



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

19th March 2021, held via video conference

PRESENT:	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council (Chair)
	Councillor Jacqui Williams	- Wakefield Council (Deputy Chair)
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Russell Brown	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Peter Gruen	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Stuart Heptinstall	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent

In attendance

Mark Burns-Williamson	- Police and Crime Commissioner
Wendy Stevens	- OPPC
John Robins QPM	- Chief Constable
Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
Luis Mansell	- Wakefield Council
James Lightfoot	- Wakefield Council
Luke Wyatt	- Wakefield Council

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Mohammed Naeem and Mark Thompson.

2. 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 5th February 2021.

2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record. 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 confirmed that there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

4. Members' Declaration of Interests

4.1 There were no Declaration of Interests made.

5. Delivery Quarterly

5.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner presented his Delivery Quarterly report which covered the period between October 1st 2020 and December 31st 2020.

5.2 The Delivery Quarterly provides a performance report and a summary of KPIs relevant to the PCCs meetings with the Chief Constable and gives an overview of delivery measures listed in pages 4-27 of the Police and Crime Plan. Data has been provided by the OPPC, HMICFR, the Crime Survey for England and Wales, the West Yorkshire Police User Satisfaction Survey, and other sources.

5.3 The data from last year (January – December 2020) compares annually, and due to the continuing influence of the current pandemic, it has been difficult to compare year on year. Some surveys which have been used in the past to provide intelligence have been temporarily suspended, such as the Crime Survey of England and Wales and the 'Your View' survey (although 'Your View' has recently been relaunched online). Caution was advised in comparing trends.

5.5 There has been a total crime reduction of 11.4% on the previous quarter, a figure which is likely to have been driven by the pandemic restrictions. ONS data shows a rate of 8.8% in West Yorkshire which exceeds the national average of 6.6%.

5.6 Highlighted items from the reports included:

5.6.1 The percentage of officers on the front line has remained stable and will increase when the next cohort of student officers are deployed.

5.6.2 There has been a continued increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB), specifically around nuisance bikes, cars and vans, neighbour disputes and youth nuisance.

5.6.3 BAME representation in the workplace has increased slightly 0.3% to 6.3% on the same time last years. The recruitment programme is showing higher representation at 11.9% of BAME which is closer to the overall population of 18.2%. The PCC is working with WYP on a 'deep dive' to try to improve rates. The PCC feels that primary legislation is needed to properly address the issue but acknowledged that this is unlikely to happen.

- 5.6.4 A substantial reduction in Serious Violence and Knife Crime has been recorded, driven by the Violence Reduction Unit with support from Operation Jemlock. Page 9 of the report details a change in the way knife crime is to be recorded to ensure more comparative national data. It is expected that there will be a minimal increase in figures shown for WY as a result of this new methodology which is much less than some other forces and the PCC is confident that the current overall trajectory of a reduction in knife crime will continue.
- 5.6.5 The area of Safeguarding Vulnerable People has seen improvements, with the number of missing adults and children reducing significantly since April 2020, with numbers dropping each quarter. This has been particularly noticeable amongst vulnerable adults.
- 5.6.6 Positive outcomes for domestic abuse cases have reduced slightly by 0.3% whilst the positive outcomes for rape offences has improved from 4.2% to 9.3%. The PCC assured the panel that tackling this area of crime has always been a priority for West Yorkshire police, despite challenging numbers, and that he had had this confirmed in subsequent meetings between himself and the Chief Constable.
- 5.6.7 Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation has seen a reducing trend, with 283 less cases year on year. These are complex cases and are regularly discussed in meetings with the Chief Constable.
- 5.7 The PCC updated the panel on the continuing progress to clear the backlog in courts following the pandemic; progress has unfortunately been further hampered by the latest lockdown. Innovative ways of clearing the backlog including the use of screens are being progressed. An additional court has been introduced in Leeds (Cloth Hall), but this has yet to substantially impact positively on figures. Nightingale courts are now being considered as an option.
- 5.8 With regards to victim and witness support, there has been a positive increase in victim satisfaction, which shows an increase of 2.4% YOY and now stands at 77.4%. Victim support statistics are also positive, showing a 28% increase after engagement with the service. There has been an increase of 360 self-referrals to victim support – an increase of 29% YOY.
- 5.9 Repeat victims of domestic abuse figures have seen a decrease in four out of five areas in West Yorkshire, as a result of additional funding and by putting partnerships in place to support ongoing work.
- 5.10 The PCC summarised by saying that trends have been mostly positive in the quarter between October and December 2020. As a result of updated measures, the PCC will be monitoring trend data moving forward. The PCC continues to work closely with the Chief Constable for West Yorkshire, and comparing nationally the PCC is reassured that the West Yorkshire police responses to recent events are sound, for example in the light touch approach taken to policing the recent Sarah Everard vigil in Leeds.

- 5.12 The Panel asked the Commissioner a series of questions which related to his report. Panel recognised the improvement in figures, and the impact that the current pandemic has had on the ability to measure progress.
- 5.13 Panel questioned the PCC and Chief Constable about the persistently low levels of sexual and domestic violence reporting, and low positive outcomes.
- 5.14 The PCC and Chief Constable agreed that rates were too low and discussion ensued about the reasons for this and around what steps could be taken to reassure and encourage victims of these crimes to report them to the police.
- 5.15 Panel suggested issues of culture, attitude and endemic system failings contributed to the low rates of resolution. Panel also raised a question around the 'managed area' in Leeds.
- 5.16 The PCC and Chief Constable acknowledged these issues whilst also highlighting external influences, such as media reporting and the wider process involving the courts. New ways of working, such as live links into courts, wraparound services for victims and the increasing role of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates. The PCC reported that a sexual violence review action plan has recently been completed and this has been shared with the CSPs. The PCC and the Chief Constable also recognised that the 'managed area' was subject to ongoing debate and monitoring by the Safer Leeds partnership.
- 5.17 The Panel sought clarification of training provided to officers on safeguarding. Assurances were given that officers undertake additional specialised training in safeguarding procedures; the training is accredited by the College of Policing.
- 5.18 Panel sought clarity on targets for the recruitment of new police officers, and on progress in BAME recruitment. The PCC and Chief Constable shared details about the numbers of new police recruits undertaking training, the length of the training programme and timelines for these officers to become fully accredited. There was discussion about the BAME recruitment programme and the challenges it faces.
- 5.19 The Panel asked for clarification around resources to tackle anti-social behaviour, specifically the numbers of appropriate vehicles available to police rural areas. The Chief Constable reassured Panel that vehicles were available and that as much resource as possible was being used to fund off road services. The Chief Constable stressed the need for Councils to reconsider where they have withdrawn funding for this area of policing, and that more partnership was needed to address the issues. The Chief Constable informed Panel that he was leading innovative work on technologies to assist the police in tackling ASB.

6. Police and Crime Plan Key Focus

- 6.1 The PCC highlighted initiatives on road safety and policing, an area that is always a public priority in public surveys. The PCC welcomed a recent reduction in road casualty figures. Engagement events are planned along with work to tackle the use of mobile

phones whilst driving. It is hoped that these initiatives are taken forward under the upcoming Mayoral model.

6.2 The Panel raised questions around ASB and speeding, namely issues on long, straight roads which are used for racing at certain times of the evening. Panel noted the absence of fixed speed cameras on many of these roads.

6.3 The PCC and Chief Constable agreed that 'ultra speeder' issues were taken seriously, and that the formula for the location of speed cameras used by the West Yorkshire Speeding Casualty Partnership could be further examined. This area is heavily led by LAs although the police are involved. Mention was made of the Vision Zero programme, and Panel was urged to encourage their local authorities to sign up to this initiative.

6.4 Panel raised concerns regarding the difficulty of accessing decision makers in the West Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership, and the lack of transparency in decision making on road safety issues, specifically the siting of road safety cameras.

6.5 The PCC acknowledged that there needs to be a better understanding and further work undertaken to ensure a more effective and joined-up partnership. The PCC commented on the significant funding that will be coming to West Yorkshire into Transport and infrastructure through the mayoral model along with the need to influence this and to get LA's in a position to ensure some of this is directed towards more joined up road safety.

6.6 RESOLVED

6.6.1 The PCC agreed to make contact with the Road Safety Partnership Manager to discuss access to decision makers.

7. Devolution Implications for the PCP

7.1 Panel noted the report which sets out an outline of Panel's documentation that requires amendment to reflect the necessary changes as a result of the transition to a CA Mayor. It was noted that officers are currently working through the implications of the orders and final documents will be brought to the April meeting for approval.

8. Commissioner's Response to any Current Issues

8.1 The PCC updated the Panel on his actions following the recent groundswell of emotion following the death of Sarah Everard. The PCC assured Panel that he is fully engaged on this agenda and has had conversations with Women's Groups in order to support and build relationships with victims and survivors.

8.2 The PCC noted that Phase 1 of the PCC review was before Parliament this week, but that nothing would be actioned before the Mayoral elections in May. Following those

elections, he was expecting to see a White Paper detailing how the Fire and Rescue services would be mandated into the responsibilities of the new Mayor.

- 8.3 The PCC reported that work is continuing to transition the functions of the PCC to the CA Mayor and to TUPE the staff across. The PCC assured Panel that he was doing his best to put a work programme in place for the Mayor to pick up in the short term. It was noted that the next PCP meeting would be held jointly with WYCA to report on the transitional work moving the PCC's powers to the Mayor's office. The PCC would be working to ensure that transitions were smooth and that staff were considered in decisions.
- 8.4 Panel asked the PCC to update it on the current status of NPAS, and the fixed wing aircraft which has been the subject of media reports recently.
- 8.5 The PCC commented that a number of the press comments were not correct. He confirmed that a meeting of the National Board had been held the previous day and some key decisions had been made. He reported that they were moving forward with a full business case working with Blue Light Commercial. The PCC agreed to provide an update to Panel on NPAS when he was able to do so.
- 8.6 Panel sought clarity on the PCC's view regarding one particular aspect of the Policing Bill – the increased powers afforded to the police to disrupt demonstrations and protests.
- 8.7 The PCC stated his view that legislation should not be a 'knee jerk' reaction to events, and that caution was needed to get the balance right.
- 8.8 The Chief Constable wanted to record his personal thanks to the outgoing PCC for his support during his time in office.

8.9 RESOLVED

8.9.1 The PCC to provide an update to Panel Members on NPAS in due course.

9. Published Key Decisions

- 9.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions which had been updated on the website since the last meeting.

10. Agreed Actions Log

- 10.1 The Agreed Action Log was noted.

11. Forward Agenda Plan

11.1 The PCP Officer confirmed that the attendance of WYCA officers would not affect the normal business of the next PCP, which would be in public as normal, and will consist of a 'mop up' of panel business and briefings relating to future activity. The Joint Internal Audit Committee will also be reporting on the annual report at the meeting.

12. Complaints Update

12.1 The Panel received a report containing an update of complaints ongoing, noting that there are currently no ongoing recorded complaints.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 No other business was raised.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting of the Panel will take place on Friday 23rd April 2021 and will be held via video conference.