



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

22 April 2016, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:	Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Michael Walls	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Steve Pullen	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Hassan Khan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Geraldine Carter	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Ann Martin	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Phil Scott	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Alan Wassell	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent

IN ATTENDANCE:	Emma Duckett	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Liz Ogden	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chair of the Panel noted apologies from Councillor Amanda Carter (Leeds) and Councillor Kevin Barker (Wakefield).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2016.

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

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.

Mark Burns-Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire attended the meeting for items 5 to 9 with the Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams, Staff Officer Darren Beech, as well as Katherine Johnson and Kelly Laycock from the OPCC.

5. Home Office Innovation Fund

- 5.1 The Commissioner updated the Panel on the latest round of HO Innovation fund bids. It was noted that this is West Yorkshire's most successful round since the fund commenced with West Yorkshire securing £1.7m.
- 5.2 It was noted that whilst West Yorkshire had been more successful, they were still just short of the total amount which is top-sliced from them for the funding pot.
- 5.3 Katherine Johnson explained to Panel that the process was much more complicated than it might seem at face value due to the strict procurement rules and timescales which do not allow any funding to be rolled into another funding year and the need for match-funding of all projects.
- 5.4 It was noted that at the recent Force Strategy Planning day, it was agreed to look to develop a joint innovation strategy looking at how to maximise opportunities ensuring that the primary benefit is for West Yorkshire.

6. Long Term Use of Bail Update

- 6.1 ACC Angela Williams gave an update on West Yorkshire's position on pre-charge bail. This has been under scrutiny since the publication of the results of a national FOI request in May 2013. This indicated that West Yorkshire had the second highest number of people on bail in excess of 180 days with only the Metropolitan Police having more.
- 6.2 ACC Williams reported that there were issues regarding the comparisons made in 2013 as a number of Forces didn't submit information and the only Force in West Yorkshire's MSG to respond could not confirm that the data was accurate.
- 6.3 West Yorkshire has, however, continued monitor all aspects of bail and is pleased to report that the reduction in long term bails is at 32%. This figure was higher last Autumn at a reduction of 40% and work is ongoing to look at what the reasons for this peak might be.
- 6.4 It was noted that there are still significant admin errors that are being made to the recording of data which artificially negatively skews the figures. The Panel was assured that staff are to undergo refresher training during 2016 which should reduce the number of errors and enable more accurate data to be readily provided.
- 6.5 ACC Williams reported on the forthcoming amendments to the Bail Act and the work that is ongoing to consider the possible implications for West Yorkshire. It is

anticipated that the changes to the Bail Act will be positive for West Yorkshire and will assist in significantly reducing the number of people on bail whilst the number of live investigations remain the same.

- 6.5 The Panel highlighted previous concerns that they had raised around West Yorkshire's poor timescales for obtaining hi-tech and medical evidence and asked what improvements have been made since this was last considered by the Panel.
- 6.6 ACC Williams assured reassured Panel that improvements had been made and that the Force had improved ways of working to ensure that they work smarter. An example was given of how having technical advice at the outset, informing officers what technical equipment should and should not be confiscated, saved significant time and effort in the long run. The Force is also bringing in additional appropriate technical staff to assist with the increase in this type of work.
- 6.7 ACC Williams circulated further data relating to live bails (not overdue) which was broken down into district and information relating to the reasons for bail. The information gave an indication of the position, but there were clear inaccuracies caused by double counting around recording the reasons for bail which requires further improvement. The Panel were satisfied that the data showed a balanced number of bails across the five districts in West Yorkshire.
- 6.8 Further information circulated showed the percentage of bails by crime type. It was noted that 'sexual offences' showed by far the highest number of bails. It was felt that this was appropriate as the nature of the crime meant that there would be vulnerable victims and witnesses.
- 6.9 Panel asked about the correlation of numbers of people on extremely long term bail periods and the numbers actually charged with an offence. It was noted that this had been looked at last year as part of an FOI request and showed that all those on very long term bail periods had in fact been ultimately charged with an offence. It was agreed to re-run the exercise on a District basis and report this back to the Panel in due course.
- 6.10 The Commissioner commented on the need to have accurate data to enable a good understanding of the whole picture in West Yorkshire. He assured the Panel that he has regular updates from the TCC on this. He expressed concern about the numbers of admin errors and was pleased to see that the Force is taking steps to address this and assured Panel that he will continue to receive monitoring updates on this.

6.11 RESOLVED

- 6.11.1 That the Force re-run the exercise to compare the numbers of people on extremely long term bail periods and the numbers actually charged with an offence on a District basis and report this back to Panel in due course.
- 6.11.2 That a further update is considered by Panel in 6 months' time and when the amendments to the Bail Act are known.

7. Published Key Decisions

7.1 Panel noted the published key decisions.

8. Agreed Actions Log

8.1 The agreed actions were noted

9. Commissioner's Response to any current issues

9.1 The Commissioner reported that he had prepared a response to the HMIC's recent report on their Child Protection Inspection and this would be circulated to Panel members for information in due course.

9.2 RESOLVED

9.2.1 That the Commissioner share his response to the HMIC's report on West Yorkshire Police's Child Protection Inspection.

Trevor Lake, Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee, attended the meeting for Item 10

10. Update on the work of the Joint Independent Audit Committee

10.1 Trevor Lake attended the meeting to discuss the JIAC's annual report and the work that they have undertaken over the last year in providing appropriate assurance to the PCC and the TCC on the adequacy of their governance, internal control and risk management arrangements.

10.2 Mr Lake commented that that overall, the JIAC had found prudent and well managed finances for the Force and the OPCC. He stated that any information requests were fully supported by the TCC and Commissioner. Mr Lake also stated that in line with good practice, the JIAC meets both the Commissioner and the TCC individually, at least once a year, even if there are no specific issues.

10.3 Mr Lake reported that the JIAC had pushed for a Board Assurance Framework to be put in place – it generally hasn't been prevalent within Forces – this links organisation objectives with a document to evidence risk and assurances for Leaders to deliver their objectives. This is now in place and work is ongoing to refine this through bi-annual review.

10.4 It was noted that a key area of focus has been the £20m Transformational Fund and the processes around this. The JIAC have had concerns about the robustness of the business cases and in particular would like to see the projected outcomes sections

clarified and improved with business benefits fully articulated. A full and detailed breakdown has been requested for the next JIAC meeting.

- 10.5 Mr Lake reported that an area of risk that has been identified is around the increased recruitment and training of officers. The risk is that there are not sufficient resources internally to cope with the increased numbers and the use of external partner resources may not be as effective.
- 10.6 The Panel informed Mr Lake of the Panel's Scrutiny Review into Services Commissioned to Support Victims and Witnesses and asked if the JIAC had looked at any aspects of this.
- 10.7 It was noted that the JIAC had rejected a Commissioning Review report at the back end of last year due to concerns about the robustness of monitoring and delivery. This is an area that clearly requires strengthening and the JIAC will be returning to look at this in due course. Mr Lake agreed to the Panel's request to meet with him as part of the Scrutiny Review.
- 10.8 Mr Lake informed Panel that the JIAC had received two reports during the year on Crime Data Integrity. They have been re-assured that good progress has been made - this has to be balanced with the increase in crime reporting. There was a view, however, that progress should have been at a quicker pace.
- 10.9 The Panel enquired about what policies and systems are in place for the maintenance and disposal of Police buildings - this was in the context of some existing buildings being damaged by the recent floods and no apparent works being undertaken to repair them. Mr Lake confirmed that there is a process in place for disposal of buildings, but that this was something the Committee could pick up again.
- 10.10 The Panel asked if the JIAC could look at the Long Term Use of Bail as an issue that carries reputational risk, as a future issue.
- 10.11 Mr Lake was thanked for coming along to share the work of the Committee with the Panel.

10.12 RESOLVED

- 10.12.1 That arrangements are made for Mr Lake to meet with the Scrutiny Review Team to discuss commissioning of services.
- 10.12.2 That the JIAC looks at the issue of disposal of police buildings – in the context of the recent flood damage.
- 10.12.3 That the JIAC look at the Long Term Use of Bail as a future area of activity.

11. Complaints Received by the Panel

11.1 The Panel noted the current position on complaints. Panel members who have assisted on the latest Complaints Sub Panel were thanked for their work.

12. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2016

12.1 The Forward agenda plan was noted

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Home Office Funding – It was noted that a funding agreement for the Police and Crime Panel for 2016/17 had been received earlier in the week.

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

14. Appeal to Panel

14.1 The Full Panel had been asked to consider an appeal by the complainant against one element of the Complaints Sub-Panel’s proposed Informal Resolution dated 4th March 2016.

14.2 The full Panel reviewed the information considered by the Complaint’s Sub-Panel relating to the complaint and considered the process that had been undertaken to arrive at the suggested informal resolution.

14.3 After considering all of the information provided, the full Panel unanimously agreed that:

- The Sub Panel had followed the legislation and the Panel’s complaints processes correctly in seeking to provide an informal resolution to the matters raised.
- No findings by the Sub-Panel on the element of the complaint which was not upheld were changed by the full Panel.
- The informal resolution proposed was reasonable.

14.4 RESOLVED

14.4.1 That the appeal against the Complaints Sub-Panel’s decision was not upheld and the original suggested resolution dated 4th March 2016 was supported.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting will be held on Friday, 10th June 2016 in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.