

ACRA Meeting with Martyn Underhill (MU), Police and Crime Commissioner 7th July 2015

ACRA were represented by: Mike Collard (ACRA Chairman – SAMRA) and Jim Biggin (ACRA Secretary – WCRA)

1. **New Collaboration with Devon and Cornwall:** MU described the amalgamation of various parts of the previously separate police forces designed to save costs, particularly in middle management, whilst maintaining or even improving service levels. The amalgamation particularly affects specialist services such as armed response units and various forensic support services. Some initiatives involve Avon and Somerset, giving a unified approach across the whole of the South West. The savings expected from this development are £12 million in a full year of which £4 million would accrue to Dorset
2. **Cutting Crime:** MU expects reported crime to rise in 2015-16 for several reasons. Some are because a new IT system recently introduced is bringing a higher level of discipline to the recording of crime; reported crime has been falling for the last 18 years and he doesn't believe that trend can continue; violent domestic crime is increasing; the "Saville Effect" is causing an increase in the reporting of sexual harassment, including many historic cases
3. **Reducing Reoffending:** MU described the work of Working Links in looking after newly released prisoners and the new monitoring system employed; for details see <http://www.ddccrc.co.uk/what-we-do/>
4. **Neighbourhood Restorative Justice:** this system has been extended to Weymouth and Poole. ACRA indicated that it would be prepared to assist when the system was extended to Christchurch.
5. **Fitting Officers with Body-Cams:** 100 body-cams have been issued and more are available. The bottleneck in rolling out this development has been the procurement of a logging and storage system for the recordings made by the body-cams which will be extended to cover all digital recordings made by the Force. MU anticipates that this will be resolved by Christmas 2015
6. **Tackling Cyber-Crime:** MU described the various initiatives in Dorset and ACRA reported the success of some of the "be aware" e-mails that had been passed on to residents. The alteration to the telephone system that now prevents a fraudster from keeping open a telephone line after the resident believes they have terminated the call has dramatically reduced this type of crime
7. **Plans for Christchurch Police Station:** MU reported a lot of interest in acquiring the site. The discussions currently centre on the CCTV centre moving to Christchurch Council Offices, although a business case is currently being discussed to join all rural cctv together. In relation to the rapid response team, the Force are exploring a move to the fire station on Fairmile Road as part of an increasing trend of police and fire services sharing buildings and other resources. The Government is to pass enabling legislation to assist the furthering of such initiatives nationwide. For example police call centres receive ten times more calls than fire service centres meaning that such centres can be housed in one existing building relatively easily
8. **Police Websites:** the PCC website has been modernised and the Dorset Police one will follow suit by Christmas 2015 hopefully.
9. **Finding Sources of New Money:** MU continues to seek sponsorship in a variety of ways

10. **Police Recruitment:** 32 brand new officers have been recruited and more than 100 have transferred into Dorset from other forces in the last year. The PCC and CC are committed to continued recruitment.
11. **Dorset Alert:** ACRA reported that this system continues to cause problems. MU said that CED had taken ownership of DA for that reason, and improvements should become apparent especially over consistent message. ACRA suggested that expanding the system to allow members of the public to report incidents direct to the police would be very helpful and MU agreed to take that back.
12. **2016 Election of PCC:** MU suggested that if ACRA wishes to run a Hustings in the Borough they should look to arrange this soon. ACRA reacted positively to this suggestion.