

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Jonathan Saksena, Preston City Council,
Councillor Paul Foster, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Andy Rhodes, Chief Constable,
- Ian Wilson, Chief Superintendent,
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sian Roxborough, Council Solicitor
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alistair Bradley welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillors Ben Aitken, Robert Boswell, Ivan Taylor, Geoff Driver, Alistair Sinclair, Simon Hore, David Whipp, Mohammed Khan and Steve Hughes.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December 2019 and 4th February 2020

RESOLVED - The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019 and 4th February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

4. Public Questions

No public questions had been received.

5. Presentation by the Chief Constable

The Chief Constable delivered his annual presentation to the Panel.
The presentation focussed on:

- The HMICFRS rating of the Lancashire Constabulary as Outstanding for Efficiency
- Comparison between Constabularies for Officer Reductions/Uplift
- Lancashire position, 3 Local Authority areas in top ten most deprived
- Lancashire FMS 2018 and 2019
- Capital & Revenue investment across West, South and East areas
- Investigations
- Local Policing & Response
- Tactical Operations and Force Control Room
- Support Services
- Learning & Development/Organisational Development.

Following the presentation, CC Rhodes received a number of questions, comments and observations and provided responses, with the key areas of enquiry for members of the Panel relating to Recruitment and readiness of the extra 153 Officers available, placement and replacement of PCSOs and representation of diverse communities on the frontline, placement of future officers which would be more focussed on the proactive policing rather than reactive policing, and focussing more on quality of investigations and maintaining a neighbourhood focus. CC Rhodes also advised that the next few years would see a shift from 101 call handling to a digital approach, which would eventually lead to a split of around 50/50 on the handling of the 1.2M calls received annually.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

6. Presentation – Update on Capital Programme

Steve Freeman delivered a presentation on the Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25, which focussed on:

- Setting the Programme
- Funding Approval
- Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25
- IT Capital Programme
- Accommodation Capital Programme
- Financing

Following a question from a Panel Member on potential for shared facilities between blue light services and Partners, Steve advised that conversations were ongoing.

The Chair asked Steve to share the slides with the Panel in the most appropriate way.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

7. Performance Monitoring Report

The PCC submitted his latest Performance Monitoring report, highlighting in particular the rating of ‘Outstanding for Efficiency’ following an inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. PCC Decisions

A report was submitted, highlighting decisions made in the period since the last main meeting of the Panel on 9th December 2019.

The Chair requested that an update on the use of the funding for Violent Reduction Unit/Knife Crime be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Task and Finish Group Update

Councillor Roger Berry advised that the Frontline Policing Task and Finish Group would be receiving a briefing in a fortnight’s time and would report back to the next meeting.

Councillor David Whipp had given apologies for the meeting, therefore no update was received from the Contact Centre Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

10. Appointment of Independent Co-opted Member

Sian Roxborough reported that the term of Altaf Bagdadi, Independent Co-opted Member, would soon be ending and requested permission from the Panel to begin the process to recruit a replacement, with a report on progress being submitted to the AGM meeting in July 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Secretary of the Panel consult with the Chair and Vice Chair on the recruitment process and submit a report to the AGM meeting in July on progress to date.

11. Update to Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedure

A report was submitted which proposed changes to the advisory notes in the Police & Crime Panel Complaints Procedure consequent of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 amending the handling of Police Complaints matters by the Commissioner.

In December 2018 the Panel received a report detailing changes to the Police Complaints Procedure and the potential implications for the Panel Complaints Procedure. The paper set out the changes to the Police Complaints regime in more detail and described the approach being taken in Lancashire to these changes. It reported that the Act made a number of changes to the police complaints regime in order to increase public confidence and to simplify the system. It also reported that the Act also seeks to strengthen the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) in the complaints process. It introduced new duties which are mandatory and also allows Police and Crime Commissioners to choose to take over a number of functions. It also allowed Police and Crime Commissioners to delegate their complaint handling powers.

There were three options under the Policing and Crime Act for Police and Crime Commissioners outlined:- Option 1 – Reviews – Mandatory, Option 2 – Customer Service approach for low level complaints, Option 3 – Single Point of Contact with Complainants.

The timetable for the introduction of these changes to the Police Complaints regime was not originally clear. It was originally intended that they would take effect in June 2018, then March 2019, but they had now only recently come into force.

The PCC confirmed in the earlier report he has adopted Option 1 of the Policing and Crime Act changes, the Mandatory option, to take over the review/appeals process for police complaints from the Chief Constable. The PCC decided not to take up options 2 and 3 at this stage but would continue to keep this under review.

The OPCC would continue to update the Police and Crime Panel on progress and on the expected timescale for implementation of other relevant aspects of the Act.

In terms of Impact on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedure, it would be important to set out to complainants the separation of the two processes, i.e. those involving the personal conduct of the PCC (covered by Panel Arrangements) and Police conduct complaints (covered by the Police Complaints process). It was suggested therefore that the advisory note at the beginning of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedure be updated as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report.

RESOLVED - That the updating of the advisory paragraphs in the introductory section of the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedure as set out in this report be approved.

12. Monitoring of Complaints

A report was submitted which set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received up to 31st January 2020 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Since the commencement of the Panel in 2012 there had now been 77 recorded communications which at the outset were described by the complainants as complaints against the Police & Crime Commissioner, and in all 72 outcomes had been reported to previous meetings.

Since the last meeting, of the 5 complaints outstanding, 3 had been communications/complaints (74 *was also anonymous*), (75) and (76) related to such operational police matters.

In respect of (72), this matter at the time of the last meeting was the subject of Initial Assessment. Following which, it was determined the complaint related to an officer in the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and the complaint was re-directed to the Director of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to handle as the appropriate authority to respond.

In respect of (77), this complaint related to allegations of maladministration of complaint handling by the Commissioner. This complainant being the same as (38), (57), (62) & (63) reported previously. Findings of fact against the latest allegations made during the initial assessment process resulted in no further action.

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

13. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business, but two update items:

Phil Llewellyn advised that there was a place for a Member available at the LGA PCP Workshop in London on 18th March 2020, and requested if anyone was interested to let him know.

The Chair noted that this was Sian Roxborough's last meeting before taking up a new position at Salford City Council, and on behalf of the Panel, thanked Sian for her valuable work over several years supporting the Panel.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Panel (AGM) would be held at 10.00am on Monday 6th July 2020 at Blackburn Town Hall.

Signed.....Chair
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