



Protective Services Plan 2008-11

Making the communities of Avon and Somerset feel safe and be safe

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Foreword

Welcome to the Avon and Somerset Protective Services Plan.

This plan sets out the future direction of the Constabulary in relation to Serious Crime and Protection in the medium term through to 2011.

Section one of the document summarises the Constabulary's future direction and key priorities, one of which is protective services, in the medium term in line with the existing spending review period.

The second section gives the high level detail outlined in the Policing Plan 2008-2011 regarding Serious Crime and Protection.

More details are contained in the remaining sections as to the individual elements that the Constabulary has committed to undertake over the period of the plan to support service development and performance improvement in the area of protective services.

Dr Moira Hamlin
Chair of the Police Authority

Colin Port
Chief Constable

March 2008

Introduction

The Protective Services are an important and integral part of our Vision to enable the communities of Avon and Somerset to have the highest levels of confidence in the delivery of our policing services. This ambition is commensurate with being a large and diverse force and will be achieved by continued investment and development.

Current Position

We have reviewed our protective service provision by:

- Conducting a gap analysis
- Taking advice from our professional leads in respect of local issues
- Developing an action plan referring to HMIC and ACPO guidance
- Working with the communities in the force area
- Work with other forces within the South West region

Significant work has been undertaken on a regional basis to identify areas where mutual cooperation can be achieved and there is an ongoing commitment to revisit this process on a regular basis.

Taking it forward

An Assistant Chief Constable takes lead responsibility for Protective Services and ensures that priorities are identified and addressed as part of the corporate planning process. The process is as follows:

- 1) Environmental scanning conducted to identify options.
- 2) Opportunities/threats evaluated and priorities identified.
- 3) Plans developed.
- 4) Projects commissioned through CME.
- 5) Progress monitored and reviewed at CME.
- 6) Progress reported to Police Authority Performance and Audit Committee.

Memorandums of understanding have been established between the Constabulary and neighbouring forces and are already proving to be beneficial.

Collaborative Working

The Police Authority and Force have agreed a South West regional collaborative approach to improving the protective services capability across the region. The region (including Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Police/Authorities) has agreed the key areas of business that will be improved through the programme.

A further significant piece of work is the Avon and Somerset lead on the development of a fourteen force cross regional Forensic Services Procurement Project, with the aim of obtaining better value and quality in forensic provision. Avon and Somerset are engaged in a Joint Venture Company called Southwest One and this will have an impact on the Forensic Science service the constabulary supporting our drive for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Within this area of work the Community Engagement Team has an important role in increasing visibility, trust and confidence in the service.

Significant Future Service Demands

The Olympic Games in 2012 pose a considerable challenge to the policing within the region with local training facilities and events being held locally.

Major sporting events will be used to test our capability and resilience to policing what will be a unique national event and the potential terrorism and associated threats the games may pose, while maintaining our core policing functions. A review will be undertaken after each such event to ensure that development plans are put in place to fill any identified gaps.

Protective Service Elements

Serious and Organised Crime

Our primary role is to ensure that our communities are kept safe from the threat of serious and organised criminality such as drugs, gun crime and terrorism.

The force is continually seeking to deter, dismantle and disrupt serious and organised criminal activity within the force area. This involves a review of our approach to intelligence gathering and the Force Intelligence Unit to ensure that demands can be met. In addition significant work is being undertaken with partners both locally and nationally through for example; CDRP's, Probation, UKBA and SOCA.

Major Crime

Significant crimes such as murders, rape, kidnap and extortion take considerable resource to investigate and bring offenders to justice. The Major Crime Investigation Unit (MCIU) has been established since 2002 to ensure that when such serious events occur a central team can be deployed to enable local staff to maintain capability and delivery of reassurance to the local community. In the coming year we will review the opportunities from modernising our workforce to see how this area of work can be further strengthened

The MCIU has responsibility to support the forces Senior Investigating Officers with the resourcing, administration and governance of all major crime investigations. Our approach encompasses all National Police Improvement Agency doctrines and best practice. This approach is supported by a serious/major crime review team whose policy and framework ensure thorough investigations and the maintenance of quality and standards within all investigations. We have seen a significant improvement in the investigation of rapes and we will seek to strengthen that work.

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

This is an area of increasing importance and significance nationally. Forces across the region have been trialling a national key performance indicator set. The force has already implemented a performance regime in relation to intelligence sources, which has been identified as best practice. (In addition opportunities are actively being sought to extend intelligence sources and strengthen the flow of intelligence across all forces in the region.)

Existing good relationships are being strengthened through the implementation of the PREVENT agenda with partners and to further develop appropriate channels for the effective flow of community intelligence. Recent events have shown the importance of the flow of community intelligence and we will continue to build on this through growing community confidence and support and the role NHP has to play in support of protective services.

Critical Incidents and Civil Contingencies

The ability to link key information and deploy resources productively is central to the effective response to serious incident and the ability to detect crime quickly thus providing reassurance to the public.

The force operates a 24/7 Force Incident Manager (FIM) who is supported by intelligence staff. The FIM coordinates the initial force response to a critical incident, and there is also an on duty Silver commander who will take initial 'golden hour' command of critical incidents. All critical incidents are managed using the Gold, Silver and Bronze command structure, and there are sufficiently and appropriately trained personnel to deal with all reasonably expected incidents.

Public order

Our communities expect the right to move freely and to be free from the fear of becoming a victim of crime. Our ability to police public areas effectively is central to enabling our communities to feel safe and be safe.

Public order capability within the force is good as reflected by the forces ability to deal with sporting and social events throughout the year. The minimum standards for 'Keeping the Peace' and ACPO training standards are exceeded. The force has national, regional and local mobilisation plans in place, these have been tested and the force has achieved the required standard.

There are long standing arrangements and good working relationships with partners such as event organisers, three league football clubs and their staff

Strategic Roads Policing

The Constabulary is at the forefront of innovation in respect of the use of information technology to support its activities and a region wide strategy has been adopted to ensure our assets are used to the greatest effect. The development of Automatic Number Plate Recognition has made an important contribution in denying criminals the use of our roads.

Protecting Vulnerable People

In 2007 the "Vulnerable People Panel" was established to ensure that District Public Protection Unit issues were appropriately aligned within the priority setting process. The panel is chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable and attended by District Commanders

The overarching priorities of the panel are;

- to protect the lives of vulnerable people, their welfare being paramount
- to investigate all reports of abuse
- to ensure public protection matters are an established main stream policing activity
- take effective action against offenders, so that they can be held accountable through the criminal justice system
- to adopt a proactive multi agency approach to preventing and reducing abuse in all of the six Public Protection Unit (PPU) crime types
- to effectively manage risk

Avon and Somerset Constabulary are the regional operational leads on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for child protection, domestic abuse and Multi-Agency Public Protection arrangements (MAPPA).

The force Public Protection structure has a dedicated specialist unit on each Basic Command Unit (BCU) led by a Detective Inspector. These units safeguard and protect vulnerable people from all backgrounds, working closely with statutory and voluntary partners.

Firearms

We maintain a firearms commitment and have plans to develop further capability and flexibility in the next two years.

A regional working party has been established, to develop a partnership approach to regional tactics and training. This has standardised policy and procedure for deployment. Where mutual aid may be required, a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed to ensure this can be provided. These initiatives and approaches have enhanced the regions capacity for efficiency and effectiveness.

The Constabulary is also engaging with external partner agencies and has protocols in place with the NHS, the Prison Service, Port of Bristol Police, South Western Ambulance Service and Bristol International Airport.

RESOURCES

Avon and Somerset will be increasing its resourcing of Protective Services over the next two years in line with the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The Constabulary has already committed to increase its investment in protective services. A series of detailed plans underpin this approach to ensure the benefits are delivered and will be reviewed each year for effectiveness.

How to Contact Us

In an Emergency Dial '999'

An emergency is an incident which requires an IMMEDIATE police response.

- where there is danger to life or risk of injury
- where a crime is in progress
- where an offender is still at the scene or has just left it.

Non Emergencies

If you see anyone acting suspiciously or have any information relating to a crime, contact your local police station or police headquarters on:

0845 456 7000



Call anonymously with information about crime. Your call is free (when calling from a mobile phone you may be charged for the call.) You may qualify for a reward.

'Minicom' and 'Typetalk'

To assist those who are hard of hearing or speech impaired, we have installed 'Minicom' and are a registered user of 'Typetalk'.

01275 816888

Chief Officers

Chief Constable

Colin Port

District Commanders

Bristol
Assistant Chief Constable John Long

South Gloucestershire
Chief Superintendent Andy Francis

Bath & North East Somerset
Chief Superintendent Olivia Pinkney

Somerset East
Chief Superintendent Nikki Watson

Somerset West
Chief Superintendent Sandy Padgett

North Somerset
Chief Superintendent Kay Wozniak



Police Authority

- This plan is the Avon and Somerset Police Authority's Policing Plan
- The Police Authority's principal duty is 'to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for its area'.
- The Police Authority is responsible for setting local policing objectives (in addition to national objectives set by the Home Secretary) and for approving the Policing Plan.
- The plan is also available on audiotape and in a range of other languages.
- For further information, copies of plans, or to submit a query through our web-site, please contact us:

Telephone: **01275 816377** Fax: **01275 816388**

Web site: **www.aspola.org.uk**

Police website services now available on-line

- Latest news and appeals for information
- On-line information centre with answers to frequently asked questions
- Secure Crimestoppers contact form
- Dynamic local information pages by postcode
- Interactive police station mapping service
- Latest job vacancies
- Sign up to our free e-mail bulletin service
- Contact us electronically

All this and more at

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk