

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

PANEL MEETING ON 1 AUGUST 2017

SUBJECT – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING CLOSER TOGETHER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with some areas to consider and discuss in relation to the ways in which the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety Partnerships can work closer together in Northumbria.

2. Background

- 2.1 In order to enhance its scrutiny role with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel have a 'themed section' at each meeting with Members being asked to suggest appropriate topics. It was agreed the themed topic for the Panel's next meeting in August 2017 will be on "ways in which the PCC and Community Safety Partnerships can work closer together" – and is a deferred item from April 2017. CSP Managers have been invited to put forward suggestions or discussion points on how this can be achieved.

3. Collective Response

- 3.1 This report has been produced in consultation with CSP Managers from Community Safety Partnerships covering: Sunderland, South and North Tyneside, Gateshead, Newcastle and Northumberland localities. It provides background to partnership working and its statutory base, examples of current cooperation and close working and suggests some potential areas the Panel and Police and Crime Commissioner may wish to explore.
- 3.2 Community Safety Partnerships fully recognise the influence and impact that the Police and Crime Commissioner can have on tackling crime and disorder and we hope that the report will generate a positive discussion at the Panel to help further strengthen and improve local partnership arrangements across Northumbria.

4. Overview of Community Safety Partnerships

- 4.1 There is a strong history of joint agency working in relation to crime reduction in Northumbria with the former Police Authority establishing localised and then a Forcewide partnership in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a response to increasing levels of crime and the Morgan Report which recommended such working be placed on a statutory basis.
- 4.2 The latter did not occur until the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act which established in statute area partnerships of "Responsible Authorities" which currently are Police, Local Government, the NHS (Clinical Commissioning Group), Fire and Rescue Services, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Services.

- 4.3 The duty (sections 5, 6 and 7 supplemented by guidance and statutory instruments) requires the Partnership to produce an annual Strategic Assessment on which to base a plan setting out key priorities (supported by a delivery plan). To facilitate this section 115 and 117a created statutory power and subsequent duty through secondary legislation to share information and intelligence to reduce crime and disorder. In addition, section 17 of the Act placed a duty on Responsible Authorities to have due consideration for crime and disorder embedded in its decision making regarding policy and delivery of services.
- 4.4 From 1998 until 2011, Community Safety Partnerships were supported financially by the Home Office and Police Authority typically receiving up to £400,000 annually depending on crime rate, size and other factors to support national/local priorities.
- 4.5 The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Section 19) extended remit of local authorities to scrutinise the functioning of local Community Safety Partnerships and stated that every local authority should have a crime and disorder committee with power to review and scrutinise and make reports and recommendations on the functioning of the local Community Safety Partnership. In practice, local Overview and Scrutiny Committees have carried out policy reviews in relation to many areas of delivery (including substance misuse, domestic abuse, antisocial behaviour, hate crime etc).
- 4.6 In the 10 year period to 2010, Community Safety Partnerships contributed to successive volume crime reductions across Northumbria. Upon election of a Coalition Government in 2011, an immediate review of many statutory duties was carried out and the partnership elements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were retained. However, Government Offices for the regions which had a strong Home Office presence were disbanded from 2011 and funding to Community Safety Partnerships significantly reduced before transferring to newly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2012.
- 4.7 The introduction of PCCs from November 2012 has had a significant impact on Community Safety Partnerships. PCCs have assumed overall responsibility for policing, reducing crime within a police force area, and determining how budgets should be allocated across the force area, accompanied by a shift in decision-making and accountability for local policing away from Police Authorities, as well as central and local Government.
- 4.8 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 set out a number of ways that PCCs and CSPs should work together, including a mutual duty to cooperate to reduce crime and disorder and reoffending and a requirement that the PCC and CSP must have regard to each other's priorities within their respective plans. In addition, PCCs are held to account by Police and Crime Panels (formed primarily of elected councillors), while Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Community Safety continue to scrutinise the work of the CSP as a whole (and are unique in that they can call in representatives from the other Responsible Authorities on CSPs to be held to account).
- 5. Current joint working and a changing landscape of priorities**
- 5.1 Since 2012 the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner has published two Police and Crime Plans and Community Safety Partnership priorities locally have strongly reflected the priorities (where appropriate) of both the Home Secretary and PCC. In addition, CSPs have moved from traditional volume crime activity to a greater focus on harm and vulnerability (for example, domestic abuse, child sexual

exploitation, modern day slavery and trafficking, prevention of radicalisation, serious and organised crime etc.). In some cases, close working relationships have been established with local statutory partnerships, including Safeguarding Children's and Adult Boards and Health and Wellbeing Boards. In addition, there is statutory duty of Community Safety Partnerships to carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews (Section 9(3) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 was enacted, which has resulted in numerous DHRs being commissioned or being currently scoped across Northumbria by CSPs.

- 5.2 There is a lot of joint working in Northumbria between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the CSPs. In recent months, some of the more successful areas of work CSPs are pleased to have worked with the PCC on include:
- Discussions with health providers and the Police and Crime Commissioner to improve the level of provision and response around domestic abuse within General Practice and Accident and Emergency healthcare settings/departments)
 - Submitting successful funding applications across Northumbria to develop projects linked with a number of domestic abuse workstreams
 - Reviewing funding applications as part of the PCC Community Fund that was provided to local voluntary sector organisations
 - Police and Crime Commissioner will be providing funding to support a regional conference around hate crime that is being planned in October 2017 as well as funding to support ad-hoc projects linked with mate crime, learning disability hate crime etc.
 - Funding has been received from the PCC in order for CSPs to continue to develop antisocial behaviour victim support volunteers within each local area.

6. Panel Discussion

- 6.1 We hope and look forward to continuing to develop this joint working. In order to help frame the discussion, some areas that the Panel may wish to consider and discuss where we could potentially further strengthen our existing relationship are:

- CSP Leads would like to extend an invitation to representatives from the OPCC to the six-weekly Community Safety Leads meetings. Through establishing a more regular dialogue with the OPCC, there is a potential for each party to provide updates on any significant or emerging developments relating to respective work areas as well as providing opportunities to share/exploit best practice, identify areas which potentially warrant closer working as well as helping to deliver greater uniformity across the Northumbria area.
- Formally strengthening our existing relationship with the OPCC allow us to more effectively and routinely share ideas, thoughts and practices (e.g. learning from scrutiny committees reviews, domestic homicide reviews, serious case reviews, problem solving arrangements etc), which in turn may help to inform and shape future commissioning in Northumbria. It might be beneficial to consider jointly with the PCC that we set out what CSPs will share and how they will co-operate through a Memorandum of Understanding.
- CSPs co-ordinate a range of activity to support the objectives identified in the Police and Crime Plan – and would welcome continued discussions with the PCC on how CSPs can support and address key priority areas. We fully recognise and value the commitment from the PCC in relation to Violence against Women and Girls and would like to continue to be an integral part of the solution to tackling this issue for local residents.

- It might be helpful for the Panel to discuss those areas the Police and Crime Commissioner feels Community Safety Partnerships could be collectively doing more to support the priorities outlined within the Police and Crime Plan.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Panel is asked to consider the report and discuss the points raised within in terms of Community Safety Partnerships developing further joint working with Panel and/or the Police and Crime Commissioner.