

Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On

Summary

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took up their posts in November 2012. Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk, Dr Eric Wood, Deputy PCC for Warwickshire and Ron Hogg, PCC for Durham, will set out their experiences of the last year. This will be an opportunity to hear about how PCCs are working in partnership with local government on a wide range of community safety issues, to reflect on the effectiveness of Police and Crime Panels, and to consider the challenges going forward.

Purpose

This report provides background information and context to inform the discussion.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

Actions

As directed by the Forum.

Contact officer: Eamon Lally
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3132/07799768570
Email: Eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On

Background

1. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) have been in existence for one year. The anniversary presents an opportunity to reflect on and assess the impact of the PCCs and the arrangements that have been put in place to provide for their scrutiny.
2. Police and Crime Commissioners were established to achieve a decentralisation of control and to put the public "in the driving seat" when it comes to local policing and crime reduction. It was recognised from the very beginning that PCCs would be new entrants to a busy local leadership landscape and that they would need to work in collaboration with local authorities and other local partners. Elected members have also had an important role to play through PCPs in scrutinising Commissioners' decisions.

Summary of LGA's work with PCCs and PCPs

3. The LGA is engaged in formal partnership work with Police and Crime Commissioners through a Joint Strategic Partnership Board with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Joint Strategic Partnership Board acts as a forum for discussion and information sharing on issues of common interest to members of the Local Government Association and Police and Crime Commissioners. The Board met for the first time on 4 September 2013 and discussed issues relating to child sexual exploitation and health reforms.
4. The Board's membership is Cllr Mehboob Khan - LGA, (Chairman); Cllr Marianne Overton – LGA; Cllr David Burbage – LGA; Mayor Dorothy Thornhill – LGA; Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird QC – Northumbria; Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore – Suffolk; Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Ball – Warwickshire

Supporting PCPs

5. The LGA has commissioned work to support Police and Crime Panels. Through the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) it is currently supporting work with eight panels as they develop their approaches to scrutiny.
6. The Safer & Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) has also commissioned research into the experiences of PCPs in the first year of operation. The initial findings highlight:
 - 6.1. the importance of the relationship between the PCC and panels to effective scrutiny;
 - 6.2. problems with information sharing between the PCC and Panels; and
 - 6.3. continuing confusion about the roles of Panels and the extent to which they have enough powers.
7. The Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) has announced its inquiry into Police and Crime Commissioners: One Year On. The terms of reference for the inquiry indicate that as part of this review HASC will look at the effectiveness of Police and Crime

Panels. SSCB will be providing a written submission to HASC in respect of this inquiry which will draw on the research undertaken by CfPS.

Community Budgets

8. Community budgets are particularly relevant in relation to community safety issues where more integrated working across agencies can deliver reduced costs and go some way to helping community safety partnerships and the police tackle significant funding reductions. A number of PCCs have signalled enthusiasm about community budgets and are exploring this approach with their community safety partnerships and wider partners to tackle cross cutting issues such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related disorder, domestic abuse, community cohesion and mental health issues.
9. There is already evidence from community budget pilot areas that an integrated approach can be effective. Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority have developed a partnership approach with Chester Police and Chester Probation Service to address domestic abuse, and have developed a new delivery model which aims to reduce the risks, demand on public services and costs thereby delivering better outcomes for victims and their children. This is estimated to save £7.6 million (net) over five years.

Speaker Biographies

Tim Passmore (Conservative), PCC Suffolk



For the past 30 years Tim has been an intensive livestock producer and has advised on pig production and genetic breeding programmes across Europe, North America and Asia. As a self-employed agricultural and rural business consultant he has delivered seminars and lecture tours to a wide variety of farming and agribusiness organisations.

Tim is a Mid Suffolk councillor and prior to taking on the role of the PCC, he was Leader of Mid Suffolk District Council.

Tim was educated at Ipswich School before taking a degree in Agriculture at Wye College, University of London, majoring in management, marketing and economics. More recently he graduated from the Open University with an MBA.

Ron Hogg (Labour), PCC Durham

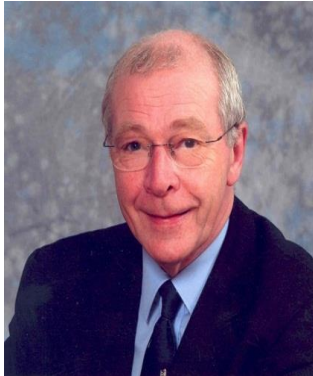


A serving police officer for over 30 years, Ron Hogg rose through the ranks to become Assistant Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary and Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland Police. As a serving police officer he won national recognition for his expertise in policing football

Ron graduated from the University of York in 1973 with a degree in Politics. Between 1973 and 1978 he taught History

and Sociology in an 11-18 years comprehensive school in Northamptonshire.

Dr Eric Wood OBE (Independent) Deputy PCC, Warwickshire



Eric Wood was formerly the Chief Executive to the Warwickshire Police Authority, and has 18 years' experience of leadership and governance through his work as Deputy and County Education Officer in addition to his work with the police authority.