

Meeting Notes

Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Governance Board - **14 October 2014**

Clift Room, Kent Police HQ, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9BZ

Summary of Key Points and Actions

Item 1: Welcome and Introduction

The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the Governance Board.

Item 2: Notes of Previous Meeting – 26 August 2014

The Meeting Notes from the Governance Board held on 26 August were noted as a true and accurate record and actions were agreed.

Item 3: Rural Crime – Presentations by Mr Mike Bax, Chair of Crime Rural Advisory Group & Chief Inspector Iain Mackenzie

Mike Bax summarised the supporting document, and gave a presentation.

Areas of Discussion:

- During year as High Sheriff, spoke to the previous Chief Constable because of frustration with criminal activity experienced, and unfamiliarity with how the matters could be best reported to the police. Out of that was born the Crime Rural Advisory Group (CRAG).

The Benefits of CRAG:

- Kent huge county – 750,000 farmed acres, over 100,000 acres of woodlands and forestry and 300 miles of coast line.
- Meet three times a year and network continually.
- A mix of rural stakeholders representing those who work upon, own, manage or rent land in the countryside.
- Knowledge of the rural areas and the potential criminal trends and hot-spots for matters such as hare coursing, pheasant poaching, off-roading and discarded syringes etc. The Group can therefore assist the police in targeting criminal activity and provide information to the community and the police to prevent those crimes.

Potential Impact of Crime:

- Mike Bax illustrated how seemingly small value theft or damage can actually result in a loss of thousands of pounds. He gave two examples.
- Theft of unprepared Pheasants – initial financial loss of £100 is multiplied, because the shooting day is cancelled. This results in loss of earnings for the local community who would have been employed as beaters, for those who would have provided accommodation and hospitality and for those left with damaged land and fences. The £100 loss can increase to £10,000.
- Theft of battery powering Electric Fencing – initial financial loss of £5 multiplies, because the lack of electrical fencing can result in ewes roaming free, leaving them and passing motorists vulnerable to injury. The ewes are also at risk to premature impregnation and the lambs will not thrive because the necessary food is unavailable when they are delivered. The £5 loss can actually increase to thousands in damage, cost or loss of profit.

Beneficial Methods of Communication: *(Further information can be sourced on-line*)*

- E-mails. Daily way to convey information and to seek assistance of others to look out for issues of interest, such as vehicles used in criminal activity. Currently managed by the National Farmers Union (NFU).
- The App, Country-Eye*. However, proceeding with caution to prevent inappropriate provision of information that will hinder rather than assist. The Commissioner is financially supporting CRAG.
- E-Watch*. Team of volunteers run this to ensure the correct information is disseminated. This system is being piloted in West Kent late this year, with an early demonstration at the Conference being held this month.
- Word of Mouth. Increased public awareness paramount to growing success.

Relationship between the Police and the Rural Areas:

- CRAG supports constructive and streamline communication between the rural community and the police, and prompt attention to criminal activity. The need for confidentiality was acknowledged, but it was felt that it would encourage the public to become involved if they heard more about past successes and strategies, because a keen appetite to assist existed.
- The remoteness of some rural locations currently causing delays within the 101 process and farms being allocated reference numbers suggested as a possible solution to sharpen the process.
- The work currently being undertaken to police the acreage involved was praised, but staff turnover was considered to be a potential weakness to this. Additionally, it was felt that specific training on rural issues for all potential contact points would be of benefit.
- The Rural Policing Strategy is to work in effective partnership with various organisations to tackle offenders and reduce harm. This relates to all levels of crime, but the current economic climate emphasises the need to use partnership and community working as much as possible, because this enables targeted action and viable interventions to ensure shared demand reduction.
- The Rural Liaison Team (RLT) are officers with high level expertise in rural matters, and they won the 2014 Regional and National NFU County Crime Fighters Award in recognition of this. The Gypsy Liaison Team (GLT) are equally dedicated and experienced officers.

There was some discussion about Crime-Stoppers and recent successful operations - Operation Parody - Operation Eagle - Operation Pirate and Operation Nonagon. These involved partnership working and tackled diverse crimes as human trafficking, modern slavery and hare coursing.

The Commissioner promoted the Rural Crime Conference scheduled for 29 October and the excellent publication, Rural Matters.

Item 4: Serious Crime Directorate – Presentation by ACC Matthew Horne, Serious Crime Directorate

ACC Horne (Head of Serious Crime Directorate) summarised the supporting document and gave a presentation.

Areas of Discussion:

Serious Crime Directorate (SCD)

- Directorate held in high esteem and considered a centre of excellence.
- Now considered business as usual for Kent and Essex.
- Other regions setting up similar facilities with fewer numbers.
- Forefront of delivering state of the art digital forensic technology.
- Potential in the future for forces to buy into some of the services provided.
- Great relationship with the Regions.
- A specialist support team is available on a daily basis for any divisional operation in Kent.

Seized Assets reinvested within Kent Police:

- As of 9 October, SCD had obtained 130 confiscation orders, totalling £2,394,671.87. £1.5m of this being in Kent. Providing there is no victim entitled to compensation, 18.75 % of all Confiscation Orders that are paid to enforcement come back to Kent via the incentivisation scheme and the remainder goes to the Home Office.

- As of 9 October, SCD had obtained 37 Forfeiture Orders totalling £592,712.21. £528,852.36 of this being in Kent. Providing there is no victim entitled to compensation. 50% of cash forfeited is returned to Kent Police.
- A lot of political will in support of challenge to develop a more streamline process to obtain realisable monies from assets seized.

Operations Lakeland and Ikon:

- Excellent examples of multi-agency working. Kent Police worked with the National Crime Agency, Kent County Councils Specialist Children's Services and the Slovakian authorities.
- Sixteen vulnerable Slovakian children taken to places of safety and nineteen men have been charged for trial in January.

Cybercrime:

- National and specialist training is being prioritised to ensure staff have the skills key to meet the growing challenge of cybercrime.
- Flavour of cyber-crime - cyber-bullying and criminals closing down IT systems and asking the owning organisation for payment for it to be resurrected.

The Commissioner asked if Kent were getting a fair share of the money invested, and ACC Horne stated not. The Commissioner sought clarification from the Chief Constable. He confirmed there had been disputes with the Home Office about this. The current situation is, that SCD would have to be disbanded to ensure a fair share, and this would present excessively more disadvantages than benefits.

The Commissioner asked if SCD were future proofed for 5 years, and the Chief Constable confirmed it was, subject to the same austerity changes impacting on the remainder of the Force.

The Chief Finance Officer asked the speaker how the savings plan would be managed. Some discussion followed about a comprehensive savings plan involving greater collaboration between Kent and Essex.

Item 5: Policing Model Update – Presentation from Chief Inspector Dave Pate, Tunbridge Wells

Areas of Discussion:

Chief Inspector Dave Pate summarised his supporting document, gave a presentation and supported by the Chief Officer Team, engaged in discussion with the Commissioner's Office:

Chief Inspector Pate's Experience:

- Ability to control local assets that the new policing model brings is viewed positively by those involved.
- Integration of the previously separate neighbourhood and response policing teams working extremely well.
- Workforce had met the changes of the new policing model with a positive attitude.
- Fundamental importance of workforce engagement to ensure their needs are fully understood and acknowledged.
- Unaware of any current refusal to meet a flexible working request but staff reductions meant that it was getting harder to accommodate.
- Anticipated reductions of CSR2 will impact upon the ability to deliver to the current standard and lessening demand was key. Demand reduction initiatives include Body Worn Video equipment and Tablets. 70 being rolled out the following day, with more to come.
- Confirmed that SCD are a valuable asset, and that it would have a serious impact if this were ever disbanded.
- Partnership with the Community Support Units (CSU) is getting stronger.

The Commissioner emphasised that the impact of the new policing model on the workforce would be a discussion point at the People Board.

Item 6: Quality & Performance Management Framework

Child Sexual Exploitation:

D/Supt Tim Smith gave a presentation and supported by the Chief Officer Team, engaged in discussion with the Commissioner's Office:

Areas of Discussion:

- SCD and partnership working fundamental assets in this area of policing.
- Success of Operation Lakeland – 43 victims identified.
- High profile cases – Saville, Oxford, Rochdale and Rotherham.
- Kent Police are a statutory partner within a multi-agency working group that focus on child trafficking and child sexual exploitation.
- Organised Crime Groups view children as a commodity for profit.
- In addition to the recent Rotherham Report, there have been many other reports on child sexual exploitation in the last 2.5 years.
- Acting on all the 150 recommendations from the numerous national reports would lead to failure. Therefore a pragmatic approach has been taken by the partnership, and this has been commended by the inspection team.
- Improving awareness within professional bodies, but a lack of general awareness by the public remains.

Item 7: Financial Monitoring

The Chief Constable summarised the supporting document and engaged in discussion with the Commissioner's Office. He emphasised that financial reductions could result in a very different Force.

Item 8: HMIC Report(s) on Crime Recording and Performance Culture and Force Performance Update

Ms Ashton (Head of Corporate Services) summarised the supporting document and engaged in discussion with the Commissioner's Office.

Areas of Discussion:

- Performance Framework compliments the HMIC assessment system with the same marking scheme.
- Workforce support the system which advocates rewarding recognition, integrity, good skill-base and a well-functioning disciplinary system.
- Statistical information still available, but the Performance Framework designed to support a victim, not target centric culture.

The Commissioner commented on the Performance Framework being a complex piece of work, not replicated elsewhere and that she welcomed Ms Ashton returning to discuss in further detail at the next Governance Board.

The Commissioner suggested that the OKPCC Chief Finance Officer attends the scoring meeting to ensure full understanding.

Item 9: Update on Significant Operational Matters (verbal update)

Areas of Discussion:

There was some discussion about recent arrests and court cases supporting the efforts and successes of the Kent Police.

Closure