

Partnership Briefing – Police Governance in November 2012

What is happening?

Following the passing of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be elected in November 2012 with an overseeing scrutiny Police and Crime Panel. These two bodies will replace current Police Authorities. One person, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), will be elected on 15 November 2012 to oversee Surrey Police. This person will have the largest electorate in the county.

The functions of the PCC will be similar to that of the current Police Authority: to set the police budget and raise precept; to set the strategic plan for policing in Surrey; to hire, fire and appraise the Chief Constable; to consult with communities on their priorities for policing; to investigate complaints against senior officers. PCCs will also have governance of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and hold Community Safety budgets. They will not get involved in operational policing matters.

How will this affect community safety partners Surrey?

- **County and Borough/ District Councils** – the PCC will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel. The panel scrutinises the PCC (not the Chief Constable) and can vote against decisions such as the precept level, priorities set for policing and hiring of the Chief Constable. The Panel will be made up of representatives for each of the 12 councils in Surrey and 2 independent members. Papers on panel representation and constitution will be going to all councils between April and June 2012.
- **Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)** – the PCC will hold all the funding for CSPs and wider responsibilities for community safety than the current Police Authority.
- **Voluntary sector** – the PCC will affect voluntary organisations currently funded by PCCs e.g. domestic abuse funding. In future, funding will be direct from the PCC
- **Other councils and organisations** – you will be able to contact the PCC about your priorities and concerns. The PCC may also issue grants for specific projects if those projects will meet the aims set out by the PCC.

What can partners do to prepare?

- Be aware of the emerging Police and Crime Panel and who in your local council might become a member of the panel.
- Request or attend a briefing – Police Authority officers have carried out briefings with all CSPs and to councils members and officer groups where asked. If you would like a briefing on new governance arrangements please do contact the Authority on the details below.
- SPA is holding a partnership conference on 23rd May 2012 to bring together partner working on the changes. If you wish to attend please contact us.
- Start thinking about how your services would fit with a PCC's priorities and how you can demonstrate value for money, particularly if in future your funding will be from the PCC.

How can I find out more?

Surrey Police Authority's website includes an update on PCCs <http://www.surreypa.gov.uk/pcc/>. On this web page you can also find a link to a Home Office publication on what partners need to know about PCCs.

If you wish to speak to any SPA officers about transition please contact Sarah Haywood or Johanna Burne on 01483 630200 or at spa@surrey.police.uk