



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

10th June 2022, Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield

PRESENT:	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Al Garthwaite	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Sinead Engel	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sarfraz Nazir	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Robert Thornber	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Andrew Cooper	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Anthony Smith	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Usman Ali	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Trevor Lake (virtually)	- Independent
	In attendance	
	Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Julie Reid	- 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. Appointment of Chair

- 1.1 Cllr Al Garthwaite was elected as Chair of the Panel for 2022/23, and Cllr Amanda Carter was elected as Vice-Chair for the same period.

2. Police and Crime Panel Membership

2.1 The membership of the Panel for 2022/23 was noted and Panel endorsed the appointment of the three local authority co-opted Panel members.

2.2 The Chair welcomed the new members on to the Panel.

2.3 RESOLVED

2.3.1 Membership of the Panel for 2022/23 was noted and the nominated local authority co-opted Panel members were endorsed

3. Acceptance of apologies for absence

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Maureen Tennant-King, Mayor Tracy Brabin and Cllr Steve Hall.

4. 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 8th April 2022.

4.1. The minutes were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

5. To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency

5.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

6. Members' Declaration of Interests

6.1 Cllr Sinead Engel declared an interest at Item 11.

7. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business

7.1 The Panel reviewed the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business to ensure that they up to date and remain fit for purpose. There were no proposed changes to the Procedures and Protocols at this time.

7.2 RESOLVED

7.2.1 Panel endorsed the existing Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business as set out.

8. Police and Crime Panel Complaints Annual Update

8.1 The Police and Crime Panel Officer gave an overview of complaints received by the Police and Crime Panel over the past year. Panel heard that the small number of recorded complaints does not give a full indication of the amount of officer time that is spent speaking to and e-mailing members of the public and assisting them with their complaints. Substantial amounts of time are also spent assessing whether complaints come under the remit of the Panel, or whether they need to be signposted, and if so, where to.

8.2 RESOLVED

8.2.1 Panel noted the report.

9. Review of Panel Complaints and Misconduct Procedure

9.1 The Police and Crime Panel Officer introduced the item by asking Panel to review and agree the wording of the Panel's complaints procedure and consider an amendment in relation to vexatious complaints. As a result of experiences in dealing with an unreasonable complainant, it was felt that the Complaints and Misconduct Procedures should be amended to include more detailed guidance for dealing with repetitive, abusive, and unreasonable complainants. The proposed additional wording clarifies the process and the actions that can be taken and would be included within the reviewed Complaints and Misconduct Procedure.

9.2 RESOLVED

9.2.1 Panel noted the report and agreed to the addition of new wording to clarify procedures when dealing with vexatious and repetitive complainants.

10. Panel Budget Outcome 2021/22 and Draft Budget 2022/23

10.1 This item was proposed to be deferred until the next Panel meeting, due to the complete set of necessary financial information not yet being available and because the Home Office have not yet made an announcement on the grant settlement for 2022/23.

10.2 RESOLVED

10.2.1 That this item is deferred until the next Panel meeting when the grant settlement for 2022/23 is announced.

11. Safeguarding

- 11.1 The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) reported how this area of work links to all the strategic priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. The DMPC drew Panel's attention to examples listed in the report which show progress in this area, specifically the success of the Smart Water initiative, the appointment of a suicide prevention co-ordinator within West Yorkshire Police (WYP), research on suicide rates amongst domestic abuse survivors and a focus on stalking.
- 11.2 The Chief Constable added that WY Police has been graded as 'outstanding' by HMICFRS for crime data integrity, and accurately records more crime than many forces. He commented that increases would be evident in some crime figures due to more calls, for example those around domestic abuse, being recorded as crimes, with the overall objective to flag more people at risk of domestic abuse and in doing so, reduce the possibility of serious harm.
- 11.3 A question was asked at 2.8.2 around timelines for the rollout of the neurodiversity awareness training, and the Chief Constable agreed to pass this information on when it was available. Discussion took place around the definition and challenge of neurodiversity, and a legal definition of the term was requested.
- 11.4 The DMPC was asked about the performance measures at point 1.4, and if she could provide any information on progress against honour based abuse. The DMPC deferred to the Chief Constable, who informed Panel that honour based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriages were extremely difficult to pursue, due to cultural barriers and a poor understanding of the issues in the medical profession, making convictions extremely hard to secure. WYP are working in partnership with health agencies to address these issues, and progress has included the commissioning new specialist clinics by the NHS.
- 11.5 Panel heard that the positive impact of the increase in precept funding and the Police Uplift Programme (PUP) on Neighbourhood policing teams has ensured that more officers will be available to respond to local safeguarding concerns, although the time taken to recruit and train these officers meant that the positive impact would take some time to be felt on the ground.
- 11.6 A question was asked regarding the exploitation of people with learning disabilities, to which the DMPC responded that her office were heavily engaged with the issue, and had consulted with affected groups in the consultation for the Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable added that learning disability is classified under 'vulnerability' for the purposes of recording crime, and that where the Force has not reached it's own standards in dealing with people with learning disabilities, it is flagged as a training

issue. The Police and Crime team are part of a national group looking at ways to tackle 'cuckooing'.

- 11.7 A question was asked to expand on issues that had triggered the report referred to at 2.9.1 on missing persons. The DMPC replied that daily crime reports received by herself and the Mayor enables them to unpick trends and discuss with WYP leadership team any action needed to investigate further. This particular issue has been of concern recently due to the activity of unregulated care homes. Partnerships between WYP, local authorities and other agencies are monitoring the impact of this situation on vulnerable young children.
- 11.8 Further information was requested at 2.7, regarding conviction and positive disposal rates for so-called honour based abuse (HBA), forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Panel heard that WYP is the regional lead force in this area, however a lack of medical knowledge and a refusal in some communities to engage with the police mean that achieving convictions is extremely difficult. Further information would be provided in future safeguarding reports and would be shared with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in addition to the Panel.
- 11.9 A question was asked about the availability of information around safeguarding vulnerable adults. The DMPC replied that this information was originally provided by the previous Police and Crime Commissioner's office, and she has requested funding to continue this work on a permanent basis. All relevant authorities have agreed to do this across the adult social care function.
- 11.10 Discussion took place around the impact of mental health calls on police work. These are often linked with drug and alcohol misuse and each officer has to make a judgement call on a case-by-case basis. The work of the Liaison and Diversion team is embedded in this process, working alongside the custody sergeant. Mental health has been identified as the single biggest issue in police call outs, and Panel heard that although the infrastructure is there to manage it, capacity is not.
- 11.11 Panel asked the DMPC to clarify the deadline for a piece of work referenced at 2.10.5 regarding a strengthened Terms of Reference for multi-agency safeguarding work across West Yorkshire, and heard that the deadline was not fixed but that she was confident that work was progressing well. In response to a question on terrorist grooming activity, Panel heard that this activity occurs under the Prevent agenda, and many referrals are made from schools, which are subsequently dealt with in partnership with the health sector.
- 11.12 The DMPC was asked a question regarding a perceived increased trend in homophobic behaviour in schools. The DMPC highlighted the PoEd service offered by WYP to all schools in the county, which provides an age-appropriate programme, free of charge,

covering online hate, exploitation and bullying. Panel heard that the Mayor wrote to the Headteachers in all primary and high schools in West Yorkshire offering the service, and that approximately 400 have taken up the programme. The training is accredited, and regular impact evaluations are undertaken. The DMPC offered to circulate details to all members of the Panel.

11.13 A question was asked about the omission of any reference to general harassment such as cat-calling, in the report. The DMPC agreed to liaise with WYP about the possibility of bringing information back to Panel detailing action in this area and referencing existing programmes which look to deal with this.

11.14 RESOLVED

11.14.1 The Chief Constable to provide Panel with a timetable of dates for the force neurodiversity training, and for Panel to be provided with a legal definition of the term for their own clarity and information.

11.14.2 Details of the Pol-Ed programme to be circulated to Panel members.

12. Road Safety

12.1 The DMPC introduced the report, highlighting that work on this area is part of the safer places and thriving communities priority in the Police and Crime Plan, before opening the item up for questions or comments.

12.2 A question was asked about the relationship between the DMPC's office and highways departments. Having served as a local councillor for many years previous to her current role, the DMPC assured Panel members that she understood the frustration of dealing with local authorities, and in trying to increase traffic calming measures, and that some of this is a result of DfT resources and some is due to guidance. Where local councils are particularly concerned, the DMPC committed to helping where possible and proactively intervening with local authorities.

12.3 The DMPC was asked why no elected members sit on the Vision Zero board, and she shared with Panel that this was the decision of the leaders of the local authorities, who had decided that the board should be officer led. The DMPC has lobbied to change DfT guidance on this issue and has been told that this will be updated by December 2022. Current guidance protects local authorities from certain road safety elements in court, and Panel heard that the Mayor has fed into the DfT consultation process arguing that this needs to change. The Chief Constable added that he would welcome elected members onto the Vision Zero board.

- 12.4 A question was asking regarding a strategy to enforce weight limits on roads. The DMPC deferred to the Chief Constable who replied that officers do attend reports of violations, but that resources mean that officers are deployed on an agreed risk basis, with decisions to deploy being proportionate to other crimes taking place.
- 12.5 Discussion took place as to whether Operation Steerside in Bradford, which deals with anti-social driving, could be rolled out across West Yorkshire. Panel heard that this was a decision for local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) who make spending decisions in these areas.
- 12.6 A question was asked regarding 2.4, and the reference made to the Vision Zero programme in Scandinavia resulting in zero deaths on the road. Panel requested figures for road deaths in previous years, to fully understand the impact of the 'zero deaths' statistic. The DMPC committed to obtaining the relevant information to pass to the Panel.
- 12.7 The DMPC was asked if she believed that Operation SNAP was effective, or whether it was taking up a disproportionate amount of resource as police officers sift through submissions. The DMPC and Chief Constable responded that despite the process being time consuming, positive outcomes outweighed this and the scheme is seen as a valuable asset. A supplementary question was asked regarding the possibility of taxi drivers using cameras to increase video footage of anti-social driving. The Chief Constable replied that there is a very low uptake of dashcams amongst taxi drivers and suggested that having a camera installed as a condition of local authority licences could be one way to increase safety – for passengers and other road users.
- 12.8 Panel asked the DMPC if data was available on anti-social cycling, especially by delivery company employees. The Chief Constable replied that it was not at the moment, but that data on electric bikes and scooters was being collated where possible and suggested that local authority planners and CSPs work with the police to mitigate these behaviours through as many means as possible.

12.9 RESOLVED

12.9.1 The DMPC to obtain comparative figures for Scandinavian road deaths prior to the introduction of Vision Zero and share these with Panel.

13. Published Key Decisions

- 13.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions which have been updated on the Combined Authority website.

14. Mayor's Response to any current issues

- 14.1 The DMPC shared a report on 999 calls with Panel. These calls increased by 2.7% in 2021-22, with over 40,000 calls made.
- 14.2 The DMPC's team will shortly be moving out of their current accommodation in Ploughland House. The team will still be based in Wakefield, and discussions are ongoing with Wakefield Council about new premises. In the meantime, officers will continue to work from home or the Combined Authority offices at Wellington House in Leeds.

15. Agreed Actions Log

- 15.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted.

16. Forward Agenda Plan

- 16.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

17. Complaints Received by the Panel

- 17.1 Panel noted the update report which stated that there has been one new recorded complaint relating to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, which is currently ongoing.

18. Any Other Business

- 18.1 There was no other business raised.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

- 19.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be the AGM and will be held at 10.00am on Friday 15th July 2022, in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.