

The meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 06 November 2014 was dominated by reports from with ongoing projects, reports that had been requested by the Panel previously or usual reporting from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. These reports were from: Safer Days and Nights, Restorative Justice, Domestic Abuse, highlights from the Police and Crime Plan, finance update, risk register, and a report from the Chief Executive. Below I will summarize some points that I feel are important to feed back into the committee and I would implore the committee members to read some of the reports that are available in the links I will provide below.

First, the Panel was updated on the work of the Safer Days and Nights priority by the Priority lead Andrew North who highlighted four areas of the report for specific attention. They were: new powers from the Antisocial behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the late night levy, Gloucestershire Community Support Program, and domestic abuse. In the Act mentioned, there are a number of new powers that are already being rolled out in parts of the county, such as the community trigger in Tewkesbury. Mr North discussed the implementation of the late night levy in Cheltenham and explained who got what percentage of the money raised. PCC 70% and CBC 30%, but it was stated that the 30% that CBC received would be spent on preventative initiatives to reduce demand on the Police.

The Panel received an update on the work around Restorative Justice following a request at the Panel on 28 July 2014. I have included the link to the update but one highlight which I felt it is important to mention was that for every £1 spent on the project there was an £8-9 savings. It was explained that while there is an initial set up cost for Restorative Justice, in the long term, it was more cost effective than traditional methods.

Report link below:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s22978/october%202014%20RJ%20report%20Police%20and%20Crime%20Panel.pdf>

The Panel also received a response to the HMIC report that highlights concerns in Gloucestershire's approach to tackling domestic abuse. 22 recommendations from the report have been implemented and the Police and Crime Commissioner was satisfied with the progress made and HMIC has given Gloucestershire a clean bill of health in that regard. The Commissioner also explained that the PCC provides funding for a refuge in Gloucester. Chief Constable Suzette Davenport provided an excellent example of the operational difficulties of dealing with cases of domestic abuse.

The finance report was received by the Panel. It stated that the PCC was waiting for the budget announcement in December but was expecting it to broadly be in line with the forecast provided by Government previously. The PCC also stated that Gloucestershire we not currently exploring the regionalisation of forces but was happy to talk to others to consider better ways of working.

The Police and Crime Plan was presented by the Office of the PCC. I have included the link to the report below. There were questions regarding the issues that face the 101 service and it was explained that over 70% of the calls to 101 were being answered. There was mention of a campaign to encourage the use of the 101 email to further improve the service.

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s22980/2014%2009%2030%20PC%20Plan%20Priorities%20Highlight%20Report%20V2.%200.pdf>