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**Police and Crime
Commissioner**
for Hertfordshire

MEETING	POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
DATE	1 FEBRUARY 2018
TITLE	UPDATE FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HERTFORDSHIRE
SUBMITTED BY	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to the Panel about the current work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. SUMMARY

Update have been provided in relation to the following items:

- Retendering of Beacon Victim Services
- Hertfordshire Constabulary HMICFRS reports
- Community Stop and Search Panel
- Stop and Search Module on Citizens' Academy
- Beacon Film Festival
- Mental Health Street Triage Report
- Fire Service Governance

3. UPDATES

Retendering of Beacon Victim Care Centre

The contract with the current service provider (Victim Support) to offer emotional and practical support to victims of crimes ends on 31 March 2018.

The OPCC has recently reviewed the services available to victims and witnesses across the County and wish to build on the successes of the Beacon Victim Care Centre.

A significant development this year has been the piloting of Vulnerable Victim Case workers who have demonstrated that an individualised service promotes greater resilience and recovery for those most impacted by crime. The retendered service will increase capacity to support even more victims, including enhanced outreach to the estimated two thirds of victims who do not report to the police.

Finally, victims whose cases do not progress to prosecution will receive support to ensure they understand their rights and entitlements.

The Panel will be informed as soon as the results of the retendering exercise are available.

The duration of the contract will be for a period of 3 years. The successful service provider will be required to work alongside the Victim Service Team in Beacon located at Police HQ. The MOJ has notified the OPCC of the Victim Grant for the 18/19 year, showing a very slight increase on 17/18.

Hertfordshire Constabulary HMICFRS reports

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) announced in November's Efficiency report that the force is good in the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. Whilst the judgement of good is the same as last year, Hertfordshire is now good in all categories, which is an improvement on 2016.

The force is judged to be good in its understanding of demand (2016, required improvement), its use of resources to manage demand, and its planning for future demand.

Areas for recommended improvement are:

- The force should ensure that it has sufficient officers and staff available to fulfil its resourcing model and meet the demand on its services, while also taking into account the wellbeing of its workforce.

- The force should conduct a skills and capability audit that will allow it to understand leadership capacity and capability below the rank of chief inspector and police staff equivalent, including special constables and volunteers.
- The force should ensure that its understanding of the demand for its services, and the expectations of the public, are up to date by regularly reviewing its evidence base. This should be conducted alongside local authorities, other emergency services and partner organisations, to ensure that the force takes the necessary steps to meet current and likely future demand.
- The force and the strategic alliance should ensure that performance development reviews are quality-assured and that line managers are supported to develop the skills and capability of their officers and staff effectively.

The full report can be accessed here:

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/peel-police-efficiency-2017-hertfordshire.pdf>

December's Legitimacy report assessed the force as good at treating the people it serves with fairness and respect. It was also judged to be good at ensuring its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully.

According to HMICFRS, Hertfordshire Constabulary is good at providing training in effective communication skills, the appropriate use of coercive powers and what constitutes reasonable grounds for stop and search.

The Community Stop and Search Panel was recognised as performing an important function, though it was highlighted that there should be younger members on the panel.

Areas for recommended improvement are:

- The force needs to ensure that its data for use of force (including body-worn video footage) is monitored by an external group to provide additional oversight.
- The force should ensure that it has a credible plan to comply with all aspects of the national vetting standards by December 2018, in line with HMICFRS' nationwide recommendation in 2016.
- The force should ensure that all allegations which meet the mandatory criteria for referral to the IPCC are so referred, and that it updates witnesses and subjects regularly.
- The force should ensure that the grievance process complies with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service codes of practice and guidance, particularly relating to timescales, records, audit trails, and updates and support to witnesses and workforce members who have raised a grievance.

- The force should ensure it develops and supports its supervisors and managers to conduct fair, effective and consistent assessments that support continuous professional development and manage poor performance, including establishing an effective quality assurance process.

The full report can be accessed here:

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/peel-2017/hertfordshire/legitimacy/>

The PCC now has a statutory duty to respond to HMICFRS reports. Responses to the efficiency and legitimacy inspections are put to the Panel for information.

Community Stop and Search Panel

The Community Stop and Search Panel, managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, is looking to increase the number of young people on the Panel, particularly those aged between 18 and 24. The Panel meet monthly at various locations across the County for around two and a half hours, to undertake independent scrutiny of the use of stop and search across Hertfordshire.

To ensure the use of stop and search powers are compliant with legislation, and to improve public confidence and trust in the use of such police powers, the Panel undertake scrutiny of:

- Redacted stop and search records
- Body worn camera footage of stop searches
- Monthly stop search summary data.

Panel members can develop their analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as gain experience and understanding of working with a key statutory agency. Volunteers are required to commit to the process for one year upon completion of which, a reference letter can be produced by the PCC confirming involvement period and level of attendance. Reasonable travel expenses are reimbursed for all Panel members.

More information can be accessed here: www.hertscommissioner.org/stopsearch

Stop and Search Module on Citizens' Academy

Hertfordshire's Citizens' Academy provides the opportunity to take interactive modules in crime prevention and community safety that have been developed alongside experts from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The new module on stop and search covers:

- Best use of stop and search scheme (BUSS)
- Legislation governing use of stop and search powers
- Your rights if subject to a stop and search

- Practical advice
- How to provide feedback or make a complaint
- Other types of police encounter
- A short quiz to check knowledge and understanding

The module is at <http://www.hertscitizensacademy.org>

Beacon Film Festival - Wed 7 Feb to Fri 9 Feb 2018

As part of Victims' Rights Awareness week, Beacon has teamed up with Oaklands College Media Department to deliver a dynamic programme of free filmmaking and victim awareness workshops. In addition to the workshops there are several film screenings, showing the best of this year's international films that have been submitted; and an awards ceremony showcasing films from Oaklands College film students.

All films have been created and submitted to raise awareness of Beacon - Hertfordshire's Victim Care Centre, and the impacts of crime on victims. The full itinerary and booking can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beacon-film-festival-2018-tickets-41941791026>

All events are free of charge and open to anyone, apart from the film screenings which are 15 or over.

Mental Health Street Triage report

In 2015, a pilot scheme was launched which placed mental health clinicians into Hertfordshire Constabulary's Force Control Room to help provide better guidance to officers around proposed detentions under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. This was expanded in 2016 to a scheme involving street support.

It is based on the provision of two cars with a police officer and a mental health crisis team clinician, who attend incidents concerning people reported to be in mental health crisis countywide. In 2017, the Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned an evaluation of the Street Triage scheme, which was undertaken by NEF Consulting.

The report comprises of a review of the performance of the scheme and an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme, with recommendations for improvement of the service model. The report was presented to the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, and Crisis Care Concordat Steering Group in December 2017.

The full report can be accessed here:

http://www.hertscommissioner.org/fluidcms/files/files/Herts-Street-Triage_Final-Report-NEFC-071217.pdf.

A presentation summarising the context, findings and recommendations for the future of the Street Triage scheme in Hertfordshire can be accessed here:

<http://www.hertscommissioner.org/fluidcms/files/files/HERTS-OPCC---PRESENTATION-NEFC-131217.pptx>

Fire Service Governance

In December, CIPFA, as the body appointed to conduct an independent assessment of the PCC's Fire Business Case, interviewed representatives of the Office of the PCC and Hertfordshire County Council. By the time of the Panel meeting, CIPFA will have submitted their report to the Home Office. Neither the OPCC nor Hertfordshire County Council will see the report before it is submitted.

The OPCC has been informed that a decision can be expected from the Home Secretary after the February recess.

END

Equalities

- [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.
- [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.
- [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.

No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this report as it only provides a brief summary of wider work undertaken by the OPCC.