

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Clare Cleary, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor Jonathan Saksena, Preston City Council

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Paul Elms, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Borough Council

Abdul Mulla, Independent Co-opted Member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sian Roxborough, Council Solicitor
- Phil Llewellyn , Executive and Councillor Support Manager
- Councillor Brian Newman, Pendle Borough Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors Ivan Taylor, Sue Graham, Brendan Hughes, Adrian Lythgoe, Liz Oades, Robert Boswell, David Henderson, Terry Hill and Jacqueline Mort (and her substitute Cllr Susan Snape) and Altaf Bagdhadi, the Independent Co-opted Member.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on the 11th December 2017 and 22nd January 2018

Councillor Geoff Driver advised that in relation to minute no 6 of the December minutes relating to the policing of the fracking site that he had requested information about the management of the Policing, not the resources themselves, it was about

the approach, not the methodology, and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting on this, which the Commissioner confirmed would happen.

Councillor Ben Aitken requested that in future budget reports that the Commissioner's office provide more itemised information and more detail and Steve Freeman advised that he would also be happy to provide more information at the Finance Seminar in December.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings held on 11th December 2017 and 22nd January 2018 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of Minute no 6 in the December minutes relating to Fracking as referred to above.

3. Declaration of interests

Councillor Geoff Driver declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11- Monitoring of Complaints.

4. Public Questions

No public questions have been received.

5. Task and Finish Groups – Verbal Updates

Verbal updates from Task Group Members were scheduled from Members of the three Task and Finish Groups, but it was noted that progress had been slow due to the difficulties of getting Members together and also the lack of Terms of Reference and lack of officer resources available to support the Task and Finish Groups were highlighted.

Following discussion it was noted that it would be helpful to appoint a Chair for each Group and also that Members needed to take the initiative, with appropriate officer support and also remuneration for Members would be an agenda item at the AGM in July.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Chairs of the Task and Finish Groups be as follows:
Contact Centre – David Whipp, Victim Services – Claire Cleary and Frontline Policing – Roger Berry;

2) That the Chair discuss with officers the best way to resource and support Scrutiny going forwards.

6. Fracking Update

The Commissioner submitted a report which provided an update to provide Members of the Panel with in relation to the resourcing of policing of the fracking protests, but it was noted that as referred to under Item 2 a report was needed on the management of the Policing and it was agreed that this report would be presented to the AGM meeting.

RESOLVED- That the report on the management of the Policing be presented to the AGM meeting.

7. Response to the findings of the HMICFRS on Crime Data Integrity

The Commissioner presented a report which provided Members of the Panel with the Commissioner's response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Rescue Services (HMICFRS) findings, following their Crime Data Integrity Inspection of Lancashire Constabulary including information on the link to Victim Services.

In July 2017, HMICFRS completed their inspection of Crime Data Integrity, this comprised reviewing approximately 2500 incident logs to ensure crimes reported had been recorded or a suitable negation supplied, the data work was then followed by four days of reality testing.

The report was published on the 28th November 2017, Lancashire was graded 'inadequate' with a number of recommendations made which the force was working to implement immediately.

Whilst the Police and Crime Commissioner accepted the grading and recommendations in relation to the crime recording process, and expected the Chief Constable to address these, he did not consider that it accurately reflected the quality of the service currently provided to the victims and was concerned about the impact such comments could have on the trust and confidence of vulnerable victims in Lancashire.

In response to the inspection report the Police and Crime Commissioner conducted an extraordinary Scrutiny meeting on Monday 5th February 2018 which gave specific scrutiny and focus on the Constabulary's response to the CDI Inspection findings. The Commissioner was updated on the work being undertaken and ongoing to address the issues identified. Officers had visited South Wales, who were one of 4 forces inspected for CDI to graded as good (5 forces were graded requires improvement and 8 forces inadequate) in order to illicit best practice in this area.

Further, at his Strategic Scrutiny Meeting on the 21 February 2018, the Commissioner was presented with the Constabulary's CDI Action Plan. The Commissioner was assured that work was ongoing to address the plan. One of the recommendations in the inspection pertained to the establishment of a crime data integrity team. This was an area that is currently being modelled and in respect of which needed costing. The Chief Constable and the Commissioner were acutely aware of the lack of resources and therefore the introduction of this team needed careful consideration. If such a team was introduced it was likely that there would be an impact on call handling times.

The Constabulary had also undertaken changes to practices and procedures and has instigated immediate and on- going training for officers force wide. Additionally, it had enlisted the help of some of the staff in the Force Control Room to help reclassification of crimes to help inform how best practice can be achieved moving forward. The PCC advised that he would continue to closely monitor the progress of Lancashire Constabulary in this area.

Members of the Panel stated their concerns about the findings of the Inspection and the Commissioner advised that he shared these concerns, but he explained that items that would have not previously been recorded as crime now were being recorded and this helped explain the spike in the figures.

Reference was also made to the linkages to Mental Health issues and conversations ongoing with Lancashire Health in this regard.

The PCC advised that he would report further on these matters at the AGM meeting in July.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring Report

Members received an update on progress in the delivery of the current Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2016-2021.

The Commissioner highlighted the recent HMICFRS inspection of Child Protection, the report from which would be submitted to the AGM meeting in July, and advised that the findings were concerning and that action would be taken to turn the situation around. The Panel stated their serious concerns about the findings, and questioned the Commissioner on the action being taken and stated their surprise that some of the issues were not known ahead of them being highlighted by the inspection. The Commissioner was requested to bring more detail back to the Panel, with a clear plan and updates for the short, medium and long term.

Reference was made to 'County Lines' in the report, where gangs and criminal networks from urban areas targeted county or coastal towns to sell Class A drugs, and concerns were raised by Panel Members in this regard, and the Commissioner agreed to bring a report on this to a future meeting.

The Panel also questioned the Commissioner on User Satisfaction and the action being taken to address the areas of low satisfaction, and he agreed to report back on this.

In terms of Victim Support, the use of volunteers (who were previously commissioned) was highlighted as an issue, in terms of them not receiving referrals under the new contract, although the Commissioner advised that he was confident that the system was working but Panel Members were asked to contact him about any issues in their localities.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

Members received a report which outlined the decisions taken by the Commissioner since the last meeting on 11th December 2018.

Angela Harrison agreed to check links on the website which appeared not to be working.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. Special Interest Group update

Members were reminded that it had been agreed that Paul Elms as Vice Chair would attend meetings of the LGA Special Interest Group, supported by Phil Llewellyn. The first meeting would be held on Thursday 19th April, at the LGA offices in London, which would set the terms of reference and frequency of future meetings etc.

Unfortunately, neither the Vice Chair or Phil Llewellyn were able to attend the meeting, so a Member of the Panel was asked to volunteer to go along with Sian Roxborough.

Sian and the relevant Member would then feed back to the Panel about the discussions at the meeting and going forwards the Vice Chair, supported by Phil, would represent the Panel at meetings and of course that the Panel would be kept updated.

RESOLVED – That Panel Members contact Phil Llewellyn about attending the meeting on 19th April if they were available.

11. Monitoring of Complaints

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

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel (AGM) would be held on Monday 2nd July 2018, at Blackpool Borough Council.

Signed.....Chair
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