



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

11th December 2015, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Michael Walls	- Bradford Council
Councillor Steve Pullen	- Bradford Council
Councillor Geraldine Carter	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Ann Martin	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees MBC
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds Council
Councillor Kevin Barker	- City of Wakefield MDC
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
Sharon Fraser	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 The Chair of the Panel noted apologies from Councillor Hassan Khan (Bradford), Councillor Amanda Carter (Leeds) and Councillor Phil Scott (Kirklees).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2015

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 13 along with Dee Collins, Temporary Chief Constable and Katherine Johnson, from the OPCC.

5. Budget Update 2015/16

5.1 The Commissioner presented a report to the Panel on the latest budget position for 2015/16 and the implications of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcements on the budget for 2016/17.

5.2 Whilst the Commissioner welcomed the CSR announcement that police budgets were to be maintained, he was mindful that top-slicing of police budgets to fund counter-terrorism and new mobile technology would have an impact and that there was likely to be a 1.3% reduction over the term of the CSR.

5.3 The Commissioner clarified the position on the police precept. As West Yorkshire was one of the ten areas that had historically low council tax, the CSR made provision for the Commissioner to propose a precept increase of £5 on a Band D property or 3.56%.

5.4 The Commissioner then went on to update Members on the current budget position. He highlighted a £3.37m underspend in the police pay budget due to the Force being 92 police constables under profile. Similarly, there was a £5m underspend in the non-pay budget. This has enabled the Force to fund CSE, Human Trafficking and Historical Case Teams in year rather than through operational reserves. Members noted that the full detail of the police settlement would be provided on 17 December 2015.

5.5 The Panel sought reassurances from the Commissioner and the temporary Chief Constable that the recruitment of police officers would be accelerated following the CSR announcements. In response, the temporary Chief Constable stated that 20 transferees and 38 new police officers would be in post by 31 March 2016. The Panel re-emphasised the importance of trying to ensure that the new recruits reflected the diverse communities of West Yorkshire and asked how this could be achieved. The temporary Chief Constable stated that the Force used positive action to encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, the temporary Chief Constable was keen to encourage applicants with different skills which would benefit the Force such as languages and digital skills.

5.6 RESOLVED

5.6.1 The Panel offered to share details of Force recruitment with community groups in order to encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds.

6. Quarterly Performance Scrutiny to 30 September 2015

- 6.1 The Commissioner presented a report to the Panel on the Force's performance to 30 September 2015.
- 6.2 Highlighted within the report and by the Lead Member for performance were the recent significant increases in shoplifting and vehicle crime. The Panel sought assurances from the temporary Chief Constable that the Force understood the reasons for the increases and were appropriately tackling these crimes.
- 6.3 The temporary Chief Constable attributed a large proportion of the increase in total crime to better recording practises following the Crime Data Integrity inspection by HMIC. In terms of the increases in shoplifting, there was a feeling that these increases were due, in part, to austerity but were also due to organised crime groups.
- 6.4 The Panel went on to question the temporary Chief Constable about the use of ANPR in reducing vehicle crime. The Force has heavily invested in ANPR in West Yorkshire and is working with other forces, both regionally and nationally, to ensure that ANPR information on cross-border criminals is shared.
- 6.5 Further discussion focused on Neighbourhood Policing. The Panel were assured that the Commissioner and the temporary Chief Constable were fully committed to maintaining Neighbourhood Policing in West Yorkshire.

6.6 RESOLVED

- 6.6.1 The Panel welcomed the commitment to maintaining Neighbourhood Policing in West Yorkshire whilst recognising the need to look at how best to direct resources to tackle emerging types of crime.

7. Crime Data Integrity Update

DCI Joanne Morgan attended the meeting for this item

- 7.1 DCI Morgan gave Panel an overview and background to the reasons why Crime Data Integrity (CDI) is a key issue for the force, explaining how West Yorkshire had historically been very performance driven towards the targets set by the Home Office.
- 7.2 Following the HMIC inspection into CDI in August 2014, a number of recommendations were made to improve force compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). Since then, this has remained a key priority for the force and regular monitoring is reported to the Commissioner at Community Outcomes meetings.
- 7.3 Panel noted that over the past year, West Yorkshire has made rapid progress. A number of immediate actions in response to the HMIC recommendations were progressed. There has also been much work undertaken around a culture change, which has focussed on training officers and ensuring that they understand why crime needs to be recorded correctly and accurately.

- 7.4 It was noted that themed compliance audits are undertaken each month with an improving trend. Figures show a consistent good compliance in the past 6 months for domestic burglary and serious sexual offences, however, the picture for 'total crime' remains inconsistent and still requires improvement.
- 7.4 Panel noted that analysis of the failures in the total crime audit reveals that the majority of failures are in low level public order and minor assaults. Work is underway to look at why this area only averages a 'Fair' categorisation. Work is also concentrating on ensuring any re-classifications of crime are appropriately explained.
- 7.5 Areas that are to be audited in the future include domestic violence, modern slavery and hate crime.
- 7.6 Each of the Districts is undertaking a self-assessment/health check, to ensure that they are prepared for the unannounced HMIC inspections that will take place in the new year. The internal audit committee continue to receive update reports.
- 7.7 The Temporary Chief Constable reiterated the need to ensure integrity of the Force in ensuring that everyone is dealt with fairly and that victims are believed.
- 7.8 RESOLVED**
- 7.8.1 Panel welcomed the progress that has been made in improving compliance. It was agreed to have a further update in six months' time.

8. Strategic Policing Requirement

- 8.1 TCC Dee Collins updated the Panel on the latest position regarding the SPR which sets out the threats that require a national policing capability to ensure they are tackled effectively. The threats include terrorism, civil emergencies, organised crime, threats to public order, and large-scale cyber incidents and following a revision to the SPR in March 2015, it also includes Child Sexual Abuse.
- 8.2 TCC Collins informed Panel of the thinking that is underway as to how national and regional capabilities will work beyond the traditional structure of forces. Chief Constables will be considering what the operational aspects of the SPR mean, post the CSR announcement.
- 8.3 Panel were reassured that West Yorkshire's national/regional contribution is proportionate to its budget allocation. Areas are resourced on a 'threat, harm and risk' basis which means that appropriate resources are attributed to West Yorkshire. Experience has been that this mechanism has worked well for the funding of Regional Organised Crime.
- 8.4 RESOLVED**
- 8.4.1 The Panel took the opportunity to thank the Temporary Chief Constable for her work over the past year.

9. Estates Strategy Update

9.1 Panel welcomed the recently approved Estates Strategy and the aims and objectives of the estates vision.

9.2 Panel were given assurances that any key change to the West Yorkshire Police estate will have a business case that details the rationale behind the proposed change and the supporting detail prior to consultation. Following consultation with key stakeholders, including the Panel, a full business case will be developed taking into consideration the consultation feedback.

9.3 The delivery of the Estates strategy will also link into the emerging Workforce Strategy and embrace the Force's new ways of digital working.

9.4 RESOLVED

9.4.1 That the Panel is consulted in line with the strategy on key estates changes.

10. Feedback from Community Outcomes Meetings

10.1 Panel noted the issues raised at recent Community Outcomes Meetings.

11. Published Key Decisions

11.1 The Commissioner was asked to expand on the benefits to West Yorkshire of the award of funding to the Police Treatment Centre. Panel noted that the PTC is a charitable trust which assists and supports Police Officers and that any additional help to keep officers in work or enable them to return to work is of benefit to the people of West Yorkshire.

12. Agreed Actions Log

12.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

13. Commissioner's Response to any current issues

13.1 The Commissioner informed Panel that he and the Temporary Chief Constable would be receiving a report later in the day from Greater Manchester Police regarding an investigation into a possible miscarriage of justice of Danny Major.

14. Complaints Received by the Panel

14.1 Councillor Wassell updated the Panel on the current status of complaints. Councillor Wassell asked for more members to come forward as Complaints Sub-Panel members as it was felt it was necessary to have a couple of substitutes for the meetings.

15. Panel Forward Agenda Plan

15.1 Panel noted the Forward Agenda Plan.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Councillor Lowe raised the proposed changes to the arrangements for Deputy PCCs terms of office which has been sent to PCP Chairs for views.

16.2 RESOLVED

16.2.1 Panel agreed that it would be sensible to support an amendment to the law so that, in a scenario where a PCC leaves office mid-term the Deputy's term would run until the arrival of the newly elected PCC, whereupon it would automatically terminate. The new PCC would then be free to determine whether they wished to re-appoint the Deputy, replace them or discontinue the post entirely.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting to be held at 10am on Friday, 5th February 2016 at Wakefield Town Hall