



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

9th June 2023, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield

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| PRESENT: | Councillor Eileen Taylor | - Leeds City Council |
| | Councillor Neil Buckley | - Leeds City Council |
| | Councillor Nicole Sharpe | - Leeds City Council |
| | Councillor Paul Sullivan | - Bradford Council |
| | Councillor Sarfraz Nazir | - Bradford Council |
| | Councillor Hassan Khan | - Bradford Council |
| | Councillor Ann Kingstone | - Calderdale Council |
| | Councillor Robert Thornber | - Calderdale Council |
| | Councillor Susan Lee-Richards | - Kirklees Council |
| | Councillor Anthony Smith | - Kirklees Council |
| | Councillor Habiban Zaman | - Kirklees Council |
| | Councillor Usman Ali | - Wakefield Council |
| | Councillor Jackie Ferguson | - Wakefield Council |
| | Mrs Joanne Sykes | - Independent |
| | Mr Trevor Lake | - Independent |

In attendance

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| Tracy Brabin | - Mayor of West Yorkshire |
| Alison Lowe | - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime |
| Julie Reid | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Wendy Stevens | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Neil Hudson | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority |
| Catherine Hankinson | - West Yorkshire Police |
| Sharon Fraser | - Wakefield Council |
| Samantha Wilkinson | - Wakefield Council |
| Fiona Bernardo | - Wakefield Council |

1. Appointment of Chair

- 1.1 Cllr Eileen Taylor was elected as Chair of the Panel for 2023/24, and Cllr Usman Ali was elected as Vice-Chair for the same period.

2. Police and Crime Panel membership

2.1 The membership of the Panel for 2023/24 was noted and Panel endorsed the appointment of the three local authority co-opted Panel members.

2.2 The Chair welcomed the new members on to the Panel.

2.3 RESOLVED

2.3.1 Membership of the Panel for 2023/24 was noted and the nominated local authority co-opted Panel members were endorsed

3. Acceptance of apologies for absence

3.1 There were no apologies for absence.

4. To approve, as a correct record and deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 21st April 2023.

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

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

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

6. Members' Declaration of Interests

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business

7.1 The Panel reviewed the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business to ensure that they up to date and remain fit for purpose. There were no proposed changes to the Procedures and Protocols at this time.

7.2 RESOLVED

7.2.1 Panel endorsed the existing Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business as set out.

8. Police and Crime Panel Complaints Annual Update

8.1 The Legal Advisor to the Panel raised the need to correct the covering paper published for this item as follows:

8.2 Section 1.1, “and consider” to be deleted from the first line and in light of this, additional wording to be added to the end of this section to reflect the position in West Yorkshire, given the Mayoral arrangements, that whilst the Panel has a duty to record such complaints, the Panel only has a duty to consider recorded complaints about a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is not a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Where recorded complaints are about the Mayor and a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Panel has a duty to refer the same for consideration by the Monitoring Officer of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

8.3 In section 2.2, “consideration by the Complaint’s Sub-Panel” to be deleted from the second line and replaced by “referral to the Monitoring Officer of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.”

8.4 RESOLVED

8.4.1 Panel noted the report with these corrections.

9. Review of Panel Complaints and Misconduct Procedure

9.1 The Police and Crime Officer explained that the Complaints and Misconduct Procedure is reviewed annually to ensure it is up to date and compliant with statutory requirements. This year, it was felt necessary to make some amendments to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Panel in line with the relevant regulations. The Legal Advisor to the Panel confirmed that the amendments being proposed were not related to the matter raised in relation to Item 8.

9.2 RESOLVED

9.2.1 Panel approved the suggested amendments highlighted in the document.

10. Panel Budget Outcome 2022/23 and Draft Budget 2023/24

10.1 The Home Office have not yet announced their 2023/24 settlement for Police and Crime Panels, so the item was proposed to be deferred until this is available, which is likely to be July or August of this year. A draft budget will be provided to Panel as soon as possible afterwards.

10.2 RESOLVED

10.2.1 That the Panel budget paper be deferred until the Home Office funding is available.

11. Performance Monitoring

11.1 The Mayor introduced her report, which is categorised under the four stated priorities from the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan. She made reference to the latest Performance Scrutiny Meeting, which she and the Deputy Mayor attend along with the Chief Constable, and highlighted the main areas of discussion which were around child neglect and the continuing impact of the cost of living crisis.

11.2 Under the Supporting Victims and Witnesses priority, the Mayor highlighted progress in domestic abuse outcomes, and how satisfaction levels in this area have started to improve. She believed that this was in part due to improved confidence amongst victims, to report crimes.

11.3 Under the Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience priority, the Mayor wished to thank the fraud team for the work recorded in the report (April 2022 to March 2023), in the process of which, £10.7m has been recovered. Money retrieved in this way funds the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund. She drew attention to the decrease in hate crime, and to the appointment of 10 extra Hate Crime Co-ordinators within West Yorkshire Police (WYP).

11.4 Under the Safer Places and Thriving Communities priority, the Mayor highlighted that WYP have now exceeded their officer recruitment target through the Police Uplift Programme (PUP). She drew Panel’s attention to the drop in knife crime, and the work of the Violence Reduction Unit in contributing to this.

11.5 Under the Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs priority, the Mayor drew attention to the constant strain on WYP resources of missing persons incidents and thanked the Deputy Mayor for her work with Local Authorities to help reduce this. She highlighted the continuing influence of the Police and Crime Plan in driving improvements in this area. Discussion took place around the role of social media in locating missing persons, and the balance that has to be struck between expediting resolution of a case, and the impact on that person’s privacy and their digital footprint.

11.6 A question was asked at 1.1.3 of the report, around the gap in satisfaction with the police between white and ethnic minority people. The Deputy Mayor responded that a gap had always existed and reflects the different experience over many years of Black and other minority groups in their dealings with the police. She added that the Police

Race Action Plan is attempting to address this gap at a national level and affords a significant opportunity to make a positive difference in this area. The Deputy Mayor herself is the National Lead for Race Disparity within the police.

- 11.7 A question was asked around the difficulty of access to information and reporting of some sexual offences on both the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and WYP websites, following a Panel member’s experience trying to help a constituent. It was agreed that both organisations would look at how this information is presented or linked on their websites.
- 11.8 A further related question was asked around the role of the Hate Crime Co-ordinators. The Deputy Chief Constable shared that main focus of the roles is to look at repeat offences, the nature of each crime, co-ordinate with officers and signpost to commissioned services if required.
- 11.9 The Mayor was asked to share her opinions on why she thought that calls to 101 had declined at the expense of calls to 999 and online reporting of crime. WYP receive between 4,000 and 5,000 calls per day, and it was likely that some callers felt that their wait to speak to an operator on 101 was too long and consequently hang up and call 999. The Mayor added that her own personal experience of the online service had been excellent.
- 11.10 A question was asked at 1.3.6 around the significant amount of police time spent attending domestic abuse calls, and if any of those calls could be undertaken by other agencies. The Deputy Mayor replied that as domestic abuse is a reportable crime, only the police can attend these calls, however, once the situation has been assessed, they may find it appropriate to refer the case on to a related agency for help.
- 11.11 Discussion took place around the relationship between mental health services and the police, following a decision made by the Metropolitan Police (Met) about attendance at mental health incidents. The Deputy Mayor was keen to point out that West Yorkshire operates differently from the Met, and would not take their lead on this. She and the Mayor are in ongoing discussions with local authorities and health providers about supporting the police with this agenda. Although the Mayor doesn’t have any specific powers over the health sector, she has recently appointed an Inclusivity Champion who is jointly funded by WYCA and the relevant Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Mayor suggested that Panel may like to hear from her Inclusivity Champion at a future meeting to discuss her work across the sectors. The Deputy Chief Constable added that WYP always follow a ‘right care, right person’ policy for mental health and missing persons cases.

11.12 A question was asked around the deployment of the newly recruited officers in West Yorkshire, and how long it would take for them to be operational in districts. The Deputy Mayor replied that the Home Secretary was looking at ways to bring police officers in on shorter timescales than the current recruitment and training processes allow. The Mayor added that they will reach, and possibly over deliver on, her pledge to recruit 750 police officers and staff.

11.13 The Mayor was asked if Domestic Abuse figures could be presented as per capita, to enable Panel to understand the depth of the issue.

11.14 RESOLVED

11.14.1 The Mayor to look at adding a link to report sexual offences on the relevant part of the Combined Authority website.

11.14.2 The Deputy Chief Constable to look at how to make reporting sexual offences easier via the WYP website.

11.14.3 The Police and Crime Panel Officer to liaise with WYCA to discuss the Mayor's Inclusivity Champion attending a future Panel meeting.

11.14.4 The Mayor's office to provide Domestic Abuse reports as a per capita figure in future reports.

12. Safer Places & Thriving Communities

12.1 The Mayor introduced the item and referenced her discussion with the Chief Constable on neighbourhood crime at the latest Community Outcomes Meeting (COM). She highlighted the use of SmartWater in tackling neighbourhood crime, and the Immediate Justice pilot scheme that WYP are involved with. She also wanted to share with Panel that communications and data subgroups had been established under the Vision Zero work, and that funding had recently been awarded to the road safety charity Brake, to support families bereaved or seriously injured in road crashes. The Mayor also talked about the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), now multi-year funded, and how it is changing its name to the Violence Reduction Partnership to better reflect its ethos. She also wanted to draw attention to the Safer Communities Fund round 4, which closed that day, and that news of projects awarded would be shared with Panel in due course. The Mayor also highlighted the positive news contained in the report regarding knife crime and Operation Jemlock.

12.2 The Mayor was asked what her thoughts were around the control and regulation of ebikes and scooters, following recent high profile cases. She replied that WYP focus on

top repeat call anti-social behaviour (ASB) locations and referenced the work under Operation Scribestoke at 2.1.9.3. As a result, Panel members were asked to encourage people to report ASB in their neighbourhood so that clusters can be addressed. The Mayor highlighted other initiatives in this area, including funding for early intervention and diversion projects, and the PolEd programme which educates school children on the use of such bikes and scooters. The Deputy Chief Constable highlighted that the communications message around this are complicated by the fact that they are legal to ride (with regulation) in areas which are undertaking pilot schemes of the government's National e-cycle programme. West Yorkshire is not one of the pilot areas.

12.3 A further question was asked about the upcoming ebike scheme in Leeds and safety for pedestrians. The Mayor put forward her view that the climate emergency dictates that people need to be encouraged to swap their cars for more sustainable transport, however she will be making sure that all safety measures possible are in place for pedestrians, when the scheme begins. She reiterated that ebikes are not permitted on pavements, and that accidents will be logged. She also shared that she is prioritising the development and funding of cycle lanes.

12.4 Discussion took place around visibility of police officers and patrol cars and how this has been shown to reduce crime such as anti-social behaviour. Thoughts were shared around the balance of using visible officers to make people **feel** safe, or those same officers working on crime out of the public view, to **keep** people safe. The Mayor highlighted that she had made her pledge to recruit 750 more police officers and staff because of the proven crime prevention of police visibility.

12.5 A question was asked around the financial constraints that police forces were under, as evidenced in the last Mid Term Financial Forecast brought to the Panel, and if the Mayor was confident that she would be able to continue to recruit the officers and staff she had pledged to. She replied that the priority-based budgeting and technical investments were ensuring that resources were better utilised. The Deputy Mayor added that resources were in place for recruitment however, the issue for neighbourhood policing was the speed of the process and the previously highlighted need to divert fully trained officers into areas such as safeguarding and the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

12.6 The Deputy Mayor wanted to draw attention to two groups - Leaders Unlocked, and Young in Covid - which have been established to ensure young people are heard, and can take messages on issues that matter to them, including safety and crime, directly to their peers. These groups provide opportunities for young people to become proactive, confident change leaders, and they contribute lived experience to youth

advisory groups. The Mayor expressed her wish to set up a Youth Combined Authority, and that discussions had begun to take this forward.

12.7 RESOLVED

12.7.1 Panel noted the report.

13. Published Key Decisions

13.1 The published key decisions were noted.

14. Mayor's Response to current issues

14.1 The Mayor shared plans for the launch of the West Yorkshire Plan. Work on this has been ongoing over a number of months, and the aim of the Plan is to provide an overarching strategic framework for West Yorkshire up to 2040. The launch will take place at the Corn Exchange at 10am on 16 June, and invites will be sent to all Panel Members.

14.2 This month is Pride month and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be attending a number of events to mark its importance and support the LGBTQ+ community in West Yorkshire.

14.3 The launch of the Walksafe app in Bradford has been extremely successful and the Mayor encouraged all Panel Members to download it and take a look at the content. The Mayor also drew Panel's attention to the publication of the University of Leeds Safer Parks Project, and to the new park in Fagley, Bradford, which is the first in the district to be designed specifically with and for teenage girls to help them feel safer in their local park.

15. Agreed Actions Log

15.1 The Agreed Actions log was noted.

16. Forward Agenda Plan

16.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

17. Complaints Received by the Panel

17.1 The Legal Advisor to the Panel raised the need – in light of the matter raised in relation to Item 8 – to correct the paper published for this item, namely in the table in section 2.1, the second bullet point in the Status column to be deleted.

17.2 RESOLVED

17.2.1 Panel noted the report with this correction.

18. Any Other Business

18.1 There was no other business.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

19.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 14th July 2023 in the Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield.