

Police and Crime Panel – 22 March 2024

Update from Councillor Clucas

They were a few items on the agenda. We were advised that as we are in the pre-election period, political speeches should not be made.

The first full report was the OPCC partnership work. This went through the PCC's office working with a number of emergency services, including fire and health services.

The force was adopting a public health approach in order to change the prospect of criminals introducing young people to a life of crime. This public health approach required collaborative efforts and is now a legal requirement in relation to communities.

The PCC also mentioned the 'Clean; Hold; Build' project that is starting in Cheltenham. I asked that a full report come to the Panel to bring members up to speed. That was agreed.

Public health is also a significant partner in this as is working with other organisations. Through joint working, the likelihood of criminality, it is believed, is reduced. In relation to serious violent crime, the WHO definition of that has now been adopted by the police.

We were advised that there were strategic priorities in relation to both partnership and community working and the strategic priorities are:

1. VAWT sexual violence;
2. OCGs organised crime gangs;
3. ASB - antisocial behaviour;
4. Building community resilience.

The Officer responsible for Data gave an overview of the improvements in crime statistics collection and how it helped focus work in particular areas.

The PEEL report was also discussed. It gave an indication of where the force needs to improve and areas where improvements had happened.

I raised several issues in relation to the report: VAWG; Persistent Offenders and the need for the Community Safety Partnership being more inclusive at meetings.

The Chief Executive's Report provided some thought provoking information. The

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increase in crime, we were advised, is largely down to an increase in the reporting of crime.

The Commissioner again raised the 'Clean; Hold; Build' project that is happening in the Moors. He had visited the neighbourhood last week.

A question was raised in relation to the second homes premium, with a request that additional monies allocated to the police, be spent in the district concerned. The proposal by Cllr Joe Harris was generally agreed.

Operation Snap had been raised by Cllr Willingham. He was concerned that the full impact was not being felt. The reply indicated that film from head cameras that cyclists used was used when appropriate and evidential. It is often impossible to identify wrongdoers because of the quality of the film. Some 20-25% helped with enforcement last year, however.

This was the last Panel of the political year and the Chair ended by thanking all those members and others for attending.

Cllr Clucas

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