



### **Objective 2: Solving Crime - a response to the Panel's areas of focus**

1 Objective 2 sits alongside three other key objectives in the Police and Crime Plan:

Objective 1: Responding to emergencies;

**Objective 2: Solving Crime;**

Objective 3: Preventing and reducing crime and ASB;

Objective 4: Caring for victims and vulnerable people.

2 The Panel has asked a number of areas of focus arising from its workshop on 19 February 2016. The following paragraphs of the report seek to address those queries.

**PANEL QUESTION:** 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?

3 The ongoing issue with management information was identified in my October monthly summary report on performance published on my website. Athena is a major transformation multi-force collaborative IT project. The current issues affect all forces using Athena and each is working on a solution that is appropriate to their context. The issue was exacerbated in Suffolk due to the fact that Athena was replacing the Crime Information System which is over 20 years old, and thus the magnitude of transformation from an old legacy system to the much improved Athena was much greater.

4 The issue of when this position would be resolved was raised with the Chief Constable at my Accountability and Performance Panel in February and I was advised that the force and the collaborated Athena Management Office are taking this matter very seriously. It is intended that accurate data will be reported from April 2016. Whilst I am naturally disappointed and frustrated with this difficulty, the Constabulary has reassured me that investigations and support to victims is not being compromised, and tactical tasking work is still effective despite these data issues.

**PANEL QUESTION:** 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?

5 I work closely with criminal justice partners including the Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service in my role on the Local Criminal Justice Board. The Chief Constable assures me that the Constabulary works effectively with the Crown

Prosecution Service in terms of day to day operational activity in management of cases through the criminal justice system. Should there be any barriers to effective working which need the wider ownership of criminal justice agencies then a report explaining the issue could be brought to the Local Criminal Justice Board.

**PANEL QUESTION:** 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?

- 6 For me success is about the service delivered and the outcomes for victims. These include (but are not limited to) the solved rate. Several factors together constitute success, high levels of victim satisfaction, good quality and speed of response, high quality of investigation, fair treatment of victims by the police, compliance with the Victims Code and the extent to which victims are referred onto support services. Not all of these elements can be measured and only the data collected by the Home Office can be regularly compared across forces.
- 7 I believe that what constitutes success for one victim may differ from another and what is possible in terms of bringing offences to justice is complex. My Police and Crime Plan was published with a clear performance framework but there are many areas of business which fall outside of these measures but are still important. For example, in relation to public feedback, latest data suggests that the force needs to improve how it 'keeps people informed' and yet in respect of the latest Crime Survey of England and Wales the force performs best in the country at treating people with fairness and respect. To my mind, both of these issues are factors which constitute success.

**PANEL QUESTION:** What trends does the PCC see, and what information is available, regarding People Trafficking in Suffolk?

- 8 The current picture regarding all Hidden Harm areas has been reported to my Accountability and Performance Panel. This gave an outline regarding Constabulary's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Team (HTE). The team was created in 2015, provides the lead on child sexual exploitation, human trafficking allegations, prostitution-based investigations, the Constabulary's response to those sharing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) and allegations of forced labour. The team is led by a Detective Inspector and highly experienced officers within this team deal with extremely vulnerable victims and link with the national structures that are in place to support these areas of policing.
- 9 As the Panel will have seen from the 'Hidden Harm' report to my Accountability and Performance Panel, there are new crime types emerging for forces, only some of which are well understood and these are often under-reported. Intelligence gathering seeks to identify human trafficking issues. At this time only a very small number of cases have been dealt with in Suffolk. However, I am content that the Constabulary has the skills and resources to support victims, target prevention and tackle crime as soon as it becomes evident.