

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 24th January 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Communities

**SUBJECT:** The Cheshire Police and Crime Plan – Making Cheshire an even safer place to live

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To brief Members on the draft Police and Crime Plan for Cheshire 2013 – 2016 - Making Cheshire an even safer place to live

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members note and approve the response to the Plan as detailed in section 6.0.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Police & Crime Commissioners must produce a Police & Crime Plan for their area for the term in which they will be in office.

3.2 Following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November 2012, the draft Police and Crime Plan has been developed for Cheshire and sets out the Commissioner's objectives during his period of office for consultation.

3.3 The development of the Plan has taken into account a range of information regarding local and national priorities through a stakeholder analysis. The stakeholder analysis pulls together information from a number of sources in order to meet the statutory requirements for producing the plan, including:

- Public priorities (beat meeting priorities, focus groups, formal Consultation processes and public surveys);
- The Constabulary's' Strategic assessment (including an assessment Of current demand, performance levels, risk and environmental scanning);
- Partnership priorities; and
- National drivers including legislation, e.g. Home Office Strategies and Strategic Policing Requirement issues.

- 3.4 Information regarding financial and other resources and crime and disorder reduction grants has not yet been included, as the police grant announcement was only made by the Home Office on 19 December 2012.
- 3.5 Actions will also be included under each of the Commissioner's objectives identified within the Police and Crime Plan. These actions are currently under development and will be included in the final version of the police and crime plan.

#### **4.0 Draft Police and Crime Plan**

4.1 The PCC sets five key objectives within the draft Police and Crime Plan and for each of these objectives a number of performance measures are proposed to monitor progress. These are listed below, however there is further detail on the background information which has led to the objectives in the full document attached in Appendix 1.

#### **4.2 Objective 1 - Enhance frontline policing to enable the Constabulary to prevent and further drive down crime.**

4.2.1 First and foremost the Constabulary is here to provide policing to the communities of Cheshire. This policing service needs to be flexible and adaptable to respond to the wide and varied range of crimes and incidents that affect you as residents. As part of this priority, the PCC will work with the Chief Constable to develop the way we deal with the issues presented by anti-social behaviour, business crime and rural crime and to make our roads safer.

##### 4.2.2 Suggested performance measures

- Total number of recorded crimes;
- Proportion of staff resources allocated to frontline duties;
- Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents;
- Total number of rural crimes;
- Total number of business crimes;
- Proportion of people who perceive ASB to be a problem in their area;
- Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions; and
- Proportion of people to perceive drug use or dealing to be a problem in their area.

#### **4.3 Objective 2 - Protect Cheshire's communities from harm**

4.3.1 Crime is on the decline, however there are still sections of our community who are more vulnerable to becoming the victim of crime. The PCC wants to ensure that the Constabulary continues to develop services which protect these most vulnerable people and communities as well as tackling the more serious and organised crimes and civil emergencies which we may need to be able to respond to on a local, regional and national basis.

### **4.3.2 Suggested performance measures**

- Recorded number of rape offences;
- Recorded number of sexual assault offences;
- Number of repeat incidents of domestic abuse that are case managed; through a Multi- Agency Risk Assessment Conference;
- Measure to possibly be added regarding human trafficking; and
- Measure to possibly be added re child sexual exploitation.

### **4.4 Objective three - Support victims and witnesses of crime and take a robust stance in tackling those who continue to re-offend.**

4.4.1 The PCC wants to ensure that victims and witnesses of crime are at the centre of the criminal justice system and are able to help develop the services needed not only to support them but to improve services for the future. Many offenders who continue to commit crimes within our communities have underlying factors which, if tackled, would help to prevent them from committing further crimes. These factors can range from alcohol and drug abuse to housing and social care problems as well as health related problems such as mental health. By taking a robust stance not only will we seek out the right criminal justice outcomes but also work in partnership to design and tailor individual solutions which will help to prevent further re-offending.

#### **4.4.2 Suggested performance measures**

- % of crimes solved;
- % of offenders dealt with who have been dealt with by the police previously (in the last two years);
- Percentage of users satisfied with the service they received; and
- % of victims of anti-social behaviour satisfied with the action taken in response to their Incident.

### **4.5 Objective four - Continue to build on the strong partnership between the police and the communities of Cheshire.**

4.5.1 The success of the Police and Crime Commissioner will depend on his understanding of those issues that are important and helping to shape the police service to address those issues. In doing this the PCC is committed to being an accessible Commissioner who will hold regular surgeries and public meetings as well as embracing technology to undertake as many on-going conversations with residents as possible. The PCC will work with the Constabulary to ensure that the tremendous work undertaken by Neighbourhood Policing Teams continues and we build strong community relationships and encourage participation in the development of local services.

#### **4.5.2 Suggested performance measures**

- The proportion of respondents that state that the police are interested in the issues that concern people living in this area;

- The proportion of respondents that state that the police in this area successfully solve problems in the long term; and
- Total number of complaints and the number of complaints upheld.

#### **4.6 Objective five – Ensure the delivery of an efficient and effective police service. This will include building on the use of innovative technology to deliver better services to the communities of Cheshire**

4.6.1 One of the PCC core functions will be to ensure that the Constabulary provides not only a responsive policing service for the residents of Cheshire but one that is also as efficient and effective as possible. The PCC will work with the Constabulary to focus on where and how the PCC can work in partnership with other police forces or other agencies to drive down the costs of buying products and services. The PCC will look for ways to reduce bureaucracy to ensure officers are on the street and not behind a desk, ensure that we find the most cost-effective ways of delivering all of our services and look at ways to increase income streams all to help in closing the funding gap. The PCC is committed to seeking out more innovative ways to use technology and will also look at ways to maximise income generation in order to offset the impact of cuts to police funding.

#### 4.6.2 Suggested performance measures

- The cost of delivering policing in Cheshire per head of population; and
- Average working days lost due to sickness.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS**

5.1 Consultation on the Police & Crime Plan is required under section 14(3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

5.2 The closing date for comments on the draft Police and Crime Plan is the 25th January 2013.

5.3 Following the consultation, an updated Police and Crime Plan will be presented to the Police & Crime Panel in February who will report/ make recommendation(s) to the Commissioner on the Plan. The Commissioner is scheduled to consider the Panel's report/recommendations at the Decision Meeting on 26 February 2013 and must provide the Panel with the response.

5.4 During March 2013, arrangements will then be made for an executive summary to be produced and for the Plan to be published and disseminated.

### **6.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

6.1 Whilst it is acknowledged that the Police and Crime Commissioner has not had a great deal of time to prepare the Plan since his appointment, the timescales for responding are extremely short. However, many of the

areas identified are consistent with the Commissioner's Manifesto and are areas which the Council may wish to support.

- 6.2 It is worth noting that the Commissioner has stressed that he has taken stakeholder views into consideration when producing the Plan. From Halton's perspective, the objectives are very similar to the themes which the Safer Halton Partnership has been focussing upon for the last number of years and also contained within our joint strategic needs assessment for crime. Within Halton, we have focused upon the 4 "P"s i.e. Prevent, Protect, Prosecute and Partnership and the Commissioner's objectives are largely similar. It is particularly encouraging that the Commissioner wishes to provide more focus upon anti-social behaviour and safeguarding vulnerable people. These are two areas where the communities and partners in Halton believe there should be more focus. In addition there are wider issues which he recognises require more consideration such as victim support, human trafficking and road safety. The latter has been a priority for Halton for some years and it is important that the Commissioner considers ways to prevent injuries and deaths on our roads.
- 6.3 However, there are some areas where Members may wish to highlight in our response, in particular, we believe there should be more focus upon domestic violence, alcohol/drugs and linkages with mental health, prolific and persistent offenders and integrated offender management. In Halton repeat domestic violence offenders are of particular concern, indeed in 2011 Members agreed more investment in the domestic violence service. It is a similar position relating to alcohol where we have encountered particular problems with the night time economy and emergency admissions to hospital.
- 6.4 Whilst the Plan references Police Community Support Officers (page 6) it is not entirely clear what their specific role will be in community safety and this requires clarification. In addition there has been previous concerns raised about the use of technology, in some cases making it too bureaucratic in others the lack of usage.
- 6.5 Whilst 'percentage measures' have been in operation for some time the Council will require some confirmation about how the local initiatives will be monitored, supported and funded.

## 7.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The policy implications of the Plan relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority as set out below, however this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

## 8.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 It has recently been agreed that the funds transferred to the PCC (circa £100k) will be pass-ported directly back to the Community Safety Team under a 12 month SLA. This is a very positive decision as there was some

uncertainty regarding how this funding would be deployed by the PCC. The SLA will be drawn up by the end of January 2013.

## **9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **9.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The Police and Crime Plan will impact on the Children and Young People as it includes anti-social behaviour as a priority.

### **9.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

The Police and Crime Plan will tackle offending as a priority so working with other partners to provide training and get offenders into work will be essential.

### **9.3 A Healthy Halton**

Drug and alcohol abuse and supporting vulnerable people are key objectives within the Police and Crime Plan, as is supporting victims of crime all of which will impact on health.

### **9.4 Environment and Urban Renewal**

The quality of life in Halton is directly influenced by crime and the fear of crime, so providing safe neighbourhoods, roads and town centres will positively impact on the environment and regeneration of the borough

### **9.5 A Safer Halton**

The Police and Crime Plan directly supports delivery of the Safer Halton priority and will influence the work of the community safety team. Whilst the objectives cover the priorities for Halton, identified within our Sustainable Community Strategy, we need the detail on financial and other resource allocations and the action Plan, before we can fully understand the direct implications for Halton

## **10.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

10.0 The future funding implications for non mainstreamed services may seriously impact on the Local Authority's delivery of community safety services and safeguarding issues.

## **11.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES**

11.0 The possible impact on delivery of services to some of Halton's more diverse communities.

**12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTIONS 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the Meaning of the Act.