

— **David Lloyd** —
**Police and Crime
 Commissioner**
 for Hertfordshire

MEETING	POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
DATE	16 NOVEMBER 2017
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
- Employer Supported Policing
- Mental Health Street Triage
- Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Community Safety Grants
- Criminal Justice
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Service Transformation Fund
- Stop and Search Panel
- Support Victims of ‘Honour’ Based Abuse (HBA)
- 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. We intend to build on this service and increase the capacity to support even more victims. We are also aware that only one third of victims go on to report a crime, therefore we wish to ensure greater outreach to those in fear of accessing support or those living within marginalised communities. Finally, we wish to promote a greater experience for those who do not enter the criminal justice system and ensure they are empowered to understand their rights and entitlements. The re-contracting of the service will enable us to realise these ambitions.

The OPCC has already held a bidder day (October) for interested parties and the ITT was published on 30 October. Responses are required by 5 December. It is planned to issue a notice of contract to the successful bidder in early January.

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. Due to the ambition contained within the new contract specification, no contract value (limit) has been set but it is assumed it will be in line with the present contract value. The MOJ has notified the OPCC of the Victim Grant for the 18/19 year, showing a very slight increase on last year.

Employer Supported Policing

Local businesses and other employers in Hertfordshire are being asked to support Special Constables by signing up to Employer Supported Policing (ESP); and to help bring vital skills in to the policing and community safety arena. There are currently 25 organisations signed up to the ESP scheme in Hertfordshire including but not limited to Tesco, Which?, McMullen Brewery and Sons and District and Borough Councils.

Special Constables have full police powers, uniform and protective equipment and work alongside the regular force. They play a vital role in helping keep communities

safe and can get involved in a range of policing activities. Currently, there are opportunities for Special Constables to work in diverse duties which range from working in the Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Prisoner Handling Teams. Officers with ICT skills can also work alongside Cyber Crime teams to deliver online safeguarding and crime prevention advice.

The PCC asks the Board to share the following information and encourage participation in this initiative. More information on joining the Employer Supported Policing Scheme (ESP) or becoming a Special Constable can be found at www.hertspolicespecials.co.uk. You can also get in touch with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - ESP@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or call 01707 - 806150.

Mental Health Street Triage

An evaluation of Hertfordshire's Street Triage scheme, commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, is currently underway. The Street Triage scheme is a joint partnership between Hertfordshire Constabulary and the Hertfordshire University Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT). Under the scheme, health professionals make an on-street assessment to ensure an individual gets the best care possible when concerns about their mental state are reported to the police. It is primarily designed to help avoid preventable detentions under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. The evaluation will produce a cost benefit analysis, to ascertain if there is a strong business case for the scheme. This will allow an assessment of the realisable savings to the Constabulary and for the NHS Trusts / CCGs, from preventing Sections 136 from occurring, the reduction of police officer time attending Section 136 incidents and from the improved outcomes that can be achieved for individuals.

The evaluation report will be presented to the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2017.

Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery

The OPCC and Herts Constabulary are leading on partnership work in regards to modern slavery. Further to a very successful conference in March, three well attended meetings have since taken place involving a range of partners. The aim of these meetings has been to develop a partnership response which builds on the National Policing Plan and the Anti Slavery Commissioner's strategy.

A steering group has been set up which includes the OPCC, HCC (adult and child services), NHS, Herts Constabulary, Shiva Foundation, borough council representation and various NGOs. We are developing a unique operational and governance model, with the Shiva Foundation (a corporate foundation) taking responsibility for administrative co-ordination of the partnership. This is being held up

as a model of best practice and has generated interest from organisations across the eastern region and beyond.

The OPCC is currently drafting an action plan for the partnership, which will be delivered by a number of multi-agency sub groups. The action plan is organised around 4Ps (Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue) and will provide enhanced partnership support to the Constabulary's own plan for detection and disruption of organised crime groups, as well as identification of and support for victims. Governance of the steering group and sub groups will be undertaken through the PCC's Community Safety Board, with direct links to the National Anti-Trafficking & Modern Slavery Network.

As well as organising several multi-agency and cross border operations, the Constabulary's modern slavery team, Op Tropic, has been delivering awareness training to partners with front line roles across the county. So far around 1500 staff have been provided with training on spotting the signs, referral, reporting and providing support for victims.

A modern slavery partnership strategy will be drafted by the OPCC in consultation with partners. We are aiming to launch this during Summer 2018; and are planning a second conference to showcase our learning and further engage with business partners across the county.

For more information about the modern slavery partnership, please contact Debbie Barker – deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

For more information about training, please contact Detective Sergeant Duncan Montague (Op Topic) – duncan.montague@herts.pnn.police.uk

Hate Crime

A hate crime strategy for Hertfordshire was launched at an event on 20 October 2017. The OPCC is driving this work forward by developing and chairing a multi-agency partnership; and drafting a shared action plan. More information can be found here: <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/2017-10-new-hate-crime-strategy-set-for-hertfordshire>

Community Safety Grants 2018/19

Bids for the Community Safety Grant 2018/19 are invited for submission until 22 December 2017. Priority will be given to partnership projects offering solutions to complex problems focussing on changing lives rather than just managing risk; and specific projects targeting people and places rather than 'business as usual.' Please contact deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk for further information and guidance documents.

Criminal Justice

Crest Advisory has been commissioned to undertake some work to help the OPCC better understand the CJS demand in Hertfordshire. Their report, due in November, will set out where the costs are in the system, how Hertfordshire compares nationally, and will help us to understand where there is greatest duplication and waste. In doing so, it will help the police and partners to understand the opportunities for managing demand more efficiently.

Over the coming months, the OPCC will be developing a Community Engagement Strategy to look at how Criminal Justice agencies can best engage and support the whole community, and particularly those from BAME backgrounds, throughout the CJS.

The GPS Tagging pilot is showing some successful results with 17 Hertfordshire offenders, who are on a home detention curfew, out on licence or considered for re-release following recall to prison, been successfully tagged and showing compliance with their conditions. The Commissioner will be writing to the Minister, Sam Gyimah to express the Criminal Justice Board's enthusiasm for the GPS Tagging pilot to continue beyond the life of the pilot on 31st March 2018, and to make the case for the tags to be mandatory.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) - Service Transformation Fund

The PCC was successful in a bid for domestic abuse funding. £436,000 is being awarded by the Home Office, through the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund, to transform support services for all victims of domestic abuse in Hertfordshire. The funding will lead to the creation of a 'Sunflower Hub', providing a single point-of-access allowing victims to receive expert advice or practical support. The bid recognised a gap in supporting standard/medium risk victims, especially at district level. This fund will enable us to provide double district case workers, who will be aligned to the 'Sunflower Hub'.

The OPCC is working with HCC, who will be leading on a formal procurement process – a requirement of the Home Office funding. A service specification is currently being drafted; and interested partner agencies were invited by HCC to a market engagement event on 11 October to consult on the services required.

The OPCC will be speaking to local authorities and other organisations to seek support for the service, to ensure that case workers are able to operate at local level and in the communities to which they are assigned; we will be seeking office space and private meeting rooms to enable caseworker interaction with local victims referred to the service.

For further information, please contact Debbie Barker - deborah.barker@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or Kevin McGetrick - kevin.mcgetrick@herts.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

For information about the procurement process, please contact helen.gledhill@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Stop and Search panel

In 2014, the Home Secretary introduced the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme in response to concerns about police compliance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 Code of Practice A. It was intended that the reforms should contribute to a significant reduction in use of stop search; more intelligence led stop search; and improved stop to arrest ratios. The reforms included measures to allow stop and search records to be scrutinised by community representatives through independent external scrutiny. Hertfordshire Constabulary signed up to the Best Use of Stop Search Scheme in 2015 and the PCC set up the Countywide Stop and Search Community Scrutiny Panel which is run and led by volunteers. The panel 'dip' samples random stop and search records and assesses them for legal compliance.

Further recruitment is now underway to ensure consistent levels of trained volunteers; and consideration of ways to widen the demographics of panel members, continuing to seek diverse representation i.e. targeted recruitment of BME groups and young people.

People interested in volunteering for the panel should visit the PCC's website for details on how to apply: <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/stopsearch>

Supporting Victims of 'Honour' Based Abuse (HBA)

The PCC has announced that HBA will be included in future victims' services plans delivered through Hertfordshire's victim care centre - Beacon.

This specialist support, which will address the specific needs of victims of HBA, Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will be brought in during 2018. This decision follows pioneering research carried out by the University of Roehampton and University of Essex which was commissioned by the PCC into so called 'honour' based abuse in Hertfordshire.

HBA is an umbrella term for a collection of crimes which may have been committed in the belief of protecting or defending a family or community's honour. It is however to be recognised that there is no honour in these crimes and offences. The study has highlighted areas where additional support and resources are required to assist those affected.

Actions recommended in the report will be carried out through the HBA subgroup, which sits under the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership. These crimes are under-reported and victims are hard to reach because they are isolated or vulnerable, or the perpetrator is in a position of trust. Further work needs to be done to improve the coordinated approach; ensuring victims' needs are being addressed effectively locally, nationally and internationally. Better communication with community leaders is also essential for increasing victims' confidence to report incidents and to enhance knowledge of safe reporting practices.

The report, *Honour Based Violence and Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage: Shaping Services for Priority Victims in Hertfordshire* was based on research conducted by Professor Aisha K. Gill from the University of Roehampton, Professor Pamela Cox and Ruth Weir from University of Essex with consultant input from Professor Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool. It can be found here: http://www.hertscommissioner.org/fluidcms/files/files/pdf/Victims-Commissioning/HBV_A_FM_FGM_Herts_Report_Gill_Cox_Weir_Walklate_submitted-8-May-2017.pdf

Fire Service Governance

The business case for changing the governance of Hertfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service has been submitted to the Home Office. Following a full public consultation, the PCC took the decision to proceed with his proposal to become Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. In a letter to the Home Office, the PCC said he wanted to see the two services working even more closely together, and to protect the fire service's budget. It will now be considered by the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, who will ultimately decide on the final outcome.

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.