



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

7th July 2017, Wakefield Town Hall

PRESENT:	Councillor Alison Lowe (Chair)	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Andrew Mallinson	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Steve Pullen	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Steve Sweeney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Mumtaz Hussain	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Linda Wilkinson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Josephine Jarosz	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Steve Tulley	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Councillor Alan Wassell	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
IN ATTENDANCE:	Bernadette Livesey	- City of Wakefield MDC
	Samantha Wilkinson	- City of Wakefield MDC

1. Appointment of the Chair

1.1 Councillor Alison Lowe, Leeds City Council was appointed as Chair of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel for 2017/18.

1.2 Councillor Alan Wassell was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Panel for 2017/18.

1.3 RESOLVED

1.3.1 That Cllr Alison Lowe be appointed as the Chair of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel for 2017/18.

1.3.2 That Councillor Alan Wassell be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Panel for 2017/18.

2. Police and Crime Panel Membership

2.1 Panel noted the 10 local authority appointments for 2017/18 and agreed to approve the local authority co-opted nominees as follows:

Councillor Steve Pullen, Bradford
Councillor Geraldine Carter, Calderdale.

2.2 Panel noted that the independent Panel members remain the same.

2.3 RESOLVED

2.3.1 That Councillor Steve Pullen, Bradford and Councillor Geraldine Carter, Calderdale be approved as the local authority co-opted Panel members for 2017/18.

3. Acceptance of apologies for absence

3.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Geraldine Carter.

4. Panel arrangements and Rules for Conduct of Business

4.1 Panel considered the Panel Arrangements and Rules for the Conduct of Business and agreed that they remain fit for purpose and that no changes are required.

4.2 It was noted that as part of the arrangements, Panel are required to establish Sub-Panels as necessary. It was agreed that Councillor Alan Wassell, Wakefield Council be appointed as the Chair of the Complaints Sub-Panel for 2017/18. Panel noted that in line with the Panel's complaints process, each Complaints Sub-Panel is established at the point it is required to consider a complaint. Membership of the Sub-Panel is drawn from amongst the total Panel membership to give the best possible balance of political party, gender and geography to deal with the complaint under consideration. A minimum of three Panel members are required to make up the Complaints Sub-Panel.

4.3 RESOLVED

4.3.1 That Councillor Alan Wassell Chair the Complaints Sub-Panel and that membership of the Complaints Sub-Panel is drawn from the full Panel on a case by case basis ensuring the best possible political, geographical and gender balance.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th May 2017

5.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record; there were no matters arising.

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

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

7. Members' Declaration of Interests

7.1 Roger Grasby and Jo Sykes both declared an interest as Independent Panel Members in relation to Item 8 on the agenda, to agree the Panel's draft budget for 2017/18, as their individual allowances are paid from this budget.

8. Police and Crime Panel Budget Outcome

8.1 Panel noted the outturn budget outcome for 2016/17.

8.2 It was noted that whilst Wakefield Council do not charge the Panel for office accommodation, internal legal support, HR & IT, some of these costs are recouped from the Home Office funding ensuring that the Panel claims the maximum grant entitlement.

8.3 Panel agreed the draft budget for 2017/18 with no local authority contribution required.

8.4 RESOLVED

8.4.1 That the draft Police and Crime Panel budget is endorsed for 2017/18 and that no local authority contribution is required.

9. Complaints Received by the Panel.

9.1 It was noted that there were currently no recorded complaints.

Mark Burns-Williamson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, John Robins, Deputy Chief Constable, Susan Field, Interim Chief Executive and Neil Flenley, OPCC Research Officer attended the meeting for items 9 – 18

10. Counter Terrorism

10.1 The Commissioner discussed with Panel the impact in West Yorkshire of the recent terror attacks in Manchester and London. It was noted that West Yorkshire did support Manchester significantly with the deployment of CT resources and officers.

10.2 There had also been additional patrols in West Yorkshire at key locations with officers asked to do more than they would normally be expected to do.

- 10.3 The Commissioner praised the work of the Police and the emergency services in dealing with the incidents and the aftermath. Panel also added recognition of the work of the Police and the emergency services.
- 10.4 Panel asked the Commissioner for his views on whether having overtly armed police is a re-assurance or a worry to the public.
- 10.5 It was noted that these factors are considered but at a time when the terror alert is at critical, armed officers are there not just as a re-assurance but to act as a deterrent and respond if necessary.
- 10.6 The Commissioner was asked about the financial impact on the force of the additional workload. It was reported that the force are currently pulling the figures together in an attempt to put in a potential bid to recoup as much cost as possible.
- 10.7 The Commissioner was asked about the communications policy in the event of a serious incident. Concern was expressed that local councillors are being left out of the loop when it is important that they are notified and able to help with any community issues.
- 10.8 The Commissioner commented that social media is so reactive that it is sometimes difficult to keep ahead of it. The responsibility is with the Divisional Commanders and the Commissioner stated that it normally works well.
- 10.9 Deputy Chief Constable John Robins stated that he would remind Divisional Commanders of the need to make early communication with local councillors and to ensure that there is a prioritisation of contacts.
- 10.10 Panel asked the Deputy Chief Constable about the response times in West Yorkshire if there was such an incident.
- 10.11 It was noted that whilst the capital clearly has a great ability to respond there is a firearms footprint in West Yorkshire read to react to any incident. The Panel were reassured that this is constantly reviewed and in the current climate the footprint has been stepped up in areas of greatest risk.
- 10.12 The PCC stated that a Counter Terrorism network has been set up and there is a regional footprint. There is regular scenario planning and civil emergency planning undertaken on a regular basis.

10.13 RESOLVED

10.13.1 That both the Commissioner and Panel recognised the work of the Police and the emergency services in dealing with the incidents and the aftermath of the recent incidents.

10.13.2 That Divisional Commanders be reminded of the need to make early communication with local councillors and to ensure that there is a prioritisation of contacts in the event of a serious incident in a locality.

11. Delivery Quarterly – Performance Report

- 11.1 It was noted that the period of the report covers January to March 2017 and is later in being reported due to the June Panel meeting cancellation.
- 11.2 The Commissioner stated that whilst recorded crime continues to increase due to recording changes, the increase is slowing. Analysis of the crime data gives a 'real crime' increase of 6%.
- 11.3 There continues to be an increase in demand on the Force in line with the national picture.
- 11.4 The HMIC has awarded 'Good' gradings in its recent inspections of West Yorkshire Police.
- 11.5 Panel suggested that the key areas that the public are interested in are the figures outlining an increase in total crime and a reduction in victim satisfaction. The PCC was asked what he is expecting the Chief Constable to do to improve these figures and what measures of success is he looking for.
- 11.6 The PCC stated that the significant funding cuts that the Force have had to face in previous years is having an impact. The effect of other public service cuts was also having an impact on the demand on the force.
- 11.7 The PCC stated that he is working with the Chief Constable and partners to improve this. The number of officers is growing, however, it takes time to recruit and train new police officers and the impact of this will not have an immediate effect. The PCC stated that he expects to see improvements in the course of the next 12 months as the plans for improvement are implemented and the numbers of trained officers increases.
- 11.8 The PCC was asked about the significant decrease in user satisfaction specifically in Kirklees. It was noted that as this is a new survey, there is only one month's data available with only 1,000 responses for the whole of West Yorkshire. It was suggested that whilst this data provides an adequate response for the whole county, it is difficult to be confident at this point that a breakdown into district provides such an accurate reflection. These figures will be monitored as further data is available.
- 11.9 The PCC reported that the Government intends to make significant cuts to the national crime survey. He and other PCC's are objecting to the proposals as this could take away a good source of external data.
- 11.10 The PCC was asked about what information sharing agreements are in place and if these could work better. The specific issue of ASB and Section 115's was raised.
- 11.11 The PCC responded that there are a significant number of information sharing agreements with a number of relevant partners as it is accepted that sharing properly and effectively gives better outcomes.

- 11.12 The Deputy Chief Constable commented that the force is as responsive and open as they can be within the legal parameters. In relation to section 115's, these are regularly reviewed and a key partner on community safety issues are the local CSP's where there is likely to be an information sharing agreement.
- 11.13 The PCC was questioned about the low percentage of detection rates and what is happening to improve this.
- 11.14 Panel were informed that the Force has finalised more offences in the past 12 months than before and the number of offences going to court is on the increase; however, as more crime is being recorded, this clearly affects the percentages.
- 11.15 The PCC stated that it is important to ensure that there enough skilled people in the detection teams. The force is currently in recovery mode of getting resources back in and developing the skills profile.
- 11.16 The PCC was asked about the significant increase in crime in March and how this had been attributed as due to final 'checks and balances'. Panel were informed that this is part of final audits that are done as part of CDI. Further data not included in this report, showed that the spike in March has fallen.
- 11.17 It was noted that the Commissioner was planning on taking a cross-party group of MP's to lobby Government for a favourable funding formula. However, this was cancelled due to the calling of the general election and subsequently the funding formula review has been put on hold.

12. Neighbourhood/Local Policing Update

- 12.1 The PCC gave a verbal update on the position of neighbourhood policing and in particular in relation to the recent presentation in Wakefield which indicated a significant reduction in Police Officers.
- 12.2 The PCC explained that there is currently a review of neighbourhood Policing which is expected to be completed shortly. The PCC stated that he has protected PCSO's and the vacancy rate is down to 5% and they are continuing to recruit. The PCC is also looking at opportunities for match funding by partners to provide additional PCSO's.
- 12.3 This is part of the PCC's desire to re-build neighbourhood policing and any growth is being utilised primarily for neighbourhood policing. It is planned that this will be implemented by January 2018 but there could be some re-allocation of officers sooner than that.
- 12.4 The PCC explained that the reduction in officers in Wakefield that had been reported was a result of earlier prioritisation to re-allocate some officers into safeguarding. This is being undertaken as the victims of domestic abuse in Wakefield were not getting the same services as the rest of West Yorkshire. The re-balancing of the neighbourhood

teams will happen but will not be immediate. The Deputy Chief Constable stated that he would be happy to meet with Wakefield members separately to discuss this.

- 12.5 Panel were concerned that they had not received a written report on this important issue. It was agreed to circulate the report that was discussed by the PCC and Chief Constable at the recent COMs meeting along with the Panel minutes. It was also agreed that a report on the outcome of the Neighbourhood review come to the Panel meeting in November.

12.6 RESOLVED

12.6.1 That the COMs report referred to in 12.5 be circulated to Panel along with the minutes.

12.6.2 That the Panel receive an update on the outcome of the Neighbourhood review in November.

13. PCC Annual Report

- 13.1 It was noted that the PCC is currently in the process of compiling his Annual Report. It was agreed that this would be circulated to Panel for comments as soon as the draft report is available and that the final draft will be formally considered at the Panel's meeting in public in September.

13.2 RESOLVED

13.2.1 That the draft annual report be circulated for Panel's comments as soon as it is available and that the final draft be formally considered at the Panel meeting in September.

14. OPCC Organisational Review Update

- 14.1 The PCC updated the Panel on the latest position regarding the organisation review of his office. It was noted that 3 weeks' of formal consultation with staff on the new draft structure commenced last week and ends at the end of July. The intention is to implement the revised structure from August onwards. There will be a review of the new structure in 6 months after implementation. It was agreed to send the draft structure on confidential basis to Panel members.

14.2 It was noted that the secondment of the substantive Chief Executive, Fraser Sampson, was being extended for 18 months to 2 years. Susan Field's secondment is to finish at the end of July but she will continue to work on the reducing re-offending work. An advert for the interim Chief Executive role will be going out next week.

14.3 It was noted that the substantive Chief Executive would still be retained to work on the NPAS (National Police Air Service) – costs will be met by NPAS for this.

14.4 **RESOLVED**

14.4.1 That the PCC provides the Panel with a copy of the business case for the new OPCC structure on a confidential basis and that the organisation review be a substantive item at the Panel's September meeting.

15. **Complaints Update**

15.1 It was noted that this is the report that the PCC discusses with the Chief Constable too hold her to account. It was noted that there has been a 6% increase in complaints but in the past quarter there has been a significant reduction in the number of complaint allegations. It is suggested that the force wide roll out of the early resolution pilot and the establishment of the Service Recovery Teams (SRT) has enabled a large number of low level complaints to be locally resolved and in a quicker time-frame.

15.2 It was noted that there are regular 'health checks' to look at any issues or concerns including recurring issues.

16. **Published Key Decisions**

16.1 The Panel noted the latest key decisions which have been published on the PCC's website.

17. **PCC's Response to any current issues**

17.1 DV Funding

The PCC informed Panel of recent success of the West Yorkshire Domestic Violence Board securing £600k from the violence against women and young girls fund. This will mainly fund a partnership approach to working with female offenders and within the family.

17.2 Mark Gilmore Legal Action

The PCC informed of the latest position regarding the legal action that the former CC Mark Gilmore is taking against the PCC. It was noted that the judgement is still outstanding and the PCC would not be making any further comment until the outcome is known.

17.3 Force Response to Stalking

Roger referred to a report from HMI's published early in the week which identified that, across the country, the response of the police to complaints of stalking was poor. He understood that HMI's had written to each force, seeking assurances that their performance would improve. Roger asked the Commissioner about the position of West Yorkshire police.

17.4 The Commissioner confirmed that he too had noted this report but had not yet had time to digested its contents and conclusions. The deputy chief constable added that

the force was currently considering the report with a view to making whatever changes were necessary to provide an appropriate level of service to victims

17.5 Use of “Cyber-Specials”

The PCC was asked for his views on whether he would consider using staff with limited powers, rather than warranted officers, to look into cyber-abuse and crime.

17.6 The PCC stated that this would be something that is worth exploring as a concept, but he would need to be reassurance that it was carefully tightly managed and regulated.

18. Agreed Actions Log

18.1 There were no concerns raised about any unduly late responses or actions at this time.

19. Panel Forward Agenda Plan 2017

19.1 It was agreed to put the OPCC organisational review on the agenda for the September meeting, as well as consideration of the PCC’s Annual Report. It was agreed to bring an update report on the outcome of the Neighbourhood Policing Review to the November meeting.

19.2 RESOLVED

19.2.1 To include the organisational review and PCC’s Annual Report for the September meeting

19.2.1 To bring an update report on the outcome of the Neighbourhood Policing Review to the November meeting.

20. Any Other Business

20.1 No other business was raised at the meeting.

21. Date and Time of Next Meeting

21.1 The next meeting is to be held at 10am on 15th September 2017 at Wakefield Town Hall.