

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 2.00PM AT COUNTY HALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member (Chair)  
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council (Vice Chair)

Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council  
Councillor Scott Carlton – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member  
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council - **Absent**  
Suma Harding – Independent Member  
Councillor Rob Inglis – Rushcliffe Borough Council – **Apologies**  
Councillor Mike Introna – Nottinghamshire County Council  
Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council  
Councillor John Lee – Newark and Sherwood District Council – **Apologies**  
Councillor Richard MacRae – Broxtowe Borough Council  
Councillor Helen-Ann Smith – Ashfield District Council – **Absent**  
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member  
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council

#### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Jo Toomey - Advanced Democratic Services	}	Nottinghamshire County Council
Officer	}	(Host Authority)
Laura Webb – Assistant Democratic Services	}	
Officer	}	

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Caroline Henry - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  
Sharon Caddell – Chief Executive of the Office of the PCC (OPCC)  
Gillian Holder – Chief Financial Officer (OPCC)  
Dan Howitt – Head of Strategy and Performance (OPCC)  
Chief Constable Craig Guildford (Nottinghamshire Police)  
Deputy Chief Constable Steve Cooper (Nottinghamshire Police)

#### **1. MINUTES OF THE CONFIRMATION HEARING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the confirmation hearing held on 21 September 2022 having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Panel held on 21 September 2022 having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

## **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Councillor Rob Inglis (Rushcliffe Borough Council)
- Councillor John Lee (Newark and Sherwood District Council)

## **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Richard MacRae declared a non-pecuniary interest because he was an ambassador for the Violence Reduction Unit.

## **5. WORK PROGRAMME**

Ms Toomey presented the work programme to the Panel. Ms Toomey also highlighted the recent Police and Crime Panel webinar which was hosted by the Local Government Association and the Police (Fire) and Crime Panel annual conference.

Mrs Harding, who attended the conference, noted that it was well attended by representatives across the country and that it was useful for attendees to network and learn best practice from other panels. Suggestions for the Panel to consider included holding remote pre-meetings further in advance of the meeting and that sub-committees could be set up for task and finish items in line with the Panel's practice around the Commissioner's budget and proposed precept.

## **RESOLVED 2022/030**

That the contents of the report be noted.

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

The Police and Crime Commissioner summarised her update report which covered her activities since September 2022 and highlighted the following:

- The Safer Streets Programme had received £3m additional Home Office funding in July 2022 which was being used to tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, improve feelings of safety in public places and tackle violence against women and girls.
- Following the completion of the city's night-time economy needs assessment in March 2022, the creation of a partnership working group had been requested to progress the recommendations and to gain consensus on how the late-night levy should be spent.
- Since September 2022, the Violence Reduction Unit had been awarded two new contracts for the provision of interventions and training. A tender for

the provision of therapeutic counselling had also been awarded to two organisations, which would provide cognitive behavioural therapy for children and young people impacted by violence and exploitation to support better outcomes around mental health.

- The formation of a Serious Violence Duty Implementation Group to oversee and co-ordinate partnership arrangements in preparation for the commencement of the Serious Violence Duty.
- £1 million funding had been awarded to assist children who had been affected by domestic abuse.
- Progress on the recommissioning of the victim care service.
- A monthly newsletter which had been launched and Walkabout Wednesdays, which continued.
- The findings of the inspection report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on vetting, misconduct and misogyny in the police service and the recommendations it made; Nottinghamshire Police had been graded as 'good'

Following the Commissioner's update, she gave her thanks to the outgoing Chief Constable whom she believed had left a legacy for the incoming Chief Constable. In particular, she highlighted the Chief Constable's impact around cutting crime, catching criminals and creating a force in which people wanted to work, noting particularly how the workforce had become more representative of Nottinghamshire's communities.

Members of the Panel asked questions about the requirement for police officers to wear body-worn videos following a historical incident where officers had entered a property without deploying body-worn video devices and had been the subject of misconduct proceedings. Panel members were assured that the wearing of body-worn devices was now embedded practice but that it was an officer's choice when to turn the camera on.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that she had recently visited the Operation Compass team in Nottingham city centre, which formed part of a multi-agency response to homelessness. She stated she had been shocked by the number of rough sleepers with substance misuse and mental health issues. The Commissioner noted that it was important for Nottinghamshire Police to work closely with partners to tackle issues and help people get support.

Members of the Panel raised concerns about the low conviction rates for sexual violence and abuse. The Commissioner responded by stating that a new board would be in place by early 2023 to bring relevant partners together and facilitate a joined-up approach.

The Panel referred to the new Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Partnership Board and queried a new approach to police cautions launching in 2023, court backlogs and their impact on victims. The Commissioner stated she could provide an update on the Criminal Justice Assurance Partnership to the Panel at its next meeting.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the introduction of 'Chat with Caroline' had received positive feedback. It was noted that information regarding the next 'Chat with Caroline' would be advertised in doctors' surgeries and the Commissioner's newsletter so that those without access to social media would be informed of the next event. It was noted that if any member of the public wished to raise something that could be dealt with in advance of the 'Chat with Caroline' session, then it would be.

Following the Commissioner's update, members of the Panel were pleased to note the work of the Divert Plus Custody Intervention which enabled children to have access to language and speech therapy.

A member of the Panel mentioned the recommendations published following the inspection of vetting, misconduct and misogyny in the police service by HMICFRS. Members asked about the assurance the Commissioner had received from the Chief Constable about the position in Nottinghamshire regarding this and a separate national online survey of officer experience which raised concerns about levels of sexual harassment and assault. The Commissioner stated that whilst the inspection had rated Nottinghamshire Police as good, she was proactively reviewing and scrutinising the force's response to all the local and national recommendations through her Accountability Board. Members also asked about the culture within the force and whether officers would be confident making complaints about any unacceptable behaviour displayed by colleagues.

The Panel raised concerns about progress against the action in the Commissioner's 'Make Notts Safe' plan to improve the response to mental health and multiple complex needs. The Commissioner stated that although the police had a duty to keep people safe, it was not always the right service. The Commissioner added that she had met with the Director of the Integrated Care Board to emphasise the matter was not the police's responsibility and that she would continue to work with partners to reiterate this.

Members of the Panel also sought assurance about measures to protect the mental wellbeing of police employees. The Panel was advised that Nottinghamshire Police provided access to wellbeing support services including counselling for dealing with traumatic events, wellbeing champions and mental health first aiders.

The other action against which no progress was showing was the commissioning and implementation of a targeted youth outreach programme. The Commissioner explained that responses to an initial attempt to commission this service did not fit what was required. It was therefore necessary to carry out engagement work with prospective providers before attempting to re-tender.

The session concluded with members asking whether the cost of living crisis had affected the Commissioner's priorities. It was recognised that these situations could lead to increases in acquisitive crime; the Commissioner stated that in the first instance the Chief Constable would determine how these offences should

be dealt with operationally but provided reassurance that she was always reviewing the Make Notts Safe Plan.

### **RESOLVED 2022/031**

1. That the Police and Crime Commissioner's update report be noted.
2. That the Commissioner's next report to the Panel should include an update on the Local Criminal Justice Assurance Partnership.
3. Details around vetting to be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.
4. A request was made for the Panel to receive a report on complaints about the force.

## **7. PERFORMANCE UPDATE TO SEPTEMBER 2022**

Members' attention turned to the performance report, which provided information to September 2022.

The Police and Crime Commissioner summarised the positive exceptions in the report, highlighting:

- An 8.2% reduction in burglary, which was higher than the regional and national averages.
- Reporting of domestic abuse and sexual offences had increased, which survey work indicated was because of increased confidence in reporting rather than an increase in incidents.
- Integrated offender management work had led to a 70% reduction in reoffending risk.
- Despite increased demand call answering performance remained strong with low abandoned call rates.
- The number of deployable police officers had increased by 9.9%.
- Ongoing compliance with the Victims Code of Practice had improved.

The following negative exceptions were also highlighted:

- The number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system across Nottinghamshire had increased by 25% so a task and finish group, which would include the Nottingham City Youth Justice Management Board, was being set up to explore strengthening diversionary activity and increased use of out of court disposals.
- In line with the national trend, there had been an increase in violent knife crime; the Commissioner was committed to a long-term approach with the Violence Reduction Unit and work was taking place to tackle possession of weapons.
- The proportion of respondents to the Police and Crime Survey stating they had confidence in the police had further deteriorated.

During the meeting, the Chief Constable indicated that recent statistics published by the Home Office showed a reduction of knife crime in Nottinghamshire.

Panel members recognised the difficulty in identifying a baseline against which to assess the performance because of the pandemic and asked whether the current rates indicated a return to a normal position to create an updated baseline. The Commissioner explained that more crime was being reported which meant that there was more work for officers compared to the height of the coronavirus pandemic. While lower levels of victim-based crime were being recorded, there had been increases in other types of crime, including online fraud.

A query was raised about figures reported on the number of police officers listed in the report as the number of deployable officers exceeded officer service strength.

Members of the Panel raised concerns about the increase in violent knife crime and first-time entrants into the youth justice system. Members asked what assurance the Commissioner could provide that those services commissioned through the Violence Reduction Unit were achieving their objectives and about the way in which they were being monitored. The Commissioner assured the Panel that the Violence Reduction Unit was subject to regular monitoring. Some members expressed concern that there did not seem to be any deterrent for knife crime given the number of incidents committed during the daytime in the city centre.

The Commissioner referred to commissioned work to support getting young people into employment. It was suggested by a Panel member that schools needed to become more open to partners of the Police and Crime Commissioner visiting to help prevent crime from happening. A member also suggested that more opportunities for girls needed to be available so they could access hobbies which would also help prevent them from committing crime.

Questions were raised about the Commissioner's ambition to increase confidence in policing. The Commissioner stated that it had been highlighted as a priority for the incoming Chief Constable, she also highlighted focus group and survey work being undertaken.

The Panel raised concerns that within the sub-categories of hate crime, there had been increases in reported crimes relating to sexual orientation, transgender and alternative subculture of +10.5%, +10.9% and +37.5% respectively. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that despite the increase, it showed that more people had felt confident reporting hate crime to the police. She added that she was pleased to note that 82% of those who had reported hate crime had been pleased with the response from Nottinghamshire Police. The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner stated that it was important for people to report hate crime as the statistics would help influence future commissioning and resource allocation.

### **RESOLVED 2022/032**

1. That the Police and Crime Commissioner's performance update report be noted.

2. That an addendum be produced to clarify:

- Figures for rates of violent knife crime.
- The number of deployable officers, officer service strength and the number of full-time employees.

8. **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S GOVERNMENT GRANT INCOME 2022-25**

*15:44 – Mayor Abrahams left the meeting and did not return*

The Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner presented the report which provided an overview of the grant income the Police and Crime Commissioner had received from Government departments for 2022-3 to 2024-5.

The Panel was informed that the commissioning budget for 2022-3 was £12.4m and that this included PCC and local partner funding. It was noted that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was responsible for commissioning around sexual violence. It was explained that the budget was evenly split across the Make Notts Safe Plan's Preventing, Responding and Supporting objectives.

It was noted that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner handled a number of time-limited grants which were due to finish over the next three years. Only the Ministry of Justice Victims' Services Grant, currently £1.35m a year, which was a long-standing annual grant that was expected to continue beyond March 2025.

The Chief Executive noted that the expiration of time-limited grant funding would more than halve the total commissioning budget. As such, unless continued or alternative funding was confirmed, there were likely to be adverse implications for the delivery of local services.

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner would work with partners both to build Nottinghamshire's capacity to prevent crime and to mitigate the risk of potential funding loss by:

- Taking a whole systems approach to assessing needs and prioritising support and other functions to be provided.
- Monitoring demand for support and flow through services.
- Conducting needs assessments where appropriate to inform re-commissioning approaches.
- Managing contract lifetimes to ensure maximum flexibility to accommodate adaptations in funding.
- Scaling back or de-commissioning services to fit budgets, redesigning wider services where necessary to fit budgets, whilst ensuring that services continue to be safe and meet the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Co-commissioning redesigned services where necessary to meet the budget available.

Members were assured about the governance arrangements around grant funding, including the internal controls and reporting spending through the Joint Independent Audit Committee. The Chief Executive also noted that, as well as using data to influence commissioning priorities, the Commissioner was also working with victims and survivors.

**RESOLVED 2022/033**

That the report be noted.

*Before the meeting closed, the Chairman said farewell to the outgoing Chief Constable. On behalf of the Panel, the Chairman thanked the Chief Constable for his hard work including the briefings he had provided and for bringing a new vision and vigour to Nottinghamshire Police. The Panel wished the Chief Constable good luck in his new role as Chief Constable of West Midlands Police.*

*The Chief Constable thanked the Panel for its kind words, challenge and support.*

The meeting was closed at 3.59pm.