

Chief Constable's Report
to
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance and Delivery Board

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Wednesday 20th March 2019

1. Strategic Overview.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory requirement on emergency services to collaborate where the interests of the public are better served by improved efficiency or effectiveness.

The Chief Constable is committed to delivering collaborative initiatives that have a positive benefit on policing in Kent. The force's efforts, supported by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC), are both broad and have been in place for some time. Such initiatives and working practices have achieved significant benefits and continue to offer new and emerging options going forward.

2. Aims of the paper.

This report provides an overview of the collaboration and partnership working being undertaken by the force since the last Performance and Delivery Board on 12th December 2018.

3. Collaboration.

The force remains active in terms of strengthening established collaboration arrangements with Essex Police which enables costs and services to be shared across the areas of serious crime and the support services functions. Procurement is a current 'live' prospect and the priority focus of the 7-Force collaboration team. There is a business case which proposes alternative delivery options for all seven forces rather than the three clusters that exist at present (1. Kent / Essex, 2. Beds / Cambs / Herts, 3. Norfolk / Suffolk). In addition, there is renewed energy to scope options around the process of vetting which is welcomed.

Collaboration projects include the 7 Force Collaboration Team who are working on a number of projects:

- Armed Policing - The move to a 7F licence and training programme, with full accreditation target of April 2020.
- PEQF - The management of the procurement process for Higher Education Institutes to tender for the contracts. This has now gone out to tender which closes in April, the timeline being for contracts to start in three lots, (BCH, KE and NS) in August 2019
- Forensics - The Outline Business case for a collaborated Forensic function is due to go to Chief Constables in July 2019, this is also looking at the ICT enabling requirements for Forensics around a new case management system and the digital forensic requirement going forward.

The force are working well with Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) on a number of initiatives but of note, the partnership working on estate issues is proving very successful in terms of serving the public in local communities.

The Chief Constable has recently met the new chairman of SECAmb (Mr D. Astley). SECAmb are currently seeking a new chief executive who will be the lead for all collaboration purposes going forward.

In addition to these Chief Constables have requested the following initiatives commence:

- DEMS (DAMS) - Strategic Outline Case regarding moving to a 7F procurement of the DEMS/DETS functionality across the region, reporting back to Chief Constables in May 2019.
- ERP/Shared Services - A scoping exercise around the feasibility to move to a 7F ERP/shared service, primarily looking at Finance, HR/L&D, and Duties. - To report back to 7 Chief Constables in March 2019
- NEP - Requesting a plan for having a 7F approach to the co-ordination of the National Enabling Programme across 7F. Plan to go to Chief Constables at the end of February 2019.

4. Brexit Preparations.

The UK will leave the European Union on 29 March 2019. Negotiations finalising the terms of exit are being led by the Department for Exiting the EU (DeExEU). A negotiated agreement is expected to result in an interim period until 31 December 2020 during which there will be limited impact for border and law enforcement agencies. Should a negotiated deal not be achieved before the 29 March then the UK will leave the EU on this date and is expected to be subject to full "third country" requirements regarding security, border checks, imports and exports. Whilst good progress is being reported by HM Government towards a negotiated exit agreement, Government Departments and key responders have been instructed to prepare contingencies for a "no deal exit" scenario. This is due to the need for contingencies to be forward planned and able to be instigated in a timely manner, if subsequently required, to ensure they are effective.

4.1 National Perspective. The national response of HM Government to the EU Exit (commonly known as "Brexit") is designated as Operation Yellowhammer. There are a number of work streams, each with a Lead Government Department, including planning for the transport system, people crossing borders and key goods crossing borders. There is a national policing operation, designated as Operation Snow Bunting, to coordinate the policing response. Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) is the conduit between Central Government planning groups and local agencies. Kent Police is playing an active role within the KRF to support this work. Kent Police and KRF are key strategic partners within national steering groups, due to the advanced planning that has been carried out in Kent and the experience of Operation Stack being used to mitigate disruption around the portals on previous occasions. Kent Police and KRF are actively supporting wider partners in their own development of contingencies.

4.2 Kent Police Command and Planning Structure. Kent Police has instigated a formal command and planning structure for "Brexit." This has been designated as Operation Blythe. This is being led at Chief Officer level by ACC Ayling with oversight being provided by the Chief Constable and his Deputy. There is significant work ongoing to review and enhance traffic management plans for the county's Strategic Road Network. This is a multi-agency approach, designated as Operation Fennel, with the Tactical Operations Chief Superintendent coordinating partnership tactical activity on behalf of Chief Officers and the KRF. Key partners involved in this work include Highways England, Kent County Council, relevant local authorities and the KRF. A Tactical Operations Superintendent has been designated as the Silver Commander for the Kent Police planning and a small dedicated planning team has been set up. This team is currently developing resource modelling and contingencies for Chief Officer consideration.

4.3 Kent Specific Considerations. Kent is in a unique position as the "Gateway to Europe", with the shortest and by far the busiest cross channel route for freight and passenger traffic at Dover and the only fixed link between the UK and mainland Europe in the Channel Tunnel. A significant amount of UK imports and exports of freight, and passenger movements, transits from these two key ports. Previous experience with disruption to these ports, as occurred over several weeks during the

summer of 2015, has shown that significant disruption to Kent's Strategic Road Network and surrounding areas is to be expected in the event of any significant decrease in flow of traffic through the portals. Significant disruption around the Kent ports can also have an effect on areas outside of Kent due to the impact of any major delays on freight and passenger movements. Previous experience has also shown the potential for an increase in attempts by persons seeking to enter the UK unlawfully from France in the event of significant disruption to cross channel traffic. Planning is therefore taking place to mitigate the effects of such disruption should it occur.

4.4 Traffic Management Planning. Kent Police has advanced preparations for a formal command and resourcing structure for "Brexit." This has been designated as Operation Blythe. Significant work continues to review and enhance traffic management plans for the county's Strategic Road Network. This is a multi-agency approach, designated as Operation Fennel. Key partners continuing to support this work include Highways England, Kent County Council, relevant local authorities and the KRF. The Kent Police operation will move from the planning to the operational phase during March if a "no deal" Brexit on the 29th March remains a possibility. Working with partners, a resourcing plan to respond to contingencies has been developed, which can be activated if required. The Strategic and Tactical Command Centres for Kent will be able to activate from the 1st March should this be required to ensure effective command and coordination of the event with partners.

The partnership traffic management planning, which is currently underway, has developed options for managing any disruption to traffic, which do not require the closing of the M20 as is undertaken with Op Stack. These plans are now confirmed as including the use of a contra-flow system on the M20 to facilitate management of freight on the coast bound carriageway whilst allowing free flow of other traffic to continue. Highways England are scheduled to conduct works in preparation for the potential use of this option during March, with information provided to the public ahead of any planned works. The use of the former Manston airfield for freight holding remains a contingency within the planning and live testing of this route conducted on the 7th January confirmed that this route was feasible. Contingency plans to use the M26 as a further freight holding areas continue to be developed.

4.5 Resourcing of the Operation. It is still expected that negotiations between the UK and the EU will enable the avoidance of significant disruptions in Kent from the 29 March 2019. As a contingency in the event of a no deal UK exit from the EU occurring however, Kent Police, with support from other Forces, has identified resources to implement a significant policing operation, working with key partners, to mitigate any disruptive effects and to maintain public safety.

5. Partnership Working. Work with our partner agencies continues to ensure a co-ordinated and consistent response is provided to those coming into contact with the police service. The activity listed below highlights some of the most recent work streams assisting the force deliver the objectives and priorities within the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and the Chief Constable's Mission, Vision, Value's and Priorities. Due to the well established relationships already developed with partners at a local level through our Community Safety Units, examples of partnership working is also reported throughout the Safer in Kent paper.

5.1 Youth Ambassador Conference. As part of the focus on Child Centred Policing, a Conference was held for the Force Youth Ambassadors who are staff keen to promote Child Centred Policing. It had a number speakers including one who spoke about Trauma Informed Policing and how the police involvement with her brother had affected her as a young person.

5.2 Preventing Extremism and Hate Conference. The Kent Community Safety Team of which Kent Police is a member, arranged a conference to raise awareness of Prevent and the Channel process together with details about Hate Crime. The PCC supported the event and included key speakers such as Chief Supt Nik Adams, the National Coordinator of Prevent; Fiyaz Mughal from Faith

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Matters and Gurvinder Sandher, from the Kent Equality Cohesion Council. Over 220 delegates from all over Kent attended including Housing Officers, PCSOs, Youth and other community workers.

5.3 Kent Resource Partnership. Kent Resource Partnership is a group of all Local Authorities in Kent including Kent County Council to work together to tackle fly tipping. A new Agreement has been reached to share information to ensure Kent Police to tackle the anti social and criminal acts of fly tipping in the community.

6. Police and Crime Plan.

Collaboration, at all levels impacts positively but indirectly on a number of areas of the Police and Crime Plan. The joint and partnership working has clearer links to the areas of working efficiently.

7. Summary.

The force continues to deliver collaborative initiatives through our arrangements with Essex Police and that of the Seven-force collaboration programme in addition to the wider emergency services and partners. This continued work provides effective and cohesive processes and approaches to policing, working across all agencies to ensure the public of Kent receive a first class service.