

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE MANAGEMENT
CABINET PANEL
WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10.00AM**



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

Author: Chris Brace, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire OPCC

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide an 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:

- Police and fire collaboration
- Crime and criminal justice update
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund 2020/21
- Home Office Safer Streets Fund
- Community Safety Grant 2020/2021
- Criminal Justice Innovation Fund 2020/21
- PCC's Coronavirus Emergency Fund
- PCC's Fly tipping Fund for Private Land Pilot
- 2020 /2021– The Year of Beacon
- Independent Custody Volunteer recruitment
- Extra funding to support victims of sexual crime secured by Hertfordshire Commissioner

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Cabinet Panel notes the report

4. Updates

4.1 Police and fire collaboration

- 4.1.1 In a huge step forward for police and fire collaboration, 23 October saw Fire Chief Officers move to the Police HQ site at Stanborough, the first step in co-locating Police and Fire HQs on the same site. The business case for co-locating Control Rooms is currently in development as are plans to re-develop both the Stanborough site and the training facility at Longfield. Discussions are currently underway about how to rebrand the site to reflect the changes to usage.

4.2 Crime and Criminal Justice update

- 4.2.1 At the beginning of lockdown and through to the middle of April, crime levels fell by over 25% across Hertfordshire. Since then, levels have returned to normal levels, although due to the initial reduction year to date crime is 14.8% down year on year. This has brought added pressure as the enhanced Covid response, including enforcing new regulations, adapting to new working environments, and regular use of PPE, is being delivered in addition to dealing with demand from crime.
- 4.2.2 The constabulary have been following the 4 Es approach to those breaching the restrictions: engage, explain, encourage and enforce. The experience gained from March to July stands the constabulary in good stead to support the introduction of new regulations from 5 November, as has the grant from the Home Office which intends to cover overtime incurred as a result of enforcement.
- 4.2.3 Perhaps the biggest negative impact of Covid as far as the work of the OPCC and constabulary are concerned has been the temporary closure of the court estate and the subsequent impact on waiting times for criminal cases. This is subject to ongoing discussion at the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board, chaired by the PCC, and nationally as the PCC is criminal justice lead for the Association of PCCs. The ability to effectively address the backlog sits at the national level and the plans to address the criminal case backlog do not yet assure the PCC that it will be reduced within acceptable timescales. The subsequent impact on victims and witnesses, as well as the prospect of being able to conduct effective trials in some cases over two years after events took place, is a top priority for the PCC and OPCC.

4.3 Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund 2020/21

- 4.3.1 Grants of up to £5000 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.
- 4.3.2 The Commissioner awarded funds to the following 6 grants in the 1st round of funding for 2020/21:
- 12-week positive diversionary programme in particular to focus on reducing ASB leading up to Halloween. Based in East Herts.

- Maintenance of Mobile Communications Vehicle run by volunteers which has been used at community safety events, briefings, interviews and crime reporting in rural areas.
- Boost business watch with refresher radio training and crime prevention training for retailers in Hatfield town centre.
- Multiagency community reassurance and crime prevention events for residents of Welwyn Hatfield.
- Modern Slavery Helpline that operates across the whole of the UK with the helpline referring cases directly to Herts Constabulary.
- Conflict resolution service to work alongside frontline Police Officers/PCSOs when dealing with low-level neighbour/family disputes in North Hertfordshire.

4.3.3 Further information can be found here:

<https://www.hertscommissioner.org/pcc-action-fund>

4.3.4 The 2nd round of the fund closed for applications on the 5 October 2020 with 9 bids submitted.

4.3.5 The 3rd and final round is currently open with a deadline of 14 December 2020. 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>

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

4.4 Home Office Safer Streets Fund

4.4.1 Work is progressing at pace to implement the £620k Home Office funded Safer Streets project to tackle vehicle crime and burglary in two areas of Cheshunt, Broxbourne. A multi-agency project team with a number of subgroups has been launched to progress work around key areas of community engagement, communications and target hardening.

For further information about the project, please contact Dr Amie Birkhamshaw, Director of Strategy:

Amie.Birkhamshaw@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

4.5 Community Safety Grant 2020/2021

4.5.1 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.

Seven grants have been assessed and awarded to the following projects:

- Extension of the countywide SOS+ Serious Violence project to enable the project to continue to identify/support high risk young people and become sustainable from 2021
- Extension of the countywide Crimestoppers' led Fearless project in schools/youth venues to ensure it reaches more areas in Hertfordshire in 2020/21
- Extension of the Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Coordinator post to ensure the service becomes sustainable within Hertfordshire from 2021
- Extension of a pilot project that provides outreach workers to support perpetrators of low-level domestic abuse
- Contribution to employment of a team of DA Officers in the Family Safeguarding teams
- Contribution towards Herts Youth Justice who deliver statutory services to prevent offending and reoffending of children and young people age 10-17 in Hertfordshire
- Appointment of a Programme Manager to oversee the successful implementation, delivery & mainstreaming of both the Hertfordshire Fraud and Cybercrime strategies – including Cybercrime Basics Reviews for SMEs
- Supporting ex-offenders in to employment, training and education by recruiting and developing volunteers

4.5.2 It is also worth noting that there were 8 bids from Hertfordshire County Council with the remaining 9 from district community safety partnerships/voluntary sector. In terms of geographical coverage, 13 of the bids received were for Herts-wide service delivery with the remaining 4 focusing on multi-district/individual districts. Of the 7 bids approved, 6 are for Countywide projects.

More details can be found here:

<https://www.hertscommissioner.org/community-safety-fund>

4.5.3 All successful applications have conditions attached to the grant agreement which includes providing an 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

4.6 Criminal Justice Innovation Fund 2020/21

4.6.1 The Commissioner received 9 bids for 2020/21 projects which were assessed/scrutinised by the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board and its subgroups. Four grants have been awarded to the following projects:

- Providing a route to employment for Herts residents who are - or feel they are - excluded from getting a job because of their offending history or perceived abilities.
- Targeted work with young offenders/those at risk of offending. Empowering them to identify the right choices, enabling them to gain vital soft skills and the confidence to progress into positive opportunities, aiding prevention against committing future crime.
- Video-enabled Justice project with Citizen Advice Bureaus in Hertfordshire and the Courts Based Witness Service to develop up to ten Civilian Witness Suites to facilitate the giving of Court evidence in a remote environment.
- Acquiring, risk assessing and implementation of certain “distraction” items which will pass the time, relieve anxiety and make the custody process of being detained in a cell slightly less of an ordeal for vulnerable people (anxiety, depression, PTSD, ADHD, ADD, learning difficulties and claustrophobia)

4.6.2 The scheme was originally 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.

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

4.6.4 Further details of the projects and the amounts awarded can be found here: <https://www.hertscommissioner.org/cj-innovation-fund>

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 Coronavirus Emergency Fund

- 4.7.1 The PCC's Coronavirus Emergency Fund enabled charities/community groups to support residents during the initial stages of the coronavirus crisis.
- 4.7.2 The Commissioner's funding enabled Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) to award grants of up to £2,000 as part of their Coronavirus Disaster Relief Fund.
- 4.7.3 The PCC approved 3 bids for this emergency fund that help provide practical/virtual support to domestic abuse victims (including families) and support to prisoners at The Mount. A number of other bids are currently under consideration.
- 4.7.4 The Commissioner prioritised bids with a community safety/safeguarding focus or where organisations have been supporting police officers in delivering a response to the crisis.

The fund is now closed. If you have any questions regarding the Coronavirus Emergency Fund please contact Karl Stonebank:
Karl.Stonebank@herts.pnn.gov.uk

4.8 PCC's Fly tipping Fund for Private Land Pilot

- 4.8.1 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. The PCC has so far awarded a total of £8,201.10 for 9 waste clearances across 4 districts.
- 4.8.2 During this financial year the Commissioner has already awarded funding for the removal of 4 fly tips in East Herts, 2 in North Herts, 2 in Broxbourne and 1 in Watford which has included white goods, other household waste, asbestos, vehicle parts, tyres, construction / demolition and other commercial and household waste.
- 4.8.3 The pilot is also supporting efforts to improve the prevention of fly tipping. A private landowner in Broxbourne is being assisted by the Rural Operational Support Team with specialist crime prevention advice, interim cameras and increased patrols to deter offenders and prosecute criminality.
- 4.8.4 The OPCC is aware of an increase in fly-tipping on private land since the implementation of government lockdown restrictions, particularly commercial and household waste. We would encourage councils across the county to make best use of the funding that is available to them.

- 4.8.5 Further information can be found at <https://www.hertscommissioner.org/fly-tipping>

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

4.9 2020 /2021– The Year of Beacon

- 4.9.1 To celebrate five years of Hertfordshire's victim service, the PCC has designated 2020 to be 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 a 5th anniversary Beacon celebration which, initially scheduled for April 2020, will have been delayed due to COVID-19. The Year of Beacon will run until April 2021.
- 4.9.2 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.
- 4.9.3 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

4.10 Independent Custody Volunteer recruitment

- 4.10.1 The OPCC is looking to recruit new Independent Custody Volunteers (ICVs) in Hertfordshire, the ICV scheme which aims to safeguard the rights of suspects. New volunteers interested in making unannounced visits to police custody to check on detainee's conditions are being asked to come forward. In 2019/2020 13,792 detainees passed through Hertfordshire's two police custody units, with 8,035 held in Hatfield and 5,757 in Stevenage. During that time members of the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) team made 129 custody visits and spoke to a total of 555 detainees.
- 4.10.2 Anyone over 18, who lives or works in the county is eligible apply to join. The team aims to have volunteers from all backgrounds to match the demographics of Hertfordshire. Volunteers work in pairs, will be given full training plus expenses and are expected to do around eight to 12 visits annually. Last year the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner office won a prestigious national award for the quality of its independent custody visiting scheme.

4.10.3 For more information about the scheme and the recruitment drive visit the OPCC website: <https://www.hertscommissioner.org/2020-09-custody-volunteers-asked-to-come-forward>

4.11 Extra funding to support victims of sexual crime secured by Hertfordshire Commissioner

4.11.1 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.

4.11.2 Hertfordshire has seen a rise in those that have been sexually exploited through modern slavery and human trafficking. This includes those who have been forced into prostitution. Part of this funding will be granted to a local organisation to fund a new worker to support this group, who are traditionally less likely to seek help.

Any organisations interested in this project should contact Jenna Skinner: Jenna.Skinner@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications

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.