**Item 2**



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**22nd January 2021, held via video conference**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mohammed Iqbal - Leeds City Council (Chair)

Councillor Richard Dunbar - Bradford Council

Councillor Russell Brown - Bradford Council

Councillor Mohammed Naeem - Calderdale Council

Councillor Sophie Whittaker - Calderdale Council

Councillor Cahal Burke - Kirklees Council

Councillor Mark Thompson - Kirklees Council

Councillor Amanda Carter - Leeds City Council

Councillor Peter Gruen - Leeds City Council

Councillor Stuart Heptinstall - Wakefield Council

Mrs Jo Sykes - Independent

Mr Roger Grasby - Independent

In attendance

Sharon Fraser - Wakefield Council

Samantha Wilkinson - Wakefield Council

Caitlin Beever - Wakefield Council

Luke Wyatt - Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

* 1. Apologies were received from Councillors Masood Ahmed, Tariq Hussain and Jacqui Williams.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held 11th December 2020**

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

**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 that there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

**4. Members’ Declaration of Interests**

4.1 There were no Declaration of Interests made.

**5. Assessing the Impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Session with CSP Chairs**

5.1 This item was attended by:

Cllr Jenny Lynn, Calderdale; Michael Chury, Bradford; Derek Benn, Calderdale; Lee Hamilton, Kirklees; Paul Money, Leeds.

5.2Councillor Iqbal welcomed the CSP representatives to the meeting.

5.3 The representatives from each CSP were asked to provide an overview of the issues and priorities for their partnership along with the information about how they work with the PCC and a reflection of the impact at a local level.

5.4 The four Panel’s presented a very positive view of their experience of working with the Commissioner. There was a consistent view from the CSPs on how the PCC and his staff work with them to support local priorities, specifically:

* All welcomed the commitment the PCC has shown to engage with their CSP commenting that there is regular attendance at Board meetings from the PCC’s office and annually from the PCC himself;
* There is good communication and collaboration to share good practice across West Yorkshire;
* They welcomed the financial support provided by the PCC which is crucial for the CSPs and enables them to direct interventions into the most relevant areas;
* The OPCC support partnerships with joint needs assessments so that there is accurate information to provide an evidence base to identify priorities;
* The PCC ensures good communication with partners and stakeholders at a community level;
* The additional funding through the VRU is welcomed – this has supported and targeted diversionary work particularly with young people, enhancing the local priorities delivered by the CSPs

5.5 The Chair asked if there were any specific challenges or gaps that the Panel should be aware of and work with the PCC to address. Issues were identified as:

* A view that more work could be done to develop West Yorkshire wide strategies on some issues – this would ensure a bigger impact and economies of scale, for example a WY Modern Slavery Strategy.
* Working around the funding opportunities is a challenge and anything that can be done to get funding streams on a longer term footprint would be welcomed.
  1. Other issues raised were:
* A recognition of the pressure of pandemic on staffing and resources;
* Bradford specifically acknowledged the input and support from OPCC in obtaining Safer Streets funding to run that programme for a small social housing estate.
* Kirklees is currently reviewing governance arrangements for the Communities Board and will be producing a refreshed Communities Partnership Plan over the next 6-12 months.

5.7 Panel asked the CSPs if there were any other issues that the Panel could promote and encourage to be taken forward under the new Mayoral arrangements.

5.8 It was suggested that the emergence of models or working that are coming out from the OPCC as part of the tackling serious violent crime and violence reduction strategy are extremely helpful. It was recognised that there is a need to develop these further and there is a responsibility for all to engage and progressive its development across a broader geography and in a more integrated way.

5.9 CSP’s were asked if there were concerns about a slow-down in activity as preparations for a change of model to a West Yorkshire Mayor are being made. It was commented that there are constant challenging demand issues and additional factors such as Covid but no specific concerns about the wider governance changes having an impact on activity were identified.

5.10 It was noted that previous issues relating to the sharing of information at a local tasking level which had been affected as a result of GDPR changes have now improved.

5.11 CSP’s were asked to highlight any positive work that had been undertaken with other partners to tackle drug use across West Yorkshire.

5.12 The impact and threat of illicit drugs to community safety and communities was highlighted. It was noted that this is also a particular issue that regularly comes up in perception surveys as to what makes people feel safe or unsafe. The importance of joint working to tackle this issue, along with the need to deal with it from a public health approach, better using resources and simultaneously address some of the root causes and with early interventions, was also raised.

5.13 It was noted that there have been improvements to joint working with more regular joint operations now taking place. The Police Intelligence Portal has also become a useful tool in sharing intelligence and enabling teams to be more aware and active in addressing county lines. More work is also being done around early intervention measures particularly working with schools and youngsters at an early age.

5.14 Panel raised the issue of ASB and the regular discussions they have with the PCC around this. Assurances the PCC has given as part of the Delivery Quarterly performance reporting indicates that ASB is reducing but the anecdotal evidence of panel members disputes this. CSP’s were asked for their views on whether this is a concern for them or is it improving across the districts.

5.15 The CSP’s acknowledged that there are dynamic changing patterns to ASB occurring during the pandemic, which seemed to be similar across the districts. Whilst there seems to have been a decrease in the usual youth related ASB, there has been more in terms of motorcycle, quad bikes and off road vehicle nuisance particularly in Kirklees and Bradford. This means that it is more difficult to compare the trends.

5.16 However, it was acknowledged by all CSP’s represented that ASB is an underlying issue that affects all communities and if not addressed, then the perpetrators are more likely to progress into other forms of more serious criminal activity. Concern was raised that ASB is generally underfunded in comparison to other themes across partnerships.

5.17 It was recognised that during the pandemic there has been a stop on activities engaging with young people such as youth clubs, sports and some outreach work. There is a worry that there are high levels of frustration and boredom in our communities and concern that there are problems being stored up. The need to address this issue as soon as there is a lift on engagement was emphasised.

5.18 It was suggested that it is important to work with elected members and communities to gather local intelligence, identify individuals and start to work more proactively to tackle ASB issues. It was recognised that there have been additional difficulties faced as a result of court closures during the pandemic, as it has not been possible to put some measures in place with regular perpetrators and around some specific housing issues, such as evictions.

5.19 A question was raised relating to the local authority funding uplift of PCSO’s in Leeds and what the impact would be if this additional funding was cut. It was noted that this would depend on the decisions of the PCC and WYP but it would likely see a reduction in footprint of PSCO’s which would bring Leeds in line with the rest of the districts.

5.20 The meeting considered the Principles of Engagement that had been circulated and it was agreed that it was helpful to continue to build on the relationship between the Panel and local CSPs to share information, best practice and better ways of working together. It was agreed to once again sign up to the Principles of Engagement.

5.21 **RESOLVED**

5.21.1 It was agreed to raise the benefits of working across a wider geography and developing West Yorkshire wide strategies which are implemented in an integrated way with the PCC and to promote this under the new Mayoral arrangements.

5.21.2 The importance of addressing ASB was acknowledged and it was agreed to continue to monitor and share information on the impact of the changes to ASB.

5.21.3 It was agreed to continue to build relationships between the CSP’s and Panel and to sign up to the Principles of Engagement.

**6. Assessing the Impact of the PCC**

**Session with Scrutiny Chairs**

6.1 This item was attended by:

Cllr Barry Anderson, Leeds; Cllr George Robinson, Calderdale; Alex Hunter, Calderdale; Mike Lodge, Calderdale.

6.2 Cllr Iqbal welcomed the Scrutiny Chairs to the meeting.

6.3 The Chairs provided a brief overview of the relevant scrutiny work that has been ongoing within their Districts.

6.4 Comments were made on the excellent joint partnership working with the local authorities and police during the pandemic.

6.5 It was noted that there has been some joint work with Leeds and Bradford on fireworks and this is work that could possibly be rolled out across the rest of West Yorkshire.

6.6 Other issues that have been looked at by the Scrutiny Boards include rough sleeping, ASB, Domestic Violence and abuse. It was noted that Leeds had considered looking at the issue of nitrous oxide but had decided to await until the government position is clear on how they are going to deal with this issue before embarking on further work.

6.7 An issue of particular concern in Leeds is that of Road Safety and speeding. However, for various reasons the work has been delayed and Cllr Anderson expressed concern that it does not seem to be getting the priority it needs.

6.8 The meeting discussed the issue of speeding and what is needed to bring about real change. Concern was expressed that there is no elected member representation on the WY Speeding Partnership and it is not felt that the information used to make decisions about which areas to address is not joined up. It was acknowledged that road safety is a priority issue for members of the public.

6.9 It was noted that the PCC has been asked to bring a report to the March Panel meeting on how he is delivering on the key priority of Road Safety.

6.10 The meeting discussed how scrutiny can work better and Panel was asked what suggestions it would be bringing forward to the Mayor for more effective scrutiny and how the districts can feed into this. It was noted that Panel were writing to the Home Secretary seeking more transparency, openness and for opportunities for the Panel to scrutinise in more depth.

6.11 It was agreed that it would be helpful to have more informal discussion to consider what aspects of scrutiny could be undertaken at West Yorkshire or district level and that it would be useful to undertake such discussions at the beginning of the municipal year to assist with planning.

6.12 **RESOLVED**

6.12.1 That work is undertaken to consider how scrutiny on community safety matters can be more joined up and affective across West Yorkshire under the new Mayoral arrangements.

**7. Published Key Decisions**

7.1 The latest published key decisions were noted.

**8. Agreed Actions Log**

8.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted along with a number of updates that a required following discussion with the PCC’s office.

**9. Forward Agenda Plan**

**9.1 I**t was noted that the PCC would also be presenting the next Delivery Quarterly and a key priority paper on Road Safety to the March meeting.

**10. Complaints Received by the Panel**

10.1 It was noted that there are currently no new recorded complaints or outstanding matters for resolution.

**11. Any Other Business**

11.1 There was no other business raised.

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

15.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be the consideration of the PCC’s precept proposal and it will be held at 10.00 am on Friday 5th February 2021 via video conference.