

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

WALES PCC BULLETIN

No 16 – 08 February 2013

This sixteenth 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:

- Precept setting
- Police and crime plans
- Community Safety Fund
- National Crime Agency
- Legislation relating to police and crime commissioners
- Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders

Precept setting

The deadline for PCCs to propose their policing precept to their police and crime panel was the 1st of February. PCCs have made a range of proposals across the 41 police force areas about their proposed levels of precept, with 29 announcing that they plan to increase the policing precept and 12 confirming that they plan to maintain the current level.

Of the PCCs in Wales, South Wales has proposed a 7% rise (this has been backed by the PCP but has yet to be approved by the Welsh Government which has the power to cap increases in the police precept in Wales). Gwent has proposed a 2.66% increase to precept levels, and Dyfed Powys and North Wales have proposed 3.9% and 3.98% increases in precept.

The PCC will set their final precept level by 1st March.

Police and crime plans

Many PCCs are now well into the process of drafting their police and crime plans. In order to develop their plans the PCC must consult the public, in particular victims. The plan must also be scrutinised by the police and crime panel before it is issued, although there is no set timetable for this.

PCCs have been taking forward this consultation in a variety of ways. The West Mercia PCC held a live webcast, including Q&A, on his draft plan and precept, with the chief executive and chief finance officer also taking part. MOPAC has held consultation events on its draft plan in each of the London boroughs.

31st March is the deadline for PCCs to issue their police and crime plans.

Community Safety Fund

In 2013-14 PCCs will receive some funding from a new and temporary Community Safety Fund (CSF). Allocations from the CSF to PCCs were communicated on 19th December in a Written Ministerial Statement made to Parliament by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice.

The Home Office will shortly issue a communication providing more details about the funding streams ending in March 2013. The communication will be posted on the Partners section of the PCC website, and can be found at the link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/partners/>

Grant letters and agreements for the Community Safety Fund will be issued to PCCs and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) shortly.

National Crime Agency

The National Crime Agency (NCA) Programme continues to make significant headway on the build of the agency, in collaboration with precursor agencies and partners, to ensure it is fit for purpose on day one and there is a seamless transition of operations, officers, assets and resources.

The Crime and Courts Bill - which will provide the legal basis for the NCA, including its functions, powers, tasking and assistance, information sharing, governance and scrutiny arrangements - was introduced in the House of Commons on 19 December. The Bill has completed Commons Second Reading and is currently in Committee stage. Subject to the will of Parliament the Bill is on track to receive Royal Assent in spring 2013, which would enable the NCA to become operational by the end of the year.

There has been further progress on shadow functions and operations, which are testing how the NCA will operate in the run up to it becoming fully operational. There have also been further senior team appointments; Gordon Meldrum and Tim Symington are now in post as Director Designate of the Organised Crime Command and Director of Intelligence (Home Office Programme Team). We expect to announce the Director Designate of the Economic Crime Command and to advertise the position of Deputy Director General shortly, and interviews for the Head of the National Cyber Crime Unit have now taken place.

For more information on the NCA and the Bill visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/crime-courts-part1/>

Legislation relating to Police and Crime Commissioners

The table at the link below is a list of secondary legislation relating to Police and Crime Commissioners. 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/police/police-crime-commissioners/partners/>

Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders

The Ministry of Justice published this consultation paper on 9 January. It sets out the Government's intended approach to driving down the rate of reoffending and delivering better value for the taxpayer, by opening up rehabilitation services for offenders in the community to a mix of private, voluntary and public providers, paid by results to drive down reoffending. The proposals include extending rehabilitation to those released from short custodial sentences, the great majority of whom currently receive no statutory probation support. There will be a continuing critical role for the public sector in advising the courts and assessing the risk that offenders pose to the public. The proposed reforms are intended to encourage innovation and to focus on what works in driving down reoffending rates.

The consultation paper can be accessed through the Ministry of Justice website: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-rehabilitation> which also gives details of consultation events that have been arranged. These are in addition to events that are being organised for Police and Crime Commissioners collaboratively with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

The consultation runs until 22 February.

We're sending out regular bulletins for partners and the office 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.

Please also send ideas and proposals for content of future bulletins to this address.