



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

11th March 2022, Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield

PRESENT:	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council (Chair)
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Trevor Lake	- Independent
	In attendance	
	Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
	Julie Reid	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Karen Grey	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	John Robins QPM	- Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police
	Alisa Newman	- West Yorkshire Police
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sophie Whittaker, Cllr Jacqui Williams, Cllr Maureen Tennant-King, Cllr Tariq Hussain and Cllr Masood Ahmed.

2. To approve, as a correct record and deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 4th February 2022.

2.1 The minutes were amended to record the attendance of Councillors Richard Dunbar and Nicole Sharpe, and subsequently 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 urgent items to add to the agenda.

4. Members' Declaration of Interests

4.1 Trevor Lake declared an interest at item 7 as Chair of the Joint Independent Audit and Ethics Committee.

5. Delivery Quarterly Q3

5.1 The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) introduced her report and highlighted some areas of notes in the latest Delivery Quarterly (DQ) figures. She reminded Panel that this would be the last DQ using the old Police and Crime Plan, and from the next quarter, the report would follow the format of the new Plan, launched on 10th March.

5.2 The figures in this report are taken from the October-December quarter 2021, and compare with the same periods in 2020 and 2019 (for a more like-for-like comparison).

5.3 The DMPC met with the Chief Constable 1st March to discuss the figures and highlight any concerns.

5.4 Specific papers to be included in a future forward plan include anti-social behaviour (ASB) at the next meeting, and the Economic Crime Unit at a future date.

5.5 A question was asked about figures showing outcomes where the victim doesn't want to pursue a prosecution but the police feel that the prosecution should proceed due to a significant risk of further harm to the victim or to the general public. These situations mostly arise in cases of domestic violence and sexual offences. Discussion took place around the interaction of bodies within the wider criminal justice system and specifically between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) which often make the route to successful prosecution very difficult and leads to an increased feeling that the criminal justice system is getting worse rather than better for victims. This is acknowledged, and the DMPC will shortly be meeting the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss the process.

5.6 A question was asked regarding rape figures in Calderdale which seem to take a different trajectory to other local authority areas. The Chief Constable said he was unaware of any particular issue and that he expected that the rate is due to historic cases, however it would be checked and any different reason would be reported back to Panel.

5.7 A question was asked regarding the small downward trend evident in victim satisfaction data. The DMPC and Chief Constable both agreed that external factors and events such as the Sarah Everard case, the role of the police in enforcing lockdown

legislation and other international events had contributed to this. The Chief Constable informed Panel that West Yorkshire Police (WYP) are refreshing their victims code to encourage and support the further development of a positive culture in the force.

- 5.8 The Chief Constable was asked how he envisaged the journey from adequate to good for the 'supporting victims' element of the HMICFRS inspection criteria, and whether he thought it could be achieved in one inspection cycle. The Chief Constable replied that the Force would be trying new approaches and training to further develop a positive culture in this regard but asked Panel to bear in mind that this has been a long standing challenge and that he couldn't provide a definitive timescale for this work to be undertaken.
- 5.9 Panel questioned the statement at 2.6.3 in the report, that there had been only a "slight increase" in some of the measures, when the Serious Violent Crime measure had increased by 9.5% on December 2019. The Chief Constable replied that these figures are driven primarily by offences under Sections 18 and 20, which includes domestic abuse, serious violence crimes and organised criminality. Whilst there has been good progress and direction of travel around serious violence overall, this is an area that is receiving particular focus and there is continuing effort to understand this increase and deal with the causes behind the rise. The DMPC referred to the submitting of bids of more than £15m in the next few years to continue funding for the VRU.
- 5.10 A question was asked regarding the slight decrease in numbers of frontline police officers at 2.4 in the introductory report. Panel were assured that this was a blip in the data, most likely showing the transfer of student officers to another part of their training, and was not indicative of any structural change to frontline policing numbers.
- 5.11 The DMPC was asked if she could explain more about the innovative Smart Water system. The DMPC reported that whilst this had primarily been used for ASB and vehicle ASB, that has now been extended to be used in DA cases to give that forensic link to perpetrators. This is giving victims further assurance and around 70% say they are feeling safer as a result of this initiative.
- 5.12 A question was asked regarding the significant rise in hate crime recordings, especially those against the Trans community which have risen by 44%. It was acknowledged that this rise will be driven by an increased confidence in reporting and external factors such as online campaigns, but the DMPC was asked if there was anything to report to the Panel on additional innovation in partnership working to address these figures. The DMPC told Panel that she was committed to the funding of ISVAs and IDVAs and working with trans and non-binary communities and that she was looking at commissioning a strategy to address this. Mention was made of the positive response currently to LGBTQ issues within the Bradford district.
- 5.13 The DMPC was asked how satisfied she is that the current MASH arrangements support partnership working in the criminal justice system as well as they should. She responded that having worked in some of these partnerships previously, she has seen the work they do, and has confidence that they are working well together. She acknowledged the need to continually assess how well the arrangements are working.

5.14 The DMPC was asked about the percentage of grants awarded through the Safer Communities Fund that contributed to hers and the Mayor's pledge to keeping women and girls safe. The DMPC assured Panel that the majority of applicants to the latest round of grants related to this theme, and also contributed to the additional themes of early intervention and diversity and inclusion. The DMPC offered to provide the breakdown of information and criteria, although all successful bids have been published online.

5.15 A request was made for the data on missing persons to be provided as a percentage of local authority population, to give a better understanding of hotspots and issues. The DMPC agreed that her office could provide this breakdown.

5.16 RESOLVED

5.16.1 Data on Missing Persons to be provided additionally as a percentage of local authority populations.

6. Police and Crime Plan Performance Measures

6.1 The DMPC introduced the report, which contains the new performance measures from the Police and Crime Plan. These measures have been reviewed based on comments from Panel in previous meetings.

6.2 Clarification was sought on the workforce representation measurement which shows joiners and leavers. Whilst monitoring joiners was felt to be essential, the value of monitoring leavers was questioned. The Mayor's team informed Panel that whilst joining targets are set by the national Police Uplift Programme (PUP), the latter was measured only in West Yorkshire with the aim being to monitor how welcoming the force is to BAME joiners by looking at the proportion who leave.

6.3 The DMPC was asked to ensure that Panel's precept request to consider the impact on children and young people of all aspects of performance measures, was maintained in future reporting. The DMPC assured Panel that it would be.

6.4 RESOLVED

6.4.1 Panel noted the report.

7. Complaints

7.1 The DMPC introduced her report. She stressed that both her and the Mayor of West Yorkshire wanted to be as open and transparent as possible when dealing with complaints, however due to the sometimes sensitive and confidential nature of these, information may sometimes have to be provided privately.

- 7.2 The DMPC was asked if her team had done any analysis around trends in complaints, despite system issues referenced in the paper. She replied that limited work is done manually, but that the process is extremely time consuming. The Casework Manager responded that conversations are had with WYP if caseworkers see anything of concern in complaints, however no specific themes have emerged recently. Caseworkers meet regularly with members of the IOPC to mutually feedback on common issues. Analysis focuses on the percentage of complaints that are upheld and reasons why others are returned to WYP. One issue that has been identified recently is a lack of understanding of cases from complaints handlers. The team were asked if training could be considered as a solution to this, to which they replied that it was felt this could make a difference.
- 7.3 The DMPC was asked how she is ensuring that members of the public are able to understand both the very complex process and pathways around making complaints and complaint reviews.
- 7.4 The DMPC accepted that this is very complex and the legalities and terminology is not helpful. The DMPC explained that the team works with members of the public to explain the processes but this is not always heard by some complainants who are emotionally invested in their complaint. It also means that there can be dissatisfaction with the process when ultimately it is that the complaint is not happy with the final outcome of their complaint.
- 7.5 It was agreed that a crucial element of a complaints process is that members of the public should be satisfied with the process, even if they are not satisfied with the outcome. It is important to manage the expectations of complainants along with the role and limitations of the Mayor/DMPC in complaints about WYP. It was agreed that for these reasons, clear information on the complaints process is especially important.
- 7.6 It was noted that the IOPC have recently published a renewed guide to making a complaint which was felt to be more accessible in terms of language used, and the DMPC are considering using something similar in WY. It was agreed to send this to the Panel for their views.

7.7 RESOLVED

7.7.1 Panel noted the report and recommended that the DMPC looks further at the information provided to members of the public with a view to helping them better understand the process.

8. Mayor's Response to any current issues

- 8.1 Panel heard about the launch of the Police and Crime Plan on 10th March at the Rosalie Ryrie Foundation in Wakefield. The DMPC reminded Panel that both her and the Mayor intend the Plan to be a living document and flexible to changing needs.

8.2 The DMPC informed Panel about the latest Safer Communities Fund awards, which were presented on 1st March. 39 groups were awarded grants totalling £208,00.

8.3 Part 2 of the PCC review has just been published by the Home Office, and the Mayor and DMPC will be examining the recommendations carefully; these can be accessed on government websites. The Minister of State for Crime and Policing has written to the Mayor regarding the possibility of extending her remit to cover the Fire and Rescue Service, and Panel will be kept informed as to the progress of these discussions.

9. Published Key Decisions

9.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions.

10. Agreed Actions Log

10.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

11. Forward Agenda Plan

11.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

12. Complaints received by the Panel

12.1 The Panel noted that there are no new recorded or existing ongoing complaints.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 There was no other business raised.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 8th April 2022 in the Old Restaurant, Wakefield Town Hall.