

Meeting Notes

Title: Governance Board

Date & time: Monday, 7 November 2016, 1400hrs

Venue: County Room, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BZ

Attendees: **Office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner:** Matthew Scott (Police and Crime Commissioner), Adrian Harper (Chief of Staff), Rob Phillips (Chief Finance Officer)

Kent Police: Chief Constable Alan Pughsley, Deputy Chief Constable Paul Brandon, Assistant Chief Constable Tony Blaker

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the Governance Board.

2. Notes of Previous Meeting

The Meeting Notes from the Governance Board held on 2 August 2016 were noted as a true and accurate record.

The Commissioner provided the following updates:

- The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Steering Group had secured £59,000 in funding from the Department of Health to improve Places of Safety provision for those in a crisis.
- Helen Greatorex, the Chief Executive of Kent & Medway Partnership Trust had joined him in observing a mental health training session for student constables.
- Following a review of portfolios, he was now the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Lead nationally for mental health - the Chief Constable expressed his delight at this news.

3. Safeguarding Domestic Abuse Victims

The Chief Constable provided a summary of the supporting [paper](#).

The following points were discussed:

- There were 34,403 Domestic Abuse (DA) incidents recorded in Kent to year ending September 2016. Five years previous, the number of incidents recorded was just over 18,000. The increase can be attributed to improved crime recording accuracy and greater public confidence to report.
- In 2015, Kent Police ran an award winning campaign encouraging individuals to report DA. The Commissioner asked for more information on this. The Chief Constable explained that the campaign stemmed from experience that DA incidents increase during national sporting events due to alcohol. The Force used videos, posters and worked alongside partners to help raise awareness of the campaign.
- DA incidents tend to peak during the summer months.
- The ratio of male to female offenders is approximately 4:1. Around 25% of cases relate to family members, 10% to BME groups, and 1% to the LGBT community.

- The Commissioner asked what work is taking place to ensure male victims feel confident to report incidents. The Chief Constable said a range of campaigns focus on promoting confidence in reporting, and the Force also works with organisations such as Domestic Abuse Victim Support Services (DAVSS), to encourage reporting.
- The Force is also focussing on the impact of DA on children who witness such incidents. The Commissioner asked whether incidents involving those under 16 are recorded as DA. The Chief Constable confirmed they are not.
- On route to DA incidents, officers are provided with information about any previous incidents recorded. On arrival, officers complete a Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) assessment – this information supports effective decision making.
- The Force is focused on ‘doing the right thing’ and providing a quality service - not arbitrary targets.
- The arrest rate at DA incidents is around 66%. The Commissioner noted this was much higher than when last reported by HMIC.
- Perpetrators will be taken away from the situation to help safeguard the victim. The Chief Constable described an incident where a victim blamed herself, but once the perpetrator was removed from the scene, she opened up to officers and showed extensive bruising to her body.
- Body worn video is increasing first time guilty pleas and also proving helpful in providing evidence at court.
- There is an Op Unity hub in the FCR to ensure DA calls are responded to in a timely and effective manner. Response times to DA incidents have improved.
- A supervisor’s guide to investigating DA has been provided to all officers.
- In July, 34 Domestic Violence Prevention Orders were applied for at court, and all were granted. These help to keep the offender away from the victim.
- The Chief Constable explained the governance arrangements in relation to Op Unity.
- The Chief Constable wants his officers to respond to the most serious incidents and most vulnerable victims, whilst managing public expectations and risk.
- The Commissioner asked if the increase in arrests has had a knock on effect for the wider Criminal Justice system. The Chief Constable said that there have been delays in getting cases to court, which unfortunately sometimes leads to issues with offenders not attending, or victims not supporting. However, body worn video is increasing the number of first time guilty pleas and the Force is working with partners to resolve issues.
- The Commissioner explained that there have been 17 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in the last year and he has had to provide extra funding to help manage these. He asked the Chief Constable if he has confidence in the DHR process. The Chief Constable said that he believes the process has improved but there are still challenges that the Force is trying to tackle.

Actions

- **Force: update at next meeting on arrests, charges and convictions for DA.**
- **Force: outline at next meeting work to support male victims of DA.**

4. Policing the County’s Roads

ACC Tony Blaker gave a presentation on [roads policing in Kent](#) and the following points were discussed:

- The Force’s main priorities with regards to roads policing are reducing collisions, tackling organised crime and preventing terrorism.
- The partnership with Highways England and local authorities is integral to the work of the Force.
- It is estimated that freight traffic coming through Kent will double over the next few years.
- 55 people were killed on Kent roads in 2015, and there were 492 fewer injuries than 2014. Since January 2016, 36 people have been killed.
- Trends indicate that the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Kent roads will increase in 2017. However, it is anticipated that they will decrease by 2020.

- The Safer Roads for Kent Board are working with Kent Police to make the roads safer. The License to Kill video is being shown to teenagers across Kent as they reach the legal driving age. The Road Safety Experience, based in Rochester Fire Station, provides an interactive educational input for young people to deter them from drink and drug driving.
- There is a lot of interest in illegal HGV parking and the Force continues to tackle the issue through the use of fines, awareness raising and education in partnership with other agencies. The Force hopes that the proposed lorry park on the A20 will provide some relief to the problem.
- The Commissioner asked whether the Force targets those areas affected by illegal HGV parking. ACC Blaker stated that there are particular areas targeted, but officers also respond to calls from the public.
- The Commissioner asked whether there was increased activity in relation to mobile phone use whilst driving. ACC Blaker stated that Kent Police officers are encouraged to deal with drivers they observe illegally using a mobile phone.
- He added that the Force is working with young people to warn them about the consequences, and that in the future, there is the potential for the public to be able to upload footage of phone use and dangerous driving.
- The Commissioner asked ACC Blaker if he was confident that Dover TAP would be removed by Spring 2017. ACC Blaker said he was confident and that Highways England are keen to install a permanent solution, which they are prioritising.
- The overall approach to Op Fennel had been reviewed in the past six months, including how to operate Op Stack and Op Perch, as well as how the lorry parks may assist.
- The Force is striving to improve the quality of service provided to those involved in serious road traffic collisions, as well as improving the response time in rural areas.
- Community Speed Watch is considered important and effective, with 68,000 drivers caught last year, and 9,000 receiving a warning letter from Kent Police. 86.6% of those who receive a letter don't re-offend within a twelve month period.
- The Commissioner asked about the requirements for an individual to be sent a warning letter. ACC Blaker explained that a driver will receive a warning letter if they are driving at the speed limit plus 50%.
- The Chief of Staff asked whether the Force would like to expand Speed Watch. ACC Blaker said that the Force is open to its expansion and that it is already promoted on the Kent Police website. He would also welcome the Commissioner promoting Speed Watch through his engagements.

Actions

- **Force: outside of meeting, update on North Wales pilot that allows public to upload webcam footage.**
- **Force: update at next meeting on activity to target specific drivers to reduce crime.**

5. Emerging Risks and Cross Border Crime

The Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) provided a summary of the supporting [paper](#).

The following points were discussed:

- The Commissioner asked whether Kent Police was making progress in relation to addressing vulnerability. The DCC stated that he is confident progress is being made and, for example, HMIC has inspected Kent Police and been impressed with on-going work in relation to this issue.
- The Chief Constable outlined two recent operations which had resulted in Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) being dismantled by partners, including the local authority, with assistance from the Force.
- The Commissioner asked about the children and young people who were left behind or moved elsewhere following the Calais camp being dismantled, and whether this had had a disproportionate effect on resources. The DCC explained that Kent Police had known about the plan for some time and in conjunction with partners, were able to assess the impact and ensure appropriate resourcing levels.

- In relation to digital forensics, the Commissioner asked about the back log, development of local hubs and the outsourcing of some examinations. The DCC explained that the hubs were being set up because demand could not be managed quickly enough and this was putting vulnerable people at risk. The Forensics Manager was currently undertaking a recruitment campaign for 13 new staff. The DCC added that he believes outsourcing had helped with managing the significant demand for examinations.
- The Commissioner said he would like to discuss the Policing and Crime Bill, particularly the implications for those in a mental health crisis at the next Governance Board.
- The DCC explained that the Force had seen vulnerable refugee children housed in Thanet away from their families. For Kent County Council and the Force, this had generated work in terms of challenging the issue and ensuring appropriate safeguarding measures. He said there was no intelligence to suggest serious gang crime was taking place.

Actions

- **Force: outline at next meeting preparations for the Policing and Crime Bill (particularly implications for those in a mental health crisis).**
- **OPCC: update at next meeting on representation at Health & Wellbeing Boards.**

6. Financial Monitoring and Savings Update

The DCC provided a summary of the supporting [paper](#).

The following points were discussed:

- The Commissioner was very pleased that more PCSOs were being recruited.
- The Commissioner asked for more information surrounding the legal case 'Allard and others v Devon and Cornwall Constabulary'. On behalf of the DCC, Mr Ian Drysdale (Director of Corporate Services) explained that the case related to payments for working overtime and that pending the final judgement, there may be a financial impact for police forces - £500,000 had been set-aside by Kent Police.
- The Commissioner said that the live animal exports case had not been discussed in Parliament as expected, and that this matter affected the potential savings.
- The Chief Finance Officer asked whether the funding initiatives had already been planned to ensure no overspend. The DCC confirmed that this was the case.
- He also asked whether recruitment will ensure the number of police officers is maintained and both the DCC and Mr Drysdale provided reassurance that this would be the case.
- The Chief of Staff confirmed that the Commissioner would be receiving monthly updates on staffing levels.

7. HMIC & Other Inspection Report(s) and Performance Update

The Chief Constable summarised the supporting [paper](#).

The following points were discussed:

- The Chief Constable highlighted that the PEEL Efficiency Report was only published last week, and therefore had not been included in the paper. However, the Force had received an overall judgement of 'Good'.
- The Chief Constable also said that the PEEL Legitimacy Report was due out in December, and he anticipated that this would also be very positive.

- The Commissioner said he was concerned at the decline in overall victim satisfaction, but would also like to understand why there had been a decrease in Hate Crime victim satisfaction. The Chief Constable agreed and stated that a contributing factor was the follow-up action taken by officers and staff.
- The Commissioner asked if there was a reason for the increase in serious violence. The Chief Constable said that the definition of intent was a contributing factor and the DCC added that the Force may be over-recording based on this this element.

Actions

- **Force: update at next meeting on review of victim satisfaction survey.**
- **Force: outside of meeting, provide overview of Hate Crime victim satisfaction and activity to address decline.**

8. Topical issues and update on significant operational matters

- The DCC explained that the Force had seen an increase in illegal encampments, from 176 (Oct-Sept 15) to 263 (Oct-Sept 16).
- The number may have increased as members of the public know how to report incidences, and have greater confidence to report.
- The Rural Task Force and Gypsy Liaison Team work very closely with travellers across the county.
- Primacy for dealing with illegal encampments does not sit with Kent Police, but the Force can serve notices to move along. However, the problem is often with finding alternative accommodation.
- It was noted that whilst Kent Police had 176 reports, Essex Police had over 700.
- The Commissioner asked how many of the 87 extra reports related to repeat offenders rather than new families. The DCC could not give a specific breakdown but agreed that this may be the case.
- The Commissioner asked for an update on the investigation into General Election expenses in South Thanet. The Chief Constable stated that it was an on-going live investigation being led by the Serious Crime Directorate. As an operational matter, he could give no further update.

The Commissioner thanked the Chief Constable and DCC for the papers and for presenting them. He also thanked ACC Blaker for his presentation.

Date of next meeting: 1 March 2017

Overview of Actions

	Status	Owner	Due date
Provide an update on arrests, charges and convictions for DA	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Outline work to support male victims of DA	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Update on North Wales pilot that allows public to upload webcam footage	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Update on activity to target specific drivers to reduce crime	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Outline preparations for the Policing and Crime Bill (particularly implications for those in a mental health crisis)	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Update on representation at Health & Wellbeing Boards	Open	Commissioner	01/03/2017
Update on review of victim satisfaction survey	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017
Provide overview of Hate Crime victim satisfaction and activity to address decline	Open	Chief Constable	01/03/2017