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3 December 2021

Lisa Townsend  
 Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner  
 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey  
 PO Box 412  
 Guildford  
 Surrey  
 GU3 1YJ

*Sent via Email*

Dear Commissioner,

### **Draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-25**

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel on Wednesday, 24 November, at which we discussed the content of your draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 and the Panel agreed to write to you with our feedback, set out below, for you to have regard to in preparing the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, pursuant to section 28(3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Although they are not summarised in this letter, I would like to thank you for the considered responses you, your deputy and staff provided to the Panel's questions and comments at the meeting.

#### **Feedback in respect of the content of the draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025**

The draft Plan and its priorities are reasonable and generally supported by the Panel. However, the language used is of concern, as the content of the draft is presented primarily in terms of providing assurance and support to residents and victims of crime, rather than reducing and responding more effectively to crime and disorder.

The use of varying terms, including 'ensure, support, reduce and tackle', in priorities and actions could lead to confusion; and whether there is a practical distinction between reducing and tackling matters is of concern.

The focus on preventing violence against women and girls is welcome. However, it is unclear why the title of the priority refers only to women and girls when a sub-heading and actions refer to men and boys; and it is also unclear whether the priority as drafted promotes protecting and supporting non-binary people. It is therefore suggested that the priority be redrafted to clearly encompass all people.

There are apparent overlaps between the priorities of 'preventing violence against women and girls' and 'protecting people from harm in Surrey' and between 'working with Surrey communities so they feel safe' and 'strengthen relationships between Surrey Police and Surrey residents'. Therefore, the inclusion of actions under certain priorities but not others creates ambiguity in respect of whether those actions will also be undertaken in relation to other apparently relevant priorities.

The sole action for your Office under the heading 'to support men and boys' – for your Office to 'review and understand the current provision of services to male victims, including the police response, victim support services and the effectiveness of safety planning for male victims' – will in all probability be fully discharged early in the life of the Plan, after which your Office will be subject to no further Plan obligations regarding supporting male victims of violence and sexual assault.

The draft Plan does not sufficiently address two key priorities of your residents and partners as reported in the findings of your consultative surveys: tackling anti-social behaviour; and increasing visible local policing. Those priorities should be accorded greater weight in the Plan.

The reference to directing increased resources to areas of greatest need could be detrimental to increasing visible local policing in other areas.

The focus on ensuring safer roads is welcome. However, more visible enforcement is desirable.

The commitment to 'seeing how workforce diversity in Surrey Police can be improved' should be updated to a commitment to improving the diversity of Surrey Police's workforce, as the Chief Constable has accepted such change is needed.

Text in respect of working with partners, including government, to reduce backlogs in the criminal justice system and increase its efficiency should be strengthened.

The following should be considered for inclusion as priorities in the Plan:

- providing value for money; and
- tackling rural crime.

Please also number the priorities in the Plan for ease of reference.

Reference to the following should be considered for inclusion in the Plan:

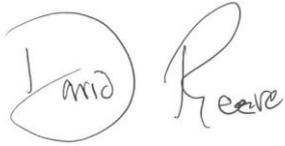
- increasing positive outcomes for all offence types;
  - tackling climate change;
  - engaging with and improving outcomes for BAME and LGBTQ+ communities specifically;
  - promoting understanding and awareness of the community trigger process;
  - in-person and online engagement with local communities by Surrey Police;
  - tackling traveller incursions;
  - the professionalism and training of Police officers;
  - supporting the wellbeing of residents through close collaboration with partners, particularly in respect of addressing anti-social behaviour and its effects; and
  - publicising neighbourhood watch groups,
- although it is not suggested that any of these points should individually constitute a priority.

#### Performance and accountability

So that we and the public can hold you to account for the implementation of your Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, it should include measures linked with its priorities and, where appropriate, associated targets.

Thank you for your engagement with, and forthcoming approach to, the Panel's scrutiny of your draft Plan. We look forward to monitoring the implementation of your Plan and providing you with constructive support and challenge over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first part is a circle containing the word "David". To its right is the word "Reeve" written in a cursive style.

**Councillor David Reeve**

Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel

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