

## **Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner**

### **Topic: Working in Partnership**

**Author:** Sharon Caddell, Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

### **Purpose of briefing**

To appraise the new Commissioner of key local partnerships to work with the develop and deliver their priorities form crime reduction and community safety.

### **Background**

Police and Crime Commissioners work closely with a wide range of local, agencies to deliver their Police and Crime Plans, reduce and prevent crime, and make communities safer. These include local government, criminal justice services (e.g, probation and prisons), public health, schools, NHS, community and third sector organisations, businesses and other emergency services.

The role of PCCs and the way that they will work with partners can vary from forum to forum and between areas, this will include:

- *Discharging statutory responsibilities* – specifically, by working with local Community Safety Partnerships to develop local approaches to reduce and prevent crime and working with their criminal justice partners to deliver efficient and effective CJS services.
- *Developing involvement/links into key local partnerships where they do not have a statutory role* – for example, Local Resilience Forums and Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- *Developing innovative approaches to crime reduction with partners* – for example, leading the work of Violence Reduction Units in 18 police force areas.

### Community Safety Partnerships

Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the responsible authorities (commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSPs)) in a local government area to work together to formulate and implement strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in that area.

CSPs are made up of representatives from the police, local council, fire service, health service, probation as well as others. S.11 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (PRSRA) places a mutual duty on these bodies and the PCC in the area to co-operate with each other.

The purpose of CSPs is to make the community safer, reduce crime and the fear of crime, reduce anti-social behaviour and work with business and residents on the issues of most concern to them. CSPs have a responsibility to share their community safety agreement or partnership plan with the PCC for the force area and to work with PCCs more broadly. PCCs are expected to play a leadership role in bringing the CSP partners together to deliver outcomes for the public.

### Local Criminal Justice Boards

PCCs have a significant role to pay within the local criminal justice system. The PRSRA sets out the reciprocal duty on PCCs and other criminal justice agencies to work together to provide an efficient and effective CJS for their police force areas.

One way this works effectively is through Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs). LCJBs themselves are non-statutory bodies whose purpose is to contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS at a local level by bringing together senior strategic partners from the relevant CJS agencies such as the police, the courts and the CPS. PCCs provide leadership and transparency for the CJS at a local level and play a leading role in these boards; the expectation is that the PCC will usually chair the Board.

Some areas will have other partnership boards working alongside or reporting into the LCJB, such as Reducing Offending Boards and Victims and Witnesses Sub-Boards. There are often partnership boards and other structures with a particular focus on domestic abuse and sexual violence, and PCCs will want to play a leading role in these, given their particular responsibilities in respect of victims of crime, and commissioning support services for victims.

### Health and Wellbeing Boards

Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to bring key leaders from the local health and care system together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population. They are significant local forums that bring partners together to discuss and address shared issues and develop 'joined up' approaches to them.

HWBs are statutory committees of upper-tier local authorities and have a statutory duty to produce a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) and a joint health and wellbeing strategy (JHWS). PCCs are not statutory members of HWBs, but many include PCCs among their invited membership or link up with them in other ways, and they play a role in developing strategy and services in key areas of PCC concern (e.g. drug and alcohol treatment and support for vulnerable children and young people).

There are already well-established partnerships in Durham and Darlington that it will be critical for the PCVC/ OPCVC to continue to engage and work with. These include:

- Local Criminal Justice Partnership Board for Durham and Cleveland (includes sub groups: Effectiveness & Efficiency; Victims & Witness; and, Reducing Reoffending).
- Darlington BC Public Services Executive Group
- County Durham Partnership Board
- Darlington Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Durham Partnership (includes Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Executive Group – chaired by the CEX)
- Health & Wellbeing Boards (for Darlington and Durham)

All the above require strategic representation from a decision maker and thus should be attended by the Chief Executive, though the PCVC, Heads of Service and policy leads may also attend.

### **Current Issues**

National Probation Service continues to undergo reorganisation and transformation, including the wind down of the former Community Rehabilitation Companies, in respect of its future dynamic commissioning framework and collaboration abilities. An early approach was made by North East NPS Regional Director, Bronwen Elphick, to establish a Regional Rehabilitation Forum, which would enable joint commissioning and collaboration on an iterative and basis.

### **Decisions Needed**

A formal decision is likely to be required for the establishment of the Regional Rehabilitation Forum through a Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Partnership Involvement**

The Regional Rehabilitation Forum would also involve health and justice agencies such as NHS England, and prisons, and may include local authorities, in addition to the OPCVC and police force.

### **Police Involvement**

As a responsible authority, Durham Constabulary is required to be involved in all these groups.

### **People to Meet**

PCC for Cleveland

CEXs for Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council

Bronwen Elphick for NPS

HHJ Adkins from Durham Court Circuit

CPS Chief Prosecutor Jan Lamping and her deputy, Tracy Eaton

Chief Executive for local CCGs

Local directors/ managers for NHS England

Clinical Leads for vulnerability in local hospital foundation trust

C/ Supt Adrian Green and Graham Hall for Darlington CSP

Area Manager Keith Wanley for Safer Durham Partnership

Chairs of Health & Wellbeing Boards

Phil Husband, HMP Durham Governor and governors for HMP Low Newton and Frankland.

Chief Officers of VCS organisation, including 700 Club.