



## **Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 April 2019 at 10am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

#### **Main Panel Members Present:**

Mr W Richmond (Chairman)	Norfolk County Council
Mr Martin Storey	Norfolk County Council
Mr Nigel Dixon	North Norfolk District Council
Dr Christopher Kemp (Vice-Chairman)	South Norfolk Council
Mr Colin Manning	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Mr Kevin Maguire	Norwich City Council
Mr Mike Smith-Clare	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Mr Frank Sharpe	Breckland District Council
Mr Francis Whymark	Broadland District Council
Mr Peter Hill	Co-opted Independent Member
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt	Co-opted Independent Member

#### **Officers Present:**

Mr Greg Insull	Assistant Head of Democratic Services, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Mrs Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, NCC

#### **Others Present**

Mr Simon Atherton	Independent Custody Visiting Scheme Administrator, OPCCN
Mr Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk
Ms Sharon Lister	Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN
Mrs Jill Penn	Chief Finance Officer, OPCCN
Mr Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk, OPCCN
Dr Gavin Thompson	Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN

#### **1. To receive apologies and details of any substitute Members attending**

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Mrs Sarah Butikofer and Mr Timothy Adams.

## **2. Members to Declare any Interests**

- 2.1 There were no interests declared.

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

- 3.1 The Chairman announced with sadness that former Councillor and Chairman of the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel, Alec Byrne had passed away. He had been Chairman from the establishment of the Panel in 2012 until 2017 following his decision not to stand for re-election. Alec was a dedicated servant of the county and would be greatly missed. The Panel and observers stood for a moment of silence in his memory.

## **4. Minutes**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019 were agreed as an accurate record subject to adding the following at 4.6g:  
“The Member from Broadland District Council praised the candidate for her good work at Broadland District Council and commented that she was highly regarded in her current role and would be a great loss.”

## **5. Public Questions**

- 5.1 No public questions had been received.

## **6. Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020 – performance monitoring**

- 6.1 The Panel received the annexed report (6) which provided an overview of the progress made against delivering two of the strategic priorities within the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020, since its publication in March 2017. The report also provided the Panel with the latest metrics for the two strategic priorities; priority 1 (increase visible policing) and priority 6 (prevent offending).
- 6.2 In response to Panel Members’ questions, the following points were noted:
  - a. The work that had been done by Police Officers in Great Yarmouth was appreciated and had made a big impact. To enhance the already good work being done, there needed to be education to prevent the issues arising initially, and an increase in community sessions. The PCC confirmed that there was currently a push to recruit more Special Constables in the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston areas.

- b. The PCC explained that his involvement in the partnership working, referred to at page 111 of the agenda had been focused on prevention activity. The police and his office could not tackle crime by themselves and were encouraged by the increasing recognition that agencies needed to work together, to tackle the socio-economic factors that meant perpetrators were often victims too. The Director of Policy and Commissioning added that the PCC's commissioned services stemmed from OPCCN's successful youth fund bid, such as; supporting improvements to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), funding a programme manager for the Child Sexual Exploitation programme, the Pathway Out programme and police involvement with the youth work team had just gone live. There was a drive for initiatives that linked into schools.
- c. Public engagement and support is being promoted throughout the County through engagement days with the Constabulary and agencies such as Pandora. A question and answer session with the Chief Constable continued to take place every six weeks, in different locations around the county. There was now a community engagement officer in each District and more visible policing than there was three years ago despite the end of Police Community Support Officers. The Panel stressed the importance of the PCC's public engagement, in creating a link between the police and local communities and suggested that this was a pivotal area that the PCC might develop.
- d. The hate crime figures were increasing, and the PCC explained that he was addressing this by actively reaching out to the groups to quietly try to address the situations. The Constabulary were being notified of any particular groups that felt uneasy. There was concern that it was not perceived as a crime and this needed to be addressed.
- e. With reference to page 113 of the agenda, it was confirmed that a formal response by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to the recent report by the Chief Inspector of Probation was being prepared. Panel members would be provided with a copy, which would also be published on the OPCCN website. The PCC only had a statutory duty to respond to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspections.
- f. With reference to the performance metrics set out at pages 121 and 124 of the agenda, the PCC agreed to provide a district council level break down for the Panel in future.
- g. With reference to page 132 of the agenda and the planned intervention for women, the PCC confirmed that he had made clear during regular meetings with Government Ministers that county resources were not sufficient. Police Forces were working with local commissioners through the 7 Force arrangement to source effective mental health support and broader support for domestic abuse victims. He was seeking additional funding for more case workers.
- h. The PCC advised that in his personal opinion the crime which had the most impact on communities of Norfolk was domestic abuse. The PCC informed the Panel that 50/60 calls per day related to domestic abuse. This was where he saw the greatest hidden need. Reflecting on the fact that performance metrics indicated it took up to

24 hours for some domestic abuse cases to receive a police threat, risk and harm process, and should an individual be in immediate danger an immediate response would be deployed. Many calls related to historic incidents.

- i. The Panel noted the PCC was developing a business crime strategy, which was due to be launched before the summer.
- j. The Panel noted that the number of active county lines had diminished, and it was highlighted that during the last national co-ordinated activity week, there were 89 arrests for county lines offences across the eastern region.

- 6.3 The Panel **NOTED** the update about progress with delivering the Police and Crime Plan for Norfolk 2016-2020 and **AGREED** the following recommendation to the PCC;
- That the PCC should be asked to attend a meeting at each district council, at least once a year.

## **7. Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – Annual Report 2018-19**

- 7.1 The Panel received the annexed report (7) which provided an overview of the scheme and its performance from visits between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.
- 7.2 In response to Panel Members' questions, the following points were noted:
- a. The main issues raised by the volunteers who visit the detainees were around access to work, arrangements to look after family or pets and ensuring they have had access to a drink whilst they had been detained.
  - b. The volunteers had to log who they visited. Wymondham Police Investigation Centre was the busiest and the numbers reflected this. There was a 2-hour window to complete visits due to time constraints on the Custody sergeant. This could then in turn provide mis-leading figures as it would show that the visits had not been completed in full at Wymondham.
  - c. Occasionally there were times where a detainee could not be visited, but the Scheme Administrator confirmed that he and volunteers were satisfied with the reasons given why a detainee could not be visited. If a volunteer was not satisfied they would challenge the reason.
  - d. The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme was a statutory requirement to ensure that the Constabulary were following Code C of the Police Act. It was a quick check to ensure the wellbeing of detainees whilst in custody. Regrettably, it was not an opportunity to understand more about their circumstances.
  - e. The statistics of the visits varied nationally, and from the report the number appeared to be lower than the previous year. However, the Scheme Administrator was content that a satisfactory job was being carried out.
  - f. The volunteers were recruited by various methods but predominantly by word of mouth and campaigns. Retention was quite difficult due to the nature of the role and because it was a volunteering role. They were continually supported by the

line manager throughout.

- 7.3 The Panel **NOTED** the ICV Scheme Annual Report for 2018-19.

## **8. Complaints Policy Sub-Panel - Update**

- 8.1 The Panel received an update from the Chairman of the Complaints Policy Sub-Panel.
- 8.2 There was concern at the broader definition of a police complaint and the implications of this which the Panel would need to be alert to.
- 8.3 The Panel **AGREED**:
- 1) That a Complaints Policy Sub Panel should be reconstituted at the Panel's AGM, comprising nominated panel members for handling PCC conduct complaints, to continue to monitor the PCC's implementation of the police integrity reforms.
  - 2) That the Sub Panel's Chairman should review the current Terms of Reference, to ensure they remain relevant.
  - 3) That the current procedure for handling PCC conduct complaints should continue.
  - 4) That the text introducing PCC conduct complaints on the Panel's webpage should be amended, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
  - 5) That the following factual amendments should be made to the procedural document:
    - references to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to be changed to Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
    - the inclusion of an additional paragraph (19) to explain that there is no right of appeal, as set out at paragraph 2.9 (e) of the report (p150 of the agenda).

## **9. Information Bulletin – questions arising to the PCC**

- 9.1 The Panel received the information bulletin which summarised both the decisions taken by the PCC and the range of his activity since the last Panel meeting.
- 9.2 The PCC reported that for the fourth year running, the OPCCN had received a prestigious national award for openness and transparency. The OPCCN is one of 27 PCC offices to have been awarded the Open and Transparent Quality Mark 2019 by CoPaCC (a national organisation which monitors police governance). He praised their hard work which was often unseen.
- 9.3 The PCC reported that the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) had invited him to attend and take part in necessary discussions following his decision relating to Fire Governance. His request for membership of the FRA was due to be considered by Norfolk County Council

as part of its new governance arrangements and it was agreed that a short update report should be presented to the Panel at its July meeting.

9.4 The Panel **NOTED** the information bulletin.

## **10. Work Programme**

10.1 The Panel **NOTED** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had approved the renewal of the annual subscription to regional network for 2019-20, at a cost of £500 plus VAT.

10.2 The Panel **AGREED** the proposed work programme.

10.3 The Chairman highlighted that the Panel's membership might change following the forthcoming local elections and thanked all Members for their contribution to the Panel's work, wishing well those who were not standing for re-election.

Meeting ended at 11.55pm

**Mr William Richmond, Chairman,  
Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**



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