

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021

Present:

Chair

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council
Councillor Stella Brunskill, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Simon Hore, Ribble Valley Borough Council
Councillor Qesir Mahmood, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Gareth Dowling, West Lancs Borough Council
Councillor Peter Hunter, Blackpool Council
Councillor Martyn Hurt, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor Robert Boswell, Preston City Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Councillor Sandra Thornberry, Lancaster City Council
Councillor Frank Andrews, Fylde Council

Also in attendance

- Andrew Snowden, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Andrew Pratt, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the PCC
- Asad Laher, Secretary
- Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Williamson, Threlfall, McGladdery, and Le Marinel and from the Independent co-opted Member, Dave Spellman.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED - The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2021 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. Draft Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025

The PCC, Andrew Snowden, submitted the latest draft version of the Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2025, noting that a consultation meeting had been held with the Panel on 22nd September 2021, and thanking the Panel for their contributions at that meeting.

The Commissioner advised that the Panel had until 12th November to provide feedback on the draft Plan, and reported that there had been greater engagement with the public on the draft Plan than ever before, and that he would circulate the analysis of responses to the survey undertaken after the meeting. The Deputy PCC, Andrew Pratt, also provided further information and detail on the consultation with specific groups across Lancashire.

Panel Members commented on the consultation process and were advised of the process that was followed for digitally excluded people, and Panel Members also commented on issues relating to Cyber Crime, and Youth Nuisance and there was a request for more information on geographic and demographic differences across Lancashire that laid behind average figures of 74% of people feeling safe.

RESOLVED – That the draft Police and Crime Plan be noted and that Panel Members provide feedback to the Commissioner before the deadline on 12th November 2021.

6. Succession Planning

The Commissioner advised of proposed plans in place for succession planning should the PCC be able to continue undertaking the role.

The Panel was advised that the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse MP, wrote to all Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in July 2021 requesting that all PCCs work to develop succession planning arrangements.

The Commissioner proposed that that in the event of an appointment being required, the person holding the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner would be considered for appointment as acting PCC in accordance with the relevant legislation.

A formal appointment decision would be required by the Panel in respect of the person to act as PCC if the circumstances necessitated such an appointment being made.

Should the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner be unable to undertake the role, or the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner post was vacant, the person holding the statutory role of Chief Executive (Director) of the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner would be considered for appointment as acting PCC in accordance with the relevant legislation.

RESOLVED – That the proposed arrangements for succession planning be approved.

7. Performance Report

A report was submitted which provided an update on progress in developing the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2021-2025. The report also highlighted some of the activity of the PCC and his Office during the 2nd Quarter (1st July – 30th September 2021).

Panel Members asked the Commissioner questions about the performance figures in the report, in particular the low charging rate relating to sexual crime, with the PCC and Deputy PCC providing detail on the approach to tackle this, which included greater engagement with the CPS/CJS, and noting that the Deputy PCC was now chairing the Lancashire CJS Board.

The PCC also provided detail on the Police Uplift Programme, in particular relating to Rossendale, and advised that more announcements about other areas of Lancashire would follow.

In terms of Anti-Social Behaviour, the Commissioner advised that the Problem Orientated approach was the way forward, with no one size fits all approach, noting the difference in local government structures across Lancashire.

The Commissioner also reported on the reopening of Police Stations, with further announcements to follow, following the recent reopening of the front counter at Clitheroe Police Station.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. Decisions

A report was submitted which highlighted decisions made by the PCC/Director since the last meeting of the Panel on 20th July 2021.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Part 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review

The Secretary of the Panel, Asad Laher, provided an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner Review, in particular on Part Two of the Review and the recent response submitted on behalf of the Panel.

At its meeting on 16 September 2020, the Panel was advised of the Government review of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) model. The LGA facilitated a

response to the Review, which also covered issues that would be considered in a subsequent Part 2 of the review. A response was submitted to the LGA on behalf of the Panel on 25 August 2020. The findings and recommendations from the first part of the Review were outlined in a Ministerial Statement on 16 March 2021.

On 27th July 2021 the Home Office announced its intention to launch Part Two of the Government's review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The Terms of Reference for the Part Two Review stated that the focus would be on ensuring PCCs had the tools and levers they needed to better equip them to fight crime and on scrutiny of the PCC model.

To inform the Review the Home Office requested the LGA to collate responses to the PCC Review call for evidence. They were particularly interested in the Panel's views in relation to Police and Crime Panels and IOPC & Complaints. In view of the very short time scale provided the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel were consulted and their responses were submitted on behalf of the Panel as outlined in the report.

In addition, with regard to providing the PCC with additional legal powers for preventing and tackling crime and following the recommendations of the Part One Review, the Home Office was consulting with a number of stakeholders, including the LGA, principal councils, Mayoral combined authorities, etc. on which range of additional powers to give to the PCC. There were two suggested options:

- (i) a wider functional power of competence as held by fire and rescue authorities, which would include giving them the power to do anything indirectly incidental to their functions; **or**
- (ii) a general power of competence as held by local authorities, which would give them the power to do anything that an individual could do so long as it was not prohibited by legislation.

Members of the Panel were asked to feedback any comments by 15th October to the Secretary, in order that he could respond by the Home Office deadline of 27th October 2021.

RESOLVED – The report be noted and that the Secretary respond to the Home Office with the comments of the Panel ahead of the 27th October deadline.

10. Task and Finish Groups 2021/22 – Verbal Update

The Chair advised that following recent e-mail correspondence it had been agreed that two Task and Finish Groups had been agreed for 2021/22 –

- 101 Service – including visit to Force Control Room, Membership of 3 Members, currently Roger Berry and Stella Brunskill, one more volunteer required.

- Neighbourhood Policing – Peter Le Marinel had volunteered, two more volunteers required.

The Chair advised that it was hoped that both groups would be able to report by Christmas.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted and Members volunteer as appropriate for the Task and Finish Groups.

11. Monitoring of Complaints – Verbal Update

Asad Laher verbally reported that one complaint had been received since the last Panel meeting and that this was being assessed.

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

12. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 6th December 2021 at 6pm at Blackburn Town Hall.

Signed.....Chair
2021