

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 12th November, 2019.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Chair), Cllr Lee Cartwright, Cllr Barrie Cooper, Cllr Graham Cutler, Cllr Dave Hunter, Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr Steve Nelson, Mayor Andy Preston, Cllr Vera Rider, Cllr Matthew Storey and Cllr Steve Walmsley.

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

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner), Michael Porter, Simon Dennis, Elise Pout (Commissioner's Office), DCC Arundale (Cleveland Police),

Apologies: Cllr Matthew Vickers, Paul McGrath and Chief Constable Richard Lewis.

PCP 29/19 **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

PCP 30/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

PCP 31/19 **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 26 September 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 be agreed.

PCP 32/19 **Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Members were informed that there were no Members' Questions.

PCP 33/19 **Operation Phoenix**

The Panel received a presentation on Operation Phoenix. The presentation covered the following key areas:-

- Implementation and Development of Operation Phoenix
- The Aims and Objectives of the Operation and Subsequent Results:-
 - To enhance the wellbeing of our staff by effectively managing demand and outstanding workloads
 - To effectively manage and investigate calls for service identifying threat, risk and harm with a clear focus on vulnerability (Domestic Abuse, MFH and serious violence
 - To provide appropriate resources for calls for service with a clear focus on vulnerability (Domestic Abuse, MFH and serious violence
 - To problem solve and implement preventative and safeguarding measures with a clear focus on vulnerability (Domestic Abuse, MFH and serious violence

- To effectively manage all reported crime / outstanding crime and prioritise offences by identifying threat, risk and harm with a clear focus on vulnerability (Domestic Abuse, MFH and serious violence)
- To implement / embed a new process for managing crime investigation with increased scrutiny provided by new software
- To continuously improve positive outcomes
- To effectively manage and reduce outstanding named (not arrested) suspects and wanted persons
- To effectively manage and reduce outstanding warrants, prison recall and breach of bail offences
- To provide an effective intelligence led tasking process to improve the proactive ability to combat crime and those causing harm within the community, with a clear focus on vulnerability (domestic abuse), serious violence and identified outstanding offenders
- To provide an enhanced proactive capability to combat crime and those causing harm within the community, with a clear focus on vulnerability (domestic abuse), serious violence and identified outstanding offenders
- To engage and take an inclusive approach with both internal and external partners in all aspects of the operation
- To implement an effective communication strategy in order to inform staff, public and partners
- To ensure a value for money service is provided to the public by the effective management of finance throughout the duration of the operation
- The 18 recommendations made to be worked into the Service Improvement Plans and continued use of resources to support domestic abuse victims at the weekends

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the presentation and these could be summarised as follows:-

- Cleveland Police should have had a lot of these measures already in place
- There needs to be a robust system in place to monitor the recommendations
- The control room and the use of the 101 number must be made a high priority
- The Road to Improvement Plan will involve a large training element for staff
- This will be a slow evolution but it will be worth it for the long term future of Cleveland Police
- The Communications Strategy needs to be improved and include more use of social media
- It would be useful for the Panel to see the hard data behind the presentation
- There will be concern that if further funding is not secured Cleveland Police will have the same issues again
- Brilliant presentation and the Panel will look forward to an update

RESOLVED that the presentation be received and Members comments be noted.

**PCP
34/19** **Police and Crime Commissioner's Update**

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with a summary update on progress since the meeting in September 2019.

The report highlighted the following key areas:-

- Investing in Our Police
- A Better Deal for Victims
- Tackling Offending and Reoffending
- Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer
- Securing the Future of Our Communities

With regard to Investing in Our Police it was noted that since the last report the PCC, Chief Constable and respective officers had attended the first Police Performance and Oversight Group. The group was chaired by HMI Chief Inspector Sir Tom Winsor and included representation from the Home Office, College of Policing and other forces also being monitored by the process.

Within the meeting the Chief Constable was required to present the initial response to the report and work that had been initiated since the inspection. Both the PCC and Chief Constable acknowledged the report and the findings and would report progress at the next meeting in January 2020. In the meantime Force monitoring (planned and ad-hoc) would be undertaken by the regional inspection team overseen by HMI Northern Phil Gormley.

As reported in the September meeting the process for governance and scrutiny continued to develop with the Chief Constable and Cleveland Police. The reports of the monthly Performance and Scrutiny meetings were included within the overall scrutiny report. In addition the following had been completed:

- Discussions had taken place with all of the External / Independent Chairs to consider how support / communication could be improved with Cleveland Police. It had been clear that previously these groups had not been used to best effect by the force. The PCC would bring together these groups with the Chief Constable during December to confirm how use of the groups will improve.
- The internal structures for managing performance and governance had been reviewed with the OPCC and linkages identified in how external scrutiny would further be linked into formal meeting structures for holding to account.
- Regular updates were in place with HMICFRS to ensure that requests for information and scrutiny requirements from Cleveland Police do not conflict, maximising use for external purposes.

Further detail on progress made was included within the Performance report, Scrutiny report and Decisions of the PCC.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 35/19 **Programme of Engagement**

Consideration was given to a report that provided a brief update in relation to consultation and engagement activity of the PCC between September and November 2019. Future engagement work of the PCC was also be summarised.

The PCC's consultation and engagement activities focused on increasing understanding of the policing and community safety needs of the communities of Cleveland, ensuring that strategic planning effectively delivers the policing service that communities require.

The work undertaken with the community supports all areas of the Police and Crime Plan but had a focus on 'Securing the Future of Our Communities.

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 attended many regional and national meetings representing Cleveland.

The 'Your Force Your Voice' engagement initiative continued to take place with community meetings in all of Cleveland's 79 ward areas being visited on an annual basis. Since coming into office in November 2012 the PCC had attended over 690 community meetings allowing him to better understand the needs of local communities across Cleveland.

During this reporting period the PCC had attended the following community meetings across Cleveland – Dent and Derwent Area Residents Association, Lockwood Neighbourhood Action Partnership, Bishop Cuthbert Residents Association, Central Estate Hartlepool Residents Association, Cobden Area Residents Association, Thornaby Town Council, Newtown Residents Meeting, North Billingham Residents Meeting, Seaton Carew Residents Meeting.

Motorbike and off road vehicle nuisance had been a common concern, particularly in the Billingham area. Operation Kickstart had been introduced across Stockton as a multi-agency operation focusing on the antisocial and illegal use of motorbikes. This had involved Cleveland Police, Thirteen Housing, Trading Standards and the National Police Air Service, and had resulted in 50 bikes being seized and crushed. Feedback from the local community had been overwhelmingly supportive with residents feeling that their concerns had been taken on board and acted upon.

Drugs had also been a commonly raised concern by local residents. Through Operation Phoenix intelligence and analytical staff had responded to the threat of emerging Organised Crime Groups and their drug activity through planning and executing operations in conjunction with partners to target known addresses. This had been assisted by the re-introduction of police officers to Neighbourhood Teams with several high profile drugs seizures, which had sent a positive message to local communities.

All of the issues raised at community meetings were raised with Cleveland Police for action where necessary.

The report also contained a summary of key other meetings attended by the PCC. The full diary was published on the PCC website.

The future meetings of the PCC included:-

- 8th November – LGBT+ Regional Football Conference
- 13th November - Launch of Cleveland Autism Association Awareness Champions
- 18th November – Tees Rural Crime Forum
- 18th November – Philomena Protocol multi agency meeting
- 21st November – Fraud Awareness Week drop in session, 25k Centre, Redcar

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
36/19** **Decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

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.

A copy of the Forward Plan was attached to the report and published on the PCC website which included items requiring a decision in the future.

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
37/19** **Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme**

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update on the PCC's scrutiny programme.

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 PCC had a range of scrutiny approaches in place to engage with the Chief Constable and hold Cleveland Police to account. These took place on a daily, weekly and monthly schedule and include a range of meetings, data and feedback from partners and the public.

Changes were made to the scrutiny regime in July 2019 that resulted in a thematic approach to scrutiny across the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan and a greater depth of information was provided by Cleveland Police in order for the PCC to hold the force to account. The new approach could be seen in the sharper questioning and clearer minutes which were attached to the report.

The processes would continue to develop and it had been made clear that there would be greater use of independent scrutiny approaches such as Internal Audit (Joint Independent Audit Committee), internal scrutiny panels such as the Out of Court Disposals, the Use of Force and Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panels as well as identifying those services which would benefit from a wider multi agency scrutiny approach.

Wider scrutiny arrangements were also in place including:

- Ethics Committee
- Feedback from complaints
- Issues raised at community meetings and focus groups

The PCC's scrutiny programme was constantly evolving and as a result the OPCC was keen to use best practice from other OPCCs. Therefore, staff from OPCC had been to visit South Yorkshire OPCC to undertake benchmarking and to understand their approach to holding the force to account with a view to implementing best practice in Cleveland.

Since the previous Police and Crime Panel meeting the following meetings had taken place with minutes attached to the report:-

- 2 September 2019
- 7 October 2019

Since the last update to the Panel there had been a Working Together meeting on the 12 September 2019. The minutes were 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;
- Attend at least one local area meeting in each of Cleveland's

neighbourhood police team areas.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
38/19** **Performance Report of the PCC and the Police and Crime Plan**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the performance of the PCC and his Police and Crime Plan. The information provided was accurate at the time of production. Additional information was also provided to establish the context of information presented and assist the reader in their understanding of the report.

The report covered the following keys areas:-

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

The Chair made reference to Member Champions for the Panel. Each member Champion would be responsible for a different area within the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. Councillor Dave Hunter indicated he had expressed an interest in becoming a Member Champion.

If any Member had an interest in leading on any of the above priorities they should email Peter Bell (Governance Officer).

It was noted that a report would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel on how Cleveland Police deal with victims of crimes.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
39/19** **Public Questions**

Members were informed that there were no Public Questions.

**PCP
40/19** **Forward Plan**

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Panel.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the Panel be noted.