



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021, held via video conference

|                 |                               |   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Councillor Mohammed Iqbal     | - Leeds City Council (Chair)              |
|                 | Councillor Russell Brown      | - Bradford Council                        |
|                 | Councillor Tariq Hussain      | - Bradford Council                        |
|                 | Councillor Sophie Whittaker   | - Calderdale Council                      |
|                 | Councillor Cahal Burke        | - Kirklees Council                        |
|                 | Councillor Masood Ahmed       | - Kirklees Council                        |
|                 | Councillor Mark Thompson      | - Kirklees Council                        |
|                 | Councillor Amanda Carter      | - Leeds City Council                      |
|                 | Councillor Peter Gruen        | - Leeds City Council                      |
|                 | Councillor Stuart Heptinstall | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | Mrs Jo Sykes                  | - Independent                             |
|                 | Mr Roger Grasby               | - Independent                             |
|                 | In attendance                 |   |
|                 | Mark Burns-Williamson         | - Police and Crime Commissioner           |
|                 | Janine Nelson                 | - OPPC                                    |
|                 | Julie Reid                    | - OPPC                                    |
|                 | Wendy Stevens                 | - OPPC                                    |
|                 | John Robins QPM               | - Chief Constable                         |
|                 | Sharon Fraser                 | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | Samantha Wilkinson            | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | Fiona Bernardo                | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | James Lightfoot               | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | Luke Wyatt                    | - Wakefield Council                       |
|                 | Trevor Lake                   | - Joint Internal Audit & Ethics Committee |
|                 | Ben Still                     | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority       |
|                 | Alan Reiss                    | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority       |

The Chair express his sympathy on behalf on the Panel, with the Queen and Royal Family on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Tribute was paid to the late Duke for a lifetime of public service and charity work.

A minute silence was observed.

#### 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Mohammed Naeem, Richard Dunbar and Jacqui Williams

**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 19th March 2021.**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

**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 Jo Sykes and Roger Grasby declared an interest in Item 8 – Independent Panel Member Recruitment. Relevant paperwork will be completed.

**5. Devolution and Transition of PCC functions**

5.1 Ben Still and Alan Reiss from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority presented information on the role of the Authority, the impending devolution of certain powers from central government to the West Yorkshire region and the preparation for the transfer of functions from the PCC to the Mayor after 6<sup>th</sup> May.

5.2 The Panel heard of the work done by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) which discharges its role partly through statutory obligations, and partly through agreements with its five constituent local authorities.

5.3 Statutory duties undertaken by WYCA include strategic transport planning through the West Yorkshire Metro scheme, this includes supporting non-commercially viable bus services, and the free or subsidised travel schemes.

5.4 In agreement with local authorities, aspects of policy research and implementation are undertaken, enabling a 'single voice' to be heard.

5.5 WYCA also undertakes business support work, providing advice, loans and grants through a series of programmes and are accountable for the work of the LEP. Under the devolution deal, Adult Education will also come under their remit.

5.6 The Combined Authority has so far worked towards four overarching goals:

- Inclusive growth
- Increasing productivity (under the auspices of levelling up)
- Climate emergency (declared in West Yorkshire in 2019)
- Transport, particularly public transport.

- 5.7 Two further objectives have been added this year, with the impending election of the Combined Authority Mayor and these are:
- Police and Crime
  - Single Investment Strategy
- 5.8 The Panel was given an overview of the West Yorkshire devolution deal agreed in March 2020 which became law in January 2021. Under this deal, the Combined Authority will be responsible for a variety of functions, including adult education, skills, and to a degree, housing and finance. The elected Mayor will have separate functions, including bus franchising and transport and those currently exercised by the PCC.

Questions were asked about the position of the LEP in the new arrangements. The LEP Chair sits on CA as full voting member and that will continue. Under the new arrangements, nothing will change apart from some sub structures beneath the LEP. The government is however reviewing LEP structures and these will be made public before the summer break.

Questions were asked about the Combined Authority's accountability under the new arrangements. The Panel learned that the Mayor will Chair the Combined Authority, and through direct election, will be accountable to the public. The Combined Authority is, and still will be accountable to the public through its scrutiny functions which are in fact being expanded under the new arrangements. Combined Authorities are also accountable to central government – an assurance framework is in place, with annual reviews taking place.

- 5.9 The Panel was given an overview of the current position regarding the transition of the PCC functions to the Mayor.
- 5.10 The Panel was assured that all current PCC work streams had been identified and that the priority for the transition team was to ensure that there is no interruption of service during the handover process. Arrangements to TUPE staff across to the Combined Authority are in place, and staff have been fully engaged with this process. A new Directorate (Strategy, Communications and Policing) has been created to enable the OPPC officers to embed into the organisation, and not stand on its periphery. This structure will be in place from 10<sup>th</sup> May. The functions and responsibilities that the PCC currently holds will be transferred over as a whole.
- 5.11 The Mayor will be entitled, but not required, to appoint a Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime. Some of the Mayoral powers are unable to be delegated to a Deputy Mayor, for example, setting the PCC component council tax requirement. Should the Mayor wish to appoint a Deputy for Police and Crime, they are required to provide notification to the PCP and specific information which includes the criteria for the role, the appointee's suitability, and the T&Cs they are to be appointed on. The Panel is then required to undertake a Confirmation Hearing and report back their recommendation within three weeks of the date of formal notification.

Questions were asked about the ability to ensure continuity after the transfer, with particular regard to IT issues. Reassurance was sought that IT structures in the Combined Authority will be able to interact with police systems. Panel were informed

that there are information governance issues to work through, specifically around bespoke police IT solutions. These issues were being addressed, and the transition team are confident that these will not hamper business continuity.

Clarification was sought around the employment processes for the potential new Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime. The same restrictions and options will apply as are currently in place for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, in so much as it is a personal appointment and not subject to usual employment and dismissal laws and regulations. Officers at the Combined Authority are working through the process details, but reassurance was given that such details and subsequent T&Cs will be addressed and laid out in papers that would be provided to the Police and Crime Panel prior to any Confirmation Hearing.

- 5.12 The Panel clarified that whilst they recognised the need to undertake a confirmation hearing for a Deputy Mayor as soon as practically possible, they made it clear that in the spirit of transparency they would require the papers to be published and be available to the public a minimum of 72 hours before the Confirmation Hearing.
- 5.13 Reassurance was sought from the Chief Constable that his current policing priorities will remain the same. The Chief Constable confirmed that this was the case, and that he would continue to deliver the current Police and Crime Plan, with no changes planned. The PCC also confirmed that the current Police and Crime Plan will continue in the short term, although one of the Mayor's duties will be to draw up a new Plan. However, this would probably not be until later this year, or early 2022.

## **6 Joint Internal Audit & Ethics Committee Annual Report and Update**

- 6.1 The Chair of the Committee talked through his published report on the work of his Committee over the past year.
- 6.2 The Panel agreed that the report showed the work which had been done against the Committee's objectives, however asked the Chair of the Committee to clarify the outcomes from challenges raised. The Panel had particular interest in management responses to recommendations and the speed of these.
- 6.3 The Committee Chair responded that responses were generally good. There had been a delay in one aspect of work, but a decision had been made to bring the reports to audit even if incomplete, as long as an accompanying explanatory note was provided. Where concerns were raised, procedures were always put into place to address those.
- 6.4 Panel asked for further information on the work of the Ethics Committee. In the past, Panel had discussed the disproportionality of the use of stop and search, and asked what conclusions had been drawn from the Committee's work regarding this. The Committee Chair assured Panel that the Committee examine processes to capture information, and then look at what is being done as a result. The Committee Chair confirmed that he believed that the force is complying with rules and procedures around this area of policing and that any issues would be escalated accordingly.

- 6.5 The Committee chair highlighted the positive work on the COVID response, and that he had received a report which explained how the situation with PPE had arisen, and how an effective process and plan had been enacted to deal with it.
- 6.6 The Panel questioned whether the Governance Manager of the OPCC should be signing the report.
- 6.7 The Committee Chair assured Panel that the work of the Committee is a completely independent process and that they are not influenced in any way by the Chief Constable or the PCC. Whilst he had no concerns about this signing off, the JIAEC Chair agreed to review this.
- 6.8 The PCC passed on his appreciation to the Committee Chair for all his work on the JIAEC.

## **7. Update to Panel Rules and Procedures**

- 7.1 Panel noted the report which sets out necessary amendments to Panel documentation to reflect changes and agreed Orders as a result of the transfer of PCC functions to the elected Mayor.
- 7.2 There was a query about the wording in 3.1 of the complaints procedure. It was agreed that the Legal officer would review this and report back to the next Panel meeting.

### **7.3 RESOLVED**

**7.3.1 Panel agreed to approve the amendments to documentation, subject to review of the wording in paragraph 3.1 for the Complaints Procedures and this would be confirmed at the next full Panel meeting.**

## **8. Independent Panel Member Recruitment**

- 8.1 Panel were advised of the need to temporarily extend the term of the two independent panel members. A short term extension until at least the end of May 2021 was agreed in 2020, due to the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty at the time of the proposals to transfer PCC functions to a Mayor by 2021. A further extension is now sought to enable recruitment to commence following the Panel AGM in June, with a view to new appointments being in place in the Autumn.

### **8.2 RESOLVED**

**8.2.1 Panel noted the report, concerning the temporary extension of the term of office for the two independent Panel members, and agreed to extend the term until October 2021.**

## **9. Commissioner's Response to any Current Issues**

- 9.1 The PCC began by paying tribute to the life and work of the Duke of Edinburgh. The PCC reflected on the Duke opening the West Yorkshire Police Training Facility at Carr Gate in 2015 which was much appreciated at the time. The PCC had attended the commemorative ceremony in honour of the Duke at Wakefield Cathedral on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The PCC also sent his best wishes to Councillor Naeem for his recovery from illness.
- 9.2 The PCC commented on the latest HMICFRS report on the Policing Response to COVID – which includes positive comments about what WY Police have put in place. The PCC acknowledged the way in which WYP have stepped up during this time working with partners and added his personal thanks for that.
- 9.3 The PCC reported that funding for the VRU has been agreed for a further year and the PCC has continued to make the case for longer term funding to continue the work on reducing violence. The PCC thanked the staff at the VRU for their hard work.
- 9.4 As it was his last meeting as PCC , the Commissioner reflected on his time in the role of both PCC and prior to that on the West Yorkshire Police Authority and outlined some of the challenges and achievements over that period.
- 9.5 The PPC thanked the PCP Chair and Panel along with previous Chairs and Panel members, he also thanked the Chief Constable for his work and support and paid tribute to West Yorkshire Police.

## **10. Published Key Decisions**

- 10.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions.

## **11. Agreed Actions Log**

- 11.1 The Agreed Action Log was noted.

## **12. Forward Agenda Plan**

- 12.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

## **13. Complaints Update**

- 13.1 The Panel received a report containing an update of complaints ongoing, noting that there are currently no ongoing recorded complaints.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

- 14.1 Councillor Iqbal thanked outgoing Panel members Councillors Peter Gruen and Mohammed Naeem for their contribution to the Panel over their term of office. Councillor Naeem is standing down due to illness. It was proposed that Panel write to Councillor Naeem to send their good wishes for an improvement in his health.
- 14.2 On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Iqbal thanked the outgoing PCC, Mark Burns-Williamson for his dedication and commitment to the role. He highlighted the positive work and projects that the PCC had overseen, such as those related to money laundering, drink driving, child exploitation, hate crime, speeding, serious sexual violence, victim support and the creation of the Violence Reduction Unit. In particular, the PCCs work in local communities was commended, with the tangible benefits of the Safer Communities Fund being seen through 800 community projects.
- 14.3 On behalf of the Panel, Councillor Iqbal also thanked the Chief Constable, John Robins, for his support to the PCC and the Panel. Panel were particularly appreciative of his attendance at every meeting and his responsiveness to their questions.
- 14.4 The Chief Constable wanted to record his personal thanks to the outgoing PCC for his 23 years of public service. He believed that the PCC had provided the oversight and scrutiny expected of the role, whilst balancing it well with advocacy and support for West Yorkshire Police.

#### **15. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 15.1 The next meeting of the Panel will be the Annual General Meeting which will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021