

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th September 2017

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Sue Graham, Burnley Borough Council

Councillor Robert Boswell, Preston City Council

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Terry Hill, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Jacqueline Mort, South Ribble Borough Council

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrision, Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary Lancashire Police and Crime Panel
- Asad Laher, Head of Governance
- Phil Llewellyn , Executive and Councillor Support Manager

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors Geoff Driver, Ivan Taylor, Clare Cleary, Brendan Hughes, Paul Elms, Peter Gibson, Liz Oades and Abdul Mulla and Altaf Bagdhadi, the Independent Co-opted Members.

2. Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on the 19th June 2017

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held on the 19th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interests received.

4. Public Questions

No public questions have been received.

5. Induction Update

The Secretary of the Panel, David Fairclough verbally updated the Panel on the recent Induction session held on 5th September 2017 which had received good feedback. 14 Members and Substitutes attended the session and feedback was that the session had aided their understanding of their role and the part the Panel played in scrutinising the Commissioner and his decisions.

The Chair thanked all who attended and suggested that each Member receive a refresher session every two years.

RESOLVED- That the update be noted.

6. Contact Management Presentation

The Commissioner introduced Chief Superintendent Peter Lawson who delivered a presentation on Contact Management, which gave details of the National Context, which was of increasing and more complex demand and gave details of a typical complex call for service. Call handling times had increased as a consequence and the Chief Superintendent outlined the current arrangements at Hutton for dealing with calls.

A pilot – South Pod - had been the result of 18 months detailed analysis by consultants, and involved key staff being located together in a pod, with calls routed geographically and the close proximity of staff meant more knowledge and experience was available. During the pilot, the average time to answer calls using the existing arrangements was 1 minute 48 seconds, compared to the South Pod where the average time was 22.5 seconds, with abandonment rates in the main contact centre at 39.6% compared to the 6.3% in the Pod.

Members of the Panel asked a number of questions and made comments following the presentation, particularly about the impact of community mental health issues on the service and several members made favourable comments about the success of the Pod pilot, which it was hoped would be rolled out fully for all other areas by Summer 2018.

It was suggested that this topic would be a useful area for a Task and Finish Group to further scrutinise.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. Annual Report 2016/17

The Commissioner presented his draft Annual Report covering the period April 2016 to March 2017.

The Panel were invited to consider the report and feedback any comments to David Fairclough.

RESOLVED – That the draft report be noted and that any comments on the report be submitted to the Secretary of the Panel, David Fairclough who would then send through on behalf of the Panel..

8. The Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring Report

The Commissioner presented his latest Police and Crime Plan Monitoring report, which provided an update on progress in delivering the current Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire. The report covered the first quarter from 1st April 2017 to 30th June 2017.

In presenting his report the Commissioner highlighted the continuing difficulties relating to the impact of the anti-fracking protests on resources, and the Commissioner had written to the Minister for Policing and Fire Services, Nick Hurd MP, about the unfairness of Lancashire Constabulary being expected to carry the costs of policing the protests. Discussions were ongoing with the Home Office about options regarding the reimbursement of the costs of policing the anti-fracking protests.

The Commissioner reported on the latest position relating to the closure of front counters at 11 police stations across Lancashire. Following consultation it had been agreed that the closures would go ahead as initially outlined, apart from Clitheroe Police Station, which was the subject of further discussions.

The Panel discussed the Commissioners report and performance monitoring information, and further discussed the situation relating to Fracking, and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted and that a report be submitted to the next meeting on the latest position relating to the impact of the anti-fracking protests on the resources for wider policing in Lancashire.

9. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

Members received a report which outlined the decisions taken by the Commissioner since the last meeting on 19th June 2017.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. Task and Finish Group – Frontline Policing

Councillors David Whipp and Roger Berry verbally updated the Panel on the work of the Task Group that had been scrutinising Frontline Policing, one of the Commissioners key priorities.

Various lines of enquiry had been established and evidence gathering had commenced, and one of the key findings so far was the stress that the Constabulary were under in terms of demand and the follow on impact on Frontline Policing. Issues such as mutual aid for terrorist attacks and fracking had been very time consuming and resource intensive and had meant a lot of time and resources had to also be dedicated to carrying out risk assessments for public events. Retired police officers had returned as agency workers to assist, and whilst recruitment targets were on track, there were concerns that this might not be the case going forward. 25% of PCSOs had also been lost, which was not helping the situation. As a consequence of the various issues, response times for 999 calls were increasing.

It was noted that Councillor Paul Elms had withdrawn from the Task and Finish Group due to work commitments, and the Chair asked for volunteers to advise the Secretary if they were interested.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

11. LGA Police and Crime Panels Workshop and proposals for national representation for Police and Crime Panels

A report was submitted which gave details of a Police and Crime Panels Workshop held at the Local Government Association (LGA) in July.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Paul Elms attended, together with Phil Llewellyn, and the Workshop focussed on emerging policy and matters for consideration going forward, including the creation of new PCC style Fire and Rescue Authorities, which several PCCs were currently pursuing, which would have an impact for the PCPs in those areas.

There were further discussions at the Workshop on the proposed Association of Police and Crime Panels, with the favoured approach being the establishment of a Special Interest Group (SIG), supported by the LGA, and this would be further discussed at the Annual Conference in November, but the views of the Panel were requested on its favoured approach.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that the Secretary feedback to the ongoing consultation stating that the Panel favours the SIG approach.

12. Monitoring of Complaints

The Secretary presented a report which set out the current position with regard to communications relating to complaints received up to 31st August 2017 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

At this point of the meeting, following the earlier presentation that there was a discussion on the membership of a Task and Finish Group to look at Contact Management, and Councillors Terry Hill, David Whipp and Andy Kay volunteered to serve on this Group, and it was agreed that the Secretary would e-mail the Panel to seek further representatives. The Secretary also reminded the Panel that he would be arranging a Finance Seminar in early December ahead of discussions on the Precept at the January meeting.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 11th December 2017, at 6.30pm in Cabinet Room 'C' The Duke of Lancaster Room. County Hall, Preston.

Signed.....Chair
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