

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on the 4th December 2023

:

Annual Police (Fire) and Crime Panels Conference 2023

Contact for further information: Phil Llewellyn, Democratic & Scrutiny Lead,
phil.llewellyn@blackburn.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report gives details of the 12th National Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels held on 8th and 9th November 2023.

Recommendation

That the Panel note the report.

Background and Advice

The 12th National Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels was held on Wednesday 8th November and Thursday 9th November 2023, organised by Frontline Consulting, at the University of Warwick.

The Chair, Councillor Jackie Oakes attended the Conference (online), along with the Vice Chair, Councillor Roger Berry, Secretary to the Panel, Asad Laher, and Phil Llewellyn who attended in person.

The Conference Plenary Theme was 'Collaboration and Challenge – Making it Work'.

The Panel was made up of Danny Shaw, Crime, Justice, Policing and Immigration commentator and ex BBC Home Affairs correspondent, three Police and Crime Commissioners and Ann Reeder, ex Director and Founder of Frontline Consulting, who chaired the Panel.

The Panel discussed the quality of PCCs in place across the country, and the need for greater public engagement by PCPs. Another common theme was the need for Panels to be more strategic and not focus on parochial issues. '.

Conference Details

This year the Conference was a hybrid event, with a mix of attendance in person and on-line.

The Panel's delegates attended the following Breakout Sessions in order to gain as much information as possible, with the following sessions attended:

- Public Confidence in Policing
- Measuring Success
- Preparing for Change

Key takeaways from these sessions included the need to publicise our work amongst the public and one suggestion was drawing up an annual report of the work of the panel and forwarding this to the media.

As regards improving scrutiny there was the idea of holding a pre meeting before the Panel meeting to check through the questions and areas, involving the Chair, Vice Chair and the PCC to ensure that meetings could be as productive as possible and anything that was not clear could be looked at ahead of the meeting to free up valuable focussed scrutiny time.

To assist scrutiny, the Panel should be provided with statistics as to how Lancashire's crime and ASB figures and percentage increases/decreases compared with other forces and be supplied with the reports of HM Inspectorate of Forces on the Force. Other ideas were having in depth presentations on specific subjects and members visiting the Control Room.

Lines of questions to the Commissioner should include whether the Commissioner was checking the right culture and attitudes were operating within the Force and that the recruitment process supported this. The Commissioner should be asked what themes were emerging from meetings with his Commissioner colleagues and what he was doing on the national scene.

The operation of the Control Room was a key driver to public confidence in the Force and suggested innovations include a call back system and having a portal for the public to report in suspicious activities/conduct.

It was also suggested that Panels across the country could consider a Peer Review or Support Hub model.

Outcomes were also a key focus, with the need to make recommendations to PCCs.

In terms of Preparing for Change, the main focus was on the forthcoming PCC Elections and any ensuing changes that would result.

All delegates found the Conference very informative and particularly useful in terms of networking, bench marking and sharing good practice.

Attendance at such Conferences and Seminars are a very helpful way of checking the Panel is on the right track when carrying out its functions and is receiving the latest information on emerging policy developments and best practice.

Financial Implications

Attendance at the Conference, including travel and accommodation, was funded via the Home Office Grant to the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact |
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| | | Phil Llewellyn 01254 585369 |