

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

## Wales PCC BULLETIN No 7 – 15 May 2012

This bulletin is one in a series of regular updates keeping you informed about developments for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012.

### In this edition:

- PCC Partner events – feedback from the events across England and Wales;
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) explains how they will support Police and Crime Panels in Wales;
- Details of an HMIC portal where PCC candidates can access information about police forces;
- An online survey to help shape communications.

### PCC Partner Events

We recently ran a series of 17 events across England and Wales. Each event brought together a range of partners from up to three police force areas to consider issues relating to the transition to PCCs. There were short, focussed sessions on key areas of work with presentations providing essential information, roundtable discussions, and the use of digital technology to capture questions and issues of concern, during the sessions.

Initial analysis of delegates' feedback indicates:

- an overall improvement in delegates' knowledge of PCC policy;
- the main presentations were well received, but there is still an appetite for more information, and greater communication of PCC policy details;
- the table discussions provided a useful opportunity for partners to benchmark their knowledge and progress with colleagues from neighbouring areas.

Some of the key themes that emerged included:

- Local variation in partners' engagement with police authority transition programmes;
- A desire for greater clarity on funding, particularly around what exactly will cease to be centrally funded and; and
- The need for the Home Office to support sector leadership and communications.
- The composition of Police and Crime Panels.

### Local transition programmes

We are aware that there is much work going on locally to prepare for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners. Transition Boards are being encouraged to disseminate the details of their work to a wide range of local partners and secure their involvement in planning for the first PCC police and crime plan and related commissioning arrangements.

### Clarity on funding

Further detail of funding arrangements in 2013-14 will be issued soon.

### Communications with stakeholders

We are still reviewing the thousands of questions that were submitted at the events and will be using these to amend and improve the Frequently Asked Questions section of our website, and inform any future information we produce. PCC website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/>. We will also be producing a short report on the themes arising from the events.

We have produced a short online survey that will help us to develop our communication with you. This is your opportunity to tell us what your information needs are and how you prefer to receive it. The survey shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete.

You can complete the survey here:

<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/v.asp?i=46969lyjxy>

### **Home Office support for sector-led communications**

We will be working with colleagues across government, sector leaders and other relevant organisations (such as LGA, NOMS and YJB) in their communications with local government, local agencies and delivery teams, helping them to explain the policy on PCCs and potential local implementation options. Where possible we will be happy to:

- attend sector-led conferences or workshops;
- fact check communications and guidance.

If you would like to involve us in your work, please contact us at:

[PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Or if you'd like us to 'fact check' your content email us at:

[PCCFactChecker@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PCCFactChecker@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Welsh Local Government Association support for Police and Crime Panels**

To facilitate discussions on the practical and technical arrangements needed to be in place for establishing Police and Crime Panels by October 2012, the WLGA held a development day on the 26<sup>th</sup> April with local authorities across Wales. The day was extremely useful and authorities are now much clearer about the expected role of PCPs and the steps needed to establish and support their work.

A number of follow up meetings of local authorities will be taking place over the coming weeks in their respective police force areas to discuss in more detail how they wish to take forward the establishment of PCPs including identifying lead authorities by July 2012. Both Police Authorities of Wales and the WLGA will be playing a facilitating role to assist in this process.

One key issue which is receiving further consideration currently is centred on funding. The WLGA recently consulted with local authorities on the role it can play in supporting Welsh authorities by pooling the limited funding together to provide additional flexibility and help to mitigate the risk for a lead Local Authority in any area that exceeds the level of funding available.

The Policing Minister Nick Herbert has agreed that 'exceptional costs' that might occur as a consequence of the work of a PCP in Wales, beyond their 'business as usual', will be considered on

a case by case basis. Work is continuing with the Home Office to develop the mechanism by which this consideration would take place. This will further help minimise risk and provide reassurance on the financial support available for the work of PCPs.

## HMIC Portal

HMIC has developed a web-portal where prospective PCC candidates can access performance information and download force specific and national HMIC reports. The site also includes Frequently Asked Questions and links to key partner and police force and authority websites. This should be online soon, please visit the website: [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk) for more information.

## Communications Update

Over the 6 week period of the PCC Partner events, Home Office Press Office targeted local media to secure coverage of the events, and put out key messages about the role of PCCs and the influence they will have in local policing. There was coverage in over 25 regional newspaper titles including the Western Mail in South Wales. The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, Nick Herbert, was also interviewed on several regional radio stations, helping to build awareness among the public about the policy and what it means for people and policing in their area. Press Office plan to continue our media push through the Spring and Summer, making use of ministerial visits and speeches to gain further coverage.

There has also been media coverage recently around potential candidates and how we will communicate to the electorate about candidates in their areas. The Government recently completed a consultation with the Electoral Commission and others, which included consideration of how the public could receive information about PCC candidates. We are looking at options for this, and an important consideration will be to enable members of the public to access information through a range of means.

## Information and communications

To find out more about PCCs you can find all the documents and other key information that's available so far on the dedicated PCCs section of the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners>

An information booklet for potential candidates is also available:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/have-got-what-takes/got-what-it-takes>  
Women, people from ethnic minorities and disabled people are under-represented in elected office. This is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to stand and make a difference.

We're sending out regular bulletins throughout the roll-out of Police and Crime Commissioners to keep you informed. We will also field any enquiries or questions you have. Contact us at [PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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