



Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2015 at 10.00 a.m.
Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

Main Panel Members Present:

Mr Alec Byrne	Norfolk County Council
Mr Brian Hannah	Norwich City Council
Dr Christopher Kemp	South Norfolk Council
Mr Paul Kendrick	Norwich City Council
Mr Brian Long	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council
Mr William Richmond	Breckland Council
Mr Richard Shepherd	North Norfolk District Council
Ms Katy Stenhouse	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Mr Fran Whymark	Broadland District Council

Officers Present

Mr Greg Insull	Assistant Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Jo Martin	Democratic Services and Scrutiny Support Manager

Others Present

Mr Stephen Bett	Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Ms Sharon Lister	Performance and Compliance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN)
Mr Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN

1. To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending

- 1.1 The Panel noted that the following changes in membership had been made since the agenda had been published: Mr Fran Whymark had been appointed the main member for Broadland District Council, replacing Mr Ian Graham, and Mr Paul Kendrick had been appointed the Substitute Member for Norwich City Council.
- 1.2 Apologies received from Mr T Jermy, Mr M Castle, Mr A D

Sommerville, CPM, Ms S Brooks and Mr K Driver (substituted by Mr P Kendrick.)

2. Election of Chairman

- 2.1 Mr A Byrne was duly elected Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

- 3.1 Dr C Kemp was duly elected Vice-Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing year.

4. Members to Declare any Interests

- 4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

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

- 5.1 None

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2015

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th April 2015 were confirmed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. Public Questions

- 7.1 No questions received from the public.

8. Balanced Appointment Objective

- 8.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which outlined the balanced appointment objective for the Panel members to consider.
- 8.2 The Panel **agreed** that a balanced appointment objective had been met.

9. Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure – Review

- 9.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which outlined the Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure for the members to review.
- 9.2 The Panel discussed the possibility of amending the number of workings days notice required to receive public questions, reducing it from 10 working days to 5 working days before an ordinary meeting of the Panel.
- Dr C Kemp raised the point that if the procedure was relaxed it may encourage more questions from the public.
 - Mr B Long felt that the procedure was adequate and there was no need to change the rules.

Dr C Kemp proposed, seconded by Mr W Richmond, that the Scrutiny Support Manager provide a report for the Panel that would outline the options for amending the procedure for public questions.

The motion was **carried** with 5 votes **For** and 2 **Against**.

9.3 The Panel **RESOLVED** to:-

- 1) Endorse the existing Panel Arrangements.
- 2) Endorse the existing Rules of Procedure, pending an amendment to the scheme for public questions following a report to be considered at next meeting.
- 3) Endorse the detailed guidance for handling complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner or his Deputy.
- 4) Agree that Dr C Kemp should continue as one of the nominated Panel members who would be involved with the handling of complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner or his Deputy, and that the current independent members should also be invited to continue as nominated Panel members in this role.

10. Appointment of co-opted independent member

- 10.1 The Panel received the report which asked the Panel to consider and approve the recommendation of the selection panel to appoint Mr Alexander D Sommerville CPM to the vacant post of co-opted independent member.
- 10.2 The Chairman commented that there had been a high calibre of applicants for the co-opted independent member role.
- 10.3 The Panel **agreed** to approve the recommendation of the selection panel to appoint Mr Alexander D Sommerville CPM to the vacant post of co-opted independent member for the 4 year term to July 2019.

11. Review of the Commissioner's 2014-15 Annual Report

- 11.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which asked the Panel to review the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's draft Annual Report for 2014-15.
- 11.2 The Commissioner outlined his report for the Panel with the following key points:-
 - The three main objectives for reducing crime and disorder in our county were,
 - 1) Reducing priority crime, anti-social behaviour and reoffending
 - 2) Reducing vulnerability, promoting equality and supporting victims
 - 3) Reducing the need for service through preventative and restorative approaches and more joined-up working with partners, protecting the availability of frontline resources
 - The achievements against those objectives over the last 12 months included:

- 1) Crime in Norfolk remained low compared to the rest of England and Wales and the Constabulary achieved an 'outstanding' rating by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies in November 2014
 - 2) ASB continued to reduce and HMIC had rated the Constabulary 'good' in November 2014
 - 3) Reoffending rates were also down, with the Constabulary's investigation of offending assessed as 'good' by HMIC in November 2014
- There were significant financial pressures facing policing but the key to overcoming these pressures was to invest in innovation and work collaboratively with other PCC's, other police forces and other local partners such as HMP Norwich.
 - The Commissioner had welcomed the changes proposed in The Police Reform and Criminal Justice Bill which would increase the role of the PCC in police complaints and discipline and the Commissioner's office was already looking at models for adopting a process for handling police complaints.

11.3 During the discussion the following points were raised:-

- Partnership working with the local mental health trust had proven to be very effective in reducing demand on officer time and ensuring that people in mental health crisis had access to the help they needed. However, these cases took up a great deal of resource and further joined-up work was needed. He hoped to meet with ministers early next month to propose an innovative plan that might help to address this.
- While further collaborative working was seen as the key for the future of policing, this would be unlikely to be achieved until after the Police Commissioner elections next year.
- The commissioning of services through the OPCCN had brought together local groups and organisations to support the Commissioner's priority areas, reduce duplicate services and help make resources go further. The Commissioner had been very impressed with the organisations that had put in bids, and as long as they continued to meet the agreed set objectives he had said up front that they would continue to receive funding throughout his term of office. A further report providing an update on this activity would be brought to the October meeting.
- Regarding a query raised around the increase in KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) numbers and the numbers of Serious Sexual and Violent Offences the Performance and Compliance Officer of OPCCN advised that the data could be misleading. The increase in KSI incidents was a result of an increase in seriously injured not fatal incidents. The increase in pedestrian and cyclist incidents could be down to an increase in cyclists on the road rather than the roads being more dangerous. (Information regarding these figures had been passed to the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership Board to look into further). The recording principles for violent crime had changed and this had led to the increase in these figures. OPCCN noted

that the public needed to be made aware of how the statistics could be effected by changing definitions. The Commissioner advised that this sort of detail was covered at Police Accountability Forum meetings, at which the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for performance against set objectives. He emphasised that these were public meetings and encouraged Panel Members to attend.

- Switching off street lights had not resulted in an increase in crime.
- It was confirmed that a male Independent Domestic Violence Advocate was available to support male victims of domestic violence, through the services commissioned from local charity Leeway.
- Another round of bids was due for the £5m grant from the Home Office regarding Child Sex Abuse; the Commissioner was waiting for the criteria to be provided by the Home Office.
- The Commissioner praised his office for the hard work put into sorting through the bids for the Home Office grants.

11.4 The Panel **RESOLVED** to endorse the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's draft Annual Report.

12. Norfolk Police and Crime Panel funding

12.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which outlined the expenditure for the Panel for 2014-2015 and suggested possible options for the grant allocation of 2015-2016.

12.2 Dr C Kemp asked the Panel consider the proposal from Frontline Consulting, outlined in the report, to set up an 'Eastern Region' Police and Crime Panel network. For the price of £500 per annum, Frontline Consulting would convene two meetings a year at which panels could share information and discuss opportunities for collaborative scrutiny. The Panel would also receive additional support and discounts on training and conferences.

12.3 The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- Endorse the 2014-15 expenditure.
- Agree the suggested approach for meeting the 2015-16 'transparency requirement' (at paragraph 3.3).
- Endorse the previously agreed process for approving member attendance at external training events (at paragraph 4.2).
- Agree to see whether other councils wished to participate in Frontline Consulting's proposal for an Eastern Region and/or Sub-Regional PCP Network before agreeing whether to join.

13. Complaints Monitoring Report

13.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager that outlined the regular monitoring report which provided an update on the number of complaints that had been received and dealt with.

- 13.2 The Panel were informed that since the report had been produced, complaint number 9 had been found to be unsubstantiated and no further action would be taken.
- 13.2 Dr Kemp reminded the Panel that it had raised concerns with the Home Office over the length of time taken regarding complaint number 3 that had been referred back to the IPCC. The Chairman had received a response from the then Minister which acknowledged resourcing issues. The Performance and Compliance Officer at OPCCN also advised that at a recent conference regarding future changes to the process for police complaints, the IPCC recognised there was a backlog with dealing with complaints and had responded by increasing funding and recruiting more staff to handle this.
- 13.3 The Panel noted the report.
- 14. Information bulletin – questions arising to the Commissioner**
- 14.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which summarised for the Panel both the decisions taken by the Commissioner and the range of his activity since the last Panel meeting.
- 14.2 The Panel queried the Commissioner's discussion with the Home Secretary regarding police finances. The Commissioner stated that he was concerned that the view from central government seemed to be that any movement towards merging police forces had to be voluntary whereas the Commissioner felt this needed to be a strategic Ministerial decision to be most effective.
- 14.3 The Panel noted the report.
- 15. Forward Work Programme 2015-16**
- 15.1 The Panel received the Forward Work Programme which outlined the suggested items for the Panel to discuss at future meetings.
- 15.2 The Panel **agreed** that the next meeting should be held at Wymondham Police Headquarters, and thanked the Commissioner for his invitation to combine this with an opportunity for new (and existing) panel members to meet his staff and to tour the Constabulary Headquarters.
- 15.3 The Panel noted the Forward Work Programme with the above amendments.

The meeting closed at 11:20am.

CHAIRMAN



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