Police and Crime Panel Update – 24 November 2023

The Agenda and papers for this meeting can be found at
https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=650&MId=11074&Ver=4.
I have only made comments where I feel they can be useful; the remainder of the agenda
can be taken as read.

HMICFRS Update

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Richard Ocone gave a presentation on the
Inspectorate's improvement Plan, the substance of which is included within the Agenda. In
summary: The Enhanced Operating Model was launched on 6 June. A contract was signed
for Niche (core records management system) which will go live April 2025. This will provide
efficiency and operational improvements by releasing personnel from record keeping. There
have been a number of inspections the results of which will be published soon.

At the last inspection 5 causes of concern were identified:
1. Failures in recording domestic abuse, behavioural crime, and anti-social behaviour
2. Inconsistent application of THRIVE risk assessment and absence of victim needs
   assessments
3. Absence of adequate financial plans
4. Unable to manage demand effectively
5. Inadequate call taking capacity, capability and processing

Of these concerns, four have been discharged while the fifth relating to call taking has been
partially discharged, as the call abandonment rate (currently 40.45%) is not yet within
acceptable levels (described as being in the high 20th percentile).

Further information relating to the other concerns can be found within the agenda. In
summary the improvements are:
- GOOD Force Management System grade
- 97.65% Crime Data Integrity accuracy
- 86.5% of 999 calls answered with 7.6 seconds
- 38 of 46 Victim Service Assessment measures adopted
- Improved performance in arrests, attendance times, and solved cases (14% is
  apparently acceptable)

Antisocial use of E-scooters and e-bikes

- At least 33 e-scooters have been seized in the past 12 months
- Pursuit tactics are not as effective because riders are often not wearing protection
  and the risks of harm to the rider and the public are very high
- Neighbourhood Teams are making plans relating to criminal use of e-scooters and e-
  bikes (Operation Endurance 2)

Violence against Women and Girls

There is an upward trend - however it was noted that increased victim confidence along with
improved crime data recording can be considered to account for at least a portion of this.
The new permanent data system went live in May 2022 and the Constabulary is very
confident in the accuracy of its data - Assistant Chief Constable Richard Ocone remarked
that he viewed the apparent increase in VIAWG as a positive indication of the accuracy of
the statistics.

Draft Police and Crime Prevention Plan Update

The Panel noted the update received from the Commissioner, which is included within the agenda. The draft plan is yet to be published and is due to go through further revision. In summary, the Plan currently consists of six Priorities:

1: Creating safer communities
2: Tackling Violence against Women and Girls
3: Strengthening the Constabulary
4: Targeting the causes of crime
5: Supporting victims and reducing reoffending
6: Empowering local communities

Chief Executive's Report

The Report was taken as read. The Chief Executive wanted to highlight the following:
1. A spike in complaints in May have skewed the complaints statistics. These complaints were related to a lobbying campaign over hunting.
2. A number of vacant posts have been filled.
3. Funding totalling over £1,000,000 has been made available to Gloucestershire through the Safer Streets 5; these funds will be used to tackle Violence against Women and Girls, antisocial behaviour, and rural, heritage, and wildlife crime.

The Chief Executive also informed the panel that the lease on Nightingale Court at Cirencester is due to expire next year. A further agreement will be made soon, as there is an appetite to continue its use as a nightingale court. No plans for the longer term have been made as yet.

Cllr George Porter