

Community Policing Briefing

Messages for use during the election and pre-election period (up to and including 17 May 2016)



Prepared by: Clare Mills

Date: 10 March 2016

The pilot for Community Policing commenced on 14 September 2015. The officers and staff who took part gave their feedback and views throughout the pilot period. A recent evaluation has shown that generally the pilot was well received.

The decision has therefore been made to consult with officers and staff across the rest of the Force area on any potential changes to roles and shift patterns, gain wider views and feedback on the proposed model, and scope what a full roll-out across the county could look like.

The wider feedback from this period of consultation will be shared with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Senior Command Team at a meeting scheduled for 17 May 2016. Further to the meeting in May, full engagement will take place with the communities of Wiltshire and Swindon

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Police and Crime Plan for Wiltshire and Swindon 2015 – 2017 sets out very clearly the strategic priorities for Wiltshire Police, and one of those priorities is to secure high quality, efficient and trusted services. A specific activity in the plan is to:

“commence, by September 2015 a pilot that creates a single local policing, response and investigations team. This will provide one team with the responsibility for all aspects of an investigation.”
- As we continue to move through a period of unprecedented austerity, it is ever more important that we are innovative and creative in the way we provide our policing services within the county
- The initial evaluation has suggested that the Community Policing pilot could deliver a more efficient, effective and streamlined service to the public through a ‘one team’ approach to policing local areas.
- Neighbourhood Policing is a core part of our proposed community policing teams. Local officers will be policing local communities – dealing with local issues. The introduction of larger Community Policing teams means that we would be broadening the size of local teams to include our response officers and investigators, giving the public a more visible and accessible police presence in their local areas
- With the introduction of improved technology, our officers and staff will be able to be out of police stations and in their local communities more
- The public expect that we operate in the most efficient and streamlined way, taking into account what is important to local communities
- The pilot has been running since September and was built upon 18 months of data gathering which included a large element of public consultation. During this consultation the public told us they saw the role of Wiltshire Police as ‘to keep me safe and protect my community’ through local,

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community based visible and accessible policing services – upon which the pilot model was built

- By introducing a Community Policing concept, we anticipate that this will deliver an even better service to the public because issues can potentially be resolved at the first point of contact (101 and 999 call-takers). A member of public will be provided with a named officer who they will be able to keep in touch with during the investigation.

A: Neighbourhood Policing is a core part of our proposed community policing teams. Local officers will be policing local communities – dealing with local issues. The introduction of larger Community Policing teams means that we would be broadening the size of local teams to include our response officers and investigators. This means we would introduce a ‘one team’ approach to the policing of local areas with officers assigned to beat areas and tasked in line with our operational priorities, and the priorities within those local communities.

Q. Does this mean there will be fewer officers on the streets?

A: No. We remain committed to continuing to provide strong community policing and giving the public a visible and accessible police presence in their local areas. In fact with the introduction of larger more cohesive Community Policing teams, this would mean we would be broadening our local policing teams to include response officers and investigators. Furthermore, with the introduction of improved technology, this will enable our officers and staff to be out of police stations and in their local communities so they can be more visible.

Q. Is this being done to save money? How will it save money?

A: The aim of the new model is to improve service. However, it is realistic to acknowledge that as we, alongside all public services, continue to face austerity the public would expect us to ensure we are operating in the most efficient and streamlined way, taking into account what is important to local communities. A new Community Policing model would, initial evaluation has indicated, provide a more

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. What does this mean for Neighbourhood Policing Teams? Are you ‘doing away’ with them?

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efficient and effective service which maintains our focus on community policing.

Q. What feedback have you had from the public about the pilot? Have we asked the public what they want?

A: The pilot has been running since September 2015 and was built upon 18 months of data gathering which included a large element of public consultation. During this consultation, the public told us they saw the role of Wiltshire Police as 'to keep me safe and protect my community' through local, community based, visible and accessible policing services – upon which the pilot model was built. We are now in the process of consulting more widely with our officers and staff to gain views and opinions, and discuss any potential changes. The Force and the Commissioner will be commencing further public engagement at the end of May

Q. What differences will the public see under this new model? Why is it better than the old way of working?

A: With the introduction of larger more cohesive Community Policing teams, this would mean we would be broadening our local policing teams to include response officers and investigators. Furthermore, with the introduction of improved technology, this will enable our officers and staff to be out of police stations and in their local communities so they can be more visible.

We anticipate that this proposed new model will deliver an even better service to the public because issues can potentially be resolved at the first point of contact (101 and 999 call-takers). A member of public will be provided

with a named officer who they will be able to keep in touch with during the investigation.

The pilot was built upon 18 months of data gathering which included a large element of public consultation. During this consultation, the public told us they saw the role of Wiltshire Police as 'to keep me safe and protect my community' through local, community based, visible and accessible policing services – upon which the pilot model was built.

Q. Is the current Commissioner supportive of this approach?

A: The Police and Crime Plan for Wiltshire and Swindon sets out clearly the strategic priorities for Wiltshire Police. Once the consultation is completed (which is expected to be some time after the PCC elections in May) a decision on wider roll-out will be taken by the Commissioner, having listened to the professional advice of the Chief Constable.