

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2018 AT 2.00PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE - Independent Member
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Debbie Mason - Rushcliffe Borough Council

Executive Mayor Kate Allsop – Mansfield District Council
Rizwan Araf – Independent Member **A**
Councillor Michael Edwards (substitute for Councillor Woodings) – Nottingham City Council
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Toby Neal – Nottingham City Council **A**
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council **A**
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Pete Barker - Democratic Services Officer	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
Keith Ford - Team Manager, Democratic Services	}	(Host Authority)
	}	

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Rachel Barber - Deputy Chief Constable, Notts Police
Charlotte Radford - Chief Finance Officer, Office of PCC
DCI Lee Young - Notts Police (Item 6)

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2018

Members requested that when used, the meaning of acronyms be stated. A guide to acronyms is appended to these minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2018, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Neal.

Councillor Edwards replaced Councillor Woodings for this meeting only.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. REVIEW OF THE BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Keith Ford introduced the report which detailed the options available to the Panel if the balanced appointment objective, as required by legislation, was to be met. Keith reminded members that the report had been withdrawn from the last meeting in order that clarification could be sought on the following points:

- Independent Co-opted Members do have the right to vote
- The vote needs to be unanimous by all attendees on the day, including the Independent Co-opted Members
- The basis of the proportionality calculations is contained in the report

In response to issues raised by Members, the following point was clarified:-

- The City Council feel that they do not have enough representation on the Panel and that that representation should be proportional.

Following the debate Councillor Ellis moved an amendment to the motion, which was duly seconded:

“That the Panel agrees to co-opt one additional Labour elected member to enable political balance, thereby meeting the balanced appointment objective, and defer any further recommendations until discussions have taken place and agreement reached between the City and County Labour Groups about which Group should provide the additional member.”

Following a show of hands the motion was passed. However, in line with the Panel Arrangements, as the decision was not unanimous it would not be possible to implement this resolution.

RESOLVED 2018/017

That the Secretary of State be informed that it would not be possible to achieve political balance on the Panel due to a lack of consensus amongst the Panel Members.

Keith undertook to inform the Home Office of the situation, confirming to the Panel that they were not the only one operating without a political balance having been achieved.

WORK PROGRAMME

Keith introduced the report, informing the Panel that it was the usual regular report with any amendments having been agreed following discussions with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Keith informed the Panel that there had been no requests from members to attend the proposed Induction Session but that if any individual members would like a one-to-one session then this could be arranged by contacting himself or Pete Barker. Keith informed the Panel that some members had suggested topics to be covered in the proposed Development Session and that it was planned to hold this session in June so that any new Panel members could be invited

Keith drew Panel members' attention to Recommendation 2 which was asking for approval for Councillor Mason to be nominated to join the Executive Board of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels. Councillor Mason informed the Panel that she had attended the first meeting of the National Panel where expressions of interest in becoming a Board member were sought, and after discussing with the Chair of this Panel had agreed for her name to be put forward. Councillor Mason told members that not all Panels were represented on the Board but that she felt that such representation was important if the Notts Panel was to have any influence over decisions, for example in the area of finance.

It was queried whether a report was needed informing the Panel of any consequences of Brexit. The Commissioner informed the Panel that a relevant report was available and that he would forward a copy to Keith for circulation to all Panel Members.

The Chair requested that a report regarding the implications of Brexit be brought to the February meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED 2018/018

- 1) That the work programme be updated in line with Members' suggestions as appropriate.**
- 2) That the update information on the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels be noted and the Panel's Vice-Chair, Councillor Debbie Mason, be nominated to join the National Association's Executive Board.**
- 3) That any new members wanting an individual induction session with the Chair and support officers should contact Keith Ford or Pete Barker to discuss their requirements.**
- 4) That a development session be arranged for the Panel after May 2019.**

5. TACKLING CYBER CRIME – PRESENTATION BY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

DCI Lee Young from the Organised Crime Department of Notts Police gave a presentation on tackling cyber-crime and highlighted the following key issues:-

- Cyber dependent crime is defined as a crime in which a computer is the object of the crime. In other words, it can **only** be committed through digital means
- Cyber enabled crime is committed, in full or in part, through a computer, computer network or other computer-enabled devices. It might include fraud, scams or drug sales.
- There are many potential victims, both individuals and businesses, and can include the elderly and the vulnerable.
- The Force is tackling the problem in a variety of ways:
 - Developing capability
 - Training frontline staff
 - Education, not just police officers but in schools
 - Collaboration – with the Fire Service but also with other partners not usually engaged with
- Since April the Force has conducted 57 Cyber Dependent investigations
- A drug dealer has been uncovered doing business over the 'dark web'
- A cyber-attack on a Nottingham retailer was intercepted thwarting a £185k blackmail attempt
- Evidence was obtained of bitcoin ransom demands against three Nottinghamshire schools
- National investigations have been supported

Following the presentation the following points were clarified:-

- The Force has a good relationship with all network providers. In terms of the recent problem with drug dealers using public phone boxes in the Meadows, a balance has to be struck as some of those using the boxes will be genuine users.
- The Commissioner spoke to the Panel about the issue of policing the platform providers. A conversation is taking place between Cabinet Officers and providers in an effort to persuade providers to intervene at an earlier stage. The Commissioner informed the Panel that if agreement cannot be reached then legislation will be introduced.
- In terms of protecting young people the Commissioner emphasised the importance of the prevention message, that school liaison officers are involved with packs available detailing how bullying can affect people. The Commissioner informed the

Panel that such bullying could take place through social media other than Facebook and gave the examples of Snapchat and Instagram.

- Disappointment was expressed that a recent drug line that had been closed down by the Force had been run from inside a prison. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed to the Panel that prisons are an issue but that the Force is working with colleagues to tackle the problem.
- The Commissioner spoke of the use of resources and informed the Panel that many of the cyber threats were coming from overseas and questioned whether the developing of expertise at a local level was the appropriate response. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he felt that the way forward was one for Chief Constables to resolve by bidding for resources to counter the emerging threat.
- DCI Lee spoke of the different tariffs available, explaining to the Panel that the Computer Misuse Act was now outdated which limited the Police's powers. Harsher sentences were available for more conventional crimes committed with the aid of a computer, blackmail for example, rather than for pure cyber-crimes.
- DCI Lee confirmed that work had been undertaken with schools following the recent bitcoin ransom demands. The Police's advice is not to pay any bitcoin ransom demands.

RESOLVED 2018/019

That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT – TO JULY 2018

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced the update report and highlighted the following key issues:-

- The Commissioner expressed his satisfaction at the Top 5 Performance Measures detailed on page 30 of the report. He explained they highlighted the changing nature of policing referring to modern slavery and the need for the Force's unit to expand. The Commissioner also gave the example of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) where children are four times more likely to be abused on-line than in person.
- At the last meeting the Commissioner reminded the Panel that a member had asked whether there was any evidence in Notts of organised CSE grooming. The Commissioner confirmed that there was no known activity at present, but that did not mean that it was not happening.
- In terms of the budget, the Commissioner informed the Panel that the half way point of the financial year had been reached, that the predicted overspend would probably increase by year end and that more detailed information regarding the budget would be brought to the November meeting of the Panel.
- The Commissioner referred to the appendix to the report which contained a case study about the Police and Crime Survey. The Commissioner informed the Panel

that the information was now a year old but that it was important that policy was evidence-based.

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

- The Panel commented upon the way the information was presented with colour coding now omitted and a lack of clarity as to whether a decrease is a positive outcome or not. The Commissioner agreed to meet Keith and others to discuss the Panel's requirements.
- The Panel referred to the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report on crime recording where the Force was judged as needing improvement with 13,800 reported crimes not being recorded. The Commissioner stated that a press release had been circulated with the report which was very positive and the Commissioner was confident that the force was dealing with the issues, though the Commissioner and the Chief Constable were disappointed with the results. The Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) explained that part of the problem was caused by the survey sample which focussed on domestic violence which was a minefield, but reassured the Panel that all victims had been safeguarded. The DCC informed the Panel that a small compliance team was now in place to pick up crimes that may have been missed. The DCC informed the Panel that some Forces had much larger teams for this work but that the Notts Force preferred to concentrate its resources on the frontline.
- The Panel expressed its concern at the increase in accidents involving pedal cyclists. The DCC explained the difficulty in obtaining accurate information in this area. Councillor Edwards stated that he thought the City Council may have the data and spoke of the possibility of working together with the Force on the problem.
- The Commissioner agreed to provide figures to the Panel regarding the number of Under 16s who had been a victims of crime.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner why the media seemed to focus on sexual violence / abuse rather than on-line fraud when the incidence of fraud was so much higher than that of abuse. In response the Commissioner spoke about DCI Lee's presentation and in particular the last slide that referred to the journey that everyone was still on concerning cyber-crime. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the number of serious sexual offences continued to increase, the question was 'Why?' People do now seem to have more confidence in the system which has increased reporting and also more historic incidents are coming to light. The Commissioner said this was part of a wider debate regarding the use of resources in the face of the changing nature of crime.
- The issue of policing in Mansfield was raised by the Panel and the support that is being provided by the Force in the area was praised. The Commissioner was asked whether the Force had any new initiatives planned to deal with the problem of 'spice' users where the public were being intimidated by 'zombies' when coming into the town centre. The Commissioner referred to the recent survey which indicated that the public's highest priority for the Police was around traffic offences, which was not the priority for the Force. The Commissioner informed the

Panel that work had been undertaken on the street in the Mansfield and Ashfield areas but that more did need to be done. The Commissioner informed the Panel that low level drug dealing was a concern but that there were no easy answers to the problems facing City and Town Centres. The Commissioner spoke of the work that had been undertaken with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) regarding the problem of people collapsing and informed the Panel that the issue was partly about enforcement and partly about treatment.

- The lack of Police support in the Ashfield area was commented on, specifically the Police response to the 'zombie' problem, the lack of officers in the area and the lack of engagement from the Force in terms of their involvement in initiatives by partners which aim to deal with the various issues in the area. The Commissioner stated that he was due to attend the meeting of Ashfield District Council on 23rd October, referred to the commitment made by the Force to work towards finding a solution to the problems faced in Sutton town centre and agreed to contact Councillor Zadrozny directly to discuss the level of support provided by the force. The DCC also agreed to pick up any local issues. The Commissioner stated that the job of the Chief Constable was not an easy one especially with the limited resources available. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he was aware that Nottingham City Council and Mansfield District Council had also expressed concerns at the number of officers deployed in their areas and stated that the Force knew of the circumstances in Selston and that by partners working together solutions could be found. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the problems with 'spice' and 'mamba' were both serious and national and gave the examples of Liverpool and Manchester where the scale of the problem is tremendous. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had had discussions with the Home Office about implementing stronger enforcement around the 'spice' and 'mamba' problem but that there was no desire on their part to change the legislation. The Commissioner also drew the Panel's attention to the helpful motion passed by NCC at its Full Council meeting on 20th September regarding this issue with synthetic substances.
- The work of those involved in education and prevention of drug use was praised and the Commissioner informed the Panel that new specialists had begun work in secondary schools and that the Force wanted to work with them, stating that Police work was not just about making arrests. The Commissioner told the Panel that in times of reducing budgets some thought it was easy option to drop prevention measures but that that was not the attitude of the Home Office.
- The Panel spoke of the work of PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens, who were all working on the drug problem, but users and dealers knew that their powers were restricted. The Commissioner replied that he thought it was important that everyone worked together as a team and praised the City Council for their level of expenditure in this area and praised the work of the wardens in Mansfield.
- In response to a query about the new custody suite, the Commissioner informed the Panel that the land had been acquired and that consultants were now working on the design. The Commissioner informed the Panel that discussions were due to take place on Wednesday regarding the future of the existing custody suite, which impinges on the work of the Magistrates' Court, and told the Panel that he did not want the facility to be mothballed.

- The Panel asked about the number of complaints received by the Force that were upheld. The DCC replied that this information had been reported elsewhere and undertook to pass this information on to the Panel. The DCC informed the Panel that any themes around complaints were also examined.

RESOLVED 2018/020

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Chair asked Panel members to forward any questions or observations on the Plan to herself or Keith as the Chair was required to provide a written response to the Commissioner on the Annual Report.

The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted the following key issues:-

- The Commissioner spoke about the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and the large amount of resources put in by the Police and Local Authorities. The Commissioner informed the Panel that it was important an independent inquiry was being held which was likely to yield some difficult and uncomfortable results.
- The Commissioner then spoke positively about the collaboration work that was being undertaken with the Fire Service informing the Panel that there was a desire for a shared HQ, that a business case was required to identify savings and that no final decisions would be made before February. The Commissioner emphasised that it was a collaboration between equal partners and not a takeover.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- The Panel invited the Commissioner to comment on the fact that the figures indicated alcohol-related crime was going down while crime overall was going up. The Commissioner stated that he would have to reply in the same manner as previously in the meeting and reiterated the importance of all partners working together to arrive at solutions. The Commissioner mentioned the work being undertaken jointly by Rushcliffe Borough Council and the Force in terms of 'pubwatch' and the work around alcohol being carried out by partners in Nottingham which is well regarded nationally. The Commissioner informed the Panel that alcohol consumption among the young was reducing, though no-one was sure why.

RESOLVED 2018/021

- 1) **That the progress made be noted.**
- 2) **That the issues raised by the Members in their consideration be collated and fed back to the PCC as the Panel's formal response to the annual report.**

9. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – STRATEGIC PRIORITY THEME 3 – TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that all of the activities had been graded in terms of completion/progress and that 100% of activity is currently graded Green (ie on track) with no actions graded Amber or Red.

Responding to a query the DCC explained that the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) allowed the sharing of a range of information and data on individuals that Forces would not have access to otherwise.

RESOLVED 2018/022

That the contents of the report be noted.

10. FORCE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT – NEXT STEPS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted the following key issues:-

- The Commissioner confirmed to the Panel that the Executive Summary of the Statement was appended to the report but if members would like a copy of the full statement this could be provided, though some of the information would have to be redacted.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that the requirement to produce a statement was a new initiative of the HMICFRS and that the informal feedback received to date regarding the Force's statement had been positive.
- The Commissioner stated that he welcomed any feedback from the Panel on the statement which will develop over time. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force had benefited through having produced the statement.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- In reply to a question about the existence of paedophile hunter groups, the Commissioner informed the Panel that the topic had been debated by PCCs and Chief Constables but that no consensus had been reached. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the view of Simon Bailey, the Chief Constable of Norfolk who leads in this area, was that the Police should not co-operate with such groups. The Commissioner informed the Panel that his view and that of the Chief Constable's was that if people provided evidence then the Force would investigate. The Commissioner informed the Panel that some work had been commissioned with Nottingham University to develop a memorandum of understanding. The Commissioner spoke of the real risks involved, including the difficulties at the point of arrest, but that the existence of these groups cannot be ignored and a discussion needs to take place on how the Force can work with them. The DCC confirmed that the approach of the Notts Force was to act on the evidence provided and contrasted this with the national stance which concentrated on the safeguarding of the individuals involved in this activity.

RESOLVED 2018/023

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.59pm

CHAIRMAN