

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19th October 2016 at 10.00am in Meeting Room A, Blackburn Town Hall.

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Robert Boswell, Preston City Council

Councillor Paul Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Peter Gibson, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Brendan Hughes, Lancaster Borough Council

Councillor Ivan Taylor, Blackpool Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Council

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary, Lancashire Police & Crime Panel
- John Bremers, Senior Projects Consultant, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Phil Llewellyn, Executive and Councillor Support Manager, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alastair Bradley welcomed all present to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Julie Gibson, Sue Graham, Terry Hill, Andy Kay, Adrian Lythgoe, Liz Oades, Jacqueline Mort, Kevin Wright and Joyce Plummer.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Chair requested nominations for the position of Vice Chair for 2016/17.

Councillor Terry Hill nominated Councillor Paul Elms, which was seconded by Councillor Peter Gibson. No further nominations were received.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Paul Elms be appointed as Vice Chair of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

Under Matters Arising, the Police and Crime Commissioner updated the Panel on a number of actions from the last meeting that had been completed.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

5. Public Questions

No Public Questions had been received.

6. Membership and Host Authority

The Panel received a report on the latest position relating to the Membership of the Police and Crime Panel for 2016/17.

Members were reminded that a report on this matter had been submitted to the last meeting of the Panel where a proposal to retain the Political balance was as follows;

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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The Panel at the AGM in June considered this option and an alternative option based on 9-7-1-1 as above. However the Panel could not agree this alternative option but did determine that a further consultation would be undertaken with Member Authorities to ascertain if any controlling group would release a seat on the Panel to achieve this alternative option. The Secretary on behalf of the Chair contacted all Councils on 24th June 2016 and on 8th July 2016 but did not receive any proposals for a change of their nominated person (seat) on the Panel. In the circumstances the Panel had to now confirm their membership and it was proposed that the Panel confirm:

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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The Panel discussed this proposal and it was suggested that the Panel continue with the proposed political balance with the caveat that this could be looked at again if required.

It was also suggested that attendance records be looked at and Councils be contacted about their representatives and the importance of attending meetings of the Panel or if they were unable to, to send a substitute.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the Political balance of the Panel for 2016/17 - Elected Members (plus 2 Independent persons) be confirmed as:

Labour 10	Conservative 6	Lib Dem 1	Independent Member 1
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- 2) That if necessary the Political balance could be looked at again during the year and;
- 3) That the Secretary write to all Lancashire Local Authorities and remind them of the importance of their representatives attending meetings and of the opportunity to send substitutes if required.

7. Appointment of Additional Co-opted Members to the Police and Crime Panel

A report was submitted which provided an update on the appointment process for the appointment of independent members of the panel following the end of term of appointment of Mr Paul Richardson, Independent Co-Opted Member.

As reported at the June meeting the Local Government Association had produced guidance on how Police and Crime Panels should go about appointing independent co-opted members, and following a process in the summer in accordance with these arrangements, a recruitment panel of 3 members of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Paul Elms, Councillor Peter Gibson and Independent Co-opted Member Altaf Baghdadi considered applications.

Unfortunately an appointment was not able to be made and arrangements were now being made to re-advertise the opportunity to join the Panel with recruitment expected in the coming weeks.

A further update report would be submitted to the Panel at their next meeting.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the progress for recruitment of a new Independent Co-opted Member of the Panel be noted, and;
- 2) That the same Panel members sit on the recruitment committee.

8. Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring Report

Members of the Panel received a report which provided an update on progress in delivering the Police and Crime Plan (the plan) for Lancashire 2013-2018 including a

performance report in relation to the success measures contained within the plan and a brief outline of other key commissioner activity.

The report covered the time period 7th June to 22nd September 2016.

The report was presented in three sections as follows:

Part 1 – an update on progress for each of the objectives listed in the plan

Part 2 – a quarter 2 performance monitoring report

Part 3 – a brief outline of the PCC's key activity in relation to role and function not captured in parts 1 or 2 of this report.

The Commissioner highlighted key areas of his report and received questions on the following:

- Contact Management Centre - 101 calls

Several Members of the Panel expressed their concerns about the high abandonment rates for calls to the contact management centre outlined in the performance report, and the continued poor performance of the service. The Commissioner was asked if he was satisfied that the extra 20 Police Room Operators referred to in the report would adequately deal with the performance issues of the service.

The Commissioner advised that he wouldn't be satisfied until performance figures were much improved, but outlined some of the factors for the figures in the report, including an unprecedented demand since summer and the amount of time that complicated welfare issues were taking up, but assured the Panel that he took this matter very seriously and all efforts would be undertaken to resolve the issues. The Chair requested that a report be presented to the next meeting and on the approach to dealing with the issues, along with comparative data from other areas.

Hate Crime – Reference was made to the increase in reported cases since the Brexit, and concerns were raised about the North West Infidels group who had been active in Blackpool and Preston. The Commissioner advised that the Police actively monitored related social media and made reference to the #saynotohate campaign held during week commencing 8th October and he thanked partners for their support.

In presenting his report the Commissioner referred to the Modern Day Slavery week campaign which sought to raise awareness of this increasing problem.

The Commissioner also advised that consultation on the Precept would soon commence and he anticipated issues with the Government's funding formula as there had been at the same point last year.

In terms of the incorporation of the re-commissioning of domestic abuse services into the Commissioner's re-commissioning of Victim Services referred to in the report submitted, the Panel outlined concerns about the two services being put together, whilst recognising the important role undertaken by the Commissioner in helping to ensure the service was

still delivered. There were no guarantees about partner funding, but LCC had confirmed their funds annually for the next three financial years.

Councillor David Whipp referred to some of the performance figures in the report, in particular, relating to public confidence and satisfaction and requested some comparison figures from elsewhere in the Country to compare against. The Chair requested that links to the HMIC reports be sent to all Panel Members in this regard.

In response to a question about more detailed information for specific areas being available, the Commissioner and Angela Harrison, Director of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner outlined the other forums where the information was debated, including at Local Community Safety Partnerships.

Angela Harrison also offered to send a link to the tender specification relating to the Domestic Abuse Services Contract to all Members of the Panel.

In reference to a question about any contingency arrangements relating to the LCC's financial difficulties over the next two years, and the knock on effect on funding, the Commissioner advised the Panel that there were no specific contingency arrangements in place.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That the Commissioner present a report to the next Panel meeting on the approach being taken to tackle performance issues at the Contact Management Centre; and
- 3) That the Commissioner's office send out links to the HMIC reports and to the Domestic Abuse Tender Specification as requested.

9. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

A report was submitted, the purpose of which was to highlight decisions made and published since the last meeting of the Panel on 20th June 2016.

At the last meeting in June, the Commissioner agreed to the Director's delegated decisions also being published.

Although this was not a requirement of the Commissioner's own governance arrangements, to demonstrate openness, a report detailing the exercise of the Director's delegations had been introduced and would in future be presented to the Commissioner.

This report would then be published along with all other decisions made by the Commissioner on the website and will be available for inspection.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. Draft Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021

The Panel were reminded that the Police and Crime Commissioner was required to issue a Police and Crime Plan by the end of the financial year in which he or she was elected (31 March 2017).

Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('The Act') specified that, before issuing or varying a police and crime plan, a PCC must send the draft plan or variation to the relevant police and crime panel, and have regard to any report or recommendations made by the panel in relations to the draft plan.

In a previous report submitted on the 20 June 2016, members were advised of the process and timetable proposed by the Commissioner for the development of the Police and Crime Plan 2016 to 2021. The report set out the process and timetable for engaging stakeholders in developing the new plan.

Extensive engagement and consultation took place through the summer with Lancashire Constabulary, members of the public, victims of crime, stakeholders and public sector partners to ensure a broad range of opinion and local data and evidence had shaped the plan priorities.

The draft Police and Crime Plan priorities reflected the outcome of the consultation and engagement with stakeholders as well as taking into consideration the wider evidence and feedback from panel members.

The Police and Crime Panel's Task and Finish Group met on the 16th September 2016, and Cllr David Whipp (Pendle) and Cllr Ben Aitken (Fylde) joined officers to review the plan's progress and make suggestions to the proposed priorities. The Commissioner wished to place on record his gratitude for the time given by panel members to consider and scrutinise the process ensuring that the Plan meets its statutory requirements. The draft Plan now presented at Appendix A and took into account the comments made by the Task and Finish Group.

The Commissioner had formally consulted with the Chief Constable prior to presenting the Plan to the panel and the Chief Constable's comments were attached at Appendix B.

The Plan would be launched and communicated widely as soon as is practicable following the Panel Meeting.

The Commissioner introduced a 10 minute video, which outlined the priorities in the plan.

Panel Members fed back comments on the plan, which the Chair asked the Commissioner to take account of, these included references to clarity around, a Police Force representative of the community in terms of diversity; how with PACT Meetings now finished and less stations and therefore less opportunity for the public to raise issues – this was to be addressed; more information required on performance measures on page 107;

improvements to be made of references to the positive effectiveness of social media and the Commissioner's plans to reach elderly (and other) vulnerable people who don't use it.

The Commissioner in response advised that in terms of diversity of the force, in terms of LGBT representation, this had been very successful, but less so in terms of BME representation and a workforce representation officer had been appointed to work on this area.

In terms of Neighbourhood Watch, the Commissioner stressed the importance of Citizens in Policing Initiatives and support for local neighbourhoods.

The Commissioner agreed with points made relating to social media effectiveness and on the need to give more detail in the report on performance measures.

The Chair requested that the plan should make reference to ways elderly vulnerable people could be effectively communicated with.

The Chair requested that any additional comments on the plan should be emailed to David Fairclough and Phil Llewellyn.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the draft Police and Crime Plan be noted; and
- b) That any further feedback be sent to David Fairclough and Phil Llewellyn to feed back to the Commissioner's Office.

11. Protecting Vulnerable People Scrutiny

A report was submitted which outlined the process for the whole Panel scrutiny of the Protecting Vulnerable People priority.

Following discussions by the Panel at recent meetings on the Forward Plan for the Panel, it was agreed that the whole Panel would undertake scrutiny of the Commissioner's Protecting Vulnerable People priority.

Panel Members were given the opportunity to submit questions in advance in order that the Commissioner's Office could prepare responses for the meeting, and a number of related documents were submitted to the Panel.

The questions received by the deadline of 19th September 2016 were outlined in the report submitted.

Members of the Panel were invited to ask further questions and consider any next steps as appropriate. No further questions were submitted, but panel members had the opportunity to submit them after the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and any further questions to be submitted to David Fairclough and Phil Llewellyn after the meeting.

12. Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Forward Plan

Following discussions at the AGM in June, Panel members had been asked in the lead up to this meeting to consider options for inclusion of areas of scrutiny for the completion of the Forward Plan 2016/17.

The Panel was asked therefore to identify and agree from the PCC's Reports to the Panel 2 (or more) areas of particular interest that the Panel would focus on as special interest areas this year at its meetings scheduled in January 2016 and March 2017.

The Secretary would then liaise with the PCC on the production of more detailed information to be prepared and circulated in advance of the meetings to facilitate full and detailed scrutiny.

To facilitate work in advance of the scheduled meetings for each area the Panel was invited to also agree Task Groups to review information in advance of the meetings and engage directly with the PCC and the Office of the PCC as appropriate.

The Chair advised that at the recent induction meeting, a number of areas were suggested for further scrutiny, namely Re-offending, Budgets, Review of Victim Support Services and the 101 service.

Councillor David Whipp suggested that the previously agreed longitudinal scrutiny of Frontline Policing could be a timely topic. Angela Harrison advised that this area was currently under review by Lancashire Constabulary so scrutiny at the March meeting would be appropriate, but suggested that scrutiny of Victim Support Services now would be appropriate enabling comparative scrutiny later.

The Chair suggested that a virtual Task and Finish Group look at Victim Support Services and Roger Berry and David Whipp volunteered to sit on the group and meet with the Commissioner's Office as appropriate. A third member of the group would also be sought.

David Whipp, Paul Elms and Roger Berry volunteered to serve on the Frontline Policing Task and Finish Group.

As discussed earlier, a report on the 101 Service would be presented at the January meeting so this item could also be added to the Forward Plan.

In terms of the Budget item - this item would be picked up by the Finance Seminar which would take place on 6th December 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be updated to reflect the Scrutiny areas and dates agreed.

13. Chief Constable Recruitment

The Panel received a report which informed of the retirement of the current Chief Constable, Stephen Finnigan. It provided detail on the timescales and processes for the recruitment of a replacement permanent Chief Constable.

The Chief Constable had notified in writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner his intention to retire on 28 June 2017 following his 41 year service in policing.

In appointing a Chief Constable under Section 38 the Police and Crime Commissioner had to comply with schedule 8 of the Act. Under this schedule no appointment could be made until the end of a confirmation process. The Police and Crime Panel had to hold a confirmation hearing to review the proposed appointment and then submit a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner on whether the appointment should be made.

A table in the report set out in broad terms the recruitment timetable for the recruitment of the Chief Constable.

Under legislation the Police and Crime Commissioner had to appoint an independent member to be part of the appointments panel. Their role was to ensure the appointments process was conducted in line with the principles of merit, fairness and openness, and the successful candidate be selected on merit. They were required to submit a report to the Police and Crime Panel to be considered at the confirmation hearing.

The report also indicated that the Commissioner would like to invite David Fairclough to independently observe the recruitment process.

The Panel further discussed the process and the timetable submitted.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the report be noted and that a confirmation hearing be organised in March 2017 to enable the Panel to review the recruitment process in accordance with the legislation, and;
- 2) That David Fairclough be appointed as an independent observer of the recruitment process.

14. Early Action Presentation

Andrea Barrow delivered a presentation on Early Action.

Early Action involved partners identifying vulnerable people that may be at risk of running into difficulties and provide timely and effective support to prevent escalation into crisis.

This had led to the development of shared aims and objectives, and shared outcomes. Staffing would also need to change – the workforce had to be able to meet the demands from the communities in Lancashire and work was currently being undertaken to look at the skills required from a 21st Century Public Servant.

Work was ongoing towards Public Service Lancashire – an overarching Single Public Service with a joint strategic Vision able to make decisions which were in the best interests of the Community.

The Presentation highlighted the opportunities for integration offered by the Combined Authority, place based delivery of services (Public Service Lancashire) and the Public Service Board.

The Panel discussed the presentation and the Early Action approach and were supportive of the direction of travel identified.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

15. Monitoring of Complaints

Members of the Panel received a report setting out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received to date in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

At the AGM meeting on 20th June 2016 the Police and Crime Panel requested a summary of the communications to date which had been initially considered as potential complaints into the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner (and formerly the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner),

Since the commencement of the Panel in 2012 there had been 25 recorded communications which at the outset were described as potential complaints against the Commissioner.

Many of these communications however did not relate directly to the conduct of the PCC and therefore did not, under the terms of the governing regulations come under the jurisdiction of the Police and Crime Panel.

Many communications received focussed on the alleged conduct of police officers or the Chief Constable, and these were matters for which there were other complaints processes.

For this meeting in response to the request at the AGM in June, the summary for this meeting also included the position on all previous communications / complaints noted at previous Panel meetings since the panel was established.

The communications numbered 20-25 were the updates which would ordinarily have been reported to this meeting.

Since 2012 there had been 4 complaints / concerns which had been registered and considered by the Panel / Complaints Sub Committee: 3 relating to the PCC and 1 relating to the DPCC.

RESOLVED – That the update in relation to communications and complaints be noted.

16. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Police and Crime Panel would be held on Monday 23rd January 2017 at 6.30pm in Cabinet Room C, The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

SignedChair
2017