

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

WALES PCC BULLETIN

No 5 – 20 FEBRUARY 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.

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- **Partners visit – Stephen Rimmer, Director General Crime and Policing, met partners in Wales 3rd February ;**
- **London Going Early;**
- **Partner Engagement events – Further information on the events happening across England and Wales;**
- **'What Partnerships Can Be Doing' – details of a statement to partners providing information on what partnerships can be doing to prepare for Police and Crime Commissioners;**
- **Secondary legislation – update on the relevant regulations relating to Police and Crime Commissioners going through the Houses of Parliament.**
- **Engaging with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) through the Safer Future Communities project.**

Wales Transition Project Board

The Transition Project Board met on Friday 3rd February. Board members were updated on the positive progress made in Wales specifically:

- The Welsh Government Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Carl Sargeant, has written to local authorities in Wales asking them to develop a process for nominating councillors to Police and Crime Panels. The Home Secretary wrote to English councils inviting them to collectively agree PCP membership, host authorities and PCP arrangements at the end of January. A similar letter to Welsh councils will follow shortly, following constructive discussions between the two Governments.
- Additional funding (increasing from £38,300 to £53,300) has been agreed for PCPs. In addition, panel members (including additional co-optees), will receive up to £920 per member to fund necessary expenses. This is in recognition of the potentially expanding role and size of panels following House of Lords amendments to the Bill and secondary legislation on complaints.

Discussions continue between the Home Office (HO), the Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Police Authorities Wales (PAW) on Wales-specific issues including the Home Secretary's liabilities for PCPs, Welsh translation costs and future audit arrangements.

The Wales Transition Project Board will continue meeting regularly until November 2012 at which time the board will review its role and consider future arrangements.

Stephen Rimmer (Director General, Crime and Policing in the Home

Office) meets Partners in Wales

Stephen Rimmer (Home Office Director General, Crime and Policing) visited Wales on Friday 3rd February to meet with a range of key stakeholders. In a busy programme he:

- addressed local authority leaders and chief executives at the WLGA on the implications of changes to the governance of policing and broader HO policy in the devolved context;
- met with chief constables (CCs) and Police Authorities Wales to review progress on transition to PCCs and PCPs and discuss outstanding issues; and
- held discussions with the Welsh Government on working effectively across the devolved/ non devolved contexts.

Stephen also took the opportunity to hear from South Wales Police about their excellent work with local partners to manage the night time economy in Cardiff and the operation of their dynamic investigation support unit which has resulted in significant improvements in detection rates, reduced attrition in the courts and greater police visibility.

Stephen really appreciated the warm welcome. He said “I am impressed by the strength of relationships and the breadth and depth of partnership working in Wales. The Home Office is fully committed to continued dialogue with the Welsh Government and key stakeholders in Wales on a range of HO policies through the Home Office Crime Team in Wales”.

London

In London the powers of a Police and Crime Commissioner go to the elected mayor. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime was established on 16th January, and the Metropolitan Police Authority formally abolished. The Metropolitan Police have become directly accountable to the mayor, and the mayor is directly accountable to the people of London.

Giving Londoners a voice over policing has been a popular change in the capital, and enhancing the responsibility of the mayor is a further step in the right direction. It gives Londoners a stronger say over how their streets are policed.

The only difference to the arrangement in London from PCCs across England and Wales is that the Met Commissioner (and Deputy Commissioner) will continue to be appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary. However, the mayor will be involved in the appointment process.

The City of London has unique policing governance. It operates on a non-party political basis through its Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and members of the Court of Common Council. The governance is tailored to the particular institutions and traditions of the City of London, and the Government does not intend to change that.

See website for further details: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/policing-priorities>

Partner Engagement Events

The first of the Partner Engagement Events took place on the 24th and 25th January; in Lancaster and Crewe. The seventeen events taking place across England and Wales over January-March will bring together a wide range of partners working across police force areas, with the intention of aiding local discussions and preparations for the arrival of PCCs in November.

Over 2300 partners from across a wide range of partner organisations were invited to the events, and we are expecting attendance of over a 1000 people.

The events include three sessions:

- A Scrutiny workshop, focusing on police and crime panels;
- A Partnership Working workshop, covering the many issues relevant to partners working with PCCs; and
- A Leaders session, for:
 - Chief constables
 - Police authority chief executives
 - Police authority chairs
 - Local authority chief executives
 - Council leaders
 - Elected mayors

We will provide feedback from the early events in the next bulletin.

See previous bulletin for locations of events, and further details of invitees:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/police-crime-comms-bulletin/>

What Partnerships Can Be Doing

Commissioners will be new entrants to a complex local leadership landscape and will need to work collaboratively.

Central government has put in place a flexible framework for partnership working between PCCs and their community safety and criminal justice partners. There are a range of actions that local leaders may wish to take to ensure that they are best prepared. Some of these are outlined further within the PCC statement for partners (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/what-partners-need-to-know>) and include:

- Initiating early discussion amongst partners about the changes, seeking their views and agreeing how best to make it work;
- Evaluating your partnership-working arrangements and the need and scope for simplification or clarification;
- Considering current partnership priorities, and the potential involvement and interests of the commissioner;
- Marshalling the evidence base and value for money of your current programmes to support commissioner investment decisions;
- Understanding how the arrival of the commissioner may affect your current programme and funding arrangements;
- Discussing how you could support commissioning across partnerships and agencies, or across the police force area;
- Considering how you can help commissioners to understand the needs of local people, using existing engagement mechanisms.

Commissioning

As well as their core policing role, commissioners will have a remit to cut crime, and will have commissioning powers and funding to enable them to do this. They will have powers to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will support their community safety priorities.

Ahead of the arrival of commissioners (and, importantly, ahead of candidates declaring themselves over the coming months) service leaders will want to ensure that the business case for existing programmes, or proposals for new approaches are robust. This could include considering:

- The evidence base for programmes;
- Value for money;
- The fit between current partnership priorities, and the potential interests of the commissioner.

These considerations are not meant to be exhaustive, and will apply equally to the statutory and voluntary sectors. Further details around commissioning can be found in the PCC Statement for Partners.

Secondary Legislation

In order for London to go early, the following statutory instruments were laid before Parliament 15th September (when the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 received Royal Assent) and the 23rd December:

- The Policing Protocol Order 2011 – this issues the Home Secretary’s Protocol setting out her views on the way that PCCs, chief officers of police, and police and crime panels should exercise their functions in relation to one another, with particular reference to the operational independence of the police;
- The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2011 – these amend existing police regulations to add procedural safeguards in relation to the suspension and removal of senior police officers, and to make some further technical changes arising from the Act;
- The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) (Amendment: Metropolitan Police) Regulations 2011 – these make limited changes to the existing regulations dealing with the handling of police complaints, to reflect the replacement of the Metropolitan Police Authority with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime;
- The Police (Performance and Conduct) (Amendment: Metropolitan Police) Regulations 2011;
- The Police Appeals Tribunals (Amendment: Metropolitan Police) Rules 2011;
- The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011;
- The Local Policing Bodies (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2011 – these amend various existing regulations made to reflect the replacement of police authorities with PCCs;
- The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Early in 2012 further secondary legislation will be tabled. These include regulations setting out:

- The process for the nomination and appointment of local authority members of police and crime panels;

- The process for the Home Secretary to establish police and crime panels where local authorities have failed to nominate or appoint members;
- Regulations setting out the process for the setting of precepts in the event of a veto by the police and crime panel;
- Regulations setting out the process for the appointment of a chief constable in the event of a veto by the police and crime panel;
- An order setting out the rules of conduct for the election of Police and Crime Commissioners;
- Regulations and orders dealing with the functions, expenses etc of returning officers in Police and Crime Commissioner elections;
- An order excepting the election of Police and Crime Commissioners from certain provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974;
- An order designating Police and Crime Commissioners as crown servants for the purposes of the Official Secrets Act 1989.

Engaging with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) through the Safer Future Communities project

The Home Office funded Safer Future Communities project, which will support frontline VCSE organisations in preparation for the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners, held its launch event on 13 December. The Home Office and Safer Future Communities teams also jointly ran a well attended workshop on Police and Crime Commissioners at Clinks national conference on 26 January. Both these events gave VCSE partners a chance to consider how they might prepare to influence PCCs' local community safety priorities and to access funding, service delivery and partnership opportunities.

Safer Future Communities are now in the process of identifying VCSE Local Network leads in each police force area. To facilitate this process, Safer Future Communities are holding a series of regional briefing events between February and April. Whilst the events are primarily for the VCSE and are being promoted within their networks, if others partners would like more details about them or the project they should contact Jessica Mullen, the Safer Future Communities Project Co-ordinator at Clinks Jessica.Mullen@clinks.org. These events follow on from the recent Home Office Partner Engagement Events which VCSE representatives have been invited to attend as one of the key partners involved in getting ready for PCCs locally.

Contact: Sara Featherstone, Community Safety Unit sara.featherstone@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

PCC Timeline

A timeline providing details of some of the key dates and events during the roll-out of Police and Crime Commissioners up to March 2013 is now available on the PCC website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/pcc-timeline>

Information and communications

We recognise that establishing a co-ordinated and coherent communication programme provides

important support for partners preparing for the introduction of PCCs. Our communications started back in November with a 'one year to go' announcement. At that time we launched a dedicated section on the Home Office website for members of the public and those interested in finding out more about the role of PCCs. Here you'll find all the documents and other key information that's available so far. This area will build over time. <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/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.

Using this Wales-specific PCC Bulletin

We are working closely with a range of key partners to deliver the policing reforms in Wales. This work has included establishing a dedicated Wales programme board, which manages Wales-specific issues that emerge as we transition to the new arrangements. This Wales-specific PCC bulletin is a regular communication which includes material that fully reflects the Welsh context. Though much of the reform programme applies equally to England there are some key points of difference (such as the arrangements for establishing Police and Crime Panels). We would like to hear from you where there are Wales-specific issues that you wish to see addressed.

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

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