

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 10th December, 2015.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson (Chairman), Cllr Charles Rooney, Cllr Bob Norton, Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr Neil Bendelow, Cllr David Coupe, Cllr Bernie Taylor, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr David Wilburn, Gwen Duncan, Chu Chu Nwajobi

Officers: Michael Henderson, Julie Nixon (SBC),

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

Apologies: Cllr Jim Lindridge, Cllr Jonathan Brash

1 Evacuation Procedure /Mobile Phones

Members were advised of the evacuation procedures

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 Members' Questions to the Commissioner

There were no members' questions.

5 Retirement of Chief Constable

The Chairman took the opportunity to highlight the recent announcement that the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police, Jacqui Cheer, would be retiring from the Police Service in March 2016. The Chairman and Panel thanked her for the work she had done for the residents of Cleveland and wished her the best for the future.

6 Q2 Monitoring Report on progress against Police and Crime Plan

Members considered a report that provided an update of performance scrutiny undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner to support the delivery of the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan for the Q2 2015/16.

The following summarises discussion and issues raised:

- the Commissioner would be commissioning Victim Referral Services and an update on this would be reported to a future meeting.

- Restorative Justice had shown a 87% success rate.
- the Commissioner was working with other PCCs and the public sector as services, in the future, were likely to be provided through the pooling of resources, collaboration agreements and shared buildings.
- sickness rates and Time off in Lieu was not included in the report and it was indicated that it would be included in the future. Members noted that the position with regard to sickness rates was improving and the Force was now in the 3rd quintile, nationally. The Force was creating a preventative framework that would support staff and help reduce sickness further.
- 15 new PCSOs were due to commence work in January 2016.
- Crime data would be starting to balance out, following the improvements to crime recording last October. Members asked if national comparator figures could be provided in future reports.

RESOLVED that:

1. an update relating to the victim referral service be provided to a future meeting.
2. sickness rates and Time off in Lieu figures be included in future performance reports.
3. Performance Reports would include some National Comparators in the future.

7 Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner

Members considered a report that provided a brief update in relation to meetings attended by the PCC from September to November 2015.

The Panel noted that an event relating to Youth anti social behaviour was planned for 19th January 2016 reporting on some work undertaken by Durham University.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 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 2015 and 6 November 2015.

Members noted the arrangements following the retirement of the Chief Constable. The appointment of a new Chief Constable would take place after the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May. The Panel would be involved in the Confirmation Process.

With regard to decision 88 'Additional Income' it was indicated that a breakdown

of additional income received by the PCC would be provided to members.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and members be provided with the breakdown of additional income for additional work undertaken by the force.

9 Financial Overview and Comprehensive Spending Review

The Chairman explained that she had agreed to this report being presented as an urgent item, as she considered that it was important that members received the information contained in the report at an early stage and ahead of the next scheduled meeting in February 2016.

The report provided an update in relation to the finances of the PCC, and an initial overview of the likely impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the finances for Policing in Cleveland over the next 4 years.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Commissioner's Update

Members considered a report that provided an update on key activities and issues relating to the Commissioner and his office.

These activities/issues were:

- Cleveland Police Estates Update
- Community Safety Hub
- HMIS Peel Inspection 2015
- Transparency Quality Mark
- Funding Formula for Policing
- Autumn Statement 2015

Members considered the information in the report and discussion, of it, could be summarised as follows:

- it was noted that the Estates service was exploring opportunities to co locate with public sector partners such as Cleveland Fire Brigade and local Council's and the ability to accommodate partner multi-agency teams within Police premises. It was explained that the Police would have a presence in the Fire Brigade's HQ but the main Police HQ (Community Safety Hub) could not be located with it adue to issues around proximity to the Nuclear Power Station.
- members were reminded that there had been consultation on Police Commissioner's taking on responsibility for Fire Services. The Commissioner noted that this had been put forward in the consultation document as an option but was not being actively considered at present in Cleveland. However, opportunities to work closely together would continue to be vigorously pursued.
- the report highlighted concerns the Commissioner had raised, with the HMIC, about its Peel Inspection of Cleveland Police Force. Those concerns mainly focused on:
 - there were many factual inaccuracies.

- the inspection team had not spoken with the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer during its visit.

- the findings of the report were not published until 6 months after the inspection, fieldwork was therefore out of date and conclusions were misleading to the public, as the Force had moved on considerably since the inspection. Attempts to receive clarity on the grading criteria and copies of collated inspection information and notes, that supported the overall judgement, had been unsuccessful. The HMIC had indicated that information was mostly gleaned from anonymous sources. The Commissioner and Force considered that the Peel report flagged up issues about the HMIC inspection process and were particularly concerned that an out of date/out of context message was being sent to force employees and local residents. The findings of the inspection did not reflect the Force at the time the report was issued and the report authors had failed to understand the Force and how it delivered to the community. The Commissioner indicated that he would circulate the response he had received from the HMIC to the concerns he had raised.

- there was a brief discussion on staff morale and it was noted that surveys and 1:1s suggested a high level of commitment but some frustration at the lack of time to do what they would wish, given the smaller organisation they now worked in. It was essential that capacity was created to allow staff to deliver services to the level they wanted.

- Members noted that the 'simplified' funding formula for policing had been found to be incorrect and had therefore been delayed to 2017/18. Allocations for 2016/17 would be made on the basis of current arrangements.

- The Commissioner explained that during a meeting of the NPAS board, members discussed the implementation of the new operating model and were advised of delays in the procurement of three fixed wing aircraft, including late confirmation by the Home Office regarding some funding aspects. The Commissioner had therefore proposed, and the board accepted, that NPAS continue to operate from the Durham Tees Valley base until April 2017 and that the implementation of the new operating model continue to be kept under review.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report be noted.

2. the response from the HMIC, to issues the Commissioner had raised about its Peel Inspection report, be forwarded to members.

11 Commissioning Update 15/16

Members considered a report that provided a brief update regarding the Commissioner's Commissioning Programme.

It was explained that the PCC had allocated a budget of £2,125k to support Community Safety and PCC Initiatives and deliver Victims and Witnesses services during 2015/16. £1,410k was allocated to the Community Safety and

PCC Initiatives budget and £715k to Victims and Witnesses Services.

In addition to this the PCC established a Community Safety fund during 2014/15 which was earmarked for expenditure in this area. The fund had £494k in at the start of 2015/16 and would be used as needed in the current financial year. The position as at the end of September was provided.

There was a significant amount of work on going around these areas in terms of assessing areas to spend some of the funds that had yet been allocated, ensuring those schemes that had been awarded funding delivered against the expected outcomes and also embedded new services such as Victims Referral Services.

It was noted that regular meetings were held to discuss the allocation of funds based on bids received, how they aligned with the PCC's objectives, taking into account available resources. The funding allocations would be updated as the year progressed. At this stage it was assumed that all funds would be spent.

All grants over £10,000 allocated in 2015/16 were provided to the Panel in a schedule.

Members discussed Victim Support services which would be commissioned shortly. It was noted that the commissioned service would have to take into account the vulnerability of victims. A further update in this regard would be reported to a future meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update be noted.
2. an update report on Victim Support Services be reported to a future meeting.

12 Forward Plan

The Panel considered the current Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan

13 Public Questions

There were no public questions.