



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Wakefield Town Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
Councillor Russell Brown	- Bradford Council
Councillor Peter Gruen	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Mohammed Naeem	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Charlotte Goodwin	- Kirklees Council
Councillor Stuart Heptinstall	- Wakefield Council
Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Tolson	- Wakefield Council
Clair Parker	- Wakefield Council
Caitlin Beever	- Wakefield Council
Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council

***Mark Burns-Williamson the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire attended the meeting, along with Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Russ Foster and Jayne Sykes Interim OPCC Chief Executive.***

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from Jo Sykes, Councillor Mark Thompson and Councillor Masood Ahmed. Apologies were also received from Chief Constable John Robins.

**2. Minutes of the Meetings held 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

2.1 Subject to a minor amendment around the attendance, 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.

#### **5. Use of Bail – Post Implementation Review**

5.1 The PCC presented the findings of a post implementation review on the use of bail to the panel. It was noted that the use of bail had been discussed at a number of previous panel meetings due to changes within the Bail act.

5.2 It was noted that HMICFRS would be undertaking a thematic inspection nationally of practice following changes to the Act, which, although West Yorkshire had not been selected to be part of this, would provide learning and potential additional changes. It was also noted that the PCC has commissioned an internal audit of this process locally in the near future.

5.3 The Panel challenged the PCC on the proportionate use of bail within West Yorkshire, citing that when previously raised in 2015, West Yorkshire had the highest rate for pre-charge bail. The panel expressed concerns around the disproportionate restrictions placed on certain individuals on bail and the effect of this in later life.

5.4 (T) DCC Russ Foster reassured the Panel that criteria for bail are set on a magistrate and authority level with conditions extended to RUI to ensure quicker, more efficient timescales of investigation. The PCC also assured the Panel that this would be considered in the future scheduled internal audit.

5.5 It was also noted that the Metropolitan Police are currently working to lobby for changes to be made to the RUI process to address concerns raised around victim vulnerability.

5.6 The Panel enquired around the number of instances identified through dip sampling whereby the explanations for the extended period of time taken for a case to be investigated has been lacking in detail. (T) DCC Foster sought to reassure the Panel that these cases were under regular scrutiny and review and that work is currently underway to explore a technical solution to automatically update records, including for individuals on progress of their case.

#### **5.7 RESOLVED**

5.7.1 That the PCC provide further detail around the dip sampling of use of pre-charge bail and RUI referenced within the report to a future Panel meeting.

#### **6. PCC's Annual Report 2018/19**

6.1 The PCC presented his annual report to the Panel, noting a number of key achievements and challenges during the 12 months, including:

- 6.1.1. Key issues around serious violence and violent crime.
  - 6.1.2. The publication of a Reducing Reoffending Strategy.
  - 6.1.3. A brief summary of his year as Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, which had provided him with the opportunity to influence policy and highlight the needs of West Yorkshire communities.
  - 6.1.4. Highlights from the Safer Communities Fund, which the Panel had received a detailed report around at its AGM.
  - 6.1.5. Continued delivery around victims services and the Independent Custody Visitor Scheme.
- 6.2 The Panel welcomed the annual report, which they thought was well written and considered, and reflected key successes and activity over the past year. Concern was expressed around the lack of data (including information around stop and search disproportionality) contained in the report and the Panel felt this might be viewed as a lack of transparency by members of the public. The Panel also challenged the PCC on the lack of resource data provided in the report.
- 6.3 The PCC noted the Panel's concerns and provided reassurance that these would be considered before the report was published. Members were also advised that a public version of the Force Management Statement was due to be released in September.
- 6.4 Members also raised a concern regarding the provision of information to elected members in local areas, and how this detail can vary depending on the Neighbourhood Inspector in post.
- 6.5 RESOLVED**
- 6.5.1 The PCC to consider the inclusion of additional data in the annual report as set out at point 6.2.
  - 6.5.2 The PCC to circulate details around the Community Alert system.

## **7. OPCC Organisational Review and Holding to Account Arrangements Update**

- 7.1 Jayne Sykes (Interim OPCC Chief Executive) presented an update on the OPCC organisational review and the PCC's holding to account arrangements. The review had highlighted that a number of changes to the organisational structure were required, and recruitment had taken place to fill the roles outlined in the report.
- 7.2 The Panel was also notified that a review of the Community Outcomes Meetings and the Delivery Quarterly process had been undertaken to ensure complimentary and not duplication of effort took place, and that sufficient time was given to scrutiny of the Police and Crime Plan outcomes and priorities in the most appropriate setting.
- 7.3 Panel members were advised that a further post-implementation review of arrangements will take place.

## **8. Published Key Decisions**

8.1 The published key decisions were noted.

## **9. Commissioner's Response to any Current Issues**

9.1 The PCC informed the Panel that £3.37m in funding had been notionally allocated to West Yorkshire as part of the Government's aim to reduce serious violence. It was noted that this was allocated as "in year spend" and that a response to the bid submitted should be expected by the end of July 2019.

9.2 The Panel queried how the funding would be spent and requested clarification of the split between resource and projects that the funding will support. The Panel also sought reassurance that the aim to tackle of knife crime in West Yorkshire also lent focus to those at risk in minority communities such as the LGBT community.

9.3 The PCC reassured the Panel that a large proportion of the funding is expected to be spent on outcomes rather than to support staffing resources, with best practise models being considered, such as the model used in Glasgow.

9.4 The PCC sought to reassure the Panel that whilst hate crime figures had risen, it is thought that this is largely as a result of an increase in confidence to report crimes and an increased awareness of hate crime throughout West Yorkshire. Panel members also heard that an increase in "on the ground" officers has resulted in higher visibility throughout the region with funding from the Home office providing 1600 officers deployed into "hotspot" locations, 220 uniformed officers deployed into city centre areas at peak evening times (weekends) and most recently, 372 arrests throughout the region in relation to violent crime / domestic knife crime.

9.5 The PCC also informed Panel members that, following government consultation, a Public Health duty had been created to tackle serious violence, which may require amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act and have an impact for Community Safety Partnerships. A Government announcement is awaited on the more specific details around this new duty.

9.6 The Panel heard that West Yorkshire Police will take part in a national project aimed at encouraging members of the public to surrender firearms in July/early August, with the aim of reducing the number of firearms being used in criminal activity.

9.7 Updates continue to be disseminated between partners to keep them informed of any disruption in Leeds arising from the recent Extinction Rebellion protest. It was reported that levels of disruption so far were low in comparison to other areas where protests were being staged.

## **10. Agreed Actions Log**

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

**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 were no new complaints recorded. It was noted that the only current recorded complaint ongoing is nearing resolution.

**13. Any Other Business**

13.1 The PCC informed the Panel that through his national role he had been liaising with the Association of Police, Crime and Fire Panels.

13.2 It was noted from recent attendance at the Local Government Association conference that West Yorkshire continues to be in a strong position as a Panel.

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

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.