

Preparing for  
Police & Crime Commissioners  
Police & Crime Panels

Kent Community Safety  
Partnership

6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

# Police & Crime Commissioners

The police's work will not be driven by central bureaucrats,  
but – via Police & Crime Commissioners – by local people



Supported by

Removal of targets

Crime maps

Beat meetings

101

Community Engagement

## Police and Crime Commissioners

New commissioners will be *'big local figures with a mandate to drive the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour'*.

The PCC will have responsibility for:

Appointing the Chief Constable (CC) and holding them to account for the running of their force

Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan (in consultation with the CC) determining local policing priorities. Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget

Making community safety grants to other organisations aside from the CC (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships)

# Police & Crime Commissioners - Community Safety

Commissioners will have the following powers and duties relating to community safety:

1 →

**Reciprocal duty** for Commissioners and responsible authorities to co-operate with each other for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder

2 →

Power to bring a representative of any of all CSPs in their area **together to discuss priority issues**

3 →

Power to **require reports** from CSPs about issues of concern

4 →

Power to **approve mergers of CSPs** on application of the CSPs concerned

5 →

Power to **commission community safety work** from a range of local partners including, but not limited to, CSPs

## **Police & Crime Panels**

Established in each force area to provide regular, public scrutiny of the PCC.

Under a duty to support the PCC (critical friend role) by:

- Requiring the PCC to attend a public hearing
- Asking HMIC for a professional view on Chief Constable dismissals
- Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report
- Access to papers (except those which are operationally sensitive)
- Invite the Chief Constable to attend with the PCC (cannot require)
- Confirmation hearings for CEO, CFO and Deputy

Two important powers of veto:

- The appointment of a chief constable
- Setting of the precept

## **Police & Crime Panels**

They **do not replace the police authority**. That is the role of the police and crime commissioner

Police & Crime Panels are intended as a check and balance to the new PCC, although the panels will not have direct control over a commissioner's decisions

They are not a **super-partnership-board**. Although strong local partnership working (including with local authorities) will be vital.

Police and Crime Panels will scrutinise the actions of the Commissioner and not those of the force.

## Police & Crime Panels Arrangements

- The Panel will be formed of all the local authorities in a force area
- Balanced by geographic, political, demographic and skills, knowledge and experience considerations
- Independent co-optees will ensure balance
- For Kent & Medway this will mean 14 councillor Members:  
*1x KCC      1x Medway Unitary      12x District representatives*
- The panel is also required to recruit a minimum of two co-opted Independent Members.
- PCPs may also choose to recruit further members up to a maximum membership of 20.
- Kent's PCP can therefore co-opt a further 4 Members if it so wishes.

## **Police & Crime Panel Arrangements for Kent & Medway:**

Lead authority

Panel membership

Panel arrangements

Should be locally determined

- KCC will host the Panel
- Arrangements are currently being made to establish a “Shadow PCP”
- Shadow PCP will determine protocols and procedures, election of Chair etc.



## **Overview and Scrutiny**

Local Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to exist as under the current legislation.

Effective communication between C&D OS Committee and Panel members will be important in enabling Panels to take a strategic role.

Local authorities could consider the benefits of linking up these structures, for example by positioning Chairs of C&D OS Committees as Panel members.

# New Relationships



## **What we need to be doing**

- **Ongoing discussions on joint working opportunities / collective leadership**
- **Consideration of establishing a single access point of engagement to Kent & Medway partnerships for the PCC.**
- **Produce a 'welcome pack' for the PCC.**
- **Consideration of a single joint strategic assessment, or force - wide summary document.**
- **Consideration of a joint commissioning framework across the force area.**
- **A joint communications campaign on behalf of all Kent CSPs to ensure PCC candidates are aware of CSP's capabilities, achievements, priorities and planning cycles.**
- **Identify how CSP scrutiny committees and PCPs will relate to each other and to ensure they do not duplicate each other's work**

## **What we need to be doing**

**CSPs and other CS/CJ forums will need to ensure that they are envisaged as willing partners to the PCC.**