

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Police & Crime Plans

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Purpose of briefing

To appraise the new Commissioner of the statutory requirement to develop, consult upon and publish a strategic Police and Crime Plan.

Background

Police and crime plans are a statutory requirement, as set out within Section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA 2011). They are developed and owned by the PCC in each area. They form a critical component of how: the PCC secures efficient and effective police and criminal justice services; holds Chief Constables to account; and, sets the budget and strategic direction of police and other services within the PCC's remit.

The Plan acts as both a planning tool for PCCs and an important mechanism for communicating their intentions to the public, police, partner agencies, Police and Crime Panel and other stakeholders. The plan also sets a framework by which the PCC's achievements during their term in office can be judged. PCCs must have regard to the plan throughout their term of office and when exercising their functions, as should Chief Constables.

What should a Plan include?

The Police and Crime Plan should determine, direct and communicate the PCC's priorities for their local area during their period in office, including:

- the PCC's police and crime objectives for the area;
- the policing of the police area which the Chief Constable is to provide;
- the financial and other resources which the PCC is to provide to the Chief Constable;
- the means by which the Chief Constable will report to the PCC on the provision of policing;
- the means by which the Chief Constable's performance in providing policing will be measured;
- the services which the PCC is to provide or arrange to support crime and disorder reduction, or help victims or witnesses of crime and anti-social behaviour; and,
- any grants which the PCC is to make, and conditions (if any) of those grants.

The objectives of the Police and Crime Plan and the actions that underpin them should be informed by a comprehensive understanding of local needs and resources, based on local performance data, officer, staff and stakeholder consultation, financial information, amongst other resources.

The objectives outlined in a Police and Crime Plan should also be informed by:

- The elected manifesto which set out the PCC's pledge to the people and communities they serve.
- The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) – **it is a statutory requirement to include this in the Police and Crime Plan**. The SPR is issued by the Secretary of State periodically, and sets out current national threats (e.g. terrorism, civil emergencies, threats to public order, serious and organised crime, large scale cyber incidents, Child Sexual Exploitation).and the national policing capabilities required to counter them.
- Priorities of the local police force.
- Priorities of other partner agencies and other stakeholders.

Developing a Police and Crime Plan should be viewed as a key part of a wider cycle of strategic planning.

In developing the plan, the PCC has a statutory duty to consult the Chief Constable, local people and victims of crime. Robust governance arrangements should be embedded to ensure that plans are the product of effective consultation and informed by sound analysis.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010, PCCs are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate conduct prohibited by the Act - such as discrimination, harassment and victimisation - advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between different people.

The Plan can be a means to demonstrate the PCC's commitment to meeting these aims, either through including a discrete Statement on Equality and Diversity, and/or ensuring that these commitments are included throughout the plan. Although not a legal requirement, it is often helpful to undertake a structured process to assess the equality impact of the Plan.

Decisions Needed

The new Commissioner, assisted by the OPCVC, will need to decide upon their priorities and deliverables for those priorities.

Partnership Involvement

The PCVC is obliged and recommended to work closely and consult with the Chief Constable, Constabulary, the Police & Crime Panel, the local authorities, key partner agencies, and the VCS.

Police Involvement

The Chief Constable and Durham Constabulary should be afforded an opportunity to inform the priorities and they will be held to account for ensuring its delivery. As such, it is important that the Plan reflects an agreed strategy.

People to Meet

Chief Executive

Chief Constable Jo Farrell

Police & Crime Panel

Senior Leadership Team

Policy & Commissioning Team

Darlington CSP

Safer Durham Partnership

Voluntary & Community Sector