



Home Office

PCC Bulletin

Issue 20

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This twentieth 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. This edition includes:

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- 2. Clinks: Strengthening Community Safety and Reducing Crime: Commissioning from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise providers – a guide**
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1. Community Action Against Crime: Innovation Fund – Learning and Case Studies

The Community Action against Crime: Innovation Fund aimed to encourage voluntary and community groups to tackle local crime and community safety working within community safety partners. 268 projects covering Anti-social behaviour, Crime, Drugs and alcohol, reducing re-offending, Violence against women and girls and youth crime, were allocated £9,429,792 over two financial years.

The programme was very successful and enabled local groups to deliver community based projects tackling crime in their local community. In addition, the programme has helped and enabled many small groups to leverage funding from other sources and enhanced their credibility with potential user organisations and beneficiaries. 12 projects have already secured support from their PCC with a further 15 awaiting decisions from them.

Twelve good practice case studies of the projects can be found at <http://www.cdf.org.uk/content/funding-programmes/crime-innovation-fund>

2. Clinks: Strengthening Community Safety and Reducing Crime: Commissioning from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise providers – a guide

The guide has been produced by Clinks, the lead organisation for the Safer Future Communities Project that ran between autumn 2012 and April 2013 to support engagement between Police and Crime Commissioners and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector. It can be found at <http://www.clinks.org/sites/default/files/commissioningvcseguideFINAL.pdf>

The guide has been produced based on discussions with a number of PCC offices, policy officials within the Ministry of Justice, Directors of Public Health, Probation Trusts, Assistant Chief Constables and Safer Future Communities network leads. It aims to assist PCCs to create local relationships with VCSE organisations and develop commissioning strategies that enable PCCs to take advantage of the wealth of experience in developing and delivering services within the sector. This experience includes running local Neighbourhood Watch schemes, mentoring projects for offenders to reduce reoffending, support for victims of crime including hate crime and Violence Against Women and Girls, and the many local and national substance misuse services – to name but a few.

If you are looking to identify local partners in the VCSE Sector, then you may also be interested in Clinks' new Partnership Finder. This is a supply chain and consortia directory for VCSE organisations working in criminal justice to promote their services to commissioners and prime providers. You can search the directory by geographical area, track record and service provided. Browse the directory <http://www.clinks.org/partnership-finder>

3. Rehabilitation Social Action Fund

The Cabinet Office Centre for Social Action launched the Rehabilitation Social Action Fund for applications on 12th July. This fund has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), drawing on consultation with 37 organisations throughout May 2013.

The Rehabilitation Social Action Fund will be run through the Cabinet Office's Centre for Social Action which aims to tackle social issues by making the most of individuals and

communities resources, for example by promoting volunteering, mentoring or peer-to-peer support. The Centre will promote social action by supporting innovation, scaling up social action models, developing infrastructure to facilitate social action, and building an evidence base.

The Rehabilitation Social Action Fund will give organisations the resource to explore approaches to deliver social action programmes at a greater scale, whether that is through partnership working, expansion of an existing service, or replication of a model in a new location. The Cabinet Office will be looking for applications from organisations with a strong business case for scaling up a well tested social action programme. It will also give grant recipients the opportunity to invest in demonstrating the impact of social action as an effective tool to reduce reoffending, drawing in expertise from research specialists where needed.

Up to £3.5 million will be available and programmes can apply for grants of between £50,000 and £250,000. Charities or social enterprises using social action to reduce reoffending in England can apply. Applicants will need to have well tested models of social action supporting adult offenders with at least 2 years delivery experience and existing offender referral pathways. Organisations will be supported to develop scale over the 18 month grant period (from October 2013 to end March 2015), appropriate to their size and expertise, in order to achieve sustainability. We will strongly welcome organisations with match funding and a strong case for how they plan to fund their activities beyond this fund.

More information can be found at www.gov.uk/centre-for-social-action

4. The Late Night Levy and Early Morning Restriction Orders

Local areas continue to make progress with their levy and EMRO proposals. Norwich has recently announced that it intends to propose three EMROs in its area, while Newcastle has said that it will introduce a levy from 1 November. These two councils join several others, including Blackpool, City of London, Cheltenham, Milton Keynes, York and Woking, who are in the vanguard of those considering these measures.

Although it is for licensing authorities (district or unitary councils) to decide whether to introduce a levy or EMRO in their area, PCCs do have a key role to play. As local leaders with a strategic vision, PCCs are well placed to make the clear and compelling case where these measures are needed. Councillors will want to know how a levy or EMRO could make the night time economy safer, more vibrant – and more profitable for businesses too. And in the case of the levy especially, they will seek reassurance from their PCC that any money raised will be spent on local priorities.

If you're interested in finding out more about how a levy or EMRO could cut crime in your area, please contact Rob Williams at the Home Office by email at robertthomas.williams9@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or 0207 035 0266.

5. Alcohol Strategy

On 17 July the Government published its response to the recent consultation on delivering the Alcohol Strategy, setting out next steps to build on the work already achieved with key partners.

The Government announced:

- a ban on sales of alcohol below the level of duty plus VAT to stop the worst cases of heavy discounting by retailers;
- tougher action on irresponsible promotions in pubs and clubs and raising customer awareness of the availability of small servings;
- supporting local action on alcohol-related harm, identifying a number of high harm local alcohol action areas and taking action with them to strengthen local partnerships; improve enforcement; and share good practice based on what works locally;
- a freeing of responsible business and community groups from unnecessary red tape, while maintaining the integrity of the licensing system;
- a challenge to industry to take further action on alcohol-related harms including; improving education to promote safer drinking; reducing the availability of high strength products that cause the most harm for problem drinkers; and responsible marketing and product placement.

The response to the consultation can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/alcohol-strategy-consultation>

6. Delivering Savings Through Procurement and Collaboration

In order to support the delivery of savings through procurement and collaboration, a Strategic Police Procurement Board has been created with senior stakeholders from Home Office, Cabinet Office and Clive Grunshaw (Lancashire) and John Dwyer (Cheshire) collectively representing PCC views. The Board will be responsible for developing and agreeing a National Policing Procurement Strategy (NPPS) that meets the needs of all the stakeholders within the policing community. The SPPB will build upon the procurement activity already undertaken, encourage and support national and regional collaboration wherever possible and ensure that VFM is delivered to the Public at both a local and national level.

The Board's remit will cover all categories of third party spend (approximately £2.1bn), putting VFM at the heart of the decision making process. The Board will provide a governance structure to ensure that national category strategies are prioritised and agreed, to enable delivery of VFM. This is achieved through smarter procurement activity which frees up monies to be re-invested or re-directed into front line operational policing.

The SPPB will allow PCCs to:

- Aggregate their spend across the police landscape and wider public sector that will create greater competition and deliver better prices from suppliers to them
- Obtain access to Category/Market expertise.
- Engage and shape the Cabinet Office Growth Agenda which is seeking to utilise and provide more business opportunities to UK companies and particularly Small Medium sized Enterprise's.
- Reduce the burden on their organisation (both in terms of cost and time) of having to run procurements by adopting national/regional approved procurement strategies.
- Benefit from Strategic Supplier Management by dealing with strategic suppliers as a single and more powerful entity not a Force by Force basis.
- Benchmark their Force with other best in breed public sector bodies to ensure and demonstrate that vfm is being optimised within their Force.
- Engage and shape the Cabinet Office Growth Agenda which is seeking to utilise and provide more business opportunities to UK companies and particularly Small Medium sized Enterprise's.

- Working with the Government Procurement Service to ensure that Forces can benefit from access to the best deals within public sector – typically 5-15% savings on generic goods and services

If you are interested in finding out more about the programme or would like to contribute further please contact Marc Roffey at Marc.Roffey@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or contact him on 020 7035 3101.

7. Foreign offender conditional cautioning regime

Foreign national offenders place a disproportionate burden on police and the legal system through cost of interpreters, slower justice processes and other downstream effects. Reducing the number of foreign offenders will reduce crime and the cost of crime.

One legislative tool available to forces to deal with this issue is conditional cautioning. A conditional caution allows criminal proceedings to be halted while the offender is given time to comply with the terms of the conditional caution. If they fail to comply, the criminal proceedings can be reinstated for the original offence.

Foreign offender conditions aim to get the offender to leave the UK within a 16 week period (which can be extended up to 24 weeks by the Police / CPS in exceptional circumstances) and prevent them from returning to the UK within a 5 year period (which can be extended up to 10 years by the Police / CPS in exceptional circumstances). Conditions to bring about these aims must be included in every conditional caution with foreign offender conditions.

A foreign offender conditional caution can be appropriate even if the offender does not possess a valid travel document at the time the authorised person gives the caution. The following link includes further information, including examples of conditions:

[Advising police if a conditional caution is appropriate](#)

Immigration Enforcement staff are available to talk through the suitability of foreign national offenders for conditional cautions, both through local Immigration, Compliance and Engagement (ICE) teams as well as a 24 hour Command and Control Unit.

Further advice and information about conditional cautions is also available through the Immigration Enforcement Conditional Caution Project Team who can be contacted on: Laurie.Cella2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or ConditionalCautionProjectTeam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

8. Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls is an appalling crime which can ruin or end lives. It is an issue for every community and area in England and Wales, and it can affect individuals from any background.

This Government's ambition is nothing less than ending all forms of violence against women and girls. We have ring-fenced nearly £40 million of stable funding, up to 2015, for specialist local domestic and sexual violence support services and national helplines.

However, VAWG is not a problem that can be resolved with national action alone; it needs concerted, joined-up working at a local level. We know that many Police and

Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are treating domestic and sexual abuse as a priority. The Home Office have developed an information pack to support PCCs in their efforts to galvanise local action to protect and support victims, and prevent further violence against women and girls. The information pack on VAWG for PCCs is included with this bulletin and will also be published on the Gov.uk website

9. Mental health and policing

The Home Office is working closely with the Department of Health and other key national stakeholders to bring about changes to reduce the amount of time that police officers spend dealing with individuals suffering mental health crises (and have committed no crime). We are focussing on the commitments announced by the Home Secretary in her speech to the Police Federation in May. We are working alongside the Department of Health and the Care Quality Commission to map the availability and quality of health based places of safety across England – all too often people end up in a police cell due to lack of health provision – and this exercise is highlighting gaps that need to be filled.

The Department of Health will also undertake a thorough review of the operation of sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act. Street triage pilots are about to get started in a number of police areas. These will run for a year, funded by DH, and will enable police and health to work together locally when responding to mental health crises. We will make sure that these pilots will be robustly evaluated so that the lessons can be learned.

We have carried out support visits to a selection of areas that have told us about the issues they are facing or the steps they are taking to overcome them, including to Hertfordshire, Staffordshire and Lincolnshire. The Home Office facilitated a practitioners' workshop on 10 July, which involved police and health representatives from seven areas participating in problem-solving discussions to develop good practice models and templates for sharing nationally. The event will enable the Home Office to provide more effective support for areas that are experiencing problems in resolving their local issues.

If you have any comments about mental health and policing policy or if you would like us to visit your area please contact Chris Witt in the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit on Christopher.Witt@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

10. IPCC transition programme

In February the Home Secretary announced her intention to transfer resources from police forces to the IPCC to enable it to deal with the most serious and sensitive complaints. The Home Secretary wrote to police partners including Police and Crime Commissioners to ask whether the criteria for referral of cases to the IPCC were set correctly and how the transfer of resources could best be delivered to ensure the right balance between the IPCC dealing with all serious and sensitive cases and forces being able to act on integrity issues locally.

In the last few months a programme team has been established, data gathered and information, including the responses to the Home Secretary's letter, analysed. In addition to many conversations with heads of PSDs and other policing partners, a Reference Group including the APCC, the Chief Officer lead on professional standards, representatives of the Met, HMIC, the College of Policing and the IPCC has been established and feeds into Home Office policy development.

As highlighted by several respondents to the Home Secretary's letter, the transition provides an opportunity to consider the wider landscape and improve operating practices. We are aware that forces are striving to improve local resolution of lower level complaints/conduct issues and are interested to know about innovative local approaches. Effective local resolution will allow the IPCC to focus on the most serious and sensitive cases being referred to them.

With input from the Reference Group, we are in the process of developing potential models for the transfer; these will form the basis of decisions to be made in the autumn regarding the threshold for referral of cases, the scale and process of the transition.

For further information please contact Anjali Juneja in the Police Transparency Unit Anjali.Juneja@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

11. Police Innovation Fund

As announced at the Spending Round, the Home Secretary will be establishing a £50m Police Innovation Fund from 2014-15, to incentivise collaboration, transformation and other innovative delivery approaches. The mechanics and governance of the fund are currently being developed. We will provide further information on the scheme in the autumn.