



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

12th June 2020, held via video conference

PRESENT:	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Mohammed Naeem	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Peter Gruen	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Stuart Heptinstall	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Jacqueline Williams	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Russell Brown.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed new member, Cllr Jacqueline Williams from Wakefield Council to the Panel.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 24th April 2020

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

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 there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

4. Members' Declaration of Interests

4.1 No declarations of interest were given.

5. Postponement of the PCP Annual Meeting 2020

5.1 The Panel received a report outlining the changes to PCP annual business in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

5.2 Panel were asked to note that the Annual General Meeting of the PCP would not take place as planned for 2020. Panel were informed that membership of the Police and Crime Panel would remain the same in line with the retention of memberships throughout all five West Yorkshire authorities. The Panel also noted that all protocols and procedures would continue as previously agreed at the 2019-2020 AGM until the AGM in 2021.

5.3 It was noted that an update around the position on the Independent co-opted members of the Panel would be provided at a later date when further information on the West Yorkshire Devolution deal was available.

5.4 Panel members were asked to present nominations and expressions of interest for the role of Deputy Chair of the Panel. Nominations for the Panel were as follows:

- Cllr Amanda Carter, Kirklees Council
- Cllr Jacqueline Wilson, Wakefield Council.

5.5 Panel were asked to provide a vote of either for, against or an abstained vote for each of the nominees to the role of Deputy Chair. Results were recorded as follows:

Nominee name	For	Against	Abstained vote
Cllr Amanda Carter	6	8	0
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	7	5	1

5.6 The Chair of the Panel informed members of the voting results and confirmed that the new Deputy Chair of the Police and Crime Panel would be Cllr Jacqueline Williams.

5.7 Panel agreed to postpone the appointment of Complaints lead role until the next meeting. As there is currently an ongoing complaint, the interim Complaints Lead agreed to continue to deal with this specific complaint. It was confirmed that if a new complaint was to be received before this next meeting, this would be led by the newly elected Deputy Chair until the matter of the Complaints Lead was considered at the next Panel meeting.

5.8 RESOLVED

- 5.8.1 Panel noted the continuation of LA Panel membership from 2019 with the additional appointment of Cllr Jacqueline Williams to the vacancy from Wakefield.
- 5.8.2 Panel noted the position and the possible extension to the term of the two Independent Co-opted Panel members.
- 5.8.3 Cllr Jacqueline Williams was appointed as the Deputy Chair of the Police and Crime Panel for 2020-2021.
- 5.8.4 It was agreed that the appointment of a Complaints Lead be deferred until the next meeting. Should any new complaints be submitted during this period they will be reviewed by the newly elected Deputy Chair under the standard complaints procedure. The current Interim Complaints Lead will continue to deal with the ongoing complaint issue and see it through until conclusion.
- 5.8.5 That the Panel continue with all current procedure and protocol arrangements previously in place until either a need arises to change these or until the AGM of 2021-2022, whichever may occur first.
- 5.8.6 Panel noted the Home Office Grant provision for 2020/21 and that a draft budget for 2020/21 will be reported to the July meeting.

6. Delivery Quarterly

- 6.1 The PCC provided an overview of the Delivery Quarterly report covering a period of 12 months up to March 2020. It was noted that figures in this report pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6.2 Panel welcomed this quarter's decrease in total recorded crime by 2.8%. This is the first reduction in total crime following a trend of a fall in the increase of crime over the past year. It was stressed that these figures are not affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic as it covers the period pre-lockdown and they accurately reflect the trend that has been seen over the past year.

Decreases in burglary and vehicle crime were also noted. It was highlighted that household crime had also decreased after a period of increase previously.

- 6.3 The PCC provided an update around anti-social behaviour figures and explained that these continued to drop and were now the lowest average figures amongst forces with a similar group average.
- 6.4 The Panel were notified that figures around re-offending were taken from Ministry of Justice figures. It was noted that these figures were out of date and as such the PCC was looking to make changes to the reporting of re-offending figures in order to provide a more comprehensive view of re-offending in West Yorkshire.

- 6.5 The PCC informed the Panel of the increasing trend of “feelings of safety” taken via the Your Views survey and it was noted that this figure was above 80% of those surveyed. Panel were informed that the Your Views survey had been suspended during the COVID-19 lockdown. An alternative on-line survey entitled ‘Listening to You’ has been launched to gather information from individuals to give some understanding of issues under the changed circumstances.
- 6.6 It was noted that the victim satisfaction rate has now levelled to approximately 75% satisfaction. However the PCC informed the Panel that outcomes of case satisfaction had reduced from 60.3% to 57.6%. The PCC reassured the Panel that this had been raised with the Chief Constable and that work was ongoing to improve this. Panel welcomed the additional data provided for the scope of victim’s services satisfaction measures which were included in the report for the first time and provide a broader view of the impact on victim wellbeing.
- 6.7 The Panel raised concerns around a lack of positive communication from the Police force to the public in order to provide reassurance of the work being undertaken to tackle Anti-Social behaviour.
- 6.8 The PCC reassured the Panel that work was ongoing to strengthen communications between both the Police, partners and the community and that this was a focus during the pandemic in order to reassure members of the public of the ongoing work of the force.
- 6.9 The Panel sought further information regarding the perpetrator program which has recently been commissioned. Clarification around how this worked in partnership with the liaison between victims and families was also requested.
- 6.10 The PCC informed the Panel that the contract for the Perpetrator Program had recently been awarded and that a focus of this program would be around the positive change in behaviour with perpetrators. The PCC reassured Panel that work with family courts remained a priority and that activity continued to support both this and the family and victims services throughout West Yorkshire.
- 6.11 The Panel queried figures around an increase in fraud nationally during the COVID-19 pandemic and those falling victim to fraudulent fund raising, charity schemes across West Yorkshire and what actions the PCC is taking to mitigate this in West Yorkshire.
- 6.12 The PCC updated the Panel on the work ongoing with a joint funded team to engage with trading standards to target financial exploitation and fraud. The Panel were also informed of a recent project funded by the PCC called “The Little Book of Scams” which provides an insight and guidance on key challenges in tackling fraud.

7. Report of the PCC on the Response to COVID-19

- 7.1 The PCC provided a further update report around the West Yorkshire Police response to the current COVID-19 pandemic which outlined the fast changing environment since the previous report submitted at the Police and Crime meeting on 24th April 2020.

- 7.2 The PCC outlined significant legislative dates since the previous COVID-19 update, including the change in messaging by Government on 11th May 2020, moving from “Stay Alert, Control the Virus, Saves Lives” message.
- 7.3 Panel were informed that the Police continued to use the four E’s approach to Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce techniques, using fixed penalty fines as a last resort. The increase of fixed penalty fines from £60 to £100 was also noted.
- 7.4 Information around the policing of changes in legislation allowing 6 adults to congregate outside in a socially distanced manner was also provided to the Panel and reassurance that the Police were working with to positively engage with the public around this was provided.
- 7.5 The PCC informed the Panel that daily conversations with the Chief Constable continue to take place and that weekly bi-lateral meetings had been adapted to cover the changing COVID-19 pandemic. It was also noted that work would begin again on the Community Outcome Meetings and that the PCC was looking to seek questions from the public to be answered at this meeting.
- 7.6 The Panel were informed that the Police and Crime Plan was to be reconsidered but that work would be underway over the coming weeks in order to provide a “light refresh” of the plan to be considered. It was noted that this would be informed by the recent release of an updated survey to the public.
- 7.7 The Panel requested further information around the section within the report around policing under new legislation and the adaptations the police have made to accommodate the changing legislation.
- 7.8 The PCC updated the Panel around the information received as part of the Police Chiefs Council and how this has supported both the Chief Constable and the PCC to navigate the legislation changes that had taken place recently around the COVID-19 legislation. The Chief Constable reiterated the forces stance around policing with proportionality and using enforcement as a final measure when working with the public to adhere to the pandemic guidelines.

8. Contact Centre 101

- 8.1 The PCC provided a report which gave an update around the current contact centre 101 call rates and answering times and outlined the improvements made on this over recent months.
- 8.2 It was reported that there had been a levelling out of demand on contact centre 101 calls, and that there had been a reduction of these over the past 12 months. The PCC highlighted that there had been an increase in both 999 calls and online contact. It was also noted that West Yorkshire Police had not abandoned a 999 call in the past 32 months.

- 8.3 The Panel were informed that training and retention programs had also been the focus of improvement in order to retain staff and provide consistency throughout the call centres. Information was also provided around the possibility of implementing a minimum 2 year term within the contact centre to assist with consistency across calls.
- 8.4 The PCC also provided an overview of the regular benchmarking exercises undertaken with the Chief Constable in order to analyse the forces performance of call handling throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.5 The Panel praised the PCC and the Chief Constable for the work done to improve the call handling of both 101 and 999 calls and shared experience of a visit to the call handling centre, noting that both staff training and improved IT equipment had assisted in the significant improvement of call handling performance and waiting times.

9. Commissioner's response to any current key issues

- 9.1 The PCC provided an update around the policing arrangements in light of current issues and gave an overview of the police response to recent national protests and those protests that took place in West Yorkshire.
- 9.2 The Panel were informed that the PCC continued to ensure daily discussions took place with the Chief Constable in order to retain an updated position around the protesting in West Yorkshire and acknowledged that the Police would continue to work with both their own staff and the community to target racism and racist offences.
- 9.3 The PCC commented that the Police would continue to work carefully and sensitively at this time and try to offer reassurance through the engagement work undertaken within communities. The PCC stated that not only did he want to build on the work but to look at additional ways of engaging.
- 9.4 The PCC stated that Stop and Search has been a significant ongoing issue – operation Jemlock has impacted on this and the data is currently being worked through. The PCC state some of the work that he has undertaken to address issues, including aspects of body-worn camera, best use of Stop and Search, raising awareness of Hate Crime and the funding of an app for the reporting Hate crime.
- 9.5 The PCC acknowledged that there is still an under-representation of BAME officers in West Yorkshire but that this was a national concern rather than a concern confined to the West Yorkshire area. The PCC reiterated the ongoing work being undertaken by the Chief Constable to encourage people to apply to the force in order to have a force representative of its community.
- 9.6 The Panel queried how the Police had enforced current social distancing measures at the recent national protests and what actions were being taken to address any criminal behaviour.
- 9.7 The Police were working with the public in order to support them to social distance at protests. The PCC and the Chief Constable also reassured the Panel that any vandalism

taking place would be policed under usual procedures. The PCC also reassured the Panel that West Yorkshire Police had not been redeployed into other areas of the UK to support the policing of recent protests.

9.8 The Panel sought further information around how West Yorkshire Police was supporting front line officers from abuse during their line of duty in such a time when it has been highly publicised that the Police are receiving an increase in abuse whilst on patrol around public areas.

9.9 The Chief Constable informed the Panel that all members of the force have access to a number of support networks in order to both report abuse and to support officers who have been the victim of abuse by the public. The Panel were also reassured that the justice system prosecuted a number of individuals who had abused front line officers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

9.10 RESOLVED

9.10.1 That the PCC provide a report at a later date to the Panel to outline the measures of the West Yorkshire Police take in order to meet the various challenges of racism in both the workplace and the community.

10. Published Key Decisions

10.1 The Panel noted the key decisions that had been published since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting.

11. Agreed Actions Log

11.1 The agreed actions log was noted

12. Forward Agenda Plan

12.1 The forward agenda plan was noted.

13. Complaints received by the Panel

13.1 The Panel noted the complaints report received.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 No other business was raised.

15. Date and time of next meeting

15.1 The next meeting of the Panel is due to take place on 17th July 2020. As this stage it is not known if this will be another virtual meeting, but both Panel and the public will be updated as the position is clarified.