



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

14th September 2018, Carr Gate Training Facility, WYP

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Russell Brown	- Bradford Council
Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
Councillor Mohammed Naeem	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Amanda Pinnock	- Kirklees Council
Councillor Andrew Pinnock	- Kirklees Council
Councillor Salma Arif	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Steve Tulley	- City of Wakefield MDC
Councillor Alan Wassell	- City of Wakefield MDC
Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Fraser	- City of Wakefield MDC
Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

- 1.1 There were no apologies for absence. Cllr Mohammed Naeem from Calderdale was welcomed to his first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel as a replacement for Cllr Steve Sweeney.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2018

- 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 declarations of interest

Mark Burns-Williamson the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire attended the meeting for items 5 to 15, along with Chief Constable Dee Collins and Jayne Sykes, Interim OPCC Chief Executive.

5. Delivery Quarterly Performance Report

5.1 The PCC gave an overview of the latest delivery quarterly performance report. This included the continued increase in overall crime rates, with a particular rise in personal crime. The number of missing persons is levelling off and the repeat rate is starting to reduce.

5.2 The Commissioner commented that the ineffective trial rate is better than the national average with cases brought to resolution improving after an all-time low in March. The PCC acknowledged that there continues to be a deterioration of levels of satisfaction but that overall they are still good. A significant area of increase has been around the risk of person crime which includes

- Violent crime
- Robbery
- Public order
- Possession of weapons
- Burglary

5.3 Panel questioned the PCC about the statement in his report that the trend of an increase in total recorded crime is slowing. It was felt that there was a conflicting picture with the slowing of the increase in 'overall crime' figure compared to the percentage increase given for the increase in the volume of 'actual crime'.

5.4 Panel questioned whether it was fair to state that the WY increase of 11% is lower than the MSG average of 15% when previously the case had been made that WY's higher increases were due to addressing the improvements to crime recording earlier than other forces and the alternative 'real crime increases' figure has risen from a steady 4% to around 7%.

5.5 The PCC commented that it was difficult to compare due to the time lag between Force areas dealing with crime data integrity.

5.6 The Chief Constable also stated that it was difficult to compare with other Forces but she wants West Yorkshire to concentrate on improvements against its own figures. She reported that there are increases of sexual offences, due to increased encouragement to report as well as a number of historical cases. An area where there is a definite increase is in violent crime ranging from the lower end of bullying etc, to the higher level of knife crime.

- 5.7 The PCC was asked about the low levels of feelings of safety in Bradford and the poor confidence about the prevention of crime and ASB. The PCC was asked if adequate resources are being provided to the area.
- 5.8 The PCC responded that the later measure is one about Police and partners and he has passported funding to all the CSPs including Bradford. It was noted that an ASB working group which includes the CSP leads has been set up to share good practice and develop an action plan which will meet local needs on a district by district basis. There is a plan to place a bid into the Early Intervention Youth Fund which will have a very localised footprint.
- 5.9 The PCC agreed to meet with Bradford's Partnership locally to see what more can be done.
- 5.10 The PCC was asked how much the overall increase in crime is due to the cuts in police officers and how effectively is he utilising resources.
- 5.11 The PCC stated that the size of the cuts clearly makes a difference to how effective the Force can be as well as the cumulative impact of cuts to other organisations dealing with mental health and youth disaffection and so it is very important to consider how resources are prioritised. The continued recruitment has been funded in the main by the additional council tax raised. The PCC informed Panel that an evaluation of the first six months of the changes to neighbourhood policing is now underway and there is a drive to recruit more detectives to deal with the issue around investigations.
- 5.12 The PCC and CC were thanked for the new Neighbourhood policing model which it is felt is making a difference at a local level.
- 5.13 The PCC discussed the relatively low detection rates and it was noted that there are other outcomes which are not captured such as reparation or restorative justice. He stated that the push to record more crime means that the percentage of detection rates will go down. It was noted that there is now a huge suite of outcomes and it was agreed to bring a paper to the Panel which better explains this as well as what the investigations review is doing.
- 5.14 The PCC stressed the need for a reinvigoration of the partnership arena as the police alone cannot deal with all the issues. The PCC commented that he was pleased the government are now talking about early intervention and prevention and this is something that WY have tried to build into the neighbourhood policing model.
- 5.15 In relation to the drive to increase diversity in the workforce and its limited success, the PCC was asked if any analysis of where the drop-out figure is throughout the process.
- 5.16 The Panel were informed that the strategy is targeted at the full workforce and whilst there has been a small increase, the aspiration had been for a better outcome. Panel were reassured that there is analysis of this throughout the process and there is a strong focus on looking at ways to improve the figures.

- 5.17 The PCC was asked about the video links to the county courts in Calderdale and Wakefield.
- 5.18 The PCC reported that the Calderdale link is almost ready to go but there have been some technical issues in relation to Wakefield. There is full support for this and a focus to get this up and running to offer a service to the people of Wakefield.
- 5.19 The PCC stated that he expected to be able to report on the outcome of the national pilot on video evidence in courts to Panel in the near future.

5.20 RESOLVED

- 5.20.1 That the PCC meet with Bradford's Partnership locally to see what more can be done to improve feelings of safety locally.
- 5.20.2 That Panel receive a Paper on investigations and detection rates which explains the different outcomes and what is happening with the investigations review.

6. Commissioning and Granting Report

- 6.1 The PCC presented a paper which gave Panel an outline of the current commissioning process and future intentions along with more detail on some recently commissioned services.
- 6.2 The PCC was thanked for taking forward and reflecting the Panel's recommendations from the previous scrutiny review into commissioning services. The Panel commented that they are looking forward to having sight of the Strategy and Intentions Document in due course.
- 6.3 The OPCC Chief Executive stated that the review had been helpful and some of the issues have been picked up by the Joint Independent Audit Committee

7. 101/999 Call Handling Update

- 7.1 The PCC provided the Panel with an update on the Customer Contact Centred and call handling. The PCC commented that call handling for 999 call demand is absolutely excellent. There has been an increase in 999 demand which has also been seen at a national level and work is being undertaken to look at the reasons for this.
- 7.2 In West Yorkshire, there has been a slight decrease in 101 calls but as there are more 999 calls which take priority, there is less capacity to deal with them.
- 7.3 The PCC stated that the original concept for 101 was that it was to be a multi-agency offer and nationally PCC's are asking the Minister for this to be reconsidered.
- 7.4 There has been an increase in on-line contact and a campaign has been launched to encourage the use of other ways of contacting the police.

- 7.5 It was noted that the good weather has a serious impact on the volume of calls and as the weather is changing, demand has started to decrease. A combination of more complex calls, which take longer to deal with and staff inexperience have meant that call handlers have been generally able to manage less volume. Extra staff have been recruited including more experienced staff on a temporary basis including those on restricted duties. Some restructuring is being undertaken to manage peak times at the call centre.
- 7.6 As a high percentage of 101 calls relate to update requests on previous reports, the PCC was asked about the 'Track my crime' facility and asked if people could be channelled to use this. The PCC acknowledged that not enough people are aware of this and has agreed to fund a campaign to highlight it. It was also suggested that on contacting the call centre, the public should be told how to access 'track my crime' and perhaps this should be included as part of a scripted response.

7.5 RESOLVED

- 7.5.1 That the PCC continues to seek ways to improve keeping the public informed of progress on crimes and includes a scripted response on how to 'track my crime' upon calling the contact centre.

8. Police and Crime Plan Priority Focus – Missing People

- 8.1 Panel considered a report that provides a more detailed focus on the area of Missing Children. Missing people is high priority and a significant drain on police resources.
- 8.2 A significant element of missing people are looked after children. Multi-agency co-ordination is key on this area of work as it is not just a police issue. The PCC reported that they have undertaken a lot of work with local authorities around joint protocols.
- 8.3 A growing trend has been the increase of children's homes in our area and time has been spent looking at how these are managed and trying to identify reasons for repeat occurrences of missing children. This is a complex and challenging landscape and partnership working and sharing of intelligence is key to ensuring the safeguarding of these vulnerable young people.
- 8.4 Panel noted the PCCs close working with safeguarding boards for both adults and children and have established a WY wide group that brings those stakeholders together to work together and to share best practice.
- 8.5 The PCC commented that the long awaited National Protocol is still awaited. It is hoped that when this comes out it will encourage all agencies to address this issue as a collective approach in a similar way to that of mental health.
- 8.6 The PCC was asked about his role in collecting data on the numbers of places for looked after children. He clarified that data is collected from each district but it is not a

police matter. The PCC is trying to work with the local authorities to co-ordinate this to ensure that all parties have the relevant information about placed children. There are less children in custody now but that means that there is a need for more children to be looked after and kept safe.

8.7 It was noted that the local authorities in West Yorkshire are taking positive steps to get children placed in their own town and bringing them back from other areas, but not all other authorities are doing this and often the police are not informed.

8.8 To address the 25% that repeatedly go missing, a targeted approach is needed for a very specific cohort. The PCC was asked if there were any models elsewhere that have proved effective.

8.9 The PCC was asked about the actual figures that are spent on missing people compared to other crimes types to give some context and how the number of policing hours spent on this area compare to the number of police hours available to give this some context.

8.10 Panel were informed that there is data available on this as part of the Force Management Statement and it was agreed to look at this and come back to Panel with an estimated cost.

8.11 RESOLVED

8.11.1 That the Panel are provided with an estimated cost of the costs of dealing with missing people in the context of the rest of the workload.

9. Published Key Decisions

9.1 The published key decisions were noted.

10. Commissioner's Response to any Current Issues

10.1 Assaults on Emergency Workers Bill

The PCC reported that this will shortly receive Royal Assent and become law and he paid tribute to the Police Federation in West Yorkshire and Holly Lynch MP and others who were involved in the campaign to change the bill.

10.2 National Audit Office Financial Sustainability

The PCC pointed out the recent independent report which has been published which reinforces the case that there is not enough funding for policing. The report also highlights that the funding formula still hasn't been addressed and is still based on a formula from 20 years ago. Whilst the Home Office did start to review this almost four years ago, it was not completed and has yet to be undertaken.

10.3 It was agreed to circulate the link to this report to Panel members

10.4 Custody Areas at Elland Road and Wakefield

The PCC responded to recent reports in the media regarding the custody area at both Elland Road and Wakefield having been closed for urgent repairs. It was noted that the impact had been minimal as mothballed custody areas were being used in the meantime. Meetings have been held with the PFI provider Interserve about getting the facilities back up and running at no cost to the tax-payer.

10.5 Link Officer Roles

Panel members asked the PCC for progress on the links with the OPCC.

10.6 It was noted that link officers have now been identified and that meetings are being arranged for initial briefings. It was agreed to ensure that the meetings are arranged as soon as possible.

10.7 National Hate Crime Week

The PCC was asked about his plans for National Hate Crime Week. The PCC reported that as well as his on-going Hate Crime campaign, he has a number of activities that he will be promoting during Hate Crime week and agreed to forward details about them to Panel members.

10.8 RESOLVED

10.8.1 That the OPCC chase up the link officers to ensure contact is made with link Panel members as soon as possible.

10.8.2 That the PCC circulates information regarding activities he is promoting as part of National Hate Crime week.

11. Agreed Actions Log

11.1 The agreed actions log was noted; there were no outstanding actions of concern.

12. Forward Agenda Plan

12.1 The forward agenda plan was noted. It was suggested that it is National Hate Crime week in October, the next key priority focus could be on that topic.

13. Complaints Received by the Panel

13.1 It was noted that the Complaints Sub-Panel is waiting for a view from the PCC regarding a suggested informal resolution.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 There was no other business raised.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 9th November 2018 in the Kingsood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall.