



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020, held via video conference

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Matthew Robinson	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Peter Gruen	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Stuart Heptinstall	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Jacqueline Williams	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
	Mark Burns Williamson	- Police and Crime Commissioner
	Chief Constable John Robins	- West Yorkshire Police
	Wendy Stevens	- OPCC
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Luis Mansell	- Wakefield Council

#### 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sophie Whittaker and Amanda Carter, Cllr Matthew Robinson substituted for Cllr Carter. Cllr Mohammed Naeem had to give his apologies due to technical problems.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

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

3.1 The Chair notified Panel that due to special circumstances, there was an urgent item to add to the agenda.

#### **3.1.1 Amendment to the Panel Arrangements & Rules for the Conduct of Business**

The Chair reported that it was necessary to amend the Panel's Arrangements and Rules for the Conduct of Business at this meeting in order to give effect to the decision taken by the Panel at its meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 under Item 12 – Independent Panel Member Recruitment, which approved the postponement of a recruitment campaign for the Independent Panel Member roles and endorsed the extension of existing appointments (which would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 without the extension) until at least May 2021, both in light of recent developments regarding a West Yorkshire devolution deal and in line with extensions given to elected members and the PCC role until elections in May 2021.

3.1.2 As Independent Co-opted Panel Members, both Mr Roger Grasby and Mrs Jo Sykes declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

#### **3.1.3 RESOLVED**

**Panel agreed that the wording of Paragraph 1a.8.1 of Part 1 of the Panel Arrangements & Rules for the Conduct of Business be amended and replaced with the following wording:**

***1a.8.1 Independent Co-opted Members will be recruited and appointed for a term of office of four years, unless otherwise determined by the Panel in advance of the expiry of a term of office.***

### **4. Members' Declaration of Interests**

4.1 Mr Roger Grasby and Mrs. Jo Sykes both confirmed the interest that was declared and recorded at Item 3.

### **5. The PCC's Draft Annual Report**

5.1 The PCC presented his draft Annual Report for 2019/20 which outlines activity undertaken by the PCC, his office and the Police, in delivering the Police and Crime Plan. The report provides examples and case studies of key achievements during this period.

5.2 The PCC highlighted some of the recent achievements, such as securing funding for early intervention projects tackling serious violence with the establishment of the

violence reduction, the launch of the first victims and witness strategy supporting people harmed by crime and working with partners to open the sexual assault referral centre (SARC). The PCC also highlighted the domestic abuse perpetrators program and the granting of a further £636,000 through the safer communities' fund where the proceeds of crime is reinvested back into the community through grants supporting small projects, it was noted that this totals of £3 million since this commenced. The PCC also referred to his support of commissioned services in the areas of victims support and domestic abuse.

- 5.3 The Panel welcomed the report and commented that it was well written. However, in the spirit of continuous improvement, it was suggested that it did seem disproportionately geared towards partners and their activities and not so much on the work and projects of West Yorkshire Police. As the PCC has the statutory responsibility for holding the Chief Constable to account, it was suggested that the report could feature more dialog around the PCC and Chief Constable meetings with the addition of possible actions and outcomes of those interactions.
- 5.4 It was also raised with the PCC that the Annual report does not cover future challenges and how these will be addressed, but the PCC assured Panel that whilst it is more appropriate for this to be included in the revised Police and Crime Plan but that it would be helpful to provide links to relevant documents.
- 5.5 It was commented that issue of outcomes/convictions rates is of importance to members of the public with convictions halving over the last 5 years, and rape convictions at around 3% but that this is not referred to in the report.
- 5.6 The PCC acknowledged that there has been decline in detection rates but that there are a number of reasons, including the loss of 2,000 officers and staff. It was noted that a paper on this is to be presented to the November meeting.
- 5.7 The PCC was asked about the performance monitoring and the 21 indicators that remain the same or worse than a year before. The PCC was asked about how the public can understand the actions that the PCC is going to take to address these.
- 5.8 The PCC stated that the information on the indicators is published in the delivery quarterly which is a public document and that actions are agreed with the Chief constable. The PCC also reported that since the period covered in the report, some of the performance indicators have improved. The data is regularly examined for explanations around increases, stagnation or decreases and these are being reviewed and will form part of the revised police and crime plan.

## **5.9 RESOLVED**

- 5.9.1 The PCC agreed to look at all the points raised, including the accountability of the Chief Constable, by adding additional information gathered from the WYP accountability structure meetings.**

## **6. Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Update**

- 6.1 The PCC introduced the report which provided some historical context around the ongoing discussions on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion with a particular focus on the current issues around proportionality that have been brought to the fore by recent national and international headlines.
- 6.2 The PCC stressed the importance of understanding the context and complexity around these issues and how any response needs to be nuanced to show understanding by the police of local communities.
- 6.3 The PCC highlighted some of the work that the OPCC and Police are doing to work with communities to communicate, engage and understand the issues. Work includes:
- The safer communities fund supporting diverse groups in local communities with grant funding being targeted at hate crime and vulnerable victims support
  - Dialog with the third sector and youth advisory groups regarding issues young people are facing
  - Community surveys and the collection of information providing insight into what affects the wider community
  - Violence reduction unit and workshops to ensure the adoption of the most effective interventions
- 6.4 Panel asked the PCC whether all stop and searches are intelligence led. They further questioned what measures are used to ensure that they are justified and if these are in any way audited.
- 6.5 The PCC informed Panel that WY Police have adopted the College of Policing Stop and Search best practice and that searches are primarily intelligence led. The PCC stated that he discusses this regularly with the Chief Constable and stated the importance of it being used in a proportionate way and when there are reasonable grounds of suspected criminal activity. The PCC explained that a number of indicators are used to triangulate information on the appropriate use of stop and search which includes looking at complaints by members of the public on stop and search and reviewing footage from body worn cameras as well as scrutiny through panels. It was reported that a black community group has been established in Leeds and is working closely with the police in getting feedback on stop and search practices.
- 6.6 The PCC was also pressed on the issue of disproportionality around the issue of penalty notices with 32% of notices issued to people of the Asian community which is highly disproportionate in regards to population. Panel also raised the issue about victims of crime and whether the figures are more disproportionate in certain communities.
- 6.7 It was stressed that there is a need for information regarding where the tickets and stop and searches are happening as well as the information of age and gender profiles and if there is any correlation between location, and the police activities within certain districts.

- 6.8 The Panel pressed the PCC for an action plan setting out how when and how the level of disproportionality of BAME stop and searches will level out.
- 6.9 The PCC commented on the importance of looking at all the data regarding the issuing of tickets as well as figures around stop and searches, use of force, Taser use etc. The PCC assured Panel that this is an issue that receives regular attention by himself and the Chief Constable and he welcomes challenge and scrutiny on this. Panel was informed that a task and finish group has been established looking into equality and diversity issues which might affect the disproportionality of these figures as well as academic research to get more understanding behind this complex issue.
- 6.10 It was also noted that the proportion of stop and searches resulting in the seizure or an arrest for drugs or weapons is increasing, which gives an indicator that stop and search practice adopted by WYP are being used correctly.
- 6.11 The Panel raised concerns about the use of finger print scanners when conducting a stop and search. It was reported that some members of the public are concerned about the impact of the use of these devices and possible wrongful detention and/or deportations due to the data reportedly being connected to the Home Office immigration database. The PCC was asked about the legitimacy of using these scanners to gather information and the impact this might have in deterring the reporting of future hate crimes in the event of a no deal Brexit, particularly by the Trans and BAME communities.
- 6.12 The PCC reported that that he is aware and understands the perception of some communities about this issue and has met with the racial justice network. The PCC assured Panel members that the data is not retained on any data base and there are some misconceptions about the use and purpose of mobile finger print scanning.
- 6.13 The Chief Constable also assured the Panel that the devices are used very infrequently and not used randomly on members of the public or specific communities. The Chief Constable confirmed that the information collected from such scanners is not retained on databases and there is strict governance around the use of the information and links to Home Office databases. The Chief Constable explained that the purpose of the scanners is to confirm the identity of someone to prevent wrongful arrests of the public under section 24 of PACE when an officer needs to confirm identify for an arrest or summons.
- 6.14 The PCC confirmed that this issue has been raised through the APCC who are establishing a new group which includes biometrics and a future piece of work might be to compare national figures.
- 6.15 It was agreed to bring back information to the next meeting on the numbers along with case studies which would show that the use of this technology can be beneficial to the community.
- 6.16 RESOLVED**

**6.16.1 That the outcome of the work of the Task and Finish group and a resulting action plan be reported back to Panel when it is available.**

**6.16.2 It was agreed to bring back information to the next meeting on the numbers of mobile finger print scans along with case studies which would show that the use of this technology can be beneficial to the community**

## **7. Commissioner's Response to any current Issues**

### **7.1 Devolution**

The PCC reported that he was in regular discussions with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Home Office regarding the work that needs to be done to transfer PCC functions under the incoming WY Mayor. It was noted that an update report would be presented at the November Panel meeting.

### **7.2 Covid Response**

7.3 The PCC commented that all activity is kept under review pending any new Government announcements about local restrictions.

7.4 The PCC was asked whether there had been a significant increase in the number of malicious calls reporting Covid breaches particular relating to neighbour disputes and an associated impact on the focus of the Police.

7.5 The PCC reported that calls have been up during this period and this has included reports of Covid breaches. It was noted that the issue for the Police is the additionality of this reporting that these are additional calls on top of the 'usual' workload which have to be prioritised.

7.6 The PCC was asked if PCSO's were able to issue penalty notices for the enforcements of Covid restrictions. It was noted that this is not part of the existing role for PCSO's in West Yorkshire and that they have not been issued with such powers at this time. PCSO's are encouraged to use the principles of engage, explain and encourage and allow police officers to focus on any necessary enforcement.

## **8. Published Key Decisions**

8.1 There were no new published key decisions. The PCC agreed to ensure that this is updated as soon as possible.

### **8.2 RESOLVED**

**8.2.1 The PCC to ensure that the key decisions are up to date and published on the website.**

**9. Agreed Actions Log**

9.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

**10. Forward Agenda Plan**

10.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

**11. Complaints received by the Panel**

11.1 Panel noted that there were no complaints recorded.

11.2 It was also noted that since the Panel papers had been sent out, there had been a request from a complainant to review a complaint which officers did not record. It was agreed to form a Complaint Sub-Panel to review the decision not to record the complaint.

**11.3 RESOLVED**

**11.3.1 That a Complaints Sub-Panel be established to review the decision not to record a complaint from a member of the public.**

**12. Any Other Business**

12.1 There was no other business raised.

**13. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

16.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00 am on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via video-conference.