

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2015 AT 2.00 PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

Vice-Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council - **A**

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council - **A**

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council

Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council

Suma Harding – Independent Member

Councillor Rosemary Healy – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council - **A**

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

OFFICERS PRESENT

Pete Barker – Democratic Services Officer,) Nottinghamshire
Democratic Services) County Council

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services) (Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)

Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)

Chief Constable, Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Charlie Radford – Treasurer, OPCC

Ben Wild – Assistant Chief Executive, The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited

Assistant Chief Constable, Steve Jupp – Nottinghamshire Police

Superintendent Helen Chamberlain – Nottinghamshire Police

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2014, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment: there were two references to Richard Fretwell's

rank as being 'Assistant Chief Constable' when it should read 'Superintendent'. The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baron, Challinor and Laughton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION

Further to the previous presentation to the Panel on 18 June 2015, Ben Wild, the Assistant Chief Executive of the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Limited gave an update presentation on the subject.

He clarified that on 19th December 2014 the successful bidders for the CRCs were announced, with The Reducing Reoffending Partnership the successful bidder for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. This Partnership comprises three organisations: Igneus UK, St Giles Trust and the Crime Reduction Initiatives.

From 1st February 2015 significant changes to the sentencing framework would take place. From that date, anyone sentenced for longer than one day but less than twelve months would be supervised in the community for a subsequent period of twelve months. The strategy would provide offenders with continuous support from one provider with the emphasis on innovation and focussing more strongly on outcomes. The CRC has until 1 May 2015 to get all services up and running. The CRC will ensure that teams are in prisons to deal with the 4 – 500 admissions a month. At present the caseload is 6,800 per annum and it is anticipated that in future this will increase by 2,500.

In response, Members raised the following issues:-

- With regard to measures in place for female prisoners, Mr Wild confirmed that there was no option to resettle them in the local area as with male inmates, due to the lack of a local women's prison. Also female prisoners can have more complex needs having possibly been exploited or having had crimes committed against them. Funding for support was contained in one budget and services would be commissioned to provide specific support. Female prisoners from the Nottinghamshire area tended to be held in Peterborough prison and the CRC does have a team at that prison. Members were reassured that female prisoners from Nottinghamshire would have access to the same services as in other parts of the country.

- As The Reducing Reoffending Partnership had been successful in its bids for both the Staffordshire & West Midlands and the Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland areas, Members queried whether there would be any combined work in the Midlands area. Ben Wild stated that it was too early in the process to be sure. There was the possibility that business services could be combined and there was potential for economies of scale to be achieved but the terminology remained the same and there remained an emphasis on delivering services locally. The contracts had been awarded for ten years so there would be time for services to be developed. After two years payment would be by results.
- Members highlighted that Magistrates' Courts had experienced difficulty in giving Community Orders to people from other countries due to problems in giving instructions in different languages and queried whether this would be addressed in the new system. Mr Wild replied that the system demanded liaison between the National Probation Service (NPS) and CRCs and he would ensure that reports would highlight any need for interpreters. He highlighted that the CRCs were responsible for 88% of community orders but only the NPS was able to advise a Court and present information.

Mr Wild added that from April 2015 there was likely to be an increase in the workload of the CRC as more offenders came within scope for provision and he suggested bringing a further update to a future meeting.

RESOLVED 2015/001

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the update report and confirmed that future subject areas to be discussed would include the Police and Crime Plan and the Budget Precept.

It was confirmed that two budget workshops had been organised for panel members:

16th January 2015 to be attended by the Commissioner and Force staff

29th January 2015 to be attended by Nottinghamshire County Council's Chief Finance Officer

The Commissioner confirmed that no proposed budget details would be released prior to 16th January as he wanted the Panel to contribute to the choosing of some of the options.

RESOLVED 2015/002

That the work programme be noted.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and covered the following main issues:-

- There had been an increase of 6% in crime compared to the same time last year. It was likely that some of this increase could be explained by the change in recording rules but there was no room for complacency. In some areas it was desirable that the incidence of crime does increase, for example in the area of hate crimes which meant that the reporting and recording of incidents was now taking place, allowing for the right actions in response.
- There was still a disproportionate number of black and Asian people represented in the crime figures. Significant progress had been made in this area over the last 18 months, for example approximately 20% of new recruits had come from the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities which represented a step change for the Force. Also, in terms of 'stop and search', Notts now had one of the lowest figures in the country with young, male Asians no more likely to be stopped than young, white males. Mobile CCTV would be installed on uniforms in the next few months and this would further help to resolve this issue.
- The provisional budget settlement which was announced before Christmas was slightly worse than anticipated. Home Office Ministers wanted to carry out more work of their own which had resulted in reductions to budget and would mean hard choices were going to have to be made in the future. Some forces were proposing that they no longer became involved in instances of shoplifting for example, though this would not happen in Nottinghamshire. Efficiency savings of £12.7m across 140 separate budget items were required this financial year and the Commissioner was not confident that all the planned savings would be achieved. If the savings were not achieved then the deficit would be carried over to the following financial year. In conclusion, the last Comprehensive Spending Review had been as tough if not tougher than any previous one and much discussion over future budgets would be required.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- Members queried why the budget savings could not be made in light of the fact that there had been no significant unanticipated operations and in fact there had been opportunities for income to be generated, for example from the Olympics. Members felt that there was a danger of problems being compounded in the future and queried the size of any overspend? The Commissioner replied that the Force was working hard in this area and regular budget meetings were being held.

However, there had been some slippage in the work on the estate and on front counters as well as there being an issue with overtime. Although it was difficult to estimate the exact size of the overspend, a figure of £2m was anticipated.

- Members noted the recruitment of people from the BME communities and queried whether existing officers from these communities were being promoted. The Chief Constable highlighted that there was a national scheme to encourage those from BME communities to progress to Inspector level and of the 32 places available nationally on the course, 3 were taken by officers from Nottinghamshire. There was also a fast track development scheme run in Nottinghamshire for those with the potential to progress from the rank of Constable. Of the 4 officers on the scheme, 3 were from the BME communities. The National College of Policing ran a BME mentoring scheme and Nottinghamshire was only 1 of 2 forces in the Country to participate.
- Clarification was sought as to the definition of 'hate crime' The Commissioner explained that these were crimes targeted at specific groups, for example ethnic minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people or those with a learning difficulty. The Commissioner undertook to provide a breakdown of the offences committed under the different categories.
- Members welcomed the reduction in non-crime related mental health offences and queried whether this was purely down to increased awareness or the new triage cars. The Commissioner explained that the triage cars had played a significant part and work was ongoing with the local CCGs and Healthcare trusts with the objective of reducing the figures further.
- It was queried how there could be a decrease in the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents at the same time as there had been an increase in the number of fatal accidents. The Chief Constable explained that this was possible as the number of fatalities per accident could vary. This phenomenon could be partially explained by improved safety features of vehicles but also factors such as junction design and the use of speed cameras all played a part in reducing casualties. He also commended the work of the Camera Safety Partnership.
- Members expressed concern at the level of alcohol related crime and highlighted the success schemes whereby treatment buses were located in city centres to treat intoxicated people, thereby avoiding a consequent visit to A&E. The Commissioner replied that reducing this type of crime was a priority and that the alcohol strategy was being implemented. Discussions were ongoing about increasing the use of triage support in Nottingham city centre. On Friday and Saturday nights the Street Pastors operated a drop in centre where people could be treated in a non-clinical environment. It was hoped that this support could be expanded, subject to funding. There was the possibility that money might be available from the night time levy and also from the

licensing industry itself. Some initiatives by venue owners over the festive period had proved effective in minimising incidents, for example tickets for events being issued in advance to minimise queueing and the Force would continue to work with owners of licensed premises. The work of the licensing staff at Mansfield District Council was praised and illustrated the 'one public service' approach involving a shared vision and outcome.

- In light of Mr Wild's earlier presentation, Members queried whether the new approach to offender management and rehabilitation would impact on some of the Force's targets. The Commissioner confirmed he was concerned about the CRCs and the NPS having to manage more offenders without additional funding. The Chief Constable confirmed the Force's commitment to offender management with the emphasis on reducing offending and reoffending. The Commissioner underlined that this was a period of transition and scrutiny of this area of work needed to continue.
- Members asked how priorities would be decided given the reducing budgets. The Commissioner welcomed the opportunity to discuss options with Panel Members and other partners to decide the way forward. The future financial outlook was austere – 80% of the funding for Nottinghamshire was directly from government grants and it was anticipated that there would ultimately be a 50% reduction in this grant by the end of the next two comprehensive spending review periods. The Chief Constable confirmed that cuts would continue until 2020 and that stark choices would have to be made. It would not be possible to carry on as before as the budget would not be there. Public service would remain at the heart of the Force's approach with the focus on safety and outcomes - the Force's 'architecture' would not be the prime consideration.
- In reply to Members' concerns about rising crime rates in Priority Plus areas the Commissioner confirmed that Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive of the OPCC, had published a report on this subject and the Commissioner undertook to forward a copy to all Panel members. The conclusion was that this was a good initiative but would only be successful if partners shared resources and outcomes and this was not happening at the moment. Mr Dennis felt that the success of such schemes was more dependent on the will of partner agencies than funding issues. If it was decided that this was an area that required more resources then they would have to be diverted from other areas, as there were no extra resources available. The Commissioner agreed that many of the problem areas had been known about for years and a long term approach was needed. Work needed to continue within communities and there was a need to reinvent community engagement. The cuts had meant that the infrastructure was no longer there and there was now a need for communities to help themselves more. Members spoke positively about a recent meeting in Bulwell attended by the Commissioner and emphasised the need for people to be empowered so they can arrive at their own solutions as well as contributing to the gathering of intelligence at a local level. The Chief

Constable said that many forces were abandoning neighbourhood policing because of funding cuts but that it was intended to keep this approach as a cornerstone in Nottinghamshire.

RESOLVED 2015/003

That the contents of the update report be noted.

7a PRIORITY THEME 2 – IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY, ACCESSIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC), Steve Jupp, gave a presentation on this report. The Chief Constable was the national lead for this area of work. The aim was to encourage collaborative working, reduce bureaucracy, introduce common ICT systems and share information effectively. This was difficult to achieve when 43 different forces were involved, whereas the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for example was just one organisation so the task there was more straightforward. There was much regional work going on. ACC Jupp highlighted the following points:

- Back to Basics Training Course – all sergeants were being retrained and policies and paperwork were being reviewed.
- Victim and Witness Working Group – this was set up because of the poor attrition rate, especially in the area of domestic violence. A Task & Finish group had been set up to collect data and discern the key issues involved.
- ICT – video links were being used, though these were concentrated in the South of the County. Virtual courts were also being used and feedback from their use by victims was being sought. There was a will to improve the process whereby property could be returned to its rightful owners quickly.
- File quality – work was under way to improve both the quality for those experiencing the service as well as the quality of the service being provided. A new file quality monitoring system had been introduced, including dip sampling of Crown Courts, Magistrates' Courts and domestic abuse files. A 'Gold File' process had been established with a message board facility to highlight areas of concern.
- Conviction Rates – the Crown Courts conviction rate was in the national top 10 but the Magistrates' Courts rate was below the national average and needed improvement.
- Early Guilty Plea Rates – in Crown Courts the national average had been exceeded in five out of the last seven months. Performance had not been as good in Magistrates' Courts although the national average had been exceeded in October 2014.

- Effective Trial Rates – in the Crown Courts the national average had been achieved in four out of the last seven months but again the performance in Magistrates' Courts could not match this and needed improvement.

In conclusion the performance in the Crown Courts had been strong but there was improvement needed in the work undertaken in Magistrates' Courts. ACC Jupp was confident that improved performance could be achieved in 2015.

Following the presentation, Members raised the following concerns:

- Members highlighted that they had received a similar presentation in the past and that many of the problems highlighted had been going on for a number of years, including the need for multiple inputting, consistency in dealing with files and the processing of warrants. The Chief Constable agreed that some of the problems were longstanding and it was appropriate for members to raise such concerns. He added that there were positives such as the reduction in sickness levels but underlined that these changes were happening during a period of budget reductions not just in the Force but in the CPS, in defence and the probation service too. The adoption of the 'Niche' system in 2015/16 would mean 'single-keying' becoming a reality. The Force was leading nationally on file quality and there were Improvement Teams in every force to enable the introduction of a national file standard. He clarified that no overtime was paid for processing warrants as a new process was now in place, although this was a complex area with people now moving around, for example around Europe, in a way that did not happen in the past.
- In reply to the question about whether the 'Vanguard' computer system could be adopted both nationally and locally, ACC Jupp replied that the Force had to link into the Ministry of Justice programme. Wi-Fi should be installed in all Crown and Magistrates' Courts by the end of the year with the project to introduce digital file sharing to be completed afterwards. The procurement issue was a very frustrating one with no single agency in control and with the difficulty of getting different government agencies to talk to each other.
- It was confirmed that the possibility of taking statement from officers' on-body cameras was being pursued nationally, although currently such footage could not be shared digitally.
- Frustration was expressed that cases at Magistrates' Courts were having to be thrown out as the relevant paperwork was not available. This frustration was shared by the Force who had begun to log requests for information, including multiple requests for the same information. The Chief Constable underlined that this should not be happening with information that is being passed from one public body to another.

- With regard to the back-to-basics course it was confirmed that Sergeants would need to re-sit this course until they passed it and would be unable to gain promotion without having passed it.
- Members and the Chief Constable agreed about the need for the Force to remain one step ahead of criminals in terms of technological developments and cyber crime.

RESOLVED 2015/004

That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

7b VICTIMS REPORT (INCLUDING PRIORITY THEME 1 – PROTECT, SUPPORT AND RESPOND TO VICTIMS, WITNESSES AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE)

Chris Cutland, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), introduced the report. A Code of Practice was published a year ago and a Task & Finish Group was subsequently set up to ensure victims were receiving the correct support. It was found that the way victims were being treated had been compartmentalised with different agencies being involved (special units / police / probation service etc.) which meant that the process did not flow smoothly and that information was not being passed between the various bodies. The process was mapped from which two main changes were implemented:

- Standardised Victim Statement – each organisation could now see exactly what information had been submitted
- Monitoring the implementation of the code – this was now dip sampled annually. The Force had achieved impressive results in this area. All victims would now get information about who to contact for help and this information was shared on-line where appropriate. The Police themselves were now clearer about the different levels of victims and dealt with cases at a differing speeds depending on the severity of the crimes committed

The PCC now had responsibility for Victim Support and increased working with partners was taking place. Work had been commissioned jointly with local authorities in the areas of domestic violence and sexual violence. In the past there had been gaps in these service areas as well as a duplication of effort. Although the Force was strongly victim-focussed there were still improvements that could be made. With regard to the recent PEEL assessment, a very good service was available for high risk domestic violence victims but the picture was less clear for those at lesser risk. Funding had been given to victims' organisations. The number of people reporting sexual violence to both domestic violence organisations and to the police had been increasing – monies given to sexual violence organisations enabled cards to be produced that informed victims who to contact.

In response Members asked the extent of research that had been undertaken in the field of girls involved in gangs:

- The Deputy Commissioner confirmed that Nottingham was in the forefront of this field. There were parallels with aspects of domestic violence. Questionnaires were completed by girls who had been the victims of gangs but who did not recognise the term or acknowledge that they were even part of a gang. Officers often regarded women as being victims of crimes rather than witnesses and often they had been forced to commit crimes, for example hide weapons. There were multiple perpetrators and the solution of moving the victims away was problematical when they were only 15/16 years old.

RESOLVED 2015/005

That the contents of the report be noted.

8. CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

The Commissioner made it clear that accusations of Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the Nottinghamshire Police colluding to cover up past mistakes were without any foundation whatsoever. The Commissioner formerly worked in this area and would leave no stone unturned in pursuit of the truth. The issue was discussed daily in Nottinghamshire, and on a national level, and significant resources had been allocated to this area in Nottinghamshire.

Some allegations dated back 40 years and it was good that people were coming forward. The Commissioner underlined his determination to uncover the truth and felt that there was a duty to the victims to investigate. However, he underlined that such investigations could be difficult, in terms of finding evidence and witnesses from so long ago. As more victims came forward it also made it difficult to specify an end time on the operation.

The proposed Independent Review which the Commissioner had previously discussed with the Panel could not begin until the conclusion of these cases. Investigation of current allegations could also be resource intensive, not only in terms of detectives, but also in other costs, for example, the fees payable to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) when seeking details of alleged perpetrators' activity could potentially amount up to £100k for a single case.

The Commissioner underlined that there was a balance to be struck around resources put into current and historical allegations and the Commissioner sought Panel Members' views on the prioritisation of these. He underlined that the Force's first priority was to make sure there were no current safeguarding issues, in order to prevent people being in a position to abuse.

In response Members raised the following concerns:

- This was a national issue that all Forces were facing and which no Force could finance adequately. Members felt that there should be central funds available from Government to ease the burden. The question should be one of justice not finance with both historical and current investigations given the priority they needed. In response, ACC Jupp confirmed that this work was not funded centrally although a paper had been sent to the Home Office requesting a new approach involving joint financing of such issues. Investigations were not being undertaken in isolation and there was co-operation between the City and the County Councils, with a Strategic Management Group comprising senior members of staff from the various partner agencies, including the health sector, in order to look at the overall implications and identify lessons learnt. ACC Jupp highlighted the work of Operation Hydrant, which was a national operation, based in South Yorkshire, gathering intelligence on historic abuse, and focussing on perpetrators who move around the country. Legislation set out how complex investigations such as Operation Daybreak should be managed.
- Members queried whether historical abuse victims were dealt with differently and the point at which abuse was classed as historical. ACC Jupp confirmed that non-recent abuse victims received the same level of service as other victims – the service was not compartmentalised. Also, for the victim there was no such thing as historical abuse, as they were still living with the effects on a daily basis. With regard to resources, the investigation of historical abuse could easily occupy half the Force's CID resource. Increased resources had been put into this area of work with the restructuring of the Public Protection team resulting in a net gain of 44 additional staff. The Chief Constable underlined that the issue involved only finding a balance between the amount of resources allocated to investigating current and historical abuse victims, but also deciding from which other areas these resources were going to be diverted.
- Members expressed significant concern at the level of fees charged by ISPs for the right to access their records and that the issue should be given national coverage. The Commissioner shared these concerns and confirmed he planned to write to the Home Secretary, although the subject had been broached in the past to no avail. Members suggested other potential methods of seeking a changed in approach from such companies, for example, a 'Change.Org' type electronic petition could cause the ISPs reputational damage. It was recognised that other individuals and organisations who assisted the Police with their enquiries did not charge for doing so.
- With regard to how safeguarding messages were being shared with private institutions and places of worship, Members underlined the need to learn from the past about how abuse in some areas had been discovered. ACC Jupp acknowledged the multi-layered aspect of such

investigations, citing previous investigations involving the Catholic Church and also potential opportunities for sexual exploitation linked to asylum seekers. Superintendent Chamberlain underlined the importance of linking into existing community groups and highlighted a recent case in Nottingham in which messages were disseminated via the local Iman, the Asian Network, the Muslim Women's Network and local Councillors. It was recognised that this issue was a social problem, not exclusively a police or local authority problem, and it was essential that victims were given the confidence to come forward.

RESOLVED 2015/006

That the contents of the report be noted.

9. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Keith Ford introduced the report which included the findings of the task and finish group which had met Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive of the OPCC, as part of the process.

An 'easy win' would be to improve the pages on the NCC website and Keith confirmed he would liaise with the County Council's Communications team about future improvements. Those Panel members who were due to attend the Commissioner's budget consultation events in January were asked to feedback their comments to the February meeting of the Panel.

In response, Members of the task and finish group made the following comments:

- Kevin Dennis was thanked for the very open and forthcoming manner with which he met with the group, giving many examples of how the Commissioner and his office was working with and consulting the public.
- Members of the group stated that until their involvement they were not aware of all of the work being undertaken but would now be able to point people in the right direction if they received any queries. Members underlined the Panel's role to both scrutinise and support the Commissioner and his office and welcomed the opportunity to identify areas where this could be expanded.

RESOLVED 2015/007

- 1) That Members note the initial outcomes of the task and finish group as detailed within this report.**
- 2) That the task and finish group members provide feedback to the February meeting of the Panel on their observations of the Commissioner's budget consultation events in January 2015.**

- 3) That the Commissioner provide the Panel with six monthly update reports on consultation events and complaints received.**
- 4) That the Panel agree to input into the refresh of the Commissioner's Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy in 2015.**
- 5) That the Panel webpages on the County Council's website be further developed to help raise awareness and increase engagement with the public.**

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

5 January 2015