



## Report of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Commissioner's Draft Police and Crime Plan

Friday 8 March 2013

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Part 1, Section 28 (3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.3 The Panel endorses the objectives and aspirations which form the basis of the draft Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.4 However, the Panel wishes to put forward a number of recommendations to the Commissioner for incorporation in the final version of the Plan.

#### 2. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

- 2.1 Those Panel Members present to review the draft Police and Crime Plan were as follows:

- |                       |                    |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| • Cllr Peter Box      | Wakefield          | (Chair) |
| • Cllr Sarah Ferriby  | Bradford           |         |
| • Cllr Imran Hussain  | Bradford           |         |
| • Cllr Michael Walls  | Bradford           |         |
| • Cllr Steve Sweeney  | Calderdale         |         |
| • Cllr Pauline Nash   | Calderdale         |         |
| • Cllr David Hall     | Kirklees           |         |
| • Cllr Ken Smith      | Kirklees           |         |
| • Cllr Alison Lowe    | Leeds              |         |
| • Cllr Mohammed Iqbal | Leeds              |         |
| • Cllr Les Carter     | Leeds              |         |
| • Cllr Jean Askew     | Wakefield          |         |
| • Jo Sykes            | Independent Member |         |
| • Roger Grasby        | Independent Member |         |

In attendance: Clare Elliott (AWYA), Samantha Wilkinson (AWYA), Jonathan Skinner (AWYA) Bernadette Livesey (WMDC)

### **3. Role of the Panel**

3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSRA) states the following in relation to the Panel's involvement with the Police and Crime Plan:

'A Panel must review the draft Police and Crime Plan, or draft variation, given by the relevant Commissioner and make a report or recommendations on the draft Plan to the Commissioner.'

3.2 The Panel meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> was the Panel's only opportunity to review the draft Plan prior to its publication at the end of that month.

3.3 Following the meeting, the Panel is obliged to publish a report which summarises its agreed response to the draft Police and Crime Plan including any specific recommendations that the Panel decided to make to the Commissioner.

3.4 The Panel does not have the power to veto the Plan or any aspect of it.

### **4. Role of the Commissioner**

4.1 The PRSRA stipulates that the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan must set out the following:

- The Commissioner's police and crime objectives
- The police area which the Chief Constable is to provide policing for
- The financial, and other resources, which the Commissioner is to provide to the Chief Constable
- The means by which the Chief Constable will report to the Commissioner
- The means by which the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
- The crime and disorder reduction grants which the Commissioner is to make and the conditions (if any) of these grants

4.2 The Commissioner must 'have regard' to the report and recommendations submitted by the Panel following the review of the Plan. He will also need to publish his own response to the Panel's report.

4.3 Each Commissioner will need to produce an Annual Report summarising the exercise of their functions in that financial year as well as the progress that has been made in meeting the police and crime objectives within the Plan. The Commissioner's first Annual Report will be published in April 2013 but will obviously only be able to report on the few months of activity since the Commissioner's appointment in November 2012.

4.4 The Panel will review, and report on, the Annual Report in the same way as is detailed in Section 3 for the Police and Crime Plan.

## 5. Panel's Recommendations

- 5.1 The Panel through its discussion with the Commissioner on March 8<sup>th</sup> and on the basis of the draft Plan provided to it, wishes to make the following recommendations for incorporation in the final version of the Police and Crime Plan:
- 5.1.1 The Panel wishes to emphasise its broad support for the police and crime aspirations articulated throughout the Plan. It is believed that these accurately represent the concerns of the public and the priorities of partners.
  - 5.1.2 Although the Panel supports these aspirations and recognises that they are an integral part of the Plan, it is felt that these *must* be accompanied by a substantive section on 'how these objectives will be achieved' and on 'how the Commissioner will know if he has achieved them.'
  - 5.1.3 Without this additional information and without direct reference to baselines, milestones and detailed performance measures the Panel is concerned that the Commissioner cannot truly be held to account by the public or by the Police and Crime Panel which will be to the disadvantage of communities across West Yorkshire.
  - 5.1.4 The Commissioner's assurance that a performance management framework is currently being developed is acknowledged but the Panel asserted that the framework should have been included in the draft Plan provided to them. The Panel strongly advised that the framework be included in the main body of the final Plan so the Commissioner's proposed activities and targets are clearly linked to his overarching objectives. Without that information the Panel felt that this was a serious deficiency in the draft Plan presented to them.
  - 5.1.5 In addition, the Panel holds the firm belief that to fully understand the Commissioner's approach to improving policing and crime outcomes for the people of West Yorkshire, the Plan must expand on the way in which the Commissioner will measure the performance of the Force and explain what mechanisms he will then use to hold the Chief Constable to account for this performance.
  - 5.1.6 The absence of financial information within the Plan, i.e. broad level indications of how the Commissioner's objectives will be resourced and of how funding cuts will be managed, is something the Panel advises the Commissioner addresses in some considerable detail. This additional detail,

coupled with the inclusion of targets, will also help partners and the public to understand how the Commissioner intends to 'prioritise his priorities', a sense of which is missing from the draft Plan.

5.1.7 The Panel is concerned that the Plan is not sufficiently tailored to the specific policing and crime issues facing West Yorkshire. Again, an expansion on the high level objectives within the Plan would no doubt help to address these concerns.

5.1.8 With regard to the district's Community Safety Partnerships, it was suggested that the role of partners in delivering the Plan should be strengthened throughout the document. Although their involvement in the development of the Plan is recognised, partners would still value clarification on the Commissioner's expectations of them, including the conditions of any grants, as well as specific details on intentions around re-charging agencies for non-priority police services.

5.1.9 Before finalising the Plan, the Panel advises that the Commissioner re-visits the legislation to guarantee that all the requirements are addressed to an acceptable degree. Although all touched upon in the document, as it stands, it would be difficult for a member of the public to explain their understanding of the way in which the Commissioner will:

- Provide financial and other resources to the Chief Constable
- Measure the performance of the Chief Constable
- Expect the Chief Constable to report to him
- Apply conditions to any crime and disorder reductions grants

5.1.10 In terms of the specific content of the draft Plan, the Panel welcomed the commitment to reviewing stop and search practices, to tackling attacks on workers and to supporting vulnerable people, such as those with mental health issues. It was asked that the Commissioner also considers the importance of addressing forced marriages, of increasing the confidence of BME communities through promoting a more diverse workforce, of supporting diverse communities and of developing cohesive and resilient communities.

5.1.11 Once finalised, the Panel asks that the Plan is made available in different formats so, as with the intention behind the Plan's 'executive summary', the Plan is as accessible to the public as possible.

5.1.12 Specific observations on the draft Plan which have been submitted by Leeds Community Safety Partnership and Leeds Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will be available as a separate document.

## **6. Conclusions and Recommendation**

- 6.1 The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is fully supportive of the aspirations outlined in the draft Police and Crime Plan and understands the Commissioner's desire to produce an aspirational document which is understood and supported by the public.
- 6.2 However, the Panel is unanimous in its belief that that the current draft does not yet constitute a 'Plan' and without additional detail on how the objectives will be achieved and how the Commissioner will know if he is achieving them, the Panel cannot offer its endorsement.
- 6.3 The Panel recognises it has reviewed the first iteration of the Plan and therefore trusts that the Commissioner will incorporate the comments outlined under section 5.1 in to the final version.
- 6.4 The Panel has offered the Commissioner the opportunity to discuss the Plan further prior to its finalisation should this be deemed useful.