



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

13th November 2015, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:	Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Hassan Khan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Michael Walls	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Phil Scott	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Kevin Barker	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Councillor Alan Wassell	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
IN ATTENDANCE:	Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Liz Ogden	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Vanessa O'Loughlin	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chair of the Panel noted apologies from Councillor Steve Pullen (Bradford), Councillor Geraldine Carter (Calderdale), Councillor Ann Martin (Calderdale) and Councillor Mohammed Iqbal (Leeds).

Mark Burns-Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire attended the meeting for items 2 to 12 along with Katherine Johnson, from the OPCC and Andy Battle, Assistant Chief Constable.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2015

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

2.2 Funding Formula Review

- 2.2.1 The Commissioner was asked about the latest position on the funding formula review and what representations he is making.

2.2.2 The Commissioner reported that he circulated a private briefing for MP's in advance of the recent Parliamentary debate on Police Funding and is going to London next week with the Temporary Chief Constable to provide further briefing and representation with MPs ahead of the CSR.

2.3 Restricted and Recuperative Duties

2.3.1 It was acknowledged that the Commissioner had circulated private information outside the Panel forum showing the numbers of officers on restricted and recuperative duties across the force. Panel members questioned the disproportionate numbers for different districts.

2.3.2 The Commissioner agreed to produce a report which is suitable for a public audience so that this could be discussed in an open meeting.

2.4 Officer Ethnicity

2.4.1 The Commissioner explained the difficulties that there are in making any positive changes to the numbers of BME officers whilst there is no external recruitment taking place.

2.4.2 The Commissioner informed Panel members of the successful recruitment drive for Special Constables where there has been a targeted approach to underrepresented groups.

2.4.3 Jo Sykes raised with the Commissioner the College of Policing Equality and Diversity initiative which has been signed up to by four forces across the country and whether there is potential for learning for West Yorkshire. The Commissioner agreed to look at the scheme and see what learning there might be for West Yorkshire.

2.5 **RESOLVED**

2.5.1 That the Commissioner produces a report suitable for a public audience on officers on Restricted and Recuperative Duties so that this can be discussed in a public meeting.

2.5.2 That the Commissioner looks into the College of Policing Equality and Diversity initiative and whether there is scope for West Yorkshire to be involved or take some learning from the programme.

3. **To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency.**

3.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no items to add to the agenda.

4. Members' Declaration of Interests

4.1 There were no interests declared.

5. Transformation Fund Update

5.1 The Commissioner provided an update on the allocation of the £20m Transformation Fund which has been established from a transfer from the significant reserves that had accumulated from previous years' underspend.

5.2 Panel expressed concern that the report has significant gaps and is missing operational targets as well as the value for money and efficiency savings that will be realised.

5.2 ACC Andy Battle gave an overview of the significance of the transformational projects to the force and some of the operational benefits that they will realise.

5.3 It was noted that there is a robust benefits realisation process in place with regular monitoring at regular Exec meetings.

5.4 RESOLVED

5.4.1 It was agreed to provide the Panel with more information on the process for ensuring benefits realisation including the expected operational outcomes and targets. It was also agreed that information would be provided on the processes in place should efficiencies or improved outcomes not delivered.

6. Home Office Innovation Fund

6.1 The Commissioner presented a report on the latest round of Home Office Innovation Fund bids. West Yorkshire has been more successful in this round than in previous rounds securing £1.3m.

6.2 The Commissioner is working with partner organisations on developing a number of bids for submission for the latest round in December. There are currently 18 bids which are being considered and the synergies between the bids are being looked at with a view to consolidating them into fewer bids.

6.3 RESOLVED

6.3.1 That the Commissioner continues his ambition to maximise the funding that West Yorkshire receives from the HO Innovation Fund and that the Panel is updated following the outcome of the bids.

7. West Yorkshire Police's Use of Bail – Six Monthly Report

7.1 The Panel were provided with an update on the latest West Yorkshire position of numbers of people on pre-charge bail.

- 7.2 West Yorkshire has been monitoring its use of bail, in particular the number of people on bail, the number of times an individual has been bailed in relation to one investigation, the number of overdue bails and the number of bails in excess of 180 days, to better aid understanding of these issues.
- 7.3 The Panel noted a significant reduction in the number of people on bail in excess of 180 days, with a particularly significant improvement in the past six months.
- 7.4 It was noted that West Yorkshire Police are bringing the numbers of pre-charge bail down through effective management and there have been improvements to the housekeeping and recording practices. However, the increasing complexity over gathering electronic/digital evidence, eg, CCTV, telecommunications, etc, is more time consuming and is negating some of that positive work.
- 7.5 Panel questioned why, in West Yorkshire, it takes a much more significant period of time to obtain both high tech information and medical information from the NHS than it is in South Wales.
- 7.6 It was noted that this is currently being looked into to see what improvements can be made.
- 7.7 It was agreed to report back on progress in six months' time.

7.8 RESOLVED

- 7.8.1 That the Commissioner reports back to Panel in six months' time on the progress of improvements to pre-charge bail and improvements to the timeframes for gathering medical and technical evidence.

8. Victims' Hubs in West Yorkshire

- 8.1 The Commissioner reported on the progress of Victims' Hubs which are being taken forward in Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield as part of the MoJ preparatory funding grant allocated for Victim Services.
- 8.2 The hubs provide emotional and practical support to victims, including establishing video links to courts, and each hub works with local partners in different ways. The Bradford model has more of an outreach approach and different locations within localities have been identified. Wakefield's hub on Wood Street, is due to open next week.

8.3 RESOLVED

- 8.3.1 The Commissioner invited Panel members to visit victim's hub to see first hand the support they are able to provide.

9. Complaints Oversight by the Commissioner

9.1 Panel noted the report which gives an overview of how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for complaints against the force.

9.2 It was noted that in line with the national picture, complaint allegations have increased by 28% on the previous year. The Chief Constable has stated that the increase has resulted from changes in recording practices where a number of minor cases are now recorded as “complaints” rather than “miscellaneous incidents” in line with IPCC recommendations.

9.3 Panel welcomed the roll out of the early resolution pilot across the whole force.

9.4 It is noted that the OPCC is leading a four month pilot to introduce independent mediators to assist in local resolution of certain complaints. Panel look forward to receiving further information following the assessment of the pilot

9.5 Changes to the police complaints system, which are likely to give the PCC responsibility for complaints against the Force, are expected to be brought in some time at the end of next year. The Commissioner will keep Panel updated on this and will involve Panel members in discussions about how this might work.

9.6 RESOLVED

9.6.1 That the Commissioner provides Panel with information on the Mediator pilot when it has been assessed.

9.6.2 That the Commissioner provides updates and involves Panel members in discussions about changes to overseeing the Police Complaints system.

10. Published Key Decisions

10.1 The published key decisions were noted.

10.2 RESOLVED

10.2.1 The Commissioner was asked to provide full Panel with information on the full costs to West Yorkshire of the redeployment of Mark Gilmore.

11. Agreed Actions Log

11.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

12. Commissioner's Response to any current issues

12.1 The Commissioner raised the outcome of the HMIC PEEL report into efficiency in West Yorkshire which gave the service two 'good' judgements: 'how does the force use its resources to meet demands' and 'how sustainable is the force's financial position for the short and long term' as well as an outstanding judgement in 'how sustainable and affordable is the workforce model'.

12.2 Panel welcomed the outcome of the report which will be considered in more detail at a future meeting.

12.3 The Commissioner re-iterated the work that was ongoing around the funding formula and the Police budget settlement. He reported that much work had been done by West Yorkshire to make it's case. The private briefing that was circulated to MP's ahead of the Parliamentary debate on Police Funding is available on a confidential basis for Panel members.

12.4 RESOLVED

12.4.1 That Panel consider the full PEEL report at a future meeting.

13. Complaints Received by the Panel

13.1 Members noted that there are two new complaints since the last Panel meeting on 11th September 2015. The Panel now has four current complaints that are at different stages.

13.2 Panel were asked to volunteer to form a new Complaints Sub-Panel to consider the new complaints highlighted in the report.

13.3 RESOLVED

13.3.1 That a new Complaints Sub-Panel meets as soon as possible to consider the two new complaints.

14. Amendment to the Panel's Rules for the Conduct of Business – Emergency Meetings Protocol

14.1 Panel considered the proposed amendments to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules for the Conduct of Business to make provision for the calling of emergency meetings in exceptional circumstances.

14.2 RESOLVED

It was agreed to:

14.2.1 Retain Rule 4.2 stating that general meetings require five calendar days' notice.

14.2.2 Include an additional Rule 4.3 to read *“That provision is made for the Chair or Deputy Chair to call an emergency meeting of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel within 24 hours’ notice, in exceptional circumstances, should the need arise.”*

14.2.3 To amend Rule 9.1 with reference to Quorum numbers to read that *“No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Panel, including an Emergency meeting, unless at least six Members are present.”*

15. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2015

(16. No item - number omitted in error)

17. Any Other Business

17.1 There was no other business raised.

The following resolution was passed:

“That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 18, on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as described in Part1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

IN PRIVATE

18. Appeals to Panel

18.1 The Panel considered two appeals from complainants regarding decisions taken by the Complaints Sub-Panel concerning complaints against the PCC.

18.2 RESOLVED

18.2.1 Complaint 765962 - The Panel upheld the Complaints Sub-Panel decision of 21st August 2015 not to record a complaint against the PCC.

18.2.2 Complaint 15001 – The Panel upheld the Complaints Sub-Panel decision of 21st August 2015 not to record a complaint against the PCC.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

19.1 The next meeting is to be held at 10.00 am on Friday, 11th December at Wakefield Town Hall. The private meeting will commence at 9.00 am.