

Agenda item 4

Police and Crime Panel

18 March 2016

Covering Report - Status Review of PCC Plan Objective 2 – ‘Solving Crime’

Summary

1. The Panel will question the PCC about the progress towards achieving his strategic objective of ‘Solving Crime’, 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 19 Feb 2016:
 - i. What is the PCC doing to ensure that accurate and up to date performance data is available regarding the Constabulary's performance in Solving Crime, including like-for-like comparison with other forces?
 - ii. What is the PCC doing to engage with the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to the low overall number of convictions for Serious Sexual Offences, and the suggestion that perhaps the evidential threshold might be set too high, or there are procedural delays?
 - iii. Noting that the desired increased reporting of crime by victims can result in a reduction in the solved rate by the Constabulary's finite resources, what does the PCC regard as constituting 'success' in dealing with crime, and how will this be measured and compared with other forces in the future?
 - iv. What trends does the PCC see, and what information is available, regarding People Trafficking in Suffolk?

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 focuses each quarter on one of the PCC's Plan's strategic objectives. This topic was considered previously at the Panel meeting in April 2015.
5. At its meeting on [24 April 2015](#) the Panel had welcomed the reduction in recorded crime in Suffolk, but expressed concern at the worsening performance in relation to solving Serious Sexual Offences and Violence with Injury; the Panel had resolved to keep this issue on its own agenda and had recommended, (i) that the PCC continue to scrutinise the Chief Constable / Constabulary around Serious Sexual Offences solved crime performance, bearing in mind that extra financial resources had been put in by the PCC, and (ii) In relation to people with mental ill health that the PCC give consideration to the approach whereby a mental health nurse is based in the Contact and Control Room.
6. At its meeting on [29 January 2016](#), in consideration of what the PCC is doing to improve the Constabulary's Serious Sexual Offences solved rate performance, it was noted that there was increased reporting as people are more confident in coming forward, and there had been increased investment in the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). There was a relatively small number of rape cases charged and referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, however for those charged there was a high conviction rate. There was strong focus on the needs of the victims, whether for historic or more recent cases. The Panel had noted the extensive Report, and had recommended to the PCC that there be a further breakdown and greater clarity of the figures for Serious Sexual Offences, including data on (i) self-referrals to the SARC that do not get reported to the Police, and (ii) cases of forced marriage.
7. At an informal workshop on 19 Feb 2016, Panel members considered the PCC/Constabulary performance report for October 2015, and also heard from the Constabulary's Protecting Vulnerable People Directorate about the approach to dealing with Serious Sexual Offences including Child Sexual Exploitation. The members also considered some comparative data from Essex and Norfolk. *(NB. As at 10/3/16 there is no update available of the 'Solving Crime' figures shown below; this is understood to be due to issues arising from implementing the Athena system).*

Police & Crime Plan Performance Exception Report



October 2015

Police & Crime Plan Objectives

Objective	Measure	12 months to 31 Oct 15	Baseline ¹	Comparison to baseline ^{1,2}	Status ³	National ranking ⁴
Responding to Emergencies	999 Call Handling ⁵	90.3%	92.0%	-1.7%	◆ ↑	N/A
	Response to Emergency Incidents	91.0%	91.1%	-0.1%	◆ ↓	N/A
Solving Crime	Violence with Injury – Solved	38.9%	50.1%	-11.2%	◆ ↓	
	Domestic Burglary – Solved	13.9%	21.2%	-7.3%	◆ ↓	
	Robbery – Solved	21.6%	33.4%	-12%	◆ ↓	
	Serious Sexual Offences – Solved	12.4%	20.6%	-8.2%	◆ ↓	
	Drug Trafficking – Solved	87.9%	94.3%	-6.4%	◆ ↓	

8. Also at the workshop, information from the Local Safeguarding Children Board cited the following extract from the recent Ofsted inspection: *“An ‘exploited children’s sub-group’ incorporates children and young people with a spectrum of interlocking vulnerabilities encompassing child sexual exploitation, trafficked children, female genital mutilation,*

forced marriage and gangs and groups. The Board has influenced the implementation of robust operational responses to identified risk and harm, identifying and addressing weaknesses in the consistent completion of child sexual exploitation screening and assessment toolkits and missing from home return interviews. The Board provided recent multi-agency training on conducting more effective return interviews to improve the skills of practitioners in acquiring better intelligence and reducing further missing episodes. Acceleration of improved strategic and analytical capability to demonstrate the scale and profile of child sexual exploitation in Suffolk is an important Board priority. Combining intelligence from return interviews of children who have gone missing and capturing the coordinated impact of disruption activities are key elements to this work. The Board has recently added additional analytical and administrative resources to purposefully progress this objective.”

9. Various reports to the PCC’s [Accountability and Performance Panel, 26/2/16](#), are attached as ‘Evidence Sets’, and state the following in relation to some of the PCC’s actions to address various issues:

9.1 Hidden Harm report (update from Protecting Vulnerable People Directorate & Cyber Crime Unit):

- *"4.1.16 There is a continuing discussion as to the future commissioning responsibilities for SARC and whether this will pass to NHS England. This will not affect the service provision."*
- *"4.1.17 '... Consideration is being given by the PCC to the commissioning of an ISVA focussed on male victims.'"*
- *"7.3 'The additional resources that have been made available throughout 2015 through the Suffolk Local Policing Model review and the precept increase afforded by the PCC, together with the recent deployment of the County Policing Command Priority Crime Teams to assist rape and serious sexual offence in both Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich, have all contributed to the ability to manage this additional demand and to ensure that victims are provided the very best service.'"*

9.2 Domestic Abuse action plan:

- *"1.6 The Force should consider how multiple contacts with victims, by different officers or police staff and other agencies can be streamlined to provide a better service for the victim. Continuing – the Force is now working effectively with new Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service and other voluntary organisations to ensure a more streamlined approach. Co-location of the Constabulary DA Team and the IDVA service will assist in coordinating processes. This action is duplicated within the University Campus Suffolk action plan. A full systems review of domestic abuse services and response in Suffolk, led by the Local Authority, has been commissioned and this issue will now be part of that review."*
- *"1.11 The Force should work with the PCC and partner agencies to increase the numbers of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) available to work with victims in the county."*
- *"6.1 University Campus Suffolk (UCS) published ‘Understanding domestic abuse in Suffolk - A study of the experiences of survivors’ in March 2015. This was commissioned by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner. The report made a number of recommendations for the Police and the Criminal Justice System."*

- “6.18 The Constabulary, supported by the OPCC, have commissioned the College of Policing to deliver a training package on Domestic Abuse. It is hoped this will result in permanent cultural changes to the way domestic abuse is managed within the Constabulary.”

Supporting Information

10. Evidence Sets (attached)

- (i) Evidence Set 1 – Summary Report from Office of the PCC addressing the above focus areas: “Objective 2: Solving Crime - a response to the Panel’s areas of focus”, Office of the PCC Report, March 2016. [2 pages]
- (ii) Evidence Set 2 - Hidden Harm report: 'update from Protecting Vulnerable People Directorate & Cyber Crime Unit (Protective Services Directorate) in relation to an overview of the areas of business'. (from PCC A&P mtg. 26/2/16). [Hidden Harm Monitoring Report](#), [Hidden Harm Appendix](#) [26 pages in total]
- (iii) Evidence Set 3 - Protecting Vulnerable People - Children and Young People Update. (from PCC A&P mtg. 26/2/16) [Protecting Vulnerable People – Children and Young People Update](#) [6 pages]
- (iv) Evidence Set 4 - Domestic Abuse action plans. (from PCC A&P mtg. 26/2/16) [Domestic Abuse Action Plans](#) [7 pages]
[NB. Also see the online [Appendix A UCS Action Plan](#) – not attached]

11. Background Information (For reference; not attached)

- (i) The latest Constabulary [performance report](#) available on the PCC website <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/monitoring-performance>:
- (ii) 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))
- (iii) Police and Crime Panel meeting, 29 January 2016: [http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=29/Jan/2016&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20\(Joint%20Committee\)](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=29/Jan/2016&c=Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel%20(Joint%20Committee))
- (iv) PCC Accountability & Performance Meeting, 26 Feb 2016: <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/public-meetings/accountability-and-performance-panel/accountability-and-performance-panel-26-february-2016>

12. Contact Details

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