

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

Agenda Item No.

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UPDATE REPORT FROM DAVID LLOYD, POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

Author: Chris Brace, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Office of Police & Crime
Commissioner (OPCC)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

2. Summary

- 2.1 Updates have been provided in relation to the following items:
 - PCC's annual reports
 - PCC's coronavirus emergency fund
 - Independent Custody Visits – monitoring of detainees' welfare during Covid-19
 - Community Safety Grant 2020/2021
 - PCC's Action Fund 2020/2021
 - Criminal Justice Innovation Fund 2020/2021
 - PCC's Fly Tipping Fund
 - 2020/2021 The Year of Beacon
 - Extra funding to support victims of sexual crime
 - Free locks and security devices for most vulnerable in Hertfordshire
 - New enhanced police complaints procedure

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Cabinet Panel notes the report

4. Updates

4.1 PCC's Annual Reports

- 4.1.1 Every year 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 Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan (CSCJ Plan). There is a requirement in the

Annual Report for the Chief Constable to report on the progress made over the year relating to the CSCJ Plan.

4.1.2 The Commissioner produces three Annual Reports, one detailing the progress against the Plan, one on the Independent Dog Welfare Scheme and one on the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme. These Annual Reports together with the Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel report were discussed at the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 11 August.

4.1.3 A copy of the Annual Report and Annual Delivery Plan can be found here:



36815_HERTSPCC_A
nnual_Report-2019-2

Attached as Appendix 1



CSCJ Annual Delivery
Plan 2019 - 2020.pdf

Attached as Appendix 2

4.2 **PCC's Coronavirus Emergency Fund**

4.2.1 There is £44,000 remaining in the PCC's Coronavirus Emergency Fund which is open to bids from charities/community groups supporting residents during the coronavirus crisis.

4.2.2 To date, the PCC has approved bids for this emergency fund that help provide practical/virtual support to domestic abuse victims (including families) and support to prisoners at The Mount.

4.2.3 The Commissioner's funding enables Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) to award grants of up to £2,000 as part of their Coronavirus Disaster Relief Fund. To be eligible, applicants will need to demonstrate financial difficulty as a result of COVID-19 and that they are unable to meet the funding gap by other means, such as use of their reserves.

4.2.4 The Commissioner will prioritise bids with a community safety/safeguarding focus or where organisations have been supporting police officers in delivering a response to the crisis.

4.2.5 The fund is open to receive bids with a rolling deadline and grant decisions being made on a weekly basis while funds are available.

- 4.2.6 For more information including grant criteria and application form please go to the OPCC website:
<https://www.hertscommissioner.org/Coronavirus-Emergency-Fund>

If you have any questions regarding the Coronavirus Emergency Fund please contact Karl Stonebank: Karl.Stonebank@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.3 Independent Custody Visitors – monitoring of detainees’ welfare during Covid-19

- 4.3.1 At the end of the reporting year, the Covid-19 outbreak began and in consideration of the protection of our volunteers, the majority whom are vulnerable, physical visits to custody were suspended. In accordance with ICVA and Home Office guidance a system of dip sampling custody records by the OPCC was introduced on 1 April. Over the course of two months 18 records were sampled and feedback was given to the Custody Chief Inspector.
- 4.3.2 On 21 May a system of remote visits were carried out by our ICVs via teleconference with two visits each week to Hertfordshire’s two custody suites. Following this, phase 3 has now been implemented, with a return to physical visits from August and the use of ‘virtual’ visits where helpful to do so, taking the best of each approach to ensure the overview of detainees’ rights and entitlements is maintained.

4.4 Community Safety Grant 2020/2021

- 4.4.1 The Community Safety Grant supports work with partner organisations (such as community safety partnerships) that have a vital part to play in keeping Hertfordshire’s communities safe.
- 4.4.2 The Commissioner has awarded grants to the following projects:
- SOS county-wide intervention for serious youth violence – extension of pilot of serious youth violence intervention projects – whole systems approach to identify / support high risk young people
 - Fearless in Hertfordshire – extension of early intervention / prevention / anonymous reporting of criminal activity in priority schools
 - Modern Slavery Partnership Coordinator – extension of the project to part-fund a coordinator to lead on the work of the Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership
 - Domestic Abuse Prevention Service – extension of a pilot project that provides outreach workers to support perpetrators of low-level domestic abuse

- Family Safeguarding Team Domestic Abuse Officers – contribution to the employment of a team of Domestic Abuse Officers in the HCC Family Safeguarding Team
- Herts Youth Justice – contribution towards delivery of statutory services to prevent offending and reoffending of children and young people age 10-17 in Hertfordshire
- Cybercrime Strategy Worker – appointment of a Programme Manager to oversee the successful implementation, delivery and mainstreaming of both the Hertfordshire Fraud and Cybercrime strategies – including Cybercrime Basics Reviews for SMEs

4.4.3 All successful applications have conditions attached to the grant agreement which includes providing annual report to update the Commissioner on progress and evidence of effectiveness.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Safety Grant please contact Karl Stonebank: Karl.Stonebank@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.5 PCC's Action Fund 2020/21

4.5.1 The second round of the PCC's Action Fund is about to open for applications until 25 September. For more information, including details of future rounds, eligibility and grant criteria, please see the website below: <http://www.hertscf.org.uk/pcc-action-fund>

4.5.2 Grants of up to £5,000 are available to help support community and voluntary initiatives which will reduce crime and make Hertfordshire a safer place to live by helping to deliver the priorities of the Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan: Everybody's Business (2019- 2024). The Commissioner is keen to work with and fund a range of organisations from the community who have a shared interest in delivering positive outcomes and improved services for residents.

4.6 Criminal Justice Innovation Fund 2020/21

4.6.1 The Criminal Justice Innovation Fund was set up in 2018 and funding to date has supported projects relating to gambling support for prisoners, rent deposit scheme for prison leavers, improvements to file quality and domestic abuse perpetrator outreach workers. The aims of the fund include the following:

- Build insight, an evidence base or new solution that leads to change and improvements in the experience and outcomes for Hertfordshire's victims and witnesses.
- Find ways to identify and divert people from entering the criminal justice system through preventative and early intervention initiatives and those first-time entrants from further reoffending.

- Support the delivery of improvements in the performance, efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system locally including through new digital innovations.
- Improve the effectiveness of the referral pathways and how offenders are managed and supported as they go 'Through the Gate' and into the community to support reductions in reoffending.

4.6.2 Following advice from the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board, the Commissioner has awarded grants to the following projects:

- CDAT Herts, Jobs Pathway – this project aims to provide a route to employment for Hertfordshire residents who are excluded from getting a job because of their history or perceived abilities. A service manager will establish links with referring agencies and prospective employers, discuss the support needs of candidates, and establish a track record of finding jobs with the relevant support in place.
- Princes Trust, Herts, Minds & Goals – this project will work with young offenders and those at risk of offending, empowering individuals to identify the right choices, enabling them to gain vital soft skills and the confidence to progress into more positive opportunities, aiding prevention against committing future criminal activity.
- Hertfordshire Constabulary, community based video enabled justice – this project will support a partnership project with Citizens Advice Bureaus in Hertfordshire and the Courts Based Witness Service to develop up to ten Civilian Witness Suites to facilitate the giving of evidence in a remote environment.
- Hertfordshire Constabulary, custody distractions for vulnerable detainees – this project will address the needs of detainees with vulnerabilities including anxiety, depression, PTSD, ADHD, ADD, and learning difficulties, by acquiring, risk assessing, and implementing distraction items to relieve anxiety and the impact of custody.

If you have any questions regarding the Criminal Justice Innovation Fund please contact Sara Miles: Sara.Miles@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.7 PCC's Fly Tipping Fund

4.7.1 As part of a review into the progress of the fly tipping on private land pilot, the Commissioner has agreed to expand the pilot's criteria to include unregistered land. This now enables the more urban parts of the county to be eligible for support. As a result, the pilot is now operating in nine districts across the county. £20,000 has been made available for during 2020/21.

- 4.7.2 During this financial year the Commissioner has already awarded funding for the removal of 3 fly tips in East Herts, 1 in North Herts and 2 in Broxbourne which has included white goods, other household waste, asbestos, vehicle parts, tyres, construction / demolition and other commercial and household waste. The pilot has also supported efforts to improve the prevention of fly tipping.
- 4.7.3 The OPCC is aware of an increase in fly-tipping on private land since the implementation of government lockdown restrictions, particularly commercial waste. We would encourage councils across the county to make best use of the funding that is available to them.

If you have any questions about the progress of the PCC's Fly-Tipping Fund, please contact Nimat Jaffer: Nimat.Jaffer@herts.pnn.police.uk

4.8 2020/2021 The Year of Beacon

- 4.8.1 To celebrate five years of Hertfordshire's victim service, 2020 is the Year of Beacon. Over the past five years, 250,000 people have been helped by Hertfordshire's Victim Care Centre and as part of efforts to raise awareness of their work, as well as celebrate this magnificent achievement, the OPCC, in collaboration with partners, will be running a number of projects throughout the year. These projects will include 5th anniversary Beacon celebration which, initially scheduled for April 2020, will now take place later in the year due to COVID-19. The Year of Beacon will run until April 2021.
- 4.8.2 Beacon is Hertfordshire's Victim Care Centre. It's dedicated and professionally trained staff offer free and confidential support to all victims who report a crime, helping them recover from their experience regardless of how long ago it happened or whether it was reported to the police.

If you would like to know more about Beacon or the OPCC's plans to celebrate the Year of Beacon, please contact Kevin McGetrick: Kevin.McGetrick@Herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.9 Extra funding to support victims of sexual crime

- 4.9.1 Funding for two extra workers to support victims of sexual crimes in Hertfordshire has been secured from the Ministry of Justice. The successful bid by OPCC will provide additional help for male victims and those who are sexually exploited. A total of £117,250 has been secured to cover costs until March 2022.
- 4.9.2 Currently there are five ISVAs based in Hemel Hempstead, and covering the whole county. Two of the ISVAs support adult victims, two work with young persons aged between 15 and 20 years and there is a specialist ISVA for children. The ISVAs provide support for anyone who has suffered any unwanted sexual experience, by providing information and advice. This is regardless of whether the crime has been reported

to the police and is available before, during and after any court proceedings.

- 4.9.3 Part of the funding is going to be used to hire a male ISVA. The SARC is currently the only specialist sexual violence service in Hertfordshire that supports male victims and survivors, but presently only has female support workers. Alongside issues of stigma and societal bias which are known to be barriers to accessing support, having a choice of gender of support worker is key to accessibility. Hertfordshire has also seen a rise in those that have been sexually exploited through modern slavery and human trafficking. This includes those who have been forced in to prostitution. The second new worker is going to be responsible for working with this group, who are traditionally less likely to seek help.

Any organisations or individuals interested in finding out more about this project should contact Jenna Skinner:

Jenna.Skinner@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.10 Free locks and security devices for most vulnerable in Hertfordshire

- 4.10.1 Free locks and security devices are available across the county to the elderly, victims of domestic abuse victims and residents targeted by repeat burglaries. The crime tackling measures are supplied and fitted at no charge by five technicians working for the Hertfordshire Home Safety Service (HHSS).

- 4.10.2 Run by Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service it has been supported for the past three years by the PCC's office which has paid for one of the technicians, using proceeds of crime monies. Last year it conducted over 1,000 home visits to those referred for help by police officers, council staff and case workers from Beacon, Hertfordshire's victim care centre.

4.11 New enhanced police complaints procedure

- 4.11.1 A faster, easier and more transparent police complaints procedure was launched across the county from 6 July 2020. It follows Home Office legislation earlier this year which gave a range of options on how complaints and dissatisfactions should be handled by the police. This enhanced procedure involves an expanded Complaint Resolution Team (CRT) in the OPCC having initial contact and handling of all complaints regarding Hertfordshire Constabulary. Members of the public can make a complaint about any police related matter that they have witnessed or been directly affected by and a dedicated phone line (opening after COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are eased) will enable the public to contact the experienced Complaint Resolution Team. Complaints classified as serious and requiring further investigation will

continue to be managed by the Professional Standards Department (PSD) in Hertfordshire Constabulary, after being assessed by the CRT.

5. 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.