

## **THE TRANSITION FROM POLICE AUTHORITIES TO POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

**Welcome to the third edition of our Transition newsletter which is one of a series of regular updates to keep you informed about the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012**

**Margaret Ollerenshaw**  
Chairman



### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **LONDON**

In London, the new arrangements have been introduced early. The powers of a Police and Crime Commissioner go to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime was established on 16 January 2012 which is led by the Deputy Mayor, Kit Malthouse. In Cheshire, we will look to see what lessons can be learnt from London going early in order to inform our own transition work.

### **HOME OFFICE PARTNER ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

A national series of Home Office roadshows designed to kickstart the dialogue about the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioners visited Cheshire in January.

The meeting in Crewe was only the second in a national tour and involved police authorities and their partners from across Cheshire, Merseyside and Staffordshire.

The roadshow brought together police authority staff, police officers and partner agencies, to help them gain an insight into what the PCC's role will entail, how it will affect them and what needs to be done to prepare for the change. Mark Sellwood, Chief Executive said "From discussions with Home Office colleagues and others it is clear we are well placed to deliver a smooth transition to a Police and Crime Commissioner. We have established a Project Team that is being jointly led by the Deputy Chief Executive, Stephen Pickup, and Supt Andy Mitchell and have a detailed work plan. This is a big change in the history of policing and the volume of work should not be underestimated".

Supt Andy Mitchell is the PCC Transition Co-ordinator for Cheshire, and attended the roadshow. He said: "It was an opportunity for local views to be fed back to the centre to form and inform the transition process".

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Police and Crime Commissioners will be new entrants into the partnership landscape and will need to work collaboratively with other local leaders to deliver shared outcomes for the people of Cheshire. To help inform discussions about partnership working between PCCs and their community safety and criminal justice partners the Home Office has published a policy statement for partners which can be viewed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/what-partners-need-to-know?view=Binary>

## COMPLAINTS AGAINST PCCs

It is expected that PCCs and their Deputies will uphold the highest standards of public office. However, in the event that there is a complaint or an allegation against one of them, it is important that this is handled effectively to ensure public confidence in policing is maintained. Allegations of criminal behaviour against these office holders will therefore have to be referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The main reason for requiring such an allegation to be referred to the IPCC is that, otherwise, the office holder may be (or may be perceived to be) at an advantage in relation to police investigation because of his or her responsibilities for holding their police force to account. The IPCC has extensive experience of handling sensitive, complex and high profile cases and will provide independent scrutiny to the handling and investigation of allegations of criminal behaviour in this context. Where a complaint is not serious enough to require investigation by or under the management of the IPCC it will be resolved informally by the Police and Crime Panel. Regulations in relation to the above arrangements are still awaited.

## LOCAL ACTIVITY

### TRANSITION PROJECT TEAM

The Authority has had a Transition Board in place for some time and this Board is responsible for overseeing the work required to achieve a smooth transition to Police and Crime Commissioners.

The Board has now established a Transition Project Group. This Group will be responsible for delivering the workplan agreed by the Transition Board and reporting back on an exception basis. The Group will be jointly chaired by the Authority's Deputy Chief Executive and the Constabulary's Transition Co-ordinator and will comprise representatives of Constabulary Departments responsible for delivering aspects of the transition.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Home Secretary has recently written to all local authorities with details of the timetables she expects to be followed in establishing Panels. The Panel must be appointed by July 2012. Regulations in respect of the Panel are still awaited and are anticipated in March 2012. In Cheshire, Warrington Borough Council will be responsible for establishing the Panel and early discussions have begun to take place between the Police Authority and Warrington Borough Council about this work.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Further information on Police and Crime Commissioners can be found on  
Cheshire Police Authority's website: [cheshirepa.police.uk](http://cheshirepa.police.uk)  
or on the Home Office website: [home.office.gov.uk](http://home.office.gov.uk)**

**[www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk)**