

# Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 30th July, 2015.

**Present:** Councillor Charles Rooney, Gwen Duncan, Councillor Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Councillor Matthew Vickers, Councillor David Wilburn, Councillor Jim Lindridge, Chu Chu Nwajiobi

**Officers:** David Bond, Julie Nixon, Graham Birtle, Michael Henderson (SBC)

**Also in attendance:** Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Michael Porter, Simon Dennis (Commissioner's Office), Simon Nickless

**Apologies:** Councillor Jonathan Brash, Councillor Bob Norton, Councillor Chris Jones, Councillor Neil Bendelow, Councillor David Coupe, Councillor Bernie Taylor, Councillor Ken Dixon

## **1 Introductions**

Members and officers introduced themselves.

## **2 Appointment of Chairman 2015/2016**

RESOLVED that Councillor Norma Stephenson be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2015/2016

## **3 Evacuation Procedure/Mobile Phones**

The Chairman presented the Evacuation Procedures.

## **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **5 Appointment of Non Political Independent Member**

RESOLVED that Chu Chu Nwajiobi be appointed as a Non Political Independent Member to the Panel until 6 December 2016.

## **6 Appointment of Vice - Chairman 2015/2016**

RESOLVED that Charles Rooney be appointed Vice Chairman of the Panel for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

## **7 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **8 Members' Questions to the Commissioner**

There were no Members' Questions submitted.

## **9 Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan**

Members were provided with a copy of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017.

The Panel had previously been consulted on the draft Plan and had provided feedback to the Commissioner at its meeting in February. Members had also had an opportunity to provide feedback at consultation events. In addition the Panel had provided the Commissioner with a Scrutiny Report into his priorities.

Members asked a number of questions about some of the detail in the Plan. These related to:

- Community Safety funding requests. The Commissioner explained that application forms were available on his web site. Initiatives did need to fit with one of his priorities and he tried to support local crime prevention schemes, where possible.
- Loss of some services e.g. mounted section. It was noted that a risk assessment approach was taken to this and keeping people safe was at the centre of any decisions.
- Restorative Justice - it was considered that this had been successful and was being rolled out in many different areas. It had reduced reoffending and really helped victims. It would continue to be evaluated and expanded if appropriate.
- Cyber Crime and links with schools - there was an engagement plan but it was difficult to engage with some of the academies. There was brief discussion on the Panel's previous scrutiny review on Work in Schools and it was agreed that this report should be distributed to the Panel.
- PCSOs reduction in Hartlepool. It was noted that Hartlepool had funded some PCSOs and when that funding ceased there had been a reduction in numbers. That said, the Force continued to assess risk in areas and moved resources accordingly. It was explained that the Commissioner continued to look to develop capacity via special constables, cadets and volunteers. The Commissioner explained that he would provide an update on this to a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the Plan be noted and an update on special constables, cadets, volunteers be provided to a future meeting.

## **10 Annual Report of Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members were provided with the Commissioner's Annual Report 2014 - 2015.

The report provided details of work and progress within the Commissioner's 5 priority areas.

The Panel considered and noted the report. There was a request for access to the DVD referenced in the Diverting People from Offending Section and it was indicated that this could be made available.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be noted.

## **11 Police and Crime Commissioner - Performance Outturn Update**

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 Q4 2014/15 (January - March 2015).

During consideration of the report there was discussion regarding the matters, summarised below:

- Working days lost due to sickness, Officers and Staff - It was explained that the Deputy Chief Constable and HR had undertaken a great deal of work in this area and were relentless in trying to improve figures. This work would continue. The Commissioner and Force looked at good practice nationally and sickness was performance managed with managers held to account. The physical and mental health of officers and staff was supported, including help for muscular skeletal problems and counselling. There was a recognition that performance in this area needed to be improved. It was agreed that long term sickness could skew figures and it would be interesting to see figures with long term sickness removed.

- Time of in lieu - it was noted that leave policy did not allow officers to take long periods of TOIL.

- there was a discussion on the increase in levels of crime since this time last year and differences in the rate of increase between the 4 local policing areas. It was queried why Hartlepool had seen a larger percentage increase than other areas. It was explained that changes to crime recording was a factor in the increase. In terms of Hartlepool it was suggested that, as it had had the lowest number of crimes out of the local policing areas, any increase in crime would appear disproportionate in percentage terms. It was anticipated that a new baseline for crime rates would be seen by September/October.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and discussion actioned where appropriate.

## **12 Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members considered a report that provided an update in relation to the decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2015.

Members asked that the names of successful contractors be included in future reports.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and future reports include the name of successful contractors.

## **13 Programme of Engagement for the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members considered a report that provided a brief update in relation to

meetings attended by the PCC from January to June 2015.

Specific reference was made to:

- the procurement of an information sharing database to enable easier exchange of information between agencies to reduce duplication of effort and maximise the use of resources.
- Cleveland Victim Services Directory, an online directory, commissioned by the Commissioner. A useful one stop shop for services.
- a Human Trafficking and Slavery training event, hosted by the Commissioner, for police officers and partnership agencies aimed at raising awareness of the signs of trafficking and slavery and equip professionals with the skills to identify victims and provide the knowledge of what mechanisms were available both to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

The Chair indicated to the Panel that there was an open invitation for any member(s) to attend the Commissioner's Audit Committee.

Members of the Panel were encouraged to register with Cleveland Connected.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

#### **14 Scrutiny Work Programme**

Members received a report that provided details of the work undertaken for the Panel's Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15 and arrangements for setting the programme for 2015/16.

It was explained that reviews relating to shared services and victims services had not been undertaken during 2014/15, as had been intended. Members noted that the Commissioner had undertaken a great deal of work in these areas and updates could be provided.

The Panel was asked to provide details of potential issues for inclusion in its Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16 by 1st September 2015. Consideration of the programme would be undertaken at the Panel's meeting 21st September 2015.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and Members provide potential issues for consideration in the Panel's 2015/216 Work Programme to the Chair or Head of Democratic Services by 1st September 2015.

#### **15 Tone from the Top - Leadership, Ethics and Accountability**

Members received a report that provided details of the outcome of the inquiry, by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL), into local policing accountability.

The Panel report drew out, from the CSPL report, the recommendations of direct relevance to Police and Crime:

"9. Police and Crime Panels should review the PCC's Annual Report in public

session attended by the PCC as part of their annual scrutiny programme and make any recommendations as appropriate.

10. As a matter of good practice:-

- PCCs should publish a forward plan of decisions identifying the subject matter of the decision, why it is key, the meeting at which the decision is due to be taken, who will be consulted before the decision is taken and what reports/papers will be available for inspection; and
- Police and Crime Panels should produce a forward plan specifying, as appropriate, the information required from PCCs in order for them to carry out that work.

19. The Committee endorses the Home Affairs Committee's recommendations that:-

- Police and Crime Panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a Chief Constable's service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the schedule 8 scrutiny process is formally engaged.
- The Home Office bring forward proposals to extend the schedule 8 process to include scrutiny by the Police and Crime Panel where a commissioner chooses not to agree to an extension of the chief constable's contract to bring it in line with the process for the removal of a chief constable."

It was noted that the Commissioner's Office would be providing a response to the CSPL and that the Commissioner could provide the Panel with an update on the work being undertaken to comply with the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report be noted.

2 a response, from the Panel, to the CSPL report, be provided by the Director of Law and Democracy, in consultation with the Chair.

## **16 Grant Expenditure**

Members received a report detailing grant expenditure associated with the operation of the Panel during 2014/15.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

## **17 Forward Plan (including approval of schedule of meetings)**

The Panel considered a report that proposed dates of future meetings together with an indication of potential items for consideration.

It was explained that an induction training event was scheduled for 15th September 2015. Members of the Panel could invite other members from their authority and same political group to the training, who may need to act as substitute for them at a future meeting(s).

RESOLVED that the proposed dates and indicative business be agreed.

**18 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.