

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT
CABINET PANEL**

TUESDAY 27 JUNE AT 2.00PM

Agenda Item No.

4

**HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE
REPORT**

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide a brief update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Updates have been provided in relation to the following items:

- online crime reporting
- PCC annual report
- hate crime strategy consultation
- PCC action fund
- Fire & Police governance
- customer service unit
- mental health street triage
- stop and search panel
- modern slavery.

3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the update report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. Updates

4.1 Online crime reporting

A new system of online crime reporting and digital contact has been launched by Hertfordshire Constabulary. Following public demand for more ways to contact the police, it is now possible to report non-urgent crimes online, as well as giving information about crime in the community. Aside from live web-chat with police staff in the Force Control Room crime can also be reported directly on the force's website: http://www.herts.police.uk/contact_us/contacting_us.aspx.

Since a pilot began in January this year, the number of crimes reported in this way has increased daily. More online services are planned for the future.

A video showing the public how to use the new service is available to view on the Constabulary and Commissioner's Facebook and YouTube channels, and will be shared with the Online Watch Link (OWL) network. Other services include Online Intelligence which enables information to be digitally reported directly to the police, information on how to apply for a range of services and details on how to contact various departments within the force.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cnZm2Xj6xQ>

4.2 PCC Annual Report 2016/17

The PCC has a duty under Section 12 of the Police and Social Reform Act 2011 to issue an annual report. The report must cover:

- a. the exercise of the PCC's functions in each financial year; and
- b. the progress which has been made in the financial year in meeting the police and crime objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

The PCC must present the report to the Police and Crime Panel and attend to answer the Panel's questions on the report. The report will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 15th June 2017; and will then be available on the website here:

<http://www.hertscommissioner.org/police-and-crime-plan-herts-pcc>.

4.3 Hate crime strategy – consultation

The Countywide Hate Crime Strategy consultation was launched on 1st April 2017. The consultation process will last for 12 weeks until 30th June.

The strategy sets out the key priorities for Hertfordshire to tackle hate crime during 2017-2020:

- Prevention: Raising Awareness and increasing victim confidence
- Resolution: Focus on pathway through and experiences of criminal justice system
- Support: Supporting victims to cope and recover
- Learning: Understanding Hate Crime in Hertfordshire, using an intelligence led approach for continuous improvement.

The consultation can be completed online and via email:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or to
HateCrimeConsultation@hertfordshire.gov.uk

All queries should be directed to: Michael Nadasdy, Programme Manager, County Community Safety Unit - Michael.Nadasdy@hertfordshire.gov.uk

4.4 **Fire and Police governance**

The Policing and Crime Act 2016 sets out a legal duty for PCCs to consider opportunities for collaboration between police, fire and rescue and ambulance services where it would be in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness of public safety. David Lloyd has agreed to become one of the Home Office's early adopters to look at bringing together the governance of Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

KPMG were commissioned to undertake an independent business case to examine the case for change. A change in governance would involve setting the budget and priorities for the fire service and bringing about greater democratic accountability to the public for fire and rescue matters across the county.

The business case identified potential benefits to collaboration including use of estates, interoperability and fire precept development. The OPCC is currently engaging with the Home Office to establish a suitable date for public consultation.

4.5 **Mental health street triage scheme**

Due to the success of the mental health street triage trial, the hours of operation have been extended to include the daytime. The scheme, which is run in partnership with Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust, now runs from 9am - 4am.

The Street Triage vehicles attend incidents where a person is in mental health crisis and may require detaining under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. This comes ahead of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 coming into force (expected in July), when among other changes it will become a legal requirement for mental health practitioners to approve all S136 detentions. Further changes are also expected in late June that will mean 16 and 17 year olds in mental health crisis will also require Street Triage.

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has been assessing use and outcomes of the street triage scheme across the county. The Police & Crime Commissioner has decided to commission a cost benefit analysis, to ascertain if there is a strong business case for the scheme. This will allow an assessment of the realisable savings to the Constabulary and for the NHS Trusts / Clinical Commissioning Groups, from preventing Sections 136 from occurring, the reduction of police officer time attending Section 136 incidents and from the improved outcomes that can be achieved for individuals. The evaluation is expected to be delivered by the end of the calendar year.

More info about street triage can be found here:

<http://www.hertscommissioner.org/2017-03-mental-health-pilot-in-hertfordshire-reduces-strain-on-ae-services>

4.6 **Community stop and search panel**

In 2014, the Home Secretary introduced the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme in response to concerns about police compliance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 Code of Practice A. It was intended that the reforms should contribute to a significant reduction in use of stop search, more intelligence led stop search and improved stop to arrest ratios. The reforms included measures to allow stop and search records to be scrutinised by community representatives through independent external scrutiny.

Hertfordshire Constabulary signed up to the Best Use of Stop Search Scheme in 2015 and the PCC set up the Countywide Stop and Search Community Scrutiny Panel which is run and led by volunteers. The panel 'dip' samples random stop and search records and assesses them for legal compliance.

Further recruitment to the Panel will be considered for 2017/18, to ensure consistent levels of trained volunteers; and consideration of ways to widen the demographics of panel members, continuing to seek diverse representation i.e. targeted recruitment of BME groups and young people.

The Panel's first annual public meeting was held in May 2017, in partnership with Hertfordshire University. The event attracted students and tutors of the Law faculty and it is hoped that this type of engagement with the University will help to develop younger volunteers towards Panel membership.

The panel will publish an annual report in June 2017 to provide a summary of work undertaken between March 2016 and February 2017; reflecting on findings from the dip sampling and summary stop and search data examined during that period. The report will also consider the panel's development throughout the year. Further information about the panel can be found here:

<http://www.hertscommissioner.org/stop-and-search-scrutiny-panel>

4.7 **Modern slavery**

Over 200 people attended our conference on 29 March. Delegates from a range of sectors were represented including NHS, local authorities, police, safeguarding and criminal justice; as well as charity and voluntary sector partners working with and for victims. A variety of local and national speakers gave up their time for this important event.

The event was organised to highlight the issue of modern slavery and to start building an effective partnership approach to help identify the problem, bring offenders to justice and support victims. Herts Constabulary launched Operation Tropic – a dedicated police unit that will co-ordinate the response to modern slavery in Hertfordshire, playing a lead role in developing and sustaining the partnership between key stakeholders. This is viewed by other forces as a best practice approach and is being recognised and supported by some of the UK's top barristers and experts in the field.

A steering group has been set up to drive partnership work forward. The first meeting was held in May, which involved many partners from public, private and charity / voluntary sectors. A strategy and multi agency action plan is in development.

Equalities

- 5.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 5.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 5.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 5.4 No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this report as it only provides a brief summary of wider work undertaken by the OPCC.