

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

## PCC BULLETIN

### No 10 – 29th June 2012

This tenth 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 progress on Police and Crime Panels;
- Further information on Home Office PCC communications – including a public awareness campaign and the new Home Office PCC web pages;
- Details of the LGA National Conference held at the end of June;
- Details of the first Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) conference;
- DCC Rob Beckley writing about police engagement with the VCSE sector;
- An update from Localis on the PCC, council leader and mayoral relationship; and
- Victims Service Advocate project.

### Progress on Police and Crime Panels

Two sets of regulations regarding the establishment of Panels have been laid in Parliament this month. The first set of regulations, the Police and Crime Panels (Nominations, Appointments and Notifications) Regulations 2012 set out what information needs to be provided on Panels to the Home Office, how to do so and the deadline for providing this information. Secondly, the Police and Crime Panels (Modification of Functions) Regulations 2012 make provisions for where a local authority fails to nominate or appoint one or more councillors to the Panel. In such circumstances a defaulting local authority will no longer be required to agree the Panel arrangements.

Stephen Rimmer, Director General Crime and Policing, wrote to all local authorities on 15 June to provide further advice and a short guidance note on the regulations, including a template to be completed by the chief executive of the ‘host’ authority to submit the details of their Panel to the Home Office. The laying date of the regulations means that there is now an extended deadline for authorities to provide details of their Panel arrangements by **16 July 2012**.

### Communications update

#### Public awareness raising

We are currently exploring creative options, including the potential for television and radio advertising, for a national PCC awareness raising campaign. In the meantime the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, Nick Herbert, has been speaking at a number of PCC candidate events. Recently there has also been coverage in the Daily Telegraph, the Times and various regional media about the introduction of PCCs. A PCC communications handbook is also being developed that will aid your own communications activity, and provide police force and police authority communicators with the latest advice.

## New PCC web pages

A new PCC section of the Home Office website has been launched this week. The pages contain information on PCCs for the public, partners, and prospective candidates. This includes the first part of the national candidate briefings. The site includes the latest information in an easy to access format. It can be found at the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/pcc>

## LGA National Conference

The Local Government Association annual conference was held from 26-28th June. On the final day Michael Crick of Channel 4 News chaired a plenary session exploring how community safety partnerships are preparing for PCCs, how Police and Crime Panels can provide robust checks and balances, and candidates' expectations of working with local government. The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, Nick Herbert, spoke at the lunchtime PCC session, attended by around 50 declared candidates before taking questions alongside Sir Hugh Orde (President, ACPO), Sue Howl (Chief Executive, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority) and a representative from the Electoral Commission.

## Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Conference

**Nathan Oley, head of press and public affairs at the Association of Police Authorities (APA), writes about the first APCC conference held for potential candidates and interested parties.**

The APCC is an umbrella body for elected PCCs and all policing governance bodies in England and Wales. Its programme of support for potential PCCs kicked off with a free briefing event on **29<sup>th</sup> June**. The day seminar provided an essential briefing for potential candidates and other people interested in understanding more about the role of PCCs, and the national policing and crime landscape. The day was an opportunity for candidates to explore how PCCs will work together to influence the strategic direction of policing, to shape a future representative body for PCCs, and identify what support PCCs may need. Speakers included Sir Denis O'Connor (HMIC), Sir Hugh Orde (ACPO) and National Crime Agency Director, Keith Bristow.

A full programme is available here: <http://www.apccs.police.uk/page/june-event>

If you have any queries about the event, please contact [enquiries@apccs.police.uk](mailto:enquiries@apccs.police.uk)

In addition, the APA hosted their third PCC Transition seminar on **28<sup>th</sup> June**. Please click [here](#) to view the programme for the APA's seminar which was designed to help police authority members and staff to prepare for the transition to PCCs. Speakers included the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, Nick Herbert, representatives from HMIC, the Electoral Commission, and returning officers.

## ACPO – Engagement with the VCSE Sector

**DCC Rob Beckley of Avon and Somerset Constabulary writes about the ACPO programme for Citizens in Policing.**

As the ACPO lead for the Citizens in Policing programme, covering Police Support Volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch and Third Sector engagement with policing, I have been championing ways for community and voluntary groups to become more engaged in the policing mission. This has led to a developing partnership with Clinks, who along with other VCSE partners are leading on the Safer Future Communities project. This is helping the sector prepare for the arrival of PCCs and play an

important role in delivering services which meet communities' needs.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June, I had the pleasure in speaking at a joint ACPO/Safer Future Communities conference, which was an excellent opportunity for Safer Future Communities Network leads and police partners to discuss how they might work more closely together in the future. We heard some useful advice on how commissioning arrangements in the new landscape might work as well as some existing examples of good practice.

There was also an opportunity for informal networking between the leads and their respective police contacts, allowing honest dialogue about some of the challenges and uncertainty that lay ahead and potential solutions. Both police and network leads agreed that they shared a common goal in serving local communities and helping them to feel safe.

## **The PCC, council leader & mayoral relationship**

**Localis is an independent think-tank dedicated to issues related to local government and localism. Alex Thomson, the Chief Executive of Localis provides an independent perspective on future PCC, council leader & mayoral relationships.**

One of the biggest challenges facing Police & Crime Commissioners will be the need to work with a number of senior politicians, balancing a range of views across their patch.

The dual policies of introducing commissioners and devolving greater power to local government are both intended to increase the democratic accountability of local public services. This is undoubtedly a noble objective, but council leaders and perhaps elected mayors even more so see their role as being much broader than local government. They see it as representing the people across a range of public services and challenging other public bodies when and where appropriate.

However, when push comes to shove, both PCCs and council leaders will both feel that they have a democratic mandate to push ahead with their own reform agenda. When these come into conflict, expect to see some fireworks.

Many questions remain about how PCCs will work with other local bodies in practice. A large number of PCCs are likely to have been local politicians themselves, which may help smooth the waves a little. Some might even hold dual positions. But the fact remains that PCCs will need to be ready to both acknowledge and manage the views of local council leaders and mayors – they will not have an easy ride.

However, there is much to be positive about. Exciting Government initiatives such as the current community budget pilots, as well as the more widespread use of early intervention initiatives, should see PCCs and council leaders (along with other local public service leaders) working together effectively. Also, the democratic nature of their position means that PCCs are far more likely to look down not up when setting priorities, and hence are more likely to protect the services that matter most to the local people that they serve.

## **Victims Service Advocate project**

Advocates have been responsible for drafting 42 local reports (for each police force area) to specifically help inform the PCC's duty to take the views of victims into consideration when developing their plans. The reports are available on Victim Support's website at:

<http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/About-us/Policy-and-research/Victims-services-advocates>

These reports will be a useful local resource both for incoming Police and Crime Commissioners and stakeholders involved in planning and delivering victims services to help make them more aware of specific local issues for victims. As well as the local reports, there will be a national overview of the findings which will sit alongside the local reports on Victim Support's website.

We're sending out regular bulletins throughout the roll-out of Police and Crime Commissioners. Contact us at [PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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.