

Public Forum, Weston super Mare – 20 June 2017
Q&A Notes

Q: Every third Thursday the Bobby van visits Clevedon and it is a great opportunity for people to talk to officers and gather useful information. A request – if the police say they are going to be there please ensure, where possible, that you are there?

A: Constabulary are pleased that this is working well in the main and the request is noted and will be passed on to the Neighbourhood Team.

Q: More uniformed support required to assist Hutton Community Speed Watch? The Speed watch team are receiving abuse and uniformed support would be helpful.

A: The PCC and the Chief Constable acknowledged the contribution of volunteers. Neighbourhood policing teams will be tasked to support the speed watch teams where they can. The Constabulary have mobile camera units that can be deployed to target specific areas. Abuse should be reported with noted driving licence plate details. There may be capacity for the Special Constabulary to assist with uniformed presence.

Q: Fly tipping is an issue in Hutton – can Neighbourhood policing teams patrol the areas?

A: Information should be fed into the North Somerset Council's Community Response officers so that action can be taken.

Q: Concern that a member of the public did not get an incident number when contacting 101. Incident number was required to pass onto the housing association?

A: The Constabulary confirmed that you should always receive an incident reference number when reporting an incident.

Q: Housing association enforcement officers are finding it difficult to get police officers or PCSO's to support them?

A: The Constabulary advised that the Housing Authorities have the powers regarding tenants and the police should only be called if a situation escalates and becomes violent. The Constabulary are working with councils and housing associations on a one team approach to data sharing.

Q: A Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator (NHW) wanted to thank the PCC for running a very good campaign on sexting and promoting Restorative Justice (RJ) which she felt was very worthwhile for victims.

A: The PCC thanked all NHW co-ordinators for their hard work. The PCC also commented that some victims feel more satisfied with the outcomes of a Restorative Justice process than by going to court and get a successful conviction. The PCC wants to encourage uptake of Restorative Justice option.

Q: How many officers are there in North Somerset?

A: The Constabulary is working hard to reduce demand and prioritise demand. There are a lot of new student officers and some transferees who have come on board over the past 12-18 months.

Q: How involved are the police with vulnerable children in schools?

A: The police are working closely with schools and officers are working on drugs and sexting issues. The PCC has also lobbied government for the curriculum to include healthy relationships education. A lot of work is being done but there is more to do and it also needs government support. The police use social media to get messages across to the young. The PCC and Constabulary are keen to do more early intervention work and to get more school funded PCSO's.

Q: A Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator from South Ward reported difficulties with the process to get a NHW scheme started and that better communications and links to other NHW schemes would make the schemes much more effective.

A: The Chief Constable thanked the co-ordinator for their support and he would look into the issues they had experienced and to make the set-up process easier. The Constabulary are also keen to build resilience, make the NHW alerts more effective and create a more joined up multi-channel access platform.

Q: The South West host a number of large events such as Glastonbury, the Harbour Festival and the Weston Air Show. It is worrying times and the visible presence of armed officers is very reassuring but how sustainable is this?

A: The Chief has great admiration for what his officers are doing and he has never known policing to be as busy as it is at the moment. The PCC and the Chief have written to all of the MPs in the South West making them aware of the issues and will fight to get the best police service they can for Avon and Somerset.

Q: How representative is the workforce of the Avon and Somerset community?

A: The ratio of men to women officers and staff is very good and the Constabulary are working hard on great representation from the LGBT communities. More work is to be done in terms of disability. In terms of BME 2 % of officers are black and 5% of PCSOs are black. The PCC has tasked the Chief Constable to reflect our communities and the Chief is the champion for this piece of work.

Q: What is happening with collaboration?

A: Today the PCC, the Chief Constable and the OPCC Chief Executive have been meeting with their South West counterparts to explore collaboration opportunities to allow forces to work more effectively and efficiently and to generate savings.

Q: Do we have enough places of safety beds for people suffering with mental health?

A: No – there are 4 beds in Bristol and 2 in Somerset. The PCC and Constabulary are working closely with health and ambulance partners to enable us to deal more appropriately with people experiencing mental health episodes. The constabulary have a mental health triage team both working in the call centre and out supporting officers. The PCC will match fund but not all CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) will match fund.