

South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership

South Devon and Dartmoor CSP
Teignbridge District Council,
Forde House,
Brunel Road,
Newton Abbot,
Devon,
TQ12 4XX

Alison Hernandez
The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner,
Alderson Drive,
Exeter,
EX2 7RP

9th October 2017

Dear Alison,

As you are aware the South Devon and Dartmoor CSP felt strongly that it would like to canvas the views of its members to feed into the Neighbourhood Policing Review.

On the 19th June the CSP held a listening event for CSP members. Thirteen representatives met and discussed Neighbourhood Policing using the methodology piloted with Police staff in South Devon. This model reviewed what the representatives considered neighbourhood policing must, should and could deliver. Another key factor of this meeting was that members felt that other stakeholders in our CSP area had valuable contributions to make. It was therefore agreed that we would host an additional event to canvas the views of community stakeholders using the same model. This meeting was held at South Hams District Council on the 7th July and 46 delegates attended.

The outcomes from the two listening events were then presented to the CSP in a report (attached as Appendix one). At that meeting it was agreed that I would write to you with a summary of our views.

We made every effort whilst promoting and hosting the events to emphasise that we wanted to gather views on what were the most effective elements of Neighbourhood Policing and some excellent conversations occurred. However, it is important that I express the consensus view that a reduction in PCSOs would be dangerous and we urge you to reconsider planned reductions to 150 PCSOs.

The CSP members in July also asked me to share with you what they felt to be the most valued elements of neighbourhood policing -

- Intelligence gathering and engagement in multi-agency processes such as MACSE, Early Help and Prevent
- The importance of maintaining a rural presence to reassure the community
- Links to young people and education
- Use of well supported volunteers including the Special Constabulary
- The importance of being clear in the multi-agency context about who is doing what and how to make contact

All CSP partners were also clear that they have a role to play in community safety for neighbourhoods and would like to be involved in discussions about how things may be able to be delivered differently. It was strongly felt that any decision to cease functions in neighbourhood policing would have to be considered in the context of the impact it may have on partner agencies and reciprocal agreements that would then have to be produced.

As requested at our CSP a copy of this letter and appendix will be sent to those invited to take part in our listening events, the Chief Constable and our Members of Parliament.

We would welcome engagement throughout Operation Genesis and hope you will take our views into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Hewitt

Chair of South Devon and Dartmoor CSP

Cc Shaun Sawyer, Chief Constable

Cc Anne Marie Morris MP

Cc Dr Wollaston MP

Cc Gary Streeter MP

Cc Geoffrey Cox MP

Cc Mel Stride MP