

# Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Norwich on Thursday 8 June 2023  
at 10 am

## Present:

Cllr Mark Kiddle – Morris (Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Penny Carpenter (Vice-Chair)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Cllr Tim Adams	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Natasha Harpley	Broadland District Council
Cllr Emma Corlett	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Gary Blundell	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Graham Carpenter	Norfolk County Council

## Also in Attendance:

Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN and Chair of the NCCSP Partnership
Amanda Murr	Head of Community Safety, OPCCN
Nicola Allum	Community Safety Officer, OPCCN
Liam Bannon	Community Safety Officer, OPCCN
Gavin Thompson	Director – Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN
Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Maisie Coldman	Committee Officer

## 1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ashby and his substitute Cllr Crane, Cllr Thomas and her substitute Cllr Stutely, and Cllr Fredericks who was substituted by Cllr Adams.

## 2. Election of Chair

### 2.1 RESOLVED

That Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Sub Panel for 2023-24

## 3. Election of Vice-Chair

### 3.1 RESOLVED

That Cllr Penny Carpenter be elected Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Sub Panel for 2023-24.

## Introductions

## 4. Minutes

- 4.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## 5. Declaration of Interests

- 5.1 Cllr Penny Carpenter expressed an 'other' interest as a Norfolk County Council Cabinet member for Children Services and referred to page 13 particularly.
- 5.2 Cllr Emma Corlett expressed an 'other' interest as she was Chair of Trustees at Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Charity.

## 6. Terms of Reference

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel **ENDORSED** the Terms of Reference in their current form.

## 7. Introduction to the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership

- 7.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report from the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services that introduced the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership.
- 7.2 Before the discussion took place, Mark Stokes, Chief Executive OPCCN and Chair of the NCCSP Partnership, provided members with an overview of the role of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), the legislation that underpinned their establishment, and the successful working relationships between all partner authorities.
- 7.3 Gavin Thompson, Director of Policy, and Commissioning, OPCCN, provided members with an overview of the transformation work that was illustrated in the case study at Annex 2 of the report.
- 7.4 During discussion the following key points were made:
- The workforce referred to the partnership workforce and included all the organisations that are part of the CSP or just those that relate to a specific issue or case.
  - Regarding grant-funded projects, some members questioned how inflation has affected the delivery of these projects and how the CSP evaluates their impact and captures the views of local communities to support the evaluation. The Partnership agreed to address this in a future report to the Scrutiny Sub Panel
  - Work was being done to investigate the public's understanding of the CSP, how the CSP was perceived as a brand, and what its presence was. Improving branding and the website could improve how effectively information and projects, such as the International White Ribbon campaign which raises awareness of domestic abuse, are shared. Attention has also been paid to the newsletter and who it was shared with. The CSP now has a dedicated communications officer to disseminate information and improve engagement.
  - Four years ago, the CSP developed an engagement strategy that mapped the interactions of individuals with responsible authority organisations and the procedures that were followed. It was acknowledged that the engagement strategy needed to be updated and the inclusion of lived experience would be essential.
  - An updated engagement strategy would also endeavour to improve engagement with the business community, who, as noted by some members, did not seem to

be as aware of the CSP. It was confirmed that the CSP does engage with the business community, campaigns existed across all sectors (for example the Hear Campaign) and the gateway to employment project links the PCC and CSP with the private sector. However, it was acknowledged that engagement with businesses can be dependent on what capacity they have to support their employees. Means of tapping into existing business forums and engaging with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) were thought to be other avenues to be explored.

- Encouraging the public to report a crime required rebuilding public confidence in the police service. Key to this work was communication, and the CSP was keen to demonstrate the work that has taken place in response to national narratives and to highlight that it was listening, and changing, in line with what was required.
- The Community Trigger Process (renamed The Anti-Social Behaviour Review) had its processes developed in 2014 and required updating to bring it in line with changes to guidance and legislation. Work had taken place with partners, including housing associations, to establish what the updated, more robust, process should look like and how this information should be distributed to the public.
- In response to a member's question on online crime, it was noted that the online space acted as a mechanism for crime to take place. Explorations of this type of crime existed and informed the work that CPS does. There was scope to return to the Scrutiny Sub Panel and explore what specific work was being done in this area.
- The Scrutiny Sub Panel heard that work was being done in schools to challenge and change misogynistic rhetoric. This work was presented as a general response to societal misogyny and not a specific response to prominent figures who are promoting misogynistic narratives.

7.5 The Scrutiny Sub Panel **NOTED** the information provided.

## 8. **Partnership Priority – Serious Violence**

8.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report from the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services providing an overview on Partnership Priority – Serious Violence.

8.2 Liam Bannon, Community Safety Officer, OPCCN, provided the Sub Scrutiny Panel with an overview of what happens following a domestic homicide and the updated Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) management process.

8.3 A corrected DHR management process diagram, showing as a corrupted image at page 78 of the agenda, was circulated and is included at Appendix A of these minutes.

8.4 During discussion the following key points were made:

- Eleven DHRs have been published, the others remain with the Quality Assurance Panel and were awaiting reviews or were unpublished whilst they are worked on.
- The DHR management process uses guidance from the Home Office, the inclusion of a person who was aged 16 or over was set in the Statutory definition

of Domestic Abuse. For persons who were under 18, a Safeguarding Review would also take place.

- Some members offered points of accuracy, one was the use of gender-neutral terminology, specifically referring to page 77 paragraph 1.2. The second point was regarded the use of the term mental health and whether it could be more accurate to use either mental illness or poor mental health. The CPS used terminology and methodology from the Home Office and the Vulnerable Knowledge Practice; it was agreed that this data could be captured with more clarity. The Home Office was working with the CPS on how to do this using published reviews from the Norfolk CSP as best practice.
- At the start of the review, Children and young people are offered immediate support based on their individual needs. The support was offered by the CSP and includes a mixture of health and mental health services, it can also include support from Children's Social Care. For the past two years, the CSP has been developing a relationship with Children Services to deliver a commissioned Domestic Abuse service. This offer was being aligned with a counselling and therapeutic offer too. Support can continue after the review, but when it does end, guidance would be given to inform individuals how to access support if it were needed in the future.
- A range of sectors and professionals are involved in the DHR, it was confirmed that there were strong links between health colleagues, charities, and small organisations. Subsequently, there have been no barriers to engagement.
- Throughout the DHR process, expectation management was important, and if it was the decision not to progress, sensitivity must be applied when informing the family of this decision. The family are not notified until the review has been seen by the Quality Assurance Panel and confirmation has been received from the Home Office. The Home Office has the authority to recommend changes, thus, processes and systems must be robust to respond to this.
- In response to a member's question, it was clarified that the DHR can go ahead even without family engagement. If this was the case, communication with the family continued and the offer for engagement remained open throughout the process.
- Norfolk County Council (NCC) created five different short films called "Things Need to Change" highlighting that domestic abuse could affect anyone. These were created in engagement with Norwich City College and were shared with education services as well as being published on the NCC website. The CSP were working with NCC colleagues to ensure that these resources continue to be utilised.
- Some members asked for reassurance that the educational videos were reaching who they needed to and that they were having an impact. It was clarified that the videos were shown in schools and staff were also trained so they could continue to share knowledge after training. The CSP was conscious of increasing the workload of staff and thus, training was only offered to those schools that committed to its delivery. Regarding impact, understanding this was something that could be improved using school data.

- Whilst the educational videos do refer to consent, they predate society's increasing understanding regarding pornography and its influence on rough sex. This would be taken back to the partnership for their comments.
- The Scrutiny Sub Panel was informed that the HEAR campaign was going to be pushed again to encourage more businesses to sign up and help support employees affected by domestic abuse. Vital to this relaunch would be the communication work that surrounds it.
- In response to a member question about the use of Stalking and Harassment powers and the scrutiny of these it was assured that whilst the CSP cannot comment on behalf of the Norfolk Constabulary concerning this, the CSP undertakes a form of scrutiny. There was a Domestic Abuse and Violence Group that reviews details of domestic abuse and violence, including cases where stalking has been identified. They would work with the Constabulary' to understand the actions taken and identify areas of learning.
- The Scrutiny Sub Panel heard that one aspect of the Street Safe fund worked around spiking and building public confidence that these issues were regarded as serious. As part of this, work had been done with the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to enable taxonomy reports to be generated quickly, so individuals know if they were a victim of spiking and if so, what they have been spiked with.

#### 8.5 The Scrutiny Sub Panel:

- 1) **NOTED** the information provided
- 2) **RECOMMENDED** to the Partnership;
  - That as part of its next report on the topic, it should describe any challenges or barriers to the action points arising from the Thematic Review of Norfolk Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs);
  - That as part of its next report on the topic, it should explain how effectively police powers to protect victims of stalking and harassment were being used to intervene and take action against perpetrators of domestic violence.
- 3) **AGREED** to delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chair the task of reporting the outcome of its discussion to the Scrutiny Committee, through a written report to the next scheduled meeting (21 June 2023).

## 9 Forward Work Programme

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel **AGREED** the forward work programme and the items identified for consideration at future meetings

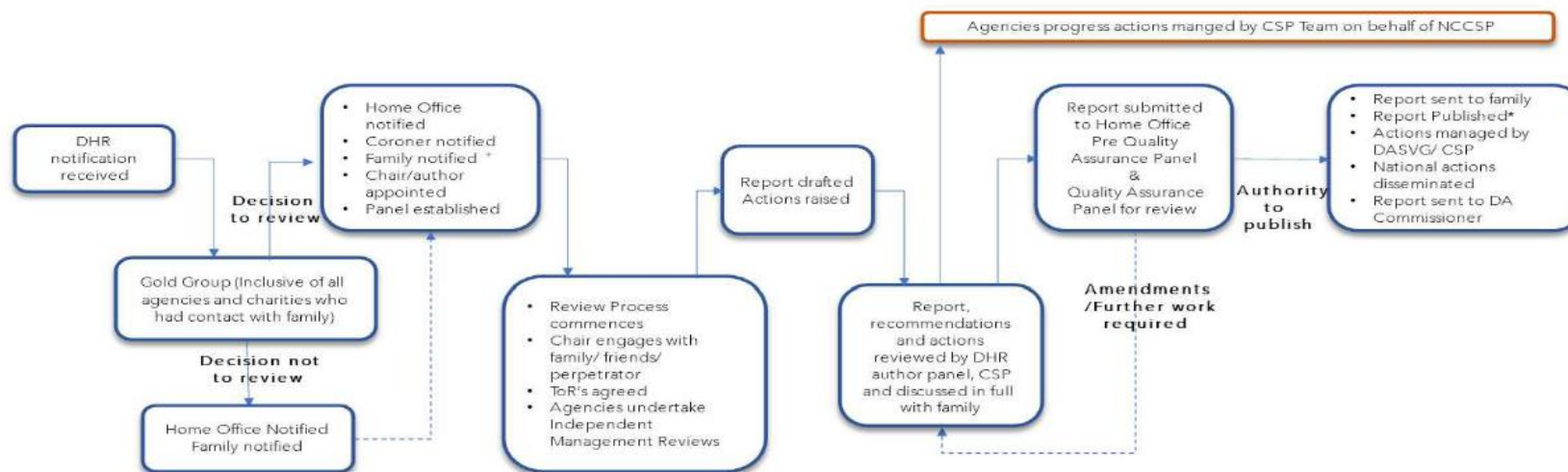
The meeting finished at 11:57 am

**Chair**



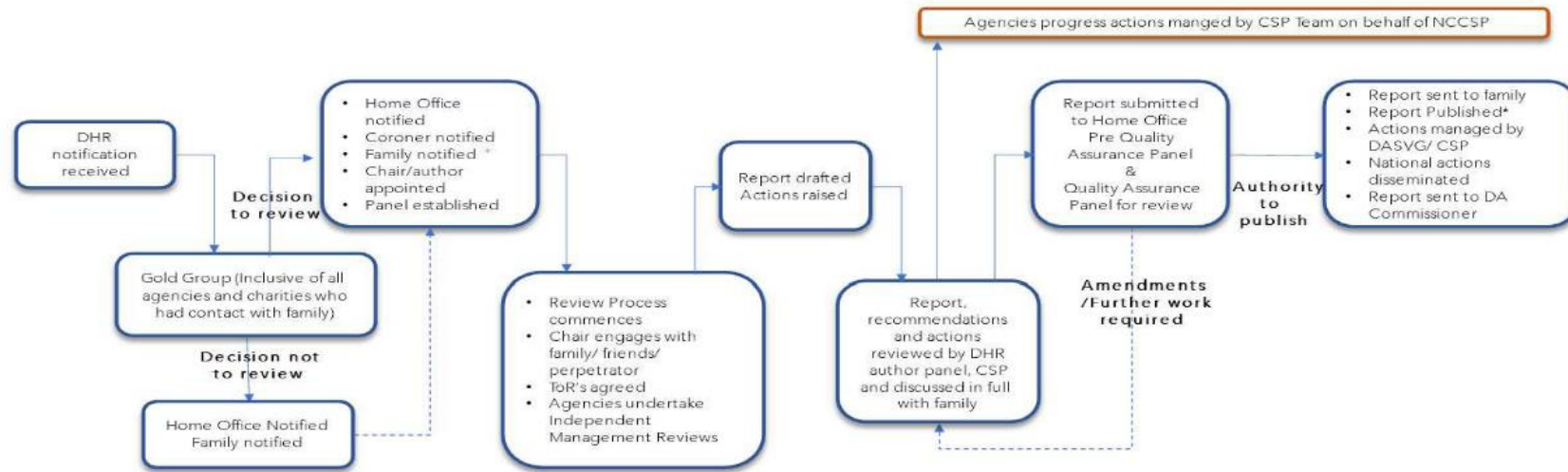
If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or Text Relay on 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Figure 1: DHR Management Process



+ Families are integral to DHR's and through FLO's and Advocacy support will be offered engagement with the process through its publication.  
 \*All reports published unless there are safeguarding concerns.

Figure 1: DHR Management Process



+ Families are integral to DHR's and through FLO's and Advocacy support will be offered engagement with the process throughout its publication.  
 \*All reports published unless there are safeguarding concerns.