



Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2021 at 10am at County Hall, Norwich

Panel Members Present:

Cllr William Richmond (Chair)
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt (Vice-Chair)

Norfolk County Council
Co-opted Independent Member

Cllr Gordon Bambridge
Cllr Jonathan Emsell
Cllr Mike Smith-Clare
Cllr Sarah Butikofer
Cllr James Easter

Breckland District Council
Broadland District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
North Norfolk District Council
South Norfolk Council

Officers Present:

Paul Sandford
Giles Orpen-Smellie

Temporary Chief Constable for Norfolk
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC)
Communications Manager, Office for Police and Crime
Commissioner, Norfolk (OPCCN)
Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN
Democratic Support Officer, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, NCC
Chief Finance Officer, OPCCN
Chief Executive, OPCCN

Sharon Lister
Nicola Ledain
Jo Martin
Jill Penn
Mark Stokes

- 1. To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending**
 - 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Manning, Cllr Tim Adams, Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Stuart Dark and Mr Peter Hill.
- 2. Election of Chair**
 - 2.1 Cllr William Richmond was duly elected for the ensuing year.
- 3. Election of Vice-Chair**

3.1 Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt was duly elected for the ensuing year.

4. Minutes

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5. Members to Declare any Interests

5.1 There were no interests declared.

6. To receive any items of business which the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency

6.1 No urgent business was discussed.

7. Public Questions

7.1 No public questions were received.

8. Balanced Appointment Objective

8.1. The Panel received the report asking it to consider whether the balanced appointment objective was being met and the continuation of independent member co-options.

8.2 The Panel **RESOLVED** to **AGREE**:

- 1) the balanced appointment objective is being met;
- 2) the re-appointment of Mr Peter Hill as co-opted independent member without open recruitment, for a further four year term (to the end of June 2025),
- 3) the continuation of Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt as co-opted independent member.

9. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure - Review

9.1 The Panel received the report setting out the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel Rules of Procedure, Panel Arrangements and guidance for handling complaints about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

9.2 The Panel:

- 1) **ENDORSED** the amended Panel Arrangements (at Annex 1 of the report).
- 2) **ENDORSED** the Rules of Procedure (at Annex 2 of the report).
- 3) **ENDORSED** the guidance for handling complaints about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner (at Annex 3 of the report) and **APPOINTED** the following members to be involved in the process:
 - Peter Hill
 - Kevin Pellatt

- Mike Smith-Clare
- James Easter
- Sarah Butikofer

4) **APPOINTED** the following Panel Members to the Complaints Policy Sub Panel (at Annex 4 of the report):

- Peter Hill
- Kevin Pellatt
- Mike Smith Clare
- James Easter
- Sarah Butikofer

10. Introduction from the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

- 10.1 The Panel received an introduction from the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk outlining the first few weeks of his term and his objectives over the coming months as well as his overarching agenda for the next three years.
- 10.2 The PCC explained that he aimed to have a draft Police and Crime Plan in place before the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review was announced. This would enable him to then adjust it as necessary after the funding elements were known. The current Plan would remain in place until 31 March 2022 to give certainty to the Constabulary and others, to be clear about what it would be held accountable against. This would also give time for the new PCC to draft his own plan. A public consultation would run from 26th July 2021 until 3rd September 2021 and would involve going out and talking to people on the street. It was hoped that the plan would be brought to the September meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.
- 10.3 With reference to page 61, point 3.2, the PCC confirmed that at this stage there were no changes to the current arrangements for the commissioned services. His intention was to find out what was working and he would use his Police and Crime Plan as a central strand to harness agencies to work together in a co-ordinated manner, creating a stronger and more effective means of tackling local issues.
- 10.4 The Vice-Chair commented on the successful working principles that had existed to date between the Panel and former PCCs.
- 10.5 The PCC added that the Home Secretary had written to PCCs to encourage them to agree locally who would be appointed Acting PCC should such circumstances arise that resulted in their being unable to carry out their duties. His preliminary thoughts were that this would be the Chief Executive Officer of OPCCN, Mark Stokes.
- 10.6 The Panel **ENDORSED** the draft local PCC- PCP protocol attached at Appendix 2 of the report and **NOTED** the introduction from the new PCC for Norfolk.

11. Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2021 – performance monitoring

- 11.1 The Panel received the report providing an overview of the progress made against delivering two of the strategic priorities within the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan for 2016-2020 (Priority 2: support rural communities and Priority 4; improve road safety).

- 11.2 During the discussion, the following points were noted;
- 11.2.1 Referring to the PCC's earlier point about appointment of an Acting PCC, a Panel Member expressed some concern at how the Chief Executive would be accountable to the public and how this would work in practice. The PCC clarified that detail was yet to be worked through, but he confirmed that without having a named appointment, the only option was to have an election which would mean a significant amount of delay in filling the role. He added that with being elected, he didn't initially wish to appoint a deputy PCC until the national PCC review had revealed what additional responsibilities the PCC may be given. The Chief Executive explained that an Acting PCC was a caretaker role only and the individual could not legally make key strategic policy decisions, such as amending or issuing a new Police and Crime Plan.
- 11.2.2 The Panel would be appreciative of the monthly newsletter regarding Operation Randall. The Chief Executive confirmed that the link had been sent to Officers and would be circulated to the Panel.
- 11.2.3 The PCC confirmed that the Community Rural Advisory Group consisted of members such as RSPB along with heritage such members such as Norfolk Archaeological Trust, National Trust and the Diocesan Board.
- 11.2.4 With reference to page 76, point 4.14, the Chief Constable explained that there were no plans to have more social media platforms. There was always concern over the monitoring of with social media and it was better to have fewer accounts, better content, and respond in a timely manner. The newsletter would definitely continue as this seemed to be the most popular of the forums.
- 11.2.5 The Panel were encouraged to see the increase of the hours of the Special Constables which had been spent on the rural lands.
- 11.2.6 In response to Panel members comments about the importance of keeping open the communication channels regarding the good work that was being carried out the PCC suggested that there was more work to be done on the meeting structure of being able to attend parish council meetings, as there were more meetings than it was feasible to attend. He acknowledged however, that it was important, as we were predominantly a rural county, to keep parishes informed and communicated with as much as possible. The Chief Constable added that he was absolutely in favour of communication and engagement and particularly informal engagement in high footfall places. There was more opportunity for varied and a mixture of engagement. They were also exploring the metrics to establish what and how much engagement was being carried out, as, and Panel Member agreed, it was more than what the public saw, and this information would be beneficial to report back to the Panel.
- 11.2.7 Panel members identified, that engagement wasn't just an opportunity to meet the public, but an opportunity to change their perception as more often it was negative due to breaks in communication. It was an opportunity to consider collectively the perception as it was often miles away from the reality. The PCC explained that this was part of an exploration of the expectation gap for the public aspiration for visibility. SNAP meetings were often not well attended and therefore the best way of communicating the information would need to be considered. Unfortunately, due

to the nature of the media, the public hardly heard when things went well as that was the norm, so it was important to consider how to reach those audiences that did not actively engage.

- 11.2.8 The Panel heard that there were now 22 fully trained drone operators, 5 of whom were in the Community Safety Structure, with the 17 others across the force, including the 8 Specials mentioned in the report. There were also now 20 drones, 8 of which were just used for training due to them being an older model. The Chief Constable explained that the tools were expanding all the time. Some of the drones could be used indoors, and some in extreme weather. They are used for intelligence gathering ahead of criminal enforcement activity and in the search of missing persons. On occasions, they had been used ahead of using the National Police Helicopter due to the capability and the cost.
- 11.2.9 The Chair asked if the Road Safety Delivery Plan could be shared with Panel once it had been finalised.
- 11.3 The Panel **NOTED** the update about progress with delivering the Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020.

12. Information Bulletin – questions arising to the PCC

- 12.1 The Panel received the report summarising both the decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC) and the range of his activity since the last Panel meeting.
- 12.2. The PCC highlighted that his early focus had been on relationship building and that he had met with the Suffolk PCC and Chief Executive of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner Suffolk and would hope that these meetings would be quarterly going forwards. They were predominantly about governance issues over asset in the shared space and collaboration between Nf and Sf and what more we can do. There was also monthly meetings with Tom McCabe, Head of Paid Service NCC and Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of NCC; introductory meetings with the nine Members of Parliament and the seven Leaders of the District Councils. He had also tried to meet key individuals. The PCC reported that he had taken on the national Association of Police and Crime Commissioner portfolio of Transparency and Integrity. He was also Chair of Norfolk and Suffolk Local Criminal Justice Board and had a seat on NCC's Cabinet which was limited to Fire and Rescue matters.
- 12.3. During the discussion the following points were noted;
 - 12.3.1 The PCC reported that he had been out on the 'beat' in Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth. The most common issues had been anti-social behaviour and speeding but these were similar themes that he had received pre-and post election. Officers understood that it was important to be talking and communicating with the public and 'park, walk, talk' would be implemented more throughout the Constabulary. There would also be an increase of pop-up police stations.
 - 12.3.2 The Chief Constable reported that Norfolk was in a good place with regards to County Lines with most of it being in Norwich central. However, he reminded the Panel that County Lines was just one methodology being used to address drug

issues and that the absence of countylines did not mean an absence of a drug issue. The Constabulary were prioritising the highest risk lines, which was not just the volume of drugs but the exploitation. They were working with forces around the country, including the Metropolitan who were overseeing a national operation. Norfolk Constabulary out of 43 forces, had been responsible for a quarter of the imprisonments which in turn led to a substantial number of years for those imprisonments due to the enforcement activity.

- 12.3.3 The Chief Constable confirmed that the waiting times with regards to requests for disclosures through Claire's Law were reducing and it was an improving picture. There had been a steady increase of requests of disclosures throughout the pandemic and due to the public awareness of the law. The PCC added that it would be on his agenda as part of a wider piece of work.

13. PCC Complaints Monitoring Report

- 13.1 The Panel received the report reviewing complaints received since the last monitoring report was received on the 2 February 2021.
- 13.2 The Panel acknowledged that there had been no complaints received since February 2021.
- 13.3 The Panel **NOTED** the regular monitoring information from the PCC's Chief Executive and Norfolk County Council's Assistant Director of Governance about complaints relating to the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

14. Norfolk Police and Crime Panel Funding

- 14.1 The Panel received the report reviewing the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel's expenditure for 2020-2021 and setting out the grant allocation and expected expenditure for 2021-2022.
- 14.2 The Vice-Chair commented on the value of attending the Eastern Region Panel Network meetings and the annual national conference.
- 14.3 The Panel;
- **NOTED** the 2020-21 expenditure
 - **NOTED** the 2021-22 grant allocation
 - **NOTED** the expenditure during 2021-22

15. Forward Work Programme

- 15.1 The Panel received the forward work plan for the period September 2021 – July 2022.
- 15.2 The Chair highlighted that a confirmation hearing for the appointment of the Chief Constable would be scheduled for in September / October following notification by the PCC. This would be confirmed in due course.

15.3 The Panel **AGREED** the forward work programme.

The meeting ended at 11.06am

**Mr W Richmond, Chair,
Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**



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