

What will a good Panel look like?

Ed Hammond

Research and Information Manager, CfPS

Contents



Who are CfPS and what is their role?

The Panel's role – back to first principles

Building relationships

Resource and support

The “successful Panel”

The Panel's role

- Is:** to act as a constructive, critical friend to the Commissioner;
to play a supportive role in policy development, using this role to better transact its statutory duties;
to work closely with others involved in local accountability.
- Isn't:** to act as a mini partnership board or "PA-lite";
to scrutinise the police;
to carry out four set-piece, formulaic meetings per year.

The Panel's role (2)

The statutory functions:

- Dealing with non-criminal complaints (option to delegate);
- Holding confirmation hearings;
- Scrutinising the budget and precept;
- Scrutinising the Police and Crime Plan.

These are interconnected. Other work will need to be carried out to support these activities.

Potentially a great deal to do.

Influence

Panel has two vetos but most of its power will be exerted through **influence**.

This means that its success will stand or fall on the relationships that it builds up in the local area.

Both a strength and a weakness.

A good Panel will understand this and manage expectations accordingly.

Building relationships

With:

- *The Commissioner (obviously!);*
- *Local government O&S;*
- *Community Safety Partnerships;*
- *Other partners (eg health).*

A good Panel will recognise that the Commissioner doesn't operate alone – consider s10 and the responsibility to co-operate.

Resource and support

£53,000 a year to support the Panel.

Some lead authorities have appointed a new officer to provide support but many have chosen to backfill.

This has an impact on expectations of what an effective Panel will and won't be able to do.

A good Panel will prioritise.

The “successful Panel”

Really, there is no single archetype of what “good” looks like, but an effective Panel will:

- Plan and prioritise its work effectively;
- Understand that in order to fulfil its statutory duties, it will have to carry out independent research and reviews;
- Understand where its “niche” is in the local governance and accountability landscape;
- Build and maintain strong relationships.

Further information



CfPS/LGA guidance on role and composition, and on confirmation hearings

General scrutiny resources available through CfPS

Planned programme of support being delivered by CfPS and LGA

Ed Hammond (020) 7187 7369, ed.hammond@cfps.org.uk