



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

3 FEBRUARY 2021

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

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

Councillors: A Cherryholme (Barnsley MBC), J Grocutt (Sheffield City Council), P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council), J Otten (Sheffield City Council), C Pickering (Barnsley MBC), P Short (Rotherham MBC), J Steinke (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, S Baldwin, E Eruero, S Parkin and F Topliss
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

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

1 **WELCOME BY CHAIR**

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

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

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 Panel.

7B 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 14TH DECEMBER 2020

L Noble provided Members with a verbal update on the 'live' actions contained within the Panel's Action Log.

The following updates were noted:-

Action 10 - Domestic Abuse

Members noted that the update from the OPCC had suggested that it would be an onerous task to provide additional data.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' on the Panel's Action Log and referred to the Performance Lead Member meetings for further discussion around the bespoke report referred to.

Action 10 - 101 Calls

Members noted that the update from the OPCC stated that all the information around 101 calls is being provided.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' from the Panel's Action Log and referred to the Performance Lead Member meetings for further discussion.

Action 14 - Lead Member / Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) issues

A detailed in the Action Log, some Members of the Panel had a meeting with the interim Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel on 2nd February.

The Panel agreed that the action be marked as 'discharged' from the Panel's Action Log.

Action 8 - Hate Crime

Members noted that the Quarter 3 performance report would be submitted to the April Police and Crime Panel meeting.

Councillor Sansome asked if information could be provided to Councillor Short and himself in relation to the number of hate crimes reported in the Rotherham locality.

Councillor Sansome also asked if the District Commander reports to the Public Accountability Board (PAB) could include issues around hate crime.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained and re-worded on the Panel's Action Log.

Action 13 - Probation Services

Members noted that information was included in the PCC's Update report.

Councillor Sansome asked if update reports presenting information on current Court delays and Government proposals to reduce numbers on a Jury to address backlogs could be presented at future Panel meetings.

The Panel agreed that the action be retained and re-worded on the Panel's Action Log.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 14th December 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) That information be provided by the OPCC to Councillors Short and Sansome in relation to the number of hate crimes reported in the Rotherham locality.
- iii) That future District Commander reports to the Public Accountability Board (PAB) include issues around hate crime.
- iv) That actions contained on the Panel's Action Log in relation to Hate Crime and Probation Services be retained and re-worded.

9

PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT AND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2021/22

For the benefit of individuals viewing the live webcast, J Field provided an explanation of the Panel's role in the budget / Council Tax precept setting process.

A report of the Chief Finance 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 2021/22.

The Commissioner thanked S Abbott, D Carrington and their respective Finance Teams for the work undertaken in producing the budget for 2021/22.

The Commissioner provided context to his proposal. He stated that, when his office could, they had undertaken face-to-face public consultation, however public consultation had been very limited this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

An online survey had been undertaken with the public in relation to the precept, with 67% of the public being supportive of the maximum £15 (Band D property increase).

The Commissioner referred the Panel to the proposal in the report at paragraph 2.1, for policing services and victim services for the financial year 2021/22.

He proposed that the Panel approved the budget and proposed annual increase in Council Tax precept for 2021/22 of £15.00 for a Band D property. This equated to an annual increase of £10.00 for a Band A property (19 pence per week) and £11.66 for a Band B property (22 pence per week). Most properties in South Yorkshire are in Band A (58%) and Band B (17%).

The Commissioner highlighted that, in South Yorkshire 75% of properties are in Bands A or B (58% and 17% respectively), 34% of Band A households, and 17% of Band B properties claim a reduction in Council Tax through the Council Tax reduction schemes.

The Commissioner said that, whilst he recognises that residents face a difficult time due to the current pandemic which was presenting financial hardship for many families, there was also extra demand on policing. If the Force was to get on top of crime, be more visible and tackle anti-social behaviour, it would need more officers.

The proposed budget would deliver an additional 228 police officers. 149 of the new officers were part of the Government's national Uplift programme (of which, 7 must go to the Regional Organised Crime Unit) and 79 were funded from local resources.

The Commissioner explained that, over the next three years, South Yorkshire Police would have recruited a total of 487 additional officers as part of its share of the 20,000 the Government wishes to see recruited nationally, plus a further 220 from local resources.

The Commissioner said that the increase in officer numbers (South Yorkshire's share of the national uplift, plus the local uplift) would restore numbers of officers cut since 2010 and then go beyond that.

By March 2023, a grand total of 1,486 extra officers would have been recruited in South Yorkshire to replace leavers and accommodate national and local uplift in the budget.

The Commissioner highlighted that, if the precept was increased by £15 (Band D property) for the year, the proposed budget would show a £5.8m deficit, which could be wholly attributed to legacy costs, but would need to be funded from reserves.

He explained that reserves were a finite resource and could only be used once. The reserves position would be monitored very closely.

The Commissioner said that the Force had made savings of £2.6m in 2021/22, but would have to find recurrent savings of £10.7m to balance the Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS).

In summing up his introduction, the Commissioner asked the Panel to look back over the last 6 years during his time as the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. When Dr Billings commenced in post, it was in the aftermath of the Professor Jay report into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham and the Hillsborough Inquest. South Yorkshire Police was in a poor place, morale and public confidence was low. The HMI Inspector had stated that the Force required improvement across all areas.

Six years on, the Force was not in the same place; the Force had made significant progress. In terms of performance, the Force was now rated within the top four Forces in the UK.

The Commissioner said that he wished to maintain this momentum moving forwards, and this was the reason for his budget proposals.

The Commissioner commended the budget and precept to the Panel.

S Abbott provided the Panel with the key highlights contained within the report.

The Panel was made aware that the Police and Crime Plan had been refreshed in January 2021, and a plan addendum determined which would be in force until the PCC elections in May 2021. The PCC's priorities had remained the same. A copy of the Police and Crime Plan addendum was attached at Appendix A to the report.

Paragraph 3.2 of the report provided details on the additional areas where the PCC had been focusing his attention on during the period of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The Panel noted that South Yorkshire Police had managed well during the Covid-19 restrictions. Officer and staff attendance had remained high and the Force had worked successfully with partners in the Local Resilience Forum to manage the emergency situation in all four districts.

The Panel was made aware that the Home Office national funding settlement for 2021/22 was still provisional, with the final settlement expected shortly.

The provisional settlement had announced additional funding of £720m, for local policing, with 45% of this expected to come from increased local taxation (£320m). The provisional settlement gave Police and Crime Commissioners in England flexibility to increase funding in 2021/22 of up to £15 Council Tax limit on a Band D property.

Although South Yorkshire had received a 4.9% cash increase, based on current inflation projections this represented a 1.85% real terms reduction in funding after officer Uplift is excluded, based on current inflation figures built into the budget.

Uplift funding of £67k per officer had been granted, which was in line with national assumptions. 24% of the grant continued to be ring-fenced and would be released quarterly in line with the achievement of officer numbers. It was highlighted that, although officers are fully funded for the first year of service, a gap appears after this.

The Medium Term Resources Strategy (MTRS) was presented at Appendix B to the report. The overall budget proposal was £295.6m, including investment to support a further increase in police officer posts. Also included was investment into growth areas relating to essential core and uplift delivery, enhancement of the operating model and Force priorities. This included the Digital Forensics Unit review (£1.6m), officer uplift (£1.1m), improved IT structure (£778k), the technology enabled team (£420k) and communications data review (£405k).

Legacy issues were currently forecast to be £133m to 2025/26, requiring £20m of the Force's own resources to fund the expected shortfall in Special Grant receivable under current Home Office rules. Active discussions were taking place regularly with the Home Office in relation to Special Grants.

£5.8m would be required from reserves to balance the budget in 2021/22, and a combination of savings and use of reserves amounting to £19.6m throughout the MTRS period. It was highlighted that this was not a sustainable approach, as the prudent minimum reserve balance could only be sustained until 2025/26. Further details were presented in the chart at Appendix C to the report.

Balancing the medium term financial position to ensure recurrent financial balance would require some, or all, of the following:

- Achieving clarity through the Spending Review regarding the level of grant funding to increase 'Uplift' police officer numbers beyond 2021/22;
- The Force's future integrated planning to balance demand and growth pressures and the need for efficiency savings,
- An improved deal on Legacy cost funding from the Home Office; and
- Precept flexibility.

The report set out a number of key risks and uncertainties, which were noted by Members.

S Abbott concluded her overview and said that, as the OPCC's Chief Finance Officer, she recommended that the increase in precept of £15.00 on a Band D property, is levied to support the increase in police officer numbers in 2021/22 and to allow the Force to make improvements to their existing service.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Nevett thanked the Commissioner and S Abbott for presenting all the information to enable the Panel to scrutinise and make an informed decision today.

Councillor Steinke asked what the consequences would be if the Panel did not agree to the precept increase for the year. Furthermore, he asked how secure the

Chief Finance Officer felt about making assumptions with regards to the receipt of future Government funding.

The Commissioner replied that the consequence of lowering the precept proposal would have a significant impact on the police budget. The Commissioner and Chief Constable had discussed where savings could be achieved during 2021/22 and areas to be considered in future years.

Currently, 80% of the budget related to staff; if the Commissioner asked the Chief Constable to make further savings during the 2021/22 financial year, then he would need to consider reducing staff and PCSO numbers.

S Abbott said that assumptions had been made that the level of cash from Government would continue without inflation throughout the MTRS period. In relation to the officer uplift, in the 2020/21 budget, it did not include the ring-fenced grant. On the basis that South Yorkshire had received the ring-fenced grant funding over the last few years, this had now been included the MTRS, as the Force had achieved its recruitment target.

Councillor Otten noted that some of the officer uplift would need to be funded from reserves. He asked if there was likely to be another increase in the Council Tax precept for 2022/23, and what assumptions had been built into the MTRS.

The Commissioner said that, based on calculations, there would be a budget deficit and reserves would have to be used. Furthermore, it was difficult for the Commissioner to say if there would be an increase in Council Tax for future years until the Home Office had announced its funding settlement for local policing.

S Abbott said that assumptions had been made on a maximum £15 precept increase in the MTRS for 2021/22. In future years, a 2% increase had been included in the MTRS, based on previous referendum limits.

Councillor Otten asked if there would be the correct number of officers employed at the end of the five year officer uplift programme. He also asked again if this would be the end to large precept increases to fund increases in police officer numbers.

In response, the Commissioner said that it was difficult to foresee the future. The Chief Constable was satisfied the Force would have the correct number of officers entering the Force for the next four years to meet demands and make a significant difference by utilising the precept to sustain staff and PCSO numbers in the future.

Councillor Sansome said that, under the current Government, there had been an overspend of £3.1 billion, through the Emergency Services Network (ESN) Airwaves project which would not be delivered until 2029. He was disappointed to note that the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner had been forced into a situation like this, when the Government had top-sliced money across the UK of £3.1 billion on just one project alone.

Councillor Sansome added that he was also concerned around the use of the company BlueLight Commercial which was funded by Central Government.

Councillor Sansome commended the Commissioner for the savings achieved in his Office of £1.3m.

Councillor Sansome asked the Commissioner for assurances that the Panel's Budget Working Group would continue to receive information about the precept, savings created (if any) by BlueLight Commercial and how much they are to South Yorkshire. Furthermore, he asked if the Budget Working Group could also monitor the overspend of the ESN Airwaves project.

The Commissioner acknowledged the request and agreed to provide updates to the Budget Working Group. The Commissioner added that, national projects did consume large costs; the Commissioner would continue to make representations to the Home Office and the Policing and Fire Minister.

Councillor Sansome asked if South Yorkshire's share of the 20,000 increase in police officer numbers of 487 took the Force back to the officer numbers in 2010.

The Commissioner said that 487 was slightly below what the Force should have, if they were restoring the numbers which they had lost. However, he was pleased that there was a commitment to increase police officer numbers.

The Chair, Councillor Nevett referred to the recommendation in the report which asked the Police and Crime Panel to consider a proposed annual increase in Council Tax precept for 2021/22 of £15.00 for a Band D property. This would take the Council Tax to £213.04 for the year for a Band D property. This equates to an annual increase of £10.00 for a Band A property (19 pence per week) and £11.66 for a Band B property (22 pence per week). Most properties in South Yorkshire are in Band A (58%) and Band B (17%).

A recorded vote was taken and recorded as follows:-

For accepting the proposed increase in Council Tax precept for 2021/22 – (12) Councillors Nevett, Sansome, Cherryholme, Garbutt, Grocutt, Otten, Pickering, Short, Steinke, Wilkinson, Mr A Carter and Professor A James.

Against the proposed increase (0) and abstained (0).

The proposal was approved.

RESOLVED – That Members of the Police and Crime:-

- i) Voted unanimously to accept the proposed annual increase in Council Tax precept for 2021/22 of £15.00 for a Band D property. This would take the Council Tax to £213.04 for the year for a Band D property. For Band A properties this equated to an annual increase of £10.00 (19 pence per week) and £11.66 for a Band B property (22 pence per week) be approved.
- ii) Noted that most properties in South Yorkshire are in Band A (58%) and Band B (17%).

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

The Commissioner introduced a report which provided Members with an overview of the work undertaken by his Office (OPCC) in gathering the views of the public on the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing.

The Commissioner said that the key headlines from the most recent Priorities Survey undertaken from 25th October to mid-November 2020, showed that the public wished to see a more visible police presence within their local communities. The public would also like to see the Force focus on priority areas of tackling serious violence and gang activity and tackling neighbourhood crimes, including anti-social behaviour, burglary and road safety, including speeding.

In 2019/20 the OPCC had undertaken a survey of 509 residents to examine, from the perspective of the public, how well the current neighbourhood policing model in South Yorkshire addressed the points identified in the public consultation which showed the public wanted a local neighbourhood policing model that would:

- Provide a greater visible policing presence
- Provide increased accessibility
- Provide increased interactions and
- Help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour

The key findings of the survey were presented at paragraph 7 of the report and noted by Members.

The OPCC had planned to carry out a follow-up face-to-face survey around Neighbourhood Policing this year, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic this had not been possible.

Members were made aware that the Force's Trust and Confidence Group now obtained feedback around the force's Seven Strands of Neighbourhood Policing.

Through attendance at the Force's Trust and Confidence Group, the OPCC was able to get obtain an understanding and assurance of the work that is being undertaken across the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The OPCC was then able to seek further assurance with local residents through engagement events and activities that improvement are being felt.

Professor James asked if the OPCC had any future plans to obtain opinions on neighbourhood policing from the public living in South Yorkshire's rural communities.

In response, F Topliss said that officers were trained in rural crime and the Force now had a lead and strategy for dealing with rural crimes. She added that, during the summer of 2020, a survey was undertaken specifically around rural crime. It was agreed that the results and key issues of the Rural Crime Survey be circulated to Members after today's meeting.

Members were informed that new issues in relation to rural crime were now emerging as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Commissioner said that he wished to pursue rural crime issues with both the Force and communities in the year ahead.

Professor James said that there needed to be careful consideration about making the police more visible in rural communities.

The Commissioner acknowledged Professor James' comment. He said that discussions were taking place with the Chief Constable to address how the Force could be more visible in rural communities.

Councillor Garbutt asked if the public was aware of the current low detection rates for burglary when surveys were undertaken. Furthermore, did this affect responses. He also asked if engagement was being undertaken with the Somali and Pakistani communities in Sheffield.

F Topliss said that, most often, the public were unaware of detection rates, unless they had been published in the local media. Survey results did show how the public felt if they had been a victim of burglary, or if a third party had experienced burglary and how their response had been dealt with by the Force.

It was confirmed that the OPCC had undertaken engagement with other communities via the Priorities Survey and the Neighbourhood Policing Survey. Certain demographics within the communities had been targeted. On a daily and weekly basis the OPCC did engage with numerous groups and links in communities. In addition, the Commissioner continued to meet remotely with groups within communities.

The feedback received from communities was fed back by the OPCC to the Force's Trust and Confidence Group and then circulated to the Neighbourhood Teams for the results to be actioned.

Councillor Otten commented that, when face-to-face surveys are undertaken, the public may not recognise the distinction between the Force and OPCC. He was of the opinion that, statistical conclusions should not be drawn from the results. He asked if the OPCC had considered the use of an external market research company to undertake surveys on behalf of the OPCC.

F Topliss replied that she was confident that the public did know the distinction between the Force and OPCC. A range of responses were received; some of which were not always positive. The OPCC did undertake further work to follow-up any issues obtained from the surveys via Focus Groups etc. to tease out and obtain further information. The Neighbourhood Policing market research survey undertaken in October 2019 to March 2020 was undertaken independently.

Councillor Grocutt asked if there were any plans in future to expand the number of officers in the Neighbourhood Teams as a result of the Neighbourhood Policing Survey.

The Commissioner replied that this would be an operational decision of the Chief Constable, in conversation with himself. He added that details could be provided to the Panel about the re-deployment of officers in due course.

A Carter asked if the Commissioner's Weekly Blog could be circulated to the local press and TV to highlight topics, for example, how the Force was tackling low level crime.

F Topliss confirmed that the Commissioner's Weekly Blog was circulated to the local media and did contain issues that were emerging.

On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Nevett thanked F Topliss for her report.

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 F Topliss had agreed to provide the Panel with the results and key issues within the Rural Crime Survey undertaken during the Summer of 2020.

11 SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: PROGRESS UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced a report to provide Members with an update following the commissioning and assurance work carried out by his Office (OPCC) in 2019 in support of victims of crime.

Members were informed that, from October 2014, PCCs had the responsibility for commissioning local victims' services. PCCs receive grant funding from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to facilitate this.

In South Yorkshire the Commissioner consolidated the funding received from the MoJ Victims Fund, Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund and additional funding from the Partnership and Commissioning Budget to create a 'Victims of Crime Fund'. The total of this fund for (2019/20 was £2.8m).

The Commissioner uses this funding to commission a number of services to support victims including the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service and the Victim Support Service.

The Commissioner highlighted that the Victims Code of Practice was currently being revised and was not expected to come into force until April 2021. The revised Victims Code of Practice document simplified 12 rights of victims.

From April 2021, the Commissioner would have to ensure that the Force was complying with the revised Victims Code and how it was being embedded within the Force.

The Commissioner said that, like all PCCs, he had been concerned about the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on victims of crime and if the services who support victims were able to continue.

In an effort to ensure victims were able to access support, the PCC's Commissioning Team had secured additional external funding of £1.7m. Much of this had been secured to provide extra resource for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services across South Yorkshire.

Professor James asked when the findings of South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board's (SY LCJB) victim assurance work would be made available and how it would be reported.

S Baldwin replied that the findings would be presented in a draft report to the April meeting of the South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board for discussion and any recommendations to be agreed.

The Commissioner said that early findings would also be shared with the Panel.

Professor James asked if the introduction of dedicated Domestic Abuse Teams had been introduced in all four districts. Furthermore, he asked if the Teams would retain direct responsibility for supporting victims of domestic abuse, or if this service was contracted out to other organisations.

The Commissioner replied that all districts had specialist Domestic Abuse Teams. In addition, Domestic Abuse services were funded largely by his Office.

Councillor Steinke asked if there was any evidence of domestic abuse victims not reporting incidents, or withdrawing them due to the ongoing pandemic and current demands on the Force. Furthermore, he asked if there had been any perceived delays via the criminal justice system as a way for people to access mental health services.

The Commissioner replied that there were some crimes where people were reluctant to report, for example, hate crime. However, there was no evidence to suggest that people were not reporting crimes due to the pandemic. Domestic abuse rates had increased by 7%.

Furthermore, the Force had recognised very early in the pandemic that there was the potential for victims of domestic abuse not to report crimes due to lockdown. The Force had worked hard to implement a range of alternative services for victims to make contact with the Force.

M Buttery added that, in relation to confidence in the criminal justice process, it was important that criminal justice partners continued to communicate Court results. It was also important that trust and confidence in the system was maintained.

The Commissioner and partners were publicising how the Courts were progressing backlogs. South Yorkshire, as part of Yorkshire and Humber area, was doing very well in progressing the backlogs. Currently there were issues with Jury trials due to social distancing measures. Routine matters were being progressing through the Magistrates Courts with very little delays.

Members were informed that the OPCC had offered a presentation to the Panel from the new Head of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

The VRU was undertaking pioneering work in relation to tackling domestic abuse and other violent crimes working with neighbourhoods and South Yorkshire Police and other partners, through a problem-solving approach and a trauma informed approach.

In relation to mental health services, the Force was working with partners to understand the causes of under reporting. Communication was important to ensure repeat victims – and repeat offenders - were on their radar; through their joint approach with Probation Services and other partners. Assurance was provided that the Commissioner was monitoring the situation very closely.

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 findings of the South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board's (SY LCJB) victim assurance work would be presented to the Panel in due course.
- iii) Noted that the Head of the Violence Reduction Unit would give a presentation to a future Panel meeting.

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

A report of the Police and Crime Commissioner was presented to provide Members with an update on key PCC and OPCC activities since the Panel's last meeting on 14th December 2020.

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

M Buttery reported that Lord Farmer had recently undertaken two independent reviews in relation to Strengthening Family Ties and Female Offenders.

On behalf of the Commissioner, L Mayhew had produced a submission to a request for progress from LCJBs from across the country examining how the Local Criminal Justice Board had made progress on Lord Farmer's 33 recommendations.

M Buttery said that she would provide Professor James and Panel Members with a copy of the South Yorkshire's submission which provided information on the progress being made in the local area against the themes.

A Carter said he welcomed the suggestion for the Panel to receive a detailed report or presentation from the Head of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) at a future meeting. He asked if elected representatives from the four districts Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) could also be invited to observe the presentation.

M Buttery replied that the Head of the VRU would be delivering a presentation at the March meeting of the Public Accountability Board (PAB), which Members were welcome to attend.

In addition, the four district Community Safety Partnerships were represented at the VRU Executive Board, which governs the VRU work as a partnership approach and therefore, CSP Members should be aware of South Yorkshire's approach to violence reduction. It was suggested that Panel Members observe the PAB presentation and then consider if there are any further issues which need to be discussed with the Head of the VRU.

Members were informed that Graham Jones would commence employment on 1st March 2021, as the permanent, full-time, Head of the VRU.

Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Commissioner was confident that the wiping of data from the Police National computer would not compromise the investigation and prosecution of criminals in South Yorkshire, particularly with regard to long complex investigations into organised crime, fraud etc.

The Commissioner said that he had discussed this matter with the Chief Constable and with the Policing and Fire Minister.

Locally, the Chief Constable had stated that, currently, he had no reason to believe that any cases in South Yorkshire would be compromised by the loss of data. Nationally, the Policing and Fire Minister had echoed the same point as the Chief Constable, and said that officers were working hard to restore the data which had been lost.

The latest update from the Policing and Fire Minister had said that data which had been accidentally wiped, should be substantially restored. The Commissioner would be meeting again shortly with the Minister where he expected a further update would be provided.

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 M Buttery would provide Professor James and Panel Members with a copy of the South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board's submission which set out the progress being made in the local area against Lord Farmer's 33 recommendations.

13 COMPLAINTS UPDATE

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

During the period (June 2020 to end December 2020) 2 complaints were received against the PCC and considered by the PCP's Legal Adviser.

The Complaints Panel was not convened but kept informed by the Panel's Legal Adviser and Support Officer where appropriate.

Members were asked to consider receiving future complaints update reports on an annual basis. Following discussion, the Panel agreed to retain its current 6 monthly update report.

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

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

14 POLICE & CRIME PANEL MEETING DATES 2021-22

A report was submitted to set out a schedule of meeting dates for the Police and Crime Panel in 2021/22.

Following discussion with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk to the Panel, it was agreed that the Panel meeting scheduled for 19th April 2021 would remain as originally agreed.

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

- i) Considered and approved the 2021/22 meeting dates set out below:-

- Monday 19th April 2021
 - Monday 7th June 2021 – Annual Meeting
 - Monday 19th July 2021
 - Monday 20th September 2021
 - Monday 13th December 2021
 - Wednesday 2nd February 2022
 - Monday 25th April 2022

- All meetings will take place at 1:00 pm with a pre-meeting for Members at 12:15 pm, unless stated otherwise.

- ii) Agreed to hold additional / extraordinary meetings / training events as and when appropriate / necessary.

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 were set out within the report for Members' information.

L Noble said that if there were any virtual, national or regional events that Members had received details of and felt would be helpful, then the Panel's Grant could be considered to cover any costs.

It was noted that Councillor Grocutt had also observed the PAB meeting held on 10th December 2020.

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.

Councillor Nevett said that he would attend the PAB meeting scheduled for 9th February 2021.

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 19th April 2021 at 1:00 pm and Members will be notified of the arrangements for this meeting nearer the time.

CHAIR