

Response ID ANON-92RP-C3H7-2

Submitted to **Review of Strategic Police Priorities: Consultation**

Submitted on **2019-10-03 09:23:08**

Questions

1 To what extent do the revised Strategic Police Priorities meet your expectations for what the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service should focus on in the future:

Partially

Please provide reasons for your response.:

It is hard to disagree with any of the priorities suggested, however the case for why these particular priorities have been selected could be stronger.

We particularly welcome the focus on evidence, ethics and legitimacy, partnerships and valuing the workforce. The commitment to support positive criminal justice outcomes - for example through restorative justice processes, diversion from prosecution for example is also positive. We are disappointed that 'Prevention' is no longer a standalone priority. We feel that lumping prevention in with a mix of other priorities (under 'crime and security') that do not necessarily complement one another and are a mix of priorities and values is a poor choice. In 2011 the Christie Commission highlighted prevention as one of the key drivers of public service reform and the SPPs should reflect this by having Prevention as a standalone priority to reaffirm commitment to this.

Whilst we welcome many of the priorities, the proposed SPPs are broad and suffer from the challenge that arises from this type of exercise - prioritising everything risks prioritising nothing. We would recommend that the groups involved in setting the final SPPs reflect how they would avoid this happening.

We note the statutory requirement for the SPPs, however the landscape is becoming increasingly cluttered and it is tricky to see what the SPPs add that are not captured within the transformation programme, justice vision and priorities or Police Scotland's and the SPA's organisational values.

We note that at time of writing the HMICS inspection of the SPA and the report and debate from the Post-legislative scrutiny committee on the reform Act were not available but we think these provide some guidance on the areas where particular focus is required.

2 Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect your needs:

Partially

Please provide reasons for your response.:

As per our response to the first question, it is hard to disagree with the suggested SPPs.

We work to support community safety partnerships and therefore our needs and the needs of our partners (of which Police Scotland is one) tend more towards partnerships and collaboration, prevention, localism and a focus on community.

As an organisation we are also very passionate about evidence-informed planning and practice and welcome the focus on this within the SPPs.

Compared to the 2016 SPPs the focus on these has been diluted which is why they only partially meet our needs.

In line with our response to question 1 we also think the post-legislative committee report and debate on the reform Act would suggest particular focus on governance and scrutiny, enhanced local connection and workforce. We don't think the proposed SPPs focus enough on scrutiny and enhanced local connection.

3 Do the revised Strategic Police Priorities reflect the needs of your community:

Partially

Please provide reasons for your response.:

We cannot answer from a geographical community point of view, however our sense is that the SPPs are very 'organisational' and may not necessarily appeal to an average citizen. Focusing on the rationale for each priority and why it will lead to a safer Scotland may help to overcome this issue.

4 Do you agree that the revised Strategic Police Priorities should be in place for a period of 6 years?

Don't know

Please provide reasons for your response.:

We welcome the increase from every three years to every six years, and support the rationale for this rise. The SPPs are sufficiently broad that it's hard to see what could happen within the six year period that would not fit within their scope.

It is always challenging to find the 'right' planning and review cycle so we are unsure of the six year period, but would suggest a reflect and review process over this time period to see how the timescale is working for partners, with flexibility built in to adapt if required.

5 How do you think the progress towards delivering the Strategic Police Priorities should be measured?

5. How do you think the progress towards delivering the Strategic Police Priorities should be measured?:

We think that this is incredibly important and is therefore deserving of a group of partners coproducing the progress measurement framework. There is a real opportunity to come up with some measures that are system-based and involve self-assessment, as well as external 'reviews' and reflective processes rather

than more traditional measures. We would be happy to offer our burgeoning knowledge on this subject to the process.

6 Do you have any comments to make on our partial equalities impact assessment?

Do you have any comments to make on our partial equalities impact assessment? :

We welcome the openness in the process that has created the assessment, and also the openness of the document as a work in progress which will be shaped by the SPP consultation.

We agree with the rationale of framing the SPPs in a way that embeds equality issues rather than have a separate priority focused on equality issues. However we would welcome assurances of how Police Scotland will avoid a loss of focus on equalities issues however - some more detail on what this might look like: "We expect these principles will follow through to planning at the SPA and Police Scotland, as they give effect to the Strategic Police Priorities through their range of functions and activities."

The evidence collected to inform the assessment is useful, however we think the following areas have been missed:

1. AGE: Whilst older people are equally likely to be a victim of crime as other age groups, the EQIA could better reflect their increased vulnerability to particular crimes. Similarly, children have an increased inherent vulnerability to particular types of crime and the EQIA should reflect this too.
2. SEX: Whilst men and women are equally represented in victimisation figures, women and girls are disproportionately victims of particular offences and at risk of particular offences - it is crucial that the EQIA reflects this. The disproportionate perpetrator sex balance in these crimes should be reflected. Similarly men may be more vulnerable to crimes of violence and the EQIA should reflect this. Equally, women and men experience the same crimes differently so it's important to reflect this.
3. MULTIPLE CHARACTERISTICS: A number of people will have multiple protected characteristics which doubles up on vulnerability, risk and how they experience victimisation; for example, women with disabilities.
4. We wonder whether a Community Impact Assessment was being considered, and whether non-protected characteristics under law such as SIMD had been considered? People living in lower income areas and SIMD areas are disproportionately affected by crime and policing and this would be an important area to reflect on.

We hope that the completed EQIA will reflect the issues highlighted above, and welcome more detail on how the protected characteristics will be followed through by Police Scotland and the SPA.

About you

What is your name?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Community Safety Network

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: