

5th August 2021

Dear Councillor Rukhsana Haleem and members of the Police & Crime Panel

Police and Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024

Many thanks for your valued feedback dated 3rd August 2021, providing the Panel’s comments on the draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 discussed at the Police and Crime Panel meeting of 19th July 2021.

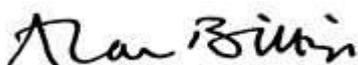
I have provided a table below outlining the response to the issues raised. A copy of the revised report is also provided for information.

Police and Crime Panel comments	PCC response
<p>Independent panel member Warren Carratt referred to page 64 of the agenda pack (5th paragraph) around ‘children and young people’s exposure to risk and vulnerability was likely to have increased during lockdown’. He reported that, on 10th June 2021, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Ofsted had published a detailed report following a review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges. Warren queried if an opportunity had been missed not to include direct reference to the review within the Police and Crime Plan, due to this being a likely area of focus for youth offending, schools, colleges, and policing in the next 18 months.</p> <p>The Commissioner agreed to examine Ofsted’s report in further detail. Following the panel meeting, Warren Carratt proposed an amendment to the wording in the narrative under the priority of Protecting Vulnerable People which references vulnerability in children and young people. His suggested wording is highlighted in bold type:</p> <p>“Children and young people’s exposure to risk and vulnerability is likely to have increased during lockdown, and on 10 June 2021, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of OfSTED published a</p>	<p>The narrative has been amended to take account of Warren’s feedback and now reads as per below:</p> <p>“Our children and young people should also feel safe in schools and educational settings. I want the police and partners to focus their activity in this area on preventative action, education and safety messages to potential victims as well as work with the perpetrators of violence.</p> <p>You will see that I have removed the reference to the HMIC Ofsted report and sexual harassment but have kept the focus on children and young people feeling safe in schools and educational settings in the context of VAWG. The thinking on this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referencing the specific HMIC report would date the plan. It is my intention is to produce a refreshed plan from April 2022 until the end of my term of office in March 2024. - The report whilst valid and informative is only one viewpoint. - Sexual Harassment is not a crime albeit it can escalate to this when images are exchanged etc.

Police and Crime Panel comments	PCC response
<p>report on the prevalence of sexual harassment in schools in England, and outlined the need to respond to this. I have maintained funding which contributes to the work of the Youth Offending Services in each Local Authority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focus on feeling safe links with my narrative referencing prevention and societal change.
<p>Professor Adrian James provided the below feedback following the panel meeting on the 19th July 2021 and suggested that:</p> <p><i>“the proposals in relation to violence against women and girls are welcome, as are those relating to the protection of children, but it would be good to see some reference to MSHT”</i></p>	<p>The plan has now been amended to include a reference to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking under the priority of Protecting Vulnerable People. The amends are as per below:</p> <p><i>“...We also see the recruitment and exploitation of people, particularly the most vulnerable, through crimes such as Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. As well as being coerced and deceived, the victims can be subject to threats, abuse and violence at the hands of criminals seeking to profit from their victims.”</i></p>

The report will now be finalised taking account of the above. A draft version will be shared at the Public Accountability Board meeting in August 21, and a final version published on the OPCC website in due course.

Many thanks and all good wishes,



Dr Alan Billings



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