

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel – Priority 3

Review of the Dyfed Powys Policing Plan

1. Context.

1.1 The wider context of the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Plan is that it is a statutory requirement of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner to prepare a plan for the policing area. This stems from Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Where it also states that the Commissioner is required to issue the Plan to the relevant Police and Crime Panel Section 5: 6 (c) provides that one of the statutory functions of Police and Crime Commissioners is to hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his or her functions and for the exercise of functions of persons under the Chief Constable's direction and control.

1.2 The current commissioner for Dyfed Powys, Dafydd Llewellyn, was elected in May 2016 and then proceeded as required to consult on the content of a proposed plan. Following this consultation, a draft was presented to the Police and Crime Panel of a Police and Crime Plan for 2017-2021, who then fed-back their views to the Commissioner. The Commissioner has set the security and safety of the residents served by Dyfed-Powys Police as his priority and he intends to work closely with the Chief Constable to achieve this goal. There are 4 distinct priorities in the 2017-21 Plan.

- Keeping our communities safe.
- Safeguarding the vulnerable.
- Protecting our communities from serious threats.
- Connecting with communities.

1.3 In practical terms, the Commissioner, through the Police and Crime Plan, sets the strategic direction of a police force, but it is the Chief Constable who then gives that strategic direction practical policing and operational effect. It is in respect of this practical implementation of a Police and Crime Plan that the Commissioner will primarily hold the Chief Constable to account.

1.4 The Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel has set out a priority in its annual report to scrutinise the operation of the Police and Crime Plan during 2018-2019. The objective was phrased as: *"To ensure that the priorities in the Police and Crime plan continue to be fit for purpose and that their implementation is achieving the stated aims."* In assessing whether this objective had been achieved the Panel stated that they would want to see:

- There is clear evidence the Police and Crime Plan Priorities are supported by key Stakeholders and the public.
- There is clear evidence that the operational performance of Dyfed-Powys police continues to support those priorities.

- There is clear evidence that the commissioning strategies pursued by the Commissioner continues to support those priorities.

2 Review Activities by the Police and Crime Panel.

2.1 A key question that the Panel has considered is how will it know the policing priorities identified in the plan are being met? Opportunities for the Panel Members to review and assess this issue have developed over the past 12 months. Furthermore, the Panel designated Professor Ian Roffe JP as a Panel Champion on this topic so as to ensure that there was a continuing focus on performance in this area.

2.2 The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the operational policing of the Police and Crime Plan. As well as regular informal meetings with the Chief Constable, the Commissioner also holds the Chief Constable to account in two separate formal settings, the Policing Board and the Police Accountability Board. The latter Board has been made open to the public and Members of the Panel and which has been a helpful step of providing transparency into the work of the Commissioner.

2.3 Hence, there are multiple layers of interaction between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. In seeking to scrutinise performance against the Plan, the Panel has adopted a multi-faceted approach to assessing the delivery match to the Plan's priorities. This has comprised during 2018/19 of:

- (i) Regular formal and written reporting by the Commissioner to the Panel on each Plan priority. The Panel has received regular quarterly reporting by the Commissioner on the delivery of the Plan priorities. It has considered these reports and raised relevant questions for the Commissioner. A particular concern from previous years has been the extent of improvement recommendations for Dyfed Powys by HMIC, the police inspectorate and this had relevance for the delivery of the Plan. Through concerted action by the senior police team and the Commissioner, the level of these recommendations has been reduced to around 10% of the level in 2017. The Panel also questioned the Commissioner at each of its meetings, for example in November 2018 it asked How the Commissioner ensures that operational officers are aware of the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan and are working towards their delivery. In May 2018, the Panel enquired on the Police Efficiency and Leadership report for Dyfed Powys and the approach the Commissioner was taking in response. In July 2018, the Panel questioned the Commissioner on the Rural Crime Strategy and the implication of the Annual Report on the Policing Plan.
- (ii) Attendance and observation at Police Accountability Board Meetings to see that policing action responds to the policing plan.

There have been 4 Police Accountability Boards during 2018/19.

8 May 2018, Crickhowell, Powys.

6 August 2018, Aberaeron, Ceredigion.

6 November 2018, Crymych, Pembrokeshire.

12 February 2019, Carms.

Representative members of the Panel have attended and observed, reviewed agendas, reports and minutes of these Police Accountability Board meetings to scrutinise the delivery of Plan by police and the accountability relationship to the Commissioner.

(iii) Seeking views of community leaders in community safety roles on the implementation of the policing plan. Invitations to attend a Panel meeting and for evidence and submissions from Lead Members at each County Council responsible for Community Safety have been sought. The lead for Carmarthenshire CC attended the November meeting of the Panel. Written observations were presented from Ceredigion CC, Powys CC and Pembrokeshire CC. Overall, these responses varied in their depth of analysis on the key questions directly on the Plan and presented by the Panel. The responses from Carmarthenshire CC and Ceredigion CC were full and comprehensive and reported that the Plan remained relevant for the needs of each county. Pembrokeshire CC and Powys CC highlighted an issue presented by County Lines and Serious and Organised Crime. Positively, each county commented favourably on the Rural Crime Strategy.

(iv) Connecting with communities through the elected member representation on the Panel, to ensure that local policing implementation is effective. There are 12 elected members of the community that are Members of the Panel and bring forward issues as they arise for the attention of the Commissioner.

(v) The Panel has attended presentations on the work of organisations that have been commissioned to support activities in Dyfed Powys, covering drug-alcohol counselling, domestic abuse victims etc. The Panel lead on finance has observed the commissioning process. However, the Panel is not involved in the specific actions of commissioning these services. The scope of the work observed by Panel members indicates that the commissioned work underpins the Police and Crime Plan, for example by supporting victims and vulnerable people and does so in a cost-effective way.

3 Current Status of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

3.1 The Commissioner stated that he will review this Plan annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. In December 2018, the OPCC did not intend having a further review of the Police and Crime Plan, given there is less than 18 months to go before the next election. Further, as the PCC has regular briefings in relation to key strategic documents such as the Control Strategy and the Force Management Statement, he is content that the Police and Crime Plan is sufficiently broad to continue to be relevant and encompass the key strategic issues for Policing and Crime matters in the Dyfed-Powys area.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The Police and Crime Plan is a strategic document with a 5-year horizon. During 2018-19. The Panel has scrutinised actions under each of the priorities in this Plan. It is clear that the Commissioner has worked and allocated resources to support these priorities. Consultations and review by the panel indicate that overall it remains relevant and supported by key stakeholders. The Rural Crime Strategy is viewed very positively by commentators, with some issues developing over 'County Lines' an aspect of Serious and Organised Crime.

4.2 Delivery of the Plan by Dyfed Powys Police involves policing action and resource allocation determined by the Chief Constable. It is clear that the Commissioner exercises suitable critical challenge as well as support to the Senior Policing team in the delivery of the Plan.

4.3 Commissioned agencies have a clear and relevant role in the support of the Policing and Crime Plan. There are clear benefits in supporting vulnerable people, victims and addressing anti-social behaviour in a cost-effective way that underpins the Plan. This is an area that merits further consideration by the PCP for the next annual cycle

1 February 2019

Ian Roffe

Panel Function	What we will do	Our objectives	How we will ensure whether we have achieved our objectives	2018: 2019 Actions
Scrutinise the impact of the Police and Crime Plan	<p>Receive regular reports from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the implementation of the Police and Crime Plan</p> <p>Receive and note any relevant reports from HMICFRS/other regulators and question the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding them</p> <p>Seek the views of other stakeholders and the Public</p>	To ensure that the priorities in the Police and Crime plan continue to be fit for purpose and that their implementation is achieving the stated aims.	<p>There is clear evidence the Police and Crime Plan Priorities are supported by key Stakeholders and the public</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the operational performance of Dyfed-Powys police continues to support those priorities</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the commissioning strategies pursued by the Commissioner continues to support those priorities.</p>	<p>Evidence has been gathered from Stakeholders on the continuing relevance of the Plan.</p> <p>Members have scrutinised the Commissioner and observed the operation of the Police Accountability Board.</p> <p>The Panel has received presentations on the work of Commissioned Agencies in support of the priorities.</p>