



# HERTFORDSHIRE Police and Crime Panel

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16 February 2017

Mr David Lloyd  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire  
Harpenden Police Station  
15 Vaughan Road  
Harpenden  
Hertfordshire  
AL5 4GZ

Dear David

## REPORT OF POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ON YOUR PROPOSED POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017-2022

As you will be aware, at its meeting on 2 February 2017 the Panel supported your proposed Police and Crime Plan 2017-2022. The comments made in the discussion of your proposal have now been published as part of the minutes of that meeting, but for completeness I repeat them here.

There were no questions from the public.

Mr Laidlaw-Dickson welcomed the commitment to addressing the issue of modern slavery and asked how the Commissioner and the Chief Constable were going to make an impact.

The Commissioner replied that this was a complex issue, which was not just about policing but depended on broader community engagement. He referred to a forthcoming joint conference with the Shiva Foundation and extended an invitation to Panel members.

Cllr Martins noted that mental health is a major issue and asked whether a more proactive approach could be taken and more done with regard to safeguarding training.

The Commissioner agreed that it was important to ensure better training and support for vulnerable people. He reported that he had signed the Mental Health Care Concordat.

He welcomed the street triage initiative which incorporates mental health experts into street teams and control rooms, enabling a police intervention to be diverted to a health intervention.

Cllr Imarni noted that cyber crime is of increasing concern and asked why no budget had been set aside to upskill the force in this area.

The Commissioner replied that cyber crime is any crime that uses an element of the cyber world (e.g. the internet, social media) and so covers a very wide range of issues. Therefore the training is not specialised, but is incorporated in the normal training for modern day policing.

The Chairman noted the Commissioner's wish to speed up the criminal process and asked about progress in this area.

The Commissioner reported that there had been on the previous day a meeting of the Criminal Justice Board, which he chairs, and that he sits on the national Criminal Justice Board. He said that trying to join up the whole system is the most exciting thing that can be done to change what it's like to be a victim of crime in Hertfordshire and to change the likelihood of being a victim. He believes that, if we can work out where the wrinkles are in the system, we can make a step change.

The Chairman agreed that looking after the victim is very important.

Cllr Hodgson made reference to an article in local papers on the previous day that claimed that Hertfordshire Police was trying to keep serious crimes out of the press and away from the public. He invited the Commissioner to comment on that in the context of his transparency agenda.

The Commissioner replied that it was his role to hold the Chief Constable to account. It was helpful to be able to see if there are things that he was not hearing about, but he did not think that this was the case.

Cllr Hodgson referred to the Commissioner's wish, expressed in the Plan, to maintain a strong level of reserves and asked how this could be reconciled with the stated ambition in the budget to steadily use those reserves.

The Commissioner responded that he feels that the level of reserves is currently too high. CIPFA guidelines indicate that a reserve level of around £10 million would be sufficient. The figure in itself is not important, but the point is that they are monies that have been built up over the years that haven't been spent on policing.

Mr Cowdrey commented that the Plan was very comprehensive but asked how the Commissioner intended to prove delivery and measure outcomes.

The Commissioner replied that it is for the Constabulary to work through the delivery element. He said that the last Home Secretary had been very clear that we should move away from targets in policing as they give perverse results, so they have been replaced by a more generic plan.

Mr Cowdrey noted that there was nothing in the Plan about stemming crime before it happens by working with schools, youth groups and so on.

The Commissioner replied that the first words in the Plan are 'Everybody's Business' and that this is a golden thread running through the Plan. The whole basis of the Plan is the need to work collaboratively with all partners in the private and public sectors.

Cllr Imarni referred to the estates management element of the Plan and asked why the associated income doesn't appear until 2021.

The Commissioner replied that the estates strategy is necessarily not a short term matter, but discussions are currently in progress with councils and others with regard to a number of assets across the county, looking for commercial outcomes that also enable appropriate public access and availability.

**The Panel agreed to support the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.**

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Tim Hutchings**  
**Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel**