMP Peterborough is the resettlement prison for Cambridgeshire. This means many people who will return to Cambridgeshire on release will spend the end of their sentence here, where they will be supported in preparing for release and addressing their resettlement needs. • Crown Prosecution Service (the “CPS”) – the CPS is independent and prosecutes criminal cases that have been investigated by the police. • HM Courts and Tribunal Service (“HMCTS”) - HMCTS is responsible for the administration of criminal courts.

- Health – the health system is complex. Local links include public health which is charged with improving people’s health and levelling up health disparities. For example, public health colleagues commission local drug and alcohol treatment services. NHS England commission some other health services within the criminal justice system including prison-based healthcare. The newly formed Integrated Care System operates across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to commission health services, including mental health services.
- Combined Authority – supporting growth across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there are links with the work of the Combined Authority, from skills to transport.

5.2 Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there is a complex backdrop of mutual duties for co-operative working across multiple agencies and through multi-agency partnerships, including those highlighted below:

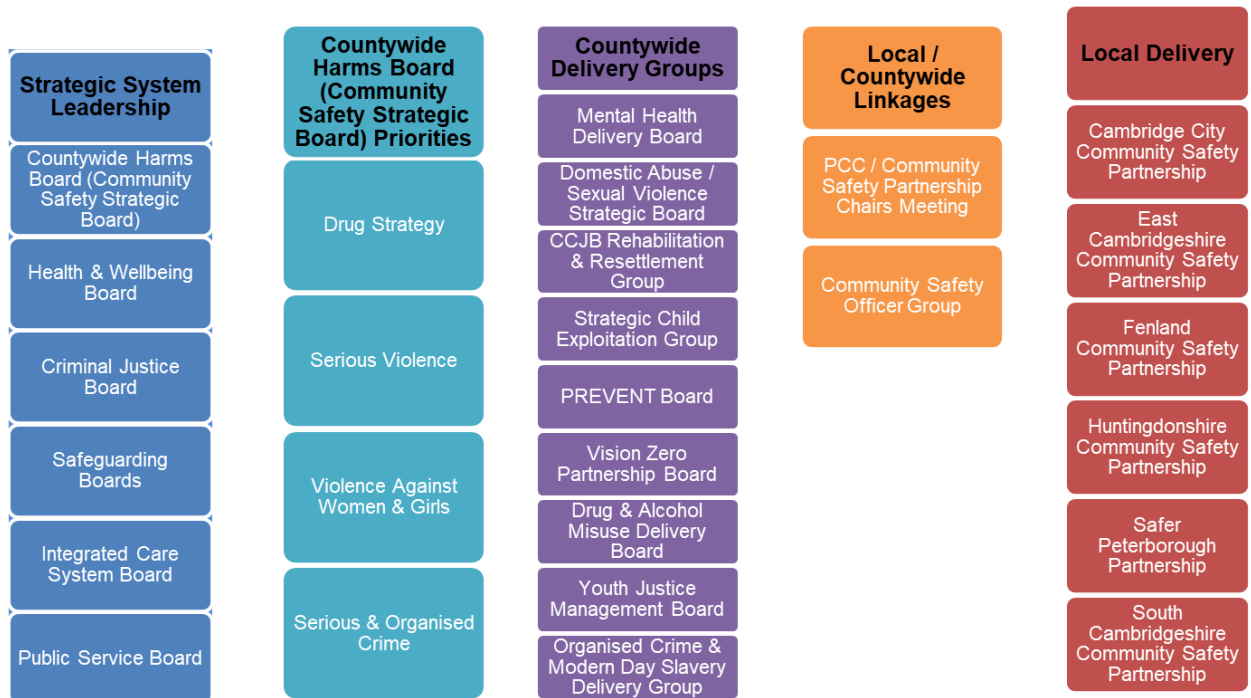


Figure 1 – multi-agency partnerships.

5.3 In the context of changes as a result of the pandemic and significant new national statutory duties, funding and outcome scrutiny (most recently relating to drugs and serious violence), the Countywide High Harms Board, chaired by the Commissioner, has been established. This will provide strategic direction and leadership across four priority issues:

- drugs;
- serious violence;
- violence against women and girls; and
- serious and organised crime.

	The Commissioner has also taken on the role of 'Senior Responsible Owner', to provide oversight for the delivery of the drug strategy locally.
5.4	Countywide delivery groups ranging from the Domestic Abuse / Sexual Violence Strategic Board to the counter-terrorism PREVENT board are well-established and were identified previously where complexity or wider impact suggests a countywide approach would add value. These groups are chaired by lead officers from Responsible Authorities and undertake needs assessments, develop joint strategies and delivery plans, and monitor outcomes.
5.5	The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the responsible authorities in a local area to work together to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder. These Community Safety Partnerships ("CSPs") are made up of representatives from the police, local authority, fire service, health service, probation, and others (the "Responsible Authorities"). The Act places a mutual duty on these bodies and the Commissioner to co-operate with each other. This includes duties to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder; to complete an annual strategic assessment; and to regularly engage and consult with the community.
6.	CRIMINAL JUSTICE
6.1	The Police and Crime Plan highlights the Commissioner's commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with partners in the Criminal Justice System to ensure those who break the law are brought to justice efficiently and effectively, and are less likely to reoffend; • ensuring criminal justice agencies provide victims and witnesses with the service they are entitled to and are kept informed; and • working in partnership with local criminal justice agencies to ensure when processes are reviewed the impact on victims and witnesses is considered and that they deliver justice quickly.
6.2	One way in which the reciprocal duties relating to criminal justice are fulfilled is through Local Criminal Justice Boards. The Criminal Justice Board for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (the "CJB") is chaired by the Commissioner. The CJB is a non-statutory body whose purpose is to contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System at a local level by bringing together senior strategic partners from the relevant criminal justice agencies such as the police, courts and the CPS. Clearly prosecutorial and judicial independence need to be respected at all times.
6.3	The main Board is supported by partnership sub-groups which provide more operational and tactical co-ordination across the system:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery Group – focused from point of charge to conclusion of court proceedings, including victims and witnesses; • Efficiency Group – operational problem-solving forum; • Rehabilitation and Resettlement Group – focused on reducing reoffending and ensuring effective rehabilitation; • Special Domestic Abuse Court Operations Group – focused on performance locally of the Special Domestic Abuse Court, along with problem solving; • Case File Quality – focused on case progression (Cambridgeshire are national leaders in case file quality) • Integrated Offender Management (“IOM”) Oversight Group – oversight of IOM arrangements for the cross-agency response to the most prolific offenders; and • MAPPA Board – oversight of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements for managing violent and sexual offenders.
6.4	As with arrangements for the independent inspection of policing, criminal justice agencies are also subject to independent inspection. Together the four criminal justice inspectorates (of Constabulary; the Crown Prosecution Service; Prisons; and Probation) also co-operate to address issues which involve more than one agency through the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection.
6.5	The pandemic caused significant disruption to the criminal justice system nationally. National and regional decision making, supported by intense local partnership working through the structures outlined above kept justice moving through the pandemic. As recovery progresses, the Commissioner has been encouraged by the trends seen in the local data and the commitment of partner agencies to improving performance.
6.6	Criminal Justice System Delivery Data Dashboards have started to be published by the Government. These are a valuable tool in drawing together immense volumes of data within the criminal justice system. There are some areas of work locally where the Government have highlighted strong performance and are seeking to understand learning for other areas.
7.	OPCC APPROACH
7.1	<p>In line with the commissioning cycle approach taken by the OPCC, the approach to partnership working also reflects the ‘understand’, ‘plan’, ‘do’, ‘review’ approach. Across wide-ranging themes this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national/local legislation, strategies & consultations – interpretation, co-ordinating responses, implementation, join up; • understanding local context, needs & trends; • horizon scanning risks & opportunities;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partner discussions, problem solving & action planning; • grants & commissioning; • meetings & roundtable events – discussions and papers; • holding to account & grant monitoring; • correspondence and calls with public & councillors; • co-ordinating visits; • responding to media requests.
7.2	<p>The Commissioner’s Annual Report 2021-22 provided a snapshot of the work carried out by the Commissioner and his office, with partners, to contribute to the delivery of the priorities set within the plan. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • championing public concerns and supporting the county’s six Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to address local issues; • partnering an Academy Trust on a pilot scheme to provide a safe and constructive environment for young people outside school hours; • £263K towards youth offending services to work with young people in the criminal justice system to prevent re-offending; • £471K has been invested into the county from the Home Office’s Safer Streets Fund; • funding the Constabulary to enable first-time offenders to access online support programmes to help them address the root causes of their offending; • £78K to support and improve the lives of vulnerable people in Peterborough who have multiple and complex needs, including homelessness, substance misuse and mental ill health; and • establishing a ‘Twinning Project’ at HMP Peterborough to offer prisoners accredited coaching with Peterborough United FC to help reduce reoffending and prepare them for a better life after release.
7.3	<p>Core to the Commissioner’s approach and the Police and Crime Plan is listening to local people and ensuring their concerns are addressed. In terms of championing public concerns and supporting the county’s six Community Safety Partnerships to address local issues, this has included a range of activity, including up to £730,000 to tackle local crime and disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a proactive approach within the OPCC to responding to local issues of concern through correspondence and calls with members of the public and local councillors. The Commissioner has also undertaken a range of visits to understand issues of concern;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing a briefing pack about the work of CSPs with local councillors to support them in accessing and providing support to ensure the swift referral and resolution of community concerns; • all six CSPs now have the capacity in place to co-ordinate problem solving work to tackle local issues that matter to our communities, includes funding from the Commissioner; • new Safer Communities fund opened to CSPs in May to fund local initiatives which reassure people that they are dealing with local issues of concern which matter to them. CSPs are able to bid for up to £5,000 for initiatives which provide a swift response to issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, bike theft and fly tipping; • the Commissioner meets with CSP chairs regularly, to support the sharing of best practice.
7.4	<p>Police and other partners have responded when these issues have been highlighted to them. For example, to inform the development of the Police and Crime Plan, the Commissioner undertook a public survey in summer 2021. One of the top issues highlighted in Cambridge City was bike theft. The Commissioner has championed this issue with partners. Enforcement activity (including a dedicated cycle crime police officer) and joint work with other agencies has had a positive impact on reported levels of crime. In addition, the Commissioner has developed links with the national lead on cycle crime enabling local partners to influence and respond to national activity. The Commissioner has also instigated discussions through the Combined Authority on how local transport initiatives, including those relating to cycling, can design in crime prevention from the outset.</p>
7.5	<p>As well as the responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime, the Commissioner is able to commission other services through the award of crime and disorder reduction grants from the Commissioner’s budget. There are also opportunities to bid into the Home Office or Ministry of Justice for specific time limited funds to support key areas of work. For example, the Home Office Safer Streets Fund is targeted to prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces, neighbourhood crime (such as burglary, robbery and theft) and anti-social behaviour. In July the Government announced Cambridgeshire had once again been successful in the fourth round of this funding, with the OPCC supporting a partnership bid to tackle anti-social behaviour and sexual violence in Wisbech and Peterborough. The grant is worth £634,285 over 15 months and will pay for a range of new initiatives and interventions to keep people safe in the Medworth Ward of Wisbech and Peterborough Central, some of which will include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of two new posts within Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour; • extra mobile CCTV cameras and an additional member of staff who is already trained in spotting predatory behaviours; • extended training to be delivered to Security Industry Staff and taxi drivers on how to spot predatory behaviour and what to do when it is identified; • the setting up of a Sexual Violence Ambassador Scheme within three schools to improve young people’s knowledge of VAWG, promote equal relationships and prevent violence in dating and intimate partner relationships; • training for teaching staff and pupils in secondary schools to help identify predatory behaviour; • funding for a Street Chaplain scheme in Peterborough to provide support and assistance to those that wish to enjoy the city’s nightlife; • resources for to develop local Neighbourhood Watch schemes with studies showing that for every 100 crimes committed an average of 15 crimes were prevented in active Neighbourhood Watch areas; • video doorbells will also be offered to homes within Peterborough Central and Medworth Ward as a preventative measure against burglary.
	<p>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</p>
	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024 https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/</p> <p>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents</p>