



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

10 June 2016, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
Councillor Andrew Mallinson	- Bradford Council
Councillor Steve Pullen	- Bradford Council
Councillor Chris Pearson	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Steve Sweeney	- Calderdale Council
Councillor Mumtaz Hussain	- Kirklees MBC
Councillor Linda Wilkinson	- Kirklees MBC
Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Josephine Jarosz	- 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:

Emma Duckett	- City of Wakefield MDC
Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC
Liz Ogden	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Appointment of Chair / Vice Chair

RESOLVED

1.1.1 That Councillor Alison Lowe (Leeds City Council) be appointed Chair for the period to May 2017.

1.1.2 That Councillor Alan Wassell (City of Wakefield MDC) be appointed Vice-Chair for the period to May 2017.

2. Police and Crime Panel Membership

2.1 Following the start of the new civic year, Panel considered the changes to its membership

2.2 RESOLVED

- 2.2.1 That the Panel notes and accepts the 10 local authority nominations.**
- 2.2.2 That the Panel notes and accepts the two independent co-opted members.**
- 2.2.3 That the Panel accepts the nomination from the City of Bradford MDC of Councillor Steve Pullen and Councillor Chris Pearson from Calderdale MDC as a local authority co-opted members.**
- 2.2.4 That on behalf of the Panel, the Chair writes to the outgoing members thanking them for all their efforts and contributions to the work of the Panel so far.**

3. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 All members were present therefore no apologies were submitted.

4. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct and Business

- 4.1 The Panel considered the Panel Procedures and Protocols

RESOLVED

- 4.1.1 The Panel endorsed the existing Panel Procedures and Protocols with no change at this time.**

5. a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

b) Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.

6. To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency.

- 6.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no items to add to the agenda.

7. Members' Declaration of Interests

- 7.1 Both Roger Grasby and Jo Sykes declared an interest for item 8 – Police and Crime Panel Budget – due to the reference to the payment of allowances to Independent Panel Members.

8. Police and Crime Panel Budget 2015/16 and draft 2016/17

- 8.1 The Panel noted the budget outturn for 2015/16 and agreed the draft budget for 2016/17.
- 8.2 It was noted that as a condition of the Home Office grant payment agreement, PCP's must publish details of all their expenditure; this will include details of all panel administration costs and individual panel member claims for expenses and allowances.

9. Complaints

9.1 Revised Complaints and Misconduct Procedure

- 9.1.1 The Panel considered the revised Complaints and Misconduct Procedure. Panel were informed that there were some minor changes required to finalise the document. Panel agreed that officers should make the final amendments and the revised document would then be adopted.

RESOLVED

- 9.1.2 **That officers make the final amendments and adopt the revised procedures.**

9.2 Complaints Received by the Panel

- 9.2.1 Panel noted the current position regarding complaints against the Commissioner.
- 9.2.2 Councillor Wassell encouraged members to put themselves forward to sit on the Complaints-Sub-Panel when the need arises.

10. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2016

- 10.1 The Panel's forward agenda plan was noted. It was agreed to set a series of dates for 2017 following the private Panel meeting on 1st July.
- 10.2 Whilst all members would be welcomed to attend, it was agreed to use the first hour of the private meeting as an induction for new members.

Mark Burns-Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire attended the meeting for items 11-17 with Isabel Owen, the proposed Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Lauren Wray and Neil Flenley from the OPCC.

11. Confirmation Hearing – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

- 11.1 In line with current legislation, the Police and Crime Panel is required to hold a 'confirmation hearing' for certain senior appointments, including that of the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC).
- 11.2 The Panel asked questions of the candidate which focussed on her competency to undertake the role of Deputy Commissioner based on the criteria contained within the job specification provided by the Commissioner. This line of questioning was used to enable Panel Members to evaluate her suitability for the role.
- 11.3 The candidate was offered the opportunity to introduce herself to the panel and elaborate on her skills and experience which made her suitable for the post.
- 11.4 The candidate was asked a series of questions covering the following themes:
- Successes in her previous term as DPCC
 - Relationships within the OPCC
 - Experience of partnership working and how the candidate could better engage with diverse community groups.
 - Consideration of the main challenges and opportunities for the role balanced against the financial position faced by the force and OPCC
- 11.5 The Panel welcomed Ms Owen's responses to the line of questioning and in particular were assured by her:
- Commitment to partnership working and her desire to strengthen and build on existing partnerships
 - Desire to look for new and innovative ways of engaging with the public
 - Recognition of the need to strengthen engagement with diverse communities and groups
- 11.6 On the basis of the information provided by the Commissioner and the discussions held within the Confirmation Hearing, the Panel considered their recommendation to the Commissioner in relation to the appointment of the preferred candidate to the role of DPCC for West Yorkshire.
- 11.7 A vote was taken on the motion to recommend the appointment of Ms Isabel Owen to the role of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

11.8 There was a majority vote in favour of Ms Owen being appointed to the position.

RESOLVED:

11.8.1 That the proposed candidate, Ms Isabel Owen be recommended to be appointed to the position of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

12. Memorandum of Understanding

12.1 Panel and the Commissioner agreed that the Draft MoU and its constituent protocols which articulate the suggested working practises between the Commissioner and the Panel, be revisited by officers with a view to formal agreement in the near future.

RESOLVED

12.1.1 That officers from the PCP and OPCC revisit the protocols with a view to the Panel and Commissioner signing up to them in the near future.

13. Police and Crime Plan – Update from the PCC

13.1 The Commissioner updated members on his plans to produce a new Police and Crime Plan running from 2016 – 2021.

13.2 Panel noted that the Commissioner has embarked on a consultation exercise which will run throughout the summer until September, using various methods of engagement with the public and other organisations. A considerable number of partners, including the Police and Crime Panel, will be approached to engage with the OPCC during the consultation stage of the process.

13.3 The first draft of the Plan will be developed during September and will then be shared with partners including the Police and Crime Panel.

13.4 The Panel is required to review and make recommendations on the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan.

13.5 The Commissioner was keen for local authority members to share details of the consultation exercise with any groups that they have contact with. Both electronic and hard copy information is available to suit different audiences.

13.6 Panel noted that in an effort to engage more young people, a youth advisory group has been established and they are being encouraged to generate more youth contact.

14. Quarterly Performance Update

- 14.1 The Commissioner presented a report detailing Force performance during the 12 months to 31 March 2016.
- 14.2 Members noted that whilst there had been a 28% increase in total crime over the period, a large proportion of this was attributed to greater compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). The Commissioner stated that the Force had undertaken some analysis in an attempt to quantify the real increase in crime, which is estimated to be around 4.5%. Over the quarter to 31 March 2016, there had been no increase in total crime suggesting the impact of crime data integrity is beginning to level out.
- 14.3 The Commissioner outlined to the Panel the processes the Force has now adopted to ensure better compliance to NCRS. Members noted that crime data integrity remained a priority for West Yorkshire Police and internal audits were regularly carried out with all activity overseen by the Crime Data Integrity Gold Group. The Commissioner added that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) would be undertaking ad-hoc inspections of all forces on crime data integrity.
- 14.4 The Commissioner went on to say that there had been some notable increases in arson and possession of weapons.

15. Published Key Decisions

- 15.1 Panel noted the published key decisions.

16. Agreed Actions Log

- 16.1 The agreed actions were noted. It was further noted that there were no outstanding issues of concern.

17. Commissioner's Response to any current issues

17.1 Police Officer Recruitment

- 17.1.2 The Commissioner updated the Panel on the current Police Officer recruitment process.
- 17.1.3 The Commissioner outlined the actions that have been undertaken to encourage applicants from BME backgrounds, which includes a positive action workshop, mentoring and buddying. The Commissioner reported that in the latest batch of applications, the percentage of BME applicants was 20%.

17.1.4 Panel asked what percentage of BME applicants had been successful and what percentage were BME women. The Commissioner agreed to let Panel know and this would be included as part of the more detailed update at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

17.1.5 That the Commissioner provides further detail as to the number of successful BME applications and the percentage of BME women who have applied to be Police Officers.

17.2 Orgreave Inquiry

17.2.1 The Commissioner reported to the Panel that he had held discussions with Alan Billings, the South Yorkshire Commissioner, about a new inquiry into the so called Battle of Orgreave. The Commissioner informed Panel that he has made public statements supporting a proper new inquiry.

17.3 Review of OPCC

17.3.1 The Commissioner confirmed that a full review of the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is now underway.

17.4 Police Restraint Methods

17.4.1 With reference to the recent IPCC report condemning the excessive methods of restraint on a young girl with autism by Sussex Police; the Commissioner was asked if restraining equipment is held by West Yorkshire Police and if so, how often have these been used.

17.4.2 The Commissioner agreed that the actions by Sussex Police were inhuman and degrading. He agreed to seek a response from West Yorkshire Police on the IPCC report into Sussex.

RESOLVED

17.4.3 That the Commissioner provide the Panel with a response from West Yorkshire Police on the IPCC report into Sussex.

17.5 Disciplinary Hearings in Public

17.5.1 In light of the first Police disciplinary hearing held in public in North Yorkshire recently, the Commissioner was asked whether similar disciplinary hearings will be held in public in West Yorkshire and if so, will the dates of such be publicised.

17.5.2 The Commissioner confirmed that he wants West Yorkshire to comply with the legislation around disciplinary hearings and agreed to bring a full report to a future meeting on what actions West Yorkshire Police will be taking.

RESOLVED

17.5.3 The Commissioner to bring a full report to a future Panel meeting about what actions West Yorkshire Police will be taking around disciplinary hearings for senior Police Officers held in public.

18. Any Other Business

18.1 Home Office Correspondence – Changing the Title of PCCS who take on responsibility for Fire and Rescue

18.1.1 The Panel was informed of correspondence that had been received the previous day, from the Home Office. The correspondence seeks views on proposals to change the name of PCC's that take on responsibility for fire and rescue to 'Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner', the corresponding PCP would be renamed 'Police, Fire and Crime Panel'. This is only in the event that a PCC takes on these additional responsibilities.

18.1.2 The Panel were happy with the Minister's proposed changes to the name for any PCC and corresponding PCP, that takes on the responsibility for fire and rescue.

RESOLVED

18.1.3 The that Minister for State for Policing, Fire, Criminal Justice and Victims be informed of the West Yorkshire PCP's support for a change in name to the PCC and PCP where appropriate.

IN PRIVATE

19. Review of Complaint's Sub-Panel Decision

19.1 The full Panel was asked to review the decision of the Complaints Sub-Panel in relation to a complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner. The complainant's advocate asked for a review of the Complaints Sub-Panel's decision not to uphold Mr X's complaint about the Police and Crime Commissioner.

19.2 The full Panel reviewed the information considered by the Complaint's Sub-Panel relating to the complaint and considered the process that had been undertaken to arrive at their decision.

19.3 After considering all of the information provided, the full Panel unanimously agreed that:

- The Complaints Sub-Panel had followed the legislation and the Panel's complaints processes correctly in seeking to address Mr X's complaint
- No findings by the Sub-Panel on any elements of the complaint which were not upheld were changed by the full Panel.

RESOLVED

19.4. That the original decision by the Complaint's Sub-Panel be upheld. The full Police and Crime Panel's decision is final and the matter is now closed.

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting

20.1 The next meeting will be held on Friday, 15th July 2016 in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.