



HERTFORDSHIRE Police and Crime Panel

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Mr David Lloyd
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire
Harpenden Police Station
15 Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
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Dear David

REPORT OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ON YOUR DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2015-2020

The Panel agreed that the report on your draft Police and Crime Plan 2015-2020 be in the form of the notes of comments made at the Panel's meeting held on 11 June 2015. I set out these comments below and I hope you find them helpful:

Comments from the public

A member of the public asked for clarification of 'hate crime' on page 11 of the plan so it is clear that disability is included. The public are not necessarily aware that this is the case. The Commissioner advised that hate crime covers a range of crimes, which includes against people with disabilities, although this is not explicitly referenced in the plan. The Constabulary has a diverse recruitment policy, recruiting across all backgrounds. There is more work to do so the public are aware that hate crime includes crimes against people with disabilities.

A member of the public suggested that the third bullet point on page 45 of the plan, 'supporting vulnerable people and tackling cyber-crime', is reworded so the two are not grouped together. The Commissioner advised that a member of the public had written to him as part of the consultation on the plan and grouped the two together, hence their inclusion together in the 'response to the consultation' section of the plan. The Chairman recommended this was reworded.

A member of the public commented that he had assessed the plan against three areas, which are enforcement, situational and design measures and causes of crime. He considered that there are many references to enforcement, some references to situational and design measures and minor references to causes of crime. The causes of crime should not be forgotten. The Commissioner advised that his remit was wider than the areas he has direct control over. The reason why he is involved in a wide range of areas,

including domestic abuse, mental health and fire awareness is because he agreed that the causes of crime need to be tackled. The Commissioner said he would reflect on these helpful comments. The Chairman noted this was implicit in the 'working in partnership' section on page 15 of the plan.

Comments from the Panel

Mr Laidlaw-Dickson asked what the Commissioner was doing to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure that the neighbourhood policing model works, taking into consideration pressures such as policing Watford's Premier League football matches and the possibility of using resources pooled from elsewhere to do so. The Commissioner recognised this was a helpful observation which he would raise with the Chief Constable. The wider question is how to ensure the 19 per cent reduction in grant funding and the anticipated further 25 to 30 per cent reduction in grant funding over the next five years does not impact negatively on the number of police officers or increase precept levels. Some work currently undertaken centrally will be diverted to neighbourhood policing teams or as part of the collaborative work with other police forces. Football matches should not impact on other resources, as football clubs are charged for policing inside their grounds. Special constables may want to work at football matches. The Chairman noted that according to the press the Premier League football clubs receive at least around £130 million per annum so it would not seem fair for members of the public to subsidise their policing costs. This may be an area worth lobbying the Home Office about.

Councillor Choudhury asked whether the significant changes to the victim surcharge will result in more funding and how will it be spent. The Commissioner advised that the current higher levels of income from the Proceeds of Crime Act will be offset by the reduction in grant funding. An increase from nothing two years ago to £1.3 million now is a significant increase, and it is hoped this level will be maintained to support victims of crime.

Councillor Phillips queried that in the 'public focus' section on page 25 of the plan why there is no real focus on engaging younger audiences, except via the police cadets scheme. The Commissioner advised that if words such as 'children' and 'young people' were searched for in the plan they would appear many times (for example, on pages 14 and 15 of the plan). There was no specific section about young people but there are references in the plan. The plan focuses on all groups of people. The Chairman noted that Hertfordshire has an excellent youth parliament as well as youth councils at borough/district level.

The Panel supported the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan and asked that he consider the points raised when implementing the plan.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Tim Hutchings
Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel