**Friday April 11th, 2014**

**Jonathan Skinner**

**jskinner@wakefield.gov.uk**

**01924 305191**

**Item 7**

**Wakefield Suite, Wakefield One**

**The Commissioner’s actions in light of the review of the use of long-term police bail in West Yorkshire**

**1. Summary**

* 1. In May 2013, analysis by the BBC found that West Yorkshire Police had the highest proportion of people held on long-term police bail. This item provides the opportunity for the Police and Crime Commissioner to update the Panel on what action he has taken alongside the Chief Constable, following the commitments made to the Panel in June 2013.

**2. Background**

* 1. Long-term police bail was defined by the researchers as over 6-months (180 days). 77% of forces responded to the FOI request and 22 of those forces had at least one person on police bail for six months or longer. The absolute numbers are shown below:



* 1. The table below shows the total number of people on police bail, as well as those on long-term police bail in terms of the size of the population for West Yorkshire and its most similar force areas. The forces are shown in descending order by the number of people on long-term bail per 100,000 population.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Force Area** | **Number of long-term bails (LTBs)** | **LTBs per 100,000 population** | **Bails (total) per 100,000 population** |
| West Yorkshire | 859 | 38.3 | 177.6 |
| Nottinghamshire | 177 | 16.1 | 163.4 |
| Lancashire | 187 | 12.8 | 112.4 |
| Northumbria | 159 | 11.2 | 161.8 |
| West Midlands | 85 | 3.1 | 75.9 |
| South Wales | 1 | 0.1 | 106.4 |
| Greater Manchester | 0 | 0.0 | 142.6 |
| South Yorkshire | Did not respond to the BBC's FOI request |

* 1. The Police and Crime Panel raised this issue with the Police and Crime Commissioner in June 2013 the issues that:
		1. The proportion of people in West Yorkshire who are on any type of police bail is 40% higher than the average for similar forces; and,
		2. The proportion of people in West Yorkshire who are on long-term police bail is over 500% higher than the average for similar forces.
	2. At the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 7th June 2013, the Police and Crime Commissioner explained that he had not previously been aware of any particular issues with the use of the police bail process in West Yorkshire. It was agreed, however, that the information reported by the BBC was concerning. The PCC explained that he had asked the Chief Constable to initiate a review and it was agreed that the findings of this review will be shared with the Panel once available.
	3. The Chief Constable reported to the Police and Crime Commissioner on issues about the use of long-term police bail, and this report was discussed by the PCC and Chief Constable at the Community Outcomes meeting on 3rd March 2014. A copy of that report is attached as Appendix A. The PCC will provide Panel with an oral update on the outcome of that discussion.

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 That Panel discusses with the Police and Crime Commissioner the actions and expected outcomes from his work with the Chief Constable.