

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 18th September, 2018.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Chair), Cllr Charles Rooney (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Alec Brown, Cllr David Coupe, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Ian Jeffrey, Councillor Chris Jones, Mr Paul McGrath, Cllr Matthew Vickers and Cllr David Wilburn.

Officers: Julie Butcher and Peter Bell (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Simon Dennis, Joanne Hodgkinson (Commissioner's Office), Chief Constable Mike Veale (Cleveland Police).

Apologies: Cllr Lesley Hamilton, Cllr Katie Trueman and Cllr Lewis Young.

PCP 19/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor David Harrington declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 – Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner as he worked for Middlesbrough Borough Council including the Archive Service.

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 8 – Commissioners Update as her son was involved in the delivery of Injectable Opioid Treatment.

PCP 20/18 **Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2018**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2018.

With regard to Scrutiny Work Programme of the Panel the following Members were identified to sit on the Task and Finish Group – Overall Budget Strategy:- Councillor Charlie Rooney, Councillor David Wilburn, Paul McGrath, Councillor Alec Brown and Councillor Lesley Hamilton.

With regard to Appointment Process for Non-Political Independent Members the following Member was identified to sit on the Appointment of a Non-Political Independent Member Sub Panel:- Councillor Lesley Hamilton.

Members were presented with the following letters for information:-

A letter from the Commissioner to the Chair of the Panel on the feedback he had received with regard to his Annual Report.

A letter from the Commissioner to the Chair of the Panel with regard to cost of Neighbourhood Policing. Members noted that the HMICFRS analysis showed that in 2017/18, which was the last year available for the HMICFRS Value for Money profiles, Cleveland budgeted to spend £13.5m on Neighbourhood Policing, this was before the additional investment in this area of £1.5m by the PCC, of which £1.25m was budgeted to spend in 2017/18 to allow for the time taken to recruit into these new posts. So in total £14.75m was budgeted to be spent in 2017/18.

This equated to 11.9% of the 2017/18 budget, based on the HMICFRS' analysis of total budget available to the Force/PCC when National Policing and Central Costs are removed. This compared to the 11.6% spent by those Forces that were described as most similar to Cleveland.

The HMIC analysis from 2012/13 showed that Cleveland budgeted to spend £16.1m on Neighbourhood Policing which included a £2.948m specific grant, from the Government, to fund PCSO's within Cleveland. This grant was cut at the end of 2012/13 and was no longer available to the PCC/Force and therefore had resulted in less funding being available to be spent in this area overall.

This equated to 12.9% of the 2012/13 budget based on the HMICFRS' analysis of total budget available to the Force/PCC when National Policing and Central Costs are removed.

If the specific grant was removed from the analysis (which provided a better comparator to the 2017/18 position) then the budget for Neighbourhood Policing would have equated to 10.9% of the overall 2012/13 budget.

It was noted by Members that a briefing would take place before the next meeting of the Panel on the performance information that was presented to the Panel.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2018 be agreed.
2. The content of the letters from the Commissioner be noted.

**PCP
21/18**

Anonymous Complaint Against the Chief Constable

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update in relation to the procedure and outcome in respect of the anonymous complaint against the Chief Constable Mike Veale, when he was Chief Constable of Wiltshire.

Under normal circumstances, complaints against the Chief Constable were handled by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and were not normally the subject of public reports to the Panel. In practice, in line with arrangements which were consistent across the country, most of the routine decision-making in respect of such complaints was delegated to the PCC's Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer.

In this case, in view of the circumstances, Members had a close interest in the matter and it was felt that the Panel should be fully informed and assured about the way the complaint had been handled.

The background facts of the matter were summarised within the report.

The report highlighted that the Commissioner had received clear messages day in day out at his meetings with the public, and having had the chance to witness the work of Chief Constable Veale at close hand for some months, there was no

doubt in his mind that he was the right person to drive forward the process of transforming Cleveland Police so that the officers and staff could focus on their continuing programme of hard work, proudly keeping the public of Cleveland safe.

The Commissioner had informed the Chair of the Panel and the Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee of the way in which this case had been concluded and the Commissioner was pleased to confirm their support.

The Commissioner commended the approach taken to this case to Members including the diligent and professional handling of the complex procedures by his Office and encouraged Members to agree it was important that Members should have the opportunity to have full and detailed understanding of the case and its handling.

Attached to the report were copies of the Commissioner's public statement and the statement of Chief Constable Veale. A full statement from the IOPC was available on-line.

Members noted that as set out in the PCC's report to Members on 6 February 2018, at the time of being notified by the Wiltshire OPCC, the Commissioner's Chief Executive was satisfied that the IOPC decision had only just been made, that Mr Veale had not been served with notice of the investigation and that the IOPC did not at that time intend to make any public announcement of the investigation. Members could only take into account matters which they had asked Mr Veale about in their public confirmation hearing and Mr Veale could not have been asked about the investigation in that public session.

Chief Constable Veale gave a verbal statement with regard to the incident. The verbal statement confirmed the contents of the written statement that was contained within the papers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
22/18**

Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner

A question was raised about a recent incident that had taken place at Ingleby Barwick and that the matter had been referred to IOPC. In response it was noted that as there had been previous dealings with the individuals involved, a decision had been made to refer the incident to the IOPC.

A question was raised about speeding cars through the Cleveland Force area and in particular the Stainton and Thornton Ward. In response it was noted there was a huge amount of pressure on Police resources. In the coming months Chief Constable Veale would be making recommendations to the PCC about the construct of the Force. It was hoped that there would be Community Speed Watch Areas and solution was through education and not just enforcement.

A question was raised about Neighbourhood Policing and what was Chief Constable Veale's vision for the future. In response Chief Constable Veale outlined that he had a strong vision for Neighbourhood Policing that was

geographically based. He wanted a locally known, engaging, talented, dynamic individuals working in every single force area neighbourhood who build up strong relationships with local people.

A question was raised about the number of Special Constables that the Force had enlisted. In response it was noted that the Force had doubled its number of Special Constables since the arrival of Chief Constable Veale. There were now 70 plus Special Constables but a cultural shift was needed in the Force. Chief Constable Veale wanted as many volunteers as possible as he was not optimistic about the Force being given any increase in future funding. The Force needed to be inspirational, constructive and imaginative in policing its areas.

A questions was raised about whether Chief Constable Veale wanted to spend more than 11.6% on Neighbourhood Policing. In response the Chief Constable outlined that Neighbourhood Policing was far more complex than just how many PCSO's were in an area and there were many forms of crime that take place within a community.

RESOLVED that the question and answer session be noted.

PCP 23/18 PCC's Scrutiny Programme and Performance Report

Consideration was given to a report that gave 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 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 Members on performance associated with the delivery of the Commissioner's objectives, the wider aspects of the Police and Crime Plan and his 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: this meant, particularly:-

- How the Chief Constable discharged his duty to have regard to the Police and Crime Plan;
- How the Chief Constable had regard to national and regional Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR);
- How the Chief Constable complied with the law generally and police codes of practice in particular;
- How the Chief Constable dealt with his functions in relation to the handling of complaints against the police;
- The effectiveness and efficiency of Cleveland Police's work in relation to

collaboration and partnership;

- How effective and efficient the police arrangements were for engagement with local people;
- How well Cleveland Police achieved value for money in all that it did;
- How Cleveland Police addresses its equality and diversity duties; and
- How Cleveland Police dealt with its responsibilities, working in partners, in respect of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

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. Delivered through the Commissioner's standards and Scrutiny Programme effective checks and balances are undertaken through a schedule of regular meetings.

Since the last Police and Crime Panel the PCC had held the following meeting:-

Scrutiny, Performance and Delivery – 20 June 2018

The minutes of the above meeting were attached to the report.

In addition, 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 Executive Meetings
- Attendance at the Force's monthly Force Performance Group; and
- Attend at least one local area meeting in each of Cleveland's neighbourhood police team areas.

A report, attached to the report was the overview of the performance information from the Police and Crime Plan.

Members discussed the Control Room Review and the 101 Service. Chief Constable Veale reported that there still a lot of work to do with regard to improve the service that was provided to members of the public who ring up and require assistance. This required a huge amount of investment in people and technology. There was a lot of work already taking place to totally reconfigure the service.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
24/18** **Police and Crime Plan**

Members were presented with the latest draft of the 2018 – 2023 Police and Crime Plan. Consultation was taking place with partners on the Plan.

Members were invited to take the Plan away with them and forward any comments to the Governance Officer.

A final copy would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED that the draft Police and Crime Plan be noted.

**PCP
25/18** **Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Consideration was given to a report that gave 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 made by the PCC was recorded on a decision record form with supporting background information appended. Once approved it was published on the PCC website.

Decisions relating to private/confidential matters would be recorded although it may be appropriate that full details were not published.

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
26/18** **Commissioner's Update**

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update in relation to key matters since the previous meeting in July including;

- Injectable Opioid Treatment
- Steria Contract
- Probation Reforms
- Defibrillators
- Emergency Services Day – Flag raising ceremony

With regard to the Injectable Opioid Treatment it was noted that on 3rd September plans were announced at a conference held in Middlesbrough for a ground breaking initiative aimed at helping long term drug dependent individuals to turn their lives around.

The pilot scheme also set to reduce the enormous cost the problem poses to local businesses and communities and to free up NHS, police and other criminal justice resources.

It would focus on those addicts who did not respond to current strategies and find themselves on a cycle of offending to feed the addiction and prison.

It had been estimated that a prolific cohort of 20 drug-dependent offenders in Middlesbrough had cost the public purse £784,000 over the last two years and that was only based on crimes that were detected.

The cost of putting them through the pioneering programme would be £12,000 per addict.

For a fraction of the cost of their offending hope could be given and a chance to turn their lives around, protect the public and local economy and free up vital NHS and police resources currently devoted to dealing with this small group.

Injectable Opioid Treatment would see a clinic established to allow substance users to self-administer under supervision three times a day in a programme that weans them off heroin. At the same time a co-ordinated agency response provided appropriate medical, housing and other assistance to finally get users off drugs, off the streets and back into society.

The trial would focus on long-term addicts for whom all other treatment had failed and who were known to be the most active criminals in the town as they looked to finance their addiction. If successful it was hoped the pilot would attract funding for similar schemes across the country.

The pilot was not to be confused with Drug Consumption Rooms which was currently illegal in England and Wales, but operated in other countries. The major difference being that Drug Consumption Rooms allowed drug users to consume drugs they had purchased from street dealers to be consumed in a safe and sterile environment. Whilst drug consumption rooms had proven to reduce drug related deaths, there was little evidence of having any impact on crime and offending.

There was growing public support for a different approach to drugs policy and piloting Injectable Opioid Treatment. Attached to the report was a copy of the social media commentary following the Drugs Conference in Middlesbrough on 3rd September 2018.

Members welcomed the new scheme and welcomed the fact that the scheme would be focussing on long term users.

With regard to the Steria contract it was noted that Sopra Steria provided Cleveland Police with a range of services including HR, Business Support, Finance, Estates, Learning and Development, Control Room and ICT. Staff in those services were employed by Sopra Steria under the terms of an outsourced contract, which commenced in 2010 and had a contract end date of 2020. Under the terms of the contract, the arrangement could be extended. It was noted that the contract would not be extended. The Chief Constable and the PCC would be looking at the future options.

With regard to the probation reforms the Commissioner and Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham, Ron Hogg, had released a statement in response to the announcement made recently by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) regarding Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) contracts. The statement was included within the report.

If the government were determined to press ahead with the inefficient model five conditions were recommended and these were detailed within the report.

Both PCCs would continue to lobby at a local and national level for changes to the current model and a more effective wholesale reform of rehabilitation services for offenders across Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington.

In response to the MoJ consultation, a joint response would be put forward to ensure the communities were better served by Transforming Rehabilitation.

With regard to defibrillators it was noted that at the Police and Crime Panel meeting in July the Chair brought to Members' attention that there had been an issue with a defibrillator in Stockton. The PCC agreed to take up the issue and progress with the Force and other partners.

A list of defibrillators across the Police estate was detailed within the report.

It was noted that all police officers and PCSO's were first aid trained, and had the ability to carry out CPR in the first instance.

Defibrillators had been covered as part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny, Delivery and Performance meeting on 12 September 2018. At that meeting one of the new defibrillators was produced for inspection by the Commissioner, the same item was made available to Members of the Panel to examine.

A full list of defibrillators was included on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

Members noted that representatives from Cleveland's blue light services gathered on Thursday 6th September at the new Community Safety Hub to mark Emergency Services Day.

Invited by the Commissioner, Leaders from Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, North East Ambulance Service, HM Coastguard and Cleveland Mountain Rescue, local authority representatives and MPs were involved in a flag-raising ceremony.

Each organisation had the chance to say a few words about why they were proud of their service, before the Emergency Services flag was raised.

The first ever national Emergency Services Day took place at 9am on Sunday 9th September 2018 (9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month) at Heaton, Park in Manchester.

When the Police and Crime Commissioner heard about a dedicated day to celebrate the work of the emergency services, he wanted to create an opportunity to bring them together at Cleveland Community Safety Hub – a centre designed for multi-agency and partnership working and pay tribute to the collective hard work that goes on every day to keep Cleveland safe.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 27/18 Programme of Engagement for Police and Crime Commissioner

Consideration was given to a report that provided a brief update in relation to meetings attended by the PCC from July 2018 to September 2018.

Future meetings of the PCC were also summarised.

The PCC's 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 included:

- Rural Crime Week – 10th to 16th September 2018
- Police and Crime Plan Partners Consultation – 13th September 2018
- Dementia Friendly Redcar and Cleveland event – 19th September 2018

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 28/18 Forward Plan

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Panel.

The Chair updated Members with regard to a meeting of the Complaints Sub Committee. It was noted that the complaint had been resolved and the Commissioner would be notified in writing of the outcome.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the Panel be noted.

PCP 29/18 Public Questions

Members were informed that there were no Public Questions.