



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

5th February 2018

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

HOW THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS' PLANS AND PRIORITIES ARE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THE PCC'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 As one of the themed report subjects, panel members asked how the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) plans and priorities are considered in relation to my Police and Crime Plan priorities.
- 1.2 When the 2017-2021 Police and Crime Plan was published, it was informed by a strong engagement process with communities and stakeholders including CSPs and the first part of this report reiterates this approach, which may be of value to new members of the panel. In addition, the report will provide members with a high level overview of how Northumbria Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner work with local authorities, and in particular, CSPs.

2 Shaping the Plan

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Plan was shaped by a wide range of consultation, as detailed below, the priorities and concerns raised were subsequently reflected in the six priorities included in the plan:

- Putting victims first
 - Effective criminal justice system
 - Reducing anti-social behaviour
 - Tackling crime
 - Domestic and sexual abuse
 - Community confidence
- a) **CSPs strategic assessments**
All CSPs shared with us their latest thinking about community safety and policing priorities and we ensured that the strong messages around domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime are incorporated into the draft plan.
- b) **Consultation meetings with key strategic partners**
CSPs, local health bodies and Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss existing and emerging priorities for Northumbria Police and wider partnerships. This engagement

demonstrated that sexual exploitation and alcohol related crime continue to be of great importance locally and should be prioritised within the Police and Crime Plan.

c) **Police and Crime Panel consultation**

The Police and Crime Panel were consulted about their priorities for the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021. The main areas of importance to panel members was firstly, to ensure that I consider CSP priorities in the development of the plan, and secondly, that young people and diverse communities are included in consultation plans. These considerations were taken into account in the development of the plan.

Other engagement also informed the plan:

d) **Public consultation**

To ensure we fully understood what local people thought about policing and community safety a range of engagements were held, including public meetings in every local authority (two in Northumberland due to its geographical size), attendance at community groups, faith groups and a wide range of other local groups and associations. It is appreciated that not everyone could attend meetings, so an on-line and telephone survey was set up which was completed by more than 3,000 people. The surveys and events were promoted on social media, posters in doctor's surgeries and community venues, websites including local councils and in all secondary schools.

The survey findings were clear that adults see tackling domestic and sexual abuse, support for victims, reducing crime and ensuring an effective criminal justice system as their top priorities. Young people surveyed identified that tackling domestic and sexual abuse was a top policing priority as well as work to tackle drug and alcohol abuse, hate crime and cyber related crime.

The public meetings raised a wide range of concerns, some that we must tackle in partnership with others and some that were very discrete and personal to the individuals present. The key policing themes that were identified as important to local people were:

- Dangerous driving and mobile phone use behind the wheel
- Hate crime and the impact of BREXIT
- Neighbourhood policing and visibility of the police in local communities
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and signal crimes
- A more effective criminal justice system

e) **Northumbria Police performance**

Emerging priority areas that need further focus in the plan include work to support an effective criminal justice system and to secure convictions at court, improved victim satisfaction in cases of anti-social behaviour, reduce repeat victimisation, increased visibility and high standards of police conduct.

f) **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection findings**

Overall Northumbria Police was recognised as a 'good' police force, however in a recent Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Inspection Leadership report at the time it was felt that Northumbria Police must do more

to address concerns around legitimacy and the imperative “how well does the force ensure that its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully”. We acknowledged that this is of great importance to the overall integrity of Northumbria Police and building public confidence and clearly made this a commitment in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21.

g) **Northumbria Police strategic assessment**

Northumbria Police carry out an annual assessment of the current and medium term issues affecting or likely to affect them which is used to help them plan for the likely impact on demand and resources. The key findings from the most recent strategic assessment highlight that cyber-crime, fraud, modern slavery and trafficking are all emerging crime types that need a specialist response and consideration.

h) **National Policing Vision and Strategic Policing Requirement**

In November 2016, Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Chief Constables launched a vision for policing in 2025 that makes far better use of digital technology, is integrated with other agencies to focus on preventing crime and is delivering effective services to provide best value for money for the public. The Police and Crime Commissioner is focused on ensuring that transformational change in policing is delivered, with local policing and accountability to the public very much at the core.

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the threats that require a national policing capability to ensure they are tackled effectively. This requirement is placed on all police forces across the country and we must ensure that here in Northumbria we give the right level of acknowledgement to these demands and prepare accordingly to ensure the safety of the public. Key threats in the most recent SPR include terrorism, serious and organised crime, and national cyber security as well as a range of other issues of national importance. Many of these challenges can only be tackled by collaborating with other forces, and for this reason as well as others, collaboration runs as a theme throughout the draft plan.

i) **Advisory Groups and Victims Panel**

As you are aware I have well-established advisory groups that are drawn from the communities which are protected by the Equality Act 2010 and that help shape my thinking about a wide range of policing and community safety issues. All of the groups including the Victims Panel were consulted about the priorities they feel are important for the next four years and all groups were clear that more of a focus should be given to building an effective and efficient criminal justice system that not only supports victims to recover from their experience of crime, but also rehabilitates offenders to stop crime from happening in the first place.

j) **Students Consultation**

We have spoken at length to our student population across Northumbria and have held events to bring student unions together to tell us about their priorities for policing. Key priorities were highlighted as tackling sexual violence, improving confidence in the police and fighting hate crime and racial abuse.

3 Delivering the Plan

3.1 Joint Working

Since the publication of the plan, engagement and work with the CSPs continues and Northumbria Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner continue to engage and work to deliver services with CSPs. This section provides an overview of this work and some examples of specific projects.

3.2 Safer Communities Survey

A joint telephone survey of five thousand residents is conducted by Police and Community Safety Partners throughout each year. The survey provides a common platform to help identify public priorities, gauge trust and confidence in police and partners, and understand levels of community safety across the six Local Authority areas within the force. Quarterly results are shared within the partnership and used to inform the priorities of police and partners, and those within the Police and Crime Plan. The survey was developed by police and CSPs through a steering group which is attended by Community Safety Managers.

3.3 Overview of Area Command Partnership meetings

A number of standard partnership meetings are held in all area commands which are summarised in the table below, along with the Police and Crime Plan priority they support.

Partnership Meetings	P&CP Priority
Youth Offending Team (YOT) Partnership Board	Effective Criminal Justice
Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Multi-Agency Panel	Effective Criminal Justice, Putting Victims First
CSP Meeting	Reducing Anti-social behaviour, Community Confidence, Cutting Crime
Licensing	Reducing Anti-social behaviour, Community Confidence, Cutting Crime
Independent Advisory Group	Community Confidence
Strategic Partnership Board	Reducing Anti-social behaviour, Community Confidence, Cutting Crime
Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership	Reducing Anti-social behaviour, Community Confidence, Cutting Crime
Pre-Trial Performance Management Meeting	Effective Criminal Justice
Children's Strategic Partnership	All priorities

More specifically, each of the three area commands has a tailored approach that reflects local priorities.

a) Northern Area Command

Northumberland hold Victim Location Offender (VOL) meetings, chaired by Local Authority Community Safety Managers and Housing. They also have an ASBRAC (Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference), chaired by

the Local Authority, it is a multi-agency meeting to discuss problem solving around individuals causing ASB that cannot be resolved in the VOL. There are also a number of strategic partnership meetings such as the Crime and ASB Partnership Board and the new Hate Crime Board. These meetings feed into the safer Northumberland Partnership (attended by Chief Superintendent, Northern). Minutes of all of the above are held by the local authority.

In North Tyneside the Neighbourhood Policing Teams attend Safer Estates which is chaired by the Local Authority. Chief Inspector (Communities), Northern attends the 'Addresses Causing Concern' quarterly strategic meeting which focuses on location problem solving. North Tyneside have also held problem solving Tasking and Finish Groups for emerging problems such as North Shields ASB (requested by the Deputy Mayor) and the Meadowell disorder (requested by T/Superintendent, Northern). T/Superintendent Northern attends the CSP, chaired by Councillor Burdis to address the priorities in the North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy (focussing on domestic abuse, public health, prevent, hate crime, organised crime groups etc.). T/Superintendent, Northern also attends the Children and Young People Partnership, both of which feed into the Safer North Tyneside Partnership Board, chaired by the Mayor and attended by Chief Superintendent, Northern. The Local Authority, Nexus, Fire and Police are represented at all the partnership boards.

b) Central Area Command

In Gateshead Superintendent, Central is Vice Chair of the Community Safety Board (CSB) and Chief Inspector Communities), Central is chair of the Crime, ASB and Confidence sub group which reports into the CSB. Chief Inspector (Communities), Central chairs a quarterly meeting of the Crime, ASB and Confidence Group and underneath this is a weekly operational tasking meeting where all three Neighbourhood Inspectors and partners attend and utilise shared data to agree tasking and a problem solving/partnership approach. All activity is recorded and tracked. Gateshead holds exceptional Tasking and Finishing Groups for larger emerging problems and all partners are involved in the approach.

In Newcastle, similar to Gateshead, there is a routine Community Safety Board which is regularly held with partners to deal with issues affecting local communities. The previous tasking meetings were called Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAPS) and these were disbanded; however, Northumbria now have two full time community safety workers who work alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and work from the NPT offices in Newcastle. To support these processes, there are partnership meetings that oversee youth intervention and victims of ASB. Again all tasking and partnership work is agreed and accountability assigned to the lead organisation.

c) Southern Area Command

In Sunderland, Chief Inspector (Communities), Southern attends monthly Community Cohesion Meetings with the Local Authority and partnership leads which focusses on ongoing issues within the local community. Ten weekly Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Meetings (LMAPS) are attended by Neighbourhood Inspectors, with the attendance of Community Chief Inspector

(when necessary); these meetings discuss geographical problems which require attendance by all key partners and agree financial commitments to assist in problem solving (environment, Tyne and Wear Fire Service, Police, Together for Children, ASB, housing providers). Extra Ordinary partnership meetings are held as required and have been adopted as “normal” working practice in Southern. These meetings have been used effectively for Operation Asteroid (significant emerging gang violence / ASB), the asylum community and cohesion issues, and Operation Orion (Rape series). A new meeting structure is planned to launch in January 2019 to address emerging issues. Area meetings will be chaired by the Local Authority and discuss Vulnerability, Investigations and Problem Solving where single agency intervention has been unsuccessful.

In South Tyneside, the Safer Neighbourhood meetings are held monthly which identify problem issues with the fire service and Local Authority which require partnership interventions. The meeting is chaired by the Local Authority and both Neighbourhood Inspectors for South Tyneside attend. A Blue Light meeting is held to discuss individuals who are impacting on a number of services. It is chaired by Health and actions are agreed and allocated to all partnership representatives. Agencies involved include Health, Options, Police, Charities, housing and local authority.

3.4 Victim services funding priorities

Extensive mapping and consultation work has taken place over the last two years to inform my commissioning of services and understand the victim services landscape in Northumbria, and more recently work has been undertaken to develop victim’s service funding priorities for 2017-18. This gives us an understanding and insight into the needs of the most vulnerable victims of crime in Northumbria. CSPs were provided with an opportunity to influence our funding priorities for 2019-20, an identified a specific need for long term emotional support for victims of Child Sexual Exploitation.

3.5 Joint working to deliver priorities

Joint working to deliver the police and crime plan priorities is in place and a number of projects are ongoing funded by external funding or funded by myself as PCC.

a) Anti-Social Behaviour Volunteer Network

In 2014-15, North Tyneside Council was financially supported to launch their ‘volunteer victim support group’ to support victims of anti-social behaviour to cope and recover following an incident or sustained attacks. The project proved successful with a high demand for the service and 16 ASB Volunteers fully trained to support those in need. Since then, on an annual basis I have supported all CSPs to introduce similar schemes to strengthen the support available for victims of ASB, and in 2018/19 the funding continued and a grant of £5,000 was again awarded to each of the five local authorities who take part in the scheme. Unfortunately, Northumberland is unable to continue with the project.

b) Health Based Domestic Abuse (DA) Advocates

Both myself and the CSPs are aware of the research highlighting the benefits of locating DA specialists in hospital and GP settings in terms of enhancing the identification of victims (particularly those who, by virtue of age, disability, mental ill health or other vulnerability, may not readily present to/engage with other services) and in terms of enhancing the confidence and skills set of health staff.

Since April 2017, I have made £300,000 available over 3 years to the 6 CSPs to work with Health partners to fund specialist DA advocates to train and work alongside health staff in either GP or hospital settings (two areas chose the former, 4 the latter) in providing both short-term support (in the form of information, risk assessment and safety planning activities) and onward referral to longer-term specialist intervention

c) The Domestic Abuse Practitioners Standard

In summer 2015, I met with local CSPs to discuss the extremely high caseloads being experienced by local DA services and the consequent dilution of the service they were able to offer. Addressing these issues was seen to require either (a) further funding to train more specialist staff, who were currently required to travel outside the region to receive this training and/or (b) further funding to enhance the capacity of wider, non-specialist services to meet the early support needs of DA victims.

To progress both these options, I bid for and secured 3 years funding from the VAWG Transformation Fund (beginning in April 2017) to employ a part-time Training Development Worker who is working with partner agencies on the development of the 'Northumbria Domestic Abuse Practitioners Standard'; an accredited package of local training across all six CSPs which includes:

- Basic Awareness Training – for all multi-agency professionals;
- 'Ask and Act' Training – for those in roles where they can gain or be expected to facilitate DA disclosures;
- 'Trusted Professional' Training – for those whose workloads contain a significant proportion of DA victims and who might be trained to support these victims during the early stages of help-seeking;
- Locally-provided Specialist Training – for those working (in refuges and IDVA services) with the highest risk victims and those with more complex support needs.

d) Specialist Domestic Abuse Court Advisors

Both I and the CSPs are aware of a range of issues undermining the effectiveness of the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) in Northumbria. These include:

- Court rationalisation – whereby the move from 6 local authority based SDVCs to just 2 has impacted on the attendance of IDVA services.
- Information sharing changes – where a recent decision to reduce the level of information shared with IDVA services has further reduced their ability to identify the victims linked to SDVC proceedings.
- An increase in remand court hearings for DA cases – which has meant many cases are proceeding quickly, without the input of IDVA services and with few opportunities to confirm a victim's needs or wishes.

To address these issues, I have funded a 12 month pilot of 2 new Specialist Domestic Abuse Court Advisors, employed by the police, to work with the courts and local specialist services to better identify the needs of DA victims and better advocate for them within SDVC and remand court hearings.

e) **Domestic Homicide Review Chairs**

Training for Chairs of Domestic Homicide Reviews was commissioned by me to ensure that the six CSPs had a 'pool' of trained Chairs to work on these reviews if needed. This was to ensure that there were skilled Chairs locally available for partnerships to prevent bringing in Chairs from outside the area at a high cost.

f) **Domestic Abuse Prevention Programmes (DAPPs)**

One element of the Home Office funded project, 'Domestic Abuse: A Whole System Approach' was to fund DAPPs which are behaviour change programmes for people who use violence and abuse against their partners and ex-partners to try and change that behaviour whilst supporting families impacted by it. The DAPPs funding ensured that programmes were available across all six CSPs for the duration of the project. Alongside the 26 week group work programmes for men, a one to one work programme was commissioned for those perpetrators not suitable for group work (women, those in same sex relationships, young offenders or not suitable for other lifestyle reasons such as mental health issues being a barrier, substance misuse issues or just very chaotic behaviour).