



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

14th June 2019, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor Alan Wassell	-City of Wakefield MDC
Councillor Stuart Heptinstall	-City of Wakefield MDC
Councillor Tariq Hussain	-Bradford Council
Councillor Russell Brown	-Calderdale Council
Councillor Amanda Carter	-Leeds City Council
Councillor Masood Ahmed	-Kirklees Council
Councillor Mark Thompson	-Kirklees Council
Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	-Leeds City Council
Councillor Paul Wray	-Leeds City Council
Councillor Sophie Whittaker	-Calderdale Council
Councillor Mohammed Naeem	-Calderdale Council
Mr Roger Grasby	-Independent
Mrs Jo Sykes	-Independent

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Fraser	- City of Wakefield MDC
Helen Brailsford	- City of Wakefield MDC
Caitlin Beever	- City of Wakefield MDC

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

1. Appointment of Chair

1.1 Nominations for the Panel Chair were taken. Cllr Mohammed Iqbal was nominated as Chair and this was seconded by a panel member. Votes were taken and recorded as follows: 8 votes for, 2 votes against and 2 votes were abstained.

1.2 The Chair took nominations for the Vice Chair of the Panel. Votes were taken and recorded as follows: 8 votes for, 2 votes against and 2 votes were abstained.

2. Police and Crime Panel Membership

2.1 The Panel were informed that following the outcome of the local elections held on 2nd May 2019, West Yorkshire Leaders had agreed that elected members for each local authority should be nominated to the panel in accordance with the political balance of their own authority.

2.2 The Panel were further informed that the above would result in the requirement to elect an additional co-opted member in order to achieve political balance across West Yorkshire, increasing the number of elected members on the panel from 12 to 13.

2.3 RESOLVED

2.3.1 That the Panel agree to the co-option of an additional member subsequent to approval by the Secretary of State.

3. Acceptance of apologies for absence

3.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Gruen and Richard Dunbar. A substitute for Councillor Peter Gruen was noted to be Councillor Paul Wray.

4. Minutes of the meeting held 5th April 2019

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

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

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

6. Members Declaration of Interest

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business

7.1 The Panel were informed that the arrangements and rules of conduct of business were applicable to both panel members and members of the public viewing the meeting. The Panel amendments remain fit for purpose in light of changes to membership and co-optees.

8. Panel Budget Outcome 2018/19 and Draft Budget 2019/20

8.1 The Panel agreed that the outcome of the budget for 2018/19 was a true and accurate reflection.

8.2 It was noted that there was an increase in projected expenditure on the Panel budget for the year 2019/20. The Panel were informed that this was due to the request to recruit a part time post in order to support the Police and Crime Panel Officer.

8.3 RESOLVED

8.3.1 The Panel approved the request to recruit a second part time post to support the Police and Crime Panel Officer.

9. Delivery Quarterly – Performance Report

- 9.1 The PCC presented the quarterly performance delivery report to the panel. It was noted that the report runs on a 12 month cycle that finished in March and as such, there will be some changes to the data presented.
- 9.2 Key areas of progress were highlighted with stable improvements to the public satisfaction, the reduction in thefts from cars and homes. The risk of personal crime remains stable and is the third lowest when compared against similar forces. A reduction in the reports of anti-social behaviour were reported and it was noted that this correlated with both England and Wales data.
- 9.3 The Panel were informed of the positive response to the “Your Views” survey. It was noted that the survey was now in its second year and was providing comparable and meaningful data.
- 9.4 A good grade on the recent HMIC inspection was noted and the Panel were informed that the report is expected to be released shortly. The post inspection de-brief has been positive and all recommendations will be followed up as a matter of course.
- 9.5 Following previous concerns around the number of missing people reported, in particular those missing from care homes, a focus on this has resulted in a reduction in the number of missing people. The PCC noted that this was still an area of concern and would continue to be an area of focus.
- 9.6 There has been an increase in the reporting of honour based crime and forced marriage and these reports are also being fed into national databases.
- 9.7 The ineffective trial rate remains stable at 14%, a figure that is higher than the predicted percentage in the Police Crime Commissioner plan. Both the Crown Court and the Magistrates Court rates have increased and there are less victims being called to court to testify.
- 9.8 BME workforce figures remain the same as the previous quarter and are a reflection of the continued work within police recruitment.
- 9.9 The Panel asked the PCC for clarification regarding the reduction in anti-social behaviour and queried the confidence of the PCC that this was reducing.
- 9.10 The PCC informed the panel that there was a belief that numbers of anti-social behaviour were reducing and this was demonstrated in the overall decrease.
- 9.11 The Panel asked the PCC if there was an opportunity to compare the public satisfaction figures with similar sized police forces.
- 9.12 The PCC informed the Panel that this was not a simple comparison as there are no longer national police surveys requesting feedback from the public. The forces that still use these surveys have modified the standard questions to suit individual needs. However it is possible to use these surveys to get a sense of comparison rather than a direct comparator.

- 9.13 The Panel sought reassurance from the PCC that there would be continued partnership working between the police and local authorities to ensure that missing people were not at risk due to differences in locality and areas.
- 9.14 The PCC confirmed that partnership work was ongoing to rectify the differences in regional borders between the police and Local Authorities to ensure that information sharing was up to date and relevant.
- 9.15 The Panel queried the increase in reported crime and the reduction in confidence of the public, when taken into consideration the fact that there has been an increase in officers since 2016 and queried the value for money of this increase.
- 9.16 The PCC informed the Panel that the precept revision for the current year is partially complete and that there is a time delay between employing new officers and training them to be fully compliant and deployable. It was noted that whilst there has been an increase in the number of officers employed, there has also been an increase in the number of cases of missing people and mental health cases being reported. It was noted that the West Yorkshire Police precept is still the third lowest precept in England.
- 9.17 The Panel sought clarification on the renationalisation of the probation service and requested an update from the PCC.
- 9.18 The PCC updated the Panel on a recent meeting with Yorkshire and Humber PCC's in order to discuss the probation service contracts that are due to finish in the year 2020. It was noted that although contracts are 18 months from completion, work is already being undertaken to request pilot projects to stop reoffending.
- 9.19 The Panel queried the mismatch in data that showed under 80% of people feel safe in the community but that less than 50% don't feel confident in the police. An explanation for these results was requested.
- 9.20 The PCC explained this data was due to the changes made to the "your survey" questionnaire. It was explained that the data gathered to be used in the performance report uses specific benchmarks of "excellent", "good" and "satisfactory" answers and that the performance report reports on those who have rated overall satisfaction as "excellent". If this data included the "good" and "satisfactory" reports then the overall satisfaction data would be significantly higher.
- 9.21 The Panel requested an explanation of the lower than national average results for the outcomes of victims of crime.
- 9.22 The PCC confirmed that work on the outcomes of victims of crime was ongoing with the victim support service that ensured all victims of crime were aware of the pathways to help and aid. The high demand of this service has resulted in WYP using a risk assessment before providing a response. It was also noted that the HMIC report that is due to be published should reflect improvements on this.

9.23 The Panel queried the removal of the outcomes of crime describer within the quarterly performance report.

9.24 The PCC explained that this data is available in Government returns and that these figures are frequently discussed in performance meetings.

9.25 RESOLVED

9.25.1 The PCC to provide comparison on public satisfaction with other similar sized police forces.

9.25.2 The Panel agreed that further details on the performance of the outcomes of crime should be brought to a future meeting.

10. Safer Communities Fund

10.1 The PCC presented his report on the Safer Communities Fund, highlighting the projects supported since its creation in 2014. It was noted that the fund was proposed as part of the PCC's aims to redistribute Proceeds of Crime funds to communities when he stood for election in 2012.

10.2 POCA funds are split so that 50% of the funds go back into the police force and the other 50% go to community projects via the Communities Fund. All of the funds are governed by a strict legislation.

10.3 To date there have been 15 successful grant rounds amounting to 615 completed projects. The last grant round closed on the 24th May 2019 and the next round is due to open in October 2019. The amount each individual project is able to bid for has increased over the last grant round from £5,000.00 to £6,000.00.

10.4 Though the grant rounds are open to all community groups and projects, there have been a number of themed rounds to target specific community challenges such as hate crime.

10.5 Each bid is assessed by an independent advisory board with representatives from each district Community Safety Partnership and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector. Once each of the bids have been assessed and the winning bidders have been notified of a successful bid, there is an awards evening whereby staff from the economic crime team attend.

10.6 The report contains a number of examples of successful projects from each of the districts and those projects that cover the whole of West Yorkshire. Over the 15 grant rounds, all 129 wards in the West Yorkshire district will have benefitted from a community project in some manner.

10.7 The report outlines the strict reporting schedule of all successful projects and details the audit and evaluation process undertaken to ensure funds are spent in line with the bid outline.

- 10.8 All of the grant rounds have gained successful media coverage, both in local papers and on televised news outlets such as Look North and Calendar. This has encouraged higher numbers of applicants each year and there is a hope that POCA funds continue to be reimbursed into communities.
- 10.9 The Panel queried as to what extent the results of “your survey” were used to focus the applications for the Safer Communities Fund. It was noted that a high proportion of the public felt that road safety was one of the biggest challenges to communities. The Panel questioned if this would be reflected in a themed grant round in the near future.
- 10.10 The PCC informed the Panel that there had been a themed grant round focussed on road safety in the past but that other funding was also tackling this challenge, including the positive impact of speed awareness courses throughout West Yorkshire.
- 10.11 The Panel requested clarification on how the projects are each monitored.
- 10.12 The PCC informed the Panel that a strict set of criteria must be met for each of the projects and that a number of face to face visits take place throughout to ensure that project is on track to meet its objectives. There are a number of rigorous processes before funding is awarded and a full accounting mechanism is in place for each project.
- 10.13 The panel highlighted that page 6 of the report outlines work undertaken by Kirklees to improve the quality of bids that were submitted. The Panel queried if this best practise could also be applied to other areas.
- 10.14 The PCC informed the panel that the main improvement made by Kirklees was in ensuring that the Voluntary and Community Sector were engaged with the bid rounds and ensuring that this sector were fully aware of the funding available to them. This was done through a number of funding fares held by the Council to which the PCC attended.

10.15 RESOLVED

- 10.15.1 That Kirklees best practice around bidding for funding from the Safer Communities Fund be considered for replication within other authorities.

11. Police and Crime Panel Priority Focus - Crime Data Integrity HMICFRS

- 11.1 The PCC presented his cover report on the Police and crime Panel Priority Focus, highlighting the inspection on West Yorkshire that took place in 2014 with a poor complaint rate of approximately 65%. Work has progressed since this report and there has been a focus on addressing this, both within West Yorkshire Police, and using crime registrar roles.
- 11.2 The first substantive visit since the 2014 report took place in December 2018 and included a significant audit and inspection. The report based on this visit was released in May 2019 and demonstrates that West Yorkshire Police are one of two MET forces

now rated outstanding. A letter has been received from the Police Minister recognising the progress of the force and a formal response to this will be drafted in due course.

- 11.3 Representation of the PCC is now present at all Gold Group meetings in order to provide oversight on this work.
- 11.4 The Panel requested further information on the accuracy of rape reports, querying that 78 out of 87 reports were accurately recorded. It was noted that this report suggests that 9 of these were not.
- 11.5 The PCC confirmed that all rape offences were investigated. It was confirmed that of the 9 offences shown in the discrepancy; one was an historic case in West Yorkshire, One was an historic case outside of West Yorkshire and the remaining seven were all part of a single murder enquiry. It was further explained that these should be noted as system failures rather than investigative failures.
- 11.6 The Panel challenged the time frame of the improvements, requesting clarification on why the improvements had taken 6 years to complete. The Panel also queried if it would be possible to improve on current results that were recorded at 94.8%.
- 11.7 The TCC explained to the Panel that improvements had been made to focus on the long term sustained improvement of the force and that staff had implemented a change in culture rather than use funds to remove officers from the front line to supplement the investigation team. The TCC informed the panel that the crime record rate was reduced due to those crimes recorded as an incorrect crime by the public and those crimes reported that were not "harmful" crimes. It was noted that the actual rate of investigation stands at approximately 98%. An assurance was also made by the TCC that a rigorous re-training programme had been undertaken by staff to support the improvement of crime reporting and that the TCC had led this programme himself.
- 11.8 The panel extended congratulations to the TCC and the other West Yorkshire Police force officers who were recently named on the honours award list.

12. Published Key Decisions

- 12.1 The published key decisions were noted.

13. Commissioners Response to any current issues

- 13.1 The PCC noted the current ongoing process for the appointment of a permanent Chief Constable and confirmed a potential confirmation conference date of the 19th July.
- 13.2 The PCC also informed the Panel that the Government had recently announced an additional £100m of funding to support the tackle of knife crime. It was noted that the WYP has already received some of this funding to tackle the associated operational issues but that the distribution of the remaining £35m had not yet been announced. An announcement on this is to be expected in the coming weeks and the Panel will be informed of any further updates.

13.3 The PCC also assured the Panel that the role for a permanent Chief Executive will also be advertised once the Chief Constable is named.

14. Agreed Actions Log

14.1 The agreed actions log was noted; the panel requested a further verbal update on the capacity and capability in safeguarding at the Panel meeting on the 19th July.

14.2 RESOLVED

14.2.1 The Panel agreed that an update on the capacity and capability of safeguarding would be provided at the July meeting.

15. Forward Agenda Plan

15.1 The forward agenda plan was noted, the Panel requested a focus on CSE at a future meeting.

15.2 RESOLVED

15.2.1 The Panel agreed for a substantive agenda item to focus on CSE at a future meeting.

16. Complaints received by the Panel

16.1 The panel noted that there was currently one complaint ongoing that had been previously recorded by the panel.

17. Any Other Business

17.1 The Panel noted the differences in the types of expenditure between other forces using the additional funding supplied to tackle knife crime.

17.2 The Panel were informed of an upcoming LGA workshop for Police and Crime Panels on the 11th July and that the National Association of PCP's are currently undertaking a benchmarking exercise to map new members which may result in future national training.

17.3 RESOLVED

17.3.1 That the PCC request further information around the expenditure of knife crime funding by other forces. This to be detailed in a substantive agenda item at a future meeting for comparison.

17.3.2 That the PCC are informed of the LGA AGM meeting date.

17.3.3 That the Chair of the Panel attend the LGA workshop on the 11th July

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

18.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 9.00am on Friday 19th July 2019 in the Old Court Room Wakefield Town Hall.