



Questions and Answers Session at Criminal Justice Forum 21.03.17

Martyn Underhill – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset (MU)

A major problem for people coming out of prison is homelessness. Footprints and Restore can't pick this up but it is a problem in Dorset- Bernadette MacDonald-Raggett, The Footprints Project and Restore Support Network

MU – This has been mentioned at other similar events and you are right. The public also really care about War Vets and I am here to represent the public. Councils say there are no Vets in Dorset but this is not the case. DHUFT have a War Vet's lead and he is working on a hostel for them. Police have been asking if people have a Forces background and are finding that War Vets are not disclosing themselves. There are 100 homeless people in Dorset at any one time but this is probably 200 if War Vets were counted.

It used to be much better. Lots of hostels have closed down. Do we need to re-open them? – asked by Bernadette MacDonald-Raggett, The Footprints Project and Restore Support Network

MU – This is a National issue. Locally VCS could say this should be the first problem solving forum. If you, as a forum, tell me the first thing you want to be sorted is Homelessness I'd be over the moon.

Ambitions Academy Trust have two special schools, with innovation what's going to happen to restorative justice? – asked by Patricia Marchiori ,Ambitions AcademyTrust

MU – We are just launching a Restorative Justice Hub. Youth Offending Services are not in a bad place in Dorset but the new Hub will be open within the next three months on a trial basis. Bournemouth Football Club (AFCB) want to follow the Everton FC model for challenging youths by getting them involved with football. AFCB can fund it themselves via Premier League money.

We are talking to Cherries about this. The issue is parents are no help with the presence of drugs etc. Children are lost - Patricia Marchiori ,Ambitions AcademyTrust

MU – we need to give children a purpose, diverting children from that path through football, but it needs to be done across Dorset.

We've been established for ten years. Over four years we have set up the BME Children Safeguarding Forum. We also have an advocacy service. We are looking to raise the aspirations of BME Youth. Is this something you would be interested in? – asked by Rita El-Gazali, Unity in Vision

MU - This would be of interest to me but you would need to be offering to deliver a service I have asked for e.g specifically for an under-served BME youth community.

You mentioned vulnerability and older people. How do people get on the vulnerable list? How do you protect the vulnerable? – asked by Pat Lewis, Bournemouth Older Peoples Forum

MU – There is no vulnerable list. Someone could be vulnerable for two hours or twenty years. The police do not have a list. People are vulnerable from birth to death, not as just children or adults. We need to remove silo working as people are falling through the cracks. We have Adult Mental Health Services and Children’s Mental Health Services – we just need Mental Health Services.

We offer Pan-Dorset Advocacy. Why are we not getting referrals under the Care Act for homeless assessments which people are legally entitled to?- asked by Julie Moverley, Dorset Advocacy

MU – I will come back to this separately and will follow up on this - BCVS to send the point to PCC’s PA.

This idea of a problem-solving forum and co-commissioning as you have outlined it in your presentation sounds potentially exciting (PCC’s presentation), but when is commissioning going to happen? –asked by Jane Barkes, The Footprints Project

MU - I lost ten weeks of work so it won’t happen by 1st April, but will probably be in the next three months. The first meeting of the Problem Solving Forum will be in the Autumn. The organisations who are being funded will be for a while, but there will be a transition to the commissioning model.

Regarding the commissioning approach, has this influenced the grant making panel?-asked by Ron Crabtree, Restore Support Network

MU - No we are looking at it but we still need the panel for the moment as the criteria will be strict. Decisions over the past six months have not been influenced by these plans.

We have previously had funding from you. We submitted a new bid to continue/extend what we are doing and we got a letter saying ‘no you don’t meet our criteria’ - Ron Crabtree, Restore Support Network

MU- asked BCVS to send this point to PCC’s PA.

Would statutory providers work together or would you expect the VCS to do the joining up.

MU - I would expect VCS to do the joining up. Police are run ragged by the current demand that other agencies should or could deal with. Could be a mixture of Statutory and VCS

Some people are stuck in the cycle of going into and out of prison, with long term drug or housing problems and fall between gaps in services. What initiatives are being pursued to coordinate services? Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is an initiative being pursued in Devon. Are there any plans for something similar locally- asked by Martin Hancock, BCHA

MU- I know of the programme but I am not aware if anyone is looking at MEAM locally.

We use the PCSOs and link in with them, they come to us for their placements which is invaluable, could this factor more in the future? – asked by Donna Martin, BCHA

MU - We are changing the deployment of PCSO, we will have Senior PCSOs and change the areas they work in, giving them different work through this commissioning model. Could be assigned a PCSO in a spec for a service.

Regarding joining up with Devon and Cornwall, will there be joint commissioning with them for services across the whole of the South West? – asked by Martin Hancock, BCHA

MU - We are issuing a Joint Policing Plan and yes we could jointly commission.

We need a one stop shop as we have had in the past – Bernadette MacDonald-Raggett, The Footprints Project and Restore Support Network

MU - I agree things were better when we had them

We can help with Equality Impact Assessments. We are doing work on Mental Health – the unmet need around BME Mental Health Issues with RBCH Trust on Mental Health. This could fit in with your plans- Alan Mercel-Sanca, LGBT Network, UK Nepal Centre

MU – it's a good point and specifications would need to include EIA.

There is no Voluntary Sector representation on the Dorset Criminal Justice Board. Could this be developed. – Andrea Preece, Safe Partnership Ltd

MU - I will take this up with the Board as an action point. BCVS asked to send this point to PCC's PA.

What input has the VCS had into your Commissioning Plan and strategy? – asked by Emma Lee, Citizens Advice Bureau Bournemouth

MU - A lot of the manifesto came from VCS and the Plan was based on this. Some aspects are mandatory from the Government and I have to do them, but yes lots of input from VCS. Engaged with quarter of a million people in the last four years. The fraud angle and older people angle of the Plan in particular have come from VCS.