

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th March 2021

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Mohammed Khan, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Councillor Afrasaib Anwar, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Jason Wood, Lancaster City Council
Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Simon Hore, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Sue Bibby, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Andrew Walmsley, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Gareth Dowling, West Lancs Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Wyre Borough Council
Dave Spellman, Independent Co-opted Member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ian Dickinson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary
- Asad Laher, Head of Governance and Legal
- Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alistair Bradley welcomed all to the meeting, and advised how the remote meeting would operate. Apologies had been received from Councillors Ivan Taylor and Jackie Oakes.

2. Appointment of Independent Co-opted Member

The Chair, with the agreement of the Panel, moved this item up the agenda in order that, if ratified, the proposed new Independent Co-opted Member Dave Spellman could join the meeting.

The Chair explained that following the recent recruitment process it was proposed that Dave Spellman be appointed as he was the successful candidate following the interview process.

Councillor Bradley also reported that the other Independent Co-opted Member, Mimi-El-Khattan, had recently resigned, as she had a new role with the Police which would impact her ability to effectively contribute to the Panel.

RESOLVED – 1). That Dave Spellman be appointed as Independent Co-opted Member for a term of four years, effective from the date of this meeting.

2) That the resignation of Mimi-El-Khattan be noted and that the Secretary send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Panel.

3) That recruitment for the remaining vacancy commence post Elections May 2021.

(Dave Spellman now present in the meeting).

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 7th December 2020 and 2nd February 2021

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 7th December 2020 and 2nd February 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

5. Public Questions

No public questions had been received.

6. Performance Monitoring

The PCC presented his latest report, and in doing so, passed to his thanks and best wishes to outgoing Chief Constable, Andy Rhodes, and also welcomed the incoming Chief Constable, Chris Rowley.

The PCC highlighted in particular the external funding secured over the last 12 months from a variety of sources, including the Ministry of Justice, Safer Streets, Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and Police Surge Fund.

In response to a question on the rises in figures relating to Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery reported in the performance monitoring information, and what the Constabulary would do differently, the Commissioner advised of the trauma informed approach, with staff in hospitals to assist victims and also the use of technology to record incidents and information, plus training for officers, and additionally there would be more officers in neighbourhoods soon with the national uplift funding.

The Commissioner was also asked about increases in anti-social behaviour and declining satisfaction rates, and of the criteria for accessing/allocating the additional

funding the Commissioner had highlighted. In response, the PCC advised that in terms of anti-social behaviour and satisfaction rates, these were undoubtedly Covid related and a better perspective would be achieved post Covid. In terms of funding criteria, this tended to be issue based rather than geographical, although some schemes were being delivered in conjunction with local authorities.

The Commissioner was also asked about funding for CSPs in terms of Violence Reduction and the difficulty of utilising the funding in the current climate, with the PCC confirming that the deadline for expenditure had been extended and all or part of the £20k funding could be carried forward.

The Chair requested that the Commissioner report back to a future meeting on the spread of the additional funding in local authority areas and how bids could be made, as well as an update on the funding for Knife and Violent Crime, highlighting any Covid impacts, delivery to date and future plans.

RESOLVED – 1) That the report be noted.

2) That the Commissioner report back to a future meeting on the spread of the additional funding in local authority areas and how bids could be made, as well as an update on the funding for Knife and Violent Crime, highlighting any Covid impacts, delivery to date and future plans.

3) That the Secretary write a letter of thanks to outgoing CC Andy Rhodes on behalf of the Panel.

7. Covid Action and Recovery

The Commissioner updated Members of the Panel on the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Since 23rd March 2020, there had been over 30,000 Covid-19 related incidents and almost 25,000 were categorised as Anti-Social Behaviour. The report gave figures relating to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), since March 2020, with a total of 736 issued during Lockdown 3, which commenced on 5th January 2021, with the majority being issued to people aged 31 or under.

In response to a question on attendance of Police Officers during the pandemic and on Lateral Flow Testing, the PCC advised that attendance had been good, with a great willingness from Officers to attend work, with childcare being the biggest reason that staff generally were unable to work. Angela Harrison advised that 250 Officers had been tested to date using Lateral Flow Testing, and that most staff who had been unable to attend work due to Covid had carried on working at home.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

8. PCC Decisions

The Panel received a report highlighting decisions made by the PCC since the last meeting on 7th December 2020.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Task & Finish Groups 2020-21 Update

The Panel received verbal updates on the progress of the Task & Finish Groups for 2020/21 (Local & Neighbourhood Policing, Police Response Team, Violence Reduction Network and Community Cohesion – Building Confidence in Local Communities) with work continuing into the new Municipal Year for all four groups, with the Violence Reduction Network Group needing additional volunteers to assist the Chair, Councillor Sue Bibby.

RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.

10. Verbal Update from Members who attended the ESN Briefing on 24th February 2021.

Members of the Panel discussed the Emergency Services Network Briefing delivered by Chief Inspector Eddie Newton, which had been an informative session, outlining the ongoing process to replace the existing Airwave system with the Emergency Services Network.

The escalating costs of the transition were referred to, with the need for grant funding from the Government, otherwise savings would need to be made to deliver the project, which it was envisaged would not be complete until at least 2025.

The Commissioner advised that this was an issue that he was constantly lobbying the Government about, in terms of the need for additional funding.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

11. PCC Elections

The Head of Legal & Governance from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council provided information relating to the arrangements for the forthcoming PCC Elections, advising that a briefing session would be held on 10th March for prospective Candidates and Agents.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

12. Forward Plan Update

A report was submitted, and the Secretary verbally updated, on changes to the Forward Plan for 2020-21, relating to reporting timescales for the four Task & Finish Groups (March 2021) now extended into 2021/22, and also that rather than having a

dedicated Task & Finish Group, a report would be submitted to the AGM Meeting on the Independent Review of Deaths & Serious Incidents in Custody.

RESOLVED – That the report and update be noted.

13. Timetable of Meetings 2021-22

A report was submitted, setting out the Timetable of Meetings for 2021/22 for approval.

At the time of writing, Covid-19 Regulations were still in place, but it was hoped that by the time of the AGM Meeting, ‘in-person’ meetings would be happening once again. Venues may need to be booked that could accommodate any remaining social distancing measures, therefore venues were not currently listed in the table (below). The Government had not introduced Primary Legislation to enable the continuation of Virtual Meetings, so planning of meetings was focussed on ‘in person’ meetings, but if circumstances changed, for instance ‘Hybrid’ meetings were allowed, this solution would be investigated. An agreement was made with Auditel to broadcast meetings into later 2021, so officers would work with Auditel on any potential solutions in this regard.

Members of the Panel indicated that the option to have Hybrid meetings would be preferable, if this option was available going forwards.

RESOLVED – That the Timetable of Meetings be agreed as follows:

DATE/TIME/VENUE
Monday 5th July 2021 –AGM & Annual Induction Session 10am, followed by Annual Induction after lunch.
Wednesday 15th September 2021 2.00pm.
Monday 6th December 2021 6.00pm.
Monday 17th January 2022 (Precept only) 6.00pm.
Tuesday 1st February 2022 (if required –dependant on Precept decision) 6.00pm.
Monday 7th March 2021 10am.
Monday 4th July 2022 – AGM & Annual Induction Session 10am.

14. Monitoring of Complaints

The Panel received a report setting out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received up to 22nd February 2021 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

15. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

The Chair advised that he had just received a response from Kit Malthouse MP to the letter sent on behalf of the Panel relating to the funding of the Police as requested at the Precept Meeting, and asked that this be circulated to the Panel.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Panel (AGM) would be held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 10am.

Signed.....Chair
2021