

Have you got what it takes?

Commissioning and funding

archived

Have you got what it takes?

Commissioning and funding

Important facts

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) role covers more than policing: PCCs will be expected to commission activities that contribute to crime prevention and reduction. To do this, they will need to work with other local leaders to influence local priorities and resources.

PCCs will need to link in to other local strategic and commissioning frameworks (such as health and justice commissioning). PCCs may also wish to explore innovative models such as payment by results (paying contractors according to the results that they achieve) or community budgeting (allowing local communities to decide how some local funding should be spent).

PCCs will have flexibility to decide how to use their resources, and, where they see a benefit in doing so, to pool funding with local partners to get the best value for money. Many areas are already discussing commissioning across

multiple partnerships, agencies and areas, which provides a potential platform for work with the new PCC.

PCCs' first few months in post will be a crucial period for identifying their priorities and setting their future direction. The police and crime plans they will develop in their first few months will map out their future activity, including the commissioning of services.

Partners will be seeking to engage PCCs, encouraging them to consider where there are areas of overlap in their priorities and making the case to them for alignment of partner priorities. PCCs, where they see clear links to their own priorities, may choose to align them with other local plans and commissioning structures.

In 2013-14 PCCs will be provided with funding from a transitional Community Safety Fund (CSF). PCCs can use these resources to invest directly in projects and programmes (see below) that support the priorities they have detailed in their police and crime plans.

More Information

Commissioning

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 allows PCCs to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will contribute to improving community safety in their police force area. They will also need to work with other local leaders, co-ordinating resources across a range of local issues to support their own aim of cutting crime.

It will be important for PCCs to have the right links with other local structures. One significant development in England is the introduction of new health commissioning arrangements; health and wellbeing boards will be vital partners for commissioners, given their role in determining joint needs assessments against which services will be commissioned. In Wales, Local Health Boards will be key partners for PCCs. PCCs and their partners across the local

landscape will need to develop a common approach to a range of crime and health issues, and they will need to find the best ways to engage with these partners in order to achieve influence locally.

PCCs will have flexibility in the arrangements they can enter into to commission services locally. It is open to PCCs and their partners to pursue innovative approaches to commissioning, including joint commissioning, flexible contracts, payment by results, and other innovative approaches to commissioning that PCCs may develop locally.

Many local partners will hope to be commissioned by PCCs, and many have already undertaken work to review current structures and put themselves in the best position to make the case to PCCs for resources. Many existing programmes will also hope PCCs will continue to invest in them, where they see a direct benefit in doing so. Partners will be seeking to engage candidates to gain their support at the earliest possible opportunity.

Partners will be seeking to engage PCCs while they are drawing up their police and crime plans, early on in their tenure in office. This period provides a good opportunity for PCCs and partners to review where PCCs' priorities and those priorities set out in local partnership plans are aligned.

Funding

2012-13

Ministers have agreed to continue with existing arrangements for community safety funding, and the majority of crime and drugs grants in 2012-13. This includes the period after the PCC elections in November 2012. Dedicated direct funding from the Home Office to community safety partnerships (and the majority of drug and crime funding to other local partners) will not be provided from the end of March 2013.

Arrangements in 2014-15 and beyond

The CSF will be a temporary fund to enable a smooth transition to the new policing model. From 2014-15, the CSF will be rolled into Home Office Police Main Grant to give PCCs maximum freedom and flexibility over how they use their resources.

How much will the Community Safety Fund be?

The exact amount and allocations of the Community Safety Fund in 2013-14 will be determined over summer 2012. Full details will be announced when the provisional Police Grant Report 2013/14 is laid in Parliament in late November or early December 2012. We will aim to provide further information at the earliest opportunity.

archived