

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 PM 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 - **A**
Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council
Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council
Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - **A**
Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council
Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council
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
Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council
Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

OFFICERS PRESENT

Heather Dickinson – Group Manager, Legal &) Nottinghamshire
Democratic Services) County Council
Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services) (Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Cutland – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Kevin Dennis, Chief Executive, OPCC

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police
Superintendent Helen Chamberlain – 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 18 June 2014, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair of the meeting, subject to the following amendment:-

- Minute 7 – Transforming Rehabilitation - 2nd bullet point – replace ‘serving over 12 months in prison’ with ‘serving under 12 months in prison’.

Further to Minute 11 – Estates and Front Counter Proposals – Members referred to the recent Retford Times coverage of the relocation of police stations in the Bassetlaw area. The Commissioner clarified that Harworth Police Station would be relocated next to the Town Council offices and that Retford Police Station would be relocated to the Old Town Hall in Retford. The Commissioner stated that a police station would always be maintained in Worksop but the current station was too large and therefore partner agencies were being approached about possible co-location in smaller premises. Members requested further information about the strategy being taken with estates. The Commissioner underlined that there was no County-wide strategy for this issue and that he favoured an ongoing approach of consideration of individual proposals. Members stated that it would be helpful for any existing plans for change to be shared with the Panel and the Commissioner agreed to give that suggestion further thought.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Executive Mayor Tony Egginton and Councillors Baron and Culley.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Laughton declared a private and pecuniary interest as his wife works for Nottinghamshire Police, which did not preclude him from speaking or voting on any agenda items.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the update report and sought the further views of the Panel and the Commissioner on how they could better engage the public.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members suggested establishing a task and finish group to work with the Commissioner’s Office to develop public engagement proposals. Bob Vaughan-Newton and Councillors Campbell and Mason agreed to meet with Kevin Dennis and report back any proposals to a future meeting of the Panel;

- with regard to the proposed approach to focus on specific priority themes within the Police and Crime Plan at future meetings, Members requested that an update on Community Remedy and Community Trigger be included in the focus on Priority Theme 3 at the November meeting;
- the work programme would also be updated to include Priority Theme 1 – ‘Protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people’ in the January meeting at which consideration of the Code of Practice for Victims and the Victims Strategy was also planned;
- Members felt that future meetings of the Panel should be held at County Hall and that this arrangement should be reviewed in the future.

RESOLVED 2014/023

- 1) That the work programme be noted and updated as discussed.**
- 2) That a task and finish group (consisting of Bob Vaughan-Newton and Councillors Campbell and Mason) be established to develop proposals to improve public engagement.**
- 3) That future Panel meetings be held at County Hall, subject to ongoing review.**
- 4) That the forthcoming national Police and Crime Panel (PCP) conference being held at County Hall on 17 October 2014 be noted.**

5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER’S UPDATE REPORT

The Chair and Members thanked the Commissioner for the new, condensed format of these regular reports, which had been revised in light of Members’ previous requests.

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his update report. With reference to the Rotherham child sexual exploitation inquiry and the recent national and local media coverage about investigations into sexual abuse allegations within Nottinghamshire and Nottingham children’s residential homes, the following points were raised:-

- Superintendent Helen Chamberlain had analysed the outcomes of the Rotherham inquiry report to ensure any implications for Nottinghamshire Police and partnership agencies (via the City and County Safeguarding Boards) were addressed and that any recommended best practice was replicated. Superintendent Chamberlain was also leading Operation Daybreak, the investigation into the allegations of abuse in residential homes. This operation had been ongoing since 2010, with a number of arrests already made.

Having met some of the alleged victims, the Commissioner felt that there would still be some public concerns at the end of the investigation and he was therefore recommending an independent review into what had occurred. He added that this recommendation was supported by the Leaders of both the City and County Council. At this stage he was unable to clarify when and what form this review would take, and this would be shaped to some degree by the findings of the Police investigations. He stated that there had been major improvements in safeguarding practice over the last 20-30 years. He underlined the importance of an open and transparent review to ensure best practice with partners and enable young people and children to feel safe in the care of local authorities and feel protected by the Police;

- the Chief Constable highlighted that Superintendent Chamberlain had led on safeguarding within the Force for a number of years and had received appropriate recognition for her outstanding work in transforming and refining practice. He added that the issues arising from Rotherham were of deep concern but underlined that, although the findings had only recently been published, the Force and other public protection partners had been aware of the relevant issues well in advance. The national Yew Tree Team had been asked to assess the work of Operation Daybreak and any findings would be externally reviewed and validated before they were published. A multi-agency group was also assessing whether any further lessons could be learned in terms of partnership working. With reference to the recent Guardian interview with the actress Samantha Morton, the Chief Constable felt that it took a great deal of courage for a person in the public eye to make disclosures, and that this could give other victims the courage to come forward. Operation Daybreak was dealing with 95 victims currently and if more people were to come forward this would assist investigations. Superintendent Chamberlain had attempted to make contact with Ms Morton to obtain further details of the allegations, to offer appropriate care and support and to help ensure that offenders were brought to account;
- Superintendent Chamberlain raised the following key issues in relation to the Rotherham report:-
 - risk assessments of children the Police are aware of due to being missing from home or other issues – the Rotherham practice had been based around quantitative and numerical measures whereas Nottinghamshire's approach also included qualitative judgement from professionals, working continuously with partner agencies, including organisations such as Barnados. Intelligence on such children who were at risk of sexual exploitation was gathered on an ongoing basis to ensure their issues were fully understood;
 - staffing in the Child Sexual Exploitation team was currently challenging with eleven suitably trained officers (staffing had

been an issue in Rotherham). Staffing was subject to ongoing review and the team would also be subject to review as part of the work around implementing the Delivering the Future new operating model;

- quality assurance audits were undertaken to look at safeguarding and child sexual exploitation practice;
 - communications with the community were ongoing to ensure that the signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation were understood and recognised by carers and parents (awareness of these issues was one of the gaps highlighted in Rotherham). Training and awareness-raising was also offered to front line staff, for example working with schools to explain the process and forms of victim grooming. All staff within the Force were required to undertake the Introduction to Public Protection training to ensure that the relevant signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation were considered for children who go missing;
 - with regard to looked after children who had moved into the area and had previously been sexually exploited, better sharing of information with relevant partner agencies was required and steps were being taken to develop such partnership relationships to ensure they were fit for purpose;
 - the team was able to make risk assessments particularly swiftly compared to other Forces (including South Yorkshire) and this was facilitated by ICT equipment;
- Superintendent Chamberlain explained the following issues about Operation Daybreak:-
 - this was a historical inquiry which had initially focussed on allegations dating back up to 50 years ago about the former Beechwood residential home. Complaints were received by the Police about 9 care homes and 4 of these were now subject to no further action. People had also made litigation claims directly to the City and County Councils about 13 care homes in total. 95 people had made complaints to the Police and 10 men had been arrested as a result. Of these, 7 had been released with no further action to be taken, 2 had been released on bail awaiting a Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) outcome and 1 man had died since the inquiry started;
 - an officer from Leicestershire Police had been asked to externally review the Operation 'Daybreak' investigation. This was a very complex inquiry and work with the CPS continued;

- Superintendent Chamberlain had been in touch with Samantha Morton to offer support and to help ensure that other children were not at risk.

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

- the Chair thanked the Commissioner for raising the issue in a timely manner, which helped address the Panel's current concerns;
- Members underlined that child sexual exploitation continued to be a live issue in Rotherham and queried the prevalence of the problem in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It was stated that there had been two recent operations, in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in which the relevant young women were reluctant to come forward or co-operate with the Police as they did not perceive themselves to be victims. Following further work with the Local Authority and social workers in the area, warrants were taken out in order to seize evidence in the form of underwear, computers, telephones etc from the girls' homes. This was a ground-breaking approach nationally and underlined the value of a proactive stance in getting victims to come forward with their version of events. Unlike in Rotherham, offenders in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire were not of a single racial group. A number of referrals from the National Crime agency for a variety of reasons including grooming, on-line grooming and possessing indecent images had been received.
- Members queried whether current practice would be changed as a result of the Rotherham findings. Superintendent Chamberlain was wary of complacency and stated that the Chief Constable was arranging a meeting with Council Chief Executives to ensure a proactive review of current practice and to ensure that desired outcomes were being achieved. The fact that child sexual exploitation was not in itself an offence, but rather covered a range of offences, meant that the gathering of intelligence became more difficult. This underlined the benefit of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Nottinghamshire. Members welcomed the plans for external validation of the Operation Daybreak investigations;
- Members queried what was being done to support victims, especially of historical allegations whom had experienced many years of not being believed or supported. Superintendent Chamberlain stated that a meeting had been arranged last week to look at gaps in service provision for such victims, many of whom had mental health issues and other problems. Health input was felt to be key and was the main gap currently with long term support required for these victims;
- Members highlighted the key role of youth workers in Rotherham in raising awareness of the problems and queried whether there were any plans to replace the funding for youth services in light of both City and County Council reductions. The Commissioner stated that he talked

regularly with the Leaders and Chief Executives of the City and County Councils and was aware of the funding pressures they faced. He felt that the notion of universal youth services was no longer relevant and that resources needed to be targeted, with street workers focussing on children and young people who were at risk. He underlined that it was not his responsibility to replace Council funding of youth services but he was working with partners on the Crime and Disorder Partnership and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board around such issues. Some of the organisations that had bid for grants from his Community Partnership Fund were providers of youth services;

- with regard to the Rotherham experience of workers being reluctant to expose abuse due to the racial element, Members queried whether work had been done with officers in Nottinghamshire about this issue. Superintendent Chamberlain underlined that there was not the same single minority group concentration of offenders but where such issues were evident then appropriate work would be undertaken with the local community – for example, warrants were executed throughout the Ramadan period (but not during prayer time) and staff were given relevant training. Community Impact Assessments were also undertaken wherever relevant;
- Members underlined the need for increased joint working with mental health organisations in the City and the County and queried whether further support for victims was being sought. Superintendent Chamberlain confirmed that Health remained one of the agencies missing from regular inter-agency meetings and there were plans to commission a service to help support victims;
- Members thanked the Commissioner and the Force for their openness and timeliness in raising these issues at the meeting. In order to give the Panel the necessary assurance, Members requested that a regular update on Operation Daybreak, the independent inquiry and other relevant children's safeguarding issues be included within the Panel's work programme (subject to this not impacting upon ongoing investigations and inquiries).

During discussions about the update report, the following issues were raised:-

- Members underlined the need for smarter targets to be included within the performance monitoring, particularly timescales for achieving targets;
- with regard to the issue of errors in case files and the over-building of cases, Members highlighted that this was impacting on the perception of magistrates' performance. The Commissioner felt that the criminal justice system was not as joined up as it needed to be. . He had discussed this issue with the Chief Constable recently. The Chief Constable highlighted the issues arising from incompatible ICT systems between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service and

stated problems had occurred in tracking information that had already been provided by the police (repeat requests for the same information were now being monitored). A single case management system was proposed but this was unlikely to be implemented before 2017. The Chief Constable added that the Nottinghamshire effective trial rates were the best in the country and that work was ongoing to learn from other areas of best practice. Members requested a progress update on this issue to a future meeting. The Chief Constable mentioned that officers from Nottinghamshire were involved in the national information-sharing solutions that were being developed and offered to include an update on those within the future report to the Panel;

- Members queried how the 'ECINS' increase in violence with injury was being addressed. The Commissioner highlighted the new guidance from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) which included new processes for recording such crimes. As a result, every force nationally had experienced an increase in violence although the reality was probably no different to previously. The Chief Constable added that under the new guidance a lot of incidents that would not previously have been classed as criminal offences now had to be recorded as such and some Forces had seen a 40-50% increase in certain crimes as a result. Although a child under the age of 10 could not be held criminally responsible for their actions, such actions could now be recorded as crimes – e.g. fights in the playground between very young children could be recorded as assaults. Also, if a partner agency received the report of an incident which was never directly reported to the Police this now also needed to be recorded as a crime. With regard to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) it was clarified that issues that were previously recorded by the City Council such as noise nuisance now had to be recorded as ASB by the Police. Also, the City Council had previously advised complainants to keep a diary of ASB incidents but now advised them to inform the Police every time an incident occurred. This had resulted in a 40% increase in recorded ASB which did not reflect the actual increase in ASB overall. The latest figures available on the day of the meeting showed an increase of 8.1% (down from the 19.5% increase up to June 2014 as detailed in the report). The Chief Constable felt that this reduction was due to improved partnership working;
- Members queried when the pilots in Ashfield and the City about the sharing of sensitive data were due to finish. The Commissioner clarified that the pilots were ongoing although events had overtaken these somewhat with the ASB legislation changes due in October 2014;
- Members queried the approach of other forces in the region to ICT transformation. The Commissioner clarified that the ICT collaboration was with Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire Police only. Leicestershire and Derbyshire were taking different approaches. The Commissioner recognised the benefits of having a single system across the region and discussions were still ongoing about different types and costs;

- with regard to paragraph 4.6.6 of the report and the reference to an additional report on Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation and forfeiture orders, this report would be presented to the Panel meeting on 5 January 2015.

Following the late receipt of panel agenda and papers recently, Members requested that an electronic link to the agenda be e-mailed.

RESOLVED 2014/024

That the contents of the update report be noted.

ORDER OF AGENDA

The Chair agreed to revise the order of the agenda to enable the New Operating Model item to be considered ahead of the HMIC Report item.

6. DELIVERING THE FUTURE – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Commissioner introduced the report and the Chief Constable gave a presentation through which he highlighted the purpose and guiding principles around the new operating model and explained the proposals around preventing demand; first point of contact; investigations; the impact on victims, vulnerable people and offenders; and the financial and workforce implications.

During discussions, the following points were raised:-

- Members commended the planned deployment of special constables in parish council areas, which were felt to be a valuable asset to rural communities. The Commissioner clarified that the number of special constables in Nottinghamshire had reduced to 280. Discussions had been held with the Association of Local Councils and ideally a special constable would be provided for each of the 140 parishes (subject to accessing sufficient funding for the training / equipment and enlisting sufficient volunteers). Members offered to share these plans at parish council meetings in order to increase the potential number of volunteers;
- Members queried whether earlier finalisation of the new operating model could have had a positive impact on the HMIC inspection. The Commissioner underlined that the HMIC had been aware of progress with the operating model at the time of the inspection and the inspectors had agreed to make suitable reference to that within their report. The Commissioner underlined that neither he nor the Force had wanted to rush the development of the new model, the main aim of which was to protect neighbourhood policing.

RESOLVED 2014/025

That the views of Panel Members be noted.

7. RESPONDING TO AUSTERITY – HER MAJESTY’S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC) REPORT

During discussions, Members felt that the HMIC findings had been overly-critical of the pace of change within the Force, in light of the balanced budget and value for money that had continued to be delivered.

RESOLVED 2014/026

That the contents of the report be noted.

8. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE REPORT

The Deputy Commissioner introduced the report which provided an overview of progress on one of the key Police and Crime Plan priorities, highlighting:-

- the main findings of the HMIC inspection report – ‘Nottinghamshire Police’s approach to tackling domestic abuse’ and the plans to feedback these findings to relevant strategic meetings;
- the aims and ongoing progress of the academic review of repeat victims of medium risk domestic abuse;
- the plans for progressing the findings of the County review of domestic abuse services to ensure that future services were more cost-effective and duplication was prevented.

RESOLVED 2014/027

That the six monthly update on Domestic Abuse be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.01 pm

CHAIRMAN
M_15Sept2014