

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO CLEVELAND POLICE & CRIME PANEL**

**24 JULY 2014**

### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

## **POLICE & CRIME PANEL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME**

### **PURPOSE**

This report presents proposals for the PCP Scrutiny Work Programme for 2014/15.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The PCP is asked to review the suggested topics and agree the priorities for review during 2014/15

### **DETAIL**

1. As Members are aware, the Police and Crime Panel role is to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), thereby holding the PCC to account.
2. The report presents all topics (6) received from Panel Members, officers, and those that have arisen from the regular discussions between Cllr Stephenson as Chair of the Panel and the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC).
3. In selecting topics, the Panel may wish to consider whether there is a public demand / a real need for the review, if there is a genuine opportunity through the review to influence policy and practice and whether there is a clear focus for the review.
4. The report considers each topic against the aforementioned criteria and suggests how each review could be approached, it should be stressed that this is merely to aid the Panels consideration and it is not binding in any way.

### **TOPICS**

#### **Victims' Services (1)**

5. From 2014 the majority of emotional and practical support services for victims of crime will be commissioned locally by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
6. Rather than measure success against factors such as how many victims have been contacted or referred for assessment, success will be based on how a service has supported a victim and the results of that support. The focus is on outcome based

commissioning for achieving the overarching outcomes of supporting victims to cope with the immediate impacts of crime and recover from the harm experienced.

7. How victims' services are to be commissioned and provided in a PCC area is a matter for the local PCC to decide. Locally commissioned services must be able to operate across geographical PCC boundaries and PCCs can join together to commission services. PCCs may wish to collaborate with other agencies (for example Department of Health or Local Authorities) in the provision of support services for victims of crime.
8. A review would examine victims' services to determine that they meet victims' needs.

Recommendation	Format
Recommended	Task & Finish by sub group from panel – 5 members 1 from each authority + independent member

### Shared Services (2)

9. As pressure on policing budgets continues there is likely to be renewed interest in 'shared service' options, either between two or more Public Services or between Public Services and other partners. This could be between police/fire/ambulance services, LA community safety and involve examination of back office operations.
10. Existing examples include the shared Roads Policing Unit ('Traffic') between Cleveland and Durham, and the fully Regional Crime Intelligence Unit. In the longer term (e.g. beyond the lifetime of the current Cleveland Police contract with Steria) there are potentially options in relation to a range of support services.
11. The coordination of this work would require a lot of support from the PCC's office and/or Cleveland Police.

Recommendation	Format
Recommended	Task & Finish by sub group from panel – 5 members 1 from each authority + independent member

### Overall budget strategy (3)

12. The Home Office advised that for 2014/15 there would be no separate allocation to PCCs for the 'Community Safety Fund', i.e. the £1.7 million in Cleveland. A task and finish group was established to understand the key issues and financial pressures as part of the budget setting process for 2014/15 and beyond, in order to inform the work of the Panel and PCC. This included both the longer term financial planning process and the impact of the 2014/15 Government grant settlement.
13. It was assumed that the police service would face future central government cuts in line with the wider public sector beyond 2015/16. For Cleveland, it was clear that from 2016/17, there were significant challenges. The budget gap was projected to be £6.3m in that year, and reach £11.5m by 2017/18.

14. Due to the ongoing need to review the budget strategy the Panel agreed at its meeting on 5 February 2014 to re-constitute the Task and Finish Group during 2014/15. This would allow Members to consider both the funding pressures but also the achievement of current savings plans and initiatives.

Recommendation	Format
Recommended	That the Panel considers the membership of the Task & Finish sub-group based on – 5 members 1 from each authority + independent member. The Group's membership for 2013/14 was  Cllr Akers Belcher, Geoff Baines, Cllr Jeffrey, Cllr Laing and Cllr Rooney

#### Commissioner priorities (4)

15. The Police & Crime Plan 2014/17 outlines the Police & Crime Commissioner's priorities in Cleveland over the next few years and how these will be measured and delivered. The Plan is structured around five key priorities:

- Retaining and developing neighbourhood policing
- Ensuring a better deal for victims and witnesses
- Divert people from offending, with a focus on rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending
- Develop better coordination and partnership between agencies to make the best use of resources
- Working for better industrial and community relations

16. This review would determine the relationship of the Commissioner's priorities with that of the public as evidenced in the crime surveys undertaken by community safety partnerships.

Recommendation	Format
Recommended	Task & Finish by sub group from panel – 5 members 1 from each authority + independent member

#### Police and Community Safety Partnerships (5)

17. Community safety partnerships (CSPs) are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities', which are the:

- police
- local authorities
- fire and rescue authorities
- probation service
- health

18. The responsible authorities work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer. They work out how to deal with local issues like antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and reoffending. They annually assess local crime priorities and consult partners and the local community about how to deal with them.

19. This review would examine the role of the police and their ongoing involvement in partnership meetings.

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Format</b>
Not Recommended	Is to be considered by SBC Housing and Community and Safety Select Committee

### **Community Safety Functions (6)**

20. The role of the police in community safety partnerships is outlined above (see review topic 5). The purpose of this review would determine the future role of the police in community safety functions (i.e. crime prevention).

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Format</b>
Not Recommended	Is to be considered by SBC Housing and Community and Safety Select Committee

### **NEXT STEPS**

21. Following agreement of scrutiny topics for 2014/15:

- The Panel will appoint members to the sub-groups as required
- Officers will meet to develop the initial scopes and project plans for the consideration of the Panel/sub-groups. Officers will programme meetings of the sub-groups in liaison with the relevant members.

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