



COMMISSIONER'S DIARY

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

13 January 2016

Introduction

This report sets out a summary of the commitments I have undertaken since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 2 December 2015. I write a weekly blog which provides a brief overview for the public of what I have been up to. This is published on my website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk) and the content of these blogs is copied below for the Panel's information.

I'M PLEASED COMMUNITY POLICING IS HIGH ON THE CHIEF'S AGENDA

Monday 2 November

I was very pleased to host a victims' event at Devizes Town Hall today. The objective of the day was to get all partners who work with victims to share best practice and look for opportunities to improve the experience for victims. More than 12 organisations were represented and I was particularly pleased that a victim known as Elizabeth was able to attend and speak to us. Her experience put into context everything we were talking about during the day and made us concentrate on the realities rather than the politics.

Today was also Yvonne Maunder's last day in the office; she is leaving for a well-earned retirement. Yvonne has worked in the criminal justice system for 20 years and was certainly an asset to my office, particularly in establishing the relationships with other agencies in the criminal justice system.

Back in the office, I had a briefing on stop and search legislation which is one of the regular monthly updates. I also had a meeting with the chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Richard Britton.

No Monday would be complete without a briefing from my finance officer, Clive Barker, and today was no exception.

Tuesday 3 November

An 8am meeting at Dauntsey's school with the audit and risk committee which was very convenient as the police senior command team are meeting close by in Potterne so I was able to join them for their briefing. We spent the morning looking at how the money is spent by the chief constable, and how it might be better allocated. This was with the community policing pilot in mind, which is currently being tested in Trowbridge and Warminster with, I'm told, promising results. I was pleased to hear this conversation as it demonstrated to me that community policing is high on the chief's delivery agenda. As you may know I'm distressed by other chiefs talking about how they think community policing and the work done by police community support officers is dispensable.

Wednesday 4 November

This morning we have set up my marquee in Marlborough market. Parking seems to be a main concern, a theme which many people have spoken to me about at many of the markets

I have been to over the last couple of months.

In the afternoon I went to the Swindon Borough Council health and wellbeing board at which the mental health concordat was discussed and I was particularly interested in the development of a homeless strategy. Additionally, we considered reports of restorative youth services, the children's and young people's joint strategic needs assessment and a report from Healthwatch Swindon. I am very pleased that the borough council has included the homeless strategy on the agenda as there is a link between homelessness and crime and this really does form part of the wellbeing section of the committee.

In the evening, I went to listen to Kate Adie speak at a Mercers' Lecture at Dauntsey's school. She is someone who I've only ever seen providing short TV news reports. She spoke very eloquently for an hour and a half, without notes, on her experiences as a journalist in some of the more troubled regions of the world. She is undoubtedly an expert in her field and I can now understand why she speaks with such feeling.



At Marlborough market



At Marlborough market

Thursday 5 November

I was up early this morning to catch a train to London to attend an event hosted by the Police Federation at the BT Tower. This was a good networking session but I have to say that, like so many occasions when police and crime commissioners are in the same room, it is dominated by the approach of the PCC elections in 2016. Speakers included Louise Casey, the Director General of Troubled Families, and Vera Baird, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.



During the day there was news that Chief Constable Mike Veale would like to extend the operational policing pilot, and whilst it is early days as far as evaluation is concerned, it appears to be worthy of further examination.

Friday 6 November

This morning Mr Veale and I are holding one of our joint meetings with the National Farmers' Union (NFU), and the Country Land and Business Association. This was held at Marshwood Farm in Dinton, just outside Salisbury. During the course of our meeting we discussed rural crime, hare coursing and police procedures for traffic collisions in the countryside. In what developed into a wide-ranging discussion I was able to set in some context the budgeting surrounding Wiltshire Police in the future. One of the issues raised at the meeting concerned schemes offered in some parts of the country where organisations can buy a police service. I do not think it is healthy for individual organisations to have the ability to "buy" additional policing and certainly believe that we should have consistency of service right across the police areas. I understand the financial pressures that might make this seem attractive but it is not something that I want to have to explore in Wiltshire.

Back in the office, I met Teresa Russ, who used to work for Wiltshire Council's youth offending team. She is now a victim liaison volunteer and involved in restorative justice. Restorative justice is about bringing together the offender and victim in order to give them the opportunity to meet to understand the circumstance of the offence and receive an apology from the offender. In this instance, the offender has damaged some police cars in the county for which I am the owner. The meeting was to explore whether a restorative justice conference was an appropriate way to bring closure to the event. It was interesting to go through the process which many people throughout the county may be offered at some time or another.

In the evening, I attended a political party event before ending another busy week.

Sunday 8 November

Today I attended the remembrance service at Dauntsey's school. The school community was addressed by a retired naval officer who was able to give firsthand experience of conflict and the effect that it had on his life and the lives of families who have been left bereaved. Whilst we always remember those whose names are on the nation's war memorials, we should also remember those who served our country and were left physically wounded, carrying the horrors of war with them.

WITNESSING THE PRIDE OF NEW OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Monday 9 November

Tim Mason runs the crime reduction and community safety strategy board and came to Devizes HQ to talk about the proposed agenda for a meeting later this month. Having looked in detail at what we were going to speak about and the attendance that was expected we decided to postpone the meeting.

I had a briefing before the main event of the day: the commissioner's monitoring board. We talked about the regional programme and strategic alliance work, crime recording compliance, our work with local authorities, in particular a request for financing from the Swindon board and our estate costs with Wiltshire Council. We also had a good health and safety report about the collaboration we are doing with Avon & Somerset Police. I have

asked that the constabulary look at joint working with Avon & Somerset to see if we can give more support to our Community Speed Watch volunteers.

Readers may remember that the Force was criticised by an industrial tribunal for its dealings with one of our black officers and I am very pleased that I have now had an opportunity to see the work that is being done on the diversity strategy. This programme will be worked on for a number of months, but it is clear that comments have been taken on board by Chief Constable Mike Veale for work in the future. I have also asked members of my staff to look at recruitment campaigns as we need to make sure that we are showing no bias in how advertisements are worded or presented.

The campaign for my re-election is beginning to build up and so this evening I had a meeting in Salisbury to start talking about some of that, but it is still a long way off.

Tuesday 10 November

This morning we set up in Corsham market and were very pleased to be met throughout the morning by a number of officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. These events work better when neighbourhood officers and police community support officers join us because most of what people want to share with me are operational matters that can be dealt with there and then by officers. However, it gives me an opportunity to listen to concerns raised by the public although my overarching memory was of a satisfied community who felt safe.



Sgt Ronnie Lungu, PCSO Shaun Redmond and me at Corsham market

Wednesday 11 November

A weekly update with my communications team was followed by a service of remembrance at 11am outside police HQ. This was led by the Force's chaplain Reverend Dr Richard Armitage. I was asked to read the names of those who fell in war which are on our memorial inside the building. It was a sombre and moving service and I was very pleased that a member of the Wiltshire Police band was able to join us and play the Last Post.

After the service I made my way to Dilton Marsh where I was invited to lunch at the local primary school. Four students prepare and cook lunch and then show the visitors around the playground. Lunch was excellent, as was the conversation with the young people who had prepared it. Their enthusiasm for the school and everything that goes on there is very inspiring. I came away knowing a lot more about what was taught in each of the classes and the in-school and after-school activities that take place, including the school garden which was very impressive.

In the afternoon I went to Warminster to the launch of Safe Places held at the Civic Centre. Safe Places is continuing to be rolled out across the county with the support of local communities and I am very pleased that Warminster have joined with such enthusiasm. We were able to meet a number of potential users of the scheme who were also at the launch. In the evening, I attended a Wiltshire Magistrates Association meeting. We heard from a guest speaker, Noel "Razor" Smith. Noel has spent over three decades in prison for an armed robbery. During the course of his last sentence, he spent more than five years in cognitive group therapy at HMP Grendon in Buckinghamshire. Grendon opened in the 1960s as an experimental psychiatric prison to provide treatment for prisoners with anti-social personality disorders.

He gave a fascinating talk about his life and really optimised the type of person for whom there were no choices. Noel has written a number of books on his life and when I got home I ordered a copy. I hope that I will get the opportunity to hear him again in Wiltshire.



At the Warminster Safe Places launch

Thursday 12 November

In the morning, I went to a governors' meeting at Dauntsey's school followed by my quarterly meeting with the Police Federation.

I spent the evening with the Filling Station, a charity which provides meals for homeless people, in Swindon.

Friday 13 November

A cold and wet day at Chippenham market, but the important thing was that we were accessible to the public.

On the way back to HQ I visited a local charity called Helping Hands of Domestic Violence. Back in Devizes I was privileged to attend the passing out ceremony for new police officers. These ceremonies are always a proud time for officers who have finished their classroom training and for their families who support them today and will continue to support them in the future. I am very pleased that Wiltshire Police are still recruiting and training officers given the recent uncertainty over funding.



At Chippenham market with PCSO Collins and PCSO Brown



Mike Veale and me with 14 new police officers

Saturday 14 November

I attended the Diwali celebration by Swindon Tamil Association at the Phoenix Theatre, New College. I have been going to these for many years now and have seen a lot of the dancers and performers grow from young children to adults. The Tamil Association works hard to celebrate their culture whilst being active citizens in Swindon. The celebrations started after lunch and I returned home at around 9pm. As well as seeing many styles of dance and music, we were also treated to excellent food and hospitality.

POLICE CADETS JOIN ME FOR THE TAKEOVER CHALLENGE

Monday 16 November

A day of meetings today, the first appointment was at 8am with the Chief Finance Officer, Clive Barker. This regular meeting is to look at spending by the Force and my office. This morning merged seamlessly into a meeting with Dan O'Brien, the political reporter of BBC Wiltshire at which we discussed the impending Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and the implications for police funding. I think it is worthwhile to give Dan an insight into various bits of information that we require to decide precepts and resourcing levels for next year. The announcement of the CSR and funding for policing will not be made until the end of the month, but we already know that the tragic events in Paris over the weekend will have some bearing on the announcement in two weeks' time.

Sir Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, is visiting us today and it was a pleasure to meet him with Wendy Williams, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Wales and Western Region. This meeting was to discuss a specific case with Sir Tom, but I very much enjoyed the wider conversation we were able to have about inspections of the Force. I



have asked Sir Tom to consider making a specific inspection in relation to our safeguarding procedures and look forward to hearing from him in due course.

At 11am the Force, and our HMIC visitors, gathered outside HQ to remember those who lost their lives in Paris on Friday night.

In the afternoon I had two further meetings, the first on mental health and the second on the performance of the Force, which is monitored at a meeting which is attended by my office.

Tuesday 17 November

Today we are holding a public consultation in Salisbury market. This is one of the busier markets in the county and it is a very good place to meet not only the public of Salisbury but those from the outlying villages.

Local issues were raised but I was pleased that the closure of the custody unit in the city was not an issue that caused concern. Generally, the provision of policing with a front counter at Bourne Hill seems to be meeting the needs of the city.

At lunchtime I met David Lewis, Assistant Chief Constable of Dorset Police, to discuss some of the regional work we are doing and he was seeking my views on the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) for the South West.

Back to County Hall in Trowbridge for a brief meeting to discuss the expansion of Community Messaging before a meeting with Wiltshire public service board. This board has wide representation and we were given updates on welfare reform, universal credit, housing, Wiltshire devolution proposals and Wiltshire's response to the Syrian refugee crisis. I was very pleased to see that groups including Wiltshire Police, the NHS and Department for Work and Pensions were meeting together to see what response the county could give. I don't think that Wiltshire or indeed the individual towns can respond to all 20,000 refugees who will be seeking homes in this country but I am sure that we can extend facilities to support an appropriate number.

Wednesday 18 November

Today a meeting is being held in Bridgwater in Somerset of the South West's Police and Crime Commissioners. The agenda included presentations on video-enabled courts, Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) and an update on STORM (the Force's system for logging incidents). We also received updates on the regional approach to IT and human resources as well as the regional approach we will be making to next year's innovation fund.

In the afternoon, we looked at performance papers, especially projects in which we are all involved. Actually, it would be more accurate to say in which some of us are involved as there are few projects that all five forces in the region are involved in. We did have updates on Tri-Force, specialist operations, Brunel major crime collaboration, regional crime unit, South West forensics and Black Rock (our new firearms training centre) which will be open in a couple of weeks. I have to say the meeting remained constructive and positive throughout which was pleasing.

Thursday 19 November

Today is the Children's Commissioner's takeover challenge day during which I am being helped in my role by two police cadets Taya and Oliver.

We started the day by meeting Councillor David Renard, the leader of Swindon Borough Council, and I am greatly indebted to him for allowing Taya and Oliver to be present at the meeting. They joined me on a visit to the dog section and to the control centre, as well as the firearms section at HQ. It gave them an opportunity to ask questions of the operational officers and me an opportunity to visit some of the teams which I have been unable to do for some time.

In the afternoon, we attended a launch for Splitz in Trowbridge. Splitz is a registered charity delivering support services to women (predominantly) and young people experiencing the trauma of domestic abuse.

In the evening, the two cadets joined me at Cumberwell Golf Club, near Bradford on Avon, for the Force awards ceremony. Awards were given for long service and good conduct. In addition, Chief Constable commendations, Chief Constable certificates of merit, and Chief Constable certificates of appreciation were presented by the Vice Lord Lieutenant Lord Lansdowne and the High Sheriff of Wiltshire Lady Gooch. It was a nice touch by the organisers to include Taya and Oliver as distinguished guests at the occasion. They were picked up at about 9pm and I think they had a good 12 hours experience of the life of a PCC.



Mike Veale and me with police cadets Taya and Oliver

Friday 20 November

I had a private meeting at Gloucestershire Police HQ in the morning and returned to Devizes for a meeting with Splash to review performance and discuss future plans. It was good to see the amalgamation of Splash with Community First is working well. The day finished with a meeting with the chair of the audit committee where we ensured that actions from the last meeting have been put in place and we discussed the agenda for the next meeting. In the evening, I attended a political dinner at the De Vere hotel in Swindon.

Then a free weekend.

HOME SECRETARY OPENS TRI-FORCE POLICE SPECIALIST TRAINING CENTRE

Monday 23 November

Community Messaging has been going since 2014 and, as of today, we have 7,359 people signed up to the system. Community Messaging was initially launched in four areas in August 2014, it then began to be gradually rolled out across the county with all areas live in February 2015.

I am very keen that it develops as Community Messaging and not police messaging. I was very pleased to have a meeting with Swindon Borough Council to try to persuade them to



join up. This follows a meeting I had recently with Wiltshire and Swindon councils and I hope that both will see the benefit of joining a robust scheme.

Back at HQ I had a briefing ahead of the commissioner's monitoring board which started at 2pm. We discussed the strategic alliance, the work of the regional commissioning board and our work with Wiltshire Council.

Tomorrow and Wednesday is the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) partnership summit in Manchester so after the commissioner's monitoring board, at around 4pm, I headed north.

Tuesday 24 November

I haven't been to Manchester for many years. The APCC & NPCC summit event is being held in the town hall which is very close to the hotel I have been staying in. It is a fantastic building and I am very glad it has survived renewal in the 1960s. The impressive clock tower is now dwarfed by a high-rise building.

The first day was taken up with plenary events, one entitled Changing Threat and the other Changing Response with breakout sessions on information technology, child sexual abuse and the Peelian principles. The Peelian principles summarise the ideas that Sir Robert Peel, founder of the modern police force, developed to define an ethical service.

In the evening, we were invited to a dinner in the great hall where we had met during the day. The guest speaker was my old friend Lord Wasserman.

The autumn statement from the Chancellor will be released tomorrow and there has been much anguish amongst the PCCs as we debate what tomorrow will bring.

Wednesday 25 November

The second day started with a presentation from MP Jack Dromey, Shadow Minister for Policing, and then a plenary session: Inspiring Confidence in the Face of Change. This brought together a panel including Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer (Queen's Police Medal), Dame Anne Owers (**Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire**), Julia Mulligan (PCC for North Yorkshire), Steve White, chair of the Police Federation and Dr Jane Martin (Local Government Ombudsman).

I was in a breakout session chaired by Dorset PCC Martyn Underhill entitled Mental Health Policing and Partnerships whilst the chancellor was on his feet giving the autumn statement. I suppose it was a clue that a loud cheer was heard from the main hall when he announced that there will be no new cuts to policing. I am sure that it is all good news for Wiltshire Police, but of course we won't know the final detail until nearer Christmas when the actual Home Office settlement to Wiltshire and other forces is announced. However, it did raise the spirits of the chief constables and PCCs at the conference. The journey back on the train was made more enjoyable as I had the company of our Assistant Chief Constable Kier Pritchard.

Thursday 26 November

The Force organises breakfast meetings with guest speakers. This morning the speaker was Jasvinder Sanghera who gave a fascinating talk about her experiences with honour-based abuse and forced marriages and how the police should approach these issues.

I was very pleased that she gave me a copy of her book *Daughters of Shame*. She is very inspiring and, like so many who can speak from personal experience, very informative, especially for those of us who live in Wiltshire where multi-culturalism is still relatively new. I am very pleased that Jasvinder had the opportunity to speak twice in the morning and give staff the chance to have individual conversations.

After a meeting about volunteers and special constables I drove to Portishead for the **opening of the Black Rock specialist training centre**. This facility, which is jointly owned by Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Avon & Somerset, gives our Forces state of the art training facilities and I am very pleased that the home secretary Theresa May was able to accept my invitation to open it. She was on a fairly tight schedule but showed real interest in the centre and it was good to hear officers and staff speak appreciatively of the training needs that will be met by the new range.

I went to Swindon in the evening as I was driving for the Filling Station, the homeless charity that feeds many of those in need in Swindon. Forty people turned up for food which is very much in line with the norm.



Mrs May at the opening of Black Rock specialist training centre

Friday 27 November

Today my diary is filled with meetings in the office. The first one is to plan for the police and crime panel which is in a few days, followed by my quarterly meeting with Unison, both of which were informative and useful. I have to say that the discussion was coloured by the Chancellor's announcement on Wednesday of no reduction in funding for policing. This seems to have produced lightness in step and smiles from all quarters of the constabulary.

In the evening, I attended a dinner at **West Wilts Golf Club in Warminster**. Like most golf clubs there seems to be as many cups and awards as there are members. I was interested to see a picture of one of our inspectors taken many years ago as a young man winning a local championship event.

Sunday 29 November

I spent this evening at Royal Albert Hall in London singing **Messiah from scratch**. I have been to this event for several years. It is held to benefit the **British Heart Foundation** and it is a real treat as a tenor to sing with around 500 fellow voices out of 2,500 in total. It has never really occurred to me that people might come and listen as an audience, but it certainly sounded great from the midst of the choir.

TEAMING UP WITH CRIMESTOPPERS AND SLEEPING OUT FOR CHARITY

Monday 30 November

As blog readers may be aware, Monday is generally an office day and today is no exception, apart from a visit to the chiropractor before a meeting of the strategic alliance board scheduled for later in the day. However, the alliance board was cancelled at the last moment.

I also had a session with the head of finance, Clive Barker. Whilst we are still celebrating the autumn statement by Chancellor George Osborne, we will not know the actual figures available to us until Thursday 17 December.

I was very pleased to have a briefing from **Crimestoppers** during the day. This is a national charity which offers an anonymous service for people to report crime. I must admit that I had really only heard of them through the TV Crimewatch programme but they do much more. Having a named individual with responsibility for developing their service in Wiltshire, Emily van der Lely, is a great advantage and one which I think we should try and build on. There is also more activity that I need to investigate as it seems that the information gathered by Crimestoppers does not lead to outcomes in Wiltshire which are in line with the rest of the country. It is good to hear that a volunteer community is being set up in Wiltshire and that it has the support of both Neighbourhood Watch and Wiltshire trading standards as well as the Wiltshire Police Director of Intelligence, Sonja Leith.

I was able to leave work early, due to my meeting being cancelled, to go to London in preparation for my one day holiday tomorrow.

Tuesday 1 December

One day of holiday today. I had such a good time that I am happy to share it with blog readers. My wife and I and another couple took the train from Victoria to Canterbury (Pullman style). In Canterbury we went to a carol service by the cathedral choir and then a walking tour of Canterbury before catching the train back to Victoria to have a three course dinner. It really was a superb experience.

Wednesday 2 December

This morning we have a police and crime panel meeting at Swindon Borough Council offices. The agenda included an update on the comprehensive spending review, our strategic alliance with Avon and Somerset Police and progress on the community policing project. It was a very enjoyable and constructive meeting.

In the evening, I was due at Dauntsey's school but on arrival I found a phone message telling me that my wife had been pulled over by our dogs and was in the accident and emergency department at the Great Western Hospital. My evening was cut short as I returned to Swindon to look after her.

Thursday 3 December

Due to Sarah's incapacitation I've had to take a day off to look after her and her broken shoulder. But in the evening, carer duties were taken over by my daughter, which enabled me to attend the National Farmers Union (NFU) open meeting which was informative and useful.

Friday 4 December

Today we are spending the morning in Warminster market, it's not one of the busiest and it was a particularly miserable day. For those who don't know, the market is held in a remote part of the car park and is subsequently very quiet. However, we did our best to engage the residents of Warminster and the surrounding district.

In the afternoon, I returned to Swindon to look after my wife. But in the evening I was relieved of duty to attend a performance of 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum' at Dauntsey's school. It was an excellent and very amusing performance.

You may know that I am involved in organising a soup run for homeless people on a Thursday evening in Swindon. As part of raising awareness of the plight of homeless people at this time of the year I have challenged the police cadets to sleep out around the HQ site. At around 10pm I joined them. Thirty eight cadets took part and over £3,000 was raised. I have to say I went to sleep fairly promptly and had to be woken in the morning when the young people were much quieter than they had been when I went to sleep.



At Warminster market



At the sleepout, raising awareness of the plight of homeless people

Saturday 5 December and Sunday 6 December

I had nothing in the diary for Saturday and Sunday.