

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 10th November, 2016.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Chairman),

Charles Rooney, Cllr Dave Hunter, Cllr David Coupe, Cllr Billy Ayre, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Gillian Corr (Substitute Cllr Ken Dixon), Gwen Duncan, Chu Chu Nwajiobi

Officers: Michael Henderson

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

Apologies: Cllr Jim Lindridge, Cllr Linda Lewis, Cllr Alec Brown, Cllr Chris Jones, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Ken Dixon

1 Evacuation Procedure/Mobile Phones

The Chairman presented the Evacuation procedures.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

At this point in the meeting the Chair explained that the terms of office for Gwen Duncan and Chu Chu Nwajiobi, the Panel's two Non Political Independent Members, would be coming to an end in December and this would be their final meeting. The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked both members for the work they had undertaken for the Panel, its sub committees and scrutiny task and finish groups. The Chair wished both of them good luck for the future. The Chair's comments were echoed by the Commissioner.

4 Members' Questions to the Police and Crime Commissioner

A number of questions were put to the Commissioner. Questions and responses could be summarised as follows:

- in response to a question about the total overtime payments for the Force the Commissioner indicated that he would look into this and provide details to members.

- Officer shift patterns - It was reiterated that new shift patterns had been developed in consultation with the work force, but would be reviewed at an appropriate point when it had had a chance to 'bed in'. Under the shift pattern more staff were on duty at the times of most demand.

- one of the Panel members, again, raised concerns about PCSOs being invited to residents' meetings/community Councils and not replying, or turning up.

Simon Nickless expressed his disappointment that this was still an issue, as these were excellent opportunities to engage. He agreed that a response needed to be given to any such invitations. It was noted that the Commissioner would be attending this particular Community Council in the coming weeks.

- There was a question relating to a recent Ofsted letter coming from an inspection focusing on Stockton on Tees Borough Council's Children's Services. The letter included comments relating to Cleveland Police's attendance at safeguarding meetings, and a wrongly closed investigation. Members received a full response and noted the introduction of the Stockton and Hartlepool Children's Hub, including additional dedicated resource from Cleveland Police had helped improve attendance at meetings, which had been noted by key partners. In terms of the wrongly closed investigation it was explained that this had been contrary to force procedures. The investigation had been reopened immediately and issues had been addressed quickly. Cleveland Police pointed out that the letter had not reflected the many positive comments about its work, which had been contained in the full inspection report.

- There was a question about a recent Employment Tribunal outcome and subsequent Remedy Hearing, involving Cleveland Police, which had resulted in a substantial award being made to a Cleveland Police Officer. Panel members noted that the Tribunal had related to events that had taken place a number of years ago. More recently the Force had reviewed many of its policies and had introduced the Everyone Matters Programme, which included training sessions on equality, diversity and human rights and cultural awareness across the whole organisation. It was explained that the conduct issues arising from the Tribunal were subject to an on-going Independent Police Complaints Commission investigation. When completed a report would be provided to the Force in its capacity as 'appropriate authority' under the police conduct rules. In regard to the financial remedy, referred to above, the Commissioner indicated that it would not affect operational policing in the current financial year and that any necessary adjustments to reserves to cater for litigation of any kind, would always form a key element of financial planning.

- Members discussed issues relating to the enforcement of 20mph zones in the force area. It was noted that the Commissioner had some guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers on enforcement around these zones, which he would share with the Panel. Members recognised the importance of educating drivers, and future drivers, around this issue, to try and change attitudes. Enforcement would also play its part, but the Police had limited resources and had to focus on areas of highest risk to the public. It was agreed that this issue needed a multi-agency response. Members requested that the Chair of the Cleveland Road Safety Partnership be invited to a future meeting when this matter would be discussed further. To facilitate this it was suggested that the meeting start at 4.30 p.m.

The Panel discussed incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour originating around mischief night and bonfire night and the police responses to calls from the public. It was explained that, as with all calls, at any time of the year, a risk assessment was taken to understand the vulnerability of people involved and the result of the assessment would influence the Police response. Work continued to identify the most appropriate operating model to make the 101 service as responsive as possible. Reference was made to the multi agency prevention work that

preceded both mischief and bonfire nights. It was suggested that incidents on these nights may be an amplification of a situation that already prevailed in a particular area. Given this it was important for agencies to look to engage with young people and undertake preventative action, as much as possible.

- During further discussion of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), it was agreed that initiatives, investing in early intervention was important and would help towards a long term solution. Also, working together, across the police and other agencies' ASB teams, was helpful.

RESOLVED that:

1. the discussion relating to the questions raised be noted.
2. the Chair of the Cleveland Road Safety Partnership be invited to a future meeting of the Panel and consideration be given to starting the meeting at 4.30pm.

5 Commissioner's Update

Members received a report that provided the Panel with a brief update in relation to work undertaken:

- to review and improve the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board.
- in the development of a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Members were asked to consider the reports in further detail and provide comments outside the meeting, if they wished.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

6 Police and Crime Commissioner - Performance Report

Members considered a summary of performance against the Police and Crime Plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7 Programme of Engagement for The Police and Crime Commissioner

Members considered a report that provided an update in relation to meetings attended by the Commissioner from September 2016 to October 2016.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8 Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Members considered a report that provided an update on decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for the period September to October 2016.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9 Forward Plan

Members considered the Forward Plan

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

10 Public Questions

There were no public questions.