

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019

Present:

Chair

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Committee Members

Councillor Andy Kay, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Ben Aitken, Fylde Borough Council

Councillor Geoff Driver, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Munsif Dad, Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Sue Bibby, Ribble Valley Borough Council

Councillor Steve Hughes, Rossendale Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Abdul Mulla, Independent Co-opted Member

Also in attendance

- Clive Grunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Robert Ruston, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- David Fairclough, Secretary
- Sian Roxborough, Council Solicitor
- Phil Llewellyn, Governance and Democratic Manager

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, Councillor Alistair Bradley welcomed all to the meeting, and reminded Members of the Purdah period due to the forthcoming General Election . Apologies had been received from Councillors Ivan Taylor, Alan Hosker, Alistair Sinclair, Simon Hore and Paul Foster.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 2019

RESOLVED - The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

Abdul Mulla declared an interest in the item below –VRU/Knife Crime – (Charity he works for receives funding).

4. Public Questions

No public questions had been received.

5. Presentation on the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)/Knife Crime

Robert Ruston gave a presentation on Knife Crime and the Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

The VRU had been established via Government funding for 18 Police Forces to tackle serious violence, and a multi-agency approach was in place, with a focus on Early Intervention. The focus in Lancashire was on defining the extent of the issue and developing solutions, and the structure and work streams of the VRU were outlined along with lead officers. Funding via the Home Office for the VRU and also Knife Crime was overseen by the OPCC in terms of oversight of the two grants.

The context of Knife Crime in Lancashire was outlined, in terms of number of victims and the type of crimes where knives were used, along with the Risk factors that led to knife crime, which included deprivation, domestic abuse, NEET and homelessness.

The next steps were outlined, which included development of a mission statement, Strategy, promotional events and evaluation of pilot programmes.

Members of the Panel made comments on the presentation, in particular in terms of engagement with young people, and Abdul Mulla offered his assistance in identifying a suitable Third Sector representative.

Funding wise, Members of the Panel asked about how the money would be spent by the end of March 2020 (£2.8M) and Robert Rushton advised that Lancashire Constabulary received £1.8M of the funding, with £1.16M being allocated for staffing.

The Chair requested that the Panel be kept updated on progress of the initiative and also use of the funding.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

6. Membership of the Panel 2019/20

Further to discussions at the meetings in July and September, a report was submitted on the latest position in terms of Membership of the Panel for 2019/20.

Members were reminded that given the failure of the Panel to be able to fully agree its composition for 2019/20 the Panel at the last meeting asked the Secretary following consultation with all Lancashire Leaders, to write to the Secretary of State as regards finalisation of membership arrangements for 2019/20. Pending a reply it was noted the membership would need to remain at the core membership level of 15 Councillors (as nominated to date) and the 2 independent co-opted members.

On 1st October 2019 the Home Office wrote to respond to the Panel as regards the issue of membership and the `balanced appointment objective`. A copy of the

response was circulated to Lancashire Leaders and Panel Members on 10th October 2019 and was reproduced as Appendix A to this report.

The Home Office had confirmed the advice of the Secretary that it was the responsibility of the Panel to agree nominations which were acceptable to all of its Members and the balanced appointment objective must be secured as far as reasonably practicable – and if disagreement on co-option was irreconcilable, then the Panel may have reached the limit of the definition.

Given this advice the Panel were asked to confirm their membership for 2019/20 as the current 15 members plus 2 independent persons.

In addition in the light of the passage of time in confirming membership and the experience and knowledge of the core membership to date, it was considered appropriate to defer the Induction and Introduction to the role and function of the Police and Crime Panel until post the confirmed membership for 2020/21 following the AGM in July 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Panel:

1. Note the Membership Update Report and confirm Membership for 2019/20.
2. Agree that at the AGM in July 2020 when the Panel consider reviewing the membership of the Panel in 2020/21 they consider additional members (if required) in accordance with the legislation and in light of the confirmatory advice from the Home Office as referenced in this report.
3. Note that the Induction and Introduction to the role and function of the Police and Crime Panel be scheduled for Panel Membership in 2020/21.

7. Performance Monitoring Report

The PCC submitted his latest Performance Monitoring report, highlighting in particular the large number of Homicides being dealt with by the Major Incident Rooms, with a normal expectation of 12 murders a year being more than doubled, with 26 reported in the report submitted, which at the time of the meeting currently stood at 30 murders, and there was no set pattern to report, and these incidents had to be heavily resourced and came at a huge cost on already stretched resources.

The PCC also circulated a CSP funding update, which outlined the projects across each Borough, in terms of allocated and remaining funding.

The Commissioner answered a number of questions, including relating to the accuracy and comparability of information in the Northgate System, advising that he would report back on this, and also on issues with responding to crimes reported

digitally to the three Centres, which he advised should improve following the decant and that a dedicated team were now looking at this area.

In response to a question relating to homicide investigations, in particular on the time taken to investigate child deaths, the PCC advised he would report back on this at a future meeting.

Finally, the PCC confirmed that the report by HMICFRS on their inspection relating to Counter Terrorism would be reported back to the next full Panel meeting in March.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. PCC Decisions

A report was submitted, highlighting decisions made in the period since the last meeting of the Panel on 18th September 2019.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. Task and Finish Group Update

A report was submitted which provided an update on progress of the Task and Finish Groups, and Councillors Berry and Whipp verbally reported at the meeting. It was reported that following the September meeting of the Panel, the Secretary's office sought additional Panel members to complete the two Task & Finish Groups for this year.

Councillor Boswell joined the Frontline Policing Task and Finish Group along with Councillor Whipp, and Councillor Hughes has joined the Contact Centre Task and Finish Group.

The Secretary's office confirmed with Councillor Berry the key areas for scrutiny for Task and Finish group 1 and specific information was being prepared by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for circulation to Task and Finish Group members on these areas as follows:

- Neighbourhood policing and response teams and their interactions, and whether there is evidence that this model of policing works;
- The balance between neighbourhood policing and response teams, and whether there is a need to recruit more PCSOS and Specials to assist neighbourhood policing;
- Progress in reducing knife crime.

Once this information had been circulated the group would consider and determine how it would like to progress further scrutiny of the topic in advance of reporting back to the Panel in March.

Councillor Whipp would be similarly providing information to the Secretary's office identifying the area's for closer scrutiny in respect of the Contact Centre and then determining how the Task and Finish group would progress more detailed scrutiny in advance of reporting back to the Panel in March.

RESOLVED – That the update report be noted.

10. Verbal Update -Annual PCP Conference November 2019

The Vice Chair, Councillor Andy Kay, and Phil Llewellyn reported on their attendance at the Annual PCP Conference organised by Frontline Consulting.

The Conference had been very well attended by Panels across the Country, and the workshops had been particularly useful this year. It was reported that Membership of the National Association was now free following the AGM meeting held at the Conference, and also that Panels were being encouraged to fully utilise the Home Office Grant and also now had to provide more information when completing grant returns.

The Conference had once again been a very good opportunity to share good practice and make key contacts across the Country.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

11. Forward Plan 2019/20

Following discussions at the last meeting, an updated Forward Plan was submitted for 2019/20.

RESOLVED - That the updated Forward Plan for the Municipal Year 2019/20 be agreed and published.

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 19th November 2019 in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Since the commencement of the Panel in 2012 there had now been 73 recorded communications which at the outset were described by the complainants as complaints against the Police & Crime Commissioner, and in all 67 outcomes had been reported to previous meetings.

Since September 2019 through to 19th November 2019 there had been a further 6 communications/complaints considered, 3 of which, (69), (70) and (73) related to operational police matters so the complainants had been advised of the appropriate authority to which to address their concerns.

In respect of (68), this matter related to a complaint about the conduct of a survey by an officer in the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and the complaint was re-

directed to the Director of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to handle as the appropriate authority to respond.

In respect of (71), this complaint related to allocation of funding to an organisation and continued complaints about an individual. On initial assessment it was found that the Commissioner had responded to the enquiries previously and that the complaint was repetitious relating to a previous set of complaints reviewed and responded to by the Secretary, i.e. (39) in 2017 and (51) in 2018.

In respect of (72), this complaint was currently subject of initial assessment and the outcome would be reported to the next meeting.

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 at 6.30pm on Monday 20th January 2020 (Precept only) Cabinet Room 'C' The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston.

Signed.....Chair
2020