



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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

4 FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor A Khayum (Sheffield City Council) (Chair)

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

Councillors: R Frost (Barnsley MBC), D Nevett (Doncaster MBC), P Short (Rotherham MBC), J Otten (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

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

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), M Buttery (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), M Clements (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner) and K Wright (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Officers: D Cutting, M McCarthy, L Noble and A Shirt (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Dyson (Barnsley MBC), Councillor B Johnson (Sheffield City Council) and Councillor M O'Rourke (Sheffield CC)

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

None.

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

None.

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:-

6A TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

S Chu reported that he had submitted a written question to the Commissioner in advance of today's meeting where he had asked if the Commissioner had been consulted before South Yorkshire Police asked for Sheffield derby football matches to be played in midweek in future. What did the Commissioner believe this says for the reputation of the Force, and confidence in it, when football derbies in Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow have either bigger crowds or greater risk of violence, are routinely played at weekends?

It was noted that the Commissioner had provided a response to state that this was an operational decision and included information about the costs of policing football matches in South Yorkshire.

In accordance with the Panel's Rules of Procedure, S Chu was granted permission by the Chair to ask a supplementary question to the Commissioner.

S Chu stated that he was interested to know what the Commissioner believed this said about the reputation of the Force, and trust and confidence in it, given that Forces in Manchester, Strathclyde and Merseyside appeared to have much more high profile games and were able to accommodate these at weekends.

The Commissioner replied that he was unsure of the street configurations of the areas highlighted; this was an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

The Commissioner added that South Yorkshire Police had established a Football Supporters Independent Advisory Group (IAG). He suggested that this issue could be discussed and debated at the IAG.

6B TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

D Cutting reported that the Panel had received one question, which he had reviewed under the Panel's Rules of Procedure. He confirmed that the question related to an individual's case and was therefore outside of the Panel's area of responsibility.

7 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 3 December 2018 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

8 SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN RENEWAL 2019 / 2020

The Commissioner introduced his renewed Police and Crime Plan, informing Members that he had entitled the Plan 'Keeping Safe' based on discussions with the public.

The Commissioner confirmed that his key priorities would remain the same as last year, based on public consultation about policing and crime in South Yorkshire.

Councillor Wilkinson made reference to the Quarterly Police and Crime Plan Performance report which stated that, 'trust and confidence in police and crime services refers to treating everyone fairly and in accordance with their police and crime needs'.

However, it was noted that the Doncaster District was employing a triage process to focus upon offences with the highest solvability factors, thus, she felt that crimes were not all investigated in the same way. She asked the Commissioner what the Force's criteria were to prioritise crimes, if there was a geographical criterion and if there was a procedure in place for dealing with vulnerable people.

The Commissioner replied that he understood Councillor Wilkinson's concerns; he confirmed that, all crimes would be recorded, but, crimes would be investigated according to judgements around the evidence that was likely to be available.

He provided Members with an example of when it would not be feasible for the Police to investigate a crime and the triage process followed. It was confirmed that there was no geographical criteria, providing that a crime was solvable. Officers would use discretion when dealing with a vulnerable victim of crime. The Commissioner stated that it was important for the Force to provide victims of crime with a careful explanation of the action that would be taken / not taken and provide a follow-up to victims of crime.

Councillor Otten asked the Commissioner if he was aware of the concerns that had been raised around the value for money of his YOYO initiative, the project not focusing on the schools that were most in need, and a possible conflict of interest in the commercial relationship between Bauer Academy and Hallam FM.

The Commissioner replied that he was aware of the concerns raised; he explained to the Panel his reasoning behind support for the YOYO initiative and why the initiative was different to other projects.

In relation to knife crime, Councillor Sansome asked the Commissioner what action he and the Force were taking across South Yorkshire to communicate use of the 'Glasgow Model' to members of the public.

The Commissioner replied that knife crime in South Yorkshire had fallen by 12% last year, and he was keen to understand why knife crime had fallen in South Yorkshire, where in other parts of the country it had increased. In relation to communications with the public, the Commissioner stated that this had to be a two

way approach with the Force being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

Furthermore, this was the message which the Commissioner wanted to communicate to the residents of South Yorkshire.

There also needed to be emphasis on prevention of crimes by working together with partner agencies, if the public health model was to be put into operation.

Following discussion, Members asked if the following amendments could be made to the Renewed Police and Crime Plan:

- i) Page 22 of the PCP agenda pack – paragraph in italics which starts: “*In the coming year ...*” – to include reference to the voluntary sector where partnerships are mentioned.
- ii) Small Grants Scheme (page 32 of the PCP agenda pack) – to add a link to the Grants Scheme and more details around how to apply etc.
- iii) The Role of the Police and Crime Panel (page 38 of the PCP agenda pack) – to add a link to the PCP’s website - <http://www.southyorks.gov.uk/webcomponents/jsec.aspx>

The Commissioner thanked Members for their amendments. He also wished to place on record his thanks to the various voluntary and community groups, which organisations in South Yorkshire and the public sector had become more reliant upon following cuts within the public sector.

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

- i) Received the PCC’s Draft Police and Crime Plan 2017 to 2021 – Renewed 2019/2020, attached at Appendix A to the report.
- ii) Would provide comments to the PCC by 11 February 2019.
- iii) Requested that the amendments set out above be incorporated into the final Police and Crime Plan 2017 to 2021 – Renewed 2019/2020.

9 PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT AND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2019/20

A report of the Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer, OPCC was presented to notify the Police and Crime Panel of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposed Council Tax precept for 2019/20.

The Commissioner provided the Panel with context to his proposal, he stated that he acknowledged the residents of South Yorkshire’s financial hardship, but that he also needed to finance policing. The Government had stated that if PCCs did not raise the precept by the maximum amount for 2019/20, there was the potential for this to put at risk future years’ Grants for both legacy and pensions.

Members noted that the 2019/20 funding settlement announced additional funding of £823m for local policing, with 62% of this expected to come from increased local taxation, which was a one year settlement only. The Home Office could not confirm if all of the increased grant would be recurrent.

M Clements outlined the proposed budget for 2019/20, which reflected £19.5m of new pressures for South Yorkshire Police, including inflation of £5.1m, £9.8 of unavoidable cost pressures including £5.8m increased pension costs and £4.6m of growth proposals.

The increase in employers' contribution rates for police officer pensions, to tackle the scheme's unfunded deficit would be met in full by increased grant in 2019/20.

The proposed 2019/20 budget of £264m included the investment of an increase in police officers of 55, including an additional 40 police officers in neighbourhood policing.

Savings plans totalling approximately £4.0m were proposed for 2019/20.

The cost of legacy issues between 2018/19 and 2023/24 was forecast to be £179m. Under current rules, £149m of Special Grant could be claimed from the Home Office, leaving a funding gap of £30m to be met from the budget. The 2019/20 funding gap was expected to be £7.1m, requiring the use of reserves to balance the budget overall.

The PCC's proposal was to levy an annual increase in the precept equivalent to £24 on a Band D property. The annual increase for a Band A property would be equivalent to £16.00 and £18.67 for a Band B property. With the £24 Band D precept increase, the 2019/20 budget would have a net £2.6m deficit after legacy costs, requiring the use of reserves to balance.

Members noted the reserves forecast over the life of the Medium Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS) to 2023/24.

The Panel asked the Commissioner a series of questions which related to his precept proposal, legacy costs, underspends, trust and confidence issues in South Yorkshire Police and visibility of police officers. Detailed answers were provided to the Panel by the Commissioner, M Buttery and M Clements.

Councillor Sansome introduced a statement approved by Panel Members following the recent informed Budget Familiarisation briefing and indicated a desire to veto the Precept proposal unless a further 90 neighbourhood officers were recruited. This was clarified after questions from the PCC, and the statement read aloud.

On behalf of the Panel's Budget Working Group, Councillor Sansome thanked M Clements and his colleagues for providing a response to Members' questions throughout the year, and his support for the Budget Working Group.

On behalf of all Panel Members, Councillor Sansome read out the following statement:

“Due to the savage cuts by the Tory government, under the guise of austerity, and the previous Chief Constable removing neighbourhood policing without any consultation, our residents have seen a drastic reduction in the numbers of visible police officers.

Anti-Social Behaviour, burglary, gun and knife crime are all rising while detection rates are falling. People feel, in some areas, afraid to venture out into their neighbourhoods.

Residents who have been burgled rarely receive a visit from an officer or CID, they are simply issued with a crime number for their insurance.

And the Panel are all well aware of the failings of the 101 service.

Trust and confidence in South Yorkshire Police is disappearing at a rate of knots, despite dedicated officers working tirelessly within their local communities.

Many times when the Police and Crime Commissioner had visited areas across South Yorkshire there was one common theme - residents want to see more ‘bobbies on the beat’.

The Panel appreciate that for 5 consecutive years South Yorkshire Police had been forced to move any underspends into legacy reserves and at the same time make savings.

The Panel commend the Commissioner for the return of neighbourhood policing and we welcome that, for the first time in many years, Members had the chance of seeing officer numbers in neighbourhoods increase.

As in previous years, the Police and Crime Plan contains aspirations that cover many aspects of keeping people safe, for the Panel your aspirations with the recruitment of only 40 additional officers to neighbourhood policing is not achievable.

What level of comfort will the residents of Rotherham feel from having less than 10 officers across the 3 teams, less than 1 per team when rota patterns, holiday or absence is factored in?

During the recent consultation 60 to 70% of residents said they would be prepared to pay a little more to see more officers in their neighbourhoods, to have the luxury of feeling safer.

But the Panel must also bear in mind that when they are seeing increased levels of poverty and homelessness and use of foodbanks was soaring any increase to council tax must not be taken lightly.

Commissioner, all Members of the Panel, whatever political party, agree with the principle of the precept rise, but we cannot agree with the meagre recruitment proposal of only 40 additional officers for neighbourhood policing.

Our proposals would see a total of 90 new officers, an extra 50 in addition to your proposed 40.

I think we can all agree that what is important is working together to do everything within our power to make our communities safer and tackle these rises in crimes”.

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

- i) Voted unanimously to accept the PCC’s increase in the Council Tax precept for 2019/20 of £24 for a Band D property (a 14% increase) to £194.16. For Band A properties this equated to an annual increase of £16.00 and £18.67 for Band B properties be approved.
- ii) Recommended that the PCC would explore with the Chief Constable the recruitment of an additional 50 operational staff, in addition to the proposed 55 (40 of which would be deployed into neighbourhood policing).
- iii) Requested that the PCC provide the commitment to speak to the Chief Constable and to the Panel in writing, along with updates on progress.

10 MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018)

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was submitted to present the Quarterly Report for the period October to December 2018, produced from the developing Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC’s) Police and Partners Performance Framework. The report provided information about how the police and partners as well as the Office of the PCC are working to achieve the outcome and priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire.

Councillor Wilkinson noted that Domestic Abuse crimes were higher in 2017/18 than 2016/17 with an increasing trend since February 2018. She asked if this was due to an increase in reporting, or if instances of domestic abuse were increasing. She also asked if Members could receive a breakdown detailing the ethnicity of the victims reporting Domestic Abuse crimes.

The Commissioner replied that people were getting more confident in reporting Domestic Abuse crimes and that, the Police were getting better at recording crimes.

In relation to the ethnicity of the victims reporting Domestic Abuse crimes, K Wright agreed to either include this information in future reports or provide the information separately to the Panel.

Councillor Frost referred to trust and confidence in police services and the number of complaints regarding the 101 non-emergency call system. He asked if there were any plans in place to communicate to the public about the correct use of the 101 system.

The Commissioner replied that SMART contact had now gone live. As the call-back facility became fully functional he expected that the Force would begin to inform the public about the functionality of the system. To date, the Commissioner was unsure when communications would be issued.

Councillor Sansome asked why residential burglary had increased over the winter months. He also asked how the Commissioner was holding the Chief Constable to account in this area without increasing police officer numbers.

The Commissioner explained that the trend in residential burglary was seasonal to some degree. Over the long term, the trend in residential burglaries was falling.

M Buttery informed Members that a member of the OPCC did attend Force performance meetings on behalf of the Commissioner to provide assurance around Force performance and if timescales for improvement were acceptable to the Commissioner.

Councillor Sansome asked if detailed reports on the action being taken by the Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account in relation to improving performance on domestic abuse crimes and victim satisfaction could be presented at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Commissioner, K Wright acknowledged the request.

Members were informed that the new OPCC website would contain additional performance information.

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Requested that detailed reports on the action being taken by the Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account in relation to improving performance on domestic abuse crimes and victim satisfaction be presented at the next meeting.

11 REOFFENDING WITHIN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide the Panel with an overview of Reoffending statistics for South Yorkshire, including information regarding recent changes to the way in which those statistics are produced by the Ministry of Justice. The report also provided the Panel with a brief update on proposed changes to the probation landscape, that may result in some changes to the way in which probation services are provided within South Yorkshire.

Councillor Sansome suggested that it would be very useful for communities to be informed of the restrictions and conditions of reoffenders to enable them to play a part in the enforcement of their conditions.

The Commissioner suggested that it may be appropriate, and of interest to the Panel, to receive a report at a later date on offender management in the community.

M Buttery added that, she had, had previous correspondence with Councillor Sansome about Community Impact Statements but this was about disclosure of information about offenders to communities, post-sentence. It was stated that, if an offender was at risk to communities then the Police would have to resolve issues of data protection and confidentiality in order to share information lawfully on a need-to-know basis.

In relation to Councillor Sansome's suggestion it was agreed that this issue should be discussed with the Local Criminal Justice Board, partnerships and through South Yorkshire Police with those involved in offender management.

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

- i) Noted the most recent reoffending performance across South Yorkshire.
- ii) Noted the latest position in relation to proposed changes to the way in which probation services are delivered locally.
- iii) Noted that Councillor Sansome's suggestion regarding offender management in communities would be discussed with the Local Criminal Justice Board, partnerships and through South Yorkshire Police with those involved in offender management.
- iv) Would receive a report on Offender Management at an appropriate time in the work programme.

12 NEW TECHNOLOGY IN POLICING

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members of the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the new technology in policing.

Members noted that the Commissioner had asked the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) to consider ethical issues raised by the introduction of policing of new technology, and report any exceptions / areas of concern to him.

At the IEP meeting held on 13 November 2018, the Panel had received a presentation on the Evidence Based Investigation Tool (EBIT). Additionally, the Panel had also discussed the potential use of algorithm-assisted decision making in policing and the ethical dilemmas surrounding this. IEP Members had felt it would be useful to obtain a better understanding of the legal framework around this.

A Carter thanked the Commissioner for his report. He asked if the Panel could receive regular updates on Artificial Intelligence in Policing.

The Commissioner acknowledged the request. He thanked A Carter for his interest in this highly important area of policing.

Councillor Otten asked for assurances that the IEP had the capacity to be able to examine issues, and if the membership of the IEP had the appropriate skills set to be able to evaluate the information provided. Additionally, he asked if the conclusions of the Policy that the Force is asked to adopt with regards to an issue such as racial profiling by proxy could be reported back to the Panel.

The Commissioner provided the Panel with details of the membership of the IEP and gave assurances that members of the IEP had the appropriate skills set to be able to ask these detailed questions.

Councillor Sansome asked if new technology in policing was an area that HMICFRS would look at during their inspections of the Force.

M Buttery stated that she would raise this question with HMICFRS and report back to Members.

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented upon any matters arising.
- ii) Noted that M Buttery would ask HMICFRS if new technology was an area that they would be looking at during their inspections of the Force.
- iii) That the next report to the Panel (in six months' time) would include the findings of the IEP on the use of drones etc.

13 HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICE

A report of the Commissioner's Chief Executive and Solicitor was submitted to inform Members about the collaborative arrangements previously in place for the provision of a shared Human Resource Service between South Yorkshire Police and Humberside Police, and the recent decision to end those arrangements.

Councillor Sansome asked if the transition costs involved in ending the arrangements could be included in future budget reports on a quarterly basis.

M Buttery acknowledged the request, she added that M Clements would include tracking of the transition costs to the end of the review.

Councillor Khayum asked if Members could be provided with the timescale of when there would be complete separation of the two HR functions.

M Buttery informed the Panel that the timescales would be dependent upon the conclusion of consultation exercises with staff. She agreed to provide further details outside of today's meeting.

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report.

- ii) Noted that future budget reports would include tracking of the transition costs to the end of the review.
- iii) Noted that M Buttery would provide Members with the timescales of when there would be complete separation of the two HR functions.

14 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.

A Carter asked if Panel Members could be provided with details of those organisations that had been successful / unsuccessful in their bids or requests for funding from the Commissioner's Community Grant Scheme 2018/19.

The Commissioner agreed to provide this information, in confidence, to Members.

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 the Commissioner's Office would provide details of those organisations that had been successful / unsuccessful in their bids or requests for funding from the Commissioner's Community Grant Scheme 2018/19.

15 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

L Noble provided Members with a verbal update on forthcoming events and meetings which Members may be interested in.

Firstly, the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board meetings provide Members with a good source of operational knowledge. There had been some changes to the Force District performance updates, which would now be presented on a quarterly basis. Dates had been provided to Members.

The OPCC would keep the Panel informed of any dates for future YOYO sessions.

A Yorkshire and Humberside Regional PFCP Network was due to be arranged by Frontline Consulting in Spring; a report back to the Panel would be provided.

A National Problem Solving Conference would be held on 27th – 29th March in Burton-on-Trent, hosted by South Yorkshire's Chief Constable. Details would be circulated to Panel Members.

And finally, in April an additional session would be held, facilitated by Frontline Consulting to look back on the Panel's year, and work programme for the forthcoming year. The session would be widened out to include key officers from the OPCC.

Councillor Khayum asked Members to prioritise their attendance at the session.

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

16 WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES & ROTA

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 the pre-agenda planning meetings.

Additionally, Members were encouraged to attend meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) to increase their operational knowledge.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2019 Work Programme.

17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

CHAIR