



Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

Annual report summary 2015/16

Covering the third year of the
national Association of Police
and Crime Commissioners

▶ Annual report summary



Chairman's introduction

Throughout 2015/16 the APCC advanced its role as a leading and influential player in the policing and criminal justice landscape, by strengthening effective structures to support Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in executing their national policing responsibilities, as well as tackling a number of member-led projects important to the future of policing in England and Wales.

The standout achievement this year has been the establishment and resourcing of the Police Reform Transformation Board, which oversees the work of modernising and streamlining policing services. The board will work with National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Coordination Committees, APCC Standing Groups, Home Office Forces and the National Crime Agency at the national level to support the realisation of the Police Vision 2020. The APCC worked with the Home Office to gain funding to provide support services to the Board. Additionally, in November the APCC, in conjunction with the NPCC, ran a successful two day conference in Manchester which brought together PCCs, Chief Constables and other policing and crime stakeholders to discuss, debate and deliver reform to the police service.

The APCC, through the Finance Standing Group, successfully lobbied the Home Office for a fair settlement in the spending review. As outlined in this report, other Standing Groups have undertaken important work, such as the ongoing devolution of further powers to PCCs and the review of the police complaints landscape.

This annual report summary provides an overview of the key successes and achievements of the APCC in 2015/16.

Martin Surl

Chairman, APCC Board
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

About the APCC

The APCC has membership of all 41 PCCs in England and Wales as well as the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the City of London Police Committee and British Transport Police. Associate members are Jersey Police Authority and MOD Police Committee. By coming together as one Association, the APCC is able to:

- ▶ debate and discuss national policing and criminal justice strategy and policy;
- ▶ use its collective voice to influence change with government and stakeholders;
- ▶ forge new relationships with national stakeholders and delivery partners; and
- ▶ share good practice and innovation, procure services, and identify ways to achieve efficiencies through working together.

The APCC is fully funded by members and operates independently of government. It is supported by a small team of policy and communication professionals with experience in representing the interests of local police governance bodies at a national level.

Directors of the Association

Winston Roddick QC

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales
(Chairman until May 2016)

Martin Surl

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire
(Chairman from May 2016)

Julia Mulligan

Police and Crime Commissioner for
North Yorkshire

Vera Baird QC

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Mark Burns-Williamson OBE

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

David Lloyd

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire

Simon Duckworth OBE DL

Member of the City of London Police Committee

Review of the year and financial summary

Corporate support 2015/16

Police Reform and Transformation Board

This year the APCC, alongside the NPCC, established the Police Reform and Transformation Board (PRTB) and worked to solidify its structure and ensure it is sufficiently resourced and supported. Comprising key policing stakeholders, the PRTB will provide strategic oversight of national reform work around how the police service can operate more effectively and efficiently. The APCC also drafted and consulted on a joint Police Vision 2020, which will establish a common set of goals or priority areas for the service to anchor the work of the PRTB and the wider reform programme.

General meetings and joint conference

During 2015/16 the APCC organised five general meetings and one joint partnership conference with the NPCC, providing a forum for discussion and mutual learning, as well as an opportunity for PCCs to engage with and influence Ministers and other leaders in the policing and criminal justice landscape. Thematic, in-depth sessions covered at APCC General Meetings included: child sexual exploitation, the Comprehensive Spending Review, devolution and the PRTB. The following notable speakers attended the APCC General Meetings:

- ▶ Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary;
- ▶ Caroline Dinenage MP, MOJ Minister on Female Offending;
- ▶ Jack Dromey MP, Shadow Minister for Policing;
- ▶ Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner;
- ▶ Chief Constable Alex Marshall, Chief Executive of the College of Policing;
- ▶ Sir Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary'; and
- ▶ Zonia Cavanagh, the Head of the Home Office Police Strategy and Reform Unit.

In November 2015 the APCC and NPCC held an inaugural joint conference 'Transforming Policing: Protecting Communities' in Manchester which focused on the changing nature of policing and how Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are helping to lead transformation today in order to meet the challenges of tomorrow. This was the first time that the APCC and NPCC had held a joint summit, symbolically recognising one of the key themes for the event around a greater need to work together more closely, and provided a springboard for closer collaboration and the establishment of the PRTB.

Communication and sharing information

Throughout 2015/16 the APCC distributed a daily media briefing to all members, in addition to a weekly report which summarises parliamentary activity, business updates, the media landscape and any significant events in the criminal justice sphere. APCC members continued to enjoy access to a 'members-only' section of the website which is regularly updated with communications from stakeholders and ministers, and hosts an online repository for policy related information.

Other APCC functions

Other APCC functions included:

- ▶ supporting/providing advice to members on *ad hoc* issues;
- ▶ pre-briefing members ahead of national policy meetings, Select Committees etc;
- ▶ collating and retaining examples of best practice and innovation;
- ▶ providing the secretarial support for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Policing;
- ▶ general awareness of policing landscape and horizon scanning;
- ▶ a central London base to have meetings, internet/email access and out of office working; and
- ▶ corporate administration for the APCC Board as well as support to group representatives to consider weekly policy matters.

Influence and policy 2015/16

The following sets out a selection of APCC achievements:

Setting the financial direction for policing and crime

The Standing Group continued to influence the Home Office and Treasury on overall service funding. This culminated in the delivery of a robust Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) submission on behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Standing Group set up delivery structures for this submission; negotiated and agreed a strategy with key stakeholders; collected, collated and analysed data; writing the submission on behalf of PCCs. The chair and the vice chair engaged with Ministers and the media during the process and at the time of publication. With a view to the next CSR, the Standing Group will continue to build on the submission throughout the next reporting period and beyond.

Engaging with the National Crime Agency and Strategic Policing Requirement

The Standing Group have worked closely with the National Crime Agency (NCA), developing the NCA Commitment to working with PCCs. Following from

this, the group continues close engagement with the NCA, developing the work programme for the annual NCA PCC engagement day. Additionally, the NCA now routinely shares information with PCCs through the APCC and the NCA attend regional meetings as agreed through the Commitment.

The Standing Group members represent PCCs on the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) Programme Board and have oversight of the development of the National Policing Requirement (NPR). The Standing Group chair continues to engage with the national policing lead, (the chair of the SPR Programme Board), in meetings and via written correspondence to ensure an efficient and effective development process in relation to the NPR.

Delivering victims services

Following the successful transition to the local commissioning of most services for victims, the Victims Standing Group has been working with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice on a wide range of victims issues, including, how to further develop the role of PCCs as the victims' champion in the CJS and exploring the scope for the further devolution of the remaining nationally commissioned services for victims and witnesses.

Joining up criminal justice

The Joining Up Criminal Justice Standing Group continues to support PCCs as they continue to shape and influence in the wider criminal justice landscape around their 'and crime' portfolio by developing strong working relationships with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and criminal justice agencies which has ensured that the APCC and the voice of PCCs are at the centre of the development of national policy on, and reform of, the CJS. The APCC continues to facilitate ministerial engagement with PCC representation on key groups such as the national Criminal Justice Board, the Criminal Justice Council and the Victims Advisory Panel. In addition, the APCC is represented on key working level groups such as the joint Home Office and Ministry of Justice PCC Project Board which oversees the delivery of the work on CJS devolution and increasing the role of the PCC in the CJS.

Workforce relations

The Workforce Standing Group submitted quality evidence to pay review bodies on the pay and conditions of police officers and chief officers. The Standing Group continues to foster good industrial relations with the workforce through their commitment to the Police Consultative Forum and the Police Staff Council. Further to a proposal from the Standing Group PCCs agreed to fund the Police Staff Council for the next three years. The Police Staff Council negotiates pay and conditions for the vast majority of police staff in England and Wales.

Making the complaints system work for the public

The Transparency Standing Group was critical to driving reform of the police complaints system, now enshrined in the Police and Crime Bill, through continuing engagement with government, to make the complaints system more responsive to public needs, and the police discipline system more open. The Group also completed a protocol between IPCC and PCCs to give greater clarity about mutual responsibilities in sharing information, reporting and media handling.

Working in partnership to reduce crime

The Group continued to call for improvements to policing and mental health practice including reduced use of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983; signed the National Crisis Care Concordat on behalf of PCCs and subsequently attended and contributed to the National Steering Group; campaigned for Liaison and Diversion schemes to be built upon to include a response to the needs of victims of crime with mental ill-health as well as the needs of offenders; and, contributed to national work on the use of TASER® in custody.

The PCC Alcohol Sub-Group undertook work on PCC priorities on this issue with four workstreams: legal reform, best practice, research and knowledge and communications and events. The Group met with and developed stakeholder networks and seeks to further highlight the impact problem drinking can have on demand for police services.

The Group played a key role in taking the Emergency Services Collaboration debate forward and responded to the Government consultation, 'Enabling closer working between the emergency services' on behalf of PCCs.

Influencing the police performance landscape

PCC representation on various College governance boards was reviewed and implemented, to ensure PCCs are able to influence key national policing standards. Discussions on an HMIC/PCC protocol continued, as well discussions to improve Force Management Statements being developed by HMIC, and continuing work to positively influence force inspections, particularly PEEL. The group has also been involved in other work to improve the accountability of the system, including discussions to help develop the Review of Targets, commissioned from the Superintendents Association by the Home Secretary, and discussions with the Audit Commission about the effectiveness of criminal justice inspectorates.

The APCC's financial position

The APCC's audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016 are available [here](#).