



Dear Colleagues,

Paper [3/14]: Policing

When this Government came into office in May 2010, we inherited the largest peacetime deficit in history. Borrowing increased to unprecedented levels under the previous Government, without due consideration for the long-term economic health of the nation. We have had to take difficult decisions on spending – including for the police. The 2010 Spending Review announced that central government police budgets would be cut by twenty per cent in real terms over four years and while critics claimed that frontline policing would be decimated and crime would go up, crime is down by more than ten per cent since the election.¹ In fact, the latest independent crime statistics from the Crime Survey of England and Wales show that these reforms are working with crime falling to its lowest level since the survey began in 1981.²

Crime is down because of the efforts of thousands of officers around the country and the leadership of chief constables, however it is also down because of police reform.³ While people tend to believe that police reform consists of the election of Police and Crime Commissioners, this is only a part of the picture. In fact, the Government has introduced a comprehensive package of reform that makes the police more accountable, gives chief constables more freedom and responsibility and helps the police fight crime more effectively so that people are safe and secure. In addition to commissioners, the Government has scrapped national targets, set up online crime mapping, introduced greater flexibility into police pay, conditions and pensions, established a National Crime Agency to confront organised crime, set up a College of Policing to develop a better evidence base, created a more independent Inspectorate of Constabulary and given the Police Complaints Commission more powers.⁴ The Home Office has also made recommendations for improvements to police integrity, set up the police ICT company which will help make a more efficient use of information technology in the police and established the Police Innovation Fund.

We would welcome your views on how the Conservative Party can build upon these reforms in the next Parliament.

Kind regards,

Dr Spencer Pitfield Director (Voluntary)

and

Anna Sellers Head of CPF Research

1. Giving local police forces the ability to take local decisions.

The Conservative Party is committed to protecting the public from crime, serious disorder and anti-social behavior. The best way to do this is to give local police forces the ability to take local decisions fitting the needs of their areas and to ensure that they are properly and democratically accountable to local people for these decisions.⁵ This is why the Government's approach to fighting crime involves a shift of power from Whitehall to local communities. Our reforms have included the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the scrapping of centrally prescribed police targets and increasing the power of PCSOs.

PCCs. One of the principal proposals of the 2010 consultation paper, 'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting police and the people', was the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).⁶ This followed a pledge in the Coalition agreement to "introduce measures to make the police more accountable through oversight by a directly elected individual, who will be subject to strict checks and balances by locally elected representatives".⁷

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 subsequently replaced police authorities outside London with 41 PCCs. The system remains different in London, where the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime took over from the Metropolitan Police Authority in January 2012.⁸

The first elections of PCCs were then held in November 2012.⁹ 16 Conservative, 13 Labour and 12 Independent candidates were elected.¹⁰ The core functions of the PCC are to appoint, and if necessary remove, the chief constable, set the budget and the Council Tax precept and set local policing priorities.¹¹ In regards to oversight, PCCs are scrutinised by Police and Crime Panels (PCPs), who have a veto over the appointment of chief constables and the setting of the precept; however, exercising this veto would require a two thirds majority of the PCP membership.¹² PCPs are made up of councillors and independents.¹³ Before November 2012, the police were held to account by Police Authorities – appointed committees that only seven per cent of people knew existed.

Since their election, PCCs have achieved a lot. Almost a year and a half in, they are better known and more easily approached than the police authorities they replaced. They are delivering innovative reforms, and many are using their powers to hold their forces to account. For example:

- To help young people, Conservative PCC for Suffolk, Tim Passmore, is funding four new police cadet schemes.¹⁴
- The PCCs for Thames Valley, Hampshire and Surrey have signed a £37.4 million joint telecoms contract with BT. This will allow all forces to save money and share information securely and easily.¹⁵
- The PCC for Dorset is launching a Victims' Bureau to support victims of crime and keep them informed. It will be only the second such dedicated service for victims in England and Wales. In Sussex, PCC Katy Bourne has set up a working group to help get the best services for victims and witnesses.¹⁶



A list of achievements of various Conservative PCCs across the country can be found in the Appendix.

PCSOs. Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) play a key role in neighbourhood policing by providing an invaluable link between the police and the communities they serve.¹⁷ PCSOs focus on understanding and identifying local priorities, solving local problems, tackling low level crime and engaging with the community.¹⁸

Introduced in 2002, PCSOs currently have 20 standard powers (for example, the power to issue a fixed penalty notice for littering and to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16).¹⁹ In addition, there is a range of additional powers which may be granted by the local chief constable should he or she believe that they are required to respond effectively to local priorities.²⁰ The Government recognises, however, that the role of PCSOs has evolved since they were first introduced. It is committed to ensuring that the powers available to PCSOs remains fit for purpose, which is why the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill currently being considered by Parliament, will give PCSOs a number of additional discretionary powers.²¹

In order to build on these changes and make sure the PCSO role continues to develop the Home Office also ran a consultation in December 2013 on whether the current powers available to PCSOs are sufficient to allow them to fulfil their role effectively and if not, what new powers should be made available to them.²² More specifically, the Home Office consulted on proposals to: introduce additional discretionary powers to extend the current list of duties available to PCSOs; remove legislative barriers to introducing new powers in the future by allowing the Secretary of State to make amendments to the list of powers by secondary legislation; and introduce a duty for Chief Constables to consult PCCs regarding the designation of PCSO powers.²³

Scrapping national targets. The Government adamantly believes that police officers sole focus must be on cutting crime and that centrally dictated targets hinder these efforts. As such, the Home Secretary announced in June 2010 that both the policing pledge and the confidence target introduced by the previous Labour government would be scrapped. The Government has now freed police forces from this 'top down' central control so that police forces are not distracted by 'tick box exercises' that hinder their ability to cut crime in their communities.

2. Collaboration and innovation to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the police.

Collaboration is an important tool to helping police forces achieve necessary savings and deal more effectively with crimes that go beyond a single force's borders.²⁴ The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 therefore places a legal duty on PCCs and chief constables to collaborate where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own or another police force.²⁵

To make it easier for police forces to collaborate the Act also simplified the process for making collaboration agreements. More specifically, the Act:

- replaces the requirement for two different types of collaboration agreement with a single agreement which both the PCC and the chief constable can make, and which can include other bodies such as local authorities;
- removes the requirement to tell the Home Secretary about plans to set up large-scale collaborations;
- allows for specially designated police staff to work in another force area under a collaboration agreement; and
- gives the Home Secretary a new power to specify particular policing functions on which all forces must collaborate.²⁶

In order to incentivise collaboration, the Government has pledged to establish a Police Innovation Fund from 2014/15 worth up to £50 million a year. The fund will provide PCCs with the opportunity to submit bids on initiatives that will promote not only collaboration, but also improve their use of digital working and technology in order to deliver sustainable improvements and efficiencies in the way their police force operates in future.²⁷ The Home Office has also made a precursor fund of £20 million available to PCCs in 2013/14. Each of the 43 police forces in England and Wales was successful with at least one of the bids they submitted for the precursor fund.²⁸ Successful bids included:

- Joint plans by Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridge Police to bring together their operational and organisational support services, such as IT. The project will receive nearly £2 million of Home Office funding and is anticipated to save the three forces £23 million in four years.
- Northamptonshire Police will receive £620,000 towards its plans to share buildings and services with the county's fire service.
- Kent and Essex Police successfully jointly bid for £440,000 towards their Visual Media Evidence and Intelligence Programme, which will use video evidence captured at domestic violence or public order incidents to be analysed using modern software techniques.²⁹

Deeper and more ambitious joint working between police forces and other blue light services (such as Northamptonshire Police's plans to share buildings and services with the county's fire service) has been identified as an area with particular potential for future collaboration.

3. Tackling organised crime.

Serious and organised crime is a threat to the UK's national security which costs the country more than £24 billion a year.³⁰ The Government has undertaken several initiatives since 2010 to strengthen our protection against and responses to this threat. In addition to launching a serious organised crime strategy and providing funding to support the development of specialist police capabilities in Regional Organised Crime Units, the Government has also crucially created the National Crime Agency (NCA), a

powerful body of crime fighters, to lead the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime and strengthen our border security.³¹

The NCA was formally established by the Crime and Courts Act 2013 and became operational in October 2013. The Agency has replaced the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).¹ Structurally, the NCA is made up of four distinct parts or 'commands' - Organised Crime, Border Policing, Economic Crime and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). The NCA also houses the national cybercrime unit. The Agency has approximately 4,500 officers and a budget of just under £500 million.

4. Police integrity.

While the vast majority of police officers do their work with a strong sense of fairness and duty, the good work of thousands of officers is undermined when a minority behave inappropriately.³² When it does occur, police corruption and misconduct undermines justice, damages the public's confidence in the police and can make it more likely to break the law.³³ The Government is acutely aware of the damage this can cause which is why the Home Secretary announced a package of measures in February 2013 that will strengthen police integrity.

The new College of Policing will play a particularly important role in delivering these recommendations. The College, which was also launched in February 2013, is working on developing the qualifications, training, practice and procedure for police officers and staff.³⁴ The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill currently going through Parliament confers upon the College a range of statutory powers that will enable it to implement its policies.³⁵ As part of the package of recommendations made by the Home Secretary, the College of Policing will:

- Publish national registers of chief officers' pay packages, gifts and hospitality, second jobs, and their contact with the media;
- Publish a new code of ethics to be distributed to officers of all ranks.
- Work with the Association of Chief Police Officers to create a single set of professional standards on which officers will be tested throughout their careers;
- Manage and maintain a national register of officers struck off from the police in order to prevent officers who lose their jobs as a result of misconduct being recruited by other forces;
- Establish a stronger and more consistent system of vetting for police officers, which chief constables and PCCs will have to consider when making decisions about recruitment and promotion.

In addition to the above work being done by the College to maintain police integrity, the Government has also transferred to the IPCC responsibility for dealing with all serious complaints against the police.³⁶

¹ SOCA was formally abolished by the Crime and Courts Act

5. Greater transparency.

As part of the Government's wider commitment to drive greater transparency across the criminal justice system, the Home Office is working hard to improve transparency on local crime statistics, police pay and police performance.

Crime mapping. In 2011, the Home Office launched police.uk to enable the public, for the first time, to see crime levels in their area and to see what action the police and criminal justice agencies are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities.³⁷ The site also enables users to see how the performance of their police force or neighbourhood team compares with similar areas and shows not only what crime has occurred, but also what action the police or courts took.³⁸

Performance and pay. The Government wants police forces to become more transparent about what they spend and what they do. The Home Office is therefore expected to shortly announce proposals that would require police forces to publish not just raw spending data but more performance data too.³⁹ This will build upon the thematic inspections that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) regularly conducts on specific issues related to police performance. Past inspections have been commissioned on the use of police stop and search powers and on the police response to domestic violence. Some thematic inspections are also conducted annually.⁴⁰ For example, the 'Valuing the Police' programme reports each year on how forces are performing and coping with reduced budgets.

While HMIC is making every effort to make these inspections more transparent, a lot of the information remains overly detailed, complex and difficult to understand.⁴¹ For this reason, HMIC is currently developing proposals that will allow members of the public to see whether their local force is performing well or badly when it comes to reducing crime and providing value for money. The aim is for these assessments to be made in the same way as happens with the 'Valuing the Police' programme (i.e. through a combination of qualitative and quantitative research) but with much clearer conclusions.⁴²

6. Technology.

The Government is dedicated to ensuring better use of technology in police forces across the country.⁴³ One key reform that the Government has introduced that is helping to achieve this is the creation of the police ICT company. The police ICT company, when fully operational, will be owned by PCCs and is responsible for the procurement, implementation and management of ICT solutions for forces (the company's 'customers') as well as for providing strategic ICT advice and guidance to forces. In other words, the company serves as a gateway to private sector procurement for forces. By doing this, the company frees chief officers from in-depth involvement in ICT management allowing them to focus on fighting crime, ensures better value for money, gives a greater degree of interoperability to force computer systems and enables greater innovation.⁴⁴



For now, the Home Office and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, as joint owners, are supporting the development of the company.⁴⁵ As an interim measure the Police ICT Company Directorate within the Home Office continues to deliver essential frontline services including the police national database.⁴⁶ It is important to note that the company will not be overseeing the creation of a new central IT system.⁴⁷

What next? Questions for discussion

1. What more can the police do to make itself more representative of the people it serves?
2. What has the experience in your community been with PCCs?
3. What policing functions should be delivered between forces acting collaboratively?
4. How can the Government incentivise more ambitious joint working between the blue light services?
5. How can the police identify 'what works' in policing and make sure best practice is shared between forces?
6. How can we further improve trust in the police?
7. What further discretionary powers, if any, should PCSOs be granted that would enable them to carry out their role more effectively?
8. What measures of police forces' performance could be published to make them more transparent?
9. How else can police forces use technology to allow them to focus more on preventing crime?

Appendix 1: Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner Initiatives & reforms

Sir Graham's Police and Crime Plan includes several personal Pledges which are based on feedback from the public. The initiatives and reforms he has introduced are in response to these:

1. "Be the voice of the people"

Sir Graham appointed an Outreach Worker as a pilot initiative for Peterborough and Fenland. Her early work has begun identifying local concerns for action by the Commissioner. She has attended police and partner panels / forums, parish councils and other meetings across Peterborough and Fenland and has met with and listened to people ranging from adults with learning disabilities to community and Speedwatch groups. Issues have included experiences with the 101 number and awareness of current hate crime initiatives. These issues have either been dealt with by Nicola or escalated to the Commissioner for action.

2. "Work in partnership"

Work in Cambridgeshire to understand the needs of victims is well developed with Sir Graham leading the agenda locally, regionally and nationally. An evidence-based Victim Strategy is driving the commissioning of support services for victims, and the development of a Victim Hub will ensure the county leads the way in providing integrated victim management approach. Sir Graham has championed both the needs of victims and the desire to build safer, stronger and supportive communities in Cambridgeshire; communities with low crime rates, low numbers of victims and high numbers of people willing to be witnesses.

3. "Focus on localised policing"

Sir Graham's 2013/14 budget enabled the force to increase the number of officers supporting local policing. An organisational restructure reduced the number of more senior posts in favour of constables and removed back office functions in favour of increasing frontline activities. A focus on increasing momentum for collaborative working has also helped identify significant savings. Cambridgeshire is now one of the lowest costing forces in the country, with one of the highest percentages of officers' time spent on frontline duties. See also 'Programme Metis'.

4. "Visible policing"

The Commissioner has supported Programme Metis to be established in Cambridgeshire and secured Home Office Innovation Fund money to roll the programme out to collaboration partners Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Metis is a root and branch redesign of all force systems, processes and structures which focuses on utilising technology to release officers' time, allowing them to spend more hours out in their communities through the use of mobile data

devices. The ultimate aim is for the organisation to become paperless, enabling more efficient sharing of information across the criminal justice system.

5. "Increase number of special constables"

Sir Graham has encouraged businesses to sign up to Employer Supported Policing – a scheme whereby employers support their staff to train and patrol as Special Constables. There were 240 Special Constables when Sir Graham was elected. He set a target for 300 Special Constables by April 2014. This target was reached in January 2014. Cambridgeshire Specials have been involved in an innovative and very high profile operation in Cambridge to improve road safety among cyclists.

6. "Improve call handling"

Since November 2012 the Commissioner has focused on call handling performance in response to public concerns. The issue has featured regularly in his monthly Business Co-ordination Board meetings to allow him to scrutinise performance in this important area of business. His most recent update stated that the average wait time for first response to 101 is now 5 seconds, with just a 0.69% abandonment rate. In November 2012 the abandonment was 3.4%. Secondary pick-up remains a priority for Sir Graham and the force.

7. "Focus on tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary and drug misuse"

The Commissioner has personally driven the use of an innovative information sharing system called ECINS. The system, which was initially for anti-social behaviour, brings together partners from across the county in a virtual world to manage and task across agency boundaries in real time. This not only saves time and money but ensures a 'whole agency' approach is taken to support victims. In the year following Sir Graham's plea for agencies to get on board the use of the system has quadrupled. It is now used to co-ordinate partnership work for integrated offender management, troubled families and even the misuse of alcohol through monitoring licenced premises.

8. "Take a preventative approach"

Sir Graham is committed to supporting early intervention and preventative work to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system. He has set up a £40k Youth Fund using Property Act money. The aim of the Youth Fund is to engage young people in positive activities in their community. The projects must be related to activities that have the potential to reduce youth crime. Community groups can bid for small grants up to a maximum £2,000. He has continued to fund Youth Offending Services and is looking to introduce a Cadet Scheme in Cambridgeshire.

9. "Increase collaborative working"

The Commissioner has continued both to lead and support further collaboration, thereby assisted closing the funding gap. Cambridgeshire forms part of a three-way Strategic Alliance with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. All parties have recently agreed to dramatically extend collaboration between them to include 'Operational Support' and 'Organisational Support' services. A Memorandum of

Understanding has been signed between the three PCCs and Chief Constables and work is progressing rapidly to develop business cases for each of the areas. Savings this year from collaboration exceed £800k and this figure will grow as more collaborated functions are implemented and savings are worked through.

10. “Hold the police to account”

Regular reports on Constabulary performance and operational updates capture a range of day to day business which in turn deliver against a number of the pledges, such as joint multi-agency working to tackle crime, Neighbourhood Alert Implementation which focuses on localised policing, and updates on crime rates focussing on tackling burglary. Board papers are published providing for transparency and accountability in decision making and demonstrating how the Commissioner is delivering against his pledges.

Appendix 2: Essex Police and Crime Commissioner

Policing reforms initiated by Nick Alston, the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner

Creation of a Strategic Policing Board, with sub-committees examining Ethics and Integrity, and Finance: This is to deliver stronger governance of our police to ensure that public confidence is maintained. Many matters currently causing national concern could have been challenged earlier through improved governance that addresses both short and longer term policing challenges.

The New Initiatives Fund - delivering innovative solutions for preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour at a local level: £500,000 of funding in 2013-14, and £300,000 in 2014-15, is available through a New Initiatives Fund for Essex, providing money for a very wide range of crime prevention initiatives such as: training hair dressers in Braintree in recognising and acting upon the signs of domestic abuse in their customers; the creation of new Street Pastor groups; anti-burglary crime prevention initiatives with older people and an Essex-specific project with Crimestoppers.

The Essex Police Challenge: The PCC holds regular scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable on subjects such as performance, finance, current issues and medium/long term planning. Records of these meetings are published but the meetings take place behind closed doors. For full public scrutiny of the Chief Constable, the Essex Police Challenge is held, a two-hour quarterly hearing where both the people of Essex and the PCC question the Chief. We record the events and place the video, as a permanent record, on our website:

<http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/essex-police-challenge/>

Pan-Essex leadership in tackling domestic abuse: This is the only crime type to be an Area of Focus in the Essex Police and Crime Plan for Essex. Every day in Essex, around twenty incidents occur where a violent offence is recorded in a domestic

setting, from a total of eighty emergency DA incidents each day requiring a police response. The PCC chairs an Essex wide Domestic Abuse Strategy Board, leading an ambitious programme of work across police, social care, health and the voluntary sector to tackle domestic abuse in a co-ordinated fashion. New multi-agency teams have been created across Essex and the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock to ensure that victims at high risk of harm are identified at the earliest opportunity, with information shared across agencies and support packages quickly put in place.

£440,000 of innovation fund money has been secured to Essex and Kent Police towards the cost of body worn cameras. Essex Police is now equipping its officers who attend domestic abuse incidents with these cameras so objective evidence of harm can be captured immediately and automatically. The College of Policing will evaluate the results of this initiative in a rigorous, scientific, manner.

Tackling business and rural crime, and supporting victims: The PCC chairs countywide forums on business and rural crime, and supporting our victims, with partners from all sectors contributing. Two teams of Special Constabulary, dedicated to combating rural crime in the north and south of our county have been formed. A renewed police focus has been brought to business crime, with greater energy and resources provided for local working through initiatives such as Retail and Business Watches.

Out of Court Disposals Panel: To ensure that the police use out of court disposals correctly a Panel involving wide expertise including the Magistracy has been established to review police practice to help build public confidence and to feedback constructively to Essex Police.

12 March 21014

Appendix 3: Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner- Adam Simmonds



The Purpose of this document is to give you a flavour of the changes that I have been making to Policing in Northamptonshire, since I was elected in November 2012.

The purpose of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to set the strategic direction for the Force, through a five year Police and Crime Plan and to annually set the budget for the Force.

Police and Crime Commissioners also have a wider role than the previous Police Authorities with them having to develop a firm interest in the wider Criminal Justice System as well as holding the Police and Chief Constable to account.

Police and Crime Plan-

The ambition I have for Northamptonshire is to make the county the Safest Place in England and the Force the brightest and the best in the Country.

I have set ambitious targets which include at least a 40% reduction in violent crime over the next five years, eradication of drugs, tackling anti-social behaviour robustly and intelligently, for Northamptonshire to have safer roads and finally a much more visible Police Force.

Progress to date-

Violence- The Force is already over half way to the 40% target in reduction. Since my election Violence offences have reduced by 20%. I have held a violence summit to ask what our partners can do to help deliver a further reduction.

Victims- One of my first decisions when taking office was to establish an independent victims' commission to consider how the Criminal Justice System in Northamptonshire needed to work better for Victims of Crime.

A three month campaign and consultation was carried out seeking the views of over 1,000 victims of crime with over 60 people conducting one to one interviews. Progress is now underway to implement the reports 79 recommendations.

Visibility- One of the public's major concerns is the visibility of Police Officers, which in a time of shrinking budgets means we have to think differently about how to meet the public's expectations.

I have recently launched a major campaign to massively expand our Special Constabulary. Special Constables are fully warranted Police Officers with all the powers of a normal PC, but they work on a voluntary and part time basis.

I want to recruit 900 Specials dedicated to policing the communities in which they live and work.

The Special Constabulary had a record month in June 2013. Their efforts resulted in 44 arrests, 111 recorded crimes, seizing 13 vehicles and carrying out 76 alcohol seizures and are now completing on average 1,000 more hours per month than the previous year.



Longer term projects-

Police/Fire Merger-

I have announced that it is my ambition to have a fully merged police and fire service in Northamptonshire and I am actively lobbying the Government to give Police and Crime Commissioners the power to become the relevant fire authority.

We need to think differently about the provision of bluelight services in our county, move beyond our current silo'd approach and look to sharing estates, management teams and others to create a new organisation, fit for the 21st century that offers an enhanced service to the public.

Police, Crime and Justice Institute:

I am in partnership with the University of Northampton, planning to launch a Police, Crime and Justice Institute.

The purpose of the institute is to develop localised solutions to crime problems ensuring that evidence based policy and practice is embedded in training across the criminal justice system and community safety agencies.

Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives:

The aim of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is to enhance the capacity of faith-based and community organisations and groups to design and implement successful and sustainable initiatives and programmes of work to increase community safety.

The Office will be based within the Police and Crime Commission and will provide mentoring support to develop crime prevention activity in communities, work with faith organisations to support faith-based action for local communities and generate sustainability in community resilience to crime and anti-social behaviour.

Free School Proposals:

In June last year, I announced plans for a Free School on the site of the current Police Force Headquarters site at Wotton Hall, Northampton.

The concept behind the idea of a free school was inspired by a quote from the poet Victor Hugo who said: "He, who opens a school door, closes a prison."



The purpose of the school would fit with the prevention and early intervention agenda of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with students studying all of the conventional subjects with an emphasis on public service and crime science.

The Commission will continue to put together its submission to the Department of Education in 2014, with a view to opening the school in either September 2016 or September 2017.

Appendix 4: Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner

JOHN DWYER REPORTS BACK

Cheshire's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner



ONE YEAR ON: PROGRESS IS BEING MADE BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO.

Out and about with John

■ I have now been Cheshire's first directly elected Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire/Warrington/Halton for over a year.

The road to becoming the Conservative PCC for Cheshire was very enjoyable. After being selected by our Party to be your candidate July 2012, the first challenge was to spread the word about the role of PCCs as well as encouraging people to vote in the 2012 election. People needed to be informed about the changes in policing governance as well about me as a candidate and what I stood for.

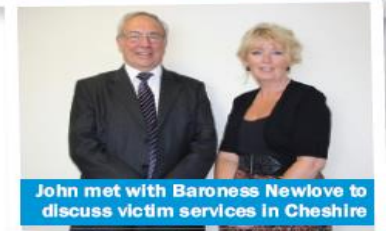
All of the hard work and determination came to fruition on 15th November when the votes were counted and I was elected. I feel greatly honoured to be the first Conservative Commissioner for Cheshire and I want to reiterate my thanks for selecting me to stand as the Conservative candidate. It is my vision to make Cheshire an even safer place in which to live.



This is my first newsletter to members. I intend to make sure that you receive information regularly detailing how your Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner is pursuing Conservative policies to make our area a safer place to live and that your money is being well spent on policing.



Out and about with the surgery van



John met with Baroness Newlove to discuss victim services in Cheshire



Listening to the views of the bobby on the beat



Identifying savings and spending your money well

ROOT AND BRANCH REVIEW PRODUCES THE GOODS

■ In my manifesto I promised a root and branch review to ensure that the Cheshire Police were delivering policing services as cost effectively as possible. The first phase of that review has been concluded and produced the following:

- All major procurement contracts have been reviewed and reductions have been negotiated that will save £1.4m. Work is ongoing to ensure that best value for money continues to be obtained.
- Savings achieved through collaborations will realise £0.2m. Activity is ongoing to pursue further opportunities for collaboration to enable further savings to be realised in future years.

- A further £1.2m will be saved from the full year effects of savings initiatives delivered in 2013/14, together with other non-pay savings on premises, equipment, supplies and services and through reduced borrowing costs.

I have therefore saved the taxpayer in excess of £2.5m in my first year and there is more to come. This has meant that the reduction in police officers and police staff has been less than it would otherwise have been.

I regard this as a marathon not a sprint and I can tell you there is more good news to come in the next 12 months as I get well and truly into my stride.

PROTECTING CHESHIRE'S COUNTRYSIDE, WILDLIFE & HERITAGE

■ Cheshire has 35 rural beats within its borders covering 526 square miles, which accounts for 57% of the Force Area. Cheshire has over 5,600 designated heritage sites including places of worship, monuments and numerous sites of historical and architectural significance.

Crime can have a devastating impact on the community in which it happens. However, when crime takes place in a rural area, while of much lower volume than some non-rural areas, it can have a disproportionate consequence and community impact. The rural community can feel vulnerable due to their remote location and the criminality that affects them. The Constabulary has responded to the priority I set in my Police & Crime Plan to tackle these issues. They will be focusing on engaging with rural communities to prevent and reduce crime and identify repeat and or vulnerable victims, locations and offenders and work with partners where necessary to develop appropriate solutions.

There will be specially trained officers with specific responsibility for rural, wildlife and heritage crime working within neighbourhood policing teams. They will work with effective intelligence processes that enable us to feedback to communities on action taken and results achieved.

There are some crimes, for example, vehicle crime, violent crime and burglary that take place in both urban and rural localities. However, the consequences of these crimes and ways of dealing with them may differ because of the rural context. There are also a small number of crimes that tend to mainly affect rural areas such as fly tipping, stealing agricultural machinery or birds' eggs.

The greatest volume crime in rural locations is theft and burglary from outbuildings and commercial storage, homes, vehicles and outdoor spaces such as yards, gardens and fields. There are also low numbers of burglary or theft of firearms and ammunition and theft of farm vehicles/machinery which pose a greater risk.

A key impact on the commerce of a rural community is theft of equipment, tools,



Meeting farmers and discussing their policing concerns

vehicles, fuel, metal and livestock. The diversification of farming businesses and growing emergence of farm shops has also increased opportunities for business crime in rural areas, such as shoplifting.

Criminal damage can also have a huge impact on rural locations where the real cost of the crime goes beyond just the repair. Uninsured loss can be the consequence of loss of roofing lead that leads to rainfall on animal feeds and crops.

I will continue to ensure tackling rural crime is a priority in Cheshire.

APPROXIMATELY 90% OF ALL OF OUR PROLIFIC OFFENDERS ARE DRUG ADDICTS

■ In order to have a real impact on drug related crime, the Constabulary needs to understand and reduce the demand for drugs, restrict the supply and work with partners to help individuals recover from drug dependence. I have now signed off the Constabulary's plans to tackle the root cause of drug related crime in Cheshire.

Drugs can impact our lives to a greater or lesser degree. The impact may be from being a victim of crime, living in a community where drugs are

creating antisocial behaviour or living with someone who is dependent on drugs. The drugs landscape is continually changing along with some of the crimes that are driven by drugs.

The facts below show why I believe tackling drug related crime must be a priority for Cheshire Police.

- 79% of the organised crime groups mapped in Cheshire are involved in drugs related criminality.
 - Offenders who use heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine are estimated to commit between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime.
 - Drugs cost the UK £15.4 billion each year.
 - The UK has amongst the highest rates of young people's cannabis use and binge drinking in Europe.
 - National evidence shows every £1 spent on adult drug



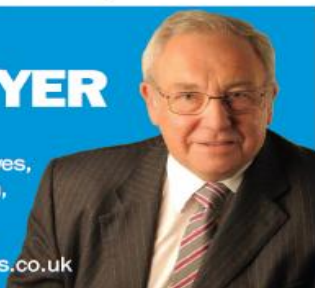
Taking my roadshow to every corner of the Cheshire Constabulary area

treatment can save £2.50 in costs to society and for every £1 on spent on young person's treatment, between £5 and £8 is saved by the NHS and other agencies.

- A third of the adult treatment (drug or alcohol) population have parental responsibility for a child.
- 77% of the public think drug treatment is a sensible use of public money.
- A typical addict spends around £1400 per month on drugs which is 2.5 times the average mortgage.

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