

Police, Fire and Crime Panel – 29 April 2019

Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy Update Report

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime

1. Purpose of Report

This report is to update the Police and Crime Panel on the delivery of Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy for Staffordshire (the strategy).

2. Recommendation

That the Panel note the update on the delivery of the strategy and make comment as appropriate.

3. Background

In May 2017, the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue, and Crime (Staffordshire Commissioner) published an updated Safer, Fairer, United Communities strategy for 2017–2020. The strategy is about making a sustained difference to tackling crime, harm and anti-social behaviour by improving community safety across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The updated strategy takes account of and reflects changes that have occurred since the Commissioner came into office in November 2012.

Policing and community safety face different challenges now to those that existed only five years ago. These are more complex and require different, more sophisticated responses. The environment has also changed. Most public sector organisations have less money and have, or are, redesigning services to manage with less, whilst aiming to maintain good outcomes. There have been improvements in what gets delivered in some areas, for instance, more victims of crime are now supported and supported better. Crime is rising locally and nationally and the types of crime are evolving.

For the first time, reports of online crime was greater than other types of crime last year. Technology is providing greater opportunities for policing too as focus and priorities evolve across the wider sector e.g. terrorism, cyber, vulnerability and early intervention.

The Commissioner is concerned that the challenges in the wider public sector and the changing environment means efforts towards greater collaboration will be increasingly difficult to maintain. There is a risk that organisations under pressure retreat into delivering only what has to be delivered statutorily. The strategy reflects that but also reinforces the greater need to work in a joined up way with earlier intervention a

priority.

A necessity is more effective information sharing between agencies and this will form of investment in technology. Work to develop the Commissioner's strategy towards a multi-agency approach via the 'Connected Staffordshire' solution is gathering some pace. But the threat does exist by the capacity of some agencies to identify the necessary funding.

The Commissioner has established five key priorities in his updated strategy, one more than in the original 2013 version. Those priorities are: -

- Modern Policing: A police force that is fit for a changing future
- Early Intervention: Identifying and tackling root cause issues at the earliest opportunity
- Supporting Victims and Witnesses: Making it easier for victims and witnesses to get the support they need, when they need it
- Managing Offenders: Preventing offending in the first place and reducing reoffending
- Public Confidence: Creating opportunities for communities to shape policing, with greater transparency and openness to increase confidence in policing

Alongside local authorities and other key partners, there is significant work being undertaken to improve the delivery of public services, support continuous improvement and public safety, and ensure funding supports more efficient and effective service delivery. The 'whole system' approach to making people and places safer continues to support the on-going achievement of the Commissioner's ambition for a safer Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

The Chief Constable, employed by the Commissioner in 2017 has made progress in developing a new Blueprint for Change, Policing Plan and Strategies that support the five priorities within the Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy. A revised performance framework is being introduced to enable the Commissioner to ensure the appropriate outcomes in delivering the Policing Plan and meeting the strategy's priorities.

4. Progress to Date

Highlight reports are attached at Appendix A (i) to (v) for each of the five priorities. These will ultimately contain relevant graphs and data to demonstrate performance, however this aspect is still under development.

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