

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

WALES PCC BULLETIN

No 15 – 21 December 2012

This fifteenth bulletin is the latest in a series of regular updates to keep partners and the office of the PCC informed about issues of interest in the police reform landscape following the election of police and crime commissioners. These bulletins will continue now that PCCs are in post, and this edition includes:

- Provisional Police Grant Report and the Community Safety Fund
- Feedback from the PCC Welcome Event 3 December
- Victims' services commissioning
- Letter to PCCs from Helen Grant, Minister for Victims and the Courts
- APCC National briefing event – 'Working with the Criminal Justice System'
- Anti-Social Behaviour Bill
- National Crime Agency
- HMIC – working with police and crime commissioners

Provisional Police Grant report and the Community Safety Fund

On 5th December the Chancellor made his Autumn Statement and announced further reductions to Departments' budgets. On the same day the Home Secretary wrote to the PCCs providing assurance that police funding would be protected in 2013-14. The Provisional Police Grant Report 2013-14 was laid by Ministers in Parliament on the 19th of December. The Report was accompanied by a written ministerial statement that provided details of central Government funding for the police, including allocations to PCCs from the Community Safety Fund (CSF). The Home Secretary wrote to all PCCs and forces on 19 December about the Provisional Police Grant Report including details of their funding from the CSF.

The Community Safety Fund is a single new fund that can be used by police and crime commissioners to invest in crime prevention, drugs, and community safety activities.

Grant letters and agreements for the Community Safety Fund will be issued around the time of the laying of the Final Police Grant Report in February 2013.

The written ministerial statement is available at the link:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/December_2012/19-12-12/13.HOME-Police-Funding.pdf

Feedback from the PCC Welcome Event

The PCC Welcome Event held on 3 December at the Home Office was well received by PCCs. Ministers found it helpful to listen to PCCs discuss their priorities and concerns, and

many PCCs fed back that they appreciated the access to Ministers and senior officials. Some common themes emerged from the day. These included:

- Funding concerns
- PCCs' role in the criminal justice system
- Powers of PCCs
- Victims' services and commissioning
- Integrated offender management; and
- Crime prevention and reducing re-offending

Victims' services commissioning

PCCs will take on responsibility for commissioning the majority of victims' services from 2014.

During the course of the next few months, the Ministry of Justice will be developing a framework to help each PCC commission victims' services for their own community. The department has set up two reference groups to help develop and shape this work. One of the groups will include representatives from PCC offices (Cumbria and Devon & Cornwall) as well as the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives (APACE) with officials from across Whitehall with expertise and knowledge of commissioning. The second will involve the voluntary sector. Further information on commissioning can be found here:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/working-with-others/supporting-victims-and-witnesses?view=Binary>

The intention is to have the framework completed and disseminated to PCCs in Spring 2013. During this time the Ministry of Justice also intend to provide PCCs with an indicative budget (for 2014/15) of how much might be received to spend on victims' services. PCCs and their staff will be able to find out more on the victims' strategy including local commissioning at a forthcoming APCC event taking place in February. The event will focus on how PCCs can work effectively with the criminal justice system and will include workshops focusing on different areas of the CJS including the reforms to different areas of victims policy (see later).

The Ministry of Justice has also recently published an Evidence and Practice Review which looked at current practice and existing evidence on victims' support needs, outcome measurement and quality assurance in the victim support sector. The review links to the development of the commissioning framework, particularly with its emphasis on measuring outcomes and quality assurance of services. It can be accessed here:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/evidence-and-practice-review-of-support-for-victims-and-outcome-measurement>

If you have any questions on victims' services commissioning you can contact :

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Letter to PCCs from Minister for Victims and the Courts; appointment of Victims' Commissioner

On 17th December Helen Grant, Minister for Victims wrote to PCCs welcoming them to their role and setting out anticipated developments between now and the Spring.

Justice Secretary Chris Grayling announced today, Friday 21st December the appointment of Baroness Helen Newlove as the new Victims' Commissioner.

This appointment will ensure victims' and witnesses' voices are brought to the heart of Government, making sure their needs are championed and that the Government is delivering on its commitments.

Baroness Newlove's appointment will last for three years and her role will include:

- Engaging with victims and witnesses groups, local and national leaders and criminal justice agencies to build up a picture of the current experience for victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system (CJS);
- Advising the Government on views from victims and witnesses on existing good practice in the CJS and areas for future work;
- Contributing to the Government's revision of the Victims Code to ensure that the new version provides much greater clarity to victims on their entitlements from criminal justice agencies.

APCC National briefing event – 'Working with the Criminal Justice System'

The APCC is running a national event on 23 January and a series of themed events in 2013. On 21st February 2013, the APCC will be holding a national briefing event for PCCs, national and local statutory partners on 'Working with the Criminal Justice System'. This event will be held in central London in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and Crown Prosecution Service, and will provide an opportunity to hear about and discuss some of the latest developments and opportunities in criminal justice and the important role police and crime commissioners have. Invitations to attend will be distributed in early January. Please contact Laurie Kremer (laurie.kremer@marketing.apccs.police.uk) for more information.

Anti-Social Behaviour Bill

On 13 December the Government published draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny by the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC). The draft Bill includes six, flexible and more effective powers, and also two important new measures to help focus the response to anti-social behaviour on the needs of victims:

- a new court order (the **Criminal Behaviour Order**) available on conviction enabling courts to stop the behaviour of the most destructive individuals and address the underlying causes of that behaviour – one of the main failings of the ASBO;
- a new civil injunction (the **Crime Prevention Injunction**) that agencies can use immediately to protect victims and communities. These could be issued in days, or even hours, where necessary;

- simpler powers to close premises that are a magnet for trouble and also deal with other environmental anti-social behaviour (such as graffiti, litter and dog fouling) that blight many communities;
- a more effective police power to stop anti-social behaviour in public places; and
- proposals to speed up the process of evicting some of the most anti-social tenants, to stop 'nightmare neighbours' ruining the lives of those around them.

The **Community Trigger** will give victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour that has previously been ignored. The trigger could be activated by a member of the public, a community or a business if repeated complaints about anti-social behaviour have been ignored.

The **Community Remedy** will give victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour a say in the punishment of offenders out of court. This means victims will get justice quickly, and the offender has to face immediate and meaningful consequences for their actions. The Government is undertaking a public consultation on the new Community Remedy. This is available on the Home Office website (www.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-remedy). We are keen to hear the views of police and crime commissioners on the new proposal.

It is important that we get this legislation right first time, and we have been working closely with practitioners to develop the proposals. We are keen that PCCs, the police, councils, landlords, victims and other interested parties engage in the process of pre-legislative scrutiny, and details of how to respond can be found at www.parliament.uk/homeaffairscom.

The draft Bill extends to England and Wales and we have been working closely with Welsh Government officials throughout the drafting process. The draft Bill contains a mix of reserved and transferred matters and conversations will continue to establish where Legislative Consent Motions are needed in time for final legislation.

The draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill can be viewed here: [Home Office website](#).

National Crime Agency

The National Crime Agency is at the heart of the Government's wider reforms to the policing landscape; devolving power to local communities, whilst ensuring a strong response to national level threats. The Crime and Courts Bill, which will provide the legal basis for the National Crime Agency, was introduced in the House of Commons on 19 December, with Commons Second Reading and Committee stages following in the New Year. Subject to the will of Parliament, the Bill is on track to receive Royal Assent in spring 2013 which would enable the NCA to become operational by the end of 2013.

The NCA programme continues to make significant headway on the build of the agency, in collaboration with precursor agencies and partners. There has been further progress on the shadow functions and operations, which are testing how the NCA will operate in the run up to it becoming fully operational.

The APCC will be providing additional briefing on the NCA shortly.

For more information on the NCA and the Bill visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/crime-courts-part1/>

HMIC - working with police and crime commissioners

HMIC has produced a communication providing details of what they are doing to work with and support PCCs. This leaflet summarises:

- how HMIC plan to share expertise and information in a timely, targeted and useful way with police and crime commissioners;
- HMIC's proposed mix of scheduled meetings and as-required updates for PCCs; and
- the ways HMIC will consult PCCs on how to best work together in the future.

Please follow the link to the leaflet on HMIC's website:

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/working-with-police-and-crime-commissioners-122012/>

We're sending out regular bulletins for partners and the office police and crime commissioners. Contact us at PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk to keep you informed of what we are doing, what we plan to do and the opportunities for you to get involved. We will also field any enquiries or questions you have.

Please also send ideas and proposals for content of future bulletins to this address.