

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

WALES PCC BULLETIN

No 11 – 31st July 2012

This eleventh bulletin is the latest in a series of regular updates to keep you informed about developments for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in November 2012. This edition includes:

- An update on PCC candidate briefings;
- Details of the Access to Elected Office Fund;
- A report on progress on establishing Police and Crime Panels;
- Information on the Strategic Policing Requirement to be published on 31st July;
- Further information on Home Office PCC communications;
- An update on National Crime Agency transition work, and how this links with PCCs;
- Gareth Madge, Director of Corporate and Legal Services for South Wales Police writes about the partnership landscape in Wales
- Clinks provide details of a noteworthy development for future PCCs in the Safer Future Communities project; and
- A link to the first in a series of bulletins on work related to the management of drug misusing offenders.

PCC candidate briefings

To help those considering standing for election as PCCs we are publishing a series of candidate briefings on the PCC pages of the Home Office website. The briefings cover all aspects of a PCC's wide-ranging roles and responsibilities, from supporting victims to setting a budget, and the partnership landscape in which they will be working in (including criminal justice, local health providers, and the voluntary sector).

The briefings are divided into four strands:

- Roles and responsibilities of a PCC;
- Working with others within your force area;
- Working beyond your force area; and
- National policy and strategies.

The first batch of briefings on the roles and responsibilities of a PCC was published on 28 June, and further briefings are being added. These can be found at the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/candidates/>

Partners and Candidates

PCC candidates are likely to come from a range of backgrounds, including some independent candidates. Partners and candidates have a common interest in engaging each other. Candidates will want to learn about the local issues that affect their police force area, and partners have an interest in seeking to raise their agendas with candidates.

Some candidates are likely to already operate in a community safety context and have a good understanding of the issues. Others will be new to the crime and policing agenda. In order to stimulate local debate the full range of candidates may benefit from invitations to local events or meetings (beat meetings or meetings of the crime and disorder scrutiny committee, for example); in particular those meetings that will develop their knowledge of the key priorities of partners in the communities candidates seek to serve.

It will also help partners to prepare for their PCC's arrival if they have met their candidates, and are aware of their background; so that they are in the best position possible to work with whoever is elected.

Access to Elected Office Fund

The Access to Elected Office Fund, which was launched on 9 July, will provide practical support for disabled people who want to become an elected representative. The £2.6 million fund is designed to help disabled people overcome barriers to becoming elected officials. The November PCC elections will be the first major elections that the new and innovative fund will apply to.

The fund will help meet the additional costs a disabled candidate may face in standing for election as a PCC, councillor or MP, such as extra transport or sign-language interpreters.

The fund will offer individual grants of between £250 and £10,000 to disabled people who want to be selected as candidates for an election, or who are standing for election.

In addition to the fund, a new online introductory training package has been launched (<http://www.access-to-elected-office-training.org.uk/Content/Login.aspx>) tailored to disabled people who are interested in a political career.

The fund and online training are part of the government's Access to Elected Office Strategy which also includes paid internships for disabled candidates on the speaker's parliamentary placement scheme.

If you would like further information visit the Access to Elected Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-public-political/access-elected-office/> or contact the Government Equalities Office:

Iain Newton (Iain.Newton@geo.gsi.gov.uk) - 020 7035 8085
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Progress on Police and Crime Panels

Work has continued on the establishment of Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) in Wales. Host authorities have been identified in the four Police force areas:

- Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales;
- Conwy in North Wales;
- Caerphilly in Gwent; and
- Carmarthenshire in Dyfed Powys.

Three areas have notified the HO that a Police and Crime Panel has been established; councillors nominated and appointed; and Panel arrangements agreed although there are some details that remain outstanding in some areas. We continue to work with WLGA and individual local areas to resolve outstanding issues.

If you wish to discuss Police and Crime Panels generally, or specific local issues, please contact policeandcrimepanels@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

The Home Secretary will issue the SPR on 31 July. This will replace the non-statutory shadow SPR the Home Secretary issued in November 2011 and will inform police and crime commissioner candidates ahead of the elections in November.

Section 77 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Home Secretary to issue a SPR. PCCs and chief constables will be required to have regard to this SPR in exercising their respective roles.

The Home Secretary has engaged closely with policing and other partners to develop a SPR which sets out her view of the national threats that the police must address and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats. These threats are terrorism, organised crime, public disorder, civil emergencies and cyber threats. They stretch from the local to the national and require a response that is rooted in local policing, with local forces playing their part on the local, the regional and the national stage.

Communications update

PCC national communications campaign

The Home Office will be running an advertising campaign in October with the aim of raising awareness and understanding of the role of PCCs. The campaign will target the public in England and Wales (excluding London) and will include TV advertising and other media channels. We will be producing a campaign support pack for partners who wish to use it to communicate in their areas. This will be made available on the Home Office website.

PCC website - New information hub

The new PCC section [www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/pcc] of the Home Office website is proving popular, with over 7,000 visits a week. It is where you'll find all the latest news and information about PCCs and the policy. As the advertising campaign develops we'll also provide images and links online.

National Crime Agency (NCA) – Transition work and links to PCCs

The National Crime Agency (NCA) will provide a more effective and collaborative response from law enforcement to the threat from serious, organised and complex crime impacting on the UK. The NCA will be an operational crime fighting agency that will:

- Tackle organised crime;
- Strengthen our borders;
- Fight fraud and cyber crime; and
- Protect children and young people.

The government commitment to the creation of a National Crime Agency is described in depth in the NCA Plan, published in June 2011. Progress has been made establishing the legal basis of the NCA, and working with partners on defining the design and operation of the new agency. The shadow commands are taking shape and operations are already starting to have an impact. Recent senior team appointments have been made, and we are stepping up engagement with both the agency's

future workforce and partners.

PCCs will be an important partner for the NCA. Recently Keith Bristow, Director General designate and Trevor Pearce, Director designate of Operations met with PCC candidates to discuss the work of the NCA and the impact of serious, organised and complex crimes.

Partnership landscape

Gareth Madge, Director of Corporate and Legal Services for South Wales Police writes about the partnership landscape in Wales. Mr Madge is also a member of Wales PCC Transition board and is Chair of the South Wales Police/Police Authority PCC Transition Board.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 applies to both England and Wales but as the Welsh Government has devolved responsibility for many community safety partners, notably local authorities and health, this has implications for the implementation of the Act.

The National Assembly for Wales' decision in 2011 to reject a Legislative Consent Motion has meant that in Wales, Police and Crime Panels will not be committees or joint committees of local authorities. Instead, they will be free standing bodies outside the local authority structure. Their members will be appointed by the Home Secretary and will act in an individual capacity. Another consequence of local government being a legislatively devolved matter concerns the PCC's relationship with Community Safety Partnerships. The Explanatory notes to the Act (Section 10, Subsection 2) clearly state that the requirements a PCC can place on CSP's do not extend to devolved functions.

The Welsh Government's devolved powers have led to a distinct Programme for Government with specific community safety and substance misuse priorities and strategies, some of which are accompanied by funding streams. Those funding streams will not pass to a PCC but will remain under the direction and control of the Welsh Government. In order to be able to provide our PCC's with as clear and complete a picture of the community safety funding landscape as we can, we have been working with Welsh Government and Home Office officials to enable a PCC's grant and commissioning decision making to be informed by accurate information. This holistic and joined up approach is aimed at maximising value for money. The work is also assisting the development of the draft Police and Crime Plans which are also being informed by Welsh Government priorities.

The criminal justice landscape in Wales is made up of a number of statutory and non statutory partners with differing governance and differing geographical areas of responsibility. Whilst PCC's have force wide functions many of our CJS partners have pan Wales responsibility. In March 2011 an All Wales Criminal Justice Board was created which provides a single national forum which facilitates the exchange of information and promotes discussion about high level strategic developments across the public sector, as they relate to Criminal Justice. It is made up of independent Criminal Justice Service organisations that work collaboratively to provide a high quality of service for victims, witnesses and all other service users. The AWCJB is currently looking at how criminal justice agencies with pan Wales responsibilities can interact with PCC's.

The timescales between the election of a PCC and the need to identify an appropriate budget and the resulting precept for 2013/14 are very tight particularly so in Wales where the Welsh Government has precept capping powers. The Welsh Government consults on its provisional settlement and then debates it on the National Assembly floor. As a result our figures can only be finalised following the conclusion of the debate which is normally late January. It makes budget planning this year extremely challenging.

In conclusion, I would wish to emphasise that whilst there are differences in the partnership landscape in Wales compared to England, the PCC's will find very firm foundations in place because our community safety and criminal justice partnerships are very effective and are producing tangible

benefits to the people of Wales.

Clinks – Safer Future Communities project

The Safer Future Communities project has co-ordinated an offer to PCCs from the voluntary community and social enterprise sector.

The 'How the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) can help reduce crime and keep communities safe' offer outlines the key features of the sector, and how it can help PCCs reduce crime and improve community safety. It highlights the diverse range of independent organisations with national and local influence which provide professional, responsive and effective advice and services that can help cut crime, keep communities safe and support victims. As part of this offer the sector makes its commitment to working with PCCs as a partner and a critical friend.

A copy of the offer can be downloaded at: <http://www.clinks.org/services/sfc/sfc-sector-offer>

Safer Future Communities is led by Clinks in partnership with Council for Welsh Voluntary Youth Services; Drugscope; National Association for Community and Voluntary Action; National Council for Voluntary Youth Services; Welsh Council for Voluntary Action and Women's Resource Centre. The offer is also endorsed by 20 other national VCSE organisations.

Drug strategy - reducing demand and managing drug misusing offenders updates

We have now published the first bulletin in a series we are issuing to keep local areas informed of work related to the management of drug misusing offenders. This is in line with the "Reducing Demand" chapter of the Drug Strategy, and includes information for local areas on: Payment by Results; the introduction of PCCs; and changes to funding arrangements from 2013/14. You can access the bulletin via the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending/dip>

We're sending out regular bulletins throughout the roll-out of 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.

We welcome your comments and questions throughout the development and implementation process.