

From: Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Opportunities for the future: progress update
Date: 15 November 2017



Introduction:

1. In the '[Safer in Kent' plan](#) the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) committed to exploring and progressing a number of 'Opportunities for the future'.
2. Recognising that the plan runs from April 2017 to March 2021, and therefore the 'Opportunities for the future' are a work in progress, this paper provides an overview of some of the activity in the first seven months.

Calling for more criminal justice powers for PCCs:

3. In addition to the police, the PCC engages with a wide number of criminal justice organisations including the Crown Prosecution Service, the courts, probation and prisons. The PCC is also a member of the Kent Criminal Justice Board that brings these organisations together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
4. Whilst the PCC works effectively with all partners, Mr Scott feels that more can be done and that further devolvement of criminal justice powers has the potential to improve the journey of all service users - victims, witnesses and offenders. Whilst the Ministry of Justice continues to consider the devolvement of more powers, the PCC will continue to engage with Ministers and press for reform.

Lobbying for a fairer funding settlement for Kent:

5. With growing demand and pressure on policing, the increasingly complex nature of offending, growing terrorist threat, as well as the unique 'Gateway to Europe' issues faced by Kent Police, the PCC has engaged with local MPs, Ministers and central government to highlight the challenges and lobby for a fairer funding settlement.
6. In July 2017, Nick Hurd MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, visited Kent Police as part of a wider programme of engagement on the changing nature of demand on police resources and its impact. The PCC spoke with the Minister about a number of issues including funding, resourcing and collaboration and also followed it up with a formal submission to his work looking at police funding.
7. Following a Home Office request to assess levels of stretch and resilience in the police service, the PCC contributed to, and supported the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners response which showed nationally £440m is required in 2018/19 and £845m in 2019/20 (based on evidence gathered by both PCCs and Chief Constables). This would provide an additional 5,000 officers and an armed uplift of a further 1,100 officers.

Further collaboration with other organisations:

8. As members may recall, at their meeting on 28 September 2017, they received a paper on the Policing & Crime Act 2017. The Act introduced a raft of measures, including a new statutory duty on the police, fire and rescue and ambulance service to keep opportunities to collaborate under review and a requirement to collaborate with one another where it is in the interests of either efficiency or effectiveness.
9. The paper referred to the Director of Corporate Services, Kent Police and Director of Operations, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) chairing an Emergency Services Collaboration Strategic Board. This is aimed at further developing collaborative work between Kent Police, KFRS and South East Coast Ambulance Service, ensuring the new statutory duty is adhered to and maximising efficiency and effectiveness.
10. The Act also included provisions that enable a PCC to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue in their area, with four options. As stated in the paper, Mr Scott at this time has decided to opt for the Representation model and the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority have accepted his request to

be appointed as an additional Member of the Authority (once permitted by legislation). In the meantime, the PCC has been invited to attend and participate in all meetings on an informal non-voting basis.

11. In relation to the increasing reliance on Kent Police to assist those in mental health crisis, the PCC is working with the Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary on a regional project - 'Mental Health East'. This brings together representatives from the seven Crisis Care Concordats in the Eastern Region (Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex & Kent), with the aim of sharing learning to improve both the care provided to those in crisis and to help support the respective workforces with their mental health.
12. Kent Police, in collaboration with Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT), have introduced Community Street Triage in Thanet and Medway to provide an improved response to those in crisis, reduce the time spent dealing with incidents and to facilitate joint training opportunities. Operational in both areas three nights per week, the scheme sees a mental health practitioner and police officer responding to any incident involving a person who may have mental health issues.

Oversight of the police complaints process:

13. As members may recall, the Policing & Crime Act 2017 paper referenced at paragraph 7 also provided an update on the significant changes to the police complaints system, and the PCC's role in it.
14. All PCCs will take on the appellate function (providing a review process for complainants if they are not satisfied with lower level complaints handling), and have to increase the level of oversight of complaints handling (Model 1); the main decision is whether they wish to adopt either Model 2 (become the recording body, and also attempt to resolve very low level matters outside of the formal processes), or Model 3 (in addition to this, become responsible for keeping complainants updated and providing the final outcome).
15. As stated in the paper, Mr Scott is currently considering a business case and will be making a decision as to which model he wishes to adopt imminently.

Ideas tested during the consultation:

16. The PCC's [autumn 2016 Police and Crime Plan consultation](#) included an opportunity for respondents to indicate their level of support for a number of ideas. Whilst no single idea was rated 'excellent' by more than 50% of respondents, all eight were rated 'excellent', 'good' or 'fair' by at least 50% of respondents.
17. As a result, the PCC committed to work with the force to explore some of the ideas further, and to date progress has been made in relation to the following:

Idea	Update
Facilitating a scheme for members of the public to watch officers on patrol, and then feedback what they saw in their local area to their communities	<p>The PCC currently operates a Ride Along scheme involving a small group of volunteers observing police patrols and reporting back. However, as part of the current Police and Crime Plan consultation the PCC is seeking feedback on whether the scheme should be opened up to the wider public (appropriately security checked). Based on just over 1,000 responses to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33% support the scheme being made available to the general public; • 23% support the establishment of a public panel to scrutinise Body Worn Video footage; • 38% feel the current Ride Along scheme should just continue as it is.
Introducing Volunteer PCSOs	<p>The overarching aim is to develop a group of volunteers who sit somewhere between the Special Constabulary and Kent Police's current volunteers. They will deliver for their communities and where appropriate be designated with powers to assist in their roles.</p> <p>Kent Police have appointed a full time Inspector to manage the introduction of Volunteer PCSOs and a draft plan is awaiting formal sign off by Chief Officers.</p>
Making the new Volunteer Police Cadets scheme, for 13-18 year olds, available countywide	<p>As outlined in the paper submitted to the 28 March 2017 Panel meeting, the PCC has supported and funded the development of the Kent Volunteer Police Cadet scheme. To date, there are 5 units across the county (Tonbridge, Canterbury, Medway, Maidstone and Dover) and 210 cadets.</p>

Sending more police officers/staff into schools to deliver lessons in personal and online safety	The New Horizon model implemented by Kent Police on 12 September 2017 saw the introduction of 20 PCSO Youth Engagement Officers to support children and young people both inside and outside schools to build trust, confidence and develop positive relationships.
Investing more in tackling volume fraud and cyber-crime	<p>Within the Serious Crime Directorate there is now a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated Cyber-Crime Unit which leads on serious and complex investigations of cybercrime offences. The unit also has two dedicated Protect officers who work to educate and safeguard the community from the ever changing cyber threat; • a Primary Investigation Team that receives and evaluates all referrals from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and completes initial enquiries to establish the most appropriate action to be taken; • a Volume Fraud Team that focuses on those fraud offences where further investigative opportunities are identified, in order to bring offenders to justice. <p>Three new Digital Hubs situated in police stations have also opened in order to provide advice on digital opportunities and to support investigations, including the downloading of mobile devices.</p>

Backing volunteering:

18. As highlighted in the table above, the PCC is committed to supporting the [Kent Volunteer Police Cadet scheme](#) and the Force is developing plans for the introduction of Volunteer PCSOs.
19. The PCC is very supportive and appreciative of the work of [Special Constables](#); unpaid volunteers who wear a uniform, have the same powers as regular officers and put themselves in harm's way like their paid colleagues – but all because they just want to give something back to their communities. The current 291 Special Constables have provided a fantastic 91,527 hours of policing so far in 2017. In addition to supporting their regular Local Policing Team colleagues, a number are embedded in functions such as the Marine Unit, Roads Policing Unit, Dog Unit and Serious Crime Directorate.
20. To fund training and capital costs for organisations which volunteer with the Force, the PCC has provided a £25,000 one-off grant to Kent Police. Without the extensive support of a great number of charities and voluntary groups, who do not formally wear a police logo, Kent Police would need to find extra costs and resources to keep the county safe. The PCC has also provided a one-off grant of £25,000 to specifically fund new equipment for [Speedwatch](#) volunteers, who do fantastic work monitoring the roads.
21. Kent Police was the first force in the country to grant policing powers to volunteers under provisions introduced by the Policing & Crime Act 2017. With the support of the PCC, [South East 4x4 Response](#), a volunteer organisation where unpaid professionals give up their time to support the emergency services and other organisations, can now place cordons on roads (excluding motorways) and direct traffic. This will enable its 100 volunteers to deal with incidents such as fallen trees, broken down vehicles and vehicles trapped as a result of adverse weather.
22. [Independent Custody Visitors](#) make unannounced visits to custody suites around the county to check on the welfare of detained persons, ensure they have received their rights and make sure they are being held in conditions that are up to standard. The PCC is responsible for managing the scheme and to recognise the work of the volunteers, Mr Scott is seeking Investing in Volunteers (IiV) accreditation. IiV is the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management and accreditation will demonstrate to the volunteers that the work they are doing is valued, and that they are part of, and importantly have helped create, an effective scheme.
23. It should also be noted that many charities, such as [DAVSS](#), have received grant funding from the PCC, and a number of other organisations that have received funding rely on volunteers within local communities to deliver their services.