

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

**COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 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 PCC, are 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 update of the collaboration and partnership work being undertaken by the Force since the last Performance and Delivery Board on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**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. Additionally, a number of schemes in the 7-Force collaboration (Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk) are currently in progress. A full report of those schemes was reported in March 2019 and will be updated in the September report.

**3.1 Emergency Services Collaboration.** This is going well with a number of initiatives and work streams in progress. The complexity has prompted the lead to bring these projects under the 'Managing Successful Programmes' (MSP) framework, enabling effective governance through the Collaboration delivery board and a consistent approach to benefits realisation.

These include identifying efficiency and effectiveness opportunities through three key themes that underpin the programme; Collaborative business management, capacity, capability and connectivity and innovation and technology. Examples of work streams currently in process are joint procurement, training, response and search.

Of note, the estate collaboration with Kent Fire and Rescue Services (KFRS) has been successful with police staff either sharing or planning to share space at the following locations: Deal, Paddock Wood, Edenbridge, Ramsgate, Ash-cum-Ridley, Eastchurch and Dymchurch.

Funding was secured earlier in the year from the Home Office to look at a feasibility study for a substantial 'Blue Light Hub' at Pembury near Tunbridge Wells.

In addition to this Kent Police are working with KFRS and South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) to scope the feasibility of a mini blue light hub at Swanley Police Station which would provide a joint Police/Fire/SECamb station. KFRS are funding the feasibility study and the design process is well advanced.

**3.2 Mutual Aid.** In the past three months Kent Police has deployed resources on one occasion on Mutual aid to the Metropolitan Police Service in response to the Climate Change protests held by Extinction Rebellion over the Easter weekend. The majority of the requests came for officers with a public order skill set and this was met without abstracting from core business. During the Easter weekend Kent Police deployed approximately 63 Police Constables, 9 Sergeants and a Police Inspector to assist.

Subsequently, Kent Police also provided the Metropolitan Police a further 52 officers trained in protester removal over the course of the week. The teams were also deployed to Heathrow on standby for any protest that migrated out of London. Other than an early small contingent, this did not materialise and the officers were deployed as a deterrent. The deployments have ensured reassurance that the training afforded to Kent Officers in particular in protest removal is set to a high standard; with the skills and knowledge to confidently challenge all techniques that the protesters deployed.

Future Mutual Aid requests include Epsom Derby, Hell Angels European Tour and the UK Visit by Donald Trump in the month of June.

#### **4. Brexit Preparations.**

**4.1 National Perspective.** The UK was due to leave the European Union on 29 March 2019, subsequently extended to 12<sup>th</sup> April. Negotiations are being led by the Department for Exiting the EU (DeExEU). Following well publicised debates and votes within Parliament the UK Government requested a further short extension until 30<sup>th</sup> June to allow time for Parliament to agree the negotiated exit deal. The EU Leaders met on the evening of April 10<sup>th</sup> and proposed an extension to article 50 until October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. This offer was accepted by the Prime Minister in the early hours of April 11<sup>th</sup>, the day before the UK was to leave with a 'no deal'.

Should a negotiated agreement be agreed prior to 30<sup>th</sup> October it is expected to result in a transition arrangement 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 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.

This is with the caveat that the UK partakes in European elections on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Should it not do so the UK will leave the EU on 1<sup>st</sup> June without a deal unless one is agreed prior to this. The UK has agreed to take part in the EU elections and preparations are now in hand to do so. However, the Prime Minister has indicated that her wish is for a deal to be agreed before the 23<sup>rd</sup> to avoid having to take part in the EU elections. The final day on which MPs could pass a withdrawal deal and avoid holding European Parliament elections is 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Should a withdrawal deal be passed by MPs at any stage prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> October then the UK will leave the EU on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following month and would expect the transition arrangements to be in place.

As a result of all the above there were two potential 'cliff edge' dates, the first being the 1<sup>st</sup> June and the second 31<sup>st</sup> October. The UK committing to the EU elections has effectively ruled out the 1<sup>st</sup> June as a key 'no deal' date of concern and in line with national direction, Kent Police and partners are not planning or resourcing for a 'no deal' exit in June.

The political landscape is far from certain and the 31<sup>st</sup> October is a credible date for a 'no deal' exit from the EU and Kent Police and partners are further developing and refining plans in preparation for the impacts on the county.

**4.2 Kent Police Planning.** In the lead up to both 29<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April Kent Police and partners developed comprehensive plans to mitigate the expected disruption both for Kent and the wider country as a result of congestion at the key portals of Dover and Folkestone (Eurotunnel). This effectively was the daily mobilisation of in excess of 300 police officers and staff (including 140 daily on mutual aid) and up to 100 Highways England officers to:

- Support the Traffic Management plan (including welfare and enforcement).
- The associated logistics requirements.
- Staff appropriate Strategic and Tactical Coordination centres including the associated command structure.
- Maintain capability and contingencies for potential public disorder and other problem solving.

The initial planning assumptions suggested significant disruption to last in excess of 3 months.

The extension until 31<sup>st</sup> October has provided Kent Police and partners the opportunity to further refine plans as well as to debrief, review lessons learnt and make recommendations for the implementation and change to processes and systems thus better equipping Kent Police, not just for a potential 'no deal' in October but also for any other future large scale mobilisation requirement.

The Traffic Planning Team are currently concluding the March/April operation and associated administration/cost recoveries, delivering the debrief and lessons learnt requirements, working up plans for an interim 'new normality' Op Stack transition to Op Brock, and prepare and refine plans with partners for a potential 'no deal' in October.

**4.3 Schengen Information System (SIS).** Planning and preparation for BREXIT has rightly been focussed on a 'no-deal' scenario in which the UK would lose access to the EU tools and need to revert to non-EU alternatives. Policing needs to be fully prepared for all possible outcomes and as a result existing records on the Schengen Information System (SIS) will need to be transferred to Interpol systems, known as Back Record Conversion. This is to ensure that international circulations of wanted or missing persons are recreated should a potential loss of access to SIS occur, in the event of a 'no deal' scenario. The Force are currently in the process of converting information with high risk records taking priority. With the extension to EU exits this has afforded additional time to departments to complete this work.

## **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, Values 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 Delivery and Performance paper produced for the PCC Performance and Delivery Board.

**5.1 School Knife Crime Education.** A knife crime educational package has been designed and circulated to all Community Safety Units to deliver to secondary schools. The package has been written to support the new national guidance for police in schools. This enables a collaborative package to be delivered with the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) teachers as part of their curriculum in a classroom setting; allowing all students the opportunity to engage and learn about safe choices and understand the risks of carrying knives. As part of the learning, a 'Your Guide – Knife Crime' leaflet has been produced for parents, which will provide useful guidance on how they can help keep their children safe as well as signs to look for.

**5.2 Drug Related Deaths.** Kent Police has been working with the Medway Drug and Alcohol Action Team to conduct some deep dives into Drug Related Deaths to establish learning that can be disseminated across agencies.

**5.3 Security Volunteer Project.** This project is to develop an emergency response capability using volunteers from the Security Industry. This will allow Kent Police to utilise accredited security industry staff to support cordons, evacuations etc. in the event of a terrorist or other incident. Eighteen volunteers have now attended a weekend induction module in early April as the first stage and as a result of the successful weekend, one security company is sending all 90 staff on the programme.

**5.4 Crime Prevention Design Seminars.** Kent Police has delivered 2 Crime Prevention Design seminars for Local Authority Planners and the building industry architects in partnership with Secured By Design (NPCC). These bespoke seminars seek to influence new developments and regenerations to plan out poor designs that increase crime, demand and the fear of crime before a development has even been approved. This work has been recognised at a national level, where one of the team recently won the inaugural 'secure by design' Bob Knights scholarship award. A third seminar is being planned at Kent Police Headquarters on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**5.5 Modern Day Slavery Conference.** A Modern Day Slavery Conference was held on 28<sup>th</sup> March in conjunction with the Kent Chambers of Commerce. Over forty representatives attended to learn and understand the signs and issues of modern slavery.

**5.6 Youth Justice Team and Kent Magistrates.** On 30<sup>th</sup> April, two Kent Youth Court Magistrates visited the weekly Youth Justice Panel for the review of out of court settlements. This was to provide the magistrates the opportunity to see how detailed the panel is when reviewing cases and ensuring child centred policing philosophy is used to determine outcomes.

**5.7 Police Cadets.** The Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) programme is now well established in Kent, with 9 units and a further unit in Thanet opening in May 2019. The Force have forged close links with schools and agencies who seek to refer children to the VPC including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Youth Engagement Officers (YEOs), Youth Justice, Social Services, Local Council run care homes and Probation Services.

There are currently over 350 active cadets with a further 500+ children seeking to join one of the units. The cadets have provided over 15,000 volunteer hours in the communities at events that include litter picking, spending time in care homes with residents, bike marking events, assisting with car parking duties at large gatherings, visiting Speedwatch sites, supporting community fetes and fayres as well as raising over £10,000 for local and national charities. Four cadets have successfully applied and joined Kent Special Constabulary, two have joined as regular officers and one as a Police Staff Employee (PSE). These numbers continue to grow with the vast majority of police cadets wishing to join Kent Police in a number of different roles.

**5.8 Rural Task Force.** The PCC and Chief Constable continue to recognise and respond to the needs of rural communities in Kent. Investment in the Rural Task Force (RTF) provides rural communities both reassurance and continuity of a specialist rural police officer being accessible on every day of the week. Improvements made have seen a more co-ordinated, visible and accessible rural policing response, with tangible results in delivering performance against Force priorities, including rural, wildlife, environmental and heritage crime. The RTF work closely with a number of partners and examples of this are detailed below:

Feedback on all rural policing trends and activities is provided to rural communities and stakeholders regularly, with a six weekly newsletter to the Crime Rural Advisory Group (CRAG), daily verbal contact with key stakeholders, attendance at local forums and parish council meetings, daily social media updates and the quarterly publication of Rural Matters Magazine.

Officers have contributed to the National Rural Affairs policing priority by arresting two suspects and recovering 17 items of stolen plant and farm machinery from a location in Detling. There have been numerous other examples of where RTF officers have recovered stolen plant and machinery including tractors and vehicles returned to the victims of crime. Collaboration with forces nationally is ensuring best practice is implemented operationally with proactive cross-border policing also resulting in arrests and the recovery of stolen property.

The seasonality of rural crime is moving away from incidents of hare coursing and poaching of game birds and more towards fish poaching. In February 2019, ACC Ayling signed Kent officers up to a national campaign targeting organised criminal gangs involved in bulk fish theft. Joint patrolling has already occurred with the Environment Agency and Angling Trust staff. Organised and bulk fruit theft is predicted from May 2019 onwards, so crime prevention action is being given, with operational enforcement planned.

RTF assistance with RSPCA investigations has led to the execution of search warrants and an arrest in March 2019 relating to organised gangs illegally importing and conducting cock fighting events in North Kent. Badger baiting offences are also being investigated jointly.

Proactive patrols with both Maidstone and Swale Borough Councils enforcing against organised fly tippers and metal thieves, in March and April, have resulted in the seizing of 3 vehicles and issuing £600 in Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for waste offences.

## **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.