 **West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

Item 2

**Draft Minutes**

**6th March 2015, Wakefield Suite, Wakefield One**

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

Councillor Carter - Leeds City Council

Councillor Iqbal - Leeds City Council

Councillor Walls - Bradford Council

Councillor Lal - Bradford Council

Councillor Martin - Calderdale Council

Councillor Ahmed - Kirklees MBC

Councillor Scott - Kirklees MBC

Councillor Speight - City of Wakefield MDC

Councillor Wassell - City of Wakefield MDC

Jo Sykes - Independent

Roger Grasby - Independent

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Samantha Wilkinson - City of Wakefield MDC

Emma Duckett - City of Wakefield MDC

Liz Ogden - City of Wakefield MDC

David Livesey - Home Office

**1. Apologies for Absence**

* 1. Apologies were noted from Councillor Hussain (Bradford) and Councillor Thompson (Calderdale).

**2. Minutes of the Meetings held on 12th December 2014 and 6 February 2015**

2.1The minutes of both meetings 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 items to add to the agenda.

**4. Members’ Declaration of Interests**

4.1 There were no interests declared.

***Mark Burns-Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and Clair Parker from the OPCC attended the meeting for items 5 to 12***

**5. HMIC Crime Data Integrity Inspection: six months on**

5.1 The Commissioner provided Members with an update on progress against the recommendations in the HMIC Crime Data Integrity Inspection August 2014.

5.2 The Commissioner highlighted the key pieces of work to improve crime data recording in West Yorkshire Police. These included:

* The Bradford pilot, which commenced in January, is focussing on the recording of crime at the earliest opportunity.
* IT systems to automatically crime incidents.
* Standardising out of court outcomes.
* Reassessment of the current cadre of Dedicated Decision Makers (DDMs).

5.3 Members noted the Force policy had now been amended to ensure that all serious sexual offences are now crimed on receipt and all no crime decisions for rape and attempted rape will be overseen by the Force Crime Registrar.

5.4 The Commissioner went on to explain that the Internal Audit team would be carrying out audits of crime data to ensure that the Force is adhering to the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) and Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR). He also provided assurances to the Panel that he was regularly monitoring crime data integrity with the temporary Chief Constable through the Force accountability meetings. Members also noted that HMIC would be re-inspecting the Force in May / June 2015.

5.5 Panel welcomed the fact that the Independent Audit Committee was considering crime data integrity as a result of Panel raising this as an issue with the Chair of the Committee, Trevor Lake.

5.6 In response, the Panel raised concerns over the pace in which progress had been made. They highlighted that much of the activity was very recent yet the HMIC report was published in August 2014 and was based on sample data from November 2012 to October 2013. The Panel therefore sought reassurances that the performance data was based on crime data that had been accurately recorded.

**5.6 RESOLVED**

5.6.1 That the Commissioner provides a report on the HMIC re-inspection of crime data integrity in due course.

**6. HMIC National Child Protection Inspection**

6.1 The Commissioner provided Panel Members with a copy of the letter he had written to the Home Secretary following the publication of HMIC’s National Child Protection Inspection. The letter highlighted the need for any inspection on child protection to include all of the partnership functions involved.

6.2 The Commissioner then updated Members on the progress against the recommendations made by HMIC. He highlighted that he had made an additional £467,000 available to initiate work in schools to help raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The Commissioner also informed the Panel that he was currently advertising for the post of Safeguarding Advisor to coordinate the work of all safeguarding experts across the county.

**6.3 RESOLVED**

6.3.1 The Panel thanked the Commissioner for his continued focus on tackling child sexual exploitation.

**7. 101 Call Handling**

7.1 The Panel were presented with a verbal report from the Commissioner which initially addressed the issue of West Yorkshire Police’s non response to a Freedom of Information request made by the BBC. Members noted that there was a delay in responding to the request and that the piece went ahead without a contribution from West Yorkshire Police amongst other forces.

7.2 Members questioned the Commissioner over 101 call handling performance and the practise some forces use of answering calls within target time then placing people on hold. The Panel were keen to understand whether this practise was used by West Yorkshire Police.

7.3 In response, the Commissioner stated that there had been a significant reduction in 101 call handling performance last summer due to staffing issues. September 2014 saw the lowest percentage of calls answered within thirty seconds at 21%. Since then there has been an increase to around 80%. The Commissioner assured Members that 999 call handling was consistently within target time.

**7.4 RESOLVED**

7.4.1 That the Commissioner provides Panel Members with an update under ‘Matters Arising from the Minutes’ on whether West Yorkshire Police uses the practise of placing 101 callers on hold upon answering their call.

**8. Out of Court Disposal Pilot**

8.1 The Chair moved to defer this item due to the pilot still being ongoing.

**8.2 RESOLVED**

8.2.1 That the Commissioner brings a report to a future meeting which provides an evaluation of the out of court disposal pilot findings.

**9. Quarterly Performance Scrutiny to 31 December 2014**

9.1 The Panel were provided with an update on performance to 31 December 2014. Members noted that total crime had reduced by 4.5% over the 12 months to 31 December 2014. However, there had been an increase in the latest three months in total crime (+2.6%) and domestic burglary (+8.2%).

9.2 Panel questioned the Commissioner over whether the recent increases were as a result of better crime recording or whether there had been a ‘real’ increase in the level of crime.

9.3 In response, the Commissioner stated that the number of incidents recorded by the Force had been fairly stable over the period. However, the reduction in police officers and police staff over recent years will impact on the Force’s capacity to investigate crime and subsequently reduce re-offending. The Commissioner felt that it was too early to draw conclusions on crime levels and that he would be closely monitoring performance over the next quarter.

9.4 The Commissioner also stated that he had visited the Force’s communications centre following the reduction in performance of 101 call handling and was reassured that the Force had made improvements in this area.

9.5 Members also noted that victim satisfaction had remained unchanged during the 12 months to 31 December 2014. The Commissioner felt that the Help for Victims website and the work to coordinate victims services would start to have a positive impact on victim satisfaction during 2015.

**10. Published Key Decisions**

10.1 Panel noted the published decisions and that additional information had been recently added.

**10.2 Resolved**

10.2.1 Police and Crime Panel Officers to provide Members with the latest version of the published key decisions from the Commissioner’s website.

**11. Agreed Action Log**

11.1 The agreed action log was noted.

**12. Commissioner’s Response to current issues**

12.1 Panel raised the issue of Purdah with the Commissioner. In response, the Commissioner stated that he was awaiting guidance from the Home Office. David Livesey provided an update stating that the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) had sent guidance to all Commissioners on 5 March 2015.

12.2 Panel also raised the issue of drug driving testing and asked whether West Yorkshire Police would be implementing a programme of testing. The Commissioner stated that West Yorkshire Police would be undertaking drug driving testing.

12.3 Panel asked the Commissioner to provide information on the Force’s use of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to hack into phones.

12.4 Panel asked the Commissioner to provide information on the number of police officers who resigned whilst being subject to misconduct investigations.

**12.5 RESOLVED**

12.5.1 That the Commissioner provides information on the Force’s use of RIPA to hack into phones.

12.5.2 That the Commissioner provides information on the number of police officers who resigned whilst being subject to misconduct investigations.

**13. Complaints Received by the Panel**

16.1 Panel noted the latest position on complaints and agreed to form a Complaints Sub Committee to consider an appeal regarding the non-recording of a complaint against the Commissioner.

**16.2 RESOLVED**

16.2.1 That Councillor Wassell (Wakefield), Councillor Scott (Kirklees) and Jo Sykes (Independent) form a Complaints Sub Committee to specifically consider the appeal regarding the non-recording of a complaint.

**14. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2015**

14.1 Panel noted the forward agenda plan.

**15. Any Other Business**

15.1 There was no other business raised.

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

16.1 The next Police and Crime Panel meeting has been rearranged and will take place at 10am on Friday 24 April at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Ploughland House, 62 George Street, Wakefield, WF1 1DL.