



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

8th April 2022, Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield

PRESENT:	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council (Chair)
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Trevor Lake	- Independent
	In attendance	
	Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Sharon Waugh	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	John Robins QPM	- Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police
	Alisa Newman	- West Yorkshire Police
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cahal Burke, Cllr Jacqui Williams, Cllr Amanda Carter, Cllr Nicole Sharpe and Cllr Richard Dunbar.

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 on 11th March 2022.

- 2.1 The minutes 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 urgent items to add to the agenda.

4. Members' Declaration of Interests

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. HMICFRS PEEL Inspection Report – West Yorkshire Police

5.1 The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) introduced her report and invited questions from the Panel. The report shows the six areas which were identified in the recent PEEL report as needing improvement, and what action has been taken so far by WYP to achieve improvement in those areas.

5.2 With one of the precept commitments being to ensure that all decisions and reports on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan include a statement on the impact and / or benefit on children and young people, the DMPC was asked if she was satisfied that the steps put in place by WYP since the inspection will address this issue sufficiently. She assured Panel that she is in constant communication with the Chief Constable regarding further improvements. She alluded to recent Children's Services OFSTED reports in Wakefield and Leeds which show how well MASH services are co-ordinated in West Yorkshire.

5.3 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she was confident that plans were in place to maintain the 'outstanding' and 'good' areas from the inspection report, as well as concentrating on those flagged for improvement. Reassurances were given that regular meetings were held with the Chief Constable, during which rigorous questions were asked. These meetings include Community Outcome Meetings (COM) which are livestreamed. The Chief Constable added that strategic plans are in place for all areas of policing in West Yorkshire, and that these are stable and resistant to knee-jerk reactions. He assured Panel that the Force was not complacent and would continue to strive for improvement in all areas of work, not just those flagged for improvement by the HMICFRS report.

5.4 The Deputy Mayor was asked what particular challenges were faced in maintaining standards. She highlighted issues such as race disparities, the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda, and the recruitment pledges made by the Mayor in her election manifesto were all particularly challenging.

5.5 With regard to the considerable praise given to the WYP leadership team in the PEEL report, the DMPC was asked if she was confident that a robust succession plan was in place to protect the high standards in the Force. Assurances were given by the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Constable that such a plan was in place, and the Chief Constable directed Panel to the online Force Management Statement for more information on the key management roles. The Deputy Mayor gave anecdotal evidence of how officers have felt supported in leadership training and continuous professional development.

- 5.6 A question was asked about investigations, and the difficulty in providing a good service to victims, if crimes against them cannot or are not being investigated fully. The Deputy Mayor and the Chief Constable agreed that investigations were a significant challenge, primarily due to the volume of cases and a shortage of detectives which is a national issue. WYP are focused on this area but are restricted by the number of crimes and the resources to deal with these. The Chief Constable stressed that there is a focus on and good outcomes for the most serious and harmful crime.

The Deputy Mayor stated that Justice for Victims is a major part of the Police and Crime Plan and investigations forms part of this area of work and as such will be an area of focus.

5.7 RESOLVED

5.7.1 The Chief Constable and West Yorkshire Police were commended for the excellent results of the inspection and the very positive progress that has been made since the last inspection.

5.7.2 Panel noted the report and the actions that have been taken in response to the HMICFRS areas for improvement.

5.7.3 The Panel urged the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Constable to continue to strive for outstanding in all areas.

6. Neighbourhood Policing

- 6.1 The DMPC introduced the report, which contains an update on Neighbourhood Policing (NP) in West Yorkshire. One of the Mayor's key manifesto pledges was to protect this area of policing and achieve an uplift of 750 frontline officers and staff. Neighbourhood policing is high on the public's list of importance, and it was an area in which the Force was graded outstanding by HMICFRS. The Deputy Mayor shared that her experience of and conversations with NPT's in the last six months have reinforced her view that this grading is justified.
- 6.2 A correction was made at item 3.4 regarding PCSO officer figures. The budgeted position should read 565, not 603, meaning that the budgeted and actual numbers are equal.
- 6.3 A question was asked regarding the percentage of covid-related calls attended by neighbourhood police officers in Bradford (item 3.15), which appears much lower than other areas. The DMPC clarified that the figure is positive and means that less neighbourhood police officers were asked to attend non-NP calls, which would have taken them away from their neighbourhood duties.
- 6.4 The Deputy Mayor shared frustrations regarding the time taken for new PCSOs to qualify, which under the Police Education Quality Framework (PEQF) can be up to three years. Many potential recruits without a degree and with a higher salary than the starting salary of a police officer are not joining the Force on the basis of the length of

this training, and subsequent salary reduction. Feedback has been given to the Home Office in this regard.

6.5 RESOLVED

6.5.1 Panel noted the report and expressed their support of the NPT model which they feel is successful in their local areas.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

7.1 The DMPC introduced her report which talks about public perception and satisfaction levels and how this is monitored and analysed. It focuses the changes made to ASB recording following recommendation to all Forces by the HMICFRS. The DMPC felt that the changes will be positive for victims.

7.2 The DMPC was asked if she was confident that changes in the way data is now recorded is not masking the true picture of ASB. She replied that she was not confident that the data can show a true picture until it has bedded in properly. She estimated that this could take 12-24 months. However, despite this, she is confident that work to improve the way that the police and their partners handle ASB complaints has improved for victims. She added that if the data looks worse, then this is due to the recording of crime becoming more transparent. The Chief Constable confirmed this and assured Panel that the same data is being recorded, but that more will be recorded as crimes, rather than being left on the incident system.

7.3 It was noted that ASB is included as a key measure in the new Police and Crime Plan in terms of a reduction of ASB incidents in comparison to the Year to date baseline commencing from April 2022.

7.4 The DMPC was asked to clarify the process that the police and partners follow to establish who is responsible for dealing with an ASB complaint, and particularly to clarify how the usual multi-agency approach is different from a community trigger pathway.

7.5 The Chief Constable explained that in response to any complaint, partners work together to decide who should take the issue forward. He confirmed that anti-social behaviour co-ordination meetings happen by ward and district, bringing together all partners involved to work out next steps and actions arising from complaints. Community triggers exist as a separate route and this is usually taken by dissatisfied members of the public, councillors or communities. The DMPC added that clarity is being sought from the Home Office around the purpose and use of community triggers in the light of issues around persistent complainants.

7.6 RESOLVED

7.6.1 Panel noted the report.

8. Mayor's Response to any current issues

- 8.1 The Deputy Mayor updated Panel on the situation with the National Police Air Service (NPAS) which is currently managed by West Yorkshire Police. Panel are aware that the Mayor gave 12 months notice in June 2021 for West Yorkshire Police to hand over the management of NPAS to another force. Since that time, no other force has agreed to take over the management, and as a result, it is anticipated that the Mayor may be asked to extend the notice period whilst work continues to find a suitable option to ensure the continuation of NPAS. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that she is doing everything she can to resolve the issue as swiftly as possible and that alternative options are being considered in the case of no other Force stepping forward to take control.
- 8.2 The DMPC informed Panel about the National Police Chiefs' Council Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, which was published this week and is available on their website. The plan contains a performance management strategic objective, which West Yorkshire Police have used to develop their own strategy. For their information, she also informed Panel that the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners have recently produced a strategy to help Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Mayors with PCC responsibilities to successfully hold Chief Constables to account.
- 8.3 The Deputy Mayor informed Panel that she has been invited to be a member of a panel set up by the IOPC which will look to tackle race disparities.
- 8.4 The Deputy Mayor shared with the Panel the actions that the Mayor had taken after publicity surrounding the Child Q case in the Metropolitan police. She informed Panel that on hearing the detail of the case, the Mayor had immediately written to the Chief Constable to ask for assurances that such an event could not happen in West Yorkshire. The DMPC read a legal statement to Panel regarding Stop and Searches in West Yorkshire which included a breakdown of the data of all stop and search strip searches on children aged under 18 over the previous years. It was noted that there had been 15 searches during this period and non of these were on children under 15 and no complaints have been made regarding strip searching of juveniles. The stop and search policy has been reviewed and complies with College of Police guidance. The Deputy Mayor assured Panel that the recommendations within the Child Q CSCR will be reviewed by West Yorkshire Police and they will adopt any learning from this.
- 8.5 Panel were given an update on funding for the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The government have now allowed bids to be made for a three year funding period, which the Mayor and DMPC see as a very positive step and one that they had both lobbied for. This change has meant that the VRU can access up to £15m of funding over a three year period if their bid is successful. Panel heard that the Violence Against

Women and Girls strategy had been written into the bid, as a key area of work in West Yorkshire.

- 8.6 The DMPC shared that she had been invited to be a patron of Bradford at Night, a scheme run through the city's Business Improvement District (BID), in an attempt to support local businesses in the night time economy by increasing the numbers of people coming into Bradford in the evening. Safety measures such as Ask Angela and Street Angels are in place, and safeguarding training is being accessed by bar staff.

9. Published Key Decisions

- 9.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions. The Deputy Mayor was asked about the Positive Futures project. It was clarified that the public key decision related to evaluation of the project. The Deputy Mayor was asked about bringing further information to the Panel on the early intervention work that has been done and provide information about the benefits and what is working well.

- 9.2 The Deputy Mayor agreed to provide a future report which includes the commissioned interventions along with information on some of the Safer Communities interventions.

9.3 RESOLVED

9.3.1 That the Deputy Mayor brings a report to a future meeting regarding early intervention work, including benefits and what is working well, along with further detail of Positive Futures.

10. Agreed Actions Log

- 10.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

11. Forward Agenda Plan

- 11.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

12. Complaints received by the Panel

- 12.1 The Panel noted that there are no new recorded or existing ongoing complaints.

12.2 The Deputy Mayor was asked how the Panel could be assured that she/the Mayor is informed and assured about any possible trends in complaints against the force are picked up and monitored going forward following changes to the Joint Independent and Ethics Audit Committee (JIAEC).

12.3 The Deputy Mayor assured Panel that this would form part of regular reports to the Mayor/Deputy Mayor and it would also form part of the annual report on complaint and review handling.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 The Chair pointed out that this was the last meeting before the elections and that he was aware of two current Panel members who were standing down as Councillors and would not be on the Panel going forward. The Chair thanked both Cllr Richard Dunbar and Jacqui Williams for the work on the Panel.

13.2 The Deputy Mayor used the opportunity to thank the outgoing members along with the rest of the Panel for their work in challenging and supporting her and the Mayor during the first year of their office.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be the AGM and will be held at 10.00am on Friday 10th June 2022, in the Old Restaurant, Wakefield Town Hall.