

HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.30pm – 3 October 2014

Held in the Hurstwood Room, Public Sector
Plaza (Havant Borough Council)

PRESENT

Councillors:

Chairman

a David Stewart
(Isle of Wight Council)

Vice Chairman

p Adrian Collett
(Hart District Council)

p John Beavis MBE
(Gosport Borough Council)

p Goff Beck
(New Forest District Council)

p Ken Carter
(East Hampshire District Council)

a Trevor Cartwright MBE
(Fareham Borough Council)

a Tonia Craig
(Eastleigh Borough Council)

d Michael Cheshire MBE
(Havant Borough Council)

p Ken Ellcome
(Portsmouth City Council)

p Gavin James
(Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)

p Alison Johnston
(Test Valley Borough Council)

p Satvir Kaur
(Southampton City Council)

a Peter Latham
(Hampshire County Council)

a Ken Muschamp
(Rushmoor Borough Council)

p Jan Warwick
(Winchester City Council)

Co-opted Members:

Independent Members

p Bob Purkiss MBE

p Amy McCulloch

Local Authority

p Keith Dibble

p Peter Mason

p Lynne Stagg

At the invitation of the Chairman:

Roxana Andrusca Youth Commission Representative

Ryan Carter Youth Commission Representative

Laura Franklin Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner

Jon Gardner Youth Offending Team Manager, Portsmouth City
Council

Simon Hayes Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

157. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

It was noted that Councillor David Stewart had given his apologies for the meeting, and therefore Councillor Adrian Collett, the Vice Chairman, would be chairing today's meeting. Councillor Jan Warwick would be assisting as Vice Chairman on this occasion.

The Chairman welcomed all to the second proactive scrutiny session of the Police and Crime Panel. A special welcome was provided to the representatives of the youth commission attending to present their evidence to the Panel.

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

158. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Michael Cheshire from Havant Borough Council. It was heard that Councillor Jackie Branson was attending as the temporary appointed member in his place

Apologies were also received apologies from Councillors Tonia Craig, Trevor Cartwright, Peter Latham, Peter Mason, Ken Muschamp, and David Stewart.

159. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were able to disclose to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest is not already entered in their appointing authority's register of interests, and any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that Members may wish to disclose.

No declarations were made.

160. **MINUTES**

The Minutes from the 4 July proactive scrutiny session were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

161. **SESSION ONE: RURAL CRIME – FINAL REPORT**

The final draft of the 'rural crime' report was presented before the Panel by the Police and Crime Plan working group, who

spoke to the review and the key recommendations contained within it. The Panel commended the report.

RESOLVED:

That the 'rural crime' proactive scrutiny report and its recommendations are agreed, and sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire for his response to the Panel's recommendations.

162. **SESSION TWO: YOUTH OFFENDING**

Members heard that this was the second session of the Panel's proactive scrutiny work programme, focusing on 'youth offending' across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. A scope for this review (see Appendix 1 to Item 5 in the Minute Book) had been agreed by the Plan working group, who had written to stakeholders in the previous weeks to collate evidence (see Appendix 2 to Item 5 in the Minute Book). Three key questions were asked of witnesses:

- How well is the PCC currently working with partners, including young people, to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system?
- What effective interventions and programmes exist which could also be considered as part of this particular priority?
- What other best practice exists which could be considered by the PCC as part of his pledge to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system?

In order to answer the key questions, the following questions were asked of selected stakeholders:

1. How well do you feel the Police and Crime Commissioner has worked with you or your organisation to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system?
2. What work is being undertaken by you or your organisation to contribute to this outcome?
3. What youth offending interventions and programmes are you or your organisation aware of that:
 - a. should also be considered by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of this priority, and what is your rationale for this view?
 - b. should not be considered or should be discontinued by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of this priority, and what is your rationale for this view?
4. What do you think should be the priority for action to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system, and why?
5. Is there any further evidence of information that you can provide to the Panel that will assist us with our proactive scrutiny of this topic?

It was heard that this proactive scrutiny session would allow the Panel to scrutinise and support the PCC in his aim to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.

Evidence was invited from Ms Roxana Andrusca and Mr Ryan Carter, members of the Youth Commission, a pilot project funded by the PCC. In addition, Mr Simon Hayes, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mr Rob Jarman, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Ms Laura Franklin, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner, were also in attendance to answer questions. A presentation was provided, which can be found at Item 5 in the Minute Book.

Members heard that the PCC was keen to see fewer young people entering the criminal justice system, and fewer young people offending. Work had been taken forward by his office to develop approaches and commissioner services which led to these key outcomes. The importance of restorative justice was highlighted, as well as education and intervention as a means to stop criminality before it starts. An education charter was being led by Ms Franklin, which would work towards educating young people regarding these issues.

The Youth Commission was originally a pilot of 25 young people working together from Basingstoke, East Hampshire and Southampton, and the second stage would see it rolled out to the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Winchester.

It was heard that:

- Over 2,000 young people had been engaged in conversations with the Commission on issues of concern. Engagement activities had enabled the Commission to make recommendations to the PCC on:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Reducing reoffending
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - The relations between young people and the police
- Specifically on youth offending, the Commission had found that some of the root causes of youth offending included boredom and peer pressure combined with a lack of places to go, family issues at home, and low esteem or low aspirations.
- Additionally, they had found that a reduction in the number of diversionary services for 'older' young people, or an increase in the amount of money individuals needed to pay to attend these services, had impacted on the chances of offending.
- The Commission had made five key recommendations to the PCC on youth offending, including:
 1. New education initiatives to enable young people to learn about the law and consequences. In particular,

- discussions with peers had shown that drama groups and anecdote-led activity conveyed messages better than written information.
2. Grown up spaces for young adults to gather and have fun in safe places. This could be as simple as a monitored meeting space.
 3. Mentoring scheme, with ex-offenders mentoring young offenders. This allows young people to be role models, and to have peers to aspire to.
 4. Open days to visit prisons and young offenders institutions
 5. More funding for charities to provide support to ex-offenders and those at risk

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That the Youth Commission's first year membership was made up of young people from a range of backgrounds, including some whom had offended before. All were asked to sign a acceptable behaviour pledge before taking part in the pilot.
- That the young people engaged throughout the Youth Commission's work were aged approximately 16 – 25, and these individuals often brought up youth diversionary activities as a common solution to youth offending.
- That the Commission had presented their findings to a range of stakeholders at their Conference in February, including the PCC and Constabulary, and their recommendations would be included in a refresh of the Police and Crime Plan.
- That the Commission had noted in their report that they found it easier to engage with Police Community Support Officers, and this was one of the reasons it had been agreed to ring-fence the current numbers of these Officers as part of the Operational Change Programme.

Councillor Alison Johnston left at this point in the meeting.

Evidence was invited from Jon Gardner, Youth Offending Team Manager at Portsmouth City Council, who was in attendance representing all Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Members heard:

- That YOTs had received funding from the PCC, and all had build a relationship with his office. It was felt that a good relationship with the PCC was crucial to the YOTs ongoing success.
- The Youth Justice Board's evidence had highlighted the disparity in performance and funding across the YOTs. There was a question to be answered about whether the right money is getting to the right places.
- All YOTs undertake elements of restorative justice in

their areas through youth offending panels, and they are keen to work with the PCC to help him shape what a pan-Hampshire and Isle of Wight approach would look like to restorative justice.

- The YOTs were also supportive of the move to evidence-based interventions, and believed that services aimed at reducing youth offending required robust evaluation before being rolled out across all areas.

Councillor John Beavis and Mr Bob Purkiss left at this point in the meeting.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- Prevention of first-time offending is an element of YOT work, but a significant amount of work relates to working with young people once they have already offended.
- That all of the YOTs were funded to the level requested from the PCC, and not all of the YOT funding comes from this source. Work would be ongoing in future to identify whether the level of commissioning funding provided to the four YOTs was suitable and effectively targeted.
- That YOTs work closely with schools to ensure that children are not excluded without a 'Plan B'. All four YOTs employ education officers whose focus is to be a conduit between schools and young people who are in danger of not receiving an education due to their offending behaviour. YOTs are aware of how disruptive offending can be to education and or training.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for providing key evidence to the proactive scrutiny of youth offending. A report would be drafted based on the Panel's consideration of written and oral evidence, and this would be sent to the Commissioner for comment in due course.

Chairman, 23 January 2015