

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 8th March 2016

POLICE COMPLAINTS PROCESS IN LANCASHIRE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update on progress of the Task and Finish Group set up to scrutinise the Police Complaints Process in Lancashire.

Recommendation

The Panel is asked to note the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group to date and note that a full report with recommendations will be submitted to the AGM meeting.

Background and Advice

As agreed at the meeting in October, a short term Task and Finish Group was set up to scrutinise the operation of the Police Complaints process in Lancashire in the context of the Police and Crime Commissioners role in holding the Chief Constable to account for the operation of quality services to the public of Lancashire. This was the one of items agreed by the Panel for inclusion in its Forward Plan.

The following Panel Members were appointed to serve on the Task and Finish Group – Andy Kay, Terry Hill, Tony Harrison and Julie Gibson.

Initial key lines of enquiry (questions) were identified by the Task and Finish Group following its initial meeting on 16th February 2016 and shared with the Commissioner (see below).

At the meeting, Panel Members felt that due to the short time available before the next meeting of the Panel on 8th March, it was more appropriate to build in more time to do the topic justice, and therefore they will continue their work which will conclude later in March and submit a report with conclusions and recommendations to the next meeting of the Panel (the AGM meeting).

Initial Lines of Enquiry following meeting held on 16th February:

What is a complaint and how is a complaint defined?

How are complaints recorded, how rigorous is the recording system and how is the process monitored?

What starts the official formal process and is there also an informal process?

What is a local resolution? Who decides what a local resolution is?

What criteria are used to decide if local resolution is appropriate and who makes that decision?

Are local resolutions reported to senior management case by case, ie the Chief Constable?

Are local resolutions differentiated by category or type, if they are what are the criteria and types?.

Where and how are local resolutions recorded?

Is the Lancashire procedure in anyway approved externally and if so how?

Do other forces use similar/same systems of classification and procedure or is Lancashire's unique?

What monitoring system is used scrutinise all these decisions and outcomes?

The Task and Finish Group will meet with the Commissioner at the rise of the Panel on 8th March and receive a presentation and responses to these initial lines of enquiry then meet privately to finalise their report for consideration at the next Panel meeting.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Legal Implications

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

Risk management

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

None.

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Reasons for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A