

**Christchurch PCC Forum Minutes
Portfield Hall, Portfield Road, Christchurch
Wednesday 7th August 2013**

Present: Mr. Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner ; PCSO Natasha Adkin, Christchurch SNT; Mr John Bartlett ; Pat Brooks; Cllr. Colin Bungay, Christchurch Borough Council Elected Member/ Harbourwatch Chair ; Mrs Sue Bungay, Governor, Christchurch and Bournemouth Hospitals ; Holly Burton, PA, Christchurch and East Dorset Council ;Katie Clack ;Mr Mike Collard; Rev Chris Colledge, PCC Community Engagement Volunteer; Chloe Cozens, New Milton and Lymington Advertiser ;Cllr Bernie Davies , Elected Member; Tracey Densley, Christchurch Children's Centres Cluster Manager; Mr Richard Farmery MBE ; Robin Haggett , Probus ; Mrs May Haggett, Guiding Association; Terry Haylock , PCC Community Engagement Volunteer ; Christine Hopkins, Somerford Community Partnership ; Debbie Horlock, Dementia Alliance ;Julia Howlett, Community Team Leader Christchurch Borough Council ; Cllr. Colin Jamieson, Deputy Leader , Christchurch Borough Council ; Cllr Judy Jamieson, Burton Parish Council : Cllr. Trish Jamieson, Christchurch Borough Council ;Mr Ron Lawrie ,Homewatch Coordinator, Mr David McIntosh, Chief Executive, Christchurch and East Dorset Councils ; Julie Mills, Spectrum Housing ;Cllr Fred Neale, Jumpers Ward Elected Member ; Jim Oates, Parkinsons Society ; Graham Richards. Burton Parish Council ; Barry Sherwin ; PC Glenn Stokes , Christchurch SNT ; Melanie Thomas ; Simon Trueick, Christchurch Borough Council; Chris Williams ; Simon Voller, Somerford Community Partnership;

Apologies Received: Cllr Margaret Phipps, Portfield Ward Elected Member ; Mr Brian Hamm

Agenda Item		Action
Welcome and introductions	The meeting opened with welcome and introductions.	
Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner	<p>Mr Underhill explained the his role as PCC:</p> <p>Police: Responsible for producing the police and crime plan, in consultation with the community / responsible for appointing the Chief Constable, undertaking her appraisal, / responsible for holding the police force to account /responsible for the running of the Independent Custody Visiting Service. PCC also chairs or co chairs 4 key strategic boards that steer the direction of the force.</p> <p>Crime : Responsible for ensuring that issues get moved forward through the criminal justice system – for example PCC currently ensuring that the a joined up approach to early intervention is taken that include 0-17 year olds to prevent the cycle of crime continuing. The PCC is involved with all agencies concerned with the criminal justice system, both statutory and voluntary, including the Crime Prosecution Service, Probation Service, and Victim First.</p> <p>Commissioning: The PCC current budget is £550,000 including the community safety fund, which finances Crimestoppers. This will increase in excess of £1m in 2013-14, when the PCC will also be responsible for the Victims Fund. The PCC is responsible for commissioning services and partnerships</p> <p>The PCC is held to account by the Police and Crime panel, with sending monitored an Internal Audit Committee which the PCC has established.</p> <p>National and Regional Roles</p> <p>The PCC works closely with SW regional PCC's and forces, and has now 'looked east' and is exploring collaborative work with Hampshire.</p>	

	<p>Dorset's PCC is the National PCC Representative for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary and Community Services • Victims – national commissioning strategy • Police Negotiating Board (pay and conditions) • Police Staff (pay ad conditions) • 1 of 5 PCC's reoffending • 1 of 3 PCC's reviewing ACPO 	
<p>PCC Challenges</p>	<p>The first challenge facing the PCC on election was the appointment of a Chief Constable that shared his vision, which was achieved in February,</p> <p>The PCC also has to ensure meaningful engagement with the public, - especially with older people that make up 1 in 3 of Dorset population.</p> <p>The methods being used are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forums and Surgeries, including victim forums • Website and Social Media • Newsletters • Advocates – the PCC has appointed an advocate for Boscombe, and will be shortly appointing 6 older people advocates for each of the 6 areas of shire Dorset, which will be followed by a Polish Advocate, as the Polish Community now make up the second largest population in Dorset. <p>Budget cuts</p> <p>The PCC is facing the challenge of keeping Dorset safe, while facing increasing financial cut backs. Currently he is committed to maintaining the ring fencing of funding for PCSO's, but should the force face more cuts, this may need to be reviewed.</p> <p>Some quick wins have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversing Decision to disband the Marine Section <p>On taking office the PCC reversed the decision to disband the Marine Section of Dorset Police. By entering into a partnership arrangement with Poole Harbour Commissioners, and recruitment of Marine Special Constables, the number of patrols has doubled, for half the cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Force Helicopter <p>The force helicopter has also been signed over to the National Police Air Service, from the 3rd July, which has proved beneficial as Dorset is now covered by two helicopters ,at a saving of £500,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Light Services <p>The PCC is considering amalgamation with other blue light services in Dorset, as all are facing cuts, and could easily share some functions,</p>	

	<p>such as the control rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estates Strategy <p>While acknowledging that people like a local police station, the PCC has made the decision that when facing budget cuts there is a choice to be made between buildings and staff, and the force will therefore be moving towards a 'hubbing model' where teams are co –located in one station building – however dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) will still operate in their current localities.</p>	
<p>PCC Priorities</p>	<p>Victims</p> <p>Dorset Police needed to improve its work with victims of crime, as while it is on the top 3% nationally in terms of confidence, this drops to the bottom 25% in terms of satisfaction, often due to the lack of follow up for victims of crime.</p> <p>To address this issue, the PCC outlined the new victim bureau which is due to be launched week commencing 11th November 2013. The bureau will act as a 'one stop shop' for all victims of crime, whether or not this has been reported to the police. The bureau will ensure that victims come first, and that they are kept up to date with relevant information regarding their case.</p> <p>The bureau will also be part of a new victim pan Dorset website is also planned, as a 'one stop shop' for all victims of crime, signposting to help available, and providing an online reporting services</p> <p>The PCC will be holding victim focus groups and surgeries across the county to ensure that the victim's voice is heard, and lessons can be learnt to improve the victim journey. The first of these is on 22nd October, at the St Aldhelms Centre, Poole Road, Poole – for details contact Susan Bickle on 01305 223743</p> <p>The PCC is also exploring the introduction for a shared 'cloud based ' IT system, for all organisations working with people at risk of harm, whether child of adults, to share information.</p> <p>Early Intervention</p> <p>The PCC stated that one of his top priorities is Early Intervention – not just the 'troubled families' project that responds to funding given ,as this means working with families already in trouble – Early Intervention should be there to stop the trouble before it starts, by seeing the danger signs and intervening quickly. The hope is that early intervention with families with 0-5 year olds will see all children being able to start school able to communicate and with the rudiments of reading / counting.</p> <p>The PCC announced that Dorset County Council and Poole Borough Council have both been successful in their bids to the Early Intervention Foundation, so Dorset will have 2 out of only 20 pilots in the county, the PCC had been a partner in these bids as this is such a key priority as</p>	

	<p>changing a child's life chances between 0-5 reduces self esteem and other issues later in life that leads them to becoming victims, offenders , or both.</p> <p>Road Safety</p> <p>The PCC is holding a seminar on 22.09.2013, with key partners to address the issues of road safety in Dorset, including delivering enhanced services with a reduced budget. There has been an increase in people killed or seriously injured on the road, including those caused by medical incidents. so it is key to involve health in the discussions.</p> <p>Increasing Volunteering</p> <p>During the Olympics 1:10 people volunteered in Dorset. The Force needs to tap into this, as a way of increasing output. Dorset Fire and Rescue are exemplary with their volunteer programme, and we hope to emulate this. Volunteer numbers have already grown from just 86 to 156, and the PCC has set a target of having 1,000 police volunteers.</p> <p>Community Speedwatch has just been launched where local watch schemes can be trained to undertake speed monitoring, and also look for traffic violations such as use of a mobile phone while driving, and no seatbelt.</p> <p>Reducing Re-offending</p> <p>This is a top priority, as reducing the re offending rate will have a great impact on reducing crime, and the PCC will be working with voluntary and statutory services that provide 'through the gate' services to prisoners approaching release , to ensure a joined up consistent approach, which will include mentoring. The recent proposal to allow probation to work with offenders serving sentences of less than 12 months is very welcome.</p> <p>The PCC is keen to start work on his reoffending priority, but has had to delay as the Government changed their policy .70% of work will be picked up by national probation service with the other 30% being contracted out to a private company .</p> <p>It is known that in Dorset 80% of the crime is being committed by the 20% that make up the prolific offenders, who are often given sentence so floss that 12 months. Of the 80 know prolific offenders in Dorset 42 are in the conurbation, and 32 in shire Dorset,</p> <p>Custodial sentences of less than 12 months have always been a problem, as while in custody they lose their job (if that had employment), home, and often family, meaning that on release they return to offending.</p>	
<p>PCC Issues</p>	<p>Detection rates</p> <p>While Dorset Force punches above its weight, given it the lowest funded force in the UK, it had low detection rates of 1 in 5 – a detection rate of 20%. This was not acceptable and PCC has overseen an improvement since taking office to just under 1 in 4 - 26%, and has set a target of 1 in 3</p>	

	<p>by the end of his term in office (2016)</p> <p>101 Non Emergency Number</p> <p>There have been a number of complaints about the 101 non emergency numbers, which were originally thought to be down the fact that staff had been diverted to Olympic duties. However vacancies had been left unfilled due to force cutbacks – these have now been filled by the recruitment of ten new members of staff to the 101 centre to address issues of long waits for calls to be answered. The PCC has written to the Chief Constable expressing his serious concerns at the continuing problems with the service, and it is hoped that a new software package, giving the option of requesting a call back or leaving an answer phone message may reduce problems.</p> <p>A member of the forum commented that it is vital to have the 101 number working, as in many rural areas there was very poor internet connections and a lot of older people had no access to computers to email in concerns,</p> <p>Action Fraud</p> <p>The PCC has raised his concerns about Action Fraud with 4 government ministers, following the case of the lady in Christchurch losing her life savings and not being kept updated by Action Fraud, or receiving any victim support.</p>	
<p>Local issues Raised</p>	<p>Community Safety</p> <p>PCSO's</p> <p>Members of the forum expressed support for their local PCSO's, and confirmed that a visible police presence contributed to making a neighbourhood feel safer.</p> <p>Where possible, a continuity of PCSO was welcomed, as it allows for a good relationship to be established with young people from their childhood through to their teenage years, Jumpers and Portfield SNT reported that they had kept the same officers for 4 & 5 years, and were now reaping the benefits of this. The PCSO is seen as the key to good neighbourhood policing and intelligence gathering. Somerford Community Partnership Members reported that the young people on the estate also had a good relationship with the PCSO's, who chat to them on street corners and at the youth club.</p> <p>The PCC explained that some forces were considering extending the powers of arrest and detention to PCSO's, but he did not support this, as this would then mean the PCSO being off the street, however he was reviewing their powers to see if they could relieve pressure on PC's, and also looking at the shift patterns.</p> <p>The force is currently recruiting to fill the 15 PCSO vacancies.</p> <p>An issue was raised regarding the temporary loss of 2 PCSO's for medical</p>	<p>PCC to raise level of staffing with</p>

The SNT officers said that had taken delivery of the equipment and were ready to commence implementation.

Allocation of Police Resources

Members of the forum expressed concern that some areas of Dorset, including Christchurch, were safer than others, and that police resources may be diverted to other high risk areas, such as the conurbation. This would lead their area vulnerable, and may attract criminals from out of area.

The local TCG (tasking and coordinating group) had reported an increase in acquisitive crime, such as theft and burglary.

The PCC agreed that was some evidence of effective policing in Boscombe displacing criminals to other areas however the force had undertaken a demand profile following the staffing cuts, and current level of staffing in Christchurch seemed at the right level to meet demand.

COMMUNITY MAPPING ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Community Resolutions

From 1/1/2013 Police officers have been able to use instant community resolutions to address incidents, and it has proved very successful, and reduced the need to criminalise people for relatively trivial matters.

Local matters addressed this way have been :

- Incident where a car ran into the back of another car which had a baby in it – the worried Mother slapped the driver that ran in to her. Instead of this being treated as an assault, the Police Officer was able to de-escalate the incident, got an apology from the Mother, and both parties parted amicably having swapped details for insurance
- Graffiti in Jumpers – the perpetrator was caught – due to age could not remove the graffiti himself (chemicals needed) but has been given community litter picking as reparation,
- Graffiti in public conveniences – perpetrators caught, and made to clean off the graffiti – their parents were also involved in overseeing them carrying this out.

A more formal community resolution for non violent /non serious crimes has been working well in North Bournemouth and Bridport, whose scheme has recently extended to take in Dorchester. The benefit of community resolutions is increased victim satisfaction, plus it avoids the need to criminalise a person for one incident, which could affect future job prospects. This was used successfully in another area where some young adults had got drunk and vandalised a church, leading to their families also being ostracised. They attended a panel apologised to the church congregation on the Sunday, repaired the damage they has caused, and

	<p>undertook further work for the church by way of compensations.</p> <p>Forum members expressed support for establishing a Community Justice Panel in Christchurch,</p> <p>Discussion took place about graffiti removal – Christchurch Borough Council can only swiftly remove from its own property, not that belonging to DCC. All councils had different timescales for the removal . Forum members agreed that it should be removed as soon as possible , as leaving it in place causes a proliferation of more graffiti.</p> <p>Waterman’s Park</p> <p>Very nice park, but there is not a lot for older young people to do, either there or in Christchurch, so recently there has been an increase in anti social behaviour, underage drinking, (thought to be bought locally in Tesco Express and One Stop) There are holes in the fences which young people are using to make a quick getaway when they see the police coming.,</p> <p>Diversions activities were discussed – local SNT had to cease having community BBQ’s due to funding cuts. The successful SPARKS programme which is managed by Dorset Fire and Rescue was mentioned as a good example.</p> <p>Somerford Community Partnership have run some BBQ’s and are currently looking to raise funds for a youth café as part of the restoration of the sports pavilion.</p> <p>It was recognised that it was only a minority of young people that were causing issues, and they care should be taken not to demonise young people. There are some remedies available if the young people who are causing a problem are identified , including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC’s) and ASBO’s</p> <p>DCC are currently trying to establish a database of activities for young people.</p> <p>Burton PC reported that they hold meeting with young people in the parish, and try to make sure that activities take place, including the local IMPACT team, and MAYO (Multi Agency Youth Organisations)</p> <p>Need for PCSO’s to work on Sundays.</p> <p>For future forums: Mobility Scooters / PACTS</p>	<p>Christchurch keen to have a Community Justice Panel</p> <p>Explore a joined up approach to graffiti removal across the county.</p> <p>Speak to local SNT re checking purchases and proxy sales</p> <p>PCC to raise with Chief Constable</p>
<p>Communication</p>	<p>Forum attendees were invited to use the form in their packs to indicate their preferences for future involvement and communication with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	
<p>END OF MEETING</p>		