



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
For Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland

Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Police and Crime Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

12 March 2024

Commissioners Update

Report Date	12 th March 2024
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Security Classification	OFFICIAL

Purpose of Report

1. In his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Commissioner is required to establish a Police and Crime Plan and deliver such a plan and bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are joined up.
2. The PCC brings this report to outline for the Police and Crime Panel how he is fulfilling his duty through his work or the work of his deputy and office throughout December and January.

Request of the Panel

3. In their role to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC, the Commissioner requests that the panel examines the contents of this report. He would specifically like to ask the panel their opinion on the following questions;
 - a. Is the Panel supportive of the work update provided by the PCC?
 - b. Would the panel like to make any recommendations to the PCC in relation to any of the work outlined within the report?

Summary

4. It is the opinion of the PCC that there is good progress being made against a key number of workstreams within the office. The PCC receives regular oversight of the workload through weekly meetings with the Chief Executive Officer, Bi-monthly briefings with the Senior Management Team and other briefings as appropriate. There has been an enhanced focus on community engagement and consultation with the public over the past 6 months as evidenced by the additional detail provided regarding public meetings, parish council engagement scheme and community Thursdays.

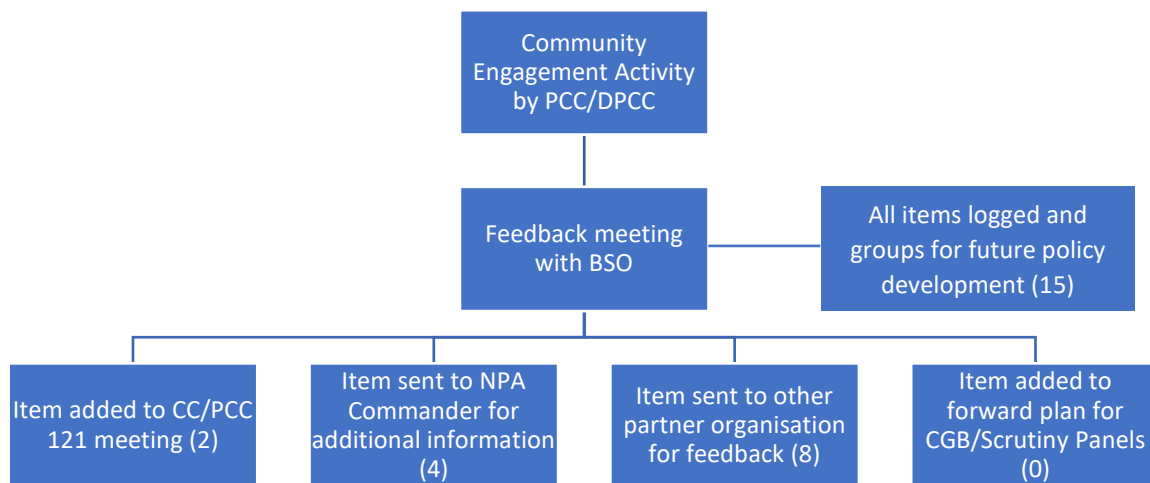
Background, Relevant Data and Trends

Community consultation and engagement (PCC)

5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) places a statutory duty on the Police and Crime Commissioner to regularly engage and consult with the public. This has been a key priority for the Commissioner, and to that end he has created dedicated 'Community Days', listening to the views of local people. In the last twelve weeks he has held nine Community Days covering both rural and urban areas.
6. The map below shows the coverage of the community days over the past twelve weeks.



7. The PCC has also continued to host public meetings and has held two throughout December and January in Rutland and City East. The public meetings have been well received by attendees although the attendance has been higher in areas where there is a community safety issue of concern. In addition, despite people registering in advance confirming their attendance, a number failed to turn up on the night.
8. Whilst all engagement activity is informative, it is the follow up activity where there is impact. All feedback both positive and negative is relayed to the appropriate personnel in the force or partner organisations. Further to this the PCC debriefs the team on his visits and from which a number of actions are logged from each visit, these are actioned and tracked by the team for completion as per the diagram below.



9. Following community engagement some examples of the items raised through the PCCs meeting with the Chief Constable and follow up enquiries with the NPA Commanders include, but are far from limited to; additional information back to Councillors on issues they raised about ASB, resolved concerns about a substance misuse centre, raised concerns of the public about dangerous dogs and fed back useful intelligence to local policing teams for use in road safety operations and fed information around ASB to OPCC teams for future planning.
10. Through January the PCCs community visits and public meetings generated over twenty actions arising, including; items to be discussed with the Chief Constable, items to be discussed and further information requested through the Corporate governance board, issues raised with the local community safety partnerships, 121s booked with Neighbourhood Policing Area commanders and referrals made to the road safety team in relation to speed watches.
11. Throughout these visits there have been some key recurring themes raised by local communities, residents or elected officials.
 - a. ASB concerns – these concerns have been collated and will feed into the planning that is currently being carried out for the £1.4m that has been allocated to LLR from central Government.
 - b. Business Crime – concerns have been fed to the Deputy PCC who is leading the workstream on business crime for action.
 - c. Domestic Burglary – local policing teams have been making contact with Parish Councils and elected officials where this is a concern to update on activity. The Commissioner was also able to give direct advice on access to Target Hardening activity via the OPCC.

- d. Speeding Parking and Road Safety Concerns – a meeting has been established with the Road Safety Partnership to discuss how the OPCC and the RSP could work more closely together on this issue moving forward.
12. The Commissioner also regularly receives positive feedback from those areas visited regarding policing which has been fed back to the Force, this feedback includes; good liaison between local police and PCSOs, evident hard work and proactive work by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to tackle ASB and residents pleased with policing in their areas and the positive relationship they have with the force.

Community Consultation and Engagement (DPCC)

13. Recognising that Parish Councils represent a large portion of the population across the two counties, a robust programme of engagement with Parish Councils has been launched, being led by the DPCC to achieve the following outcomes;
- a. Ensure Parish Councils are aware of the PCC's role.
 - b. Provide Parish Councils the opportunity to directly communicate with the PCC.
 - c. Receive and collate high level themes of concern from across the force area.
 - d. Enable Parish Councils to feedback on their interactions with the Force.
14. A well-attended launch event at Police Headquarters was held on the 15th January 2024, at which approximately ninety councillors attended representing around a third of all Parish Councils across Leicestershire and Rutland.
15. Following the launch, the Deputy PCC Rani Mahal has hosted a series of 'Parish Council Surgeries' whereby the DPCC meets representatives from individual Parish Councils on a one-to-one basis to listen to their concerns and feedback. There is a rolling programme of locations in districts across the two counties. Parish Councils are invited to attend surgeries in their specific areas to enable localised themes to be identified.
16. To date six surgeries have been held in which twenty-four parish councils have attended, a further eight surgeries are planned to commence prior to the end of March.
17. The views provided at these surgeries are helping to collate common crime issues and concerns which are being triaged in line with the diagram above.

18. Positive feedback has been received with councillors pleased that this line of communication has been opened, stating that it is a direct link for them to voice the views of their local residents. Attendees have also reported that the meetings are helping them identify and access relevant agencies and organisations in instances where concerns are not the responsibility of the police service.

Due Diligence Activity (PCC and DPCC)

19. The PCC/DPCC have also been carrying out visits to projects funded via OPCC to talk about progress of project delivery. Throughout December and January visits have taken place to a number of funded initiatives, including, but not limited to, those summarised in Table One

Table One

Organisation	Area and Work	Funding	Output
FreeVa	Commissioned service for Helpline and Engagement Service (HES) Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse support, Specialist IDVAs and ISVAs DA perpetrator programmes.	£1.4m	The PCC was pleased to talk to the project provider about the people helped through the HES team to see how they have engaged and supported 5,287 victims, supporting 1002 through the MARAC process.
Harborough CSP	Community Safety Vehicle	£17,157	The PCC was please to see how this will give a valuable and essential means for the local Police and community safety teams a means to do community engagement and show increased police visibility and reach residents.
Melton CSP	Flytipping cameras and updated CCTV	£71,793	The PCC was able to verify the improved lighting in ASB hotspots and an additional help point system for members of the public to request assistance. In addition new CCTV cameras for increased coverage and improved security within identified areas of need.

Charnwood CSP	Living Without Abuse Go Getta	£30,000 £16,318	The PCC was able to talk to providers and hear about projects covering domestic abuse outreach work for adult survivors of domestic abuse and a project covering support for young people who are victims of sexual offences. At GoGetta he was pleased to see the support and mentoring service for young people.
Loughborough Brownies	People Zones Grant to engage children in positive activities as a diversionary practice.	£5,150	The PCC was pleased to see a range of activities taking place, including a very fun, (if messy!) session with the Rainbows creating Christmas treats to take home; and a Brownies session where preparations were being made for the girls to receive their latest badge.

Scrutiny and Governance Activity

20. The OPCC continue to achieve 100% of scheduled ICV Visits equating to seventeen visits undertaken over December and January. No serious issues have been observed within these visits.
21. The OPCC also progressed the recruitment exercise to strengthen the number of volunteers available for custody visitation. A total number of twenty-seven applications for the role was received, there are currently fifteen volunteers undergoing vetting checks, should all fifteen volunteers continue to the training stage and successfully pass the training programme, the total cohort of volunteers will be thirty-one which brings the cohort volume in line with other regional and platinum schemes.
22. All scrutiny panels have been mapped and evaluated and the PCC has put in place an enhanced process for independent assurance. The enhanced structure will provide him with additional assurance and scrutiny groups. These are detailed in this Ethics and Transparency Panel Paper later in the agenda.

Commissioning and Partnership Activity

23. The OPCC are currently working on the mobilisation of the new Victims First contract to start on the 1st April 2024 following a recommissioning process.
24. Round three of the Commissioner's Safety Fund opened on the 11/12/2023 with a deadline of the 15/01/2024. During the open window an online bid writing workshop was held (14th December) this was recorded and made available for those who were not able to make the session and aimed to support those wanting to apply in how best to complete the application form.
25. This was a targeted grant round, in which the PCC wished to support initiatives that promoted community cohesion in designated localities across LLR. The total funding available was £100,000.
26. The round took an evidence-based approach based the Strategic Needs Assessment carried out by the Violence Reduction Network in 2023. The data highlighted that public-place serious violence involving under 25's was most prevalent in:
 - a. Central Leics – 19.7%
 - b. West Leics – 15.5%
 - c. Charnwood – 12.2%
 - d. East Leics – 12.0%
27. Data also highlighted that the target areas around East Leicester had applied for, and received less OPCC funding, than other areas, therefore requiring a targeted publicity and support offer for those areas.
28. A total of twenty applications were received, six were disqualified for not meeting the eligibility criteria, fourteen were progress to moderation. A total of seven projects were recommended to be funded to the total value of £99,087. Two projects are to be funded in the West Leicester area and five projects are to be funded in the East Leicester area.
29. Community forums and quarterly monitoring requirements will support funded organisations to build an evidence base for sustained funding from larger funders such as Comic Relief and the Big Lottery.
30. Round Three of the People Zones Grant Fund closed on Monday 4th December and saw sixteen applications, totalling approx. £88,500. Of this, eight projects were approved for funding to the value of approx. £44,000.

31. Below are two updates relating to the progress of two key projects across the People Zone areas;

- a. Bell Foundry: After a successful series of meetings with the Public Health team responsible for Timebanking, Time4Leicestershire diverted its next pilot location to Charnwood. Timebanking is a skills exchange, where time acts as currency, enabling people engage in new hobbies, meet like-minded people, get help or support at a time that suits them. It creates new and positive ways for communities to connect, make new friends in their local area, and positively impacts social factors in a safe environment that, when in deficit, can often contribute to crime. The official launch of this was on the 12th January 2024.
- b. New Parks: Developments in this area include involvement of representatives of the community steering group in the grants process. The members will engage in the process from evaluating, grading and moderating applications; to assisting in making final grant awardee decisions and supporting new providers with the following steps, such as project mobilisation and monitoring. This ensures that the community are directly taking ownership of new provision in their area, as they will have a clear impact on who is awarded funding and making sure it aligns with the key themes of focus identified in their recent community consultation. The representatives will undertake training on the process by the People Zones team. The ambition is that this will be expanded to the other people zones areas.

32. Crimestoppers Zone were launched across the three People Zones from Monday 15th January. During the Force wide Week of Action, on Tuesday 23rd January, the team, along with residents & Officers from North West Leicestershire Police carried out a leaflet drop around the hotspot zones. There was another event in New Parks on Friday 26th January and in Bell Foundry on 8th February.

33. The OPCC has been actively approaching community groups, local authorities and charities to identify potential projects to undertake next. Some examples of the positive work completed by the community payback team include; Bell Foundry mural, Autumn antisocial clean up, Thringstone and Whitwick (community orchard), Fearon Hall (planter project) and New Parks community hub.

34. The hours accredited to projects in partnership with the OPCC totals to a rising 1,717 hours, five completed/ongoing projects and nine potential ones within the People Zones.

35. The People Zones are also currently piloting the rolling out the first Phone 360 VR Headset project around online safety for young people as a prevention tool. An educational toolkit is being developed to compliment the film, where teachers in schools are trained on utilising the provided resources to educate children in online safety, using the VR film as reference. The toolkit spans six sessions which teachers can rollout in their school however they see appropriate.
36. A tender process has just completed to commission an external evaluation process to measure the success of the People Zones project since it's relaunch in 2022.
37. The evaluation process will include analysis of data, a roundtable of community leaders and stakeholders, community surveys, workshops, pop up stands, interviews and focus groups to consult with and listen to people within the People Zone communities to enable us to assess the outcomes of the project, what works and how the project can improve going forward.
38. The OPCC and VRN have just opened recruitment for the fourth cohort of the Community Leadership Programme which is aimed to recruit community leaders/figures across LLR onto the programme, to upskill them and enable them to practice their learning amongst communities across LLR. Some of the learning topics cover: the Public Health approach, Leadership styles, leading in communities, trauma informed approaches and bid-writing and fundraising.
39. Safer Streets Activity continues to be delivered as detailed below:
- a. Project 1 – VAWG – LLR Wide - Recruitment is completed, training partners are sourced, focus groups in place and strategy to be signed off by 26/02/24 to set the delivery plan from 01/04/24. The majority of activity in this funding stream is to be delivered Year 2 (April 24 – March 25).
 - b. Project 2 – ASB – Melton - delivery of both young people interventions is on track and are already being provided. Delivery for both these projects began in December 2023. The physical CCTV and lighting improvements are all on track to be delivered well in advance of the March 2024 deadline as all equipment has been purchased. Leaflets and promotion of the target hardening offer has commenced with local residents and the team are now mobilising for the delivery of the target hardening element of the bid.
 - c. Project 3 – Neighbourhood Crime – Oadby and Wigston progress for this workstream includes a live Crimestoppers campaign targeting winter months and burglary offences and other neighbourhood crime types. As with the target hardening element of project 2, the promotion of the target hardening offer has commenced with local residents and mobilisation is

underway. The re-deployable and fixed cctv elements are being led by the community safety partnership and are all on track to be delivered by March 2024.

40. However, following the Police budget settlement announcement in December 2023, the PCC was advised that the previously awarded bid amount would have a reduction of £180,000 across year two, across all bids. The programme of work has been reprofiled to ensure that activity can still be delivered across the bids and is prioritised to those areas most in need, as such the VAWG bid (project one) has retained the majority of the initial funding. The funding deficit has been split across projects two and three. The OPCC have been working to ensure that solutions that lead to minimal project disruption are in place.

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