

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29th JUNE 2017 AT 2.00 PM 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
Councillor Cheryl Butler – Ashfield District Council
Councillor Michael Edwards – Nottingham City Council
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Keith Girling – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Councillor Kevin Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council -A
Suma Harding – Independent Member
Councillor Tony Harper – Broxtowe Borough Council -A
Councillor Nicola Heaton – Nottingham City Council -A
Councillor Richard Jackson – Broxtowe Borough Council
Councillor Toby Neal – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Maddy Richardson – Bassetlaw District Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member
Councillor Linda Woodings – Nottingham City Council

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)
Craig Guildford - Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire
Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, OPCC
Mark Kimberley - Head of Finance, Notts Police
Charlotte Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED 2017/012

That Christine Goldstraw OBE be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED 2017/013

That Councillor Debbie Mason be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record, and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Edwards replaced Councillor Heaton, Councillor Jackson replaced Councillor Harper and Councillor Richardson replaced Councillor Greaves, all for this meeting only.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6. RULES OF PROCEDURE

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that the rules were agreed at the first meeting of the Panel on 19 October 2012 and that the report was included on the agenda to ensure that new Panel members were aware of the relevant procedures. Keith informed the Panel that the intention was to organise induction sessions for new members.

RESOLVED 2017/014

That the contents of the report and appendix be noted.

7. REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP – BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that following the recent County Council elections it was no longer possible for the Panel to be politically balanced with 15 members and explained that the report recommended two possible options of reducing the elected membership to either 14 or 10 members. Keith explained that the report only dealt with elected members and not the independent members.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- Councillor Girling spoke in favour of reducing the size of the membership to 10 arguing that committees should be kept as small as possible on the grounds of efficiency;
- Councillor Edwards informed the Panel that he was in favour of having 14 elected members of the Panel because of the range of issues that affected the City area;
- Members agreed that any decision to reduce the size of the elected member representation on the Panel should be subject to further review if Nottingham City Council subsequently confirmed it wished to retain four places on the Panel.

RESOLVED 2017/015

- 1) That the elected member representation on the Panel be reduced to 10.**
- 2) That the above decision be reviewed if Nottingham City Council subsequently confirm that it wishes to continue the previous practice of being allocated 4 seats on the Panel (2 members and two co-optees).**

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the report and sought members' views on the OPCC's suggestion of holding a workshop in October to include a review of the performance framework with a view to making it more fit for purpose and improving the ability of the Panel to monitor performance over a sustained period.

Keith outlined the advantages of being a member of the Regional Police and Crime Panel network and requested Panel approval to renew the subscription.

Keith informed the Panel of two forthcoming national events – the LGA PCP Workshop in London on 12 July 2017 and the National PCP Conference at Warwick University on 6 November 2017. Keith informed the Panel that two members had expressed an interest in attending the Workshop in London and that further places, along with funding, were still available. In terms of the conference this had been held in Nottingham in the past, two members had attended the event last year in Birmingham and Keith asked members to register their interest for this year's event.

Keith informed the Panel that he was keen to provide a brief induction session for new members on either a joint or individual basis depending on members' preferences and reminded members of the benefits of such sessions that had been highlighted in the 'Power Check' document published by Frontline Consulting.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Performance Framework at a future workshop and expressed its frustration at how the varying figures made comparisons over time difficult.

- The Panel spoke of the implications of the recent Grenfell Tower fire for emergency planning and the heightened risks the police may face

RESOLVED 2017/0016

- 1) That Members consider the OPCC's proposal to arrange a Performance Framework workshop in October 2017.
- 2) That the Panel subscribes to the regional PCP network for 2017/18 at a cost of £500.
- 3) That Members contact Keith Ford / Peter Barker if they would like to attend the LGA workshop on 12 July or the National Conference on 6th November.
- 4) That new Members contact Keith Ford / Peter Barker to arrange an induction session.

9. REGIONAL COLLABORATION WORKSHOP EVENT

Keith Ford introduced the report and informed the Panel that Leicestershire had made the decision not to participate, which was disappointing as it was thought that all parties had agreed to proceed. Keith explained that one of the reasons given was financial. The cost of participation is approximately £500 which may sound expensive but this is the same as a national conference and this workshop is bespoke. Keith informed the Panel that Frontline would bear the cost if ultimately Leicestershire did not participate.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- Panel members expressed their disappointment and some Members questioned whether it was worth proceeding without Leicestershire's involvement, while other Members thought the initiative should still go ahead and Leicestershire would then realise their decision had been a mistake.
- The Chair felt that Frontline should be reimbursed for any costs incurred if Leicestershire do not participate.

RESOLVED 2017/017

That approval be given to finalise plans for the workshop event, to be facilitated by Frontline Consultancy.

10. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that following the events in Manchester and London, there had been a rise in hate crime both nationally and locally. In Manchester there had been a 500% increase but this had not been the case in Nottinghamshire. Following Brexit there had been a brief spike in hate crime in Notts and a similar spike had occurred following the recent atrocities but the increase was nearer 50% not 500%. The Commissioner felt that there was a clear pattern to such crimes and that such incidents would return to past levels over time. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he and the Chief Constable had been engaging with the affected communities, especially Muslim women.

The Commissioner informed the Panel of a recent exercise around a river accident which involved the police, fire and volunteers and highlighted the importance of joint working.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the phased recruitment of officers and PCSOs was well underway and would continue into the New Year with a public announcement concerning numbers due soon.

The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Force continued to divert those with mental health problems away from cells and into care, with no young people with mental health problems being detained in a cell. Notts is the only Force in the country that can state this. The Commissioner informed the Panel that until recently there had been a nurse stationed in the control room in the afternoon and evenings but the CCG had withdrawn funding, though discussions were ongoing in an effort to reinstate the service.

The Commissioner referred to the appendix to the report which contained details of the Community Remedy evaluation. The Commissioner informed the Panel that this was an initiative he was keen to encourage and which was a priority for the Chief constable. The evaluation showed that progress was being made but that more could be done.

The Commissioner spoke to the Panel regarding police funding and informed the Panel that due to Brexit the Treasury would probably not produce a CSR in the autumn as is customary. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Home Office would be looking for Forces to achieve 3% or 6% efficiency savings in the future. The Commissioner stated he was heavily involved in the area of police financing and would be submitting a paper before the summer recess and informed the Panel that Chief Constables and PCCs were working on a larger body of work that would be available at the end of September and which made the case for increasing expenditure on policing. The Commissioner informed the Panel that there was a drive to put resources into counter terrorism which the Commissioner agreed was right, but that this should not be happening at the expense of other budgets.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked about the actual increase in hate crime and the Chief Constable replied that there had been an increase of 36% in such crimes

between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Chief Constable reiterated that the size of the recent spikes in hate crime in Nottingham were nothing like the 500% increase seen in Manchester and reminded the Panel that many comments had been made on social media which had to be recorded as hate crimes but these were on-line comments and not incidents in public.

- Some Panel members commented positively to the recent demonstration by the firearms team and asked the Commissioner whether the Force intended to arm more officers. The Commissioner replied that the government had provided £140m of funding to provide an uplift in this area but that most of the money was going to urban forces meaning the Notts force would only be receiving a small amount. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Chief Constable had increased the number of Tasers held by the force and these were in use in Retford, Newark and other rural areas by those who were working alone or who were otherwise isolated. The timing of the purchase meant that the type of Taser issued was the most advanced model. The Panel asked the Commissioner whether he thought that all officers would be armed at some point in the future and he informed the Panel that he thought they would. The Chief Constable agreed.
- Councillor Girling informed the meeting that he was the County Council's Armed Forces Champion and spoke of the work being done concerning ex-service personnel's mental health. Councillor Girling thought that there was the opportunity to link into the work currently being undertaken and informed the Panel that there were a variety of voluntary organisations working in the area that could be consulted. The Commissioner agreed it would be useful to have a discussion about the funding options available for mental health work. The Commissioner spoke of an impressive study done on the numbers of ex-service personnel coming into custody who are referred onto charities and undertook to ask the officer involved to contact Councillor Girling.
- The Panel spoke of the use of CCTV and its usefulness but expressed frustration that the resources were concentrated in the City. The Commissioner replied that it was up to the Police and Local Authorities to work together. Some of the equipment needed updating and this was difficult given the current financial pressures in the public sector, and again stressed the need for co-operation. The Commissioner informed the Panel that he could not understand why there were so many different systems in operation, rationalisation was needed and welcomed any discussions geared towards finding a common system.
- Councillor Edwards informed the Panel that he was reassured by the Commissioner's comments regarding hate crime but that he was concerned that after putting City Council resources into crime prevention previously that now the same mistakes were being made with too many areas suffering anti-social behaviour and he feared that the situation was reverting to that of the past. Councillor Edwards asked the Commissioner whether the Control Room could be improved through the use of technology and asked whether the '101' service was operating at a level he was satisfied with. The Commissioner informed the Panel that a new Control Room was wanted but that this would take time and in the short term thought would need to be given about how the Control Room was operated. The Commissioner

informed the Panel that in broad terms the '999' and '101' services were hitting their targets. The Commissioner spoke to the Panel about the different ways in which the public could now contact the Police and informed the Panel that crime could now be reported on-line.

- The Commissioner informed the Panel that he had had many discussions with the Chief Constable since his appointment regarding the issues brought up by Councillor Edwards and that he had visited the Meadows the week previously. The Commissioner informed the Panel that a national discussion was underway on how a uniformed presence can be maintained. The Commissioner felt that there was a presence in Notts and spoke how he walked round Sneinton Dale and saw a uniformed officer every day. The Commissioner praised the City Council for its investment which had made it a leader in the area of community safety. The Commissioner spoke of the new accommodation on Maid Marion way which was an exemplar but this had been achieved at a time of significant financial pressures and informed the Panel that he was very much involved in trying to get a better deal for policing.
- The Panel spoke about knife crime and the fact that if people had their knives confiscated then they just replaced them as they felt they needed them for protection. The Panel made the point that if the public had a good relationship with the Police and felt protected they would not feel the need to carry knives. The Commissioner agreed with much that had been said and informed the Panel that in fact the level of knife crime was no higher now than it was 10 years ago, though there were signs that it was increasing. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the Notts force was the only force other than the Met that had a dedicated knife crime team and this played its part in the very high rate of 60% for successful stop and searches. The Commissioner spoke of the need for partners to work together and for the approach to this crime to be refreshed.
- The Panel spoke of the increase in those from the BME community employed by the Force since the Commissioner took office and welcomed the drive to recruit new officers. The Commissioner replied that the numbers recruited from the BME community continued to increase and the success of such candidates continued partly through the mentoring undertaken by the Force. The Commissioner spoke of the 'stop-start' approach to recruitment in the past and contrasted the situation to the one of continuity that was now in place.

The Chief Constable addressed the meeting and informed the Panel of the following:

- Specialist resources had been sent to Manchester and the back filling procedure had been triggered. This support continues in terms of searches and provision of detectives. The system works by drawing on required resources nationally. The whole network is busy with many attacks prevented, though this is not always promoted as the balance between worrying the public and reassuring them needs to be struck. No links back from the Manchester attack to Notts had been made.

- The Force is keen to support the use of CCTV but would expect Local Authorities to view footage unless the incident is serious
- The need to make financial savings continues but the aim was to bolster the front end of policing including work in schools, cyber-crime, knife crime and radicalisation. An announcement would be made soon regarding police recruitment numbers.
- The Knife Crime team targets carriers and organised crime is involved. The research is mixed with the indications being that young people carry knives for protection with the older carriers being involved in organised crime. Postcodes are an influence now – the crossing of boundaries by young people is an increasing problem for them. Initiatives in schools around prevention are part of the solution but not the whole one.
- The Chief Constable has been involved with restorative justice his whole career and supports the concept. This approach does not criminalise people who do not have the capacity to understand what they have done.
- Notts has one of the highest '999' call rates per head of population. This is true for calls to the ambulance service as well as to the police and work continues to find out why. The control room is unique, dealing with life or death situations, the Chief wants the technology to be as up to date as possible to keep officers and staff safe and investment in the area will continue.
- The Chief Constable thanked Panel members for their support and recent visit to Police HQ and said that staff had appreciated the interest shown in their work.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel appreciated that the public wanted a visible, uniformed police presence but felt that perhaps given present financial circumstances resources should be targeted. The Panel was aware of the difficulty in persuading the public of the advantages of this approach but felt that if people were better informed of outcomes this would build confidence. The Chief Constable agreed. Some Panel members felt that there were some areas where challenges were not being made and that as a country not enough was being spent on public services with the result that conditions were returning to those of the end of the 1990s
- The Panel spoke about the problems in rural villages and the fears some PCSOs had about the lack of resources available. The Commissioner replied that that he had always been clear in that policing must be provided to all in Notts but that the problem was that some areas are more disadvantaged than others and that although there were areas where the crime level was zero people still wanted to see the reassuring presence of the police. The Commissioner stated that 25% of the crime in the county occurred in 5 parts of

the City. The Commissioner agreed to send Councillor Butler a leaflet detailing the work being done around rural crime.

RESOLVED 2017/018

That the contents of the report be noted.

11. END OF YEAR FINANCE REPORT – PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2016-17

The Commissioner introduced the report and informed the Panel that he had been assured that both sets of accounts would be signed off that day before 6pm. The Commissioner informed the Panel that the outturn was broadly on target, with an additional £1m of savings being achieved, mainly through more officers leaving the force than anticipated. The Commissioner informed the Panel that at a quarter of the way through the current financial year expenditure was on budget and further recruitment would be possible.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Commissioner was asked about the progress made in replacing the Bridewell and he replied that though the building was state of the art when built it is now very quiet. The Commissioner informed the Panel that alternative sites were being looked at, the affordability issue was being considered and he would report back to the Panel when there was more concrete information to be shared. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that technical changes and the introduction of safe handling principles means that the building is no longer fit for purpose
- Peter Barker would e-mail Panel members and liaise with the OPCC to arrange a visit to the building for those interested.

RESOLVED 2017/019

That the outturn position for each legal entity and the net position for the Group is noted.

12. SPECIFIC FOCUS ON POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY THEME 5 - REDUCE THE THREAT FROM ORGANISED CRIME

The Commissioner introduced the report and spoke to the Panel about the regional work carried out by EMSOU, the work going on in the City with the young on the fringes of crime and the findings of the recent National Crime Agency report which included details of the Albanian influence. The Chief Constable addressed the meeting and referred to the collaborative nature of the work in this area. The Chief Constable spoke of the Force's record in recovering drugs and firearms and the high number of drug trafficking prosecutions as examples of the Force's resolve and the effectiveness of using local intelligence. The Chief Constable spoke of the problems of cyber-crime where older people needed educating about the scams that exist and younger people need educating

about on-line dating scams, sometimes becoming victims without realising it. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that though the Force worked well with partners there was still the need to invest in prevention.

During discussions the Panel raised the following points:

- The Panel asked the Chief Constable about the process regarding the proceeds of crime. The Chief Constable informed the Panel that it was the court's decision to pursue proceeds and that even when successful the Police would only be allocated approximately 18% of the sums recovered. Money launderers were targeted, both locally and nationally, and some cases take years to come to fruition with criminals hiding money in sophisticated ways. The Chair questioned the fairness in the allocation of recovered proceeds and the Commissioner informed the Panel that that a debate with the government was ongoing to increase the 18% figure but the Commissioner felt that he was not confident of there being enough time in this Parliament to resolve the matter.
- The Panel admitted its ignorance of the Albanian involvement and asked the Chief Constable whether he thought there were other issues/concerns that the public might not be aware of. The Chief Constable replied that there were but that there was a balance to be struck between informing the public and reassuring them. The Chief Constable stated that threats were coming from all around the world to our core cities and the approach to the police differed significantly between the different groups but that there was a need to infiltrate these communities in order to gather intelligence

RESOLVED 2017/020

That the progress made against the strategic priority themes and activities set out in the Police and Crime Plan be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

CHAIRMAN