

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th December 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

- 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 Qesir Mahmood
- Councillor Gordon Johnson

2. Minutes

RESOLVED – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interests were declared.

4. Panel Membership Update

The Secretary to the Police & Crime Panel, Asad Laher, provided an update on the Panel Membership following recent by-election held at Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Burnley.

Following these by-elections, the political composition of the police force area was:

- Con - 40.17%
- Lab - 39.33%
- Lib - 5.96%
- Ind - 6.09%
- Other - 5.68%
- Green - 2.77%
- Total - 100.00%

However, Asad Laher explained that this did not change the political balance of the 15 elected member seats, which was:

- Lab - 6
- Con - 6
- Lib Dem - 1
- Ind - 1
- Other - 1

The Secretary also highlighted to the panel that the Panel appoints 2 Independent Co-opted Members, who are not elected representatives to serve on the Panel. Following a recruitment process held on 7 July 2022, Richard Glover was appointed as an Independent Co-opted Member. However, there was one seat still vacant and further recruitment process would be held in due course to fill the vacancy.

Following this, the full composition of the Panel would remain as follows:

- Lab - 8 (as nominated)
- Con - 8 (i.e. 6 as nominated + 2 co-opted additional elected member seats)
- Lib Dem - 1 (i.e. 1 co-opted additional elected member seat)
- Other - 1 (as nominated)
- Independent co-opted (non –political) - 2
- Total – 20 seats (maximum).

RESOLVED – That the update to the Membership following recent by-elections held at Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Burnley be noted.

5. Public Questions

No public questions were received.

6. Performance Update

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Andrew Snowden, presented a report that provided the Members of the Panel with an update on progress in developing the current Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2023-25. The report also highlighted some of the activity of the PCC/ Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In a verbal update, the PCC highlighted the targeting of repeat offenders, and Operation Warrior, a force-wide approach to working with partners against organised crimes. The Panel were told that the successes of latter operation would have a communications campaign, which would help inform the public of the work being undertaken by the Lancashire Police Force.

The Panel asked a number of questions, including around the estimated figures for the number of Organised Crime groups in the area, and the work being done to prevent Domestic abuse.

Following this, the Deputy PCC highlighted to the panel work being done to reduce the backlog in the Court Systems through his work with the Lancashire Justice Board, in which he chairs. As part of this, it was agreed that a report detailing the data on the Backlog of the Court System would be brought to the panel.

The Deputy PCC also discussed the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership with the Panel. It was agreed that a report on the use and consistency of road casualty data would be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in a future meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. PCC Decisions

A report was submitted highlighting decisions made by the PCC or his officers, since the last meeting of the Panel on 14th September 2021.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. Task and Finish Groups Update

8.1. 101 Service – Councillor Berry

Councillor Berry presented a written report to the Panel highlighting the findings from the Task groups research into how 101 calls were handled, the operation of the newly redesigned control room, and the delivery of anticipated outcomes. The role of the Task Group was to look at and make recommendations on the issue of non-emergency calls received by the police and the operation of the Force Control Room.

The Panel were informed that as part of this research the Task Group visited a Call Centre, and looked at the monitoring and performance data that was submitted to the Commissioner on a regular basis. Following this, the Task Group met with the Commissioner to discuss their initial findings and the Commissioner's vision for the development of the service. This meeting provided clarity to the members of the task group on a number of issues and assisted in formulation of the final recommendations from the group

RESOLVED – That the written report be noted, and the following recommendations be considered by the panel.

1. That the Commissioner, support staff and Police be thanked for their support and assistance.
2. That the work of the members no longer on the PCP be noted.
3. That the following recommendations relating to the working of the non-urgent call handling be submitted to the PCP for consideration and submission to the Police Commissioner for response.
 - a. That the monitoring of data submitted to the Commissioners Scrutiny Meetings be shared with the PCP to enable members to measure progress in dealing with non-urgent calls.
 - b. That with regards to the 101 calls that relate to non-policing matters, particularly those coming in during evenings and at weekends that relate mostly to mental health issues, the task group recommend that the Commissioner contact the NHS and the Unitary Social Services Departments to make sure they have appropriate out of hours contact provision and that Councils have an emergency contact number. The Panel is recommended to support the work of the Commissioner on this issue.
 - c. That the Commissioner be recommended to consider the benefits of merging the social media and telephone call centres to ensure consistency of service and cross reporting etc. and the Commissioner continue to promote the digital service to relieve pressure on telephone services.
 - d. That the positive work of the switchboard in directing and dealing with calls be supported and continue to be monitored and reviewed.
 - e. That the benefit of the control centre being able to dial into town centre CCTV schemes be noted and the Commissioner be recommended to look at the possibility of extending this service particularly as in certain cases funding from the PCC has been used to assist setting up these schemes.

8.2. Domestic Violence against Women & Girls – Councillor Townsend

Councillor Townsend informed the panel that the Task & Finish group had begun their work, and thanked the Commissioner for aiding this. He highlighted that there were further stakeholders that needed to be consulted to aid this work, and he looked forward to presenting the findings of the Task & Finish group to the Panel in the future.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

8.3. Rural Policing – Councillor Mirfin

Councillor Mirfin updated the Panel on the importance of effective Rural Policing in the Lancashire area. He showcased the background research that had been undertaken, and informed the Panel that was he looking forward to the future work that will happen through the Task and Finish group.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

9. PCP Annual Conference 2022

Phil Llewellyn updated the Panel on following his, the Vice Chair's, and the Secretary to the Panel's attendance of 11th National for Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels held on 10th and 11th November 2022.

Phil Llewellyn informed the Panel that this was a useful conference, both in terms of learnings, and for the opportunity to network with members of other Police and Crime panels.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. Complaints Update

The Secretary for the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel provided a report that set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received and an update on an ongoing complaint referred to at the Panel Meeting on 14 September, in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

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

11. Urgent Business

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the panel that Runshaw College's redundant campus in Chorley had been bought to be repurposed as a new Police station and Training campus for the constabulary. Full details would be released at a later date as part of the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 (Precept Only) at Blackburn Town Hall.