



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 28 July 2020

POLICE & CRIME PLAN – COMMUNITIES THEME – OPCC AND BROADER PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on OPCC activity to deliver the ‘broader partnership support’ priorities set out in the Communities section of the Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”). This report will also update the Board on OPCC activity to deliver against the ‘inspire all public servants to maintain the highest levels of ethical behaviour’ priority as set out in the Communities section.
- 1.2 This report is an update of activity since the report to the January 2020 Board Meeting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular consider:
 - The ability of the Commissioner’s Youth and Community Fund to support charities to adapt the way they deliver services during Covid-19;
 - The Acting Commissioner’s new roles and responsibilities following the introduction of new police complaints legislation in February 2020.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Acting Commissioner”) is required to produce a Police and Crime 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.

- 3.2 As an Acting Commissioner can exercise all the powers that elected Police and Crime Commissioners have apart from varying or issuing a Police and Crime Plan (the “Plan”) (as provided for in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011), the Acting Commissioner had already determined that the priorities of the Plan should remain for the coming period. Now that his term has been extended to 2021 he reaffirms them.
- 3.3 The progress around these Constabulary priorities is reported in a separate paper – see Agenda item 6.2.

4. Communities

- 4.1 The Acting Commissioner has continued to support the joining up of service provision to listen and respond to day to day community safety issues during Covid-19. A paper was provided regarding the OPCC response to the pandemic at the previous Board meeting held on 2nd July. A link to the published paper for reference is here: <https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2020/06/20-07-02-BCB-Agenda-Item-10.0-OPCC-Covid-Update.pdf>.
- 4.2 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 (“CSPs”) 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. Pressures on resources are recognised, however, with upper tier authorities having to make significant savings even before the pandemic. Partnership arrangements will be considered at the next Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board in the Autumn.
- 4.3 The Road Safety agenda has progressed since the last report with a local Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy being approved by the local partnership and work has started to develop the associated delivery plan. This work is being supported by Road Safety company Agilysis. The Commissioner has also ensured the bereaved families of road collisions can continue to receive support through an emergency funding award to the charity Road Victims Trust from the Casualty Reduction and Support Reserve.
- 4.4 The Commissioner’s Communications Team continues to support countywide ‘Warn and Inform’ colleagues to ensure communities have access to appropriate and timely messaging as lockdown eases. The most recent, ‘Keep caring for Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough', which launched on 6th July, reminds residents to keep caring for each other as coronavirus has not gone away.

5. Engaging communities and building resilience

5.1 The Acting Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund (which supports preventative work and early intervention approaches to divert young people and vulnerable adults away from offending), has continued to grant funds to help organisations adapt the way they deliver their services during the health emergency.

5.2 As with other charities, the advent of lockdown brought many challenges to those supporting young and vulnerable people. Charities have had to adapt the way they engage with people from face-to-face to telephone-based, online or virtual means and fundraising efforts have been significantly hampered.

5.3 Throughout the lockdown period, the Commissioner's Fund was able to support the following organisations:

- **Huntingdonshire Community Group** – to set up a new award scheme to celebrate the contribution of young people during Covid-19 (Link to press release: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioners-youth-fund-used-to-celebrate-community-spirit-during-covid-19/>);
- **Kite Trust** – to support LGBT young people during the pandemic;
- **Peterborough Women's Aid** – to buy tablets and educational games and books for children whose mothers have fled from domestic abuse during the pandemic (See link to press release: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-commissioner-supports-local-charity-to-help-children-fleeing-domestic-abuse-during-covid-19/>)
- **Friends of Life Education** to develop virtual resources for mental health and wellbeing.

6. Ensuring public confidence and trust – complaints and independent oversight

6.1 In February 2020, the Government brought in new legislative changes¹ to the police complaints system designed to achieve a more customer-focused approach to handling dissatisfaction with the police service. The reforms also aim to ensure that complaints can be dealt with quickly, effectively and proportionately, not just for the benefit of the public but also for the police, in order to encourage a much greater emphasis on learning from mistakes. This in part has impacted on the way complaints against Cambridgeshire Constabulary are handled and has created additional responsibilities for the Acting Commissioner, one which increases independence and aims to improve complaints handling.

6.2 Consequently, since February 2020, complaints against Cambridgeshire Constabulary are now handled in two ways either by the Constabulary's Incident Response Team (IRT) or the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department (PSD), depending on

¹ The Policing and Crime Act 2017 and supporting regulations - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/3/contents>

the severity of the complaint and seniority of the officers or staff concerned. Any complaints received into the OPCC relating to operational policing matters or the conduct of a police officer or police staff member are forwarded, where appropriate, to the Constabulary to deal with. Neither the Acting Commissioner nor the OPCC can get involved at this stage or investigate the original incident leading to the complaint being made as this could potentially compromise any future request by the complainant to review. Early indications are proving positive in respect of the number of complaints dealt with and resolved by IRT. The Constabulary need to formally submit a report to the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) on the number of the complaints IRT have dealt with, along with the number of complaints recorded, which will then be published later this year.

- 6.3 The Commissioner has a legal duty to monitor all complaints against the Constabulary's officers and staff, whilst also handling any complaints made against the Chief Constable. Between April 2019 and March 2020, PSD recorded 403 complaints against the Constabulary's officers and staff; an increase of over 70 from the previous reporting year. In the same reporting period, the OPCC received three complaints against the Chief Constable, none of which related to conduct. Two complaints were regarding failure to respond to correspondence and one related to the handling of an operational policing matter. One of the complaints was upheld by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
- 6.4 The reforms also mean that the Acting Commissioner has a greater role, in addition to his existing oversight role of the complaint systems. The Acting Commissioner is now the relevant review body of recorded complaint cases, apart from those complaints or conduct matters which the IOPC are responsible for handling. A review offers the opportunity for the Acting Commissioner to consider whether the complaint outcome reached by the Constabulary was reasonable and proportionate; it is not an opportunity to reinvestigate the original incident leading to a complaint being made. Since February 2020 to date, three requests for a review have been made; one of which was not upheld, with the other two are currently under consideration.
- 6.5 The Acting Commissioner's Complaints Policy Statement was updated in February 2020 to take account of the new roles and responsibilities with the new reforms.
- 6.6 During the forthcoming year, one of the Acting Commissioner's priorities is to further strengthen the way in which integrity is scrutinised, with the aim to bring further public confidence in policing. Discussions have already taken place between his office and the Constabulary on how we can learn from their current Stop and Search scrutiny arrangements with a view to having an independent scrutiny group with a wider remit on integrity issues, such as complaints, which aims to achieve greater transparency, community involvement in the use of these areas. The aim is for this group to be representative of the communities the Constabulary serves.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and in particular consider:
- The success of the Commissioner's Youth and Community Fund in supporting charities to adapt service provision during Covid-19;

- Progress made regarding the Acting Commissioner's new roles and responsibilities following the introduction of new police complaints legislation in February.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Police and Crime Plan http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/
Contact Officer(s)	James Haylett, Acting Chief Executive, OPCC