

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Wednesday, 15th November, 2017.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Chair), Cllr Charles Rooney (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Alec Brown, Cllr David Coupe, Mr Andrew Dyne, Cllr David Harrington, Councillor Chris Jones, Cllr Jim Lindridge, Mr Paul McGrath and Cllr David Wilburn.

Officers: Judy Trainer and Peter Bell (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Simon Dennis, Joanne Hodgkinson, Elise Pout (Commissioner's Office), Deputy Chief Constable Simon Nickless (Cleveland Police).

Apologies: Cllr Tom Mawston and Cllr Matthew Vickers.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 Force Control Room – Presentation

Superintendent Allison Jackson was in attendance at the meeting and gave Members a presentation on the Force Control Room. The presentation covered the following key areas:

- Cleveland Police Force Control Room Overview
- Incoming Demand – 999 and 101
- Call Handling
- Turning Calls into Events
- Demand Management
- Financial Pressures
- Challenges in Modern Day Policing
- Force Control Room Review

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comment on the presentation. It was agreed that regular updates be given to the Panel on the Force Control Room. An offer was also made to the Panel for Members to visit the Force Control Room.

AGREED that the presentation be received.

4 Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Members were given the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with the PCC. This session could be summarised as follows:

The Chair referred to recent criticism of Cleveland Police by some local politicians. In response the Chair backed calls for the force to be given a fairer

funding settlement by the Government and asked if the Commissioner had any views on the matter.

The Commissioner responded that he had sent a letter to the six local MPs calling on politicians of all parties to join his campaign for fairer funding.

The Chair commented that some of the recent criticism of Cleveland Police felt like a criticism of the Panel, given that their role was to scrutinise the work of the Commissioner. The Chair felt that this was unfair and that it was time to set politics aside and focus on the facts.

It was noted that Government funding to the force had been cut by more than a third in the last seven years. This had inevitably impacted on police numbers, resulting in the loss of 450 police officers and 50 PCSOs.

Members agreed that what the force needed was a fairer funding settlement but the indications pointed to a standstill settlement, which would leave the Force having to find up to £3million of new savings each year due to inflation and other rising costs. That equated to the loss of 60 police officers a year.

There was unanimous support for a press release outlining the views of the Panel.

RESOLVED that a press release be made outlining the views of the Panel.

5 Commissioner's Update

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update in relation to key matters including;

- Budget and Pay Awards
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Reports and Home Office Visit
- Chief Constables Retirement
- Transforming Professional Standards – Head of Standards and Ethics Appointment
- Chief Constables Retirement
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Operation Endurance – Motorcycle initiative launched
- Hate Crime

Discussion on the information provided could be summarised as follows:

- There was disappointment from the Panel that Chief Constable was retiring after only 18 months in the role.
- With regard to the appointment of Transforming Professional Standards – Head of Standards and Ethics Appointment, it was felt that the appointee should come to a future meeting of the Panel.
- Resources and funding should continue to be focused on tackling on-line crime.
- It was felt that education was key with regard to tackling Hate Crime.
- The Middlesbrough FC Show Racism the Red Card Event had been a great success.

RESOLVED that the report and the discussion be noted.

6 Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with a brief update in relation to meetings attended by the PCC from September 2017 to October 2017.

The PCCs consultation and engagement activities focused on increasing understanding of the communities of Cleveland, ensuring clear and consistent communication with the public and ensuring effective consultation and community engagement.

The PCC attended a number of meetings on a regular basis with key partners, stakeholders and residents from across the Cleveland area.

In addition to this the PCC had attended many regional and national meetings representing Cleveland.

Future meetings of the PCC were also be summarised within the report.

RESOLVED that the Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

7 Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the period September to October 2017 and Forward Plan

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Forward Plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner made all decisions unless specifically delegated within the Scheme of Consent / Delegation. All decisions demonstrated that they were soundly based on relevant information and that the decision making process was open and transparent.

In addition, a forward plan was included and published on the PCC website which included items requiring a decision in the future. This was attached to the report.

Each decision of significant public interest made by the PCC was recorded on a Decision Record Form with supporting background information. Once approved it was published on the PCC website.

Decisions relating to private / confidential matters would be recorded; although, it may be appropriate that for legal reasons for certain information, such as operationally sensitive details, not to be published in full.

Decisions made since the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel were also attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

8 Cleveland Police and Crime Panel - Information Requirements

Consideration was given to a report on the role of the various crime and disorder bodies, their relationship to each other and, within this context, reviewed the information that the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) received to enable it to fulfil its role.

Discussion had taken place at recent Police and Crime Panel meetings about the level of detail routinely presented to Members in the quarterly performance report.

Unlike other scrutiny bodies (which were also referred to in the report), the Police and Crime Panel had very distinct functions.

The PCP existed to scrutinise the PCC, to promote openness in the transaction of police business and to support the PCC in the exercise of their functions. Functions included:

- Contributing to the development of the PCCs Police and Crime Plan (on which it is a statutory consultee)
- Scrutinising the PCC
- Reviewing the PCCs proposed precept
- Reviewing the PCCs proposed appointments
- Making reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC
- Carrying out investigations into decisions made by the PCC
- Making comments on the PCCs annual report

The performance report that was presented was intended to provide Members with an appropriate level of information and evidence to enable the Panel to scrutinise the PCC.

At each Police and Crime Panel meeting, Members received a report which provided an update on performance associated with the delivery of the Commissioner's objectives, the wider aspects of the Police and Crime Plan and the Commissioner's statutory responsibilities:

- Investing in our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses
- Tackling Re-offending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of our Communities

The information focused on an agreed suite of performance indicators and key diagnostic indicators. Additional information was also provided to establish the context of the information presented.

The report also set out how the PCC had scrutinised the Force through the Commissioner's standards and scrutiny programme and set out the issues covered at Scrutiny, Performance and Delivery meetings, Working Together meetings and other groups and meetings which complement his scrutiny programme.

The Panel had the right to any information which it may reasonably require to

carry out its functions, with some minor exceptions. However, it was important that, for the Panel to be effective in discharging its role, the information that it requested should enable it to focus on scrutinizing the PCC rather than scrutinizing the Police which was the responsibility of the PCC himself.

The statutory role of the Panel was complementary and distinct from other statutory crime and disorder bodies that were set out in more detail within the report.

It was agreed that the Panel receive a presentation from the Head of Police Performance on the workings of the Police Performance Framework, The Home Office use of comparative information and the use of iQuanta information.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The panel receive a presentation from the Head of Police Performance.

9 PCC's Scrutiny Programme and Performance Report

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the PCC's scrutiny programme and presented the performance report of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan objectives were as follows:

- Investing in our Police;
- A Better Deal for Victims and Witnesses;
- Tackling Re-offending;
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer; and
- Securing the Future of our Communities.

The report updated Panel members on performance associated with the delivery of the Commissioner's objectives, the wider aspects of the Police and Crime Plan and statutory responsibilities.

Holding the Chief Constable to account was the key duty of the Police & Crime Commissioner and must encompass all of the functions of the Chief Constable and functions of those who were under the Chief Constable's direction and control.

The scrutiny of the Force was one of the main responsibilities of the Commissioner as set out in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This was delivered through the Commissioner's standards and scrutiny programme during which effective checks and balances were undertaken through a schedule of regular meetings.

Delivered through the Commissioner's standards and scrutiny programme effective checks and balances were undertaken through a schedule of regular meetings as follows:

- Scrutiny, Performance and Delivery meetings

- Working together Meetings
- Internal and External Audit Committees
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

The details of the meetings was included within the report and a report on a thematic examination of Cleveland Police's HR Practices and Policies including recruitment, wellbeing and HR issues was attached to the report. The minutes of the meetings were also attached to the report.

In addition to the meetings above, the Commissioner continued to attend the following to complement his scrutiny programme:

- Daily review of the Control Room and Serious Incident Logs;
- Weekly accountability meetings with the Chief Constable;
- Monthly crime performance monitoring;
- Attendance at the Force's monthly Tactical Performance Group (TPG) and quarterly Strategic Performance Group (SPG) meetings; and
- Attend at least one local area meeting in each of Cleveland's neighbourhood police team areas.

Also attached to the report was the overview of the performance information from the Police and Crime Plan. An infographic provided some highlights of the details contained within the performance report. Of particular note within the performance report were details regarding work being undertaken with victims, details on tackling re-offending, details of the community engagement meetings and an update on commissioned services.

Discussion on the information provided could be summarised as follows:

- With regard to the number of Police Officers (FTE) by gender it was noted that it would take time for the gender to be more evenly split and the Force was going in the right direction.
- There was a discussion on academic qualifications for Police Officers and it was noted that the professionalisation agenda demonstrated the proposed education qualification framework for policing. Including the three routes of entry for a police constable: a degree apprenticeship; Graduate entry programme; and pre-join professional policing degree. The Force had worked in partnership with Higher Education Institutes to develop delivery models and there was a potential to set up a Centre of Excellence. It was anticipated that one of the benefits of the police constable degree course would be that it might attract different candidates as there wouldn't be any up-front costs to be paid as they would be paid with the Apprenticeship Levy. The Force wanted to be ahead of the game in this area and were working with providers to do so.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted / actioned as appropriate.

10 Forward Plan

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel.

The Chair distributed a note from the Sixth Annual Conference for Chairs,

Members and Support Officers of PCPs. It was noted that Cleveland had facilitated a workshop on budget scrutiny.

With regard to a national voice for PCPs, a consultation paper had been circulated to all Police and Crime Panels that sought views on the creation of a national representative association. Responses had been received with all but 2 PCPs in favour of the formation of a representative national body.

Arguments in support for a national association included the ability to influence change at a national level and a view that what is in place for PCCs should be mirrored for PCPs. The majority expressed a preference for a Special Interest Group within the LGA. The Chair of the Panel had volunteered to sit on the Steering Group taking the proposal forward.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel be noted.

11 Public Questions

Members were informed that there were no public questions.

12 Take Action on Hate

Members viewed a film on Take Action on Hate.

Take Action on Hate was a film for Refugee-led Community Organisations (RCOs) working across the Tees Valley area. Made by the Regional Refugee Forum North East and launched as part of National Hate Crime Awareness week 2017, the film mapped the actions an RCO could take if a member of their community became a victim of hate. It took into account the distinct reasons which deter many asylum seekers and refugees from involving the police. Through interviews with Victim Care & Advice Service, Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough Council Community Safety Team, and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, the film explored routes to securing emotional and practical support to help someone recover from the impact of hate, whilst also highlighting the value anonymous reporting could have for promoting safety for the whole community. The message was, if every RCO took action on hate, they could make a difference for all.

RESOLVED that the content of the film be noted.