

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 2.00 PM AT COUNTY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

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

Executive Mayor Andy Abrahams – Mansfield District Council - **A**
Councillor Leslie Ayoola – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Scott Carlton – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Lesley Dalby – Independent Member
Councillor Tony Eaton – Bassetlaw District Council - **A**
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Rob Inglis – Rushcliffe Borough Council - **A**
Councillor Richard MacRae – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan - Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ashfield District Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Craig Guildford – Chief Constable, Notts Police
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, Office of PCC (OPCC)
Charlie Radford – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
DCI Lee Davies – Notts Police
DS Marcus Oldroyd – Notts Police

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 September 2019, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed, and were signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Eaton and Councillor Inglis.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. PRESENTATION – TACKLING ORGANISED CRIME THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING (OPERATION REACHER)

DCI Lee Davies and DS Marcus Oldroyd from Nottinghamshire Police delivered a presentation on Operation Reacher, informing the Panel that Operation Reacher operates in the Bestwood area and supports the Serious and Organised Crime Unit whilst providing an increased uniform presence within the community, working alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Team and other police resources. DCI Davies and DS Oldroyd informed members that the team applies both a creative and innovative approach to building community trust and confidence.

Following the presentation, and in response to issues raised by Members, the following points were clarified: -

- DCI Davies and DS Oldroyd confirmed that the Force does have the means to continue to implement the model and informed the Panel that the Chief Constable wanted the model rolled out to all neighbourhood policing areas in the next 12 months. The officers informed the Panel that the approach gave power to the community which enabled it to self-police, with leaders emerging from the community to be supported by the Force. The officers stated that the Force now received information in a way that it did not in the past when people did not feel safe and that any information received was treated confidentially.
- The Panel welcomed the approach, which is in the best traditions of neighbourhood policing, and spoke of the effect of reduced officer numbers which had led to a lack of consistency, with changing faces and officers deployed reactively instead of being embedded in neighbourhoods. The officers stated that it was important not only to identify the right stakeholders in the areas in order to find out what is required, but also to recruit staff with the relevant skills, stating that not everyone was able to use Facebook.
- The officers agreed that communities are different and informed the Panel that a number of areas are being looked at, including branding, a media strategy and a stakeholder strategy. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that Policing was a layered service and that this initiative was a good example of that, with officers focussing on matters identified by the different communities.
- The Panel stated that the initiative should lead to a reduction in crime with a consequent reduction in police costs and the Chief Constable replied that this was an evidenced-based piece of work.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

Mr Ford introduced the report and informed members of the following:

- The budget workshops had been arranged for 27th January 2020 (with the Commissioner) and 3rd February 2020 (with NCC's Finance Officers).
- Mr Ford reminded the Panel of the awareness raising sessions for new and existing members that had taken place on 23 September and 9 October, facilitated by Frontline Consulting, and informed members that the two main issues that arose from the sessions were performance monitoring by the Panel and the performance monitoring reports produced by the Commissioner's Office. Mr Ford informed the Panel that in future the aim was for individual Panel members to keep a watching brief on the various Strategic Themes.

Mr Ford stated that some members had expressed a preference for which Theme they would like to monitor and that although he had allocated Themes to those members who had not responded, there was still scope to change those allocations if required. In terms of the style and content of the performance monitoring reports produced by the Commissioner's Office, Mr Ford informed the Panel that a meeting attended by Kevin Dennis, Dan Howitt, the Chair, Vice Chair, Suma Harding, himself and Pete Barker had taken place to discuss the issue and the intention was to bring a draft of the new style of report to the meeting of the Panel in February.

- Mr Ford then spoke about the eighth Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels that had taken place on 19th November in Warwick and which had been attended by himself, the Chair and Mr Barker, and referred the Panel to the briefing note that had been circulated to all members before the meeting. Mr Ford informed the Panel that prior to the opening of the Conference, the AGM of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP) had taken place where Suma Harding had been endorsed as this Panel's nominated member of the NAPFCP Executive Committee. Mr Ford informed members that as a result of concerns that paying an annual subscription to the NAPFCP from the grant could be classed as lobbying, the proposed subscription of £500 had been scrapped. Mr Ford stated that it was hoped that this would allow all 43 Panels to play a part in the NAPFCP rather than just the 17 who had signed up initially, and whose subscriptions would not be refunded.

Mr Ford informed the Panel that the Chair had been asked to be part of the panel for the Q&A session that followed the Opening Conference Plenary where the keynote speaker, Dr Rick Muir, spoke about the current Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales. The Chair thanked Mr Ford for sending useful links to Panel members regarding the Review and informed members that on the day she had pointed out a gap in Dr Muir's planning as he had yet to consult those aged 16 – 25. Mr Ford informed the Panel that Frontline Consulting were liaising with all Panels and that an amalgamated regional response to the Review would be submitted. Mr Ford informed the Panel that there were also a series of workshops held on the day including one involving audio minutes of meetings that were designed to raise the awareness of the work of Police and Crime Panels. Mr Ford also informed the Panel that there had been a discussion about where to hold the Conference, stating that if it were held in London it was more likely that a minister would attend, but that holding it in the central location of Warwickshire meant that the Conference was well attended.

RESOLVED 2019/021

- 1) That the proposed allocation of Members to Strategic Themes be considered and agreed subject to any further preferences expressed by Members.**
- 2) That the proposed amended format of performance reports be endorsed, with a draft revised format presented to the next Panel meeting on 6 February 2020.**
- 3) That the feedback from the Frontline Consulting Annual Conference and the NAPFCP Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2019 be noted.**
- 4) That the arrangements for the Panel Budget workshops on 27 January 2020 and 3 February 2020 be noted.**

6. POLICE AND CRIME DELIVERY PLAN 2019-20, THEME 4, TRANSFORMING SERVICES AND DELIVERING QUALITY POLICING

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed members that the expansion of Operation Reacher previously referred to would be achieved by deploying Nottinghamshire's share of the extra 20k officers that would be recruited nationally. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the recruitment programme for the first 18 months had been announced and that the intention was to recruit Nottinghamshire's allocation of 107 officers in the current financial year, with intakes taking place in January, February and March. The Commissioner informed members that it takes time for new recruits to get 'up to speed' but that the Nottinghamshire Force was well placed compared to other forces, with the figure of 282 officers being recruited so far this year only bettered by the Humberside Force. The Commissioner informed the Panel that half of those recruited were new and extra officers with people retiring all of the time, meaning that one third of all officers will be new in three years' time, with the Commissioner stating that he felt this was an opportunity for the Force. The Commissioner informed the Panel that as of 31st March 2019 the Force employed 2,087 officers, which was a substantial increase compared to 24 months ago.

The Commissioner then spoke about the current financial year's budget and informed members that an overspend of £600k was anticipated, which was less than half a percent of the budget. In terms of next year's budget, the Commissioner informed the Panel that because of the General Election the announcement of the Police Grant would not now be made on 4th December. The Commissioner stated that an early announcement was required to allow a report to be brought to the Panel meeting on 4th February, though there was a possibility the announcement would not be made until mid-January which would make planning very difficult.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that knife crime was a concern both locally and nationally, but stated that knife crime in Nottinghamshire was down for the year to August and was on a downward trajectory. The Commissioner informed members that hard enforcement work, prevention work and partnership working had all played a part in the reduction. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the knife crime team had been supplemented and that increasing the number of 'stop and searches' significantly had also been a factor, with the success rate of 60% being above average and indicating that the right people were being stopped.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that drug trafficking and supply offences continued to increase and that this could partly be explained by the proactive policing that was being undertaken.

The Commissioner informed members that the incidence of domestic violence was increasing both nationally and in Nottinghamshire, and that in part this was as a result of better recording as well as victims being more willing to come forward. The Commissioner expressed his concern at the number of repeat offences and informed the Panel that this area would be looked at closely over the next two to three months.

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

- The Panel expressed its concern at the level of domestic violence and queried whether the increase could really be explained by increased confidence in the police. The Panel asked whether the Commissioner could deliver a presentation on the issue at the Panel meeting in March, and requested that relevant partners also be invited to attend the meeting. The Commissioner replied that he shared the Panel's concerns and work was being scoped in this area with partners being spoken to, but that this was a large piece of work which would probably not be ready for March. The Commissioner informed the Panel that expenditure on domestic violence victims was being increased, both by the Force and local authorities.
- Councillor Zadrozny spoke about the problem of crime in the Ashfield area and referred to recent incidents of murder, armed robbery and vandalism. Councillor Zadrozny stated that while the officers were very good there were not enough of them, and though the precept had been increased by the largest amount possible, none of that money had been seen in Ashfield. Councillor Zadrozny praised the work that had been carried out in Bestwood as a result of Operation Reacher, but requested that this also be implemented in other areas where residents were afraid to come out of their homes and where there were problems with organised crime. Councillor Zadrozny asked for officers to patrol the Ashfield area. The Commissioner replied by stating that officer numbers nationally had fallen by 23k since 2010, with the Notts force losing 2,022 in the same period. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the number of PCSOs had also declined but that the Force was now recruiting. The Commissioner stated that all parts of the County receive a fair share of resources, though these decisions are for the Chief Constable not himself. The Commissioner assured the Panel that Ashfield was a topic of conversation between himself and the Chief Constable and that partnership work was important, though more needed to be done. The Chief Constable stated that Ashfield was a difficult area to police but that the officers in the neighbourhood decided how resources are deployed and that the Ashfield area did receive its fair share of those resources.
- The Panel queried the figure given in paragraph 7.5 regarding first time entrants into the youth justice system in 2013/14 and the Commissioner replied that there appeared to be a misprint and undertook to find out the correct figure and inform the Panel (The Commissioner's Office subsequently confirmed that the correct figure is 839 and not 214 as stated in the report).

RESOLVED 2019/022

That the contents of the report be noted.

7. POLICE AND CRIME DELIVERY PLAN (2019-20) – THEME 4: TRANSFORMING SERVICES & DELIVERING QUALITY POLICING

The Commissioner introduced the report and stated that Nottinghamshire was disadvantaged under the current funding formula to the sum of £10m per annum. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the government will review the formula but not until after the spending review, and though this could be done in tandem this was not the Government's view.

The Commissioner spoke about the call handling performance of answering 999 and 101 calls and stated that though this had been an area of concern in the past the performance in recent months had been good.

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

- The Commissioner confirmed that BME officer recruitment had been identified as an area where more work was required and stated that the Force was moving in the right direction with a training programme in place. In terms of milestones, the Commissioner stated that it was difficult to implement these until more information regarding the results of the recruitment process was available. The Commissioner reassured the Panel that partners were spoken to regularly about the issue, but the fact that the BME proportion of the general population was increasing meant that this area remained a challenge.
- The Commissioner informed the Panel that the contract for the building of the new shared Police and Fire HQ had not been let, so that it was not possible to give a precise figure for the cost, though the figures of £16.5m and £18.5m quoted in the report gave a good indication. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the cost would be shared proportionately with the Fire Service who would keep the capital receipt from the sale of their present HQ.
- In reply to a question regarding the Staff Survey, the Commissioner informed the Panel that this had been conducted by Durham University. The Chief Constable stated that the return rate for questionnaires was 50%, which indicated strong staff engagement, and informed the Panel that once the full report had been received he would share its contents and provide the Panel with an overview.
- The Panel asked the Commissioner how the new model and accountability arrangements for dealing with complaints against the police would work, and the Commissioner replied that legislation was still to go before Parliament and though officials had told him the new regime should be in place by February 2020, the Commissioner stated that he doubted this would be achieved.
- The Panel referred to the fact that Theme 4 now seemed to have 15 objectives whereas in the past there were 19 and the Commissioner replied that there was now a new version of the Police and Crime Delivery Plan and that he would clarify everything at the February meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED 2019/021

That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.52pm

CHAIR