

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 AT 2.00PM AT COUNTY HALL**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council - **A**

Vice-Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council - **A**

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - **A**

Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council - **A**

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council - **A**

Suma Harding – Independent Member

Councillor Rosemary Healy – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council - **A**

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

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council - **A**

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services ) Nottinghamshire

Pete Barker – Democratic Services Officer ) County Council  
(Host Authority)

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)

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

Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Simon Torr – Nottinghamshire Police

### **CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Christine Goldstraw OBE.

## **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman and Councillors Campbell, Culley, Gilfoyle, Handley and Longdon.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

## **4. WORK PROGRAMME**

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The Panel expressed concern at the number and length of reports on the agenda which must have been costly to produce and were time consuming to read. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be convened to discuss the type and form of information required by the Panel.
- Keith Ford drew Members' attention to the likely effects of the forthcoming local elections and the general election and the need to review the balanced membership as well as taking in to account any potential changes to the role of the Panel. Also, the tenure of some independent members was coming to an end in June. Work around these areas would need to start some time after the elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- Kevin Dennis pointed out that the Commissioner's Annual Report should be listed in the Work Programme for the June meeting. This would be a lengthy report that would probably provoke much discussion. Concern was expressed that the agenda for the June meeting was already looking quite long and that the agenda may have to be amended.

## **RESOLVED 2015/010**

- 1) That the type and form of information required by the Panel be further clarified with the Commissioner's Office.**
- 2) That the work programme be noted and updated in line with Members' suggestions as appropriate.**

## **5. UPDATE ON OPERATION DAYBREAK AND OPERATION XERES**

The Vice Chair thanked the Commissioner and the Chief Constable for the updates but queried whether it was appropriate for the Panel to receive such detailed information regarding operational matters and suggested that the topics should be included as part of the Work Programme or the Commissioner's Update report. The Vice Chair was concerned to avoid any actions by the Panel which may hinder an ongoing inquiry. The Commissioner replied that he was happy to report in whatever form the Panel required, but that as in some quarters a cover up in this area is

suspected this can be countered by producing a separate report for the Panel which is available to a wide audience.

The Commissioner explained that there had been problems in the past with colleagues at the City Council, the County Council and the Police working together but if a problem was now encountered he was determined it be resolved quickly. The Commissioner confirmed that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had reached a decision and two more people now faced charges for serious sexual offences. The update report made clear that the more publicity given to this area the higher the number of victims who come forward, this was a positive outcome and the Commissioner believed that victims should be encouraged to come forward.

The Chief Constable confirmed that no information submitted to the Panel would hinder any current investigation and that there would be no compromise in supporting the victims. The Force liaises with colleagues in health and social care as victims are still vulnerable. The work in these inquiries is slow and complex for a number of reasons. The allegations range from those of a serious nature to those of a low level. Some chastisement was allowed in the past as the law existed at that time. There was not the requirement to retain records for the periods that are now required. After periods of between thirty to fifty years people's memories are not perfect. Two inquiries are being run so that the operation of the cases is kept clear. Operation Hydrant ensures information is shared with other Forces, the NSPCC and the Home Office. This is particularly important as carers, as well as children, moved between homes.

The Chief Constable confirmed that the Force's approach had been scrutinised externally three times by Operation Yew Tree, Leicestershire Police and by the Police College. In terms of procedure the legal advice is unequivocal. The judicial process must be completed before any Independent Review can be undertaken as with the similar example of the Leveson Inquiry.

In response to issues raised by Members, the following points were clarified:-

- The Chief Constable confirmed that though competing priorities and resources would always be a problem, officers with the appropriate skills were working in this area. The Commissioner confirmed that the budget was fixed and that resources are transferred from other areas which can take time.

## **RESOLVED 2015/011**

**That the Panel notes the update by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the current position.**

## **6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT**

The Commissioner introduced the report and pointed out that the crime figures in the report are not yet complete. Overall recorded crime is up 5.8% in Notts with some areas showing an increase and some showing a decrease. The incidence of rape has increased by 79% and there has been an increase of 68% in sexual offences. However, as discussed previously, much of this can be explained by the changes in recording practices and the Commissioner stated that the reality was different to what the figures may suggest. In terms of the final budget out-turn position the Commissioner confirmed that although the final figures were not quite in, the

demanding and challenging target of reducing expenditure by £12.7m had been missed by £2m. This would have a knock on effect on the £12m savings required for the financial year 2015/16 and use would need to be made of reserves. Following the General Election the Commissioner anticipated that the next Comprehensive Spending Review would require the Force to achieve savings of 5% per annum for each of the three years to 2019/20.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- Disappointment was expressed by members of the Panel that the savings target had been missed by £2m, though the Commissioner pointed out that this likelihood had been regularly reported to the panel previously. Progress on reviewing the Force's estate has not been as swift as was hoped and the requirement to work regionally means progress can only be made at the pace of the slowest partner.
- The Panel queried why there had not been any further information forthcoming regarding the incident where a firearm had been discharged during a school visit to Police HQ. The Commissioner explained that the Chief Constable had reported the incident to the IPCC promptly and that their response was still outstanding.
- The success of Operation Packhouse in Hucknall was welcomed but concern was expressed that the names of some other operations were obscure and a plea was made for the names to be in more everyday language. The Chief Constable explained that the names of operations were generated randomly to avoid any operation being given a pejorative label.
- Members stated that it would be useful if information about other Force's sickness levels was available so that comparisons could be made. The Commissioner confirmed that minimising sickness levels had been made a priority in Notts and that the levels were amongst the lowest in the country.
- Some Panel members work with community groups and access various grants to purchase cycle equipment in an attempt to reduce casualties. Unfortunately community groups have to pay VAT at a rate of 20% which they cannot claim back, unlike the Force which is able to. The Commissioner stated that the Force also supplies such equipment, funded by the camera safety partnership, and as a result incidents have been reduced by 20% in this area. A draft report on the topic is imminent and the Commissioner undertook to see whether any assistance to community groups could be made available.
- The Panel were concerned that although being recently assured of the opposite, the number of thefts from shops was actually increasing. The panel were concerned at the effectiveness of the Force's operations in this area. ACC Torr gave details of the successful work being undertaken in Mansfield. There is a need to roll out the Mansfield model further including sharing information about regular offenders and the organised gangs who travel the UK to steal from shops as well as expanding the use of GPS tagging. There was also a balance to be struck by the retailers who wanted light and airy premises to encourage shoppers but which made theft easier. The area required constant attention as addicted offenders and those stealing to survive could be prolific.

- The Panel highlighted the poor levels of effective trials in the Magistrates' Courts, questioned whether the target should be higher than 50% and queried how performance compared with other areas. Overall it was felt that victims were not receiving justice. The Chief Constable agreed that performance in Magistrates' Courts was not as good as that in the Crown Court but that performance was improving. Nationally performance in both Magistrates' Courts and Crown Courts was not wide-ranging. The Deputy Commissioner agreed that the victims' experience needed to be looked at and stated that the Victims' Code did help with the quality of the process. The Commissioner stated that targets were only effective if locally owned and set and must be realistic. The present targets would be increased incrementally. The system is quite dysfunctional at the moment and there is a need for management to be integrated.
- The Panel asked for an update with the progress of the A19 Industrial Tribunal and whether potential outcomes had been budgeted for. The Commissioner confirmed that the Appeal had been heard but that the Chair had reserved judgement. A verdict is expected in the summer. £3.5m had been put into the budget but this was unlikely to be sufficient if the Appeal was lost. Discussions were ongoing with the Home office as to a possible grant if the Appeal is lost.

## **RESOLVED 2015/012**

**That the Panel note the contents of this update report.**

### **7a and 7b. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS UPDATES**

The Commissioner introduced the report and drew attention to the large amount of partnership working that was taking place. ACC Torr spoke about the Community Alcohol Partnerships in Bassetlaw and Mansfield and the fact that it had been possible to attract funding from private companies to be spent on vulnerable groups, for example women at night. The Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAA) in the City and County were part of a national initiative due to finish in March 2015. However, good progress has been made and partners are keen that the initiative is continued. Several night clubs have been closed as a result of their not keeping people safe, though this will remain a problem as the demand for alcohol continues. A range of measures is needed to counter the problems.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- The effectiveness of the alcohol strategy in Rushcliffe was praised and Members asked whether the reporting system would remain the same in the future. ACC Torr agreed that it would be beneficial for all concerned if it did but there were no guarantees. There is now a much larger range of incidents which must be defined as crimes, this is not always helpful but it does mean there is a consistency and to have a record of all past incidents is useful if conditions become more serious within a family.
- The Panel asked whether the Force was aware of the different view that some emerging communities have towards alcohol and ACC Torr replied that this was the type of issue that the Alcohol Community Partnership was designed to tackle.

- The 'Inn Keeper' IT system was praised and the Panel asked whether there were any plans for its use to be expanded through the Force. ACC Torr replied it was hoped that this could happen.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/013**

**That the Panel notes the contents of the reports.**

#### **8a. PARTNERSHIP PREVENTING DEMAND STRATEGY 2014 -17**

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report which summarises the work being undertaken across the County and the City and which is being led by Ian Waterfield. The aim is to reduce costs as well as minimise the impact of crime on victims. ACC Torr gave details of a pilot scheme in Sutton East where the focus is on streets and families where there is a high demand for the Force's services. ACC Torr also explained the concept of managing the town centre as a whole and highlighted the work being done in the area of mental health where the use of the triage cars was felt to be one of the best initiatives to have been adopted in Notts.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/014**

**That Panel members note the report, the proposed direction of travel and the funding risks to the programme.**

#### **8b. STREET TRIAGE PROCESS**

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report and confirmed how supportive the OPCC was of this pilot initiative which was due to end in March 2016. The Commissioner thanked NHS colleagues for their valuable work in this area and confirmed that from April, children would not be held in cells and that from October those suffering solely from mental health problems would also not be held in cells.

#### **RESOLVED 2015/015**

**That Panel members note the progress being made with this initiative.**

#### **9. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report which detailed a range of initiatives and included the following: the need to keep the website up to date; the use of questionnaires and focus groups among other methods, during the budget consultation period; the holding of events and conferences to raise public awareness and to allow partners to contribute; the use of volunteers as 'mystery shoppers' who went into stations, checked the website, and tasted the food given to those in cells; the need to reply to all correspondence and the use of social media. Overall the Deputy Commissioner thought the OPCC had a good idea of what the public wanted.

As a result of discussions the following point was raised:

- A 6 monthly progress report would be brought to the meeting in June as part of the Annual Report. This would contain details of the work undertaken as a result of setting up the 'Task and Finish' group which developed proposals designed to improve public engagement.

## **RESOLVED 2015/016**

- 1) That the Police and Crime Panel discuss and note the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime engagement and consultation activities which have informed the Police and Crime Needs Assessment and prioritisation of policing and community safety in the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2015-18.**
- 2) That the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2015-18 report due to go to the meeting of the Panel in June, contain a 6 monthly update on the work resulting from the setting up of the 'Task and Finish' group.**

## **10. COMPLAINTS UPDATE**

Keith Ford introduced the report and confirmed that two out of the three complaints received did not fall into the remit of the Panel's complaint procedure. No action was planned regarding the third complaint relating to historical abuse so as not to prejudice the ongoing police operation or any future independent review. Mr Ford underlined that the issue had been passed to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) on the basis of transparency and a response from the IPCC was awaited.

## **RESOLVED 2015/017**

**That the Police and Crime Panel note details of the complaints received in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner and his Deputy since April 2014.**

## **11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **RESOLVED 2015/018**

**That the dates of future meetings as follows be noted:**

- Monday 15 June 2015 – 2pm – Annual Meeting
- Monday 7 September 2015 – 2pm
- Monday 2 November 2015 – 2pm
- Monday 7 December 2015 – 2pm
- Monday 1 February 2016 - 2.00pm
- Monday 18 April 2016 – 2.00pm
- Monday 6 June 2016 – 2.00pm – Annual Meeting

(Members' Budget Workshop/s - Friday 22 January 2016 -10.00am and/or Wednesday 27 January 2016 – 10.00am)

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

**CHAIRMAN**

April 2015