Item 2



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**28th February 2020, Wakefield Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mohammed Iqbal - Leeds City Council

Councillor Tariq Hussain - Bradford Council

Councillor Stuart Heptinstall - Wakefield Council

Councillor Sophie Whittaker - Calderdale Council

Councillor Amanda Carter - Leeds City Council

Councillor Mohammed Naeem - Calderdale Council

Councillor Russell Brown - Bradford Council

Councillor Cahal Burke - Kirklees Council

Councillor Peter Gruen - Leeds City Council

Councillor Richard Dunbar - Bradford Council

Councillor Masood Ahmed - Kirklees Council

Jo Sykes - Independent

Roger Grasby - Independent

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

* 1. Apologies were received from Councillors Alan Wassell and Mark Thompson.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held 7th February 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 confirmed there were no items to add to the agenda.

**4. Members’ Declaration of Interests**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Delivery Quarterly Report**

5.1 The Commissioner presented the Quarterly Delivery Report to the Panel covering the 12 months from January to December 2019 and demonstrating overall progress against the plan.

5.2 The PCC reported that the overall percentage of recorded crime shows a slight increase of 0.2% on the past twelve months. Main areas of improvement noted were around dwelling burglary and vehicle crime. It was also noted that figures around household crime had reduced and that the force were no longer the highest for this within their MSG.

5.3 Following a period of decrease, feelings of safety have now stabilised over the past quarter, with 39.4% of people feeling that the police are doing a good or excellent job.

5.4 The Panel were informed that the Delivery Quarterly report contained results from the latest PEEL inspection and that the force had been graded as “good” in both Effectiveness and Legitimacy and had received an “outstanding” grade for Efficiency. The recent inspection also reported 7 recommendations to the force which the Panel were informed would be implemented and tracked and considered at a future meeting.

5.5 The Panel were provided with reassurance that the increasing time taken for cases to be solved and the reported poor management of cases would both be investigated and that improvement measures would be implemented.

5.6 The Panel sought further information in order to better understand how figures around fraud and forgery are recorded within the force. It was noted that the overall responsibility of these crimes is with Action Fraud and that each case reported to West Yorkshire Police is passed to Action Fraud to be logged and monitored before being passed back to the force for investigation. Whilst the PCC has concerns around the effectiveness of this, work is currently being undertaken within the region to improve this process. The Panel were informed that all crimes reported to Action Fraud are also recorded in West Yorkshire figures.

5.7 The Panel requested further information around the ongoing partnership work between the Police and other organisations to reduce the number of children going missing who are in care.

5.8 The PCC informed the Panel that safeguarding meetings had been undertaken with every district’s Children and Young People’s Directors and that safeguarding, particularly of children in care, is discussed at every team meeting. Plans to future proof the central safeguarding system and to work better with the police were also noted. The PCC acknowledged that whilst good progress is being made, there is still work to be done in this area.

5.9 The Panel queried the success of the recent drink driving campaign and requested further clarification around the outcomes of this.

5.10 The PCC confirmed that there had been a significant number of arrests resulting from the campaign and that further analysis had been planned to better understand the trends of drink driving and how similar campaigns may work in the future. The Panel were assured that further detail on this would be included as part of the key priority report due to be presented at the April meeting.

5.11 The Panel acknowledged the recent PEEL inspection results and praised the force on being graded as “outstanding” for efficiency. Further information was requested around the 7 recommendations referenced in the Delivery Quarterly report and how the force intended to improve from “good” to “outstanding” in both effectiveness and legitimacy.

5.12 The PCC thanked the Panel for the recognition and confirmed that the force looks to continuously improve and would be implementing a number of actions stemming from the recent recommendations within the PEEL report. It was noted that the plans in place for improvement would rely heavily on partnership working and would utilise the additional funding provided through the precept this year.

5.13 The Panel expressed concern that the figures for improving the outcomes for victims of crime, taken from the victim’s satisfaction survey, had dropped from 63.9% to 57.7% in this quarter and challenged the PCC as to why this had happened and what was being done to respond to this decrease.

5.14 It was noted that a full victim journey review would commence within the next year. Led by DCC Russ Foster, this would aim to provide a more detailed picture of investigations and outcomes and how victims feel about their experience of the process. The PCC informed the Panel that this would then be used in order to develop staff and improve victim support.

5.15 The Panel sought reassurance from the PCC that forces were continuing to work together to tackle those areas of crime that cross districts within West Yorkshire in order to target not only crime on location, but to also work with the area in which those committing the crimes originate. The Panel highlighted a recent example of Anti-Social Behaviour where individuals on quad bikes are driving from Bradford into Leeds and undertaking criminal activity.

5.16 The PCC informed the Panel that the force utilises a regional collaboration board in order to ensure that issues similar to those outlined in 5.15 are shared across Force borders and that all divisional commanders are aware of particular issues that arise across districts. It was also noted that cross-border crime is an issue raised with all teams on a weekly basis in order to promote a unified approach across West Yorkshire.

5.17 The Panel challenged the PCC around how the public perceive the work of the police and how this can be improved, particularly around how the police share successes with the public.

5.18 The PCC acknowledged that the sharing of successes of the police may help to improve the public perception of the police’s work and that work was being done with staff to encourage officers to become positive advocates of their work.

**5.19 RESOLVED**

5.19.1 That the Panel are provided with further detail around figures for fraud and forgery crime in West Yorkshire.

5.19.2 That the PCC ensures that more detail of the outcome of the drink driving campaign is included as part of the Road Safety key priority report due to be presented at the April meeting.

5.19.1. That the findings of the ‘Victim’s Journey’ review are reported to Panel in due course.

**6. OPCC Needs Assessment**

6.1 The PCC presented the 2020 Needs Assessment and provided an overview around how this tool is used to direct funding and commissioning through the force. The PCC requested feedback from the Panel on the Needs Assessment and explained how the final draft would inform the new Police and Crime Plan post 2020 PCC elections.

6.2 The Panel queried the audience of this report and sought clarification around if the final version of the report would be made public. The use of police specific terminology such as comparisons to MSG’s were also noted and the Panel showed concern that this would mean little to the public if the document were to be published. The Panel also noted a reference to 11 key issues at the beginning of the document and challenged the PCC as to why these were not referred to throughout the rest of the analysis.

6.3 The PCC reassured the Panel that the public were not the main audience for the document and that its production was for internal use to inform the Police and Crime Plan. Concerns around the 11 key issues were noted and Panel were reassured that their concerns would be reflected as the assessment was edited.

6.4 Low figures for the outcome rates for rape and serious sexual offences were highlighted as a key concern by the Panel who challenged what measures were being taken to improve this.

6.5 The Panel received an update on the sexual assault referral centre in response to the concerns outlined in 6.4 and were told that the centre was scheduled to open in the coming months. The poor outcome rate within the Crown Prosecution Service was also noted and the PCC explained that investment and improvement would be required by these services in order to tackle the full extent of the problem. A brief update on the live link facility now available in both Wakefield and Halifax was also provided and it was noted that this is expected to further improve victim outcome rates.

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**6.3 RESOLVED**

6.3.1 That the Panel submit additional feedback on the Needs Assessment to the PCP Officer to be provided to the PCC for further consideration.

**7. Refreshed Police and Crime Plan (Draft)**

7.1 The PCC presented a draft of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan, explaining to the Panel that this was only a light touch refresh due to the proximity of the PCC election and the need to produce a further plan in due course. The main changes to the plan were noted as being around the increased emphasis on serious violence with the introduction of a stand-alone key priority for this area. There is also a merger of the Strategic Policing Requirement into one priority with Major Threats.

7.2 Panel mentioned that there was a lack of information around Anti-Social Behaviour in the plan, despite being a main concern of communities.

7.3 The PCC reassured the Panel that work would continue to be ongoing with relevant partners around Anti-Social Behaviour and that this would continue to be a focus of work within the force.

7.4 Panel were supportive of the key changes to the refresh and agreed to report to the PCC with detailed comments on the refresh in line with the legislative requirements.

**7.5 RESOLVED**

7.5.1 Panel support the key changes to the refresh and will issue a report with detailed comments to the PCC as soon as possible.

**8. Commissioner’s Response to any current issues**

8.1 The PCC informed the Panel that a new round of funding, for a portion of £35m as part of the Safer Streets Fund, had been opened by Government in order to focus on crime prevention in residential hotspots. It was noted that bidding was open until 20th March 2020 and that these bids are led by the PCC and include strict bidding criteria. A maximum of £550k is allowed per bid and each PCC is able to submit up to 3 bids. The PCC informed the Panel that work is ongoing to work with the force and partners to determine which projects should be submitted as part of bidding. Successful bids are to be announced in May and the PCC assured the Panel that updates would be provided when further information was available.

8.2 The PCC provided reassurance to the Panel that plans are in place based on guidance from Public Health in the event of coronavirus presenting a policing risk. Plans are also in place should the force experience a surge in staff off due to sickness with the virus.

8.3 The Panel were provided with a brief update on the APCC and NPCC partnership summit which took place on the 26th and 27th February. It was noted that the Home Secretary has confirmed a continuation of surge funding for the next 12 months and that the West Yorkshire allocation would be approximately £2.6m. The PCC informed the Panel that wider conversations at the summit had largely focussed on concerns around wider Criminal Justice Service and Youth services. The Panel were informed that West Yorkshire contributed with 3 “lightning talk” presentations throughout the conference to discuss county line crime, youth zones and the Leeds City support scheme.

8.4 The PCC noted that the Victims Strategy launch had taken place the previous week and was well received and that the Violence Reduction Unit was scheduled to launch the following Thursday in Leeds.

**9. Published Key Decisions**

9.1 The Published Key Decisions were noted.

**10. Agreed Actions Log**

10.1 The agreed actions log was noted.

**11. Forward Agenda Plan**

11.1 The forward agenda plan was noted. Items for the April meeting would include an update on 101 and the contact centre and a key priority focus on Road Safety.

**12.1 Complaints received by the Panel**

12.1 The Panel received a report containing an update of ongoing complaints, noting that a recorded complaint against the PCC was currently under consideration by the Complaints Sub-Panel and a further meeting had been scheduled to consider further information that had been provided.

**13. Any Other Business**

13.1 None.

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

14.1 The next meeting of the Panel is due to take place on 3rd April 2020 at Wakefield Town Hall.