

**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**17th July 2020, held via video conference**

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

Councillor Richard Dunbar - Bradford Council

Councillor Tariq Hussain - 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

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

* 1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Russell Brown from Bradford Council due to technical problems.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held 12 June 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 No declarations of interest were given.

**5. PCC Commissioning Update**

5.1 The PCC provided the Panel with an update on his commissioning strategy and the current approach to commissioning.

5.2 The commissioning strategy sets out the principles, approach and framework that is used to ensure that all commissioning decisions are undertaken openly and transparently, and are informed and supported by evidence.

5.3 Julia Clough, Head of Commissioning for the OPCC provided the panel with details about the work that has been undertaken to review, improve and update practices including the use of a commissioning toolkit and an Internal Commissioning Group.

5.4 The PCC provided further information about the additional work that has been undertaken to ensure business continuity around commissioned services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional funding of almost half a million pounds has also been made available within a very short time to adapt and provide additional services to some organisations for additional services in areas such as domestic abuse and sexual violence support services where there has been an increase in demand during the pandemic.

5.5 There is also some additional emergency funding that has recently been announced and will be made available to small charities and the PCC is about to sign off the allocations.

5.6 The PCC provided an update on the West Yorkshire Perpetrator programme which has been commissioned and is currently being implemented. WY has a well recognised programme known as the CARA programme and workshops will commence in the Autumn.

5.7 Julia Clough informed Panel of the work that the significant challenges and some opportunities that have been identified going forward, some as a consequence of the current pandemic. It is expected that there will be an increased need in provision through West Yorkshire.

5.8 Whilst the MoJ did indicate that they were considering multi-year funding from Spring 2021, this is now looking increasingly uncertain. Multi-year funding would enable more robust and shaped services going forward and a 2 year funding period has been made available for ISVA’s but the position is still unclear for other funding going forward.

5.8 The Panel expressed concern about short term contract periods for providers and queried how the PCC is working to provide longer funding term opportunities in line with previous recommendations resulting from the Panel’s scrutiny review of commissioned services.

5.9 The PCC reassured the Panel that this is a principle that they do try to follow and that longer term funding had been implemented on a number of large commissioned services with extensions to these contracts agreed based on a number of criteria.

5.10 Further negotiations on more multi-year funding and a range of different contract extension options are being entered, but there are particular difficulties if the funding is via ‘grant funding’.

5.11 Panel were informed of opportunities in co-commissioning with NHS England as well as the future release of the dynamic commissioning framework for Probation services. Some elements of the Probation framework are expected to sit with PCC’s and the Panel will continue to be updated on these developments are work goes forward.

5.12 The Panel sought further reassurance around how success would be measured for the work undertaken that had been funded through the additional money provided to support services at pace during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.13 The PCC informed the Panel that he had successfully lobbied Government for additional time to distribute the additional ‘small charities’ allocations to enable as much due diligence as possible.

5.14 It was also noted that work is ongoing to map the successes of the work through this funding. This funding is emergency funding and as such some a key measure of success will be that victims are supported and that some of these small charities are able to survive and continue working throughout the pandemic where they may otherwise have had to close. The funding only runs to 31st October and there are concerns for many of these organisations going forward.

5.15 Thanks were expressed to the PCC, Julia and the Chief Constable for the work and focus around commissioning particularly for victims of DA and sexual abuse during the pandemic.

5.16 The Panel sought further information on whether the PCC had any concerns around whether future funding for commissioning would be negatively affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.16 The PCC commented that he does have concerns about the impact on funding going forward for these types of services and for policing in general. It was noted that the PCC would continue to work through the APCC to lobby to ensure that there will be adequate funding for victims services going forward. The PCC also warned of his concerns of a squeeze on the funding which he has continued to passport through to CSP’s going forward.

5.17 The PCC was asked for his views on what elements of the new model of probation services that the PCC expects to have control when the new process is rolled out and whether he was happy that he has an adequate level of influence into the arrangements.

5.18 The PCC stated that he welcomes a change to the provision of services which is expected to bring them back under a single probation services. The PCC commented that he currently Chairs a Yorkshire and Humber Reducing Re-offending Partnership and as such has a good amount of influence, however, constraints come about as a result of the level of funding from the centre.

5.19 It was noted that the finer details are currently being worked out but they will be looking for PCC areas to co-commission and delivery-commission specific services through what is called the dynamic framework. Some areas are already available on the portal where it is hoped that third party and other sectors will bid for work.

5.20 The challenge at the moment is to understand the PCC’s relationship around the co-commissioning which the PCC and office are keen to have a role in. It is expected that the position will be clearer in the next few weeks and partners will soon be able to bid for work.

5.21 The PCC stated that it should not be underestimated the amount of work that is required to bring the services back together

**6. Report of the PCC on the Response to COVID-19**

6.1 The PCC provided the Panel with an update on the response to COVID-19 including the impact on the role of the police following the government’s further lifting of lockdown measures.

6. The PCC reported that he continues to Chair the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and improvements have been made in relation to back dated cases. The PCC is working with LCJB partners to explore other ways of ensuring the catch-up and continuation of trials such as the possibility of using additional buildings outside of the court estate to facilitate an increase of trials and holding court on Saturday’s.

6.4 The PCC highlighted the opening of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and noted that work continued to open the live link facility for this centre. Panel were also informed of work done with Community Safety Partnerships during Safeguarding week in June.

6.5 The Panel were also informed that the PCC had been for additional funding for the West Yorkshire based charity BRAKE and that this had been successful and would support the work of the organisation to provide support to families of victims of serious road incidents.

6.6 Operation Jinman continues in response to COVID-19 and data around this is made publicly available on the PCC’s website. Comparators for fixed penalty notices across the UK were noted and the Panel were informed that West Yorkshire continue to use: Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce to police under the new COVID-19 regulations.

6.7 The Panel heard that the COVID-19 survey continued to be distributed to residents in order to help determine the challenges across the district and help to support the police response to the pandemic.

6.8 The Panel queried policing roles should a possible local lockdown occur and the enforcement of upcoming regulations to wear a face mask in shops.

6.9 The PCC reassured the Panel that contact had been made with the PCC of Leicester in light of their local lockdown and that Chief Constable John Robins had also made contact with his counterpart in order to seek “lessons learned” and understand how the local lockdown had been enforced to provide a basis on which West Yorkshire Police may operate should a local lockdown come into effect.

6.10 The PCC confirmed that the enforcement of regulations for face coverings would be regulated by business owners and the licensing authority but that WYP would continue to use the “Four E’s” to work with the public to support the use of facemasks.

6.11 The Panel queried how both the PCC and the CC were supporting staff who were currently working from home to return to work in main offices and how both the PCC and the CC envisioned future working arrangements to continue.

6.12 The PCC and the CC confirmed that support to staff continued to be provided. A number of lessons learnt had been taken from agile working practises put in place and it was noted that these would be taken into future consideration.

6.13 The Panel sought reassurance around how the West Yorkshire Police were working with the public to dispel large gatherings that were taking place on public land whilst under the COVID-19 restrictions.

6.14 The CC reassured the Panel that officers continued to work to dispel large gatherings and that they continued to liaise with licensing authorities to ensure that crowds were dispersed in the most appropriate way. The CC noted that support was provided to all officers who may have received public abuse during crowd dispersals and that the health and wellbeing of officers continued to be a priority of the force.

6.15 The Panel sought further information around the capacity of the force during the pandemic in light of a number of reductions in certain crime areas.

6.16 The PCC informed the Panel that the Police had been undertaking pro-active policing, reinforcing neighbourhood policing in order to provide reassurance to communities. COVID-19 related policing was also noted to take capacity from the force.

6.17 The Panel queried the cost of the COVID-19 response and how the PCC could provide assurance to the Panel that future funding would not face significant setbacks as a result of this spend.

6.18 The PCC reassured the Panel that all COVID-19 related costs had been submitted to government as part of an audit trail. It was noted that the PCC had undertaken a number of calls with the Policing Minister who had intimated that the majority of these costs would be refunded.

**7. Serious Violence Update**

7.1 The PCC provided the Panel with an update on serious violence and the surge funded activity from West Yorkshire Police.

7.2 The PCC confirmed that further funding had been received for this financial year to support the Violence Reduction Unit based on mandated deliverables including the drafting of an action plan/response strategy for violence prevention, and a problem profile/needs assessment to inform strategic and operational decision making.

7.3 The PCC commented that he is making representation for the future continuation of funding and that it is essential that there is a longer-term multi-agency approach to ensure lasting interventions.

7.4 Delivery initiatives for the financial year 2020/21 will target ongoing work with the five Community Safety Partnerships and front line delivery working with the third sector. It was noted that 16,000 young people across West Yorkshire had been reached through intervention in the five months of the programme funded through the Serious Violence grants.

7.5 Comparable data since the earliest interventions showed positive outcomes with good reductions in knife enabled robbery and crime. Panel queried if the data had been significantly impacted due to the current pandemic.

7.6 Panel were assured that this data had been analysed and was clearly on an improving trajectory. There was confidence that improvements were due to surge funding and the pro-active district activity. It was also confirmed that figures contained in the serious violence update report were largely pre-COVID with only the last 2 weeks of data being within the lockdown period.

7.7 The PCC was asked about the continuation of the project model with the possibility that no further government funding was received.

7.8 The PCC confirmed that this was an issue that had previously been raised with the CC and would be something that would be monitored in order to provide a balance between the continued funding of the project and the funding of other police initiatives.

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

8.1 The PCC informed the Panel that a meeting of the National PCC’s had taken place the previous week and that discussion was largely around funding and the comprehensive spending review. New Permanent Secretary, Matthew Rycroft attended as a key note speaker, as did the Policing Minister Robert Buckland. It was also noted that the Secretary of State for Justice was in attendance.

8.2 The PCC was asked if he could provide an update to the Panel on the Black Lives

Matters issues and related issues across the force.

8.3 The PCC responded to say that he had already asked the Chief Constable to look at these issues in more detail. Some of the issues were covered at the last COM meeting and so the PCC would pull a report together to give an update at the September meeting.

**8.4 RESOLVED**

That the PCC provide a report to the September on BLM/BAME issues

**9. Published Key Decisions**

9.1 Published Key Decisions were noted.

**10. Agreed Actions Log**

10.1 The action log was noted. Panel requested that timescales be determined for actions on the log marked *“TBA”.*

**10.2 RESOLVED**

10.3 That Panel Support officers and PCC officers finalise target dates for actions on the log marked *“TBA”.*

**11. Forward Agenda Plan**

11.1 The forward agenda plan was noted.

**12. Complaints received by the Panel**

12.1 The Panel noted the complaints report received.

**13. Complaints Chair Appointment**

13.1 The Panel received nominations for the role of Complaints Chair for the Panel.

13.2 Jo Sykes was nominated by Cllr Mohamed Naeem from Calderdale for the role of Complaints Chair for the Panel. This was seconded by Cllr Cahal Burke from Kirklees.

**13.3 RESOLVED**

13.4 That Jo Sykes, be appointed to the role of Complaints Chair for the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

**14. Police and Crime Panel Budget Outcome 2019/20 and Draft Budget 2020/21**

14.1 The Panel noted the outturn funding position for the Panel for 2019/20 and agreed the Police and Crime Panel draft budget for 2020/21 with no local authority contribution for 2020/21.

**15. Any Other Business**

15.1 Panel were informed that the annual PCP conference would to take place again in Warwick in November and that Panel members should notify support officers of their interest should they wish to attend.

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

16.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00 am on Friday, 11th September 2020, in The Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall or via video-conference to be confirmed nearer the time.