

Voluntary**Action**Islington

Policy Briefing – Police Reform Bill

May 2011

Background

Crime and policing are major concerns for Londoners, but it may be perceived that communities have little influence over policy. For this reason the Government is aiming to increase police accountability and community influence through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, currently before Parliament.

Key proposals

For London the key changes will be:

- Abolition of the Metropolitan Police Authority, with the Mayor taking the role of Police and Crime Commissioner, delivered through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC)
- Introduction of new scrutiny arrangements

Police and Crime Commissioners

In London this role will be performed by the Mayor, or a designated Deputy Mayor for Policing. In other areas the plan is for popularly elected Commissioners. They will perform three key roles:

- Publish a police and crime plan
- Set local police and crime objectives
- Set the police budget

Scrutiny

The Greater London Assembly (GLA) will take on the role of scrutiny of the Mayor and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. They will also handle complaints against the Mayor.

For the VCS?

Commissioners will have powers over Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and have the power to commission community safety work from local partners.

More information:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/legislation/police-reform-bill>

For questions or comments please contact:

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