

'Safer Together'

The Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly 2014-17

Summary



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The Police and Crime Commissioner's six priorities for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

- 1** To make our area a safer place to live, work and visit – reducing the likelihood that people will become victims of crime.

- 2** To reduce the crime and harm caused by the misuse of alcohol.

- 3** To make every penny count in protecting policing for the long term. We need to drive for further efficiency, work to secure more central funding and actively explore all avenues to deliver the significant savings we require from 2017/18 to sustain our services.

- 4** To promote an effective criminal justice system for our area, delivering a high quality service for victims, witnesses and society.

- 5** To deliver a high quality victim support service across our area.

- 6** To encourage and enable citizens and communities to play their part in tackling crime and making their communities safer.



The Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly 2014-17

Tony Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly I was elected to represent public interests in policing and community safety. I take important decisions on funding, set the strategic direction for the police and hold the Chief Constable to account for the work they do. I also seek to work with partners in the peninsula and beyond. I praise and champion good work and challenge to seek improvement. I will always act in the best interests of the area I am privileged to represent.

My vision is straightforward - to make Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a safe place to live, work and visit. I want to cut crime, keep people safe and encourage everyone to work together to make communities stronger and safer.

We all want to live in a safe and secure environment and to know that if bad things

happen we will be supported and protected. We live in a beautiful, vibrant part of the country - a special place for those of us who live here and the millions of tourists we welcome each year. My goal is to improve the lives of people living in and visiting the peninsula.

Against a backdrop of reduced funding for public services we must deliver significant efficiency savings in policing and think innovatively about how services are provided. We must also work closely with partners to ensure that we can deliver the best possible services to help victims, reduce reoffending, create safe and sustainable communities and prevent new offenders turning to crime.

I cannot do this alone. It requires us all to be bold, innovative and work together. If we do, there is so much we can achieve.



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THE PRIORITIES

Cutting crime, keeping Devon and Cornwall safe

The overriding objective for this Plan is to keep crime levels low and to make Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly a safer place. We must place a strong focus on those crimes that are identified as causing the greatest harm and work to ensure that the most

vulnerable members of our society are protected. The best solution is to stop crimes from occurring in the first place and so we must work collectively with individuals, communities and businesses on crime prevention measures.

We must:

- Maintain strong neighbourhood policing
- Keep police officer numbers above 3000
- Sustain a strong and clear focus on crime reduction and prevention
- Protect the vulnerable and work with partners to provide effective safeguarding systems
- Encourage increased reporting of crimes causing greatest harm – violent crime, domestic abuse, sexual assault and hate crime
- Enhance services for victims
- Enable greater co-operation with communities, businesses and partners to support policing
- Help rehabilitate offenders and turn them away from crime
- Ensure that the 999 and 101 services meet public expectations
- Address the impact of emerging threats like cyber crime



THE PRIORITIES

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol related crime

Excessive drinking contributes to a wide range of criminal offences – and affects the lives of many people who live in Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and those who visit. The cost of alcohol related crime and its harm in our area is estimated at more than £360m per annum. It places a huge demand on police and health services. It often contributes to serious

offences such as violence, domestic abuse, sexual assault, hate crime, criminal damage and public order issues. This is not acceptable and I am determined to see changes here. To lower the social, economic and individual costs of alcohol related crime we need to encourage a more responsible drinking culture and reduce tolerance for such offences.

We must:

- Be proactive and tough in response to alcohol related offences and anti-social behaviour
- Develop a clear action plan to tackle pre-loading (the practice of drinking large amounts of alcohol before going out)
- Provide better access to support services for victims and offenders dependant on alcohol
- Encourage responsible sale and consumption
- Strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones - to provide a co-ordinated approach to the problem and find solutions
- Raise awareness and improve education about the dangers of alcohol abuse
- Pursue offenders vigorously



THE PRIORITIES

Efficiency and long-term financial security

Policing budgets are being continually squeezed. For 2014-15 we received £284m – almost £4.5m less than 2013-14. We receive less government funding per head of the population than the national average and receive no extra funds to take account of the impact of tourism on

policing demand. Devon and Cornwall Police have delivered more than £40m in cost savings since 2011. However, to protect policing - and frontline services in particular – we need to make even more savings in future years. It is essential that we make every penny count.

We must:

- Develop a plan to reduce costs by around £12m per annum by 2017-18
- Explore a potential strategic alliance with Dorset Police to share services and reduce costs
- Examine options to share resources with other police forces and with partner organisations
- Investigate new funding streams
- Lobby at national level for a fairer slice of national funding
- Campaign for more money seized from criminals to be invested back into local policing
- Ensure that we charge appropriately for policing services
- Boost productivity, reduce bureaucracy and improve IT efficiency
- Keep PCC support costs as low as possible



THE PRIORITIES

An improved Criminal Justice System

The Criminal Justice System is a complex network of agencies. These agencies must work effectively and efficiently in partnership to achieve successful outcomes for victims and witnesses and society as a whole. The most significant issue facing us in 2014 is the reform of rehabilitation services. We will be working closely with all partners to ensure that new

arrangements being put in place meet local needs. We must deliver a system that is focused on victims and which brings offenders to justice rapidly and rehabilitates them to reduce levels of reoffending. I am committed to creating an effective Criminal Justice System that works for the benefit of society.

We must:

- Work through the Local Criminal Justice Board to deliver key improvements
- Ensure rehabilitation service reforms are locally relevant and effectively managed
- Commission a range of options for victims to influence restorative justice
- Campaign to reduce the number of vulnerable people with mental health issues entering the Criminal Justice System unnecessarily
- Allow young people the chance to make amends, avoiding a criminal record for low level offences
- Target criminal assets to benefit local people



THE PRIORITIES

High quality, accessible help for victims of crime

Victims of crime must receive appropriate support and we must ensure they are treated with dignity. A National Victims Code was introduced in December 2013 and from April 2015, I will be responsible for commissioning most victim services across the peninsula. It is vital that

timely information, support and care are delivered to all victims of crime and that the services provided are flexible, appropriate and meet the diverse and complex needs of the victim. The shift to locally contracted support services offers us a chance to get the right solutions in place to meet local needs.

We must:

- Ensure the voice of the victim is heard and understood and protect the vulnerable
- Drive forward implementation of the National Victims Code locally
- Finance and deliver more high quality support services
- Utilise the extensive range of voluntary and community support services across the peninsula
- Guarantee the needs of victims are properly understood within Devon & Cornwall Police
- Work towards victim personal statements being used within the Criminal Justice System to help the court understand the impact of the crime on the victim



THE PRIORITIES

Greater public involvement in policing

Our citizens, businesses and communities are our most valuable assets in Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and I want to see greater involvement from our communities in policing. I want to create new volunteering opportunities so that the public can play their part in making their neighbourhoods and communities safe. This is not a move to replace officers or

staff but a recognition that many people want to help keep their community safe and have time and skills that can help us. If we do this right it will help ensure that policing is community-facing and neighbourhood-led with the police and public working in partnership. It can also help us bring in new skills and perspectives that can enhance the service.

We must:

- Secure active involvement by citizens and communities in policing
- Engage with existing volunteering schemes and organisations
- Inspire communities to instigate their own safety initiatives
- Work with Devon & Cornwall Police to create new volunteering opportunities
- Consider start-up grants for community projects that promote community action
- Encourage businesses to work more closely with the police to help deter and tackle crime



This Police and Crime Plan for 2014-2017 sets out my priorities for policing, crime and community safety in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. I have identified the six areas where I want to make significant progress over the next three years and this Plan describes the actions that need to be taken to deliver real progress.

There are many people involved in policing and community safety and I intend to work closely with the Chief Constable and with our statutory and voluntary partners to aid delivery of this Plan. I also want to work with members of the public and our communities at grassroots level to ensure I understand the issues you face and to help you find solutions. I have set out what I will do, what I expect the Chief Constable to do and how I will look to work with partners. This Plan will shape the work of my office, the police service and their work with partners over the next three years.

I am committed to maintaining an ongoing discussion with the public so that my decisions reflect the results of wide-ranging engagement. I am also committed to improving transparency of my work and to strict compliance with high standards in public office. This will include effective and ongoing scrutiny of my Plan. To help facilitate this, I am introducing a new framework to measure performance and track the progress we are making on the pledges laid out in the Plan. There will be increased information available on the PCC website and public meetings of the Performance and Accountability Board will be held every two months.



TONY HOGG,
Police and Crime
Commissioner for Devon,
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly



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This is a Summary version of the Police and Crime Plan. The full document is available from www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk

or from my office at

Endeavour House,
Woodwater Park,
Pynes Hill,
Exeter,
EX2 5WH.

Tel: 01392 225555

Email: opcc@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



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