



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

20 JULY 2020

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

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

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Otten (Sheffield City Council) and S Wilkinson (Doncaster MBC)

Independent Co-opted Members: Mr A Carter and Professor A James

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M Buttery, S Abbott, L Dudley (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office), S Parkin, O Sinclair (OPCC) and K Wright (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

M McCarthy, J Field, L Noble, A Shirt and C Tyler (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), Councillor P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), Councillor K Mitchell (Barnsley MBC), Councillor P Short (Rotherham MBC), Councillor J Steinke (Sheffield City Council) and F Topliss (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

1 **WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

Councillor Nevett welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

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

RESOLVED – That discussion of agenda item 20 ‘COVID-19 Update in relation to the Courts’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

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 SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2020

Councillor Otten referred to the officer response provided in the Action Log with regards to a suggested Lead Member role for race relations. He stated that, it would be for the Panel to decide if there should be a Lead Member for race relations.

Councillor Wilkinson suggested that it may be more appropriate to develop a Lead Member role which encompassed all of the nine protected characteristics.

L Noble replied that she could carry out further research on the Panel’s behalf and have discussions with the OPCC about this area of work, if this was agreed by Members’.

Councillor Sansome added that he would also discuss the Lead Member role with the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels to enquire if any other Panels had created a similar Lead Member role.

Professor James expressed some reservations. He highlighted that, many of the issues raised had been previously linked to performance, thus, there was the possibility of creating potential problems in terms of boundaries and lines of communication.

Following discussion, the Panel requested L Noble to undertake further work in relation to creating a Lead Member role which encompassed all of the nine protected characteristics, with information to be presented at a future Panel meeting.

Councillor Nevett highlighted that there were a number of outstanding actions contained on the Panel's Action Log, which were recommended for referral to the Performance Lead Member meetings for further discussion.

Following discussion, Professor James requested that, actions in relation to Helping to shape future Probation Services (Community Rehabilitation Companies), Stop and Search, Cyber Crime and Digital Policing be retained on the Action Log until further updates have been received.

L Noble provided an update on the costs and production of the Panel's 2019/20 Annual Report. It was noted that the total estimated cost of production, printing and postage of the 2019/20 Annual Report would be around £492.53, which was a saving of £447.27 based on last year's Annual Report production. It was anticipated that the Annual Report, together with a covering letter from the Chair would be dispatched to all South Yorkshire libraries during the Autumn, but it was hoped the electronic version could be circulated sooner.

Councillor Sansome asked if the savings of producing the 2019/20 Annual Report could be donated to a charity, if the Panel made the decision to do so.

L Noble replied that there would also be additional savings made throughout the year, due to the Panel meeting remotely and there being no learning and development events currently taking place. It was noted that any savings would be reflected within the Panel's Grant claim submission to the Home Office, which was claimed back retrospectively. L Noble agreed to check the Grant Agreement conditions, but pointed out that no surplus funds were held by the host Authority.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Sansome stated that he would raise the issue with regards to donating Panel underspends to charity with the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the Panel requested L Noble to undertake further research in relation to creating a Lead Member role which encompassed all of the nine protected characteristics, with information presented at a future Panel meeting.
- ii) Requested that actions in relation to Helping to shape future Probation Services (Community Rehabilitation Companies), Stop and Search, Cyber Crime and Digital Policing be retained on the Action Log for further updates.
- iii) Noted that Councillor Sansome would discuss the Lead Member (Protected Characteristics) role with the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels to enquire if any other Panels had created a similar Lead Member role.
- iv) Noted that L Noble would check the Grant Agreement conditions and contact the Home Office to ascertain if Panel underspends could be donated to charity.

- v) Noted that Councillor Sansome would raise the issue with regards to donating Panel underspends to charity with the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.
- vi) That the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 8th June 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING: GATHERING THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

A report was presented to provide the Panel with an overview of the work completed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in gathering the views of the public on the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing.

Members noted that a piece of work had been identified and agreed as part of the OPCC's 2019/20 Delivery Plan. The project aimed to examine, from the perspective of the public, how well the current neighbourhood policing model in South Yorkshire addressed the following issues:

- Visibility
- Accessibility
- Interactions and
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime

Following discussions with the Commissioner, the Senior Leadership Team of the OPCC and SYP colleagues, it was agreed that the preferred option of gathering public views was to primarily conduct face to face surveys. This would supplement the views provided through surveys already conducted by the Force and provide a fuller picture on the public's views of neighbourhood policing.

Members noted that the survey had collected responses from 509 respondents, with efforts made to ensure demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, and which district a respondent lived in, were in line with the breakdown of such factors present in the population of South Yorkshire.

The survey included 9 questions focussing on the areas listed above and also invited people to notify, if they wished to, their ethnicity and whether they considered themselves to be disabled.

The survey ensured a broad cross section of South Yorkshire could take part in the survey. The key findings were presented within the report and further detailed findings from the survey were presented in Appendix A to the report.

Members noted that the 'next steps' currently being developed, which included specific timescales and actions to take account of the impact of the current Coronavirus Pandemic. This included:

- Conducting further surveys and focus groups to further understand residents' views on particular areas of interest.

- Using the results of the survey to work with SYP both at the strategic and at a local level with the neighbourhood teams, so that neighbourhood policing continues to be shaped around the needs of South Yorkshire residents.

Professor James commented that it may be useful to understand the relationship between the 62% of people who still use 999 and 101 to contact the Force, and their low level of knowledge about contacting Neighbourhood Policing Teams directly. He was of the opinion that, if the accessibility of Neighbourhood Policing Teams was widely known, it may reduce further demands on Atlas Court.

He also stated that it was often difficult to obtain the contact details of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams via the Force's website. Furthermore, he welcomed the idea set out in the 'next steps' of the report to survey Police Officers at a local level within the Neighbourhood Teams.

O Sinclair replied that, as a result of carrying out the survey, more people were now aware that they could contact their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams directly, which would help to improve satisfaction levels. The 'next steps' were currently being worked up, with further surveys and focus groups being conducted. Officers within the Neighbourhood Teams would also be surveyed to understand what their day-to-day work entails and to identify any issues.

Councillor Wilkinson asked why the survey only contained one mark of ethnicity, based on skin colour.

O Sinclair replied that the individuals surveyed had defined their own ethnicity. Effort had been made to capture the views of as wider demographic of people as possible. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the data collection had finished earlier than anticipated.

Councillor Sansome stated he was concerned to note that, only 36% of people surveyed were aware that their area had a Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Commissioner commented that some communities were more cohesive and informed than others, which could help to explain why some people were not aware that their area had a Neighbourhood Policing Team. Additionally, a number of Town and Parish Councils were also very good at inviting Police officers to their meetings, which could also explain why some people were aware, and not others.

A Carter referred to section 4.6 of the report, 'Other Comments'. He commented that the theme of police visibility had continued throughout the years, despite all the Force's initiatives around Neighbourhood Policing.

The Commissioner provided a detailed response, adding that it would be a good idea to ask the Force directly what they think would make them more visible to the general public.

A Carter thanked the Commissioner for his response. He added that, obtaining the views of Police officers is something which had been missing in previous reports of this nature.

Professor James asked if the reliability of the figures presented within the report had dropped when the OPCC had received a low level of responses at district level.

O Sinclair replied that the sample was based on the whole population of South Yorkshire to obtain a representative sample.

The Panel thanked O Sinclair for the work she had undertaken and wished her well in her new role at Sheffield Hallam University.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

10 PCC'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

The Commissioner introduced his draft Annual Report for the financial year 2019/20. He reminded the Panel that it was a statutory responsibility to provide an Annual Report, which was a backwards 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 priorities were:

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

The Commissioner reported that, during the year, there had been a rise in violent crime, particularly knife incidents, and as a result, he had been able to bid and obtain funding from the Home Office in the form of a grant of £1.6m to establish a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in the summer of 2019.

The Commissioner highlighted that during the course of 2019 there had been an unforeseen event with regards to flooding, mainly in and around Doncaster. Then in 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic occurred which would test the Force even more.

Members noted that the 2019/20 draft report had been produced and brought to the Panel two months earlier than the previous year at the request of the Panel and the PCC. As a result, there was a small amount of performance and outcome data that was yet to be confirmed once final audited data was published. (These were currently highlighted in red text in the draft report).

Members were asked to provide the Commissioner with the Panel's comments (and recommendations) on the Annual Report by 31st July 2020.

Councillor Nevett noted that a large amount of effort had been undertaken to establish the VRU. He asked if work in other priority areas had paused as a result of establishing the VRU.

The Commissioner replied that other priority areas had not been neglected. He reminded the Panel that, the VRU had been established to tackle serious violence which had been funded by the Home Office.

Councillor Otten commented that the report focused on activity, but had very little detail on the outcomes; in particular if the activity had been successful or otherwise. For example, on page 66 of the agenda pack, 'Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' the report did not present the achievements around the activities.

K Wright replied that the Annual Report was focused around the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire. At the conclusion of each section within the report, information had been presented setting out activity and key achievements, followed by performance and outcomes, which was sometimes difficult to articulate. Members were asked to provide any feedback with regards to any areas where they felt additional detail was required in relation to outcomes.

Councillor Sansome referred to the Neighbourhood Policing Survey results. He noted that, 44% of respondents had felt crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had increased in the last 18 months in their local area compared to 9% who felt that it had decreased. He asked if the Force were achieving performance targets in this area of work.

The Commissioner replied that, there were some areas where the Force had achieved success with partners, for example, initiatives introduced by the Biking Team in relation to quad bikes. However, there had been other areas of anti-social behaviour, for example, fly tipping which is a challenge to all partners.

Professor James suggested that, when the five-year period of the Police and Crime Plan came to a conclusion, it would be appropriate for the Commissioner to specifically highlight all the outcomes which had been achieved over that period.

The Commissioner acknowledged the suggestion.

A Carter referred to the 'Key Activities' section under the heading 'Treating People Fairly'. He suggested that it would be helpful to include some examples of the correspondence received by the Commissioner from local residents. He also suggested that, the report included an element of praise towards the Force to highlight to the public of South Yorkshire where the Force had performed well and/or - had been nationally recognised.

The Commissioner thanked A Carter for his suggestions and agreed to consider them in further detail after today's meeting.

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

- i) Received and commented on the PCC's draft Annual Report, attached at Appendix A to the report.
- ii) Noted the earlier receipt of the draft annual report compared to the previous year, and the fact that there was still a small amount of data to be confirmed

once final audited data is published (these were currently highlighted in red text in the draft report) and;

- iii) Agreed to provide the PCC with the Panel's comments (and/or recommendations) on the Annual Report by 31 July 2020.
- iv) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to consider the Panel's comments set out above.

11 SOUTH YORKSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD - PROBATION REFORM

The Commissioner introduced a report which provided the Panel with an update in relation to forthcoming changes to the provision of Probation services, and provided an insight into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in relation to those reforms.

M Buttery referred Members' attention to paragraph 4 of the report which stated that there was an intention to proceed with the Dynamic Framework for specialist rehabilitative services, which had now been confirmed for the smaller and voluntary sector organisations.

Members' attention was also alerted to paragraph 9 of the report. It informed the Panel that there was a dedicated Yorkshire and Humber Rehabilitation Partnership Group that meets to ensure that what the Government intends to occur in relation to co-commissioning responsibilities between the four Police and Crime Commissioners in Yorkshire and the Humber, and the National Probation Service is managed as far as implementation for next year.

Professor James thanked the Commissioner for the report. He asked if further progress reports on the developments could be presented at a future Panel meeting.

The Commissioner acknowledged the request.

M Buttery added that she would work with L Noble around the timing of presenting future reports to the Panel.

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Requested that further progress reports be presented to the Panel in due course.

12 PCC DECISIONS

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

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.

13 COMPLAINTS UPDATE

A report of the Panel's Legal Adviser / Deputy Monitoring Officer was presented to provide the Panel with a regular update on complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) during the period December 2019 to the end of May 2020.

During the period, 1 complaint was received against the PCC and considered by the PCP's Legal Adviser.

At the time of writing the report, the complainant had indicated a desire to withdraw the complaint and the Panel were awaiting confirmation of this in writing to comply with the Complaints Procedure.

It was highlighted that this complaint related to an incident which occurred in 2014, and that, the OPCC had already met with the complainant to try and resolve the issues. The complaint was received from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) via the OPCC.

L Noble reported that, shortly after the agenda for today's meeting had been finalised, a previous complainant had submitted a further complaint by email.

The initial complaint was not upheld, and the Panel's Legal Adviser was currently considering whether this recent correspondence constituted a new complaint. Further information would be included in the next complaints update report to the Panel.

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

- i) Noted the update.
- ii) Noted the synopsis of complaints received.

14 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER, LEGAL ADVISER AND RULES OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS

A report was presented to inform the Panel that, the Monitoring Officer for the Police and Crime Panel, Andrew Frosdick, who was Executive Director (Core Services), Barnsley MBC retired at the end of May 2020. The report detailed future arrangements for Monitoring Officer support to the Panel, including the Complaints Procedure.

The report also requested Members to authorise the Monitoring Officer to amend the Rules of Procedure to make provision for the Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected for a two year period.

Councillor Otten referred to the amended Terms of Office for Chair and Vice Chair. He commented that the Rule of Procedure were not clear what action and powers the Panel had, in the event that it did not endorse the recommendations of the South Yorkshire Leaders' for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel.

J Field thanked Councillor Otten for his observations. He reported that, the Panel's new Rules of Procedure would be updated to reflect the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair was for a two year period and that, it was not a nomination by the South Yorkshire Leaders'. It was also confirmed that the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair was on a rotational basis across the four Districts and it would be for the Panel to vote on the nominations at the Panel's Annual meeting.

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

- i) Noted the new Monitoring Officer for Barnsley BMBC, Martin McCarthy – Service Director, Governance Member and Business Support - with effect from 1st June 2020
- ii) Authorised the Monitoring Officer to amend the Rules of Procedure to the effect that all support powers duties and functions provided by Barnsley MBC refer to him, and grant him power within the Rules of Procedure to further delegate by, written record, any of these powers duties or functions to such officers within Barnsley MBC Legal Services or officers within his own team as he sees fit.
- iii) Noted the appointment of Jason Field, Head of Legal Services at Barnsley MBC as the Legal Adviser for the purposes of the Complaints Procedure and authorise him to delegate any of those duties to such officers within Barnsley MBC Legal Services as he sees fit.
- iv) Authorised the Monitoring Officer to amend the Rules of Procedure to the effect that the Chair and Vice Chair are elected for a two year term starting from the next Annual Meeting.
- v) Requested the Monitoring Officer to present the amended Rules of Procedure at the next meeting of the Panel.

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. Given the current circumstances and restrictions on physical meetings, updates within the report were provided in red.

Members noted that the Session with Frontline Consulting was likely to be held virtually in the early autumn consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Lead and Deputy Lead Members (Performance) and representatives of the OPCC. The session would focus on scrutiny of performance reports. A wider full Panel session would be held in July 2021.

It was noted that Engagement with the Community Safety Partnerships had been postponed from July until the early Autumn. Whilst this had not yet been arranged, discussions are ongoing with representatives of Barnsley CSP to determine a suitable brief for the session.

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Councillor Steinke and Professor James together with the Panel's Support Officer would be attending the Ninth Annual Conference for Police, Fire and Crime Panels to be held on 23rd to 24th November 2020.

The conference event planner had confirmed that it was the intention for the conference to be a physical event, however, individual Council policies around elected Member travel and attendance at meetings would need to be ascertained before travel arrangements are made and expenditure incurred.

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 2020 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 are currently being held virtually and Members can obtain details to 'dial in' to the meeting.

Councillor Nevett confirmed that he would 'dial in' to the PAB meeting on 13th October 2020.

Councillor Sansome stated that he would 'dial in' to the PAB meeting on 10th November 2020.

Councillor Otten indicated that he would 'dial in' to the PAB meeting on 10th September 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2020 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 7th September 2020 and Members notified of the arrangements for this meeting nearer the time.

18 COVID-19 UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE COURTS

A report of the PCC was submitted to provide the Panel with an update in relation to the impact of COVID-19 in relation to the courts and to provide an insight into the actions being taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to this.

Members noted that, in managing the response to COVID-19, the courts were seeking to:

- Minimise the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on HMCTS staff, the judiciary and court users;
- Ensure sites remain open for business wherever possible and identifying alternative arrangements to maintain essential services; and
- Minimise disruption for non-essential services that cannot proceed as normal.

In the criminal courts, examples of priority hearings included all matters relating to custody, detention and bail, and urgent applications for matters such as terrorism, domestic violence or search warrants.

Since lockdown, the Lord Chief Justice had maintained control of Court listings. He had delegated some of the 'restore and recover' work to other members of senior judiciary, and announcements had been made regarding what changes to listings could take place.

It was announced that new jury trials would re-start in a few Courts with effect from week commencing 18 May 2020. Crown Courts were now dealing with a range of work, much of which is being done remotely. This included sentencing hearings and all urgent applications including applications for bail and applications to extend custody time limits. Pre-trial preparation hearings and further case management hearings were now also taking place.

The Commissioner wished to record his thanks to Linda Mayhew for providing the Panel with a comprehensive update report.

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

19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7a of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

20 PRIVATE DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO AGENDA ITEM 18 - (COVID-19 UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE COURTS)

A private discussion took place in relation to agenda Item 18 'COVID-19 Update in relation to the Courts'.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel discussed the contents of the report.

CHAIR