

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Major Incidents

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Purpose of briefing

To brief the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on the current position and any associated issues relating to the role of the OPCC in relation to major incidents.

Background

Following the terrorist incidents in Manchester and London in 2017 the Government created a joint cross-government Victims of Terrorism Unit (VTU) to co-ordinate support for victims of terrorism. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) worked as part of the Unit along with nationally commissioned victim support services, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and individual Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to develop a joined-up and consistent approach across areas and a suite of products to support that approach.

A Durham PCC Major Incidents Framework has been developed to provide a clear, agreed understanding of how victims of major incidents will be supported and, in particular, the role of the Durham PCC as the commissioner of the majority of local services for victims.

The PCC Durham and Darlington Major Incident Framework is intended to align with other responses to a major incident including the emergency services response and contingency planning through local/national Resilience Forums and the third sector response to terrorism incidents.

Current issues

- Links with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) have been established but attendance at a meeting of the LRF to agree the PCC Major Incident Framework is still required.
- Plans to hold a workshop with colleagues from Cleveland PCC and LRF to discuss cross cutting issues and agree the most effective ways of working together delayed because of COVID.
- Regular review of the framework needed to ensure continued readiness to deliver the flexibility, capacity, and resilience necessary to ensure access to local victim services in the aftermath of a major incident and in the medium and longer term.
- Engagement with the PCC Major Incident Framework needs to be included in the new model of support for victims being planned for 2021 onwards and this will need to include being prepared, and in a state of readiness, to act as the main provider of victim support services in the event of a major crime incident.

Decisions needed

- Agree a designated PCC SPOC (currently the Chief Executive) to provide a strategic link.
- Agree a PCC point of contact to co-ordinate and establish referral pathways as appropriate with relevant partner agencies.

Partnership involvement

As noted above, a range of organisations have responsibilities for this area of work including police, LRF, Local Authorities, NHS commissioners and providers (including CCGs) along with a range of voluntary and community sector providers.

Police involvement

The Force has a key role in planning and mobilising and managing in the event of a major incident.

People to meet

Force lead and LRF Co-ordinator