 **West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**June 7th 2013, Wakefield Town Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Lowe (Chair) - Leeds City Council

Councillor Ferriby - City of Bradford MDC

Councillor Walls - City of Bradford MDC

Councillor Sweeney - Calderdale MBC

Councillor Smith - Kirklees MC

Councillor Hall - Kirklees MC

Councillor Iqbal - Leeds City Council

Councillor Carter - Leeds City Council

Councillor Wassall - City of Wakefield MDC

Councillor Dagger - City of Wakefield MDC

Roger Grasby - Independent

Jo Sykes - Independent

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sue Hall - W Yorks. Criminal Justice Board

Bernadette Livesey - City of Wakefield MDC

Jonathan Skinner - AWYA

1. **Appointment of Chair**
   1. **RESOLVED**

1.1.1 That Councillor Alison Lowe (Leeds City Council) be appointed Chair for the period to May 2014.

1.1.2 That Councillor Jean Askew (City of Wakefield MDC) be appointed Vice-Chair for the period to May 2014.

1. **Record new 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 2 independent co-opted members.

2.2.3 That the Panel accepts the nomination from the City of Bradford MDC of Councillor Imran Hussain as a local authority co-opted member as it complies with the Panel’s political proportionality.

2.2.4 That the Panel could not accept the Calderdale MBC co-opted member nomination as the nomination does not accord with political proportionality, and would therefore breach the agreement between the Panel and the Secretary of State.

2.2.5 That the Panel requests that Calderdale MBC puts forward another co-opted member nomination which accords with political proportionality across West Yorkshire.

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence**

3.1 Apologies from Councillor Imran Hussain (City of Bradford MDC) and Councillor Jean Askew (City of Wakefield MDC) were noted. Councillor David Dagger (City of Wakefield MDC) attended as a substitute for Councillor Askew.

1. **Panel Procedures and Protocols**

4.1 Panel received a report seeking the endorsement of its Procedures and Protocols.

4.2 The Panel discussed the suggestion that the mode of voting, when appointing a Chair and Deputy Chair, should be via a secret ballot rather than by a show of hands. Following a vote, it was agreed that paragraph 3a.6.2 should not be amended on this basis.

4.2 **RESOLVED**

4.2.1 That paragraphs 2a.4 and 2a.5 in the Procedures and Protocols be amended to further clarify the position relating to the political proportionality of local authority co-opted members;

4.2.2 That the following, further, changes be made to the Procedures and Protocols:

* Para 7.4 to be reworded to clarify that: *“If a Member has not attended two meetings of the Panel consecutively then they shall no longer automatically be a Member of the Panel and his/her Council will be required to nominate a new Member to the vacant seat on the Panel”*.
* Para 14.2 to be corrected to refer to para 14(4) rather than 13(4).
* Para 15.5 to be amended by inserting “not” to read: *“Provided that the effect of the amendment must not be to simply reverse the effect of the motion before the Panel …”*

1. **To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held 26th April and deal with any matters arising.**

5.1 **RESOLVED**

5.1.1 That the minutes of the last Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 26th April were approved 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 Interest**

7.1 No declarations of interest were made.

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**Mark Burns- Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, was in attendance for items 8 – 11.**

**8. Local Perspectives: the impact of the Commissioner**

8.1 The Panel examined a report which drew together the responses of district-level Community Safety Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Reduction Scrutiny Committees. Panel members discussed with the Commissioner the following issues:

8.2 **Strategic Planning**

8.2.1The Commissioner explained that his budget remained under pressure from the Home Office, with a further announcement likely on 26th June.

8.2.2 The Commissioner feels that there is an opportunity to bring together the district-led plans on community safety and reducing crime and disorder with the statutory Police and Crime Plan.

8.2.3 Through his chairmanship of the Partnership Executive Group, he feels that partners could better come together to focus on redesigning services that improve outcomes for residents, and help contain acute financial pressures, by focusing on prevention rather than cure, such as a reduction in re-offending.

8.2.4 The Commissioner agreed that one measure of his effectiveness is the extent to which plans are made jointly.

8.3 **Commissioning**

8.3.1 The Commissioner has a working group looking at future commissioning arrangements. The Commissioner agreed to share the membership of this group with the Panel.

8.3.2 Panel emphasised the importance of the commissioning framework being completed promptly so that local partners are able to manage their services appropriately, which may include exit strategies for work with vulnerable people.

8.3.3 The Commissioner acknowledged the timescale issue and explained the current position:

* + - The commissioning of victim support work is currently subject to Government delays; and,
    - Other elements of community safety work for which the Commissioner has responsibility should be complete by the end of the year.

8.3.4 The Panel emphasised that the Commissioner’s framework should take account of spending from all partners, including the significant contribution made by local authorities. This is crucial to avoid duplication and to get the greatest return on investment.

8.3.5 The Commissioner’s office is developing a ‘What Works’ database that will capture the detail and effectiveness of interventions used across West Yorkshire, and approaches developed in academia. This will allow others to draw on better intelligence and for the Commissioner to ensure he commissions services with a strong likelihood of a positive impact.

8.4 **Links to local partners / bodies**

8.4.1The Commissioner described the open and responsive relationship he wishes to establish with local Community Safety Partnerships and Scrutiny Committees. To that end, he requested that Panel members might encourage local bodies to highlight any issues to his Office in order that they are resolved quickly.

8.4.2 The Commissioner explained his commitment to partnership work and suggested that bodies like Health and Wellbeing Boards would be “missing a trick” to not have some kind of community safety or criminal justice involvement in the Boards. He agreed to use his influence with the Boards to press this view.

8.5 **RESOLVED**

8.5.1 That the Panel notes the update from the Commissioner and Panel Members use the information to feedback to local Partnerships and Scrutiny Committees so they are well-placed to engage with on-going work and can address issues quickly via the Commissioner’s Office.

8.5.2 That the Commissioner’s progress in developing a commissioning framework be shared with Panel, by late autumn at the latest.

8.5.3 That the Commissioner’s Office confirms at the earliest opportunity:

* The membership of the Commissioning Working Group; and,
* The rationale for the current allocation of community safety funding, which it is understood is based on past arrangements.

8.5.4 That the Commissioner continues to advocate the need for community safety / criminal justice system representation on Health and Wellbeing Boards.

**9. Police and Crime Plan – Update on the Performance Framework**

9.1 The Panel examined a report from the Commissioner’s office. In the subsequent discussion, Panel members and the Commissioner explored the latest position and how the Panel could play both a scrutiny and a support role:

* Panel members explained that they need to be able to understand what information and evidence the Commissioner has considered; his decisions about the way forward; how this has been relayed to the Chief Constable, and the impact of these decisions on making communities in West Yorkshire safer and feeling safer.
* The Commissioner explained to Panel that the current focus was on checking the detail around the ten performance measures in the Police and Crime Plan.
* The Commissioner explained that a broader performance framework is being finalised to underpin delivery of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan. This will emphasise achievements with the Community Outcomes, and will illustrate the practical impact of policy changes made by the Commissioner.

9.2 The Panel asked the Commissioner to describe the focus and impact of his weekly Community Outcome meetings with the Chief Constable. The Commissioner set out some examples of their content, such as:

* The Chief Constable’s report on community safety, covering key performance measures and information about serious incidents to provide a holistic picture of threats and harm to West Yorkshire.
* Use of the Force estate and community involvement in the disposal of buildings.
* The response to confidential matters like Operation Newgreen, including how information can but put into the public domain.

9.3 Whilst Panel accepted the Commissioner’s development of a more informative performance framework, it again expressed regret that performance trends that have been discussed between the publication of the Plan and introduction of the new framework have not been covered in the report. This makes it difficult for the Panel to understand what decisions the Commissioner has taken and the impacts that he expects. The Commissioner agreed to meet with the Panel Chair to clarify the accountability framework and the best way to meet the Panel’s requests for information.

9.3 The Panel asked the Commissioner for an update on his commitment to increase the number of frontline Police Officers in West Yorkshire. The Commissioner explained that the first cohort of 20+ officers had been recruited and a second, similar-sized cohort would be in place in the autumn.

9.4 **RESOLVED**

9.4.1 That Panel formally requests the performance information considered at the Community Outcome meetings and subsequent policy decisions taken.

9.4.2 That Jonathan Skinner arranges an informal meeting between Councillor Lowe and the Commissioner before the next Panel meeting.

**10. Commissioner’s response to Operation Newgreen**

10.1 The Commissioner explained the actions that he had taken in light of the information about the conduct of Jimmy Savile and inquiries by the Metropolitan Police (Operation Yewtree), the BBC and IPCC. The Panel was made aware of the latest position of the investigations, and that the Operation Newgreen report had been published to provide the public with a transparent overview of the information held by West Yorkshire Police.

10.2 Panel questioned the Commissioner about what he could do personally to encourage victims to come forward. The Commissioner explained his intention to work more closely with Victim Support, Banardos and the NSPCC to encourage victims to come forward and ensure that a strong support mechanism is in-place to manage victims’ concerns.

10.3 Panel focused on how the Commissioner would assure himself that the new information management systems are effectively capturing informal intelligence, as recommended by Operation Newgreen. The Commissioner emphasised that training for officers is a major aspect, and that this might be done by an organisation familiar with experience of these issues. It is also important that the systems are able to capture informal information from conversations.

10.4 **RESOLVED:**

10.4.1 That Panel notes the update and supports the Commissioner’s commitment to improving services for victims and overseeing improvements in the way the Force records and collates informal information.

**11. Commissioner’s response to current issues**

1. ***Impact in West Yorkshire following the murder of Drummer Rigby in Woolwich and associated press coverage***

11.1 The Commissioner responded to the events and explained what he personally had done, including writing to Drummer Rigby’s widow to offer his sympathy and support and thanked the Force for the service they were able to offer locally.

11.2 The Commissioner had worked closely with the Chief Constable and established there was no particular increase in risk facing service or Force personnel in West Yorkshire.

11.3 In terms of the wider community response, the Commissioner had been heartened by the mature response of all communities and community leaders across West Yorkshire. This was attributed to strong collaborative work and past projects to build links and relationships in communities.

11.4 The Commissioner reported that no district area had seen a rise in community tension. As a pro-active measure, however, there have been increased police patrols to reassure the public.

11.5 The Commissioner agreed to keep the Panel informed of the impact on the Strategic Policing Requirement and the resources that the Commissioner is able to devote to local priorities like anti-social behaviour and burglary.

11.6 The Commissioner has been given assurances by the Chief Constable that the Force has sufficient capability to provide effective armed response when necessary.

1. ***Coverage of West Yorkshire Police’s use of the bail process***

11.7 The Commissioner 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.

11.8 The Commissioner has therefore asked the Chief Constable to initiate a review. The findings of this review will be shared with the Panel once available.

11.9 **RESOLVED**

11.9.1 That the Commissioner provides the Panel with a future update on the Chief Constable’s review of the police bail process in West Yorkshire.

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**12. Impact of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill**

12.1 The Panel was briefed on the Bill, which is beginning its Parliamentary passage.

12.2 **RESOLVED**

12.2.1 That Panel Members discuss the briefing on the ASB Bill with their district partnerships to understand the possible local implications.

**13. Panel Budget 2013/14**

13.1 To supplement the paper, it was reported that Leaders had agreed to the Panel’s 2-year budget (to March 2015).

13.2 **RESOLVED:**

13.2.1 That Panel notes the report and the budgetary position.

**14. Forward Agenda Plan 2013**

14.1 The forward agenda plan was noted.

**15. Any Other Business**

15.1 Panel recorded a vote of thanks to Councillor Peter Box for his chairmanship of the Panel since its inception.

15.2 **RESOLVED:**

15.2.1 That the Panel has a future discussion with the Commissioner regarding West Yorkshire Police’s role in supporting the Tour de France

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

16.1 The next meeting is scheduled for July 19th, from 10:30 – 12:00 pm