

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

FEEDBACK ON MANAGEMENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE PCC AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

12 December 2014

SUMMARY

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, Kevin Hurley, holds bi-monthly management meetings with the Chief Constable, Lynne Owens, and appropriate members of her senior team. These meetings are webcast for all to view. Their main purpose is to ensure the PCC is discharging his statutory responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery against the six People's Priorities as set out in the Police & Crime Plan and to provide oversight and scrutiny of Force business.

At the Panel's request, the attached paper summarises the issues raised at the management meetings held since the Police & Crime Panel last met.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Police and Crime Panel note the report.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

No implications.

LEAD OFFICER: Sarah Thomas, Support Officer, OPCC

**TELEPHONE
NUMBER:** 01483 630 200

E-MAIL: Sarah.thomas@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Bi-Monthly Webcast Management Meeting – 18th September 2014

Agenda items for this meeting were:

- Surrey Police Progress Against the Six People's Priorities
- Health and Safety
- Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- Staff Survey
- 2013/14 Outturn Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

The main points of note from the meeting were as follows:

- Overall crime levels were down and there had been a notable reduction in the level of acquisitive crime.
- There had been an increase in incidents of violence with injury and serious sexual offences – this was in part due to an increase in reporting in these areas.
- The Chief Constable (CC) praised the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) and his team for the work they had been doing in respect of detection rates. There had been year on year increases in all areas except violence with injury and serious sexual offences.
- Serious Sexual Offences Detections - A significant number of case files were with the CPS waiting for a decision on charging but the CPS currently had a backlog to deal with. The Force therefore couldn't get a true picture of detection rates until the CPS backlog was resolved.
- The Force was continuing to take a zero tolerance approach in relation to drug use, production and supply. Custody suites were now using screening devices to test for cannabis which was particularly focussed on those who were driving under the influence.
- A recent HMIC inspection report, Valuing the Police 4, praised the Force on meeting its financial challenges. The CC said it was a valuable report as it gave comparable data against other forces.
- There had recently been some challenges with the non-emergency 101 telephone number. There was a plan in place to improve service including having multi-skilled staff who could perform across all areas of the contact centre. Recent performance figures show an increase.
- There had been a significant increase in police staff turnover. Some reasons were staff being offered higher wages in the private sector and some leaving because working with Sussex meant having to travel further to work.
- The Health and Safety team had been suffering from a vacancy rate and as a result the Force was currently looking at ways to collaborate units with Sussex. This would be done at no extra cost.
- The CC said that there was huge concern around officers/staff being bitten. Following an incident the victim had to have a number of blood tests and had to take anti-viral drugs for a period of time which were highly damaging and made the patient very ill. There was also the psychological impact to consider. There was a debate to be had about whether these incidents should be classed as a more significant offence.

- The report on Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence (HBV) gave a list of training activity where Sarb Athwal, a subject matter expert on HBV had delivered awareness training to officers and staff.
- The PCC noted the incidents of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham that had been widely publicised in the media recently and asked that the CC provide a briefing at the next meeting on what the Force was doing to tackle this issue in Surrey.
- The Treasurer presented the annual report which gave an outline of the Treasury Management Policy Statement and Strategy for 2014 – 2017. It gave an explanation of the annual activity and performance of the treasury management function. As part of his statutory duty, the PCC was asked to review the annual performance.

The webcast of the meeting, supporting papers and the minutes of the meeting are available on the PCC's website www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk

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