



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2020, held via video conference**

- PRESENT:**
- Councillor Mohammed Iqbal (Chair) - Leeds City Council
  - Councillor Richard Dunbar - Bradford Council
  - Councillor Tariq Hussain - Bradford Council
  - Councillor Russell Brown - Bradford Council
  - Councillor Mohammed Naeem - Calderdale Council
  - Councillor Sophie Whittaker - Calderdale Council
  - Councillor Cahal Burke - Kirklees Council
  - Councillor Mark Thompson - Kirklees Council
  - Councillor Masood Ahmed - Kirklees Council
  - Councillor Amanda Carter - Leeds City Council
  - Councillor Peter Gruen - Leeds City Council
  - Councillor Stuart Heptinstall - Wakefield Council
  - Councillor Jacqueline Williams - Wakefield Council
  - Mrs Jo Sykes - Independent
  - Mr Roger Grasby - Independent
  
  - Mark Burns Williamson - Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Wendy Stevens - OPCC
  - Kelly Laycock - OPCC
  
  - Chief Constable John Robins - West Yorkshire Police
  - Deputy Chief Constable Russ Foster - West Yorkshire Police
  
  - Samantha Wilkinson - Wakefield Council
  - Caitlin Beever - Wakefield Council
  - Hilary Irving - Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence noted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held 17 July 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 urgent items to add to the agenda.

**4. Members' Declaration of Interests**

4.1 Declarations of interest were raised by Roger Grasby and Jo Sykes in relation to item 12. These were noted and declaration forms were issued to both members.

**5. Delivery Quarterly**

5.1 The PCC presented the Panel with an update in relation to the current delivery quarterly report covering April 2020 to June 2020. This included wider issues affecting performance and a consideration of the effectiveness of delivery measures within the police and crime plan during ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. It was highlighted that trends for recorded crime had been affected by the pandemic and that this should be noted when discussing the report.

5.2 A reduction in total crime recorded compared to the same time last year was noted, with the biggest reduction occurring in April 2020. The PCC informed the Panel that this was thought to be largely due to the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown and is comparable to that experienced nationally.

5.3 The Panel were informed that household crime had experienced a decrease over the quarter after a small increase previously. Personal crime continued to maintain stable levels as the previous year and would continue to be a key performance reporting measure.

5.4 Data from the Ministry of Justice around re-offending had been suspended due to the pandemic and the PCC informed the Panel that work was ongoing to look at these figures across the cohorts within West Yorkshire in order to continue some monitoring of this performance.

5.5 The "Your Views" survey remained suspended during the pandemic. A more focussed online survey ("Listening to you") was launched in order to gather information around issues under the lockdown restrictions. The Panel noted that the PCC hopes to re-launch the usual survey in October.

5.6 Numbers of missing persons remained low during the peak of the pandemic and data shows that these figures have remained low since the lifting of lockdown. Work continues with services around vulnerable adults and children to ensure previous recommendations are maintained. It was noted that the measure for repeat missing persons in adults and children provides a more comprehensive picture of the work in this area.

- 5.7 A slight increase in BAME representation in the workplace was noted and the PCC reiterated his commitment to increasing these numbers further in future recruitment drives. Work had been undertaken with a prominent barrister to understand the difference between positive action and positive discrimination to support the recruitment of a police force reflective of its community. It was also noted that the new police qualification in partnership with Leeds Trinity University will include a module on diversity training. Panel stressed the importance of a reflective number of BAME officers visibly working on the frontline rather than in the back office roles.
- 5.8 The Panel expressed concern to the PCC Following the report that West Yorkshire has the highest around Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and sought further information on this.
- 5.9 The PCC commented that West Yorkshire recording is outstanding in this area and comparisons with other forces were not straightforward. The PCC reassured the Panel that he and the Chief Constable continued to work closely with Local Authority Directors of Children’s Services and safeguarding teams to identify young people who were more at risk while not being in school and to work to protect the most vulnerable, including those in care. It was also noted that there had been a lot of work done in West Yorkshire to encourage the reporting of these offences. The PCC also informed the Panel that a further review of safeguarding work was due for completion in the near future and would be highlighted with frontline officers to ensure it remained high on priorities. Capacity to investigate such cases was noted on the last HMICFRS inspection as an area for improvement. Following this, engagement activity with staff had been ongoing to determine the best use of internal resource in the right place at the right time.
- 5.10 An increase in Anti-Social Behaviour was reported and the Panel were told that whilst some of this was Covid related, increases were also shown before the lockdown period and graphs demonstrated an increased perception of ASB since autumn of the previous year. Panel asked for further clarification around the proportion of cases that were linked to Covid. The PCC acknowledged that there was a challenge in separating ASB linked to Covid from non-Covid related offences. An upward trend in neighbour nuisance and motorbike relating offences had been identified during the lockdown period. As such, neighbourhood policing teams were working with the public on local problem solving approaches. It was noted that specialised off road teams were deployed where needed and this was done in partnership with local authorities to tackle hot spots of motorbike related offences.
- 5.11 Concerns around the decrease in Domestic Violence Protection Orders compared to figures the previous year were highlighted and the Panel sought further explanation for this.
- 5.12 The PCC confirmed that Domestic Violence Protection Orders had previously been piloted and had proved effective. A review of processes was currently underway and would give a more detailed picture of where resource was the most effective in order to shape future work on this.

- 5.13 The Panel expressed concern around the increase in fraud in the region and individuals who were new to using social media platforms since the pandemic being vulnerable to fraudulent activity.
- 5.14 The PCC noted a piece of ongoing work supporting vulnerable older people being targeted for fraud online and in their homes throughout the pandemic. Police had also increased social media around fraud awareness during the lockdown period. A community alert system launched by WYP was also highlighted as a free service the public could sign up for to receive regular crime prevention advice, including cyber related issues.
- 5.15 The Panel expressed concern over the increasing number of assaults on both the police and other emergency services. The rise in assaults where officers have been attacked when dealing with complaints related to the breaking of social distancing guidelines was also raised as a cause for concern.
- 5.16 The PCC agreed that the rising trend in officer assault was worrying. Services had worked with politicians to raise the issue and as a result had started the “Protect the Protectors” campaign. It was also noted that Government was looking at current legislation as it is thought that this is no longer the deterrent it once was.
- 5.17 Panel noted the revised delivery measures in the report which aims to provide a more realistic picture of the Police and Crime Plan delivery and the current climate.

## **RESOLVED**

- 5.18 That the PCC look further into data on ASB in order to break down the proportion of previous societal occurrences and ASB attributed to Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown.
- 5.19 That the PCC provide further information around the percentage of Domestic Violence Protection Orders that had been breached.

## **6. Police and Crime Plan Refresh**

- 6.1 The PCC provided an update to the Panel on the refreshed Plan at a glance and how this framework, and the Needs Assessment would inform the refresh of the full plan.
- 6.2 In light of the pandemic and other events, further changes to outcomes, priorities and measures within the Police and Crime Plan were required and the PCC provided an overview of this to the Panel. In addition to this, the Panel were informed that the plan would be revised to better align current positions due to the impact of Covid and would reflect the need to change and improve criminal justice. The refresh would provide a transition pending the election of a West Yorkshire Mayor in May 2021 as it is anticipated that the function of the PCC would align with the Mayor.
- 6.3 The outcome ‘Working to improve criminal justice’ had been refreshed to better reflect what could be achieved by the partnership working between the PCC and the Criminal Justice System environment. The priority around ‘Radicalisation’ had also been

amended to become countering terrorism in order to better reflect the wider working in this area and the challenges faced by the PCC and key partners.

- 6.4 The Panel provided feedback on the plan at a glance, commenting that the BAME target could provide a more comprehensive view if it were changed to include the visibility of BAME officers in BAME communities and should link to targets around operational front line policing to ensure that frontline officers were reflective of the communities they served. The Panel also proposed an inclusion of performance targets relating to the speed of implementation of recommendations following inspections.
- 6.5 The PCC noted feedback and assured the Panel that it would be taken into consideration when drafting the final report.

## **RESOLVED**

- 6.6 That the PCC consider amending the performance target ‘to increase visibility of frontline officers’ to include the proportion of BAME officers on the frontline to be reflective of the communities they serve.

## **7. PEEL Inspections**

- 7.1 The PCC provided the Panel with an update in relation to addressing the causes for concern previously highlighted for improvement and the process going forward.
- 7.2 The Panel were informed that the force received good assessments in Effectiveness (Good), Efficiency (Outstanding), and Legitimacy (Good). The PCC noted that there were some areas of concern underneath these pillars with additional elements made under these headings and that these were as follows:
- The quality and supervision of criminal investigations, particularly those involving very vulnerable victims.
  - The need to increase capability and capacity to effectively and proactively counter potential corruption within its workforce.
- 7.3 Panel welcomed the improved rating from ‘good’ to ‘outstanding’ on Efficiency.
- 7.4 The PCC explained to the Panel that future inspections would be undertaken using a different framework comprising of 3 clusters with 11 core areas. The 3 clusters would be entitled; Operational Assessment; Organisational Assessment; and Service User Assessment. The PCC noted that changes to future inspections should result in more timely reports and enable the police to react quicker to recommendations made. The Panel informed the PCC that they would have liked to see more information included in the report explaining the actions being taken to address the recommendation
- 7.5 The Panel challenged the PCC as to why “How well does the force ensure that its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully” had been downgraded since the previous inspection from good to requiring improvement. That the measure on “How effective is the force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending” had received a “requires improvement” grade for two years was also raised as a cause of concern for the Panel.

- 7.6 The PCC assured the Panel that work had been underway for some time, since a de-brief following the inspection, to ensure the workforce behaved ethically and lawfully and noted that there had been some inward investment to address this, in addition to a number of benchmarking exercises against other forces to ensure adequate resources were in place. Robust action had been taken against a small number of individual officers who had transgressed in certain instances.
- 7.7 The Deputy Chief Constable informed the Panel that an HMICFRS improvement board had been established following the low grading around investigating crime and reducing re-offending. Issues around capacity in the counter corruption division and the security and monitoring of IT systems had been addressed via a gold group that had been engaged with the service. HMICFRS had also been invited to a gold group meeting to provide reassurance that monitoring systems were in place. It was noted that HMICFRS have now noted this cause for concern as complete.
- 7.8 The PCC reported that the HMICFRS were to do inspections on some Force's handling of the Covid situation and that West Yorkshire would be one of those inspected.

## **8. Commissioner's response to any current issues**

- 8.1 The PCC highlighted the changes to government restrictions which were to commence from the following Monday, reducing the meeting of two households to 6 people or less both indoors and outdoors. The PCC informed the Panel that work would be ongoing to understand the implementation of the new legislation and the implications for the police.
- 8.2 The PCC also informed Panel of the latest Safer Communities Fund round with bids closing mid-October.

## **9. Published Key Decisions**

- 9.1 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. Panel members noted an increased number of items on the plan and it was agreed that the October private panel meeting be utilised in part as a full Panel meeting in order to allow due consideration over each item.

## **RESOLVED**

11.2 That an additional meeting in public be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to consider additional business.

### **12. Independent Panel Member Recruitment**

- 12.1 A report was provided to Panel members on the position regarding the term of appointment for the two Independent Panel members. The report provided background information around the open recruitment process of Independent Co-opted Panel Members. It was noted that the current independent members had been recruited in line with the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner in October 2016 for a period of 4 years, meaning that a recruitment process would have been due to commence to appoint Independent Members in October 2020.
- 12.2 In light of recent developments regarding a West Yorkshire devolution deal, proposals had been made that part of this deal would include the role of the PCC under the responsibility of the new Mayor after elections in May 2021. At the annual meeting in June 2020, Panel Members were made aware of discussions to extend the Independent Member role in line with extensions given to elected members and the PCC role until elections in May 2021.

## **RESOLVED**

12.3 Panel Members approved the postponement of a recruitment campaign for the Independent Panel member roles and endorsed the extension of existing appointments until at least May 2021.

### **13. Complaints received by the Panel**

- 13.1 The Panel were provided with a complaints update report which outlined the assessment of a conduct complaint submitted to the Panel in March 2020. It was noted that the complaint in question had been escalated to the IOPC who had responded that there was no indication of a criminal offence and referred the matter back to the PCP.
- 13.2 In line with Panel procedures a Complaints Sub-Panel was established in order to consider the matter. After a number of meetings and upon receipt of further information, the Panel concluded that there was no evidence of fault by the PCC.
- 13.3 The Complaints Chair for the Panel noted that a review of record and data retention policies and procedures of the OPCC had been undertaken and that improvements had been identified and that no further action was required.

## **RESOLVED**

13.4 Panel noted the outcome of the Complaints Sub-Panel decision.

**14. Any Other Business**

14.1 No other business was raised.

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

16.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10 am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October via video conference.