

By: Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership – 19th March 2013

Classification: For Information

Subject: Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan

Summary: This report summarises the Police and Crime Plan drawn up by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On Thursday 15th November 2013 the people of Kent elected Ann Barnes as their first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), officially taking office seven days later on the 22nd November.
- 1.2 The core functions of Police and Crime Commissioners are: to secure an efficient and effective police force within their area; to hold the Chief Constable to account; to listen to the public and then respond to their needs. A Commissioner brings the public's voice to policing and gives the public a name and a face to complain to if they aren't satisfied.
- 1.3 Each Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan that sets out his or her objectives for policing, the resources available to achieve them and how performance will be measured.
- 1.4 Commissioners are accountable to the public. Police and Crime Panels were set up to support and challenge the decisions made by each Commissioner.
- 1.5 The Kent Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan was discussed and welcomed by the Kent Police and Crime Panel on the 5th February.
- 1.6 The public expect Commissioners (to use their mandate to lead the way; to galvanise others, challenge silos while always looking to cut crime. have been placed in a strong position to drive action and collaboration across a range of agencies and partnerships, and provide opportunities for even greater local reform.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 I am delighted that my first Police and Crime Plan as Commissioner has been widely accepted. I will publish the final copy on my website www.kent-pcc.gov.uk before the end of March.
- 2.2 The plan encapsulates the key promises that I made during my election campaign. They include:
 - Cutting crime and catching criminals

- Ensuring local visible community policing
- Appointing a Youth Police and Crime Commissioner
- Boosting police accessibility in rural areas by better use of mobile police stations
- Being the most visible, accessible and transparent Commissioner in the Country

- 2.3 This paper summarises the progress made so far in making those promises a 'reality'.
- 2.4 My main statutory responsibility is to hold the Chief Constable to account. I have put in place arrangements for formal governance meetings where I will scrutinise and challenge the Chief Constable on force performance. The first will be on the 20th March in Maidstone.
- 2.5 One of my first duties was to set the level of the Police Precept. This year, I concluded that the only way to boost police visibility was to increase this precept by 2%. This equates to less than a penny a day for a Kent Band D property. I know any increase represents an added burden to the hard pressed Council Tax payers of the County, particularly in these difficult financial times. However, this modest increase will enable the force to recruit 60 more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 20 more Police Officers. This will be the biggest boost to police numbers and visibility for several years. Everywhere I go, the public tell me that greater Police visibility is their number one priority.
- 2.6 The advert for my Youth Commissioner went out on the 5th February and we have received over 150 applications. I pledged to introduce this new role, part funded from my own salary, to act as a bridge between young people and the Police. We will make the appointment by the end of March. This is a vital role and I look forward to working with the special person we recruit.
- 2.7 I am committed to be the most visible and accessible Commissioner in the country. To achieve this I have put in place an itinerary to visit all parts of Kent in my 'Ann Force One,' the Commissioners engagement vehicle on my Community Outreach Tours.
- 2.8 As of the end of February, we have already visited Folkestone, Ashford, Tenterden, Dover, Deal, Sandwich, Canterbury City Centre, Bridge, Sturry, Margate High Street, Cliftonville, Westwood Cross Shopping Centre, Coronation Street Lydd, Brenzett, Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Mid Kent College Gillingham, Hoo, Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, Hythe, Sittingbourne, Faversham and Newington.
- 2.9 My first public 'Meet the Commissioner' event took place in Maidstone on 20th February. It was a great success with over 170 people attending. My intention is to repeat these every few months in different parts of the county with the next one being on 24th April in Faversham.
- 2.10 My first 'Commissioner Surgeries' organized so that members of the public could to speak to me face to face about local issues were held

in February. I will be scheduling these to be held every 6 weeks with the next one on the 10th April.

- 2.11 I know from my extensive visits to rural areas that many residents feel isolated from the Police. I recognise this as a genuine concern. My office is working with the Force to develop the role of mobile Police Stations to visit rural areas to help address this concern. I will have further updates on this in future months.
- 2.12 Partnership working is a crucial part of my vision to keep Kent safe. Since 22nd November I have personally met with a number of partner agencies to discuss their priorities, the services they offer and their needs for the future. I am embarking on a comprehensive review of partnership working across the County to maximise efficiency and consistency of service levels.
- 2.13 From the 2014/15 financial year my office will be responsible for the commissioning of various services, this is something that I will be considering in depth over the coming year and will be looking at what services partners are currently commissioning and how successful those services are.
- 2.14 I do hope that you have found this update useful. I hope you will feel able to keep in touch with me and my work at www.kent-pcc.gov.uk or on twitter via @AnnBarnesKPCC.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 There are no formal recommendations made by this paper. Rather a simple request; to cooperate and work in partnership to achieve shared aims and priorities.

Attachments

None.

For further information please contact; Matt Roberts or Kayleigh Chapman on 01622 604480.