

For Consideration	
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Report to:	Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel
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Agenda Item:	11

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S UPDATE REPORT – 90 DAY PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report provides the Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel with an update on progress made by the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner in developing and implementing her Police and Crime Plan objectives since taking office in May 2021. This is primarily focused on objectives set as part of the Commissioner’s 90 Day Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is invited to note the progress made to date - scrutinise the contents of this report, seek assurance on any specific areas of concern and request further information where required and within the scope of their role.

3. SEEKING VIEWS ON THE POLICE AND CRIME OBJECTIVES 2021-24

- 3.1 Commissioner Henry was formally elected on 8 May 2021 on a pledge to ‘work tirelessly to tackle the problems that concern ordinary people across the county’, to ‘level up policing across the area’ and to ‘put the resources where they’re going to achieve real results’. Central to that manifesto were core pledges to put residents at the heart of our policing priorities, strengthen the approach to crime prevention, enable the Chief Constable to increase front line offer numbers and improve the response to drug use and dealing and serious violence in our communities.
- 3.2 The Commissioner has set a vision to ‘make Nottinghamshire one of the safest places to live and work’ and outlined a number of provisional objectives which, subject to feedback from communities and key stakeholders, will set the structure and content of the police and crime plan for 2021-24. These include:-

PEOPLE, PREVENTION, RESOURCES AND JUSTICE

Putting victims and residents at the heart of our policing priorities by:-

- Listening to local communities and improving police and partnership responses to the issues of greatest community concern
- Continuing to improve services for victims of crime, particularly those with experience of domestic or sexual abuse
- Strengthening relationships between the police and local communities, particularly among young people and diverse communities.

Stopping crime before it happens and protecting people from harm by:-

- Developing and investing in crime prevention initiatives and early intervention approaches that deal with the causes rather than consequences of crime
- Building on the work of Nottinghamshire's Violence Reduction Unit and its partner agencies to further reduce knife crime and other serious violence
- Supporting further improvements in education and diversionary projects that steer young people away from crime.

Investing in policing and making the best use of our resources by:-

- Providing resources to increase police officer numbers and holding the Chief Constable to account for increasing the visibility and accessibility of those officers
- Ensuring that our resources are distributed fairly and equitably across Nottinghamshire on the basis of where they are needed most
- Ensuring that Nottinghamshire Police have the right skills, people and equipment to tackle the challenges of policing in the 21st Century

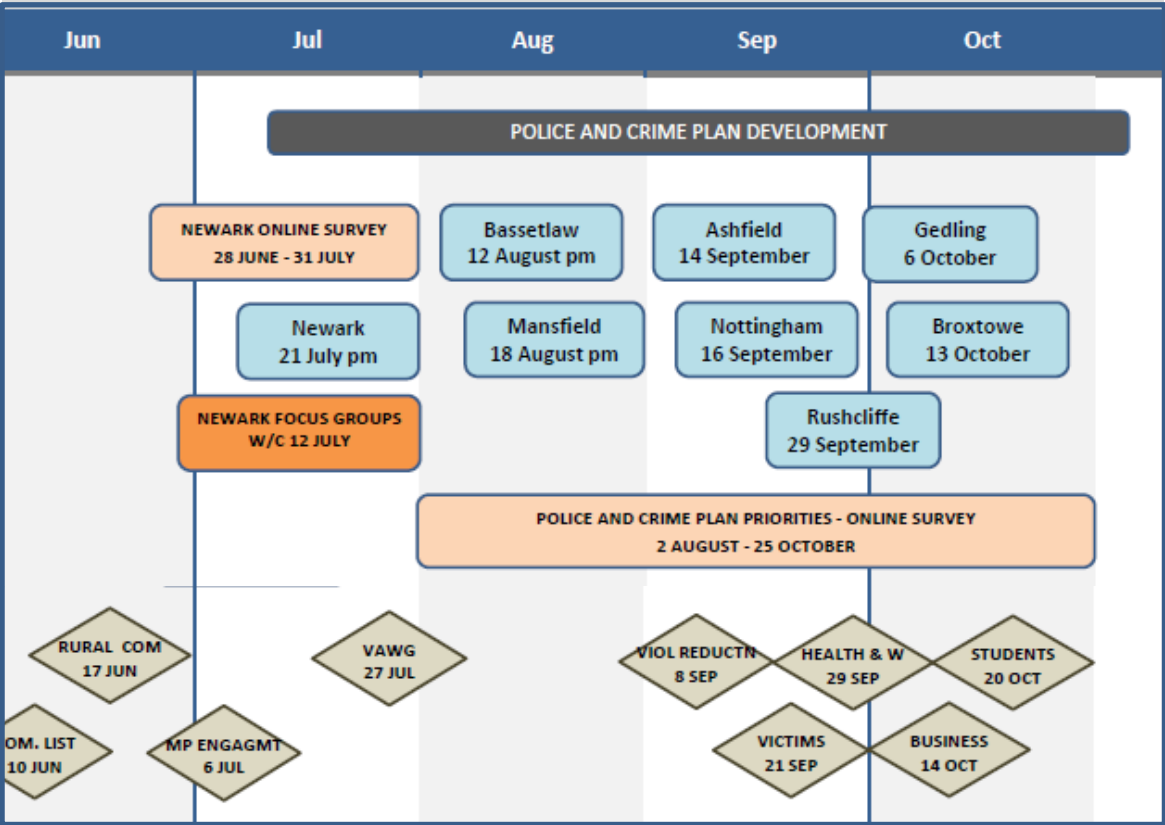
Reducing reoffending and bringing more offenders to justice by:-

- Working with partner agencies to tackle the drivers and impact of offending, particularly drug related crime and anti-social behaviour
- Working with the police and criminal justice partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS
- Working with local, regional and national partners to tackle and reduce the harm caused by serious and organised crime.

In delivering against these priorities, the Commissioner is also committed to fulfilling her wider cross-cutting responsibilities to:-

- Have regard to national priorities for policing set by the Home Secretary, which include terrorism, serious and organised crime, cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation
- Promote equal opportunities and community cohesion between diverse communities and work to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children

- 3.3 Listening to the issues and concerns of local people is central to the Commissioner’s approach. As such, the Commissioner has committed to undertaking an extensive programme of listening events throughout the summer before finalising her plan in autumn 2021. The listening events aim to:-
- Raise awareness of the PCC role and proposed priorities
 - Seek the views of residents and stakeholders on the proposed priorities
 - Listen to and better understand the main crime, policing and community safety-related issues affecting local residents and stakeholders.
- 3.4 The Commissioner’s engagement programme will include a focus on diverse and harder to hear communities alongside ongoing work to better understand and address important concerns such as use of force and disproportionality in service outcomes.
- 3.5 A range of thematic stakeholder engagement events have also been scheduled during the June to October period which include priority themes such as violence against women and girls (VAWG), violence reduction, rural crime, victims, young people, students and the business community.



3.6 Commissioner Henry stated “I want everyone in Nottinghamshire to have had the opportunity to inform and influence the priorities our plan for policing. This is your police service, these will be your priorities. Wherever you live, I’ll always be listening to you”.

4. Taking Action: The Commissioner's 90 Day Plan

- 4.1 The Commissioner has set out a number of immediate actions that will be undertaken during her first 90 days in office – each of which is aligned to the proposed ambitions of her broader plan. Progress in achieving the ambitions of the 90 day plan will be reported to the September Police and Crime Panel.
- 4.2 The PCC is making significant progress in delivering against her 90 day plan, which has included:-
- 4.3 **Consultation in decision to re-locate Newark Police Station to a shared facility with Newark and Sherwood District Council:** The Commissioner has taken a multi-disciplinary approach to seeking the views of local residents on plans to relocate Newark Police Station to a shared facility. This has included:-
- An online public survey (28 June – 31 July 2021) promoted via social media channels which has reached over 37,700 individuals in the Newark area
 - Two focus groups (14 July 2021) commissioned to provide a more in depth insight into the views and perceptions of 24 local residents on the plans
 - A live-streamed community event (21/07/21) open to residents in person and via online social media channels. This provided an opportunity for residents to share and discuss their views on the proposals with the PCC, with representation from the Chief Constable and other local leaders.

The findings from this comprehensive engagement exercise will be used to inform plans for the future of Newark Police Station over the coming months.

- 4.4 **Digital consultation and engagement:** The Commissioner has piloted the use of social media based digital engagement techniques to better maximise visibility of and participation in OPCC consultation and engagement activity – including the Commissioner's Police and Crime Priorities consultation and the Newark engagement exercise. Lessons learned from this approach will be used to improve the reach and profile of future engagement activity and secure better value for money in delivering against this core statutory duty.
- 4.5 **Serious violence reduction:** The Commissioner is now Chair of the Violence Reduction Board which provides strategic leadership and coordination of serious violence reduction activity across the City and County. Commissioner Henry met with the Home Office, VRU and Grip teams in early June to discuss the continued reductions in knife crime across Nottinghamshire and the work planned by the VRU in partnership with the Force to continue this momentum. Key initiatives include hotspot policing, focussed deterrence on high risk individuals, provision of high quality youth work for those being impacted by violence, trauma informed approaches and supporting communities to build resilience.

Since being in post, the Commissioner has approved additional investment in the Next Gen Programme delivered by the Children's Society, which provides intensive support to young people with multiple complex needs who are at risk of, or already involved in serious violence. As part of this programme, the Children's Society are working in partnership with the VRU to identify and implement system change opportunities to reduce risk factors, specific to the education sector. The Commissioner has supported bids to the Home Office and Youth Endowment Fund to enable the augmentation of custody provision for 10 – 25 year olds in the City and County. Both bids are in the final stages, if successful, investment in custody based provision will increase by £2.25m over 4 years. This is expected to reduce the number of children and young people being first time entrants to the criminal justice system and will have a significant impact on recidivism rates. Funding announcements are expected imminently.

- 4.6 **Domestic and Sexual Violence Support:** Commissioner Henry has invested new Ministry of Justice funding of £1.8m into local domestic abuse and sexual violence support services. This includes family court support across the city and county, specialist counselling for domestic abuse and sexual violence survivors, FGM support and 17 new specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) posts, many of which are for specific groups such as male survivors, BAME survivors and children and young people.
- 4.7 **Engaging Young People in crime prevention:** As Chair of the Strategic Violence Reduction Board, Commissioner Henry has approved the VRU's Youth Charter which has been produced by young people from the City and County to set out their vision and expectations for high quality youth work provision. The Commissioner met with VRU Community and Youth Ambassadors on 23rd July to discuss their role in supporting violence reduction as part of a public health approach in communities.
- 4.8 Commissioner Henry will launch of the second phase of the #stopviolence social media campaign in September 2021 which has been co-produced by young people impacted by serious violence and focuses on themes such as knife carrying, county lines, sexual exploitation and bullying. To date the campaign has reached over 395,000 young people in the City and County. The Commissioner is due to launch an innovative youth work programme which the VRU and National Youth Agency have collaborated on in recent months. The aim of the programme is to increase the quality standards of youth work for those working with our most at-risk young people. Young people have co-produced a Youth Charter which sets out their expectations and vision for youth work, it will reaffirm the commitment of the NOPCC, NNVRU and partners in the

statutory and third sector to improve outcomes for young people and support them in reaching their full potential.

- 4.9 The Commissioner has also awarded a grant to the Nottinghamshire Youth Commission to continue to undertake peer-led engagement with young people across Nottinghamshire in 2021/22. The youth Commission have developed plans to consult on the priorities of the police and crime plan, undertake youth engagement on opportunities for crime prevention and explore options for closer working with the Violence Reduction Unit.
- 4.10 **Identifying and securing funding opportunities:** The Commissioner's office has successfully secured £862k of Safer Streets Round 2 funding for work to tackle acquisitive crime in Nottingham and Mansfield. In addition, she intends to bid both for Safer Streets Round 3 funding in July 2021, which focuses on making public spaces safer for women and the Night Time Economy Fund expected to be launched at the end of June.
- 4.11 The VRU has submitted two bids for co-funding from the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and Home Office Serious Violence Intervention Fund for a total value of £3.8m. Funding will be confirmed at the end of June and if successful will provide 4 years of funding for provision to support children and young people in custody during a 'teachable moment'. The VRU is also exploring opportunities such as the MoJ Prison Leavers fund which is seeking innovative approaches to support resettlement of offenders, with bids due in August; and the Youth Endowment Fund "a supportive home", aiming to keep children safe from involvement in violence, particularly where children live in homes where there is conflict or domestic abuse, alcohol or substance misuse or where other family members are involved in crime.
- 4.12 **Reviewing opportunities to drive further efficiencies in in order to direct more resources to the front line:** The force continues to make good progress in driving efficiency challenges of £2.5m in 2021-22 with benefits being delivered via IT Systems, rationalisation of estates and the ongoing impact of changes to working practices as a result of Covid-19. Particular programmes of activity include the continuing review of fleet provision, implementing the new payroll/finance and HR systems and strategic programmes in relation to the National Enabling Programme (NEP), Digital Investigation Programme and Digital Public Contact.
- 4.13 Further efficiency savings of £2.7m are planned in 2022/23 which include savings in relation to MFSS (£0.5m), the HQ new build (£0.4m) and transport operation / financing (£0.4m). The current MTFP indicates that up to £9m efficiencies are likely to be realised by 2025-26. These plans allow the force to

achieve uplift and maintain the significantly increased frontline resourcing and to invest in service development in line with the PCC's aims

- 4.14 In July 2021, the Commissioner also announced the successful negotiation on the lease of Phoenix House in Mansfield which has led to savings of around £60k per year over the next 10 years. The savings will be reinvested into policing.
- 4.15 **Review of the OPCC structure and functions:** Commissioner Henry has agreed the scope and remit of an independent review of OPCC functions, roles and responsibilities, which will be commissioned during the summer and complete by autumn 2021. Work is underway to recruit to vacant posts strengthen capacity where needed in relation to Business Support, Executive Support, Contracts and Commissioning and Complaints. This will enable the OPCC to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness in these important areas. In May 2021, Commissioner Henry took the decision not to appoint a Deputy Commissioner until mandated to do so and not claim expense payments in her role. This is expected to save annual OPCC costs of over £78,000 per year.
- 4.16 **Tackling drug-related offending:** The Commissioner has given her support to use the Late Night Levy underspend to double the number of Operation GUARDIAN deployments in Nottingham city centre to two per month. The tactic is highly visible and demonstrably effective in reducing violence. The two commissioned substance misuse treatment providers, Clean Slate (Framework) in the City and Change Grow Live in the County, continue to work closely with Nottinghamshire Police, the courts and Nottinghamshire Probation Service to ensure that there is a direct route into treatment for those within the Criminal Justice system. The latest findings from the Commissioner's Police and Crime Survey show that the proportion of residents feeling that drug use and dealing is an issue in their area has continued to reduce over the last quarter alongside reductions in the frequency with which communities report experiencing the problem.
- 4.17 **Criminal justice:** The Commissioner has actively participated in the East Midlands Criminal Justice Board and highlighted key Criminal Justice-related issues and challenges facing Nottinghamshire among regional partners and MPs. The Commissioner also continues to receive 1:1 briefings from local criminal justice leads both within and external to the police force and is developing actions as part of her police and crime plan to support the delivery of more efficient and effective criminal justice services. The courts backlog remains the most critical issue of concern, however HMCTS, the Witness Care Unit and Victim Advocates report an improving picture.

5. Decisions

- 5.1 The Commissioner has the sole legal authority to make a decision as the result of a discussion or based on information provided to her by the public, partner organisations, members of staff from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (NOPCC) or Chief Constable. The Commissioner's web site provides details of all significant public interest decisions.¹

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None - this is an information report.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 Equality assessment will be undertaken in respect of key decisions and activities taken forward as part of the police and crime plan and subsequent annual delivery plans.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Risks to performance are identified in the main body of the report together with information on how risks are being mitigated.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 This report provides Members with an update on performance in respect of the Police and Crime Plan.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The OPCC undertakes routine horizon scanning in order to track emerging legislation, government publications, audits and inspection findings, significant consultations and relevant research findings. This is considered as part of the PCC's weekly briefing schedule in order to help inform local strategic planning and decision making.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 None – For information only

¹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Decisions/Decisions.aspx>

12. Appendices

A. None

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

PCC 90 Day Plan – Live tracking document: To be presented to Police and Crime Panel in September 2021.

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