

## **Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

#### **Present:**

##### **Chair**

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

##### **Committee Members**

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council  
Councillor Frank Andrews, Fylde Borough Council  
Councillor Ged Mirfin, Lancashire Country Council  
Councillor Peter Edwards, Hyndburn Borough Council  
Councillor Jan Alcock, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor Sandra Thornberry, Lancaster City Council  
Councillor Phil Riley, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
Councillor Peter Hunter, Blackpool Borough Council  
Councillor Mark Townsend, Burnley Borough Council  
Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council  
Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council  
Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council  
Richard Glover, Co-Opted Independent Member

##### **Also in attendance**

- Chris Rowley, Chief Constable
- 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
- Nathan Richards, Graduate Trainee

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Ash Sutcliffe
- Councillor Tommy Threlfall
- Councillor Simon Hore
- Councillor Peter Le Marinel
- Councillor Robert Boswell
- Councillor Quesir Mahmood
- Councillor Gordon Johnson

#### **2. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mirfin declared that he was Chair of the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee at Lancashire County Council.

No other interests were declared.

*Note: In reference to the previous meeting, it should be highlighted that Angela Harrison and Asad Laher clarified the positions in terms of potential Declarations of Interest, noting the scrutiny aspect, but also clarifying that whilst LCC could request attendance by the PCC, that only the PCP actually officially scrutinised the Commissioner.*

### **4. Panel Member Update**

The Secretary, Asad Laher, provided an updated report following the previous AGM meeting. The Secretary explained that despite minor political changes at Hyndburn Council, this did not drastically change the political proportionality composition figures of the Police and Crime Panel set out in the previous meeting's report.

The Secretary also wished to amend the report, removing the line 'Subject to Home Office Approval' in concern to the nomination of Co-opted members, as the Home Office only needed to be notified, and did not need to respond. The amendment was approved.

The Panel was informed that the Co-opted members of the Police and Crime Panel have been confirmed by their respective Councils, and The Home Office has been notified. As such, they are now able to join the Panel. These Councillors were...

**RESOLVED:** That it is to be noted that:

1. The Panel Membership for 2022/2023 as 15 core Elected Members (plus 2 co-opted Independent Members) plus 3 additional co-opted elected members as set out in this report, to achieve the 'balanced appointment objective' (as far as reasonably practicable).
2. The Secretary has notified the Home Office of the 3 additional co-opted elected members as approved at the AGM on 4th July 2022 with the reasons as to how their appointments would assist in achieving the 'balanced appointment objective'.

### **5. Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

### **6. Chief Constable Verbal Update**

The Chief Constable (CC) informed the Panel that he took over the role in April 2021, and immediately conducted a review of Lancashire Police Force. The focus of this review was to discover how the Police Force could be more visible and accessible to communities within the Lancashire area. A number of further reviews

were also being held. This included ensuring staff knew their purpose in being a public servant, and around the operational delivery of the Force.

The Panel were told that the Chief Constable was the first external appointment to the position for 28 years. This had the potential to be destabilising for the Force. Due to staff movement to the Greater Manchester Police Force, the Chief Constable advised the Panel that he had the opportunity to appoint both his Deputy, and to identify and understand the role of a Chief Operating Officer. In doing the latter, this gave the Chief Constable greater assurance that the Lancashire Police Force were spending the tax payer's money appropriately.

It was reported that the Force has hired a third Assistant Chief Constable, with two of those being temporary. Divisional Commanders have also been re-established. The Panel was informed that this was done for 2 reasons.

1. Through the CC's past experience, a central figure, who could be identified, made the Police Force more accessible and responsive to local communities.
2. Ensuring a more cohesive team in terms of delivering objectives.

Additionally, many partners, including Local Authorities and Members of Parliament, believed Divisional Commanders should be reinstated. This has been achieved at no additional cost.

A number of priorities were highlighted to the Panel, including Violence against Women and Girls, Antisocial Behaviour across the county, and the backlog and wait times at the Control Room. Furthermore, the CC informed the Panel of the praise the Urban Task Force had received, placing it as one of the best of the Country.

The CC also provided a snapshot of the year, including the national CJS scorecard, indicators of crime, and police response to crime.

During and after his verbal update, the CC received a number of questions from the Panel. These ranged in topics, including: call centre processes and the use of the switchboard; staffing; confidence in data; violence towards women; and, organised crime.

The CC outlined the current use of a switchboard in dealing with calls to the Control Room, highlighting the need to upgrade the process. The Panel were also informed that there were efforts to increase staffing across the Police Force. In relation to confidence in data, the CC agreed that it was not a simple answer, with the PCC adding that it was important to look at this data across a spectrum, rather than singular graphs and figures. Finally, the CC agreed that violence towards Women and Organised Crimes were key areas of focus, and that resources would be prioritised for these areas.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **7. Performance Update**

Due to the period of national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Police and Crime Commissioner took the update as read. The PCC asked for any

questions on this update to be directed to him through channels outside of this meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted, with any questions from the Panel on the Performance update are to be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner directly.

## **8. Annual Report 2021/22**

Due to the period of national mourning, the Police and Crime Commissioner took the update as read. This report would normally be subject to a press release, however, due to the current circumstances, had not been publicised.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted, with any questions or comments on the Annual Report are to be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner directly.

## **9. PCC Decisions**

Due to the period of national mourning, the Police and Crime Commissioner took the update as read. The Police and Crime Commissioner noted that there are a mixture of announcements, decisions, and press releases within the report, as well as technical and financial decisions.

Councillor Bradley asked if there were any anticipated changes to the national approach to policing due to changes in the Home Office. The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the Panel that he had been in discussions with the Home Office, who were taking soundings on new policy ideas. He highlighted that his number one ask from the Home Office was the end of degree level entry for the Police Force.

Furthermore, the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to update the Panel at the next meeting on any discussions he may have concerning a change in approach to policing.

**RESOLVED** – That the report is to be noted. Any questions on the PCC Decisions are to be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner directly.

## **10. Task and Finish Groups – Verbal Updates from the Chairs**

### **10.1. 101 Service – Councillor Berry**

As part of their research, the Task and Finish group had visited the Force Control Room.

The Group found that between 70-80% of calls were non-police matters. There were particular issues during holidays and weekends, where individuals struggled to get in contact with agencies that could help, and as such, resorted to calling the 101 Control Centre. This would feed into the task and finish group's recommendations.

A draft report had been written, and would be reviewed by Councillor Berry on the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. These findings would then be shared with the Commissioner.

Councillor Berry agreed to share the report and findings with the Police and Crime Panel before the next scheduled meeting.

It was noted that more needed to be done by some agencies, in order to alleviate the pressure on the Police.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update be noted, and the report on the 101 Service be sent to Panel members before the next scheduled meeting.

### **10.2. Domestic Violence against Women & Girls - Councillor Townsend**

The Domestic Violence against Women & Girls Task and Finish group met and agreed the Terms of Reference.

The Group were looking to set up a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner in November and will look to progress their work from there.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update be noted.

### **10.3. Rural Policing - Councillor Mirfin**

Councillor Mirfin informed the Panel that arrangements were being made to go out on a patrol with members of the Rural Police Force. This will be arranged once officers had informed Councillor Mirfin around the Police Force's availability.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal update be noted.

## **11. Work Programme – Discussion on Agenda Items for the December 2022 and March 2023 Meetings**

The Panel were asked if they wanted to consider topics for the next two meetings.

**RESOLVED:** The Chair agreed to liaise with Officers on appropriate agenda items for the next two meetings.

## **12. Complaints Update**

The Panel were presented with an update on complaints received since the last meeting, with two complaints against the PCC/DPCC, one of which had been resolved. The other was currently being considered by the Secretary as per the appropriate process, for which further information had been requested.

In order to provide a resolution for any complaints against the PCC and DPCC, the Secretary informed the Panel that a Sub-Committee was required. This Sub-Committee is to consist of 5 members, and to reflect the political proportionality of

the Police and Crime Panel (2 from the Labour Group, 2 from the Conservative group, and 1 from 'Other'). The Secretary suggested that a pool was created, from which 5 individuals could be selected for each meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee. The Secretary noted that this would help with availability. Furthermore, he would also arrange for the Sub-Committee to meet straight after any meetings of the Police and Crime Panel.

**RESOLVED:** The report is to be noted. The following Councillors agreed to be part of the Complaints Sub-Committee

- Councillor Jackie Oakes
- Councillor Roger Berry
- Councillor David Whipp
- Councillor Alistair Bradley

Councillor Peter Le Marinel was nominated in his absence.

The Chair indicated that she hoped that other members of the Police and Crime Panel would take part in the sub-committee if/ when required.

### **13. Urgent Business**

There are no items of urgent business.

### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 4pm at Blackburn Town Hall.