



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

25 APRIL 2022

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

Councillor R Haleem (Rotherham MBC) (Chair)

Councillors: R Davison (Sheffield City Council), T Baum-Dixon (Rotherham MBC), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), S Knowles (Doncaster MBC), R Milsom (Sheffield City Council), C Ransome (Doncaster MBC) and Professor A James (Independent Co-opted Member of the Police and Crime Panel)

Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner)
(South Yorkshire Police)

S Abbott, M Buttery, K Dearnley, S Parkin, F Topliss and K Wright
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

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

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor B Lodge (Sheffield City Council), Councillor C Pickering (Barnsley MBC) and W Carratt (Independent Co-opted Member of the Police and Crime Panel)

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Cherryholme took the Chair for today's meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Panel noted that today would be L Noble's and M McCarthy's last Panel meeting.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Cherryholme said that it had been an honour to have had the opportunity to work alongside two extremely knowledgeable and committed officers, who had guided Panel Members, the Chair and Vice-Chair extremely well.

The Panel thanked L Noble and M McCarthy for their support and dedication to the Panel and wished them both every happiness for the future.

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:-

A) TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

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

B) TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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

8. MINUTES OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2022

The Panel discussed and noted progress in respect of agreed actions captured on the Panel's Action Log set out in Appendix A to the minutes.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 4 February 2022 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) Noted that the Panel's Action Log would be updated following discussion and agreement at today's meeting.

9. QUARTER 3 - CONSOLIDATED BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

A report of the Chief Finance Officer, OPCC was presented setting out the consolidated financial position for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021. The report also set out forecasts of the year end position as at 31 December 2021.

Members noted that the PCC had approved a revenue budget of £296.0m for 2021/22. Based on current assumptions, the forecast outturn position for the revenue budget was an underspend of £1.267m as at 31 December 2021.

The following key points were noted:

- As at 31 December 2021, the total year to date COVID-19 spend was £1.0m.

- The Force was required to underspend by £1.2m to repay the amount paid out last year from reserves to South Yorkshire Pensions Authority for staff pension lump sum prepayment.
- There were underspends in staff pay due to vacancies, particularly within growth areas and the Force Control Room.
- As at 31 December 2021, the projected year end outturn position was a £266k underspend on the Chief Constable's budget, net of external funding. Full details were outlined in the Chief Constable's budget monitoring paper, attached at Appendix A to the report.

The PCC and OPCC budget forecast year end position was an underspend of £322k, based on information as at 31 December 2021.

Additional in year funding of £5.330m (including £1.6m for the VRU) had also been received since the budget was set.

The main reasons for the underspend and variances from the budget were presented within the report.

Members noted that the PCC had approved a revised capital programme of £19.63m in July 2021. Expenditure to date amounted to £10.76m, and the programme was currently projected to spend in full.

As at 31 March 2021, the overall level of revenue reserves available was £64.96m. This included general reserves of £42.2m, earmarked, and insurance reserves of £10.6m and £12.1m respectively. The expected movement in year, based on projections at the end of December 2021, were detailed in a table at paragraph 6 of the report.

Hillsborough, the Stovewood enquiry, and CSE civil claims were currently showing a combined underspend of £0.175m.

Paragraph 7 of the report set out a number of risks and uncertainties in the reported financial position, which had been previously reported and largely remained unchanged.

Councillor Davison referred to the Chief Constable's budget. He asked what the difference was between 'Specific Grant Funding' and 'Grant Expenditure'.

S Abbott replied that, to her knowledge, 'Specific Grant Funding' related to grant income received. Whereas 'Grant Expenditure' related to specific grant under / overspend. S Abbott agreed to ascertain with the Force and provide a response to Councillor Davison after today's meeting.

The Commissioner wished to place on record his thanks to S Abbott, D Carrington and M Carroll, together with officers working in both the OPCC and Force Finance Teams. He paid tribute to all their hard work undertaken during the last year around finances, additional grants, and meeting very strict deadlines.

RESOLVED – That the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Noted that S Abbott had agreed to ascertain with the Force the difference between 'Specific Grant Funding' and 'Grant Expenditure' contained in the Chief Constable's budget and provide Councillor Davison with a response after today's meeting.

10. MONITORING DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN - QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021)

The Commissioner reported that there were currently several national and international issues which were concerning him. Furthermore, they should also concern all Panel Members, due to it leading to unpredictability and uncertainty about the future of crime and policing.

Firstly, as a result of the Ukraine war, there were thousands of refugees moving across Europe and entering the UK. A large number of the refugees would be very vulnerable as a result of the war. In particular, women and children who had been uprooted from their homes.

The Commissioner said that organised crime gangs would see this as an opportunity. He highlighted that everyone needed to be very sensitive to the fact that there would be vulnerable people who would be open to criminal exploitation by gangs trying to traffic people.

The Commissioner said that this was something that the Police here in the UK and across Europe had to keep on top of and keep a close eye on.

Secondly, the Commissioner said that he would never have thought in his lifetime he would have to say that the UK has a Prime Minister who now has a criminal record. He considered that this was a very difficult place to be in, especially when the police were trying to encourage everyone to abide by the law.

The Commissioner said that this situation was unsettling and unnerving. Furthermore, he did not like the way in which Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued against those attending Downing Street and Cabinet Office parties intermittently through the system. He considered that this method should be ended as soon as possible, due to everyone wanting to have trust and confidence in political leadership, and trust and confidence in the police.

Referring to the report on today's agenda, K Wright provided the Panel with a high-level overview of the Quarterly Performance Report for the period October to December 2021 (Quarter 3 2021/22), as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Councillor Ransome commented that, although local residents did value the Force's call back option, they had found that they were waiting much longer than 10 minutes for their 101 calls to be answered. Residents had tended not to use the 101 service because it was taking too long for their calls to be answered.

The Commissioner replied that the vast majority of callers would have had their call answered within 10 minutes. He said that it would be helpful if residents could

report the date and time when they had experienced a problem when calling the 101 service to enable him to investigate fully.

Professor James referred to Cyber-crime and Fraud. He reported that figures for fraud were not included in local crime data due to them being collated centrally. He asked if a solution could be found to enable the Panel to understand how many vulnerable people are victims of cyber-crime and fraud.

K Wright replied that referrals of fraud go via National Action Fraud, and are then fed back to local police forces to deal with. South Yorkshire Police have a mechanism whereby referrals from Action Fraud are looked at from a vulnerability perspective and then resources allocated accordingly. He agreed to include further narrative in the next quarterly report in relation to how the Force tackles vulnerability within fraud referrals from Action Fraud.

Professor James said that he was concerned to see that residential burglaries are still on the rise, in spite of the Force's focus on this. He asked if the Commissioner was satisfied that everything possible was being done by the Force to address this issue.

The Commissioner replied that he was also very concerned about the high level of domestic burglaries in South Yorkshire. He said that he had asked the Force to investigate why this should be the case for South Yorkshire.

The Commissioner provided assurances to the Panel that domestic burglary was being prioritised by each district, as well as by the Force across South Yorkshire. In addition, a new burglary Lead for the Force was now in place and each District had a single point of contact for burglary.

Councillor Baum-Dixon referred to a news article published in the Daily Mirror on 16 April 2022, regarding the use of Community Resolution Orders. He noted that South Yorkshire Police had used the scheme to deal with the most sex crimes in the UK of 78.

Councillor Baum-Dixon asked the Commissioner if the Force were recording the use of Community Resolution Orders for each crime. Furthermore, he asked if this was kept under review to make sure that the Orders were being used correctly and measured in relation to the victims of these crimes. He asked if the Commissioner would be requesting a review of the Force's use of Community Resolution Orders.

The Commissioner replied that he would investigate and provide further information after today's meeting.

Councillor Milsom asked the Commissioner to what extent are the Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour figures for the period, either expected, or unexpected, and if there had been any surprises in levels of anti-social behaviour and crime in the reporting period.

The Commissioner replied that the figures showed consistently that reported incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour had reduced during the period. He

said he was surprised that anti-social behaviour levels had fallen after the period of the lockdowns i.e. as we return to normal.

K Wright added that the report only contained anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Force. In addition, incidents of anti-social behaviour were also reported to local authorities and discussed at the District Community Safety Partnership meetings.

Councillor Milsom asked if it would be possible to combine anti-social behaviour incidents reported to both the Force and to the local authorities in the next quarterly report.

K Wright acknowledged the request and agreed to investigate if it would be feasible to include the data in future Performance reports.

In response to a question from Councillor Milsom regarding re-offending rates, the Commissioner said that he would be disappointed if the trend of re-offending was not reducing.

Councillor Milsom asked if levels of re-offending were similar to other Force areas.

K Wright replied that he would attempt to include comparative data in future reports.

Councillor Milsom noted that the percentage of vulnerable victims satisfied with their overall experience with the Police had statistically significantly fallen from very high satisfaction in the same quarter last year. She asked what the reasons were for the fall in satisfaction over the previous 12 months.

K Wright replied that it was difficult to pinpoint a particular reason. However, victim satisfaction was lower around the Force's following-up of crime, and actions taken.

The Commissioner added that he consistently reminded the Force that they needed to improve their following-up of crime, and actions taken with victims.

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 K Wright had agreed to include further narrative in the next quarterly Performance report in relation to how the Force had tackled vulnerability within fraud referrals from Action Fraud.
- iii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to investigate the Force's use of Community Resolution Orders and provide further information to Panel Members after today's meeting.
- iv) Noted that K Wright had agreed to investigate if it would be feasible to include the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to both the Force and to the local authorities in future quarterly Performance reports.

- v) Noted that K Wright would attempt to include comparative data in future quarterly Performance reports in relation to levels of re-offending.

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

A report of the Commissioner was presented to inform Members that the Commissioner is supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in delivering his Police and Crime Plan, and in effectively discharging his wide range of legal responsibilities. The OPCC has a Delivery Plan which outlines how this is undertaken each year.

The report provided Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities against the new Delivery Plan since the Panel's last meeting held on 4 February 2022.

The report also provided Members with information on the decisions taken by the PCC since the Panel's last meeting.

The key activities reported for the period under the headings within the OPCC's new Delivery Plan were detailed in the report and noted by Members.

In response to a request from Professor James, M Buttery agreed to provide him with a copy of a template which posed a series of questions to help Members of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel determine whether Stop and Searches had been conducted properly.

In response to a question from Professor James, M Buttery confirmed that the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel would be able to review the grounds of suspicion used by officers for making the stops.

Professor James reported that the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) had recently published a National Stop and Search Learning report.

The report contained a number of recommendations for the Home Office, National Police Council and Chief officers. He asked what steps the Commissioner had taken to ensure that the Chief Constable was responding appropriately to the recommendations contained within the report.

M Buttery replied that each time a new report was published, the Commissioner would raise this at his weekly meeting with the Chief Constable. In addition, M Buttery had weekly meetings with the Deputy Chief Constable where any recommendations arising from reports were tracked in an Action Plan.

It was confirmed that the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel and Independent Ethics Panel would be fully appraised of the recommendations arising from the IOPC's National Stop and Search Learning report.

Professor James asked if the Commissioner was satisfied that the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel had been established to conform with the recommendations set out in the IOPC's National Stop and Search Learning report.

The Commissioner acknowledged the question and agreed to check following today's meeting.

Professor James asked if he could receive a copy of the PCC's Assurance Framework (PAF) for risk, governance and internal control.

This request was acknowledged.

Professor James asked if rehabilitation measures in each of the Community Safety Partnerships were being measured.

M Buttery replied that she would need to check each of the individual Community Safety Partnership's Plans to ascertain if they have a specific item in their plan in relation to the rehabilitation of offenders. In relation to reducing re-offending, M Buttery agreed to access data from the Yorkshire and Humber Partnership.

Councillor Garbutt referred to a demonstration which had been held on Sunday 24 April 2022, in Sheffield to condemn Turkey's recent attacks on Kurds in Iraq. The demonstration had involved families and children.

He reported that someone had alleged to him that the demonstration had been broken-up by South Yorkshire Police in an extremely violent way with the protestors being pepper-sprayed and hit with batons by the police at the demonstration. He asked if the Commissioner would be reviewing the Force's actions.

The Commissioner replied that CCTV footage of the policing at the demonstration would be reviewed at chief officer level.

In response to a question from Councillor Milsom, F Topliss explained that that the OPCC were currently in the final stages of producing a leaflet to better inform the public about the different roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in road safety in South Yorkshire. The leaflet would be made available to all Councils, Parish Councils, Town Councils, and local libraries.

Councillor Milsom was pleased to note that the Commissioner now had a seat on the Safer Roads Partnership. She asked the Commissioner to outline how partnership level strategy planning and spending manifests into local solutions regarding localised traffic and road safety problems.

The Commissioner provided a detailed response and confirmed that the Force were currently in the process of reinvigorating its Community Speed Watch Programme. If Panel Members had a particular speeding problem in their local area, they were asked to email the OPCC who would put them in contact with the Community Speed Watch Team.

Councillor Garbutt commented that car parking was a particular problem in Sheffield. He asked if the Safer Roads Partnership would be addressing this issue.

The Commissioner replied that car parking was not only a problem in Sheffield, but across all of South Yorkshire. There were particular problems outside of schools when people were dropping off and collecting children.

Additionally, there were also problems with people parking their vehicles on narrow residential streets, which caused problems for emergency service vehicles gaining access.

The Commissioner said that there was a responsibility for Panel Members and particularly School Governors, to discuss what they could do to alleviate car parking problems in local areas.

Councillor Davison commented that he had been very impressed with the preventative measures available at the Sexual Assault and Referral Centre (SARC), following a Panel visit on 18 March 2022. He asked if arrangements could be made for Panel Members to visit any other Force departments to understand how crime prevention was being addressed.

The Commissioner agreed to consider Councillor Davison's request.

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

- i) Noted the contents of the report and commented on any matters arising.
- ii) Asked questions on the matters contained within the report, given that it explained how the PCC has over the period delivered his Police and Crime Plan, and discharged the wide range of his legal responsibilities.
- iii) Noted that M Buttery had agreed to provide Professor James with a copy of a template which posed a series of questions to help Members of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel determine whether Stop and Searches had been conducted properly.
- iv) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to check if the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel had been established to conform with the recommendations contained in the IOPC's National Stop and Search Learning report.
- v) Noted that the OPCC would issue Professor James with a copy of the PCC's Assurance Framework (PAF) for risk, governance and internal control.
- vi) Noted that M Buttery had agreed to check each of the individual Community Safety Partnership's Plans to ascertain if they have a specific item in their plan in relation to the rehabilitation of offenders.
- vii) Noted that M Buttery had agreed to access data from the Yorkshire and Humber Partnership in relation to reducing re-offending.
- viii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to consider if arrangements could be made for Panel Members to visit any other Force departments to understand how crime prevention is being addressed.

12. FEMALE OFFENDERS' STRATEGY - UPDATE

A report was presented to provide the Panel with an update on the work that the Police and Crime Commissioner is maintaining an oversight of in relation to Female Offenders within South Yorkshire.

The Panel were reminded that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) had published a Female Offender Strategy in 2018.

The Strategy set out Government's commitment to a new programme of work for female offenders, driven by three priorities.

The Panel noted that local progress had been impeded by COVID, probation reform, and the absence of any discrete funding to South Yorkshire to support local delivery of the ambitions set out in the Strategy.

In January 2021, the MoJ had published the Concordat on women in or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System. The second section looked at improving outcomes at a local level, including through establishing a whole system approach to respond more collaboratively and effectively to the multiple and complex needs of women in or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System.

The Strategy also contained a commitment to publish a data tool to enable local areas to better understand the needs of women in the area.

The Panel noted that work to support local delivery of the ambitions contained in the Strategy and the Concordat had continued over the course of the last year.

During 2021/22, the Force had committed to developing a Female Offender Strategy. A first draft of the Strategy had been produced by the Force Lead and was currently being considered.

Upon unification of the Probation Service in June 2021, a Female Offender Commissioned Rehabilitative Service for South Yorkshire had been available delivered by a local consortium of specialist female providers led by Changing Lives.

The Panel noted that, on behalf of the Local Criminal Justice Board, the countywide Rehabilitative and Reduce Reoffending Steering Group (RRRSG) had co-ordinated and progressed local partnership working in relation to females.

On 9 February 2022, the PCC had welcomed more than 60 delegates to a 'Women and girls in or at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System' virtual event. Further details were presented in the report and noted by Members.

Professor James commented that he was pleased to note the developments beginning to take place and welcomed the multi-agency approach which had been developed.

Professor James noted that there was a commitment to publish a data tool to enable local areas to better understand the needs of women in the area. He asked

if a specific dashboard could be produced for South Yorkshire and if this could be included in future quarterly Performance reports.

M Buttery acknowledged Professor James' request and agreed to discuss with K Wright to consider if it would be feasible to include this data in future quarterly Performance reports, or if updates could be provided in the PCC's quarterly Update reports.

In response to a request from Professor James, the Commissioner agreed to provide the Panel with regular progress updates in relation to the arrangements being piloted in Doncaster during 2022/23 for a Female Conditional Caution trial.

RESOLVED – That the Police and Crime Panel:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Noted that M Buttery had agreed to discuss with K Wright if it would be feasible to include a specific dashboard for South Yorkshire in future quarterly Performance reports, or if updates could be provided in the PCC's quarterly Update reports.
- iii) Noted that the Commissioner had agreed to provide the Panel with regular progress updates in relation to the arrangements being piloted in Doncaster during 2022/23 for a Female Conditional Caution trial.

13. 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.

Suggestions for any other learning and development opportunities Members may have to support the Panel's learning and development were welcomed.

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.

14. REPORT BACK FROM DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Cherryholme provided the Panel with a detailed update on the key issues, priorities and work currently being undertaken by the Safer Barnsley Partnership.

Councillor Milsom provided the Panel with an update from the Safer Sheffield Partnership meeting held on 24 February 2022.

On behalf of Councillor Haleem, L Noble provided the Panel with an update from the Safer Rotherham Partnership meeting held on 7 April 2022.

No update was available in relation to the Safer and Stronger Doncaster Partnership Board.

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

15. WORK PROGRAMME / PAB DATES

Members considered the 2022/23 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 A Shirt.

Members were reminded that they could also submit questions for PAB through the OPCC, with 5 working days notice prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime Panel noted the contents of the 2022/23 Work Programme.

16. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED - That the Annual meeting of the Police and Crime Panel be held on Monday 6 June 2022, at 1:00 pm, in Barnsley Town Hall.

The Commissioner and M Buttery thanked L Noble and M McCarthy for all their hard work and wished them both all the very best for the future.

CHAIR