

Response ID ANON-RVPH-51DT-X

Submitted to **Annual Police Plan Survey**

Submitted on **2018-02-21 08:20:59**

Introduction

Question 1: Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour

Q1. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour' meets my expectation:

Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

Given that the roots of hate crime are in inequalities we do not feel that activity relating to hate crime fits well under the priority of 'violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour'; even though some hate crime manifests in this way. We think that any activity to tackle hate crime should be under the 'protecting people at risk of harm' priority.

With the above point in mind, some thought is required for some additional activity under the 'communities' and knowledge & innovation' that will tackle violence, disorder and ASB in line with evidence on drivers for these priorities (this is much broader than hate crime).

We think it is important that a commitment to using partnership data (in addition to police data) should be explicitly mentioned within the NIM activity commitment.

Specifically in relation to ASB, but also touching on the issues of violence and disorder, community policing and developing relationships (over and above a 'community reassurance cell') within communities is a key aspect to preventing these issues and should be explicitly mentioned. The Community Empowerment Act could provide some inspiration.

A commitment to some kind of mainstreamed preventative approaches rather than initiatives / pilots / programmes would be a positive step; perhaps included within the 'learning & innovation' fields.

We feel there should be stronger language in relation to licensing boards given the known impact of alcohol on this priority issue. I.e. a step more than "making information available" to them) would be really positive to see.

Something about speaking with communities or partners who speak with communities about alcohol consumption, responsibility and the impact it has on ASB, violence and disorder could be explored.

Question 2: Serious Organised Crime

Q2. The approach to dealing with the threat from 'serious organised crime' meets my expectation:

Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

The commitments and activities within this priority are welcome but there is something missing about citizens and communities as evidence shows that the impact of SOC on communities is more pervasive than simply the impact of violence and drugs associated with this issue. Focusing some activity on being seen to vocally support communities who are suffering as a result of SOC would be welcomed by them.

Whilst the focus on cyber-crime and NPS is welcome, we feel there should be more reference to other types of SOC, for example human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, modern slavery.

Partnerships can play a valuable role in disrupting and preventing SOCG activity (through strategic commitments around procurement and licensing, and tactically through intelligence-gathering) and some thought into how Police Scotland could work in partnership more broadly (not just in relation to drugs) would be welcomed.

The activity on drug-related deaths and some of the other drug misuse activities, we feel, would fit better under the 'protecting people from harm' priority rather than the SOC priority as SOC and drug misuse are not mutually exclusive and require very different approaches, albeit complementary ones.

Question 3: Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Q3. The approach to dealing with the threat from 'terrorism and domestic extremism' meets my expectation:

Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

Understandably this section relies heavily on the approach from the UK Government's strategy but the activities under this priority could do with being much more specific and focused, similar to the other priority areas covered in the plan.

Reference to the UK Government's updated CONTEST strategy would place all the commitments and activities in context.

An activity focused on supporting community development, cohesion and networks in line with the prevent commitment would be good to see.

Question 4: Protecting people at risk of harm

Q4. The approach to dealing with the threat relating to 'protecting people at risk of harm' meets my expectation:

Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

We question the phrasing of the commitments under this heading - "reducing the harm caused by xx" - is very different to "preventing xx and reducing the harm caused by it". We don't feel that focusing on reducing the harm caused by something is a suitably preventative approach by Police Scotland who should be working in partnership to prevent the issue as well as reduce the harm caused by it.

We would like to see commitments and activity concerning hate crime included within this priority area as it involves the same principles of vulnerability, harm and inequality as the other strands in this priority.

Some reference to understanding the risk factors and protective factors in this priority area and working with partners to disrupt and support these, respectively, would be positive. For example, the role community cohesion and relationships can play in preventing abuse of adults at risk of harm and the resilience it can create to support recovery if such a crime occurred.

We really liked the point on supporting academic research to develop the evidence base for future activity. Referencing not only academic research but a wider evidence base would be good here and having this as a general commitment and activity across all the priorities would be welcomed. Similarly using learning from evaluation of pilots and best practise case studies to inform future activity would be welcomed across all priority areas as an explicit mention.

Suggest some consideration of an activity under this priority that involves 'victims' or people at risk in co-design of services and future prevention activity if it would be appropriate to do so.

The commitment to "work effectively with partners and the public to tackle inequalities and deliver better outcomes for individuals and communities" is commendable but very long-term for what is a one-year plan. Long-term commitment to this is welcomed, and definitely the approach that public services should be taking to tackle the underlying issues that drive much crime and offending, however there should be more specific activities mentioned in this section otherwise it loses meaning.

Question 5: Road Safety and Road Crime

Q5. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'injury on our roads and road crime' meets my expectation:

Strongly Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

The commitments and activities within this priority are well balanced and we have no additional comments.

Question 6: Acquisitive Crime

Q6. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'acquisitive crime' meets my expectation:

Agree

If you would like to provide further comment, please do so here: :

Reference to the impact of acquisitive crime on individuals and their feeling of safety e.g. housebreaking - not just doorstep crime would be good.

Linking up the activities in 'knowledge and innovation' and using them to drive the activity in 'prevention and protection' would be good.

An activity on sharing good practise case studies in doorstep crime and online fraud and using them to drive activity in prevention would be good.

Question 7: Other Priorities

Q7. Are there any other national priorities that you would expect to see included in Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan?

Yes

Please provide further information: :

Whilst drug and alcohol misuse were mentioned in a number of priority areas and there are activities that relate to them we do not feel the annual plan puts a high enough emphasis on the impact these substances, particularly alcohol, has on community safety and crime in Scotland.

We would be keen to see what the activities look like at a local and national level.

A specific commitment to community policing and working with citizens in communities would be welcomed. The Community Empowerment Act, principles of subsidiarity (that decisions should be taken at the least centralised authority) and working with communities at a local level earlier in the process (as standard rather than for a specific initiative or strategy) would be a great place for inspiration.

Much is made of academic research in the 'learning and innovation' sections - rightly so - however other forms of evidence, research and expertise exist in the public, third and private sectors for example in think-tanks or network leaders like SCSN and reference to these alongside academic research would be welcomed.

Demographics

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

I am answering on behalf of an organisation

Organisation Name:

Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN)

What is your age?

age :

Choose not to disclose

What is your gender?

Choose not to disclose

Do you currently or have you previously considered yourself as transgender?

Choose not to disclose

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Choose not to disclose

Other::

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

disability:

Choose not to disclose

What is your ethnic origin?

Choose not to disclose

Please state::

What is your religion or belief?

Choose not to disclose

Other::

What is your geographical location?

Area:

Edinburgh