

AGENDA ITEM 7b

Formulating a Police and Crime Plan for North Wales *Introduction by Police Commissioner Winston Roddick*

As part of my role as Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, I will be developing a new Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”). Its aim will be to set out the approach I intend to take to develop the Plan, including how I will seek to involve the Police and Crime Panel.

The Plan will set out what I intend to achieve, and how I intend to achieve it during my term of office. It is important that before I provide the Panel with a draft Plan, I am clear about how I am going to undertake this critical work, how I am going to involve the community and seek professional advice and guidance.

The Commissioners Call for Evidence

It is my responsibility to prepare a Police and Crime Plan for North Wales. The Plan will set the direction for the police service in North Wales for the next few years. It is very important to me that I set that Plan with as much information and knowledge as possible, and I am calling on the people, businesses, voluntary and public sector in North Wales to take this opportunity to share with me their views and experiences of police and crime matters in North Wales.

I want to know how the service has helped you, how you think it could work better for you and what matters to you most about the service.

My role and the Police and Crime Plan will extend beyond the police service. I therefore wish to receive views as to whether or not we are working well enough with our partners to reduce crime and make our communities safer.

I will be looking at facts and figures over the coming months to determine the police and crime objectives, and it is only right that people’s experiences become an integral part of developing the North Wales Plan.

The Call for evidence will be everyone’s opportunity to tell me what they think is important about crime and policing, and why. From the 12 December, my website and mailbox will be open for the submission of views and experiences that you want to see included as part of the planning process.



Report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Title:	Formulating a Police and Crime Plan
Meeting:	North Wales Police and Crime Panel, 19 December 2012
Author:	Anna Humphreys, Deputy Chief Executive

Background

The Police and Crime Plan

In accordance with chapter 3, section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the Act"), Police and Crime Commissioners are required to issue a Police and Crime Plan ("the Plan") as soon as practical after taking office, with a statutory deadline of the 31 March 2013.

Although the majority of the Plan will be for local determination, in accordance with the Act the Commissioner must:

- Prepare the Police and Crime Plan (this cannot be delegated to another person)
- Make arrangements for engaging with local people and obtaining the views of the community about policing
- Consult the Chief Constable
- Provide the draft Police and Crime Plan to the Police and Crime Panel
- Have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

The Plan should determine, direct and communicate the Commissioner's priorities during their period in office and set out for the period of issue the following:

- the Commissioner's police and crime objectives for the area;
- the policing of the police area which the chief officer of police is to provide;
- the financial and other resources which the Commissioner is to provide to the chief officer of police;
- the means by which the chief officer of police will report to the Commissioner on the chief officer's provision of policing;
- the means by which the chief officer of police's performance in providing policing will be measured; and
- the crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make, and the conditions (if any) of those grants.

Formulating the Police and Crime Plan

The Plan will set the strategic direction for the Police Force and the approach that is to be taken to make North Wales a safer place. In 2013 the Commissioner will publish the first Plan.

This work will underpin the term of office and provide clarity around what is to be achieved during that term of office. Therefore, ensuring that the Commissioner is able to take informed decisions to establish the strategic direction will be the foundation of the plan.

The Commissioner's Call for Evidence

The call for evidence is to be launched by the Commissioner on the 12 December. The call for evidence is designed to give the people of North Wales the option of providing evidence to the Commissioner for consideration during the planning process. The evidence call will be requesting the submission of information which could range from personal or collective experiences, research, or conclusions drawn by members of the public by reviewing police statistical information for example.

As this is the first Plan for North Wales, we welcome views from across the area which may take a variety of forms. The Commissioner will be meeting people in person and events will be arranged across North Wales for the Commissioner to attend or participate, to ensure that people get the opportunity to contribute to the planning process. A draft calendar of events will be provided to the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 19 December and details will be published on the Commissioner's website <http://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk>

The views of the community

The Commissioner must make arrangements to obtain the views of the local community about matters concerning the policing of the area before the Plan is issued.

The North Wales Police force area covers a wide geographic area and has diverse and differing communities. It will be a significant challenge to ensure effective arrangements are in place to provide the people of North Wales with an opportunity to engage and provide their views on policing.

The views of the communities of North Wales will be required, not only for the production of the Plan, but also for the continuing evaluation and reflection on the impact that the Plan has made, and whether it continues to be relevant for the future.

Views of victims and witnesses of crime

The Commissioner is also required to obtain the views of victims of crime in particular and have regard to those views when carrying out his/her functions. Although the statutory duty for the Commissioner is to seek the views of victims of crime, the intention will also be to ensure that witnesses of crime are also involved with the work of the Commissioner. The Commissioner recognizes the importance of ensuring that witnesses of crime feel sufficiently supported to enable and encourage them to speak out to the police against criminal acts.

Stakeholder views

Under the Act, the Commissioner has a duty to co-operate with Community Safety Partnerships and is required to take into account the priorities established by the Partnerships in preparing the Police and Crime Plan. The Commissioner has been invited to become a member of the North Wales Safer Communities Board, which has representatives from all the responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act. The Board is a dedicated North Wales forum for the strategic community safety matters. The Commissioner will be consulting with partners and the voluntary sector representative on the Board as part of the planning process.

The Commissioner has also been invited to join the Regional Leadership Board. The Board comprises the leaders and chief executive of the local authorities, the fire service and the health service. The views of the Board will be sought as part of the planning process.

As part of the preparations for the transition from police authorities to the new system of police governance, the Home Office funded the 'safer future communities' project'. The project, which has been run by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), was designed to prepare the voluntary sector for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners. Through the project, a community safety voluntary sector network for North Wales is being developed. The Commissioner will be meeting with the network to discuss their views and involve them in the planning process.

Evidence and knowledge

Significant knowledge and evidence basis are available both within the policing service and the wider community and working environment. In addition to proactively seeking the views of the community, victims and witnesses, the voluntary, public and business sectors, the Commissioner will be reviewing the available evidence to inform the planning process. The sources of evidence that will be used to inform the planning process will include:

- Local Crime and police information (including crime trends)
- Best practice and lessons learned from other areas
- Strategic assessments of threat and risk to North Wales
- Strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Organisation risk registers

Available Resources

The Government announcement of the future of the policing grant is expected the week of the 17 December. Until that date, we will not have confirmation of the level of national resources (in the form of the police grant) that will be available. The Police and Crime Plan must be designed taking into account the available resources, and the decision of the level of policing precept will be dependent on what the financial position will be for 2013/14.

The Commissioner will be undertaking a detailed assessment of the level of financial resources that will be available, how those resources can be best used and what can be achieved within the financial resources.

Consultation with the Chief Constable

The Chief Constable will be required to deliver the Plan and he is also a statutory consultee within the development of the Plan. The Chief Constable has significant experience and knowledge of the issues that are facing the police service, and also has a statutory duty to engage with local people and make arrangements for seeking the views of people within each neighbourhood in the police area.

On-going dialogue will be taking place between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable over the coming months to develop the Plan.

The Role of the Police and Crime Panel

The Commissioner must submit the draft Plan to the Panel. The Panel has a role to provide feedback and comments on the draft Plan. The below chart summarises the draft timeline for ensuring that the papers are submitted to the Panel with sufficient time for the Panel members to review them.

The Commissioner will be inviting Panel members to participate in events as part of the call for evidence, and would like to ask the Panel members to consider their views on the focus of the Plan. Panel members are invited to submit their views as part of the call for evidence.

Week 7 January	Submission of Police and Crime Panel papers to host authority	
Week 14 January	Issuing of Police and Crime Panel papers	Publication of proposed precept level
Week 21 January	Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel	Proposed Precept level
13 February	Submission of Police and Crime Panel papers to host authority	
20 February	Issuing of Police and Crime Panel papers	Publication of Police and Crime Plan
27 February	Meeting of the Police and Crime Panel	Presentation of the draft Police and Crime Plan to the Police and Crime Panel
31 March	Statutory deadline for issuing the Plan	