

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: Policing in Your Neighbourhood Business Case
Decision number: 111/2015
Author and Job Role: Alison Bolton, Chief Executive
Protective Marking: Part One

Executive Summary:

In November 2014, Surrey Police began the Policing in Your Neighbourhood project (PIYN). This signalled the start of activity to realign local policing delivery in Surrey against a backdrop of a reducing budget. The project focuses on delivering savings in an extremely challenging financial climate, better understanding demand and restructuring local policing services to the changing nature of crime. It seeks to improve capability and capacity to address the increasing numbers of ‘private crimes’ and incidents that now regularly feature in daily police activity, in particular safeguarding the vulnerable from domestic violence, sexual exploitation and tackling on-line crime, reports of which have grown exponentially in the last decade.

Background

Achieving these aims is set against a requirement to deliver substantial savings given the funding cuts affecting the police service and other public sector partners. The proposal details a policing model that reduces the costs of local policing in Surrey by £8.3m (2015-2019).

PIYN aims to introduce a new approach which will deliver the required savings but maintains a commitment to local policing by retaining a dedicated presence through a named borough based Inspector as well as Police Community Support Officers with geographic responsibility. The current policing model sees response officers, neighbourhood officers and Criminal Investigation Departments in boroughs and districts, each fulfilling distinct roles. Under PIYN, all those officers will deliver all of those services as demand dictates. This should mean that each victim benefits from continuity of contact with the investigating team from initial report to taking of statements to judicial proceedings.

The new model also aims to reduce demand by helping residents find the right help rather than phoning 999 on initial impulse. The Force will campaign to highlight the difference between 999 and 101, then, with partners further publicise services for those who would be better served by a health team, or a local authority department.

The Force aims to use new technology to enable officers to make enquiries and file reports without returning to base, and will enhance its website to encourage reporting and tracking of crimes online, where that is appropriate.

These changes complement other work including alliances with Sussex Police, other police forces in the region and local authority partners (including the other emergency services.)

After a number of high level briefings, the PCC has received a detailed business case for consideration. The PCC has indicated that he is supportive of the principles of the project and believes that the drivers behind it are sound.

Recommendation

The PCC is asked to:

- Approve the business case for the Policing in Your Neighbourhood Project
- Note that internal communication of the project with affected staff has commenced
- Permit the Force to begin detailed planning for the implementation of the operational changes to achieve the financial savings
- Initiate further work to improve the communication plan associated with the project.

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):



Signature:

Date: 12/11/2015

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

The PCC has consulted with colleagues in the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and notes the consultation undertaken to date and that planned by the Force.

Financial implications

These are set out in detail in the business case.

Legal

The PCC does not require legal advice.

Risks

These are set out in detail in the business case.

Equality and diversity

No implications for the PCC.

