



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

13th September 2019, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
Councillor Russell Brown	- Bradford Council
Councillor Mohammed Naeem	- Calderdale 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
Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council

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

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Sophie Whittaker, Cllr Tariq Hussain and Cllr Alan Wassell for the meeting along with Cllr Cahal Burke.

2. Minutes of the Meetings held 19th July 2019

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

2.2 Matters Arising

6.3 The PCC was asked if the PCP had incorporated the Panel's comments on the annual report. The PCC acknowledged that where possible they had and that he would share the final draft with Panel before publishing the document.

2.3 RESOLVED

2.3.1 The PCC to circulate the final draft annual report to Panel before it is published.

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 declarations of interest.

5. Delivery Quarterly

5.1 The PCC gave an overview of the key issues from the DQ which covers the 12 month period to June 2019.

5.2 The PCC reported that the overall progress is showing an improving or stable trend and crime is now increasing at a slower rate, with an encouraging actual decrease of 0.5% during the last quarter.

5.3 The PCC was asked about the recently reported national and local statistics showing a significant increase in hate crime, compared to a reduction in the number of convictions from 19% to 4% in successful prosecutions.

5.4 The PCC reported that there has been an increase in reported homophobic hate crime and indicated that it is positive that more people feel they can report it. The PCC has done significant proactive work in West Yorkshire such as the 'Hate Hurts' campaign, appointing Hate Crime Co-ordinators as well as the introduction of the Stop Hate UK app.

5.5 The PCC went on to say that there is concern, however, about the current environment that we are working. The PCC stated that not all successful outcomes involve a prosecution – not all victims want perpetrators put in front of the courts and prefer a restorative approach.

5.6 The Chief Constable reiterated a belief that confidence to report crimes and an increased awareness of hate crime is positive. He commented that work is ongoing to monitor the increases and the reasons for this and is a challenge for West Yorkshire Police (WYP).

5.7 The PCC and WYP were praised for their work visiting groups within the LGBT community and in encouraging them to report hate crime. The PCC was asked what can be done to improve the prosecution figure and to give more confidence that reporting these crimes will have an impact.

- 5.8 The PCC informed Panel that WY had been singled out by the HMICFRS and praised for the work that has been done on hate crime. The PCC suggested that perhaps more should be communicated about the successful outcomes other than prosecutions to give the public more confidence that action is being taken on reported hate crimes.
- 5.9 The PCC was asked about changes to the emphasis on Stop and Search in West Yorkshire.
- 5.10 Panel were informed that the grounds for Stop and Search have not changed, but the authority levels and circumstances have altered. The PCC reassured Panel that it is not a blanket approach in West Yorkshire and there is an awareness of the potential community impact of this and that engagement with communities on this will be retained. Stop and Search in West Yorkshire is being used in a targeted way and it was suggested that in West Yorkshire the levels remain quite low. The PCC stated that it is only a few months into Operation Jemlock and data will be provided to each CSP and also shared with the Panel.
- 5.11 The PCC was questioned about re-offending rates and in particular a report from the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs about people on short term sentences re-offending. The report points out that many releases are made late on Friday when organisations are closed and this leads to disproportionate offending. The PCC was asked if he was aware of the report and what he could possibly do influence partner organisations on this.
- 5.12 The PCC acknowledged that he is aware of the report and the high re-offending rates and this is one of the reasons he has developed the re-offending strategy which is referred to later on the agenda.
- 5.13 Panel asked about lack of increase in a BAME workforce.
- 5.14 The PCC commented that he regularly discusses how WY can recruit more from a BAME background with the Chief Constable. It was noted that in the current recruitment process there have been more applications from BAME and this is a big opportunity to make a difference. It was noted that each part of the recruitment process is monitored to see where the drop out spots are and WYP are constantly seeking new ways to improve.
- 5.15 The PCC agreed to report back on retention levels with BAME staff when a report on staffing is considered at a future meeting.
- 5.16 The PCC was asked about the work that he does in supporting victims of rape. It was noted that the report of rape have doubled but the number of prosecutions is at its lowest level. The PCC was asked if the CPS are doing enough to bring cases forward and what he is doing to support victims and challenge the myths and views that stereotype victims.
- 5.17 The PCC reported on his commissioning of core victim support that he has undertaken. He also reported that he is about to launch his new Victim and Witness Strategy in

November at a high profile event. The PCC has ensured that a video link has been set up in Calderdale and set up is near completion in Wakefield for victims, as well as the development of a new SARC (Sexual Abuse Referral Centre) with specialist trained officers and video link provision.

- 5.18 The CC reported that the arrest rate in West Yorkshire is above the national average but there are issues with the criminal justice system. Issues around disclosure and electronic devices is having an impact on victims wanting to pursue a criminal case. There are also a high number of non-recent rape enquiries and historic ones which are complex but he assured the PCC and Panel that WYP are working very hard to support all victims of rape.
- 5.19 Panel welcomed the significant improvements around crime in Bradford which have seen it move from the worst performing district to the best. The PCC was asked the reasons for such improvements and if this would be replicated within the other districts.
- 5.20 The PCC commented that it was due to a number of factors including the investment in PT's and partnership working. There have been a number of long term preventative measures as well as some 'hard-line' operations such as Operation Steerside, which have been successful. The PCC stated that this improvement was encouraging and he hopes to continue the trend and also to see improvements across West Yorkshire.
- 5.21 Panel had noted that recorded ASB has again reduced (by around 5%) from 50,393 to 46,729. The PCC was asked if this figure provides an accurate reflection of how things are as this seems to provide a conflicting picture when compared to the data showing resident's 'confidence that the police and partners will prevent crime and ASB' which continues to be low at 35%.
- 5.22 The PCC reminded Panel that the HMICFRS recently graded WY as outstanding for its crime recording. The PCC suggested that it takes some time for the public's perceptions of the levels of ASB to change. He commented that the recent trends are positive and he hopes that the new NPT's are also having an impact on this.
- 5.23 The PCC was asked whether the length of time taken to answer 101 calls, or indeed the cancelled calls, has an impact on ASB recording.
- 5.24 The PCC assured Panel that he constantly reviews 101 and 999 performance with the CC. WY is the best performer in the country on 999 calls and he is promoting other ways that the public can report in other than via 101.
- 5.25 The CC reported that the latest statistics show a very low abandonment rate and reassured Panel that crime reporting is getting through. The CC stated that he feels very optimistic about call performance as WYP has got through the busiest period with good levels of call handling. It was agreed to bring an update report back to Panel on call handling in due course.

5.26 RESOLVED

5.26.1 The PCC agreed to report back on retention levels with BAME staff when a report on staffing is considered at a future meeting.

5.26.2 It was agreed to bring an update report back to Panel on call handling in due course.

6. Neighbourhood Policing Update

6.1 Panel were provided with an update on the new operating model of Neighbourhood Policing which was launched in March 2018.

6.2 The PCC reported that overall he is pleased with the findings. Whilst numbers of neighbourhood police are not quite back to the 2010 levels, there are now an additional 100 constables allocated, taking the total to 306. West Yorkshire also has the highest level of PCSO's in the country.

6.3 The report raises the issue of deployment where demands come in, ie, abstraction and measures have been put in place regarding governance and monitoring of this. There has also been an improvement in morale.

6.4 The PCC highlighted the risks that had been identified which includes the introduction of the Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF) which is a University based scheme for new recruits. It was hoped to bring this in during the current year but due to the number of additional officers recruited this has been delayed until July 2020.

6.5 Panel were assured that demand is reducing as a result of increased early interventions and HMICFRS have praised WYP for the implementation of this model.

6.6 The PCC stated that there is increased visibility in communities and PSCO's are also allocated to schools.

6.7 The PCC informed Panel that Neighbourhood Policing is discussed at each COM as a key priority and the PCC himself regularly visits NPTs to talk to staff and officers.

6.8 Panel welcomed the report and praised the model which provides much reassurance to the community. However, some concern was expressed at the levels of extraction and the impact those have. The PCC was asked to provide reassurance about how these are being managed and reduced.

6.9 The PCC stated that there is a drive to try and reduce abstractions but that they are often a necessity. The CC commented that abstraction levels are getting lower and it is expected that this should continue to improve as the additionality comes on board. It was pointed out that the model has had an impact on helping prevent crimes and the significant benefit to communities is about outcomes and not numbers.

6.10 The issue of data sharing protocols across police and local authorities was raised. Panel were reassured that work is in ongoing between local authorities and the police to look at consistency regarding data sharing. It was noted that there is now an overarching protocol which is hoped will form the basis for ensuring appropriate and adequate sharing of information.

7. Role of the PCC in the Criminal Justice System

7.1 The Panel received a paper on the role of the PCC in the Criminal Justice System.

7.2 The PCC reported that he is feeding into ongoing national discussions about what could be further devolved regarding the administration of the system and has been working on this as part of his role as Chair of the APCC.

7.3 The PCC emphasised his close working with the CJ partners and how he feeds this into other partnership arrangements such as the Partnership Executive Group (PEG). He stated that there are good working relationships with CJ partners in West Yorkshire, however, there are significant deficiencies in CJ transformation. The common platform for sharing files and data is not effective and has had an impact on performance.

7.4 The PCC was asked what actions he has taken to see improvements.

7.5 The PCC reported that an action plan is now in place regarding performance issues. He is also exploring better uses of technology and has introduced the video link in courts. The PCC stressed that improvement depends very much on Government devolving some of the work that could be done better locally and the PCC is pushing for this.

7.6 The PCC was asked what pressure he has exerted on partners to improve.

7.7 The PCC assured Panel that he has and does and as a result an action plan is in place to address and monitor problems caused by the digital mark-up scheme. The PCC stated that he is pushing for improvements regarding the number of court days taken to bring a case to justice.

7.8 It was noted that the PCC is launching his new Reducing Re-offending and Victim's Strategies in November.

8. Serious Violence Funding Update

8.1 Panel received an update on the £3.37m allocation for in year spend for 2019/20.

8.2 It was noted that 60% of the funding is being put into initiatives, extending/strengthening what already works. This is taking a public health approach, which is to treat the issue as an entirely preventable reason for crime. This involves working with partners and CSPs and partners views have been factored in. The PCC is currently recruiting to the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) structure and looking at secondment opportunities.

- 8.3 Whilst there is a strong steer that funding will be made available in the next financial year, there is no certainty. The PCC continues to lobby for this to be taken into consideration as part of the CSR.
- 8.4 The VRU will be based in a shared building with WY Joint Services in Morley and the governance will be through the PEG. It was also noted that opportunities for working with the N8 academic structures are being exploited, as well as alongside the Combined Authority.
- 8.5 It was noted that there is stringent criteria set out by the Home Office about how success will be measured and this is also being supplemented by WY's own success measures.
- 8.6 Panel were assured that the PCC is already thinking about future sustainability and there is an anticipation that the VRU will be retained past the end of March.

9. Published Key Decisions

- 9.1 The published key decisions were noted.

10. Commissioner's Response to any Current Issues

10.1 Spending Review

The PCC updated Panel on the Government's latest announcement about an additional 20,000 new officers and what that could mean for West Yorkshire. The PCC reported that it is still not known what the actual allocation for WY will be but some work has begun based on assumptions.

- 10.2 It was noted that plans are being put in place to commence recruitment as soon as the allocation is known. It is welcome news but it does take time to get new recruits to an effective level. Panel were assured that within the next few weeks WY would be on target to meet the previously committed recruitment levels.

- 10.3 The PCC was asked whether the government allocation may be based on the PCC increasing the precept as had happened in the past. The PCC stated that the expectation was that it wasn't based on a precept increase however, there will be additional inflation costs pensions etc, so the full implications will need to be worked through.

10.4 DV Homicide Offences

The PCC responded to the recent media releases regarding the levels of DV homicide offences for 2018. The PCC commented that in WY the levels had remained at average although there had been an increase with cases in the past two weeks.

11. Agreed Actions Log

11.1 The agreed actions log was noted; there were no outstanding actions of concern.

12. Forward Agenda Plan

12.1 The forward agenda plan was noted.

13. Complaints received by the Panel

12.1 The Panel noted that there is one complaint that has been recorded and returned for Panel consideration by the IOPC. It was noted that the only other current recorded complaint ongoing is nearing resolution.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 There was no other business reported.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 9.30 am on Friday 8th November in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.