



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

25 APRIL 2017

**THEMED REPORT – PCC AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CSPs)
WORKING CLOSER TOGETHER**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members of the panel with an overview and information on:
- i. the role of Northumbria Police on CSPs; and
 - ii. cross boundary working to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

2. The role of Northumbria Police on CSPs

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the role of Northumbria Police on the CSPs and in particular focuses on:
- Governance and Oversight
 - Strategic Planning and Priority Setting
 - Multi-Agency Problem Solving
 - Working together to understand community needs

2.2 Governance and Oversight

CSP boards are primarily chaired by a local authority Councillor and Northumbria Police area command officers at the rank of superintendent perform the role of vice chair to the partnership boards. As key members of these Boards Northumbria police work with partners to set annual priorities for the partnership and ensure that there is a clear action plan of activity which partners and members are held to account for. These partnership boards greatly assist in community safety partners having a joined up, agreed and consistent approach to tackling crime and disorder and allows the opportunity for all members to look at areas of work that are on-going across all partner agencies.

2.3 Strategic Planning and Priority Setting

The six different CSPs do this in similar but varying ways. The Police and Crime Plan, Northumbria Police Control Strategy and local authority commissioned strategic assessments form the cornerstones of the priorities set by the CSP's which are published in draft for public consultation before agreement and finalisation annually. These consultations include public forums, practitioner events as well as online consultations. Each CSP then as required by the statutory duty, produce an intelligence-led Strategic

Assessment that is used along with the key activities undertaken by the CSP boards in the previous year to identify the priorities for the CSP plan for subsequent years.

The impact and benefit of this partnership process which Northumbria Police are an integral part of is that they can inform and influence the purpose, focus and delivery of the partnership outside of normal policing activity to work together to improve all aspects of service delivery into our communities. From a Northumbria Police and area command level perspective, it also demonstrates and evidences our commitment to collaboration and partnership working providing the opportunity to showcase to the public the impact of partnership working outcomes and the ability to deliver services in the most efficient and effective way as a partnership.

2.4 Multi-Agency Problem Solving

Neighbourhood Police Inspectors work with other partners at an operational level to deliver the objectives and priorities of the CSPs. As members of themed sub-groups and tactical level problem solving partnership groups they highlight and develop problem solving plans for a range of community and policing issues whilst maintaining a commitment to develop and delivery operational activity against the priorities set by the CSP Boards.

There are a range of excellent multi agency problem solving examples which reflect the benefits of the CSPs in all of the six local authority areas but all report that the on-going challenge to problem solving is the lack of funding for initiatives with local authority councils reporting an inability to fund longer term initiatives and some councils reporting having been unsuccessful in innovation funding applications.

2.5 Working together to understand community needs

Many of the CSPs have commissioned their own strategic assessments using either local authority analysts or data provided by Northumbria Police to capture and provide data analysis. The assessments highlight crime and disorder issues including hate crime and also influencing factors including alcohol and drugs. This allows the partnerships to focus on the needs of the communities and to assess the communities themselves.

The tactical and operational problem solving groups, of which Northumbria Police are a key member monitor any relevant trends, issues and concerns presented or reported by the communities. This allows effective and corporate understanding at strategic level enabling informed and current strategic level decisions to be made and implemented through the operational groups.

3. Cross boundary working to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Plan is a key function for the Commissioner, who in a directly elected position is responsible for ensuring that the priorities are informed by those identified by the electorate through engagement and also through working with partners and stakeholders. The new Police and Crime

Plan was developed in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. I sought and took account of the priorities identified by the CSPs and these are reflected in the plan together with those of other partners and local communities. The force strategic assessment and those from the CSPs are also used to inform priorities for commissioning the Supporting Victims fund across the Northumbria area.

- 3.2 In working with CSPs I have reiterated that as PCC my perspective is to represent the whole of Northumbria, and to that end I have consistently invited CSPs to talk to me or submit bids for funding that reflect this cross border approach, disappointingly nothing has come forward.

A flavour of some of the most recent work that I have done with the CSPs is given below. These projects all benefit from the joint working between myself and the partnerships and I am always interested in talking about other opportunities and happy to discuss how we can strengthen partnership working at this thematic meeting.

Anti-social Behaviour Volunteer Networks

Building on a model developed by North Tyneside Council I have provided Grants of £20,000 to each local authority area to establish the networks and £5,000 in the subsequent year to further develop the volunteer networks that support victims of anti-social behaviour to cope and recover following an incident or sustained attacks.

Commissioners Community Fund

I am currently advertising the opportunity for local voluntary and community sector groups to bid for funding of up to £2,000 from my Commissioners Community Fund. CSP managers have agreed to provide input and information about the applications from their area to assist in decision making, I am grateful for this support.

Late Night Levy

Since November 2013 I have worked closely with Newcastle City Council to support the implementation of the late night levy. Newcastle City Council were a trailblazer in establishing the Levy and worked hard to consult and frame the scheme so that it optimised both the benefits to late night businesses and the safety of the public. The council and the police have also worked closely to deliver a practical scheme that is further enhancing the reputation of the City.

Hate Crime - Newcastle

A specialist officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working with Newcastle Safeguarding Children's Board and Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board and Safe Newcastle to consider how the three strategic boards can strengthen their response to hate crime in the city.

Gateshead Vulnerable Adults MASH

Innovation funding enabled joint working in Gateshead as part of the Vulnerable adults MASH which aims to provide a single gateway for all safeguarding, domestic abuse and vulnerable victim referrals; to expedite the sharing

of information in an efficient and consistent manner and to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable within the Borough.

Domestic Violence Advocates in a health setting

I am working with the six Domestic violence co-ordinators around the provision of health advocates in hospital and GP settings across Northumbria – we are also looking to colleagues in health to work with us. I have made funding available over three years to support this project.

3.3 Funding provided to Community Safety Partnerships

Since my election in 2013 I have granted funding to community safety partnerships, the total funding being just over £4.3 million. In my quarterly update to the panel I provide information about all grants to local authorities and also to community and voluntary sector organisation in your areas. Grants are paid to support delivery of services to victims and also where appropriate to support delivery of the police and crime plan.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The panel is asked to note the contents of the report and consider how the PCC and CSPs could work closer in the future