

Have you got what it takes?

Working in partnership

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Important facts

The police cannot cut crime on their own – effective partnership working is essential. Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will want to work with other local leaders to improve outcomes for communities and make sure that local resources are used efficiently and effectively.

There is a range of partnerships, from those which deliver multi-agency case work to area-wide strategic boards. Where partnerships work well, they prevent duplication, reduce costs and tackle issues in a joined-up problem-solving approach.

PCCs and their community safety and criminal justice partners are under two duties to work together. These are broad and flexible but set a clear intention for strong partnership working.

PCCs will be able to commission (contract) activities that contribute to preventing and reducing crime. They will have flexibility to decide how to use their resources and may want to pool funding with local partners to get the most out of their funding.

Beyond some limited legal requirements on how certain partnerships should be organised, there is a great deal of local flexibility and space for new ideas and streamlining.

More information

As well as their central policing role, PCCs will have a role in cutting crime. They will also have commissioning powers and funding to help support this. PCCs will need to work with other local leaders in community safety and criminal justice across their force area, and balance differing needs in local areas and take advantage of joint working.

Working in partnership

The way in which partnerships fit together can often be complicated. Some areas have many overlapping partnerships that contribute towards community safety. These range from partnerships which deliver multi-agency case work to area-wide strategic boards.

There are existing arrangements that apply to [community safety partnership](#) working at district or unitary authority level, where six 'responsible authorities' are bound together under a legal duty to work together to prevent and cut crime. Although not statutory, local criminal justice boards (LCJBs) bring together criminal justice organisations at police force area level, in most areas, to support joint working.

Exactly how organisations work together is decided locally. Some areas have tried to root out duplication by agreeing to merge

community safety partnerships (CSPs) (for example, Norfolk, Dorset and Nottinghamshire) or combine CSPs and the LCJB (for example, Gloucestershire and Cumbria) to form larger or single-force level partnerships that have links out to local partnership structures.

For more details, see '[Community safety](#)', '[A framework for cutting crime](#)' and '[Commissioning and funding](#)' material, also in this section.

Duties to co-operate

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 puts in place a flexible framework for working in partnership. This includes two related, reciprocal duties to co-operate which will support partnership working across community safety and criminal justice. Though the two duties are worded slightly differently, their aim is the same - to make sure that local leaders work together to achieve the most effective outcomes.

Although the duties do not apply to devolved functions in Wales, PCCs will want to work with partners to consider how they can get the best results for their communities.

Working in partnership with mainstream services

Many mainstream local services (such as local authority children's services) are tied into the

existing partnership structures (often as responsible authorities on CSPs). However, PCCs and their teams will need to develop strong relationships and methods for collaboration (working together) with the full range of services that can help to cut crime.

Local government

As well as a focused role in scrutinising (examining) the work of the PCC through police and crime panels, local authorities will need to work closely with PCCs as partners. PCCs and their teams will need to work with local government in the fight against crime. They will share an interest in improving a range of areas from community safety and youth justice to health and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Residents of the largest English cities will benefit from an elected mayor. PCCs and city mayors will operate at different geographic levels and hold different responsibilities, but will need to work together. Though the exact powers of individual city mayors will not be decided until after they are elected, there is no plan to transfer powers between them and PCCs as the roles will work alongside each other. It will be possible for the same person to be elected as both mayor and PCC. City mayors (unless they are also the PCC) will be members of the police and crime panel for their area.

Health

Improving the health of a local population will include achieving positive outcomes on crime, preventing violence and community

safety. As background, drug users are responsible for between a third and half of acquisitive crime (burglaries, robberies, car crime and similar crimes) and alcohol is a factor in an estimated 44% of violent crime. Equally, 90% of prisoners have one or more psychiatric disorders (including alcohol and drug dependence). Clearly, a strong health input on issues such as drug and alcohol dependence and mental health is needed to reduce crime.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduces significant changes to local and national health structures including commissioning arrangements relating to offender health. The new Health and Wellbeing Boards will be vital partners for PCCs given their role in setting a joint needs assessment against which services will be commissioned. PCCs will need to develop a shared cause with health partners on a range of crime and health issues and they will need to find the best ways to involve people and influence them locally.

Working in partnership with the public

PCCs will have a duty to consult victims of crime and antisocial behaviour and the wider community, and will have their own approaches to understanding local needs. PCCs may want to use established methods for involving the public and understanding community concerns.

For more on the PCC's wider role, please see <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/have-got-what-takes/got-what-it-takes>

Duties to co-operate

The duties set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 are deliberately broad and flexible, to allow working arrangements to develop in a way that is most meaningful locally. This will leave room for new ideas. They aim to make sure that the investment and prioritisation decisions taken by PCCs and partners are made with a full understanding of the effects they will have on their partners.

The community safety duty says that a PCC and the responsible authorities on a CSP must act in co-operation and, in carrying out their functions, 'have regard to' each others' priorities.

By November, the legal 'responsible authorities' that make up community-safety partnerships will be the police, local authority, fire and rescue authority, probation and health (local health boards in Wales and primary care trusts in England until 31 March 2013 and clinical commissioning groups after this time).

The criminal justice duty states that the PCC and criminal justice organisations must work together, 'so far as is appropriate', to 'provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area'.

The central group of criminal justice services represented on local criminal justice boards are the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the probation and prison providers, youth justice services and the courts.