



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MEETING ROOM 14, TOWN HALL, CHURCH STREET, BARNSELEY, S70 2TA

1 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor D Nevett (Doncaster MBC) (Chair)

Councillor S Sansome (Rotherham MBC) (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: M Dyson (Barnsley MBC), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), A Khayum (Sheffield City Council), K Mitchell (Barnsley MBC) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Mr S Chu

M Buttery (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), M Clements (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner) and F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Officers: D Cutting and C Tyler
(Barnsley MBC)

Guest in attendance: Chief Constable S Watson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Otten (Sheffield City Council), Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), A Frostdick (Executive Director Core Services, Barnsley MBC), M McCarthy (Barnsley MBC), L Noble (Barnsley MBC) and A Shirt (Barnsley MBC)

1 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING - CHIEF CONSTABLE STEPHEN WATSON

The Chair welcomed Chief Constable Watson to the meeting and thanked him for taking time out of his extremely busy schedule to talk to the Panel about Neighbourhood Policing and related issues.

For the benefit of the viewing public, the Chair provided a reminder of the Panel's role, and is to support and scrutinise the PCC, and not the Chief Constable which is the PCC's role.

Chief Constable Watson provided the Panel with a verbal update on neighbourhood policing and related issues. The Panel noted the history of the concept and the Chief Constable's remarks on future plans, including his intention to rebalance the ratio between Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers in

neighbourhood teams, with the ambition of two Police Constables for every one Police Community Support Officer. It was noted the HMIC has made encouraging remarks regarding this proposal.

Chief Constable Watson also commented on the 101 service acknowledging the amount of time people have to wait to be connected to an operative is longer than he would like. The Chief Constable informed the meeting that the average waiting time is reducing and is now five minutes eleven seconds (down from fourteen minutes eighteen months ago). It was suggested the root cause of call delays remains demand for the service, and a physical limit to the number of operatives who can be employed. In addition, priority continues to be given to 999 calls which are answered in an average nineteen seconds.

The Chief Constable and Panel Members considered the importance of technology in helping to manage demand, with suggestions such as call-back assist, interactive voice responses and online webchat facilities suggested as possible innovations worth exploring. It was suggested these and other ideas would continue to be considered, as the dynamic of how the public engages with the police continues to evolve.

The Chief Constable informed the Panel Members the Force were working towards a system whereby all victims of crime would now be assigned named officers, thus reducing the number of 'people ringing 101 for updates' out of the system.

Cllr Wilkinson noted there is a 101 online reporting facility but a significant number of people don't appear to know that. Cllr Wilkinson therefore questioned whether this facility is advertised enough and could be better publicised. In addition, Cllr Wilkinson asked whether a mobile app could be developed for the purpose of reporting crime, with the added benefit permitting the correspondent to potentially upload pictures as evidence.

Chief Constable Watson informed Members he would take those points away. Regarding increased publicity for the 101 online facility, it was suggested this would be considered once the service has been fully tested and operational.

Cllr Sansome asked what more could be done to remove and punish nuisance callers from the system, and whether this could be achieved by means of caller tracking software.

Chief Constable Watson acknowledged this was a source of frustration for both the 999 and 101 numbers and advised Members that limited legal sanctions exist, other than to warn nuisance callers not to do it again. It was suggested it would be better to recognise why such people might nuisance call, and work with other agencies to intervene.

S Chu questioned whether there was a 101 'failure demand' resulting in people calling 101 either becoming fed-up with the delay and hanging up, or calling 999. The Chief Constable noted that much better intelligence is now being collated to help inform service changes and thus improve provision, as part of the Force's improved suite of business management indicators, and a means of addressing issues such as this.

RESOLVED – That Police and Crime Panel Members noted the update.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair informed the Panel this will be David Cutting's last meeting before he leaves Barnsley MBC to take up a post with Sheffield City Council.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thanked David for his invaluable legal advice and support since Barnsley took over in 2017 and said he knew he will be missed by Members and colleagues alike

Members contributed similar sentiments wishing David well in his new ventures.

4 URGENT ITEMS

None.

5 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None.

7 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

7A TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

There were no public questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7B TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

There were no questions to the Police and Crime Panel.

8 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2019

Cllr Garbutt noted the minutes of the previous meeting indicate a number of instances where information was to be obtained and sought an assurance these actions had been discharged. M Buttery said that every effort was made by the OPCC to respond to requests on the Action Log between meetings. There was an undertaking to check the status of the requests.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 3rd June 2019 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) That the status of the requests for information outstanding be clarified and the Action Log updated accordingly.

9 PARTNERSHIP WORKING AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to provide Members with information on how he holds the Force to account for their partnership and collaborative working around mental health and the partnership and collaborative working undertaken by the Commissioner and his office in relation to mental health, in conjunction with other agencies.

M Buttery advised Members on the role and responsibilities that would be assumed by SY Police's lead officer on this matter, Superintendent Dan Thorpe.

The Chair commented on the overlap between the work undertaken by the Force and that of other agencies, and the benefits of pulling all this activity together.

Cllr Wilkinson suggested it was a shame data protection regulations can get in the way of safeguarding and urged all agencies to develop information systems that talk to each other. M Buttery noted this sentiment is shared by the Commissioner and that enquiries would continue to address any barriers that still exist.

Cllr Sansome requested that a version of this report be fed back to the districts' scrutiny boards to facilitate consideration of how the work of the Local Authorities aligns with this initiative. M Buttery confirmed this would be undertaken.

RESOLVED –

- i) That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) That the OPCC provide a copy of the report to the four South Yorkshire District Overview and Scrutiny Leads.

10 LEAD / LINK MEMBERS - AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL OF DELIVERING EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY AND SUPPORT FOR THE PCC

A report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance was presented to inform Members that, since the introduction of Police and Crime Panels in 2012 their role has evolved in terms of the scrutiny and support for Police and Crime Commissioners. How Panels carry out effective governance and scrutiny outside of Panel meetings varies from region to region, with a range of task and finish groups, sub-committees and also a Lead / Link Member scheme. This approach has been particularly successful in both West Yorkshire and North Wales, and also in Cleveland, albeit they operate different models, looking across a range of topics, some with one Members, or others with a group of Members. The key point is that what is introduced works for both the Panel and the OPCC.

The report provided a proposal that may work within South Yorkshire to increase Member knowledge around a particular area, thus providing increased scrutiny and support for the PCC.

In putting forward this proposal, it was suggested Members should be mindful of capacity – their own, that of the OPCC, and the Support Officer within the Joint Authorities Governance Unit. There should also be cognisance of the collective role and responsibility of the Panel; any arrangement should not impinge or dilute those statutory responsibilities.

There should also be a commitment to review the Lead / Link Member roles on an annual basis.

Consideration was given to the support the independent members might provide.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Considered the proposal set out in the report.
- ii) Nominated Councillor Cllr Grocutt as Lead Member and A Carter as substitute for Performance.
- iii) Nominated Councillor Dyson as substitute Lead Member for Budget.
- iv) Agreed to review Lead / Link Members on an annual basis.

11 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members of the Panel with information on the decisions taken by the Commissioner since the last meeting.

Mr Chu asked who the recipient of the National Ugly Mugs Campaign were, how much they had been awarded and what the benefits to South Yorkshire were.

M Buttery said this information would be provided to Panel Members outside the meeting due to confidentiality.

RESOLVED –

- i) That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) That information in relation to the recipient of the National Ugly Mugs Campaign – funding and benefits – would be provided to the Panel outside the meeting.

12 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A report was submitted to update Members on current events – national, regional and local, together with future plans in respect of learning and development for the Panel.

Consideration was given to additional representation at the National Police and Crime Panels Conference (18th and 19th November in Warwick). Cllr Khayum, Cllr Grocutt and A Carter expressed an interest in attending. However, Mr Carter said that, if the new Independent Member to replace Mr Chu had been appointed, it may be to their advantage to attend and he would relinquish his place.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Provide suggestions for future learning and development.

13 WEBCASTING OF SY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS

A report was submitted which sought approval to renew the contract to webcast South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel meetings.

Members were informed that, to reduce administrative requirements a 3 year contract for webcasting Panel meetings was being sought.

The cost of the webcasting contract had been frozen at the same value of the previous 3 year contract from entering into a joint webcasting contract with Barnsley MBC.

RESOLVED – That Police and Crime Panel Members:-

- i) Agreed to enter into a webcasting contract for a 3 year period at a cost to the Panel of £3,172 per annum.
- ii) Noted that the cost would be met from Home Office Grant Funding.

14 WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the 2019 Work Programme and were reminded that they could submit issues for the Work Programme that fall within the Panel's statutory role in supporting and / or holding the Commissioner to account.

All issues would be given full consideration by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Commissioner at pre-agenda planning meetings.

The Chair noted the Commissioner's intention to circulate PAB meetings around the districts and urged Members to encourage the public to attend.

Cllr Sansome requested an update on the separation of the South Yorkshire and Humberside HR functions.

Cllr Wilkinson asked whether the probation service's return to public ownership would be a matter for the Panel. M Buttery advised Members that the PCC and OPCC are involved in shaping future arrangements and updates would be presented when available.

RESOLVED –

- i) That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2019 Work Programme.
- ii) That the OPCC provide an update on the separation of the SYP and Humberside Police HR collaboration arrangements.
- iii) That consideration be given to including an update on the return of the Probation Service to public ownership as part of the Panel's Work Programme.

15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Panel be held on Monday 2nd September 2019, 1:00 pm in Meeting Room 14, Town Hall, Church Street, Barnsley.

CHAIR