

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT
CABINET PANEL**

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 10.00AM

Agenda Item No.

3

HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER UPDATE REPORT

Report of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

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Executive Member:- Terry Hone, Community Safety & Waste
Management

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide a brief update to the Panel about the current work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

2. Summary

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

- Employer Supported Policing
- Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Community Safety Grants
- Criminal Justice
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Service Transformation Fund
- Stop & Search Panel
- Supporting Victims of ‘Honour’ Based Abuse (HBA)
- Fire Service Governance

3. Recommendation

3.1 For Panel to note the content of the report.

4. Background

4.1 Information for Panel Members on the work of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner since the last meeting of the Community Safety & Waste Management Panel is detailed below:

4.1.1 **Employer Supported Policing**

Local businesses and other employers in Hertfordshire are being asked to support Special Constables by signing up to Employer Supported Policing (ESP); and to help bring vital skills in to the policing and community safety arena. There are currently 25 organisations signed up to the ESP scheme in Hertfordshire including but not limited to Tesco, Which?, McMullen Brewery and Sons and District and Borough Councils.

Special Constables have full police powers, uniform and protective equipment and work alongside the regular force. They play a vital role in helping keep communities safe and can get involved in a range of policing activities. Currently, there are opportunities for Special Constables to work in diverse duties which range from working in the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Prisoner Handling Teams. Officers with ICT skills can also work alongside Cyber Crime teams to deliver online safeguarding and crime prevention advice.

The PCC asks the Board to share the following information and encourage participation in this initiative. More information on joining the Employer Supported Policing Scheme (ESP) or becoming a Special Constable can be found at www.hertspolicespecials.co.uk. You can also get in touch with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - ESP@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or call 01707 806150.

4.1.2 **Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery**

The OPCC and Herts Constabulary are leading on partnership work in regards to modern slavery. Further to a very successful conference in March, three well attended meetings have since taken place involving a range of partners. The aim of these meetings has been to develop a partnership response which builds on the National Policing Plan and the Anti-Slavery Commissioner's strategy.

A steering group has been set up which includes the OPCC, Hertfordshire County Council (Adult and Children's Services), NHS, Herts Constabulary, Shiva Foundation, borough council representation and various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's).

We are developing a unique operational and governance model, with the Shiva Foundation (<http://www.shivafoundation.org.uk/>) taking responsibility for administrative co-ordination of the partnership. This is being held up as a model of best practice and has generated interest from organisations across the eastern region and beyond.

The OPCC is currently drafting an action plan for the partnership, which will be delivered by a number of multi-agency sub groups. The action plan is organised around 4Ps (Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue) and will provide enhanced partnership support to the Constabulary's own plan for detection and disruption of organised crime groups, as well as identification of and support for victims. Governance of the steering group and sub groups will be undertaken through the OPCC's Community Safety Board, with direct links to the National Anti-Trafficking & Modern Slavery Network.

As well as organising several multi-agency and cross border operations, the Constabulary's modern slavery team, Operation Tropic, has been delivering awareness training to partners with front line roles across the county. So far around 1500 staff have been provided with training on spotting the signs, referral, reporting and providing support for victims.

A modern slavery partnership strategy will be drafted by the OPCC in consultation with partners. We are aiming to launch this during Summer 2018; and are planning a second conference to showcase our learning and further engage with business partners across the county.

For more information about the modern slavery partnership, please contact Debbie Barker – deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

For more information about training, please contact Detective Sergeant Duncan Montague (Op Tropic) – duncan.montague@herts.pnn.police.uk

4.1.3 **Hate Crime**

A hate crime strategy for Hertfordshire was launched at an event on 20 October 2017. The OPCC is driving this work forward by developing and chairing a multi-agency partnership; and drafting a shared action plan. More information can be found here: <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/2017-10-new-hate-crime-strategy-set-for-hertfordshire>

4.1.4 Community Safety Grants 2018/19

Bids for the Community Safety Grant 2018/19 are invited for submission until 22 December 2017. Priority will be given to partnership projects offering solutions to complex problems focussing on changing lives rather than just managing risk; and specific projects targeting people and places rather than 'business as usual.' Please contact deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk for further information and guidance documents.

4.1.5 Criminal Justice

Crest Advisory (<http://crestadvisory.com/>) has been commissioned to undertake some work to help the OPCC better understand the Criminal Justice System (CJS) demand in Hertfordshire. Their report, due in November, will set out where the costs are in the system, how Hertfordshire compares nationally, and will help us to understand where there is greatest duplication and waste. In doing so, it will help the police and partners to understand the opportunities for managing demand more efficiently.

Over the coming months, the OPCC will be developing a Community Engagement Strategy to look at how Criminal Justice agencies can best engage and support the whole community, and particularly those from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, throughout the CJS.

The GPS Tagging pilot is showing some successful results with 17 Hertfordshire offenders, who are on a home detention curfew, out on licence or considered for re-release following recall to prison, been successfully tagged and showing compliance with their conditions. The Commissioner will be writing to the Minister, Sam Gyimah to express the Criminal Justice Board's enthusiasm for the GPS Tagging pilot to continue beyond the life of the pilot on 31st March 2018, and to make the case for the tags to be mandatory.

4.1.6 **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) - Service Transformation Fund**

The OPCC was successful in a bid for domestic abuse funding. £436,000 is being awarded by the Home Office, through the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund, to transform support services for all victims of domestic abuse in Hertfordshire. The funding will lead to the creation of a 'Sunflower Hub', providing a single point-of-access allowing victims to receive expert advice or practical support. The bid recognised a gap in supporting standard/medium risk victims, especially at district level. This fund will enable us to provide double district case workers, who will be aligned to the 'Sunflower Hub'.

The OPCC is working with Hertfordshire County Council, who will be leading on a formal procurement process – a requirement of the Home Office funding. A service specification is currently being drafted; and interested partner agencies were invited by Hertfordshire County Council to a market engagement event on 11 October to consult on the services required.

The OPCC will be speaking to local authorities and other organisations to seek support for the service, to ensure that case workers are able to operate at local level and in the communities to which they are assigned; we will be seeking office space and private meeting rooms to enable caseworker interaction with local victims referred to the service.

For further information, please contact Debbie Barker - deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or Kevin McGetrick - kevin.mcgetrick@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

For information about the procurement process, please contact helen.gledhill@hertfordshire.gov.uk

4.1.7 **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. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-a-2015>
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 is now underway 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 BAME groups and young people.

People interested in volunteering for the panel should visit the PCC's website for details on how to apply:

<http://www.hertscommissioner.org/stopsearch>

4.1.8 Supporting Victims of 'Honour' Based Abuse (HBA)

The OPCC has announced that HBA will be included in future victims' services plans delivered through Hertfordshire's victim care centre - Beacon.

This specialist support, which will address the specific needs of victims of HBA, Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will be brought in during 2018. This decision follows pioneering research carried out by the University of Roehampton and University of Essex which was commissioned by the PCC into so called 'honour' based abuse in Hertfordshire.

HBA is an umbrella term for a collection of crimes which may have been committed in the belief of protecting or defending a family or community's honour. It is however to be recognised that there is no honour in these crimes and offences. The study has highlighted areas where additional support and resources are required to assist those affected.

Actions recommended in the report will be carried out through the HBA subgroup, which sits under the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership. These crimes are under-reported and victims are hard to reach because they are isolated or vulnerable, or the perpetrator is in a position of trust. Further work needs to be done to improve the coordinated approach; ensuring victims' needs are being addressed

effectively locally, nationally and internationally. Better communication with community leaders is also essential for increasing victims' confidence to report incidents and to enhance knowledge of safe reporting practices.

The report, *Honour Based Violence and Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage: Shaping Services for Priority Victims in Hertfordshire* was based on research conducted by Professor Aisha K. Gill from the University of Roehampton, Professor Pamela Cox and Ruth Weir from University of Essex with consultant input from Professor Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool. It can be found here: http://www.hertscommissioner.org/fluidcms/files/files/pdf/Victims-Commissioning/HBV_A_FM_FGM_Herts_Report_Gill_Cox_Weir_Walklate_submitted-8-May-2017.pdf

4.1.9 **Fire Service Governance**

The business case for changing the governance of Hertfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service has been submitted to the Home Office. Following a full public consultation, the PCC took the decision to proceed with his proposal to become Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. In a letter to the Home Office, the PCC said he wanted to see the two services working even more closely together, and to protect the fire service's budget. It will now be considered by the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, who will ultimately decide on the final outcome.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no current direct financial implications arising from this report as its purpose is to provide an information update only.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.

- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 No EqlA was undertaken in relation to this report as it only provides a brief summary of wider work undertaken by the OPCC which in isolation has no direct equalities implications. The commitment of the OPCC to equalities throughout its work streams can be found here: <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/holding-me-to-account-overview#commitmenttoequality>