

## **Police, Fire and Crime Panel – 13 July 2020**

### **Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy Update**

#### Report of the Staffordshire Commissioner

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This report is to update the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on the impact of COVID19 on the delivery of the Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy for Staffordshire.

#### **2. Recommendation**

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

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. The impact of COVID-19 on the United Kingdom has been profound, with significant loss of life and devastating impact on the economic infrastructure with every person affected in some way. As a result of statutory public health restrictions, intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the NHS, some democratic processes have been delayed. These include the elections for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners, which were postponed until 7 May 2021. When the election is held, it will be for a reduced, three year term with the following election scheduled for May 2024, as originally planned.

#### **4. Covid19 Response 2020/21**

- 4.1. In the interim period, the Commissioner has determined that his priorities, as set out in the Strategy and the Fire and Rescue Plan will remain broadly the same for his extended term of office.
- 4.2. The emergency situation created by the pandemic means that not all business can be conducted as usual. In order to fulfil his statutory responsibilities in this extraordinary situation, the Commissioner and his office will refocus efforts and resources. A plan, *COVID19 Response 2020/21* (Appendix 1) has been issued

to set out how this will happen, specifically:

- 4.2.1. Ensuring Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service have sufficient people to respond to the crisis and that their safety and wellbeing needs are met.
  - 4.2.2. On behalf of the public, holding both services to account for service delivery in a changing environment, including ensuring their response is sufficient, proportionate and ethical.
  - 4.2.3. Facilitating effective partnership working between local partner agencies, other emergency services in the region and commissioned services to ensure a joined-up approach in ensuring community safety, protecting vulnerable people and delivering criminal justice.
  - 4.2.4. Ensuring the services we commission continue to deliver support for people throughout the crisis and, where necessary, commissioning services to address new needs identified.
  - 4.2.5. Playing an active role in ensuring the local, regional and national response to the crisis meets the needs of the people of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
- 4.3. Practically, by adopting the approach detailed above, it is hoped that the priorities set out in the Strategy and the Fire and Rescue Plan can continue to be delivered against. However, the nature and scale of the COVID-19 crisis has continued to change and the Commissioner's Office, Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service have had to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. That does mean that delivery arrangements for 2020/21 may be very different to those that were evident in previous years. Organisational risks and issues are monitored and reassessed continually and plans will be reviewed and adapted as needed.
- 4.4. In responding to the crisis, our partnerships have adapted quickly and effectively and in many cases this has led to services becoming more responsive and joined up than before. As services enter the recovery phase a systematic approach is being adapted to ensure that learning is captured and embedded in future ways of working.

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