

For Consideration	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	8 September 2021
Report of:	Commissioner Henry (PCC)
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Agenda Item:	6

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-24: DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with an update on progress made by the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner in developing and implementing her Police and Crime Plan since taking office in May 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is invited to note the progress made to date - scrutinise the contents of this report, seek assurance on any specific areas of concern and request further information where required and within the scope of their role.
- 2.2 The panel is invited to nominate a lead members on behalf of the City and County to maintain regular engagement with the OPCC as part of the Police and Crime Plan development process.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Police and Crime Plans are a statutory requirement for all police force areas introduced as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The PCC is required to issue a Police and Crime Plan by 31st March 2022 at the latest, consulting with the Chief Constable in preparing the draft plan.
- 3.2 The Police and Crime Plan should determine, direct and communicate the PCC's priorities for their period in office and include details of:-
- The PCC's police and crime objectives for the area;
 - The policing of the area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
 - The resources which the PCC is to provide to the Chief Constable;
 - The means by which the Chief Constable will report to the PCC;
 - The means by which the Chief Constable's performance will be measured;
 - The services which the Commissioner is to arrange to support crime and disorder reduction, or help victims or witnesses of crime and ASB
 - Any grants the Commissioner is to make, and their conditions

3.3 In compiling the Police and Crime Plan, the PCC has a duty to:-

- Make arrangements for engaging with local people¹;
- Co-operate with responsible authorities² in formulating / implementing local crime and disorder strategies giving due regard to their respective priorities;
- Co-operate with local criminal justice bodies³ to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area;
- Have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement and any guidance or codes of practice issued by the Secretary of State
- Have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Fulfil duties relating to equality and diversity⁴ and securing value for money⁵;

3.4 The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner has committed to publishing her statutory plan in November 2021 following a process of extensive engagement and review of the issues, needs and threats impacting upon the police force area.

3.5 The Police and Crime Panel have a critical role in reviewing the draft police and crime plan and providing feedback and recommendations to the Commissioner prior to its publication. For this reason, the Commissioner is seeking to maintain regular engagement with two panel members as part of the police and crime plan development process.

4. ENGAGING WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

4.1 Listening to the issues and concerns of local people has been central to the Commissioner's approach since taking office in May 2021. The Commissioner launched an extensive community listening exercise during summer 2021 which includes an online Police and Crime Plan priorities survey (7 August to 25 October) and a series of community engagement events in:-

- Bassetlaw, 12 August: The Well, Hospital Road, Retford
- Ashfield, 14 September: Festival Hall, Kirkby in Ashfield
- Nottingham, 16 September: New Art Exchange, Gregory Boulevard
- Rushcliffe, 29 September: Rushcliffe Arena
- Newark, 30 September: Everyday Champions Centre

¹ [Section 34 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)

² *Responsible authorities s5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998: Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups that are wholly or partly within the police force area*

³ [Section 10\(2\)](#) - *Criminal justice bodies incorporate the Chief Constable, Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, HPPS, Youth Justice Services and Probation Trusts*

⁴ [Equality Act 2010 \(Specific Duties\) Regulations 2011](#)

⁵ [Section 35 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#)

- Gedling, 7 October: Venue TBC
- Broxtowe, 13 October: Venue TBC
- Mansfield, 14 October: Venue TBC

4.2 The community engagement events are designed to: raise awareness of the Commissioner's role and proposed priorities; seek views on those priorities and; better understand the crime, policing and community safety issues impacting upon local residents. Each event will be open to members of the public attending in person and will be live-streamed via social media for residents wishing to participate online.

4.3 The Commissioner is also seeking the views of specific groups with lived experience of crime, policing and the criminal justice system. This includes, for example representatives from BAME and Faith community organisations (10 June), representatives from the Rural Crime Partnership (17 June), victims of crime (29 September), the business community (14 October), students (20 October) and young people (peer to peer engagement via the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission, summer 2021).

4.4 The OPCC's Community Listening Group brings together representatives from **Faith and Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic (BAME)** organisations to discuss issues and concerns relating to crime, victimisation, offending and policing in Nottinghamshire. In consulting the group on the Commissioner's proposed police and crime priorities in June 2021, the group identified the following priority issues:-

- Working with partner agencies to reduce the disproportionate entry and prevalence of Black and Asian young people in the criminal justice system
- Further improve relationships between the police and BAME communities by increasing organisational understanding of lived experience, visibly targeting and tackling intimidating police contact and; ensuring police provide quality, timely and empathetic feedback to BAME victims/communities
- Increasing trust and confidence among communities to report experience of crime, particularly among South Asian victims
- Improving the feeling of safety and security among Black and Asian women and girls, particularly in recognising the prevalence and impact of Islamophobia affecting Muslim women. Consider options for targeted funding in this area
- Ensuring robust early intervention in response to low level hate crime – recognising how seemingly minor issues and tensions can quickly escalate –
- Improving the response to online / social media-based hate crime and abuse

- Improving the availability of support services for victims of hate crime in the county (e.g. Newark and Bassetlaw).

5. COOPERATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 The Commissioner is also facilitating a range of thematic stakeholder engagement events between June and October 2021 period which include a focus on priority themes such as violence against women and girls (27 July), serious violence reduction (8 September) and issues impacting upon the health and wellbeing agenda (29 September).

5.2 The PCC convened a meeting of stakeholders and professionals working within the **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)** sector in June 2021 to consider the Commissioner's proposed police and crime priorities. The participants identified the following priority issues and concerns:-

- Ensuring equitable service provision in terms of geography and demography - recognising the bespoke needs of men and boys affected by VAWG-related violence and the need to improve access to services in rural areas
- Working across the criminal and civil justice system to improve outcomes for VAWG-related offences and improving the recognition of domestic abuse and coercive control in the family court
- Lobbying for more consistent longer-term sustainable funding for the sector at a national and local level
- Securing longer-term support for victims and survivors of VAWG-related offences, including the provision of therapeutic support to better enable survivors of domestic abuse to 'recover from harm / cope with everyday life'
- Maintaining a focus on universal and targeted early intervention and prevention approaches to affect attitudinal and behavioural change and protect people from harm

5.3 The Commissioner is also reviewing the existing plans and priorities of responsible authorities, in line with her statutory duty to give regard to those priorities in formulating the police and crime plan.

5.4 Nottinghamshire Police issued a revised control strategy on 16 July 2021 setting out operational priorities for the service over the coming year based on an assessment of local and international threats and changing demand. The operational priorities for the force include: serious organised crime⁶; knife crime and serious violence; sexual offences; domestic abuse; stalking and harassment; serious acquisitive crime, counter terrorism and; cyber and financial crime.

⁶ Includes Organised Crime Groups, drugs, firearms, modern slavery and human trafficking

- 5.5 The Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership issued a refreshed partnership plan for 2021-2024 in July 2021. Strategic priorities for the city were confirmed as: anti-social behaviour; drugs and alcohol; hate crime; weapon-enabled offending; modern slavery and exploitation and; domestic and sexual violence and abuse.
- 5.6 The Safer Nottinghamshire Board reconfirmed strategic priorities in March 2021, maintaining a focus on: anti-social behaviour; substance misuse; hate crime; young people at risk of offending / exploitation; modern slavery; domestic abuse; reducing reoffending; tackling serious acquisitive crime and; Prevent.

6. ASSESSING LOCAL NEED

- 6.1 Nottinghamshire OPCC is currently refreshing the annual Police and Crime Needs Assessment for 2021. The assessment collates evidence from a wide range of police and partnership sources with a view to identifying the main crime, community safety and criminal justice issues likely to impact upon Nottinghamshire over the next four years.
- 6.2 Strategic risks are assessed and prioritised according to a MoRILE⁷ matrix which takes into account the likelihood of issues occurring, the impact they would have on individuals, communities and organisations and the capacity and capability available to respond.
- 6.3 Initial findings from the latest assessment highlight:-
- Marked rises in levels of unemployment which have been significantly compounded by the Coronavirus pandemic
 - Ongoing pressures on the court system which have been compounded by the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic
 - Marked increases in residents reporting experience of fraud and online crime- with reductions in the proportion reported to police
 - Marked reductions in serious acquisitive crime which have been sustained beyond the easing of lockdown restrictions
 - Increased pressures on domestic and sexual abuse services as Coronavirus Restrictions have eased
 - Development of new ways of working which present significant opportunities to enhance organisational efficiency, the quality of public and stakeholder engagement and service user experiences
 - Serious violence, domestic and sexual abuse and burglary are expected to continue to elicit the greatest levels of 'crime harm' over the coming year.

⁷ *Management of Risk In Law Enforcement*

- 6.4 The Commissioner has scrutinised⁸ force compliance with the Home Secretary's Strategic Policing Requirement in 2021 and is assured that force has a good understanding of the risks facing the public and processes in place to identify current and projected capability and capacity requirements to counter those risks.

7. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

- 7.1 The Commissioner's plan will also reflect and be receptive to significant changes in policy, practice and legislation over the coming term, which include the Government's 'Beating Crime' Strategy published 27 July 2021. This sets out the Government's approach to reducing serious violent and acquisitive crime; identifying hidden harm and bringing more offenders to justice and; improving the response to fraud and online crime.

- 7.2 Significant legislative developments include the:-

- Online Safety Bill, published May 2021, which aims to better regulate access to harmful online content and provide greater protections to vulnerable people;
- Domestic Abuse Act, passed in May 2021, which introduced a range of new provisions and placed new duties on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children
- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, introduced in July 2021, which aims to bring about tougher sentencing for the most serious offenders, improve the efficiency of the court system and equip police with the tools and powers needed to keep people safe.

- 7.3 The plan will also take account of:-

- The Police Foundation's Strategic Review of Policing which examines how crime, fear of crime and other threats to public safety are changing and assesses the ability of the police to meet these challenges.
- The Home Office Review of the PCC Role which seeks to strengthen the accountability of PCCs and expand their role
- Review of the Policing Protocol Order 2011 which will aim to provide a 'brighter-line' on the boundaries of operational independence and reflect changes in roles, responsibilities and relationships that have taken place over
- Mobilisation of new probation services and changes to focus of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements following the national IOM

⁸ PCC's Strategic Resources and Performance Meeting, 21 July 2021

Review. The Plan will also take account of the wider roll out of electronic monitoring arrangements for serious acquisitive offenders in 2021 and opportunities for the increased use of alcohol sobriety tags.

8. PROVISIONAL PRIORITIES

- 8.1 The Commissioner has set a vision to ‘make Nottinghamshire safe and feel safe’ and has outlined a number of provisional objectives that, subject to feedback from communities and other key stakeholders, will shape the 2021-24 plan:-

PREVENTING, RESPONDING AND SUPPORTING

Stop crime before it happens and protect people from harm by:-

- Developing and investing in crime prevention initiatives and early intervention approaches that deal with the causes rather than consequences of crime
- Building on the work of Nottinghamshire’s Violence Reduction Unit and its partner agencies to further reduce knife crime and other serious violence
- Supporting further improvements in education and diversionary projects that steer young people away from crime.
- Working with partner agencies to reduce reoffending and tackle the drivers of crime and anti-social behaviour - particularly drug and alcohol-related offending

Ensure an efficient and effective response to the issues of greatest concern:-

- Providing resources to increase police officer numbers and holding the Chief Constable to account for increasing the visibility and accessibility of those officers
- Making the best use of resources and ensuring that they are distributed fairly and equitably across Nottinghamshire on the basis of where they are needed most
- Listening to local communities and improving police and partnership responses to the issues of greatest community concern – including ASB, speeding and rural crime
- Ensuring that Nottinghamshire Police have the right skills, people and equipment to tackle the challenges of policing in the 21st Century

Support victims, survivors and communities to be safe and feel safe:-

- Continuing to improve services for victims of crime, particularly those with experience of domestic abuse or sexual abuse
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system to ensure that victims are supported and more offenders are brought to justice.
- Reducing reoffending and working with the police and criminal justice partners to ensure that more offenders are brought to justice
- Working with local, regional and national partners to tackle and reduce the harm caused by serious and organised crime.

In delivering against these priorities, the Commissioner is also committed to fulfilling her statutory responsibilities to:-

- Have regard to national priorities for policing set by the Home Secretary, which include terrorism, serious and organised crime, cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation

- Promote equal opportunities and community cohesion between diverse communities and work to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Achieve value for money and keep collaboration opportunities for policing under review, including further opportunities for Blue Light Collaboration

9. PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 9.1 The Commissioner is also developing a performance framework to enable the Commissioner, Police and Crime Panel and key partners track progress in delivering against the plan. This will take account of, and where appropriate include indicators from the new national police outcomes framework.
- 9.2 It is recognised that the Coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on levels of service demand in Nottinghamshire, including opportunities to commit and report offending, and levels of identified safeguarding need. Consequently, 2020/21 does not provide a meaningful baseline against which future performance outcomes can be assessed.
- 9.3 For this reason, the Commissioner is exploring options to assess performance outcomes against annual aims and ambitions for key indicator, informed by a view of what can be reasonably achieved in the current environmental conditions and with the resources made available. The Commissioner will hold an engagement session with senior police and partner agencies in October with a view to agreeing realistic and measurable parameters for any ambitions set.

10. Decisions

- 10.1 The Commissioner has the sole legal authority to make a decision as the result of a discussion or based on information provided to her by the public, partner organisations, members of staff from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) or Chief Constable. The Commissioner's web site provides details of all significant public interest decisions.⁹

11. Human Resources Implications

- 11.1 None - this is an information report.

⁹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

12. Equality Implications

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 introduced a duty on public authorities to, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to; eliminate conduct prohibited by the Act, such as discrimination, harassment and victimisation related to an individual's protected characteristics and to; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between people in carrying out their activities.
- 12.2 The Commissioner will develop her equality objectives in line with the 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan and include a clear statement within the plan on how those equality and diversity objectives will be met.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1 Risks to performance are identified in the main body of the report together with information on how risks are being mitigated.

14. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 14.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Police and Crime Plan.

15. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 15.1 The OPCC undertakes routine horizon scanning in order to track emerging legislation, government publications, audits and inspection findings, significant consultations and relevant research findings. This is considered as part of the PCC's weekly briefing schedule in order to help inform local strategic planning and decision making.
- 15.2 The [Elected Local Policing Bodies \(Specified Information\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021](#) came into force on 31 May 2021 requiring Police and Crime Commissioners to publish on their websites a statement on how their force is performing in relation to key national priorities for policing when issuing their Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner has taken steps to ensure compliance with the amended Order and will be publishing a statement on force performance in relation to the new framework in November.

16. Details of outcome of consultation

- 16.1 None – For information only

17. Appendices

A. Timeline for development of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-24

18. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

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