

## Agenda item 5

### Police and Crime Panel

29 January 2016

### Covering Report - Status Review of PCC Plan Objective 4 – ‘Caring for Victims and Vulnerable People’

#### Summary

1. The Panel will question the PCC about the progress towards achieving his strategic objective of ‘caring for victims and vulnerable people’, as set out in his [Police & Crime Plan 2013-17 \(varied version 1.1\)](#), dated July 2015

#### Focus of the agenda item

2. Specific areas of focus by the Panel are as follows, including items identified by members of the Panel at an informal workshop on 2 December 2015:
  - i. With reference to the discussion about the UCS report at the [Panel meeting in April 2015](#), what is the current status regarding Suffolk agencies involved in supporting victims of domestic abuse collaborating and engaging with each other, and working collectively on addressing the issues in the Report (and subsequent research), and for strong overall leadership to drive it forward to bring about real change in Suffolk?
  - ii. How does the PCC feel that the relationship with Suffolk County Council and the Domestic Abuse Forum is now working?
  - iii. What is the PCC's view regarding how effectively and successfully Restorative Justice is working in addressing the needs of victims and vulnerable people?

#### Recommendations

3. The Panel is recommended to:
  - a) Have regard to all the information in this covering Report and Evidence Sets.
  - b) Ask questions of the PCC, and make any recommendations to the PCC, in relation to the content of this Report.
  - c) Make any resolutions, or identify any further actions required, in relation to the content of this Report and responses to questions made at the meeting.

#### Background and Key Lines of Enquiry

4. The Panel's Forward Work Plan includes a status review of each of four strategic objectives in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017. The Panel's previous

review of 'Objective 4', 'Caring for Victims and Vulnerable People' was in January 2015.

5. At its meeting on 30 January 2015 the Panel considered a report on the Status Review of PCC Plan Objective 4 ('Caring for Victims and Vulnerable People') and the progress towards achieving the PCC's target as set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017. The Panel was advised that the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Conference had recently taken place in Ipswich where Dr Emma Bond author of the University College Suffolk (UCS) research report on domestic abuse, provided a presentation on the findings of the research. The PCC stressed the need to quantify the scale of the problem and to clarify what resources were currently available across all agencies. He advised that the lessons to be learnt from the findings of the research focused on better training and awareness and the need for enhanced support for victims particularly in the areas of counselling provision and children's services. The Panel looked forward to seeing the UCS research report when it was published, and highlighted the need for properly joined up shared services with senior level commitment, early preventative intervention through the Education system, and more focus on victims of crime other than domestic abuse.
6. At its meeting on 24 April 2015 the Panel considered the report by University Campus Suffolk (UCS), commissioned by the PCC, entitled "Understanding domestic abuse in Suffolk: a study of the experiences of survivors". This report had been published in March 2015. The Panel recognised the nature of the report as a valid qualitative piece of research that highlighted both good practice but also considerable areas of concern, leaving victims of domestic abuse unprotected and unsupported.
7. The PCC and Panel members strongly stressed the need for Suffolk agencies involved in supporting victims of domestic abuse to collaborate and engage with each other and work collectively on addressing the issues in the Report (and subsequent quantitative research), and for strong overall leadership to drive it forward to bring about real change in Suffolk. The Panel resolved to (i) write a letter to stakeholders encouraging them to support and engage with the PCC in creating and implementing a collective Action Plan to address the findings of the UCS research into Domestic Abuse in Suffolk, and (ii) to recommend to the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Scrutiny Committee that it undertake scrutiny of the performance, in dealing with domestic abuse, of the various SCC services that were referred to in the UCS report on Domestic Abuse in Suffolk.
8. At its meeting on 10 July 2015, in reviewing the PCC's Strategic Partnership Methodology for partnership working to reduce the level of demand and cost burden on the Constabulary, the Panel recommended to the PCC that he should seek to ensure a more strategic approach to dealing with Domestic Abuse in Suffolk, and the Panel resolved that it would reiterate its earlier message to key stakeholders regarding timely partnership engagement along with the Constabulary in addressing the Domestic Abuse issues in Suffolk.
9. In December 2015 HMIC published a report "PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) - A national overview". This is the first time that HMIC has graded forces on their effectiveness at protecting vulnerable people from harm (although HMIC has examined many aspects of vulnerability through a range of other inspections). An extract of the Inspection Report for Suffolk Constabulary is attached as Evidence Set 2, and shows a summary rating of 'Requires improvement' in relation to the question, "*How effective is the force at protecting from harm those who are vulnerable, and supporting victims?*"

10. The three performance measures for Objective 4 ‘Caring’, are reviewed by the PCC at his [Accountability & Performance Panel](#) meetings and the latest [performance report](#) is available on his website. The figures as at September 2015 and October 2015 were as follows:

## October 2015

Police & Crime Plan Objectives						
Objective	Measure	12 months to 31 Oct 15	Baseline <sup>1</sup>	Comparison to baseline <sup>1,2</sup>	Status <sup>3</sup>	National ranking <sup>4</sup>
Caring	Victims’ Satisfaction – Whole Experience	83.9%	86.6%	-2.7%		19th
	Victims’ Satisfaction – Follow-up	76.8%	79.4%	-2.6%		10th
	Domestic Abuse Repeat Victimization (existing)	Not available at present				
	Domestic Abuse Repeat Victimization (proposed)	Not available at present				

## Police & Crime Plan Objectives (September 2015)

Police & Crime Plan Objectives						
Objective	Measure	12 months to 30 Sep 15	Baseline <sup>1</sup>	Comparison to baseline <sup>1,2</sup>	Status <sup>3</sup>	National ranking <sup>4</sup>
Caring	Victims’ Satisfaction – Whole Experience	83.0%	86.6%	-3.6%		15th
	Victims’ Satisfaction – Follow-up	78.0%	79.4%	-1.4%		10th
	Domestic Abuse Repeat Victimization (existing)	60.0%	64.8%	-4.8%		N/A
	Domestic Abuse Repeat Victimization (proposed)	33.0%	30.7%	+2.3%		N/A

### Supporting Information

#### 11. Evidence Set (attached as Appendix)

- (i) Evidence Set 1 – Summary Report from Office of the PCC addressing the above focus areas: “Progress with Objective 4 in the Police and Crime Plan”, Office of the PCC Report, January 2016. [3 pages]
- (ii) Evidence Set 2 – Summary Extract from HMIC Report, “*PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability) - An inspection of Suffolk Constabulary*”, December 2015. [6 pages]

## 12. Background Information (For reference; not attached)

- (i) Police and Crime Panel, April 2015:  
[http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=24/Apr/2015&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20\(Joint%20Committee\)](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=24/Apr/2015&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20(Joint%20Committee))
- (ii) Police and Crime Plan – Monitoring Performance – monthly updates:  
<http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/monitoring-performance>
- (iii) Police and Crime Panel meeting, Agenda Item 5, '*PCC Plan Objective 4 – Caring for Victims and Vulnerable People*', 30 January 2015:  
[http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=30/Jan/2015&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20\(Joint%20Committee\)](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=30/Jan/2015&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20(Joint%20Committee))
- (iv) PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) - A national overview  
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/police-effectiveness-vulnerability-2015/>
- (v) PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (Vulnerability) - An inspection of Suffolk Constabulary  
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/police-effectiveness-vulnerability-2015-suffolk.pdf>

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