

APCC BULLETIN

Issue eleven July 2022



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LET'S GET TALKING

APCC NEWS AND UPDATES:

IMPROVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOURNEY FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIME

*Criminal Justice Lead and PCC for Hertfordshire **David Lloyd** and **Emily Spurrell**,
Criminal Justice Deputy Lead and PCC for Merseyside.*

As local leaders PCCs bring criminal justice partners together to reduce crime and reoffending and improve the delivery of services so that victims' needs are at the heart of the criminal justice system.

We have known for some time that there are deep rooted issues in the criminal justice system and, as a result, victims are having to wait far too long for justice. It simply isn't good enough and this is our call to action.

There is no magic wand, but there are certainly positive signs that things are starting to move in the right direction - and PCCs are at the heart of this.

Over the last ten years, we have established our role as senior leaders in the policing and criminal justice space. We have, however, until now, been limited by the powers at our disposal. So, whilst PCCs have undoubtedly had a positive impact, there is so much more that we will soon be able to do to make the service far more integrated and accountable to those that use it.

Already plugged in locally, most PCCs now chair their Local Criminal Justice Boards and there are high expectations placed on us to be responsible for the system and hold other agencies to account. Since we have taken on greater responsibility for commissioning support services, we are putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system and continuing to drive improvements to local services forward.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/criminal-justice/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/david-lloyd-apcc-lead-for-the-criminal-justice-portfolio/>

APCC PORTFOLIOS

The APCC supports PCCs to provide safer communities, swifter justice and enhanced public trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system. This work is done through policy portfolios and working groups, with each led by national PCC leads.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/7711/porfolio-leads-update-apcc-june-2022-v3.pdf>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/our-work/>

We caught up with several portfolio leads at a recent event where they provided a video update:

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/>

TACKLING DRUG RELATED CRIME – GETTING IT RIGHT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Joy Allen, Joint Addictions & Substance Misuse Lead and PCC for Durham.

David Sidwick, Joint Addictions & Substance Misuse Lead and PCC for Dorset.

The use of illegal drugs is fueling an epidemic of violence and criminality, destroying people's lives and wreaking havoc in our communities.

Statistics show that around 1 in 11 adults aged 16-59 have taken a drug in the last year and over half of all homicides and acquisitive crimes are believed to be drugs related.

The figures are frightening, and the picture is bleak.

That is why the effective implementation of the government's drugs strategy is absolutely critical. The 10-year strategy is built around the three pillars of tackling supply, evidence-based treatment and recovery services and reducing demand through a shift in attitudes to drugs. If we are to break the cycle, we need to bring

all three together to suppress the demand for illegal drugs. A joined-up approach is essential, and this is where Police and Crime Commissioners play a significant role.

PCCs have a part to play in all three of these pillars, and in convening local partnerships, will have a central role in driving implementation locally and cutting crime.

We have already demonstrated our effectiveness of bringing together enforcement, treatment and recovery through our coordination of **Project Adder** which was launched by the government last year.

Project Adder saw a cash injection to some of the worst affected areas, bringing together local services and improving communication between law enforcement, treatment providers, prisons and other services.

The project has already delivered tangible results across the 13 areas launched with over 600 organised crime groups disrupted, £3.5m in cash seized and over 13,400 drug treatments interventions carried out by outreach providers.

The priority now is to replicate this success nationally. We do know that one size does not fit all which is why the role of every police and crime commissioner is vital.

It's important that we do not lose sight of the third pillar of the strategy, in many ways the toughest: a generational shift in attitudes to drugs. PCCs have been at the cutting edge here too, with initiatives like Checkpoint in Durham to get people committing low level drug and other offences out of the criminal justice system and into education and treatment programs, and we will be working to influence the national conversation on demand reduction, including the anticipated White Paper.

As PCCs we know our communities best and already work closely with partners to fund services and local initiatives tailored to the specific needs of our communities.

By bringing together services and agencies we are a key resource in coordinating the joined-up response required to tackle the demand and supply of illegal drugs. This has been demonstrated by the successful **Operation Scorpion**, where five PCCs and their respective forces harnessed their collective power to disrupt drug supply networks in the South West of England

This is a once in a generation opportunity to tackle drug misuse and the huge harm it causes to our communities. If we don't get it right now, it's not worth picturing what the future may look like 10 years from now.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-adder/about-project-adder>

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/news/2022/03/combined-police-operation-sends-strong-message-to-criminals-that-the-south-west-is-noplacefordrugs/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/ten-years-of-pccs-making-a-difference/addictions-and-substance-misuse/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/>

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/public/apcc-bulletins>

LET'S GET TALKING

ABOUT THE APCC

THE APCC IS THE HOME OF POLICING GOVERNANCE

It is the national body which supports Police and Crime Commissioners and other local policing bodies across England and Wales to provide national leadership and drive strategic change across the policing, criminal justice and wider community safety landscape, to help keep our communities safe.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Click on the links below to find out more about what we do:

ABOUT the APCC: The role of the PCCs is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/about-the-apcc/>)

APCC BUSINESS PRIORITIES: See our business plan and overview (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/campaigns/apcc-business-priorities/>)

APCC IMPACT REPORT: The Impact Report 2020/21 demonstrates the breadth of work and impact of the Association against its five business priorities (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/6924/impact-report-2021.pdf>)

LATEST NEWS: Up-to-date news updates from our website (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/>)

FIND YOUR PCC: Use our simple tool to locate the PCC in your area (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/find-your-pcc/>)

APCC BULLETINS: View previous bulletins
(<https://www.apccs.police.uk/public/apcc-bulletins>)

YOU HAVE A VOICE: Short animated video explaining the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (<https://www.apccs.police.uk/videos/pcc-video-you-have-a-voice/>)

ENDS

