

By: County Community Safety Team

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership

Subject: PREPARATIONS FOR THE POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Classification: Open

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

This report builds on the previous paper presented to the last Kent Community Safety Partnership on the 6th March 2012. It details the likely impact of the forthcoming Police & Crime Commissioner and Police & Crime Panel arrangements. It recommends a number of actions to assist with informing prospective candidates of the community safety landscape across the county and districts. It also highlights the ways in which countywide partnerships may wish to prepare themselves for the Commissioner and Panel. Lastly it provides an overview of how the engagement of the elected candidate may proceed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Kent Community Safety Partnership are requested to:

1. Approve the initial engagement process and the informing event proposed for August or September 2012(para 4).
2. Approve the arrangements for formulating an information pack covering the County and District partnerships (para 5).
3. Note the formulation of the CS Commission to review of the current community safety landscape structures in Kent, in the light of the forthcoming PCC and agree to the terms of reference of that task group (Appendix 1).
4. Note the approach to engagement with the PCC post election including the proposed Community Safety event on the 6th December 2012 (para 7).

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

COMMENTS

Background

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PR & SR) Act 2011 replaces police authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) and Police and Crime Panels (PCP). The elections for the PCC will take place on the 15 November 2012 with the successful candidate being in place for a four-year term¹. The closing date for nominations of PCC candidates is 19 October 2012, although prospective candidates are likely to emerge before this date. A Police and Crime Panel, which will scrutinise the actions of the PCC, must be in place by October 2012. In preparation for the formation of the PCP in Kent a shadow panel has been established.
2. There will be a clear link between elements of the PCC's role and community safety partnerships. For instance, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act places a mutual duty on PCCs and responsible authorities in CSPs to cooperate, to have regard to one another's priorities, and reduce crime, disorder and re-offending. Furthermore, the PCC and criminal justice bodies must also make arrangements for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police force area. PCCs can also require a representative from any or all of the CSPs in the Force area to attend a meeting to discuss their plans and priorities and has the power to require reports from CSPs about areas of concern.
3. Because of the broad range and number of organisations involved in county and district level community safety partnerships, it seems sensible that a collective approach to engagement with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent is developed. Following the paper to the last meeting, various discussions have taken place with district and county colleagues. Whilst there are a variety of perspectives amongst partners, the following is proposed as the collective means by which the process of preparation and engagement could be undertaken.

INITIAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE PCC

4. It is important to all CSP partners that there is an understanding by the prospective PCC candidates of the community safety landscape across Kent. To address this, it is proposed that a prospective candidates' briefing event is organised. It is important for electoral purposes that the briefing sessions and information offered to candidates is purely factual, and that no attempt to offer opinions or appear in any way to have support for one particular approach.

¹ Although the usual term of office will be four years, the first Commissioner's term will be slightly shorter than this to allow the subsequent elections to take place in May 2016.

5. The Kent Police Authority is offering a briefing in July and it is suggested that the community safety briefing be planned to take place shortly after this. This would provide the platform for countywide and district partnerships to highlight the work and successes that have been achieved, their priorities/plans and the emerging risks that are being identified. The event will also focus on the current structures for partnerships, the responsibilities of the various groups within those structures and their scrutiny arrangements. In an attempt to aid efficiency, it is proposed that other county partnership groups, for example Kent Criminal Justice Board and the Public Health Board are invited to be part of this event.
6. The event will be hosted and funded by the Kent Community Safety Partnership and will be open to all prospective PCC candidates. A detailed briefing pack will be collated with the opportunity for partnerships and organisations to include information within a relatively standard format. Those partnerships that wish to be included in the information pack should contact the County Community Safety Team, details will be circulated after this meeting. It should be noted that as this is a pre-election event the content of presentations and the details within the information pack will need to be controlled and should be strictly factual.
7. In support of the event it will be important to provide a detailed overview of current and emerging risks in the county. Given that the Police and Crime Commissioner will issue their Police and Crime Plan by the end of March 2013, this joint strategic assessment will be an important input to the planning process. To aid this, the refresh of the current county joint strategic assessment will be brought forward and consideration will be given to whether the information within the assessment will need to be extended to include other partnership's data.

POST PCC ELECTION

8. It should be noted that the second phase of the process will involve direct and detailed discussions with the PCC about how they and community partnerships may wish to operate together. The Community Safety conference event proposed for the 6th December 2012 will be the first of such events. Following this, it is suggested that specific briefings are offered by the Chair of the KCSP on current and emerging issues.
9. One element of the ongoing engagement will be how an access point to partnerships can be achieved for the PCC. With the multitude and variety of levels to community safety and other partnership forums across the county, it is strongly recommended that discussions on options to address this issue continue prior to the appointment of the PCC. To assist with this and in light of the substantial reductions in funding opportunities for CS partnerships, it is proposed that a strategic county level commission is formed. This task group would be constituted from the seven county statutory partners and would look at how partnerships across the county can be more

effective in light of current and future environment in which they will operate. It should be noted that whilst there will be engagement with districts in the review process the Commission will not have any remit to consider or propose changes at this level. The terms of reference are attached for approval.

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