

Dear Colleagues,

2020-2 Policing & Crime Prevention

Ahead of the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 7th May, this consultation paper is on policing and crime prevention. This should help members and other supporters with the knowledge to campaign for our fantastic PCCs on the doorsteps, and we anticipate that your local input will prove invaluable to your PCC candidates. For more details on our plans for 2020, please visit our website.

Please use the opportunity of this discussion to **reach out to new voters in your constituency**. Let people know that you are interested in *them* and want to understand *their* perspective.

Please send your responses to the paper via the online Forum on our website or by sending to CPF.Papers@conservatives.com the associated response form published alongside this paper in the News section of the CPF website. A copy of your submission will be sent to your local PCC candidate. The deadline for submitting your response is 29th March. Our next discussion paper will be on the environment and animal welfare and will be published on 11th May, after campaigning for the elections.

A summary of responses to this discussion paper will also be sent to the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, Party Chairman and CPF Chairman within a month of the closing date for submissions. We look forward to hearing your ideas as we continue to unleash the country's potential.

Thank you to everyone for your time spent in discussions and a particular thank you to all the organisers. Together we can help even more to shape our Party and country's future. So, keep up the great work!

The CPF Team

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P.S. Discussions will be more greatly informed if groups are able to include members and non-member supporters of the Party from different age groups.

Introduction

"People are dying from drugs every day across the UK... We must have firm enforcement action and do all we can on prevention, recovery and treatment too."
(Minister for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service, Kit Malthouse)¹

On May 7th, elections will be held for 36 Police and Crime Commissioners in England, and four in Wales.

In January, the government announced the biggest increase in funding for the police system in a decade.² The amount of funding available to the policing system for 2020 to 2021 will increase by more than £1.1 billion, totalling £15.2 billion. This represents an almost 10% increase on the core (resource) grant provided to forces last year, enabling the police to cut crime and deliver on the people's priorities. It builds on a number of existing government commitments to bear down on the criminals who seek to do our communities and our country harm.

- It will enable forces to recruit 6,000 of the 20,000 additional police officers by the end of March 2021.
- It will provide £150 million in funding to fight organised crime and continue to crack down on online child abuse.
- Tackling serious violence will be also backed with £39 million, which includes £20 million for county lines drug dealing, which is seeing abhorrent gangs terrorising our towns.
- Funding for counter-terrorism policing will total £906 million in 2020 to 2021, a year-on-year increase of £90 million.

Prisons: Did you know?^{3,4}

- In England and Wales, 56,000 people were sent to prison in the year to June 2019; two-thirds (67%) had committed a non-violent offence and almost half (46%) were sentenced to serve six months or less.
- In 1993 only a third of custodial sentences given to women were for less than six months—in 2018 it was nearly double this (62%). Most women entering prison to serve a sentence have committed a non-violent offence (80%).
- The number of Muslim prisoners has more than doubled over the past 17 years. They now account for 16% of the prison population, but just 5% of the general population. Only 169 of them, 1% of Muslims in prison, are there for terrorism related offences.
- In the 12 months to September 2019, there were 61,461 reported incidents of self-harm (a rate of 742 per 1,000 prisoners), up 16% from the previous 12 months. The number of individuals self-harming increased by 2% in the latest 12 months, to the highest recorded figure of 12,740 individuals (a rate of 154 individuals per 1,000 prisoners).
- Nearly two-thirds (62%) of people entering prison were assessed as having literacy skills expected of an 11-year-old—more than four times higher than in the general adult population (15%). Changes to prison education contracts now allow greater flexibility to fund opportunities, such as arts, and informal learning to allow people to engage and progress during their sentence. However, there have been declines in the number of people participating in learning whilst in prison, and in achieving qualifications in recent years.
- Despite recent increases, the resource budget for HM Prisons and Probation Service (HMPPS) remains 12% lower than in 2010–11.

To see how much you know about crime, visit the Office for National Statistics website.⁵

For further details about your local PCC, please visit www.police.uk

Questions for discussion

1. On a scale of 0-10, how great of a priority do you think each of the following should be for your police force?
 - Visible neighbourhood policing
 - Increasing street lighting
 - Training community wardens
 - Cybercrime and household scams
 - Anti-terrorism
 - More youth support services
 - Increased prison capacity
 - Tougher sentences for serious crimes
 - Greater use of community services for non-serious crimes
 - Improved education and training opportunities in custody
2. What do you think a distinctly Conservative approach would be to prison and rehabilitation?
3. How might we turn people away from crime through more effective use of probation, social services, education, police and the design of town and cityscapes?
4. How do you think local communities can help to counter the exploitation of vulnerable people by “county lines” drug networks?
5. In your opinion, what would be the greatest single policy the police could adopt that would help with tackling crime in your area?

Optional bonus questions

6. Are we right to prioritise violent crimes over non-violent crimes? How can we improve public confidence in the effectiveness of how the police and criminal justice system deal with *all* crimes?
7. What are your views on use by the police of live facial recognition technology? How concerned are you about the implications for civil liberties?
8. How might we increase people’s awareness of and combat modern slavery, scams and online fraud in your local area?
9. Would you accept higher council taxes to pay for more police officers? Would you accept a reduction in the levels of public sector workers in order to fund more police officers?
10. Is there any other observation you would like to make on policing and crime prevention or do you have any other thoughts for your PCC candidate?

¹ *Date set for UK-wide summit in Glasgow on tackling drug misuse*, Home Office, 24 January 2020, [link](#)

² *Policing gets biggest funding boost in decade to put more bobbies on the beat*, Home Office, 22 January 2020, [link](#)

³ *Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile*, Winter 2019, Prison Reform Trust, [link](#)

⁴ *Safety in Custody Statistics, England and Wales: Deaths in Prison Custody to December 2019 Assaults and Self-harm to September 2019*, Ministry of Justice, 30 January 2020, [link](#)

⁵ *How much do you really know about crime?*, Office for National Statistics, 18 July 2019, [link](#)