

## REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Police and Crime Panel</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 October 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Engagement Strategy</b>
4.	<b>Organisation:</b>	<b>Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire</b>

### 5. Summary

The Police and Crime Commissioner is required to consult with the community, including victims of crime, to obtain views on the policing of South Yorkshire and to assist with setting the annual budget and precept. This ensures that the community has the opportunity to participate fully in decisions that affect their lives and that their views are represented in setting local policing priorities and developing policing services that make a difference to them.

The Police and Crime Plan 2013/17 sets out one overarching goal: *that South Yorkshire is and feels a safe place in which to live, learn and work*. It places victims at the heart of the plan and our Engagement and Communications Strategy demonstrates how we will engage and communicate with victims and the wider community and stakeholders as a whole.

It is essential that we communicate and engage with the public and stakeholders in order to understand what their priorities are to ensure that their views are an integral part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's decision making process. This is vital to increasing public trust and confidence in policing.

There are numerous ways in which we currently engage with the public (outlined in section 4.3 of the Communications and Engagement Strategy) and we will continually strive to seek out new ways of engaging and communicating with many different groups and sections of the community to ensure that our processes are as inclusive as possible. As part of this we will attend relevant events and public meetings throughout the year.

The PCC's Communications and Engagement Strategy sets out how we communicate and engage with our many stakeholders and what methods people can use to get involved and to access information. We make clear our commitment to:

- Be open, accessible, transparent, accountable and responsive.

- Gather views and involve the community in setting police and crime priorities and commissioning services.
- Inform the community of performance, how they have influenced priorities, how we hold South Yorkshire Police to account and how they can access services.

This will be done through delivery of our objectives:

- To develop and improve two-way communication between the PCC and the people and communities of South Yorkshire to ensure their views are heard and used to develop our priorities and policies and to inform our decision making processes and commissioning and funding decisions.
- To increase trust and confidence in, and awareness and understanding of, the PCC and role of the OPCC internally, across partners and across communities.
- Improve collaborative working with stakeholders

A communications audit carried out in September 2014 in preparation for the election of a new Commissioner, found that there was scope to improve the way the OPCC engages and communicates in line with the opportunities of having a newly elected PCC. As a result the Communications and Engagement Strategy was rewritten to align with the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan.

A fresh approach to engaging with local communities was developed whereby the PCC actively attends existing groups and meetings, to speak with the public about issues of crime and disorder. This has replaced the former approach of holding surgeries and inviting the public to attend at a certain venue at a set time. Many attendances are by invitation but equally important are those where correspondence with the Office of the PCC (OPCC) raises awareness of issues affecting certain areas or groups. In these cases the OPCC actively seeks out opportunities to speak with the local communities.

We are currently establishing a programme of engagement opportunities within the community where members of the public can speak with the PCC and members of the Engagement Team at a variety of venues, including supermarkets and shopping centres. These will be widely promoted within communities.

As an example of the range of community groups, organisations and individuals the PCC engages with, below is a list of engagement activity over the last month:

Rotherham Children & Young Peoples' Forum  
 Pakistan Advice and Community Association (PACA) Firvale  
 Darnall Development Centre  
 Yorkshire Housing  
 Grimethorpe Activity Zone  
 CSE Victims and Survivors  
 SYP Inspectors  
 Yorkshire & Humber PCCs

Big Conversation meetings - Sheffield residents  
Rotherham Show  
Medina Mosque  
Danum Basketball  
Federation of Small Businesses  
South Yorkshire Partnership Event – local authority, NHS, Fire, SYP and criminal justice partners  
Doncaster Rape & Sexual Assault Counselling Service  
Hate and Harassment Strategy Stakeholder Conference, Barnsley  
MPs  
Schools in Rotherham & Barnsley  
Haven House Project, Sheffield  
Independent Custody Visitors  
Doncaster Community Justice Panel  
Monday Club, Doncaster  
Edlington Community Organisations  
Jo Meagher – Young Women’s Housing Project  
Local, regional and national media

A section on the PCC’s website is currently being developed which will provide information on all engagement activity undertaken since the PCC came into office. Going forward it will then be updated on a weekly basis.

The PCC also has a statutory duty to hold the Chief Constable to account on SYP’s engagement activity with local communities. As part of this work a full review of PACT (Partners & Communities Together) meetings has taken place and a set of recommendations has been agreed to improve the way these meetings work by rebranding them as Community Safety Meetings and forging closer links with partner organisations to provide a more community-based focus. Work around this is currently ongoing with the Local Policing Teams and we are engaging with partners to establish new meeting in the New Year. In some areas, where PACT is working well there will be no change to the current format, other than the name. In other areas the existing PACTs may be merged with other established community meetings. This work will be publicised once structures are developed.

## **6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Police and Crime Panel notes the attached strategy and the PCCs commitment to engagement activity.**

## **7. Finance**

Not applicable.

## **8. Background Papers and Consultation**

Attached to this report is the following strategy and appendices:

OPCC Communications and Engagement Strategy

Appendix 1 – Media Protocol

Appendix 2 – Consultation & Engagement Protocol

Appendix 3 – Social Media Strategy

## **9. Contact**

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