

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 5 July 2023

Subject: OPCC Communication and Engagement Plan

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Purpose of the report

This report is to aid the JASC's understanding of the OPCC Communications and Engagement Strategy. It follows a request from the JASC for information about how the OPCC engages with communities and partners and an overview of its consultation activity.

Recommendation

That the JASC notes the Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2022-25.

Background

Communication and engagement have a key role in ensuring that the Police and Crime Commissioner can carry out his duty to inform people about policies and activities which have an impact on them and, crucially, involve them in the decision-making process. By engaging as broadly as possible with all relevant individuals and organisations, insights into the key challenges for Warwickshire can be gained, allowing the right policing objectives to deal with them.

A well-informed and engaged community is much more likely to have increased trust and confidence in the police and to be supportive of measures and initiatives which seek to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Equally, by giving the public and stakeholders a genuine opportunity to shape and influence policing and community safety priorities, service delivery can only improve.

This strategy sets out how Warwickshire Police and Commissioner Philip Seccombe, aided by Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Emma Daniell and the wider office (OPCC), intend to communicate and engage with communities and key stakeholders across the county, regionally and on a national level.

It also ensures the Commissioner demonstrates compliance with his statutory duties and responsibilities in relation to communications, consultation and engagement.

Executive Summary

The strategy underpins all communications, engagement and consultation activity undertaken by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the wider office on their behalf.

It outlines how communications and engagement supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, defines what this means and sets the following strategic objectives, of which at least one should underpin all communication activity:

- **Inform** – communities and service users have a clear understanding of the role, priorities, services, activities and achievements of the Commissioner and his office (OPCC).
- **Engage** – communities have opportunities to engage with the Commissioner and his office to raise issues, highlight the priorities that are important to them and gain feedback on the actions taken by the OPCC to address them.
- **Assure** – communities have trust in the OPCC and are confident that public money is used wisely and in accordance with the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. They are also assured that the OPCC meets its statutory obligations and is effective in holding the force to account and delivering an efficient and effective policing service.
- **Involve** – residents, service users, partners and businesses are involved in decision making, helping to shape and scrutinise service delivery and allowing them to take action to make communities safer.

The strategy goes on to outline a set of core values that will be applied to all activity.

The key internal, external and stakeholder audiences are identified and there is a summary of suggested activities for each, along with how these may be evaluated. Two appendices outline the legal framework which underpins the communications activity.