

Annex A – Police and Crime Commissioner Review (PCC) Review Part Two: Recommendations

Part Two of the PCC Review provided an opportunity to ensure that PCCs have the ability to work across the Criminal Justice System to cut crime, drugs misuse and antisocial behaviour, whilst continuing to strengthen their accountability to the public. The full list of the recommendations from Part Two is below. Any recommendations that require primary legislation will be implemented when parliamentary time allows.

Offender Management

We want to see greater PCC involvement in the management of offenders and to improve how PCCs and the Probation Service work together, given their shared priorities. The Home Office will therefore:

- Legislate to introduce a new reciprocal duty for PCCs and Regional Probation Directors to consult one another when developing priorities for their Policing and Crime Plans and Regional Reducing Reoffending Plans respectively, and to introduce a duty for them to collaborate, where appropriate.
- Work with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to develop guidance on the co-commissioning of services by Regional Probation Directors and PCCs.
- Encourage HMPPS and the APCC develop a memorandum of understanding on the relevant data to support the reduction of reoffending, to provide confidence in local data sharing.
- Work with the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS to produce guidance on the PCC role in unpaid work, including how they work with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to canvass community views on opportunities for unpaid work. This builds on the new statutory duty being placed on the Probation Service through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to consult PCCs when designing and delivering unpaid work schemes.

Crime and Justice Partnerships

We want to give PCCs the levers to bring together criminal justice partners to effectively tackle crime, antisocial behaviour (ASB) and drugs misuse. Therefore, the Home Office will:

- Work with the Ministry of Justice and other criminal justice partners that sit on Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) to develop options for legislation to put these boards on a statutory footing. This will include defining the role of the PCC as Chair and setting out the expected membership (including the Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and the Probation Service). We will do this in a way which fully respects and recognises the independence of these partners. To underpin this, the Home Office will work with the Ministry of Justice to strengthen supporting guidance on LCJBs.
- Update the existing Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) guidance to provide greater clarity on the role of the PCC within the VRU, including the role they should play in chairing the VRU governance board and providing strategic direction. This

guidance should also recommend the identification of a dedicated VRU liaison officer within the office of the PCC.

- Consider moving away from one-year funding cycles for VRU towards multi-year funding following the 2022/23 Spending Review. Longer-term funding certainty could allow greater development of preventative strategies and instill greater confidence in partners around the longevity of VRUs.
- Undertake a full review of CSPs to initially improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, before assessing their position within the wider landscape of local partnerships across England and Wales.
- Through the review of CSPs, consider introducing a new duty for CSPs to report on local ASB strategy and delivery to PCCs and legislating to set out the PCC role in the ASB Community Trigger process.
- Amend the core PCC guidance (in development following Part One of the Review) and share existing good practice to help PCCs understand how they can leverage strong local partnerships to tackle drug misuse and supply, in conjunction with the APCC and National Police Chiefs' Council.
- Clarify the existing legislation on PCC representation on local government committees, in order to facilitate greater collaboration between PCCs, local government leaders (including combined authority mayors) and Local Enterprise Partnerships. To support this, the Home Office will develop guidance to help facilitate closer engagement between PCCs and those charged with responsibility for economic regeneration within the core PCC guidance.

Public Confidence

We want to help PCCs to work with their local communities to foster greater public confidence in the police. The Home Office will:

- Encourage the College of Policing to work with the APCC to assess what enables PCCs to build public confidence and engage communities, highlighting what works, and include this evidence within the 'what works' compendium (a recommendation from Part One of the PCC Review).
- Amend the core PCC Guidance to reflect the PCC role in securing and maintaining public confidence in policing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. The guidance will outline the importance of, and provide advice on, the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account for their responsibility to understand and act to build public confidence. We will also set out how PCCs should reach out and engage diverse communities across their local area, in order to help close the confidence gap.

Data

Data sharing between PCCs and criminal justice agencies can be difficult and inconsistent, acting as a barrier to agencies tackling local issues collectively and blocking PCCs from assessing the performance of their local force within the criminal justice landscape. To remove these barriers, the Home Office will:

- Support PCCs to secure effective policing in their area by working with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

and wider criminal justice partners to improve the quality of, and PCC access to, performance information against the National Crime and Policing Measures.

- Support PCCs to secure an efficient police force in their area by working with HMICFRS and the wider policing sector to develop a police efficiency dataset and improve their ability to interpret differences between forces to help drive efficiencies.
- Support the College of Policing to hold regular learning and development events that support the development of analytical capability and data literacy within PCCs' offices.
- Work with the Ministry of Justice, the Information Commissioner's Office, and other criminal justice partners to develop national guidance on data sharing between criminal justice partners, including PCCs. At a local level, this will be reinforced by work led by the APCC and supported by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, to bring together good practice examples of local data sharing. These examples will be used by the APCC and the Government to develop a template memorandum of understanding for local data sharing between local partners.

Police and Crime Panels

We want to ensure that PCCs are scrutinised effectively and consistently on behalf of their communities, by driving up the standard of scrutiny applied to them by Police and Crime Panels. To make these improvements, the Home Office will:

- Work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh LGA (WLGA) to improve the process for recruiting and retaining independent members, to build upon the knowledge and expertise that independent members bring to panels, help boost interest in the role and enhance the calibre and diversity of those individuals.
- Work with the LGA and WLGA to develop and assess options for how a regional panel support secretariat could work within the existing grant funding envelope, to improve professionalism, quality and consistency of support and research for panels by support officers.

Complaints

It is important that the public can complain about their PCC if needed and know that their complaint will be handled effectively and consistently. The Home Office will further consider the processes for how complaints of criminal misconduct are handled, and the scope to align a new code of conduct with the regime for mayors and councillors in local government. This will also consider how to address the problems of vexatious and political motivated complaints, especially those which stem from disagreements with the political views of the Commissioner, or complaints which are nothing to do with policing.