

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 8th July 2019

TASK & FINISH GROUP ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

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Executive Summary

To consider the programme, membership and working arrangements for task & Finish Groups in 2019/20

Recommendation

The Panel is asked:

To agree the programme, membership and working arrangements for Task & Finish Groups in 2019/20.

Background and Advice

As reported elsewhere on this Agenda, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced Police and Crime Panels (PCP) as formal joint committee of all the local authorities in a police force area, with the following main responsibilities.

- making recommendations on the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Police and Crime Plan and Annual Reports;
- consider the PCCs appointment of a Chief Constable, with the Panel having power of veto over the appointment;
- consider the level of precept to be set by the PCC, again with a power of veto;
- review certain senior appointments by the PCC;
- scrutinise and support the activities of the PCC.

To fulfil these responsibilities, the Panel meets in full a minimum of four times each year. However, given the wider range of responsibilities the Panel can appoint Task and Finish Groups to review certain aspects of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan or areas of work, in their support of the activities of the PCC.

In the past years there have been a range of task and finish groups established but their ability to help inform the work of the Panel is limited by the availability of Panel members to afford due time and consideration of often complex, yet important aspects of the Police and Crime Plan.

The areas to be reviewed in 2018/19 were programmed to be:

The Contact Centre
Victim Services
Frontline Policing
Mental Health

All task and Finish Groups, did not report back completion of their activities, so these could be carried forward into 2019/20 should the panel consider this reasonable.

Given however the change in Panel membership, the groups would need to be re-established in terms of their membership and working arrangements going forward confirmed.

Should the Panel choose to choose an alternative topic for more considered review by a task and Finish group, the afore-mentioned group can be added to or replaced.

Immediately following this meeting of the Panel there is an induction session which will include time for the newly established Groups to define and prioritise their scrutiny topics as agreed.

It is suggested that all members should look to take part in one or more detailed scrutiny Task and Finish groups.

Once the membership of each group and the core topic under more close scrutiny defined the Secretary will arrange to confirm these details to the membership of the Groups alongside confirmation of the `lead` member (chair) of each group with whom the Secretary's office will link in with to facilitate one or more meetings of the Group to fulfil their scrutiny of the topic. This could be at the Commissioner's Office or Hutton police Headquarters, or another appropriate venue.

A timetable for the Chair of the Task and Finish group to feedback on their work will also be agreed so that at the September 2019 full Panel meeting details of the scope of the work and when the work was to be completed and to reported back to the full Panel can be included in the Forward Plan update due at that meeting.

Key to successful scrutiny will be the commitment of Panel members to commit to make themselves available for the one or more Task and Finish Group meetings that will be required to assure full scrutiny of the topic.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications as indicated:

Legal Implications

The proposals to provide the opportunity for more detailed scrutiny of the work of the Commissioner as set out above is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Panel Arrangements as agreed by the Police and Crime Panel at their meeting on 15th October 2013, include under Paragraph 9 the provisions for the establishment of Sub Committees or task Groups to undertake specific task –based work.

Financial Implications

None

Risk management

The provision of an independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the proposals set out in this report are consistent with fulfilling those responsibilities.

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

<u>Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact/Directorate/Tel</u>
Lancashire Police & Crime Panel (LPCP)Terms of Reference	October 2013	David Fairclough, Secretary (01254) 585642

Reasons for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A