

Private Member Briefing for the Police and Crime Panel

10th June 2016



PCC to attend from 10.20am

Item 1 – Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair 2016/17

As this is the first meeting in the municipal year, the Panel need to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016/17. Wakefield's Legal and Governance Officer will, therefore, ask for nominations for the role of Chair and the Panel will be asked to vote by a show of hands.

When the Chair is appointed, he/she will repeat the process for the Vice-Chair role for 2016/17.

Item 2 – Police & Crime Panel Membership

The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of the Police and Crime Membership for 2016/17 and to consider and confirm the Local Authority Co-optees as outlined in the report.

Item 4 – Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct and Business

Again, as this is the annual meeting, members of the Panel are asked to review and endorse the Panel's Procedures and Protocols to ensure that they remain fit for purpose for the discharge of the Panel's functions. There are no proposed changes to the Procedures and Protocols at this time.

Item 8 – Panel Budget Outcome for 2015/16 and draft budget for 2016/17

The purpose of this item is to information the Panel of the budget position for 2015/16 and to agree the draft budget going forward for 2016/17.

Item 9 – Complaints

9.1 Amended Complaints Process.

The complaints process was originally developed and adopted when the Panel first came into being in 2012 and took on the role of complaints against the Commissioner. It was felt necessary to review the existing processes and amend them in line with the experience and learning of the Panel over the past three and a half years. It is planned to develop a flow chart showing a more visual route of dealing with complaints to supplement the revised procedures.

Panel are asked to endorse the reviewed procedures and agree that a flow chart be developed.

9.2 Complaints Received by the Panel

This is a regular report received by the Panel giving an update on any complaints received about the Commissioner (or his Deputy).

10. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2016

The PCP Officers work with the Commissioner's office to develop a timely agenda for Panel's consideration. The forward agenda plan shows items timetabled for future meetings, however this does not preclude the need for other additional items or the deferment of planned items to make the best use of the Panel meetings.

Item 11 – Confirmation Hearing

A key responsibility of the Panel is to hold 'confirmation hearings' for certain senior appointments- Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Constable - before they are confirmed in their posts.

The Panel is required to:

- (i) Hold a confirmation hearing to review the proposed senior appointment
- (ii) Make a report to the Commissioner on the proposed senior appointment;
- (iii) Include a recommendation to the Commissioner as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed;
- (iv) Publish the report to the Commissioner within the period of three weeks beginning with the day on which the panel receives the notification from the commissioner of the proposed senior appointment.

The Police and Crime Commissioner may accept or reject the panel's recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed. There is no duty for the PCC to give reasons for their decision. (In the case of the Chief Constable, the Panel has the power of veto of the PCC's decision, however, this is not the case for other senior appointments.)

This is an important duty for Panel to undertake and adequate preparation is key to ensuring it is a purposeful exercise.

- Formal notification to the Panel of proposed appointment
- Name of the candidate
- Criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for appointment
- Explanation of why the candidate satisfies those criteria
- The terms and conditions on which is proposed that the candidate is to be appointed
- The candidate's CV, any personal statement and reference.

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It was only after a significant amount of pushing and numerous phone calls that we received the formal notification in time to allow us to publish the Panel agenda.

I am concerned that whilst we can produce a briefing and suggested questions for the candidate, without information about the candidate and her background, it is difficult to prepare Panel thoroughly and have a tailored line of questioning.

Item 12 – Panel Forward Agenda Plan

Panel members are reminded to ensure that dates of future meetings are in their diaries for the remainder of the calendar year. Suggested dates for 2016 will be circulated shortly.

Item 13 - Victim Services Evaluation

In April 2014, £800k was awarded to local charities, organisations and community groups in West Yorkshire by the Commissioner with funding from the Ministry of Justice Preparatory Victim Support Services Grant.

The grant consisting of £671,408 for preparatory work and £152,502 for restorative justice, was for development work looking at informing new victims services in addition to the existing services in place across West Yorkshire. Successful projects have contributed their learning through regular evaluation through a standardised approach to enable comparisons to be made across initiatives identifying what is working well, where improvements can be made and to identify other good practice. This learning will be applied to the approach to commissioning in 2015/16.

This paper updates Panel members on the evaluation of the projects undertaken in April 2015.

Members may wish to ask the Commissioner about:

- what funding is available for Victim Services commissioning in 15/16
- How is the Commissioner linking with CSP's to ensure that Victim Support and local third sector organisations are fully engaged
- What monitoring is taking place to ensure that victim support provision is meeting the needs of victims in all areas of West Yorkshire to the same level.

Item 14 - Crawford Review Update

The Crawford review of complaint handling in West Yorkshire was published on 5th March 2014 and was considered by Panel at its meeting in April 14 followed by a further update in October 2014.

On considering the initial [Crawford report in 2014](#), Panel's key concerns were

- A lack of an evidential basis to the report and an omission of any statistical information
- Issues around the raising of expectations that the Commissioner has a power to intervene in a way that the legislation does not in fact permit
- Lack of staff resource within the OPCC leading to unacceptable delays in resolving cases
- Concern that a large percentage of complaints are not upheld in West Yorkshire

This report updates members on the latest progress in relation to the Crawford Review implementation plan.

Members may wish to note the following comments in relation to Appendix A

2. OPCC staff report great strides in improving the casework numbers that they are dealing with and, therefore, the timescales for responses has now gone from 20 to 10 days.

Following two appeals to the PCP about complaints against the Commissioner, in December 2014 the PCP made some recommendations to the Commissioner about how his office deal with complaints. Firstly, the Panel recommended that a clear process is put in place with agreed intervals to make formal contact with complainants and keep them informed of the status of their complaint.

Secondly, Panel recommended that all staff are reminded of their responsibilities in relation to dealing with complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioner has only very recently responded to this indicating that staff have been reminded of their responsibilities and also urged to keep complainants up to date – but it does not appear that a process or protocol has been considered in relating to making formal contact with complainants.

3. The three month early resolution pilot has clearly had a positive impact with West Yorkshire increasing early resolution rates from 9% to 82%. The Chief Constable is now considering the cost implications to implement this across the force.
6. Are there any timescales on producing information on how complaints are dealt with? This was talked about in the last report in June 14 and still hasn't been completed.

Item 15 – Published Key Decisions

Note of the key decisions that the PCC has published on his website since the last Panel meeting.

Item 16 – Agreed Action Log

Key actions agreed at Police and Crime Panel meetings – there are no concerns regarding unduly late responses/actions at this time.

Item 17 – Commissioner's response to any current issues

This is an opportunity for the Commissioner to respond to any current issues which are not on the agenda.

Item 18 - Quarterly Performance Update

Key points to note taken from iQuanta

- Recorded crime began to noticeably increase from February 2015.
- During the quarter to 30 April 2015, there has been an 18% increase in recorded crime when compared to the same period last year.
- WYP was ranked 7th of 8 within its Most Similar Group, with only Greater Manchester recording higher levels of crime during the 12 months to 30 April 2015. Four months ago, WYP was ranked 5th of 8 within its Most Similar Group. In terms of crimes per 1,000 population:
 - 68.1 crimes per 1,000 population for the 12 months to 31 December 2014.
 - 71.5 crimes per 1,000 population for the 12 months to 30 April 2015.

Members may wish to ask:-

- If other forces had issues with crime data recording then why hasn't our position in the MSG remained the same?
- How does the Commissioner / Force intend to reassure the public that West Yorkshire Police are now recording crimes accurately?