



AGENDA 23b

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 02 APRIL 2019

DORSET OPCC COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2019/20

REPORT BY LEWIS GOOL, COMMISSIONING MANAGER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to set out the commissioning intentions of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset in the 2019/20 Financial Year.

1. INTRODUCTION

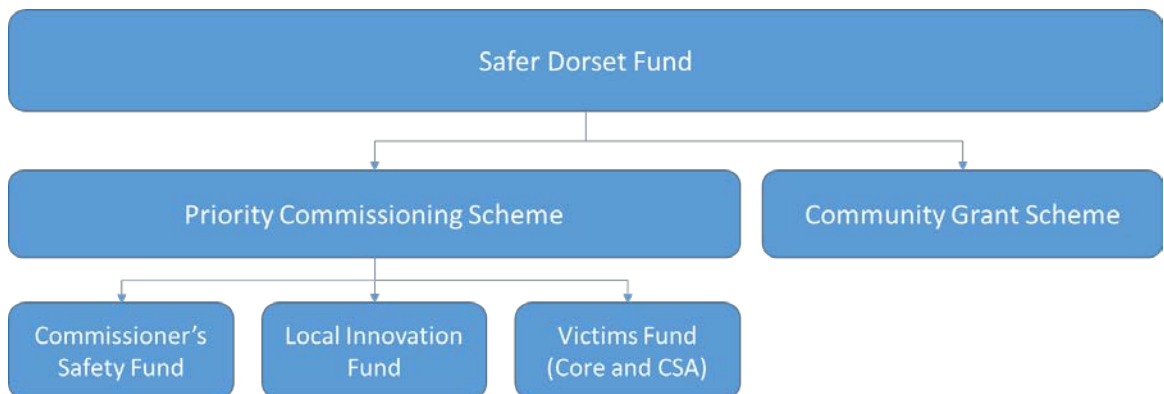
Following re-election in 2016, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Dorset, Martyn Underhill, set out his priorities and commitments for his term of office in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021. The four main pillars of the Plan are:



- Protecting People at Risk of Harm;
- Working with our Communities;
- Supporting Victims, Witnesses, and Reducing Reoffending; and
- Transforming for the Future.

1.1 During his term, the PCC decided that all projects must be commissioned in line with these four pillars and the associated commitments that underpin them. Proposals that do not meet Police and Crime Plan priorities have been declined. These were set out in a high level summary commissioning intentions (Appendix A).

- 1.2 The PCC is able to add value to this delivery by working in partnership with other organisations in order to identify needs, consider the best options to address those needs and then to commission or co-commission services where appropriate, to achieve successful outcomes.
- 1.3 The resources available to the PCC to commission these services are generally accessed through a variety of government funding streams. The sum of these funding streams constitutes the Safer Dorset Fund (SDF).
- 1.4 Commissioning priorities have been determined through analysis of key information at both a local and a national level (commonly known as ‘strategic assessments’); together with consultation with Dorset Police, with other partner organisations and with members of the public.
- 1.5 Commissioning of the Safer Dorset Fund is made via both the Priority Commissioning Scheme and the Community Grant scheme – the latter designed primarily for voluntary and community sector applications. In addition, the PCC influences national commissioning of services for victims, witnesses and offenders, in support of local needs and outcomes.
- 1.6 The Priority Commissioning Scheme is managed across four areas:
- The Commissioner’s Safety Fund – Allocated by the PCC from his budgets to pay for ongoing long-term Grant Agreements/Contracts for services.
 - Local Innovation Fund – Allocated by the PCC to commission new innovative products and services in Dorset which deliver the Police and Crime Plan priorities.
 - Victims Core Fund – Funding from the Ministry of Justice for PCCs to deliver services to victims of crime, such as; victims of volume crime, sexual assault, domestic abuse etc.
 - Victims Fund CSA – Child Sexual Abuse element of the Victims Fund to be specifically used to commission services to victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA).
- 1.7 Commissioning is a primary OPCC activity, and the procedures followed by the OPCC for the award of commissioning contracts and grants are set out at Appendix B. These commissioning schemes are also illustrated below:



2. COMMISSIONING BUDGETS FOR 2019/20

- 2.1 The total Priority Commissioning budget for the year has been set at £2.4m of which £0.9m is funded by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and ring-fenced for the commissioning of victim services and restorative justice services.
- 2.2 The Community Grant Scheme is funded by receipts under the Police Property Act from the sale of recovered stolen property where the owners are not known and cannot be traced. The budget is therefore variable depending on receipts, but is expected to have in the order of £50k opening balance available at the start of the year.
- 2.3 In addition, £250k has been allocated from the Police & Crime Plan reserve in 2019/20 towards a £1m Innovation Fund, jointly governed with Dorset Police, to cover initiatives such as:
- Additional police officers in the rural and marine crime teams, and enhancing offender management capability
 - Introduction of a ‘Bobby Van’, addressing crime prevention / target hardening issues
 - Investment in the new Volunteer Police Cadet scheme
 - Further development of the ‘No Excuse’ capability, targeted at improving road safety
 - Investment in tackling issues associated with homelessness, working alongside with homeless individuals and related agencies to help understand and address demand
 - Creation of an ‘Efficiency Officer’ designed to identify and drive out future efficiencies
 - Funding for new and emerging threats

The remaining funding for this will be provided by £500k recurring efficiencies in the Force budgets, and £250k from General Balances.

3. COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR 2019/20

- 3.1 For 2019/20, the PCC has 23 ongoing commitments already approved via ongoing contracts, grant agreements, or partnership funding agreements. The totals are set out below.

Priority Commissioning	2019/20 Contractual Commitments £'000s
Commissioner’s Safety Fund	810
Local Innovation Fund	178
Victims Core Fund	745
Victims Fund – CSA Element	0
Total	1,733

- 3.2 This spend has already been established via ongoing contractual arrangements, such as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)/Victim Support, and Grant Agreements, such as Restorative Justice/Weymouth Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS).
- 3.3 There are a further 12 projects that the PCC intends to deliver within the 2019/20 period and, if all projects come to fruition, anticipated spend on these will amount to £551k. The spend against each budget is set out in the below table;

Priority Commissioning	2019/20 Planned £'000s
Commissioner's Safety Fund	-
Local Innovation fund	523
Victims Core Fund	-
Victims Fund – CSA Element	28
Total	551

These projects include initiatives relating to vulnerability, homelessness, anti-social behaviour, offender management and youth education/diversion activities.

- 3.4 In terms of the commissioning of new services in the 2019/20 period relating to the Police and Crime Plan pillars, the following provides some further detail:

Protecting People at Risk of Harm

As a result of Dorset Police's research into demand – and OPCC partnership activity – a number of initiatives have been identified that have the potential to protect vulnerable people and reduce the burden of front line services. One such service which the PCC intends to deliver in the 2019/20 period is Adult Return Home Interviews. It is well established that suicide is one of the biggest causes of death in men in the UK and, this service seeks to refer vulnerable people to appropriate services, hoping to reduce the likelihood of repeat incidents and, consequently, the risk of harm.

The PCC's longer term aspiration remains for partners to work more closely together in developing an all-age vulnerability hub, building on existing Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements for children and young people.

Looking at crime data and through working with health and social services partners, knife crime and county lines have been identified as emerging issues in Dorset. Due to this OPCC is looking to commission services to deliver knife crime prevention to young people. Further, OPCC is working with Dorset Police to explore options that may assist in issues relating to County Lines activity.

Working with our Communities

Much of the work undertaken to meet this commitment is carried out by staff employed within the OPCC, for example, community engagement and communications is undertaken as business as usual. This explains why the spend against this priority is lower than for other pillars.

There are currently no intended additional services/projects to deliver within this priority, however; there are already services in place which deliver within this area, and, as in 2018/19 it is anticipated that the Community Grant Scheme will allocate funding to this area.

As stated earlier, potential projects identified through the PCC's Problem Solving Forums may also be supported but will potentially overlap with other pillar priorities, based on the nature of the service or initiative.

One such example arose at the PCC's Fly Tipping "Problem Solving Forum" with partners. Arising from this meeting the PCC will be joint commissioning a post with the

Environment Agency to map the issue, monitor trends and identify potential offenders. Subject to the success of this role the Environment Agency may take on full ownership of the post moving forward.

Supporting Victims, Witnesses and Reducing Reoffending

There are three new services intended to be commissioned in the 2019/20 period in relation to this priority.

During 2018 the PCC was made aware of the Ministry of Justice's decision to withdraw national funding for behaviour changing courses for sex offenders. This created a gap in service provision, and whilst the PCC has commissioned Circles Southwest to deliver Community Circles, OPCC is also working with the National Probation Service and HMP Verne to develop and co-commission the "Through the Gate" programme. Also, through various partnership boards relating to sexual violence and the already commissioned SARC and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) contracts, OPCC has been able to establish a large increase for the need for child and young person support, and therefore intend to commission Dorset Rape Crisis to provide a Child and Young Person ISVA.

During the 2017/18 period the PCC was successful in a bid to the Home Office to deliver a project scoping a Complainant Advocate in Court. This project's scoping phase is coming to completion and it is the intention of the PCC to employ a Project Manager to implement the project and initially carry out the duties of the Complainant Advocate.

There is also a further project which may come to fruition during the 2019/20 period, which is a Youth Early Intervention Programme, which is being developed in collaboration with the local Premier League football club AFC Bournemouth. This follows on from a successful partnership with the club that was first established in 2016/17.

Transforming for the Future

During the 2018/19 period the PCC pledged £15,300 to support an Immersion Project in collaboration with Devon and Cornwall PCC. This project aims to identify ways in which the forces can reduce Police Officer time at Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) by 50% by improving evidence capture and recording. If the project identifies potential solutions the PCC may wish to purchase/invest new technology.

Wellbeing Fund

In 2018/19 the PCC allocated £250k for the Force to deliver additional Wellbeing activities to Police Officers and Staff. The Force subsequently designed a proposal to deliver 21 initiatives to support officer and staff welfare, as well as reduce sickness absences, therefore delivering both personal and organisational benefits. The total funding requested to date amounts to nearly £200k of which £39k will be spent in the 2018/19 financial period, and the remainder in 2019/20. Work is ongoing to identify further wellbeing activities to utilise the remaining funding available to the Force.

Other commissioning work

Re-commissioning of the Victims Services Contract.

The contract with Victim Support to deliver services to victims of crime is coming to an end in October 2019. The OPCC is currently working with the Southwest Police Procurement Department to make relevant amendments and engage with the market to

seek potential bidders. The OPCC is looking to go to market for this service in May 2019.

Re-organisation of the Prevention Department

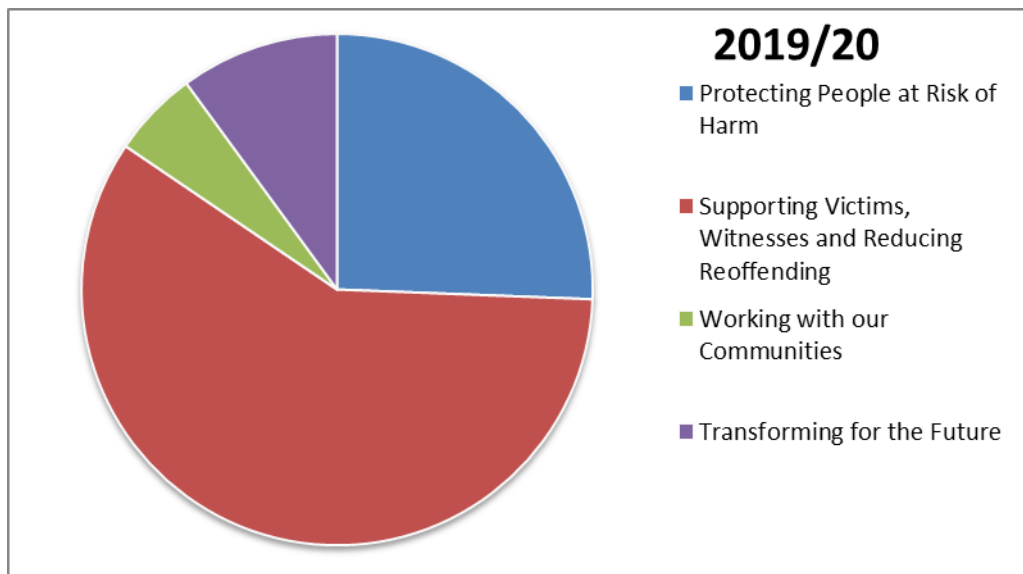
The Prevention Department was part of the Devon, Cornwall and Dorset Alliance, but it has recently been communicated that the Prevention Department would be separated into business areas that will be solely focussed on supporting prevention and crime reduction needs of each Force, rather than working as a shared function. This could directly affect the PCC's funding of the Safer Schools and Communities Team, and also the intention to deliver additional knife crime prevention and other youth education activities.

Re-commissioning of SARC and ISVA services

The contract with G4S to deliver the SARC and ISVA service is coming to an end in September 2020, therefore the OPCC will be working with NHS England and Southwest Police Procurement in the latter stages of 2019 to work through the commissioning arrangements.

4. SPEND AGAINST POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

4.1 A key objective of PCC commissioning activity is to commission services which deliver, or help in the delivery of, the Police and Crime Plan. Therefore it is paramount that all commissioned services have strong links to the Plan and its objectives. If spending is delivered to plan the proportionate spend against these priorities will be in the order of the following:



4.2 Whilst the priority 'Working with our Communities' has a relatively low amount of spend currently forecast, the PCC's Community Grant Scheme usually allocates a large amount of funding to this priority due to the nature of the applications received. Also we anticipate further commitments to be made throughout the 2019/20 period to engage with Dorset's communities, for example support for ideas and initiatives raised through the PCC's Problem Solving Forums.

4.3 It should further be noted that many projects deliver against more than one Police and Crime Plan priority, but for the purposes of the chart above the main category is reflected.

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1 The PCC's Policy and Commissioning Team will continue to monitor the commissioned projects in line with the agreed outcomes at the point of commissioning to ensure the services are delivered to an appropriate standard and offer good value for money.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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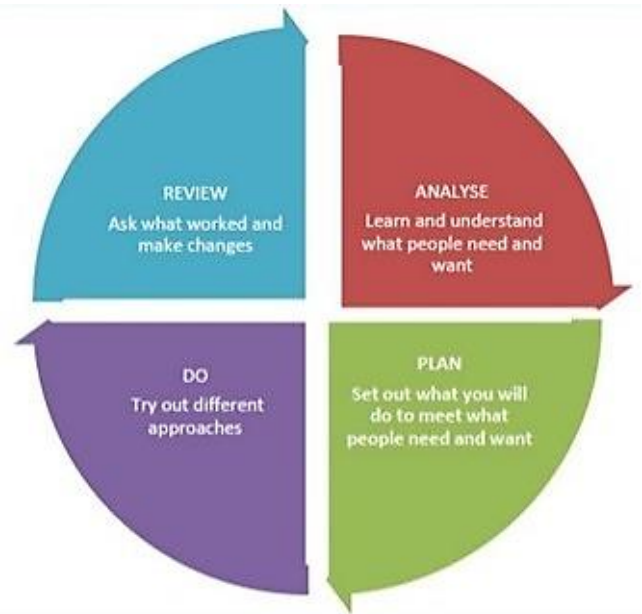
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APPENDIX A

COMMISSIONING PRINCIPLES (reviewed March 2019)

In order to commission services appropriately and effectively, Dorset OPCC will adhere to the components within the widely recognised commissioning cycle, as illustrated:

A combination of good relevant experience, combined with strong relationships with force and other public sector commissioners, and the gap analysis undertaken during 2017 lead OPCC to a position whereby we are confident in our commissioning cycle, and that our processes are fit for purpose.



1. Analyse

OPCC understands the wider policing and crime needs within the county, including those of the Chief Constable, and is able to support the PCC to wisely identify desired outcomes, and in particular how these align and support the wider public sector needs analyses already in place.

2. Plan

OPCC has undertaken an analysis of existing services and resources, and mapped these to identify gaps in existing service provision. Following that, OPCC has set out a series of principles to ensure that commissioning is agreed, delivered and evaluated robustly, as below:

Prioritisation: Initiatives must support one or more of the themes within the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 - (i) Protecting People At Risk Of Harm, (ii) Working With Our Communities, (iii) Supporting Victims, Witnesses and Reducing Reoffending, (iv) Transforming For The Future.

Innovation: Projects employing different approaches and proposing innovative solutions to address identified gaps or unmet needs, will take precedence over existing initiatives.

Working differently: Priority will be given to applications from consortia of providers or partnerships between VCSE sector and private / public sector partners. Projects involving co-production with other agencies and/or with users of the service, will also be prioritised.

Sustainability: Priority will be given to initiatives that have clear exit plans, whether through self-funding or other strategies, such as mainstream continuation of delivery, where appropriate.

3. Do

OPCC has piloted a variety of commissioning approaches, through the community grant scheme (previously small grants) and the priority commissioning scheme (previously major grants).

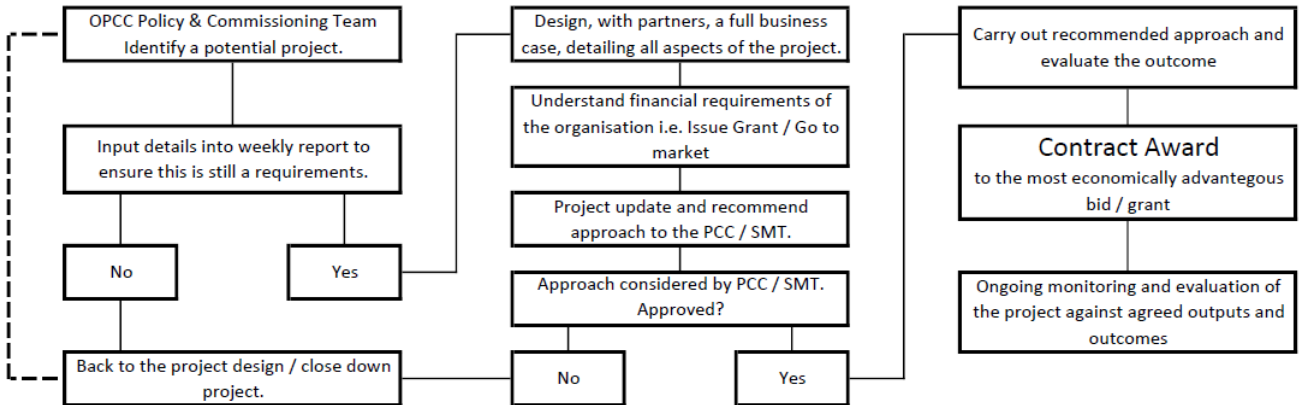
4. Review

OPCC has reviewed and improved both its formal and informal monitoring and evaluation process. Governance is in place, and ensuring an evidenced strong grip on commissioned services. As commissioning workload has increased, the structures and processes have coped well, but will continue to be actively managed.

APPENDIX B

COMMISSIONING PROCESS MAPS

Priority Commissioning Scheme



Community Grant Scheme

