

Have you got what it takes?

Your role in commissioning and funding



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Important facts

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) role covers more than policing; PCCs are expected to commission activities that contribute to crime prevention and reduction. To do this, they need to work with other local leaders to influence local priorities and resources.

PCCs need to link in to other local strategic and commissioning frameworks (such as health and justice commissioning). PCCs may wish to explore innovative models such as payment by results (paying contractors according to the results that they achieve) or community budgeting (allowing local communities to decide how some local funding should be spent).

PCCs have flexibility to decide how to use their resources, and, where they see a benefit in doing so, to pool funding with local partners to get the best value for money.

A newly elected PCCs' first few months in post is a crucial period for identifying their priorities and setting their future direction. The police and crime plans they develop in their first few months maps out their future activity, including the commissioning of services. Partners seek to engage PCCs, encouraging them to consider where there are areas of overlap in their priorities and making the case to them for alignment of partner priorities. PCCs, where they see clear links to their own priorities, may choose to align them with other local plans and commissioning structures.

The Police Innovation Fund continues to be an important driver to incentivise collaboration, support improved police ICT and digital working and enable PCCs to invest in other innovative delivery approaches with the potential to improve policing and deliver further efficiency in the future. All PCCs in England and Wales and their equivalents for the Metropolitan Police Service and City of London are eligible to submit bids for funding. For 2016/17, the Police Innovation Fund is worth £55 million. Final decisions on which bids to fund and the value of any future Police Innovation Fund rounds are subject to Ministerial approval.

More information

Commissioning

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 allows PCCs to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will contribute to improving community safety in their police force area. They also need to work with other local leaders, co-ordinating resources across a range of local issues to support their own aim of cutting crime.

It is important for PCCs to have the right links with other local structures. Health and wellbeing boards are vital partners for commissioners, given their role in determining joint needs assessments against which services will be commissioned. In Wales, Local Health Boards are key partners for PCCs. PCCs and their partners across the local landscape need to develop a common approach to a range of crime and health issues, and find the best ways to engage with these partners in order to achieve influence locally.

From 1st April 2014, PCCs took on responsibility for commissioning victim's services in all areas across England and Wales. On 1st April 2015, the majority of PCCs also took on responsibility for commissioning victims' referral arrangements. PCCs are well placed to understand the needs of their local communities and target funding to help victims cope and recover from the effects of crime. Some services, including the Homicide Service, the court-based witness service, and the Rape Support Centres remain nationally commissioned.

PCCs have the flexibility in the arrangements they can enter into to commission services locally. It is open to PCCs and their partners to pursue innovative approaches to commissioning, including joint commissioning, flexible contracts, payment by results, and other innovative approaches to commissioning that PCCs may develop locally.

Many local partners hope to be commissioned by PCCs, and will make the case to PCCs for resources. Existing programmes hope PCCs will continue to invest in them, where they see a direct benefit in doing so. Partners will seek to engage candidates to gain their support at the earliest possible opportunity.

Partners will also seek to engage newly elected PCCs while they are drawing up their police and crime plans, early on in their tenure in office. This period provides a good opportunity for PCCs and partners to review where PCCs' priorities and those priorities set out in local partnership plans are aligned.

