

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Tuesday, 9th November, 2021.

Present: Cllr Tony Riordan (Chair), Cllr Barrie Cooper, Cllr Graham Cutler, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Sue Jeffrey, Mr Paul McGrath, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Stephen Picton, Cllr Amy Prince and Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E.

Officers: Julie Butcher, Peter Bell (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), Steve Newton, Alison Pearson (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council).

Also in attendance: Steve Turner (PCC), Lisa Oldroyd, Rachelle Kipling (OPCC)

Apologies: Mayor Andy Preston and Luigi Salvati.

PCP 39/21 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PCP 40/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

PCP 41/21 Minutes of the meetings held on 14 September 2021 and 12 October 2021 Attendance Matrix

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 14 September and 12 October 2021. The attendance matrix was also noted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 14 September and 12 October 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

PCP 42/21 Members' Questions to the Commissioner

There were no Members' Questions to the Commissioner.

PCP 43/21 Cleveland Police and Crime Plan

The Panel were consulted on the Cleveland Police and Crime Plan for 2020 - 2024.

The Panel noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland's Police and Crime Plan was a statutory document. Requirements for the Plan were set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Policing Protocol Order 2011. The Plan must have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) issued by the Home Secretary.

The Panel considered with details of the Cleveland Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024.

The Panel noted that in May 2021, Steve Turner was elected as Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner. The PCC wanted to ensure that the communities of Cleveland had the first class, efficient and effective police force

they so rightly deserved to keep them safe and one that police officers, police staff and police volunteers could truly be proud of.

Following a long campaign due to the national pandemic, the PCC had gained a thorough understanding from the community and key partners of what matters locally. From this the PCC had drawn up his 10-point Police and Crime Plan that accurately reflected these discussions, supporting the PCC in delivering his vision of putting the pride back into Cleveland Police and ensuring Cleveland was a safe place for those who work and live here.

The PCC was hopeful that his plan as informed by Cleveland's communities would create strong foundations that could be delivered for the benefit of everyone in Cleveland. The plan would remain fluid and the PCC was keen to continue an open, two-way dialogue with all. The work of PCC office could be followed on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram or on the PCC website, where he would keep everyone updated on the delivery on the plan.

The Plan highlighted that as a result of the challenges faced by Cleveland Police and community safety agencies over recent years, it was important to ensure long term sustainable improvements were made that truly benefit the communities of Cleveland, that were quality assured and hold up to robust scrutiny.

The Plan therefore adopted a new approach to the Plan it replaced. It had a greater emphasis on performance through the creation of clear outcomes, key deliverables and measures of success.

The PCC had produced a vision statement, outlining his strategic vision for policing and crime, along with details on how the PCC planned to achieve this, including the values he would uphold throughout his term of office. Whilst this overarching plan and associated outcomes would remain in place throughout his term of office, the PCC would produce and report on an annual delivery plan through his annual report, regular updates to the Police and Crime Panel and through accountability meetings with the Chief Constable.

The PCC had been elected to represent residents of Cleveland and he wanted to be held accountable by for the work that he was doing. Therefore in the interests of openness, transparency and accountability, the PCC's delivery plans would be published on his website to ensure the public were informed of the progress being made.

The PCC had centred the development of his Plan around four key strategic outcomes that would remain throughout his term of office. Everything that was delivered as part of this Plan should contribute towards or support one of these outcome areas. The PCC was aware that these outcomes were long term ambitions which was why he had committed to focusing on and prioritising these four to achieve lasting benefits.

The four key strategic outcomes were:-

- To build public confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police
- To work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence

- To make greater use of technology that creates efficiencies and supports productivity
- To provide high quality services to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs

The Panel noted that these outcomes would be measured, monitored and reported on regularly, alongside more specific measures or indicators that were aligned to the key activities the PCC had developed as part of the Plan's delivery. The PCC's 10- point priorities that would support successful delivery of his vision and outcomes were as follows;-

- More police on our streets
- Effective quality support for victims and witnesses
- Bringing offenders to justice
- Getting tough on drugs and gangs
- Tackling anti-social behaviour head-on
- Prevent, reduce and tackle serious violence
- Use technology to combat crime
- Building confidence in our communities
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Effective policing and criminal justice system

The Panel were given the opportunity to make comment on the Plan and these comments could be summarised as follows:-

- It would be good to have more specific information around the exact numbers of police officers, special constables and neighbourhood police that will be operating in specific areas / wards.
- The Plan is well set out and easy to read.
- The Plan should include how Cleveland Police will be fighting racism including reference to the 'Show Racism the Red Card' campaign.
- There is a link between crime and gambling and the Plan should include what steps are being taken to counter this link.
- It is a good plan and congratulations on the thorough consultation that you carried out.
- Lots of good work has been carried out in Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool but more work and funding need to be made to Redcar and Cleveland.
- There needs to be more continuity with Neighbourhood Police Officers.
- Every measure and indicator need to be able to be evidenced.
- Excited by the Plans reference to the work of Youth Outreach.
- The Plan should refer to the link between social landlords and ASB and how Cleveland Police are tackling this issue.
- Reference should be made to how Cleveland Police are using technology to tackle social media issues.
- The Plan lacks a bit of analytical data, metrics and hard robust information.
- Should the Plan also refer to tackling violence against boys and young men?
- The plan to tackle drugs and gangs should look at more support for drug addicts but tougher on dealers and those higher up the chain
- Mental health is not covered in the Plan

The Chair had also raised the following points directly in an email to OPCC:-

Overall the plan was an easy read, the strategic outcomes were easily understood, as well as the 10-point plan. However, when the detail of the 10-point plan was read in detail there were some gaps that need to be filled and explained better.

- P. 11. What does the re-design of VCAS mean/look like?
- P.13. Should the number of available drugs be included in 'what will success look like'
- P.17. Should a reduction in complaints/ rise in compliments be included in 'what will success look like'
- P.18. Should a reduction in victim and an improved conviction rate be included in 'what success will look like'
- P.19. Should disengagement of special measures be included in 'what will success look like'
- Should the measures and indicators on pages 20/21 be aligned to the ten points of the plan, i.e. to measure each of the individual points to identify/support what success will look like.
- P.22. Would have expected a line to include under Scrutiny/accountability reference to 'Toward 2025 Improvement Plan'
- P.22. Provide a link address to the website referenced at the bottom of the page.
- P.22. The Government has set clear expectations for a reduction in crime to restore public confidence, are these expectations clear under the measures and indicators section previously.
- P.25. Is the PCC stating that it is his intention to increase the precept in the Police and Crime Plan, ahead of any consultation?
- P.26. There are some obvious questions as to why the OPCC will increase costs by +6.5% toward 2025 and the costs toward community safety, victim services will reduce by -8%.
- P.27. There appears to be a wishy-washy statement with reference to refreshing commissioning services on a regular basis, what does this mean?
- P.27. No mention of Proceeds Crime Act monies.
- P.27. Again reference to the website but no link available anywhere in the document.
- P.27. Additional Income, is this relevant. This will continue to change on an almost monthly basis. Would there be a question as to what funding the office hasn't been able to secure?

The Panel hoped that the PCC would take into account the comments that they had made before publishing his Police and Crime Plan 2021 - 2024.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Cleveland Police and Crime Plan be noted.
2. The Panels comments be encapsulated and sent in a letter to the Commissioner.

44/21 October 2021 to date 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 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.

The Panel was given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the report and Commissioner was given the opportunity to respond. This session could be summarised as follows:-

- Regarding the Commissioners decision to adopt Model 3 for the complaints process that had been outlined at a previous meeting, when the Chair had agreed the decision document there was a comment that the finance officer had made that referred to the cost which would be approximately £180k per annum that wasn't budgeted for in the long term financial plan and that the cost may have to be found from making savings elsewhere or the precept might have to increase. The Chair asked if the Commissioner knew where the savings may be made. The Commissioner responded that he was confident that Model 3 will be fully funded through the current budget, the note from the finance officer was due diligence and no funding would be taken from anything operationally.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 45/21 Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme

Consideration was given to a report that provided members of the Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) scrutiny programme.

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

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

Developments were taking place on how Scrutiny Meetings would be publicised which would include, amongst other things, short videos before and after the meetings to demonstrate what scrutiny had taken place, what the PCC had been told by the Force and what the next steps were. Work was also taking place to ensure that front line officers' views were taken into account in the scrutiny process.

The PCC's scrutiny programme, which challenged Cleveland Police in a firm but fair way, was developing apace. Since the last Police and Crime Panel the PCC had held 2 formal scrutiny meetings which were held on 29 September 2021 - Victims and 14 October 2021 – Crime Statistics. Details of the meetings was contained within the report.

Details of each scrutiny meeting were held in order to record if the PCC was assured or otherwise by the Force's response. Where further assurances were required, additional information would be required by the Force at future meetings.

The next scrutiny meeting would take place on 3 November 2021 and would include questions on Police Legitimacy and the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda.

The Panel was given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the report and Commissioner was given the opportunity to respond. This session could be summarised as follows:-

- A question was asked around the scrutiny process and the assurances that were given. The Commissioner agreed that for future meetings a table would be included in the report that detailed the scrutiny topics that had reviewed and the level of assurances that had been given.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

PCP 46/21 Programme of Engagement for the Commissioner – Video Presentation

The Panel received a video presentation on the programme of engagement for the Commissioner.

RESOLVED that the video presentation be noted.

PCP 47/21 Panel Rules of Procedure

Consideration was given to a report that sought to update the Panel's Rules of Procedure as a result of the planned changes to the governance support to Panel.

Members were aware that the Chief Executives of the four Cleveland Police

area authorities had agreed that the governance support to the panel and lead authority function should rotate between the four authorities on a four-yearly basis.

The current Rules of Procedure contain references to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as the lead authority.

The proposed amendments to the Rules were shown in tracked changes on the appendix that was attached to the report. The only changes were to make the rules generic by removing references to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. They otherwise remained the same.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 required the Panel to make Rules of Procedure.

RESOLVED that the amended Rules of Procedure as per attached to the report be agreed and adopted by the Panel with immediate effect.

**PCP
48/21**

Public Questions

The following public question had been submitted by Cllr Louise Baldock for response by the Panel:-

“The Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2020/2021 contains a membership list and photos of existing members on page 6. I note there are 14 members, including 2 independent appointments. Of these 14, only one is a woman.

Women make up more than 50% of the population of Cleveland; they also suffer from some crimes in much greater numbers than men do, so their voices in terms of some of the objectives of the PC is particularly important. There is for instance currently a nationwide focus on violence against women, particularly since the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer; a big rise in domestic violence, accelerated by the corona virus pandemic; and a woeful conviction rate for rape. Women are also disproportionately represented in the numbers convicted for shoplifting where poverty is a key driver.

Whilst the existing panel members are undoubtedly capable of undertaking the work, this lack of diversity will mean that certain experiences and voices are largely missing from the panel during their scrutiny work.

(I note there would be similar arguments for ethnicity representation that accurately reflected Cleveland's population that someone from those communities could make better than me. While disability and sexuality are often hidden so the panel may be much more representative for those than one could see by looking at the photographs in the report. I confine myself to the point about gender).

What steps does the panel intend to undertake to ensure that future panels are more representative of the population they serve? Has the panel considered introducing gender balanced nominations from local authorities? Or using the opportunity to appoint independents to aim for better diversity? Or co-opting

individuals who occupy relevant roles in relevant organisations? In the meantime, how is the panel undertaking training and awareness-raising to ensure that existing members are best able to consider women's experience and concerns in the round?"

The Chair had prepared a response that had been agreed by the panel as follows:-

Thank you Cllr Baldock for your question,

"The Cleveland Police and Crime Panel, as you are aware, is made up of 12 Elected Councillors from the four different Local Authorities, covered by the Force area, and 2 Independent Members. The Elected Members are nominated by their respective Local Authority to take a position on the Panel. The Panel have no influence on who does, or does not, sit on the Panel from the Local Authorities. It is up to the relevant Local Authority to decide on what procedure they undertake in selecting their nominations.

Of the 2 Independent Members, both have kindly put themselves forward to help undertake the important work of the Panel and were interviewed by Panel Members, after a recruitment advert published by the Monitoring Officer at Stockton Borough Council.

At present there are 3 women (Elected Members) on the Panel, making up 25% of the members nominated by the respective local authorities.

The work undertaken by the Panel is driven by Legislation and focuses on supporting and challenging the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Panel do not scrutinise Cleveland Police or the direction of their work, that is the role of the Commissioner. The Commissioners Office has 80% of staff who identify themselves as female.

The Commissioner publishes a Police and Crime Plan which, amongst other things, drives the direction of the Force. The present plan, which was discussed earlier this evening, has a number of priorities, one of which is to tackle violence against women and girls.

The Panel will support and challenge the Commissioner to ensure the plan meets its objectives."

Cllr Tom Mawston also added that he had asked other members of Middlesbrough Independent Group that included 5 women if they wanted to sit on the Panel but none had wanted the seat so he had volunteered to sit on the Panel.

Cllr Sue Jeffrey added that because of the political proportionality this was something that was difficult to deal with but Cllr Baldock's suggestions were very good ones including asking authorities to think about diversity when they are making their nominations and better use of NPIM. The issue was something that the Panel should address in the near future.

Paul McGrath outlined that training was very important for the Panel.

The Commissioner then offered that he and his office was more than happy to help and support the process in any way possible.

**PCP
49/21** **Forward Plan**

Members were presented with the Forward Plan for the Panel 2021/22.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan 2021/22 be noted.

**PCP
50/21** **Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**PCP
51/21** **Complaints Update**

The Panel received an update on the complaints that had been received.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The complaints referenced in paragraphs 6 and 8 of the report were conduct matters.
2. They be recorded as conduct matters.
3. The conduct matters be referred to the IOPC.
4. The referrals be notified to the Commissioner and the complainants.
5. The receipt of the other complaints be noted.