



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

11th Sep 2015, Dewsbury Town Hall

PRESENT:	Councillor Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Iqbal	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Khan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor G Carter	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Ahmed	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Scott	- Kirklees MBC
	Councillor Barker	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Councillor Wassell	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Roger Grasby	- Independent
	Jo Sykes	- Independent
IN ATTENDANCE:	Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Emma Duckett	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Sharon Fraser	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chair of the Panel noted apologies from Councillor Amanda Carter (Leeds), Councillor Ann Martin (Calderdale) and Councillor Michael Walls (Bradford).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 2015

- 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 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 attended the meeting for items 5 to 12 along with Katherine Johnson, Kelly Laycock and Lauren Wray from the OPCC.

5. Financial Briefing: Overview of Current Financial Position

- 5.1 The Commissioner presented to the Panel the Force's budget position to 30 June 2015.
- 5.2 The Commissioner highlighted the uncertainty around future funding due to the current consultation on the police funding formula and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement at the end of November. Members noted that cuts could potentially range from 25% to 40%.
- 5.3 The Commissioner raised concerns regarding the possible changes to the funding formula. There appears to be a shift in funding from the metropolitan areas to the shire areas which could negatively impact on West Yorkshire Police.
- 5.4 The Commissioner reported on the Force's Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) and it was noted that there is currently a revenue underspend of £3.167m against plan.
- 5.5 Panel highlighted the numbers of vacant posts and the Commissioner commented that vacancy management is a key way for the force to manage the budget. It was noted that any recruitment goes through a vigorous panel.
- 5.6 Panel noted that there is a still need to identify how a reduction of 190 FTE police staff is to be achieved by March 2016 to meet savings targets. It was reported that there is currently a major review of internal shared services as part of the Programme of Change and it is expected that the bulk of reductions will be identified from there. Members requested further information on this review when it becomes available.
- 5.6 Panel questioned whether the high number of vacancies was having an impact on service provision and, in particular, call handling which had seen previous poor performance.
- 5.7 The Commissioner confirmed that the 999 call handling has always been within the required response time and the issues with 101 call handling had been greatly improved. It was noted that West Yorkshire did assist South Yorkshire with 101 call handling whilst there were technical problems, however, these have now been resolved and South Yorkshire are again managing their own calls.
- 5.8 The Commissioner reported that there is currently Home Office consultation on 101 call handling, with an inference to moving more towards a multi-agency service.
- 5.9 RESOLVED**
 - 5.9.1 The Commissioner to provide details of the Programme of Change's review into internal shared services when it becomes available.

5.9.2 The Commissioner to provide details of police officers on restricted duties and how they are being utilised across the Force.

6. Quarterly Performance Scrutiny to 30 June 2015

- 6.1 The Commissioner presented the latest performance information to 30 June 2015.
- 6.2 Crime data integrity continued to impact on the level of recorded crime with increases seen for total crime (+8.3%) and domestic burglary (+5.9%) over the 12 months to 30 June 2015. The Commissioner stated that the Force was now more than 90% compliant in recording crimes.
- 6.3 The Commissioner highlighted that, six months ago, recorded crime in West Yorkshire was at a 31 year low. Whilst crime data integrity is undoubtedly impacting on performance, the Commissioner felt that the 'tipping point' may have been reached due to significant reductions in police officer and police staff numbers. 31/43 forces have seen increases in crime in recent months.
- 6.4 Members noted the increases in bike theft, theft other and religiously and racially aggravated offences over the quarter to 30 June 2015. The Commissioner stated that the increase in racially and religiously aggravated offences was an area for concern which he has highlighted with the temporary Chief Constable.
- 6.5 The Lead Member for performance asked the Commissioner what he had done to reassure himself and the public that the recent increases in crime were mainly due to crime data integrity. In response, the Commissioner stated that the Internal Audit team were considering crime data integrity to ensure compliance and that any real changes in performance are identified and acted upon.
- 6.6 A Member stated that he had received the Commissioner's public perception survey and sought further information on the sampling methodology and validity of the survey. In response, the Commissioner stated that the survey was based on a random sample and generated approximately 13,000 responses annually. Responses from the survey provided the performance data for some of the performance indicators within the Police and Crime Plan. Data were also shared with partners to inform their plans.
- 6.7 A Member raised the issue of increases in car crime due to cross border criminals and asked about plans for increasing the number of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The Commissioner highlighted the ANPR Transformation Project and the planned increased in ANPR provision across the county.
- 6.8 Further discussion focused on youth offending and the potential impact that the in-year cuts to the Youth Offending Teams budgets could have on this area.
- 6.9 RESOLVED**

- 6.9.1 The Commissioner to provide information on the ANPR Transformation Project and the projected completion dates for installing ANPR cameras as soon as possible.
- 6.9.2 The Commissioner agreed to include homicide figures in the next quarterly performance report.

7. Strategic Workforce Strategy 2015-20

- 7.1 The Commissioner presented the report on the Strategic Workforce Strategy and highlighted the challenges that lay ahead.
- 7.2 There was a discussion on the need for a more flexible force and the Panel questioned whether the civilianisation of aspects of police work will mean that it is less effective. The Commissioner assured the Panel that he is doing all he can to ensure that all these considerations are taken on board as part of the new modelling of the Force but that budget pressures are making such decisions inevitable.
- 7.3 The Commissioner stated that he supported the current Home Office thinking around extending some warranted powers for non-police officers, which will help to create a more flexible workforce.
- 7.4 The Commissioner confirmed that the Force is in the process of finalising the latest tranche of new recruits that were agreed as part of the Precept agreement earlier in the year.
- 7.5 The Panel questioned how the latest Home Office Innovation Funding might help support new ways of working. It was noted that through the Partnership Executive Group (PEG), the Commissioner has set up a small steering group of partners to develop ideas for innovation and collaboration. The Commissioner welcomed any ideas from Panel members around this.
- 7.6 The Panel again raised the issue of comparatively low levels of women and black and minority ethnic (BME) recruits within the Force. Whilst recognising the limited level of recruitment at present, the Panel stressed the need for more to be done to ensure that the diversity of recruits is further increased and existing BME staff are retained.
- 7.7 The Chair reaffirmed with the Commissioner that the Strategic Workforce Plan was of key importance for the Panel. Whilst the Panel recognised that the CSR announcements would impact on workforce planning, it was felt that further information was needed prior to the Panel considering the precept in February.
- 7.8 RESOLVED**
 - 7.8.1 The Commissioner to provide a briefing to Members on the Strategic Workforce Plan, potentially at their private meeting on 9 October 2015.

8. Victim Support Services 2015-16

- 8.1 The Commissioner outlined the work that is ongoing around Victim Support Services and the further work that is being taken forward.
- 8.2 The Panel raised with the Commissioner the proposed closure of Wakefield and Halifax magistrate's courts and concern was expressed about the impact of the proposed court closures on victims of crime both in terms of increased cost and increased travel time.
- 8.3 The Commissioner reported on the establishment of victim's hubs, the concept of which is to provide a neutral, safe space for victims with video links to court. Panel asked if the Commissioner could consider an additional fund to provide financial help to victims with their travel costs.
- 8.4 The Commissioner and the West Yorkshire Leaders are making a joint response opposing the court closures.
- 8.5 The Commissioner agreed to bring a more detailed report on victim's hubs to a future meeting, particularly focussing on the potential these might have to mitigate some of the effects of court closures.

8.8 RESOLVED

- 8.8.1 The Commissioner to provide a report on victim's hubs to a future meeting.

9. Community Outcomes Meetings

- 9.1 Panel noted the report on the Commissioner's Community Outcomes Meetings with the temporary Chief Constable.
- 9.2 Panel suggested that areas that they were particularly keen to scrutinise in more detail include:
- The Force's treatment of vulnerable victims and vulnerable perpetrators of crime.
 - Disability Hate Crime
 - Stop and Search

9.3 RESOLVED

- 9.3.1 Panel Officers to develop an outline of the scrutiny review of the Force's treatment of vulnerable victims and vulnerable perpetrators for consideration by the Panel.

10. Published Key Decisions

10.1 The Commissioner's staff were thanked for ensuring the website was up to date.

11. Agreed Actions Log

11.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

11.2 The Commissioner reported that discussions on the co-location of the Fire and Rescue Service and Police at Weetwood station were still on going, prior to the commencement of negotiations with affected parties.

11.3 The Panel agreed to amend the date of the December 2016 meeting of the Panel to the 9th December at the request of Kirklees Council. Consideration would also be given to changing the date of the November meeting from the 4th to the 18th.

11.4 RESOLVED

11.4.1 Panel Officers to circulate 2016 Panel meeting dates when confirmed.

12. Commissioner's Response to any current issues

12.1 The Commissioner was asked to respond to a number of current issues raised by the Panel.

12.2 Commissioner was asked if he was assured that the rules are being appropriately applied around the seizure and sale of cars as West Yorkshire is the Force with the highest number of cars seized and sold other than the Met.

12.3 The Commissioner stated that West Yorkshire has always taken a pro-active approach to uninsured drivers etc and he does believe that the rules are being applied appropriately. The Commissioner agreed to provide information to the Panel on West Yorkshire's approach.

12.4 A Member questioned the use of social media by police officers and staff. The Commissioner stated that there are clear guidelines for the use of social media and regular advice is given to officers and staff. The Commissioner agreed to circulate the guidelines to Panel members.

12.5 The Commissioner was asked about the controls of the use of volunteer photographs taken for use in video ID parades by the VIPER Unit. The Commissioner assured the Panel that this is operated under strict procedures; no personal details are taken other than age and nationality. The volunteer can have their details removed at any point and all photos are stored under data protection rules.

12.6 The Commissioner and Panel noted there had been six devolution bids submitted by Yorkshire to the Treasury. The bids had different implications for policing governance and it was recognised that this would form part of the Panel's agenda in due course.

12.7 RESOLVED

12.7.1 The Commissioner to provide further information on West Yorkshire Police's approach to the seizure and sale of cars.

12.7.2 The Commissioner to provide the Force's guidelines to staff on the use of social media.

13. Complaints Received by the Panel

13.1 Members noted that there are two live complaints against the Commissioner which are being dealt with by the Panel.

13.2 The Lead Member for complaints stated that one complainant had exercised his right to appeal against the Complaints Sub Panel's decision to not uphold his complaint. The appeal would be heard by the full Panel at their private meeting on 9th October.

13.3 The second complaint was still ongoing, with information being sought from the Commissioner. The Complaints Sub Panel was due to meet again at the beginning of October.

13.4 RESOLVED

13.4.1 That the full Panel consider the appeal at its private meeting on 9th October.

14. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2015

14.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 There was no other business raised.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

16.1 The next meeting is to be held at 10.00 am at Wakefield One on Friday, 13th November. The private meeting will commence at 9.00 am.