

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, THE CIVIC, HANSON STREET, BARNSELEY,
S70 2HZ**

19 JULY 2021

PRESENT: Councillor A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC) (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: T Baum-Dixon (Rotherham MBC), R Davison (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), S Knowles (Doncaster MBC), Councillor (Sheffield City Council), R Milsom (Sheffield City Council) and C Ransome (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: W Carratt and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery, S Abbott and S Baldwin
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, J Field and A Shirt
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Haleem (Rotherham MBC), Councillor C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), S Parkin (OPCC), K Wright (OPCC), L Noble (Barnsley MBC) and F Topliss (OPCC)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Councillor Cherryholme took the Chair for today's meeting and welcomed everyone to the Police and Crime Panel meeting.

An extended welcome went to Councillor Ruth Milsom from Sheffield City Council and to Mr Warren Carratt who had recently been appointed as an Independent (Co-opted) Member to the Panel.

Councillor Cynthia Ransome from Doncaster MBC was also welcomed to her first Panel meeting.

Members were informed that Councillor Bryan Lodge from Sheffield City Council had recently been appointed to serve on the Panel in place of Councillor Garry Weatherall.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

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.

8 TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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

9 MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel Annual meeting held on 7th June 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 CHIEF CONSTABLE APPOINTMENT - CONFIRMATION HEARING

A report of the Panel's Monitoring Officer was presented setting out the Confirmation Hearing process for the appointment of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police held on Friday 11th June 2021.

At the Confirmation Hearing held on 11th June 2021, the Panel unanimously agreed to recommend the appointment of Lauren Poultney as Chief Constable, and this was communicated (in writing) to the Police and Crime Commissioner on the 11th June 2021.

The Commissioner had since confirmed the appointment of the Chief Constable, and his press release had been published on the Commissioner's website.

The minutes of the Confirmation Hearing held on 11th June 2021 were presented at Appendix A to the report for the Panel's approval.

The Panel thanked the Commissioner and his staff for attendance at the Confirmation Hearing.

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

- i) Noted the confirmation of Lauren Poultney as the Commissioner's preferred candidate for the post of Chief Constable of South Yorkshire.
- ii) Noted the Commissioner's subsequent appointment following the Confirmation Hearing held on 11th June 2021.
- iii) Agreed that the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel's Confirmation Hearing held on 11th June 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 PCC'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Commissioner introduced his draft Annual Report for the financial year 2020/21. He reminded the Panel that it was a statutory responsibility to provide an Annual Report, which was a backward look over the year to set out how he had met his statutory responsibilities together with the progress made in meeting the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire. The Annual Report also set out the ways in which he had continued to hold the Force to account.

Members were reminded that the Commissioner's existing Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021), had been renewed in 2019 and would remain in place initially.

The Commissioner reported that 2020 had been very different from previous years, due to the arrival of the Coronavirus leading to restrictions and lock-downs. This had affected everything - crime, policing, travel, work - in all communities and was therefore difficult to compare to previous years.

The Commissioner highlighted that the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan had also remained the same throughout the pandemic, namely:-

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Treating People Fairly

During the year, initially crime did fall, however, this was now increasing to pre-Coronavirus levels. The Commissioner said that during lock-downs there had been anxieties around certain types of crime, for example domestic abuse.

During the year, the Commissioner had met remotely with a number of local community groups and Town and Parish Councils. At these meetings, as well as residential burglary, serious violence being reported, residents were also raising issues around road safety and vehicles speeding in their communities, to which he had reflected upon why this may have been.

The Commissioner had reached the conclusion that many people were either staying at home or working from home and their focus had moved to their own village.

Issues of concern had started to emerge as the country comes out of the Coronavirus pandemic. Issues around neighbourhood crimes, serious violence and the return of rural crimes would feature in the new Police and Crime Plan.

Members were asked to provide the Commissioner with the Panel's report (or recommendations) on the Annual Report by 30th July 2021.

Professor James thanked the Commissioner for his report and queried if the mechanism for the Panel to provide feedback on the Annual Report by 30th July 2021 allowed sufficient time for the Panel's serious consideration.

M Buttery replied that, at the request of the Panel, the Annual Report had been produced and brought to the Panel two months earlier than in previous years. As a result, there was a small amount of performance and outcome data that was still to be confirmed once final audited data was published. (These were currently highlighted in red text in the draft report and would be updated within the report as soon as they were available).

M Buttery confirmed that Professor James' request for additional time to allow the Panel to fully consider and comment on the Annual Report would not present any undue problems. It was highlighted that the data presented in the Annual Report had previously been presented to Panel Members in the quarterly Performance Reports.

J Field reported that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Panel and the Commissioner set out that the Panel would send its report on the Annual Report to the Police and Crime Commissioner within 20 working days of the conclusion of today's meeting.

The Panel agreed to provide its report to the Commissioner by the revised deadline date of Friday 13th August 2021.

Professor James said that he was conscious of an issue which had been raised at the Performance Sub-Group meetings with regards to the recorded reduction in the number of sexual offences. He expressed concerns around the high-level data and said that this reduction may conceal all kinds of important variations and that some types of sexual offences may be increasing.

He understood from K Wright that this would require a detailed deep dive of the ONS statistics. From undertaking his own analysis, Professor James said that it was important, if possible, to un-pack the statistics. It was clear that within the 7% reduction there may be some serious increases that are matched by some less serious decreases. Professor James asked if this issue could be addressed by the Commissioner or the OPCC.

S Baldwin replied that K Wright and herself would undertake further analysis following the latest ONS release. In addition, discussions would also take place with the Force around the work being undertaking to analyse this issue.

The Commissioner added that there would be a focus during the year around Violence against Women and Girls. He expected the Home Office to make an announcement later this week around a new national Strategy.

The Commissioner said that he would be arranging a round table meeting to examine the issues contained within the new national Strategy in further detail. In addition, discussions had taken place with the Local Criminal Justice Board to try and address why conviction rates were low around sexual assaults.

Professor James highlighted that the draft Annual Report stated that there had been six meetings of the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) held during April 2020 to March 2021. However, from visiting the Commissioner's website, Professor James was unable to locate any IEP agendas since June 2019 and no minutes of IEP meetings held during 2021.

In relation to the Panel's ability to view the work of the IEP, Professor James said that it was a regrettable oversight and asked if the Commissioner could look to address this.

The Commissioner apologised and agreed to investigate further.

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

- i) Received and commented on the PCC's draft Annual Report, attached at Appendix A.
- ii) Noted that there was a minority of data still to be confirmed once final audited data is published (these are currently highlighted in red text in the draft report).
- iii) Agreed to provide the PCC with the Panel's report (or recommendations) on the Annual Report by the revised deadline date of Friday 13th August 2021.
- iv) Noted that S Baldwin and K Wright would undertake further analysis around the recorded reduction in the number of sexual offences.
- v) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to investigate why agendas and minutes of the IEP had not been published on the OPCC website.

12 THE PCC'S POLICE AND CRIME PLAN FOR 2021-2024

The Commissioner introduced a report which set out a new draft of the Police and Crime Plan - '*Being Safe, Feeling Safe*' for the period from 2021-2024.

It was reported that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 made provision for the Commissioner to issue a new or varied Plan, in consultation with the Chief Constable and any recommendations from the Police and Crime Panel, to respond to issues and priorities which emerge during the life of the Plan. This included any changes in the strategic policing requirement issued by the Home Secretary.

The Commissioner reported that, as in previous years, the Plan was based on information and consultation from a range of sources, and reflected the same three priorities that he had set in previous Police and Crime Plans and in the Police and Crime Plan Addendum in February 2021.

M Buttery highlighted that the Plan also made reference to new national priorities set by the Home Secretary which would be measured by the 'National Crime and Policing Measures' set by Government to support their '*... relentless focus on cutting crime*'. Accountability for performance against these national measures will be via the Crime and Policing Performance Board (CPPB), sitting underneath the National Policing Board (although democratic and local accountability would come from PCCs explaining to the public how their Force is performing against the measures). The CPPB would monitor the data on a quarterly basis.

M Buttery explained that she would like to consult with the Panel via the Performance Sub-Group around the national measures. However, this would need to be delegated by the Panel to the Performance Sub-Group. A letter was currently being drafted by the OPCC to the Chair and L Noble to set out further proposals.

The Panel was made aware that the Plan was set to last the Commissioner's term of office – i.e. three years rather than four, because of the postponement of the PCC elections in 2020, to May 2021.

The Commissioner had indicated that it was his intention to refresh the Plan in 2022 when the budget was set. This was to take account of the environment at that time, given current uncertain nature of the pandemic and its impact on communities, crime and policing.

The Commissioner also intended to hold a joint planning event in the Autumn with South Yorkshire Police and, involving local partners. This event would also inform the Plan's priorities and areas of focus for the coming years.

M Buttery confirmed that Panel Members would also be invited to the event.

The Panel was invited to consider the Plan and comment on the contents in a report, and make any recommendations, submitted to the Commissioner by 23rd July 2021 to enable the Plan to be published.

M Buttery reported that the Commissioner was keen to publish his report as soon as possible, not least because publication of the Plan would trigger compliance with the newly amended Specified Information Order relevant to the national Crime and Policing Measures (which for other PCCs who had already published their Plans, the trigger date would be 31st July).

In response, J Field suggested that the Panel's comments should be provided to the Commissioner within 20 working days of the conclusion of today's meeting (Friday 13th August 2021).

W Carratt referred to page 64 of the agenda pack (5th paragraph) around 'children and young people's exposure to risk and vulnerability was likely to have increased during lockdown'.

He reported that, on 10th June 2021, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Ofsted had published a detailed report following a review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges. W Carratt queried if an opportunity had been missed not to include direct reference to the review within the Police and Crime Plan, due to this being a likely area of focus for youth offending, schools, colleges, and policing in the next 18 months.

The Commissioner thanked W Carratt for bringing the report to his attention and agreed to examine Ofsted's report in further detail.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime:-

- i) Noted the contents of the PCC's new Police and Crime Plan.
- ii) Agreed to provide comments on the Police and Crime Plan in a report and make any recommendations by the revised deadline date of Friday 13th August 2021.
- iii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to examine Ofsted's report reviewing Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges.

13 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING)

A report of the Commissioner was introduced to provide Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities since the Panel's last meeting held on 7th June 2021.

For the benefit of new Members, M Buttery explained that the report set out the activity undertaken to support both the Commissioner in discharging his statutory responsibilities and also achievements made against the Police and Crime Plan.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting, together with key headlines of activities undertaken during the period.

Further details were presented in the report and noted by Members.

An addendum to the report had been circulated setting out further information relating to the decisions made since the last meeting. The decisions made during the period mainly related to external funding opportunities that the OPCC's Commissioning Team continued to pursue.

Professor James referred to paragraph 26 of the report and asked if a timescale had been set for the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) to complete work in relation to Stop and Search and workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

S Baldwin confirmed that the IEP's work had commenced in relation to Stop and Search. Discussions had taken place with Inspector Sarah Gilmour, the Force's new lead for Stop and Search and with the Chair of the IEP.

A timescale for completion of the IEP's work around Stop and Search would be shared with Professor James following today's meeting.

In relation to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion work, S Baldwin said that an initial report had been presented to the IEP. A further update would be presented to the IEP at the end of quarter 2 (September 2021).

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Noted that S Baldwin had agreed to provide Professor James with the timescale for completion of the Independent Ethics Panel's work on Stop and Search.

14 AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE

A report of the Panel's Monitoring Officer was presented informing Members that, at the Police and Crime Panel Annual General Meeting Panel Members were asked to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Panel's Rules of Procedure currently limit the positions to Councillors. Professor James, an Independent Member, proposed that the Panel considered changing the Rules of Procedure at a future meeting to remove that limitation.

The Panel were made aware that there was no legal requirement to have Councillors as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel.

Members noted that no other changes would be required to the Rules of Procedure and that they would apply next time the Panel was required to elect a Chair or Vice-Chair. The current appointments were for a period of two years.

Following discussion, Councillor Garbutt proposed that the Panel amended its Rules of Procedure as set out in the extract from Rules at Appendix A to the report.

The proposal was duly seconded by Councillor Davison.

A recorded vote was undertaken and recorded as follows:-

For accepting the amendment to the Panel's Rules of Procedure as attached at Appendix A to permit Independent Members to be elected as Chair or Vice-Chair (9) Councillors Cherryholme, Baum-Dixon, Davison, Garbutt, Knowles, Milsom, Ransome, Professor James and Mr Carratt.

Against the amendment (0) and abstained (0).

The amendment to the Panel's Rules of Procedure were unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the report and unanimously agreed to amend the Rules of Procedure as attached to the report to permit Independent Members to be elected as Chair or Vice-Chair.

15 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.

A summary of the events which had taken place since the last meeting together with details of proposed future events were set out within the report for Members' information.

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

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Agreed to provide suggestions for future learning and development.

16 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2021/22 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 scrutinising the Commissioner.

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

Additionally, Members were encouraged to attend the meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge. These were currently being held virtually and Members could obtain details to 'dial in' to the meeting from L Noble or A Shirt.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2021/22 Work Programme.

17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Monday 20th September 2021, at 1:00 pm – venue to be confirmed.

CHAIR