PROPOSAL FOR A POLICE AND CRIME PANEL NETWORK FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

Benefits of a regional network

A network would enable the Panels to share their perspectives and ways of working, their experiences of engaging with their PCCs, exchange views about good practice and discuss potential solutions to difficult problems.

Networking also lays the basis for potential joint working on items that affect a Police and Crime Plan's strategic objective of more than one or perhaps all of the PCCs in the East Midlands region, should that be a step that Panels might like to consider at some point in the future.

Support from Frontline Consulting Associates

Frontline Consulting Associates has been supporting Police and Crime Panels across England since the early days of shadow Panels. Following a national conference in Gloucester in June 2012, we ran a number of induction sessions for Members joining the new Panels, then learning and development events for Panels so they could take stock of their experiences and reflect on how they might improve their working practices.

A second national conference held by Frontline Consulting in July 2013 looked at Panels' experiences of their first eight months' work and lessons to help Panels prepare for their second year of work. It was at this conference that some participants raised the possibility of regional networks being set up to assist Panels and provide mutual support.

How a network might operate and what is on offer

Our proposal for an East Midlands network, to be run in association with East Midlands Councils who would host network meetings, would be customised to meet the precise requirements of the participating PCPs. We are able to offer the following:

• Two meetings a year for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and support officer (substitutes allowable) of each Panel to share information and experience, to problem-solve and to collaborate as appropriate; agendas would be devised by the participants and would include a regional update based upon information provided in a common template and 'hot topics' of challenges to address across the five Force areas as identified by participants

• A 'helpline' facility (by telephone, e-mail and online) supported by Tim Young, Frontline Consulting's Lead on Policing and Crime, to answer queries and provide advice

• A website www.pcps-direct.net, which all PCP members and support officers can sign up for, for free, to share their experiences and good practice, including:

  - an Information section: open-access pages that include a digest of news covering issues around Police and Crime Panels that will interest councillors, Independent Members and support officers, plus occasional features. There will be provision for Panels to post films, articles and more in-depth pieces about latest PCP developments; and

  - an Exchange section, offering scope for you to network with each other across PCPs by setting up personal circles or engaging in broader networks by theme, role, activity or Force area. One of the Networks is Ask Tim, where you can post your queries

In addition, we would offer:

- Three places for the price of two for Network members who want to attend our annual PCP conference (equivalent to a £99 discount)

- a 10% discount on any learning and development sessions that PCPs might want to engage Frontline Consulting to deliver.

Costs

We are very aware of the limited budget available for Police and Crime Panels. We are therefore proposing a modest annual subscription of £500 per Panel. As with any subscription, this does not presuppose automatic annual renewal.

Next steps

Frontline Consulting will support a continuing network on the above basis with the hosting of the biannual meeting by East Midlands Councils.

Any queries?

Please feel free to contact Tim Young to discuss any aspects of this proposal.

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