



ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

AUGUST 2013

1. Introduction

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 places a statutory duty on Police and Crime Commissioners to listen and have regard to the views of local people about policing in their area.

In the Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017 I set out five priorities:-

- To reduce crime and disorder
- To protect the public from harm
- To empower local communities to prevent crime and disorder
- To deliver an effective and efficient police service to respond to the Strategic Policing Requirement

This draft Engagement Strategy underpins the delivery of these key priorities in particular the focus on empowering local communities.

The Plan reiterates the part everyone can play in reducing crime and disorder. I emphasise the importance of volunteers in this work, whether as Special Constables, police staff volunteers, independent custody visitors or as members of Neighbourhood Watch. I refer to the importance of listening to the views of local people and local communities and of particular groups such as young people, members of black and minority communities, vulnerable people, the business community and victims of crime. The Plan sets out the importance of the police working in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary agencies and organisations, in particular the County Council and Borough and District Councils, Community Safety Partnerships, the NHS, the Probation Trust, Neighbourhood Watch and Crimestoppers.

In a policing area the size of Warwickshire with more than half a million people and a range of diverse communities, engagement with the public represents a major challenge. The purpose of this Strategy is to set out how I intend to:-

- Inform;
- Consult; and
- Involve

Warwickshire is a safe place to live and that in itself is an important message to send but there is much more we can do together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the county so that people are safe and feel safe in their communities.

1. Ways to Engage

This strategy recognises that people access information and communicate with official bodies in a range of different ways, in person, by telephone, through the internet and social media, at public meetings and public authorities must respond accordingly.

2.1 Providing Information

The internet provides a valuable tool to inform and involve local people. The websites of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and of Warwickshire Police provides much useful information. The OPCC website includes a range of statutory information the Commissioner is required to publish.

The website has been augmented by the production of a regular blog and by the use of social media, Twitter and Facebook. Social media by its very nature prompts a more interactive approach and the Commissioner receives comments and questions through these sites.

I have recognised that the OPCC website inherited from the Police Authority and designed for a different purpose is not fit for purpose. It is static, difficult to update and not interactive. I have commissioned a complete redesign of the website to support this engagement strategy.

I have commissioned the Communications Team within Warwickshire County Council to develop a media strategy including the use of social media, the updating of the website as well as to manage relationships with local press, radio and television. I have taken every opportunity to meet the press and to give interviews to inform people of my work and key issues effecting policing.

2.2 Local Community Forums

Local Community Forums are an important way for Safer Neighbourhood Teams to work with their local communities, to provide information and to establish local priorities. They are also a means by which I can keep in touch with local people and local priorities in relation to policing.

I have made a commitment that I or my Deputy will attend over time each Community Forum . However, I cannot commit to attending every meeting of every forum. I have therefore appointed Community Safety Ambassadors to attend each of the Community Forums and to be my 'eyes and ears' and report back to me on local concerns or indeed good practice. CSAs have been asked to make contact with local councillors and local groups who know their communities well. Details of the CSA Scheme are available on my website.

2.3 Young People

The County Council has already in place a strategy for engaging young people and ensuring the voice of young people is heard through the election of Members of the Youth Parliament, members of the county youth council, VOX, and local area youth councils. I have, therefore, commissioned the youth support service of the County Council to develop an engagement strategy, which is likely to include, subject to the views of the young people themselves, regular meetings with the county and local youth councils and the appointment of Young Community Safety Ambassadors to work with my office to develop key priorities for policing and community safety for young people. An initial meeting with representatives of young people has already identified that bullying and in particular cyberbullying is a major concern of young people.

2.4 Partnership Working

There is already very effective partnership working in Warwickshire which has contributed to the reduction in crime in the county. I am committed to encouraging and fostering collaboration through a range of regular meetings with key people and organisations. The table appended to this strategy sets out a schedule of meetings and how it is proposed my Office will manage those meetings.

2.5 National and Regional Meetings

Police and Crime Commissioners have been asked by Government to be represented on a range of boards, and advisory groups. Commissioners have also agreed that it is important they should meet on a regular basis to share good practice and to be a strong voice on behalf of policing with Government. I have been asked to play the role of Chair of the Independent Group of Commissioners and to be a member of the board of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. I am also on the board of the National Police Air Service. My Deputy represents me on the Police National Negotiating Board and the Local Government Association / APCC Strategy Group.

While these roles represent a very significant investment of time (one that is being asked of all Commissioners), they give the opportunity to share ideas and good practice, to promote the good work within Warwickshire police and the Alliance and to influence decision making on behalf of the people in Warwickshire. I similarly meet on a regular basis with my counterparts in the West Midlands region to discuss areas of mutual concern, such as cross border crime, and including work on counter terrorism and serious and organised crime which is delivered regionally.

In addition I hold regular meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and will chair the new Governance Group for the Alliance. I have not included these meetings in the attached schedule.

3. Consultation

The strategy represents the work I and my Office are already doing to engage people and communities. It is not a static process and we are developing practice in the light of experience. I would welcome comments on the strategy if possible by 30 November 2013, after which I will publish a revised strategy.

Comments should be addressed to:-

Mr Ron Ball
Police and Crime Commissioner
3 Northgate Street
Warwick
CV34 4SP

Or via email to:-

opcc@warwickshire.gov.uk

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (1) PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Meetings	Chair / Lead Officer	Frequency	OPCC Attendance	OPCC Lead Officer	Notes
Police and Crime Panel	Chair : Cllr Dennis Harvey Contact with : Janet Purcell WCC	As Required Approx 6 per year	PCC DPCC CEX	Policy Support Officer	
Meeting in Public PCC and Chief Constable	Chair : PCC LO: CEX	Bi-monthly	PCC DPCC CEX	Policy Support Officer	Attendance PCC, DPCC, CEX, Chief Constable, Deputy CC and other officers as required
Audit Joint Committee	Chair : John Vereker LO : Treasurer	Quarterly	DPCC Treasurer Deputy Treasurer C.EX	Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Joint Committee with West Mercia

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (2) COUNCILS / MPS

Meetings	Chair / Lead Officer	Frequency	OPCC Attendance	OPCC Lead Officer	Notes
Meeting with CEx and Leader of 5 District / Borough Councils	Chief Executive (OPCC)	Quarterly	PCC DPCC CEx	Policy and Support Officer Chief Executive	
Warwickshire MPs	Chief Executive (OPCC) Contact Mark Pawsey's Office	Quarterly	PCC DPCC CEx	Policy and Support Officer	Meetings to be held alternatively in Warwickshire and Westminster
Community Forums X 30	Chair : Various LO : Dan Green WCC	Quarterly X 30	Community Ambassador PCC / DPCC in rotation	Area lead from Policy and Support Officer	PCC / DPCC to attend in 2 yearly cycle Report from Ambassadors to PCC
Parish Councils				Policy and Support Officer	To be engaged through Community Forums Meeting annually with County Association Parish Councils on consultation list

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (2) COUNCILS / MPS

Meeting with Leaders of WCC	Chief Executive (OPCC)	Quarterly	PCC DPCC CEX	Policy and Support Officer	
Strategic Director and Portfolio Holder Warwickshire County Council	Chief Executive (OPCC)	Quarterly	PCC DPCC CEX	CEX	

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (3) STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Meetings	Chair / Lead Officer	Frequency	OPCC Attendance	OPCC Lead Officer	Notes
Strategic IAG	Police		Policy Officer (JM)	Policy Support Officer	Attendance by PCC for one meeting a year
Area IAGs LGBT IAG Disability IAG	Police		Policy Officer (JM)	Policy Support Officer	Attendance by PCC for one meeting a year
Faith Forums Disability Forums LBGT Community Groups	Various			Policy Support Officer	
WREP	C.Ex			Policy Support Officer	Policy Support Officer attendance at WREP area community meetings
MYPs / VOX	C.Ex Cheryl Jones Early Intervention Warwickshire County Council		PCC CEX	C.Ex	Consultation with young people to be agreed with MYPs / VOX
UNISON Police Federation Superintendents Assoc		Bi-monthly	PCC DPCC	C.EX	

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (4) VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Meetings	Chair / Lead Officer	Frequency	OPCC Attendance	OPCC Lead Officer	Notes
Independent Custody Visitors		Annual Joint Meeting	PCC / DPCC	Policy Support Officer	Policy Officer to meet regularly with ICVs. PCC to attend Annual Joint Meeting.
Neighbourhood Watch County and area meetings			PCC / DPCC	Policy Support Officer	PCC and DPCC to attend county and area meetings
Victim Support		To be agreed	PCC / DPCC	Policy Support Officer	
Warwickshire CAVA	Paul Tolley	quarterly	PCC / DPCC	Policy Support Officer	
Business Crime Prevention Network	Policy support officer	quarterly	PCC / DPCC Policy Support Officer	Policy Support Officer	

MEETINGS SCHEDULE (5) CRIMINAL JUSTICE, STATUTORY AGENCIES MEETINGS

Meetings	Chair / Lead Officer	Frequency	OPCC Attendance	OPCC Lead Officer	Notes
Local Criminal Justice Board	Liz Stafford		Chief Executive	Mark Gore	
Health and Wellbeing Board	County Council	Bi-monthly	PCC	CEX	
Safer and Stronger Partnership Board	County Council	Quarterly	PCC	CEX	
Community Safety Partnerships	District / Borough Council	Quarterly	PCC DPCC CEX	Policy and Research Officer	To precede 'Safer and Stronger' Partnership Board

