

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2018

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Adrian Lythgoe, Rossendale Borough Council
Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Councillor Albert Atkinson, Lancashire County Council
Councillor Tony Martin, Burnley Borough Council
Councillor Liz Oades, Fylde Borough Council
Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council
Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Margaret Foxley, Pendle Borough Council
Councillor Brian Rollo, Preston City Council
Councillor Caroline Moon, South Ribble Borough Council
Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council
Abdul Mulla, Independent Co-opted Member

Also in attendance

- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ian Dickinson , Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Sian Roxborough, Council Solicitor
- Phil Llewellyn , Governance and Democratic Manager

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Clive Grunshaw, Councillors Geoff Driver, Ivan Taylor, Ben Aitken, Brendan Hughes, Mike Nathan, Ken Hind, Ged Mirfin, Kevin Wright and Independent Co-opted Member Altaf Baghdadi.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July 2018 and 25th July 2018

The Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July 2018 and 25th July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Under matters arising for the meeting on 25th July 2018, the Chair noted that the decision of the PCC not to pursue his Fire Governance proposals, and was pleased

to see that the PCC would be working closely with the Fire Authority to look at collaboration proposals.

In terms of the appointment of a Deputy PCC discussed at the same meeting, it was noted that the PCC had decided to proceed with the appointment, but had not given justifiable reasons for the appointment as requested.

In the absence of the PCC, Angela Harrison reported that the Commissioner felt that he had justified his decision in the report he submitted at the meeting, and outlined the reasons for the Panel (the role had changed since 2012 in a number of ways and the PCC also needed assistance to engage and consult) and that the difference of views from the Panel was noted, but that ultimately the Commissioner did not have to justify his decision.

Panel Members commented that a formal response as requested would have been more appropriate and then Members would have had the opportunity to explore further the reasons presented for the appointment.

3. Declaration of interests

No Declarations of Interest were submitted.

4. Public Questions

No public questions have been received.

5. Performance Monitoring Report

Angela Harrison presented a revised Performance Monitoring Report, which had been changed to better meet the needs of the Panel.

Sergeant Ian Dawson delivered a presentation on the Crime Data Integrity Audit, which set out the inspection regime and the changes introduced which had led to changes in how crimes were recorded and subsequently had led to increases in recorded crime.

The first reports were published in 2014, and in 2016 a positive emphasis had been placed on violent crimes and sexual offences which had led to staggering increases in recorded crime. This had led to a predicted 40% increase in recorded crime for 18/19 as a result of the reclassification of serious crimes.

Sgt. Dawson reported that it was very hard to compare like with like when looking at other forces, as if depended on if a force had been inspected under the new regime and also when it had been inspected. Some forces had seen a 100% increase in recorded crime as a result of the new recording regime, and it would 2020 or beyond before all forces could be accurately compared.

Members of the Panel asked Sgt.Dawson a number of questions on the inspection regime and the changes and impact on staff required to deal with recording of data (around 12-15 staff had been uplifted, some of which were already identified as a result of Connect changes) and thanked Sgt.Dawson for the presentation which had helped clarify the reasons for the rises in recorded crime across the areas referred to.

In terms of the Performance Monitoring Report, Angela Harrison agreed to circulate to the Panel information on response times in relation to what actions were being taken to deal with the negative direction the figures were taking, as well as the actions being taken to dealing with declining user satisfaction figures. The Chair also requested that the Finance Seminar in December be presented with the latest position in funding the policing of the Fracking protests.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That the Chief Executive be requested to circulate the Crime Data Integrity Audit Presentation to all Panel Members; and
- 3) That the Chief Executive circulate the information requested on response times, user satisfaction and arrange for the up to date Fracking policing costs be presented to the Finance Seminar in December.

6. Police and Crime Commissioner Decisions

A report was submitted which highlighted decisions made by the Commissioner and Director since the AGM meeting on 2nd July 2018.

RESOLVED- That report be noted.

7. Members Expenses and Allowances

A report was submitted which sought to review and clarify to Members of the Panel the allowances and expenses that could be claimed. The matter was last considered at the Panel meetings on 7th April 2014 and 25th January 2016 and most recently on 2nd July 2018 with expenses being referred to as being travel, subsistence, loss of earnings and conference / training costs.

Councillors were already compensated for loss of earnings by the Allowances system operated by each Constituent Council, so a claim could not be made for “loss of earnings” as an expense item. Currently the panel did not pay any `SRA's as each Constituent Council was left to set locally any allowances for its members who sit on the Panel.

The scrutiny role of the Panel as it had evolved had led to the publishing of a forward plan for the year ahead and identified areas it would wish to scrutinise in more detail. This could mean more meetings of the Panel and/or its sub-groups than originally

envisaged. For this reason members may wish to draw this to the attention of their Constituent Councils when allowances for Panel members were reviewed.

Similarly in terms of SRAs for Chairs of Panels, it had been down to the relevant authority to consider paying an SRA if their Member has been appointed as Chair of the Panel. There was no requirement to pay allowances to co-opted members and it was left to authorities to decide if they should be paid.

Members of the Panel discussed the report and it was suggested that the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees should be paid a SRA, and that Co-opted Members should receive an allowance to compensate for loss of earnings.

RESOLVED – That a further report with options for payment of allowances be submitted to the next meeting.

8. Lancashire Police & Crime Panel Forward Plan 2018/19

An updated Forward Plan was submitted, which reflected the creation of the Task & Finish Groups for 2018/19 and the timetable for reports to the full Panel on their work.

It was noted that the Chief Constable would be attending the December meeting of the Panel and Members of the Panel were requested to advise the Secretary of any areas they would like the Chief Constable to address.

RESOLVED – That the updated Forward Plan be approved.

9. Update from the Annual LGA Police and Crime Panel Workshop July 2018

Cllr Andy Kay and Phil Llewellyn provided an update on their attendance at the Annual LGA Police and Crime Panel Workshop, held in July in London.

The Workshop had focussed on Fire Governance, Complaints reform and an update on the LGA Special Interest Group, the AGM of which would be held at the Annual PCP Conference in November.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

10. Annual PCP Conference and AGM of Police, Fire and Crime Panels November 2018

The Chair requested that any Member wishing to attend the Annual PCP Conference in Warwick in November advise Phil Llewellyn, who would circulate details.

11. Annual Finance Seminar at Blackburn Town Hall – 10th December 2018

Members were asked to note that the Annual Finance Seminar would take place at Blackburn Town Hall at 5.30pm, prior to the main Panel meeting at 6.30pm.

12. Monitoring of Complaints

A report was submitted which set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received up to 31st August 2018 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED – That the update in relation to Communications and Complaints be noted.

13. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday, 10th December 2018 at 6.30pm in Blackburn Town Hall.

Signed.....Chair
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