

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

WALES PCC BULLETIN

No 14 – 23 November 2012

This fourteenth 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:

- PCCs take up office
- Future of PCC bulletin
- PCC Welcome Event
- Welsh Government engagement with PCCs
- APCC information events; PCC National event
- Legislation relating to police and crime panels
- Scrutiny of Precept guidance
- Complaints guidance
- Health and CJS links
- Community Safety Fund
- Feedback on Home Office communications

PCCs take up office

The most significant democratic reform of policing in our lifetime has now taken place, with the election of 41 police and crime commissioners last week. PCCs took up their posts on the 22nd of November. For the first time there is somebody responsible for policing who has been elected directly to the post, which will bring increased accountability and visibility to those responsible for policing.

Police and crime commissioners will work with the police to cut crime, give the public a voice at the highest level, hold forces to account, and help to increase further the trust the public have in policing.

The Home Secretary made the following statement in Parliament after the elections:

“May I take this opportunity first to welcome the 41 police and crime commissioners who were elected last Thursday. They have important responsibilities and will be an important voice for people in their force areas in policing local communities. Police and crime commissioners take up their office officially this Thursday [22nd November]. I look forward to working with them in future to do everything we can to ensure that we can continue to cut crime.”

You can find out who the elected police and crime commissioners are on the [Home Office website](#) alongside their election address.

Future of PCC bulletin

The PCC bulletin, aimed at partners, has been produced on a monthly basis since July last year. Now that PCCs are in post it is our intention to continue with the bulletin, which can change to further reflect the needs of partners. It is proposed that from the next edition a different partner will be asked to write as a guest in the bulletin each month, and the bulletin will continue to update partners on events, and draw to their attention relevant guidance and other information they would benefit from knowing about.

We would welcome the views of partners on what you would like included in future editions of the bulletin. It may be more information on a particular issue, or you may want to write an article yourself as a guest writer, and give your expertise or view of some of the opportunities presented by the arrival of police and crime commissioners on the local landscape. If you have any ideas or would like to propose writing an interesting article yourself please email the Partners inbox in the first instance (address below).

PCC Welcome Event

The Home Secretary has now invited all newly elected police and crime commissioners to the Welcome Event at the Home Office on the 3rd of December 2012. This will provide the first formal occasion for the Home Secretary and her ministerial team to meet with police and crime commissioners. The event will focus on laying the foundations on which PCCs can forge and build effective working relationships with the Home Office and wider government.

Welsh Government engagement with PCCs

The Minister for Local Government and Communities in the Welsh Government will meet the four police and crime commissioners in Wales on 28th November to discuss high-level policing and crime priorities. The Minister has also written to the PCCs to highlight the priorities of the Welsh Government in terms of policing, criminal justice and community safety.

APCC information events

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners will be working with partners to deliver a monthly series of information events for PCCs and partners throughout 2013, providing an opportunity to debate and share practice across a range of key policing, community safety and justice priorities. The list of provisional dates and topics (subject to agreement by PCCs) is available on the APCC website <http://www.apccs.police.uk/page/Events> Any partner wishing to register an interest to contribute to or attend these events should contact tania.eagle@apccs.police.uk. Full details will be provided in due course.

APCC National meeting 23rd January

The first APCC event will be held on 23 January at the Guildhall in London. It will be a closed session for PCCs focusing on the police workforce, finance and funding. Other events will be open to interested parties wishing to attend and engage with PCCs.

Legislation relating to police and crime panels

The table at the link below is a list of secondary legislation relating to the introduction and establishment of police and crime panels. It is designed as an easy reference guide and provides a link to each of the legislative enactments with a separate link to explanatory guidance. Please go to

link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/pcp-secondary-legislation>

Scrutiny of Precept guidance

The guidance note setting out the process for police and crime panel scrutiny over the police and crime commissioner's setting of the precept has recently been added to the police and crime panel section of the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/scrutiny-of-precept-guidance>

Complaints guidance

A guidance note setting out the process for handling non-criminal complaints and conduct matters about a PCC and their deputy has recently been added to the police and crime panel section of the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/pcp-complaints-handling-process>

Health and CJS links

Improving the health of a local population will require partnership working on crime, violence prevention and community safety. Local areas will need to engage with police and crime commissioners in order to achieve these outcomes and work effectively. Equally, reducing crime requires a strong health input on issues such as drug and alcohol dependence and mental health, and PCCs will need to engage with health partners.

Policing and Crime are non-devolved matters, but many factors influencing levels of offending and criminality are matters which have been devolved to the Welsh Government including local government, health, education, fire and rescue.

Briefings on the structure and ethos of the NHS in Wales including the Welsh Government's Health and Wellbeing priorities can be accessed via the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/police/pccs/?lang=en>

Community Safety Fund

The overall level of funding and PCC-level allocations from the new temporary Community Safety Fund in 2013-14 will be communicated to partners as soon as possible after the Autumn Statement in December.

Home Office communications: Your views wanted

Now that police and crime commissioners have taken office, we are seeking your views on what you thought of the communications you received from the Home Office throughout the whole transition period. We are asking you complete a short survey (maximum of 15 minutes) that will enable us to evaluate our approach and activity. Your response is invaluable and will help us to improve our communications with you going forward.

Take the survey online here:

<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/v.asp?i=63025gmzsn>

If you have any questions please get in touch with matthew.mitchell2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

We're sending out regular bulletins for partners now that police and crime commissioners are in post. 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.