

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 24th July, 2014.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Chairman), Cllr Chris Abbott, Cllr Ken Dixon, Gwen Duncan, Cllr George Dunning, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Bernie Taylor, Cllr Brenda Thompson

Officers: Graham Birtle, Michael Henderson, Steve Hume (SBC)

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Joanne Hodgkinson, Simon Dennis (Commissioner's Office),
Iain Spittal (Cleveland Police)

Apologies: Cllr Charles Rooney, Cllr Terry Laing, Geoff Baines, Cllr Paul Thompson, Cllr Christopher Akers-Belcher

1 Evacuation Procedure /Mobile Phones

The Chairman presented the Evacuation Procedures and reminded those presented to turn off, or turn to silent, any mobile phone, or similar device, they might have with them.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr George Dunning declared an interest in the item entitled Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland as he was a serving member of Cleveland Fire Authority.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4 Quarter 1 2014-15 Monitoring Report on Progress against the Police and Crime Plan

Members considered a report that provided an update of performance scrutiny undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to support the delivery of the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan for the first quarter of 2014/15.

During consideration of this item there was discussion relating to:-

- the new Probation Service. It was noted that the bids for the Community Rehabilitation Company would be evaluated during July and August with a successful bidder being announced in September.

- Victim Satisfaction and particularly the importance of keeping victims informed of progress in cases. It was noted that lots of work was taking place on this area. In addition the Commissioner had accessed some Ministry of Justice funding to help develop support to victims.

- the increase in outturns for crime performance for Redcar and Cleveland for Q1 2014 -15 against the same period last year. Noted that this was a snap shot

and crime in this area for the year was actually down 2%. The work that was ongoing and the support of the community provided some confidence that this longer term downward trend would continue.

- the substantial increase in many of the Local Policing areas of sexual offences, though Hartlepool had only seen a slight increase. It was suggested that although high the increase was lower than the picture nationally. Also recent high profile cases had increased victims confidence to come forward and this was viewed as a positive development.

- long term sickness. Members noted that this continued to be an area of priority and police management teams worked closely with HR and supervision to ensure proper support was provided to affected staff. In circumstances where unsatisfactory performance was involved relevant regulations were firmly applied. The Force's approach to sickness and related issues were supported by the Trade Unions.

- a possible disconnect between the Commissioner's strategic priorities and how they were interpreted by the public. It was accepted that the Commissioner undertook a significant amount of consultation, so had an excellent insight into the public's priorities, however, it was suggested that the way the priorities were presented didn't give the public an explicit indication of all the work that was being undertaken.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

5 2013/2014 Annual Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (inc financial information)

Members received a report that presented the final version of the Police and Crime Commissioner's 2013/14 Annual Report, including the end of year financial figures.

During consideration of the report reference was made to a recent press report relating to appointments on zero hours contracts.

The Commissioner felt that the report had not been well constructed and it had attributed comments to him that he had not made. Members noted that the contracts did not tie people to the Police, as other similar contracts did. The contracted workers would undertake certain types of investigation work and they often wanted the flexibility the contract provided. It was explained that if existing trained staff were used for the work then other areas of police work would be denuded.

Reference was made to the tables within the Annual Report that suggested that commitments had been achieved. The Commissioner agreed that work on many of the commitments was ongoing and would continue indefinitely. It was suggested that the success of the work towards the commitments could be illustrated in a different way.

It was noted that a great deal of work had gone into the review of the Neighbourhood Watch, as this was seen as an important initiative.

The Panel discussed Community Safety Partnerships and it was noted that lead officers from each authority would be meeting soon to look at resource allocation from the Commissioner.

RESOLVED that the updated Annual Report and discussion be noted.

6 Decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Members considered a report that provided an update in relation to the decisions made by the Commissioner between 6 June 2014 and 7 July 2014.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - Programme of Engagement

The Panel received a report detailing meetings attended by the Commissioner in June 2014. Details of planned engagements/meetings was also provided.

It was requested that consideration be given to inviting the Chairs of each authorities' Youth Assembly to the planned Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Seminar.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Task and Finish Scrutiny Review - Probation Services

Members received a report from one of the Panel's Task and Finish Group relating to a review, it had undertaken, into changes to the Probation Service.

Members noted that the Commissioner had been involved in a Local Area Partnership Board, working with the MoJ to determine what element should be taken into consideration as part of the assessment process. As part of the requirements for Durham and Tees Valley he had indicated the following areas as key characteristics, which need to be considered within each bid:

- the retention of Community Payback
- the delivery of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) across Teesside
- the development and sustainability of Restorative Practice.

Members noted some of the issues that had arisen during the Group's consideration of the matter, including:-

- the role of the PCP in holding the PCC to account for the commissioning of services and how successful they were to achieving objectives.
- It was felt that the PCP and community safety partnerships should be active in questioning the delivery of plans and services by the CRC. CRCs would be represented on the partnerships and the partnerships had a statutory duty to scrutinise and challenge.
- Concern was expressed about the winning bidder if they were not currently based in the region and lack local knowledge and experience. An additional

worry was the profit incentives that some of the bidders may take from the service if successful.

RESOLVED that;-

1. the report be noted.
2. a further report from the Commissioner be provided to the Panel following the conclusion of the bidding process.
3. the Chief Executive of the CRC and the new provider be invited to a meeting of the Panel in early 2015 to outline their plans for the future along with the challenges and opportunities for the service over the terms of the contract.

9 Scrutiny Work Programme

Members considered proposals for the PCP Scrutiny Work Programme for 2014/15. The programme was agreed as follows.

Task and Finish Groups comprised of 5 members from the Full Panel - 1 member from each authority plus 1 independent member.

Overall Budget Strategy - Cllr Charles Rooney, Cllr Ian Jeffrey, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Christopher Akers-Belcher, Geoff Baines

Shared Services - Cllr Bernie Taylor, Cllr Chris Abbott, Cllr Norma Stephenson, Gwen Duncan and a member from Hartlepool BC.

Commissioner Priorities - Cllr Charles Rooney, Cllr Ian Jeffrey, Cllr Steve Nelson, Geoff Baines and a member from Hartlepool BC.

Victims' Services - Cllr Brenda Thompson, Cllr George Dunning, Cllr Ken Dixon, Gwen Duncan and a member from Hartlepool BC.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2014/15 as detailed above be approved.

10 Public Questions

The Panel received a report relating to Public Questions.

Members were reminded of the agreed procedure for considering questions, on notice, and noted that no such questions had been received for this meeting

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

11 Forward Plan

The Panel considered its current Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be approved.