



## **Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2021 at 11am on Microsoft Teams (virtual Meeting)**

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

Cllr William Richmond (Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt (Vice-Chair)	Co-opted Independent Member
Cllr Tim Adams	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Stuart Clancy	Broadland District Council
Mr Peter Hill	Co-opted Independent Member
Cllr Colin Manning	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Cllr Martin Storey	Norfolk County Council

#### **Substitute Members present**

Cllr Dan Roper for Cllr Sarah Butikofer	Norfolk County Council
Cllr James Easter for Cllr Michael Edney	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Paul Kendrick for Cllr Kevin Maguire	Norwich City Council
Cllr Jade Martin for Cllr Smith-Clare	Great Yarmouth Borough Council

#### **Officers Present:**

Simon Bailey	Chief Constable for Norfolk
Sgt Mark Barney	Operational Specialist /OPTIK Project Manager, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies
Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC)
Helen Johns	Communications Manager, Office for Police and Crime Commissioner, Norfolk (OPCCN)
Sharon Lister	Director of Performance and Scrutiny, OPCCN
Nicola Ledain	Democratic Support Officer, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, NCC
Jill Penn	Chief Finance Officer, OPCCN
Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN
Gavin Thompson	Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN

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

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare (substituted by Cllr Jade Martin), Cllr Michael Edney (substituted by Cllr James Easter), Cllr Sarah Butikofer (substituted by Cllr Dan Roper) and Cllr Kevin Maguire (substituted by

Cllr Paul Kendrick).

## **2. Minutes**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.
- 2.2 The PCC was asked if he could provide further clarity on point 6.4 on page 7 of the agenda, where he stated that he would not oversee the loss of any jobs in the police family. The PCC clarified that during his tenure, there had been times when they might have had to turn to the staffing budget to make additional savings. He added that 86% of the budget was staff and police officer costs and as there could not be any reductions in officers due to maintaining a baseline number, it would have had to be from staff numbers. The consequences of this would be that officers would then have to cover staff duties, taking them off the front line. He had pledged that while he was in office, there would not be a single staff job lost.

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

- 3.1 Mr Hill declared that although his teams account showed Wymondham Medical Practice (his current employer), he was an independent lay member on the Panel.
- 3.2 Cllr Roper declared for clarity that although he was an employee of the Minister of Justice, there was no conflict on the agenda and he was attending purely as a Councillor.

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

- 4.1 No urgent business was discussed.

## **5. Public Questions**

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

## **6. OPTIK demonstration**

- 6.1. The Panel received a live demonstration of OPTIK from Sergeant Mark Barney. OPTIK was a new mobile application being introduced to enable Police Officers to connect to operational systems from remote locations.
- 6.2 The following points were discussed and noted:
  - 6.2.1 The Panel were hugely impressed by the OPTIK technology. It was clarified that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies had jointly procured 1750 licences. These were currently predominantly for those Officers who were front line, uniformed Officers such as those on 'Moonshot'. Officers who were more in the line of detective work or desk based did not currently have access, but this was being constantly reviewed and where value could be proven the licences were distributed where required.

- 6.2.2 The Panel heard that each licence cost approx. £130 per officer (£10.50 per officer, per month). The project was now approaching the tracking phase where it would be possible to analyse the true efficiency of the technology. It was hoped that it would reduce officers returning to a station by 20%, reduce double keying by 80% and see those efficiencies translating into the officers spending more time in the communities and spending time with victims of crime.
- 6.2.3 The Panel heard that not only was policing constantly evolving as a force but systems and how they used data were as well. Day to day decisions made by a police officer were made using the data that they had but with OPTIK it would allow them to make much more informed decisions using up to date information.
- 6.2.4 The Panel congratulated Norfolk Constabulary for rolling this technology out and investing in it. Not only should it save time, but it should help with other problems that could occur.
- 6.2.5 The Panel highlighted that the extra time that OPTIK would create for officers to spend with the vulnerable and those affected by crime and increasing the officer time in the community had to be the way forward.
- 6.2.6 The PCC highlighted that officers in the Norfolk Constabulary were enthusiastic about their roles, and the presentation heard today from Sgt Barney reflected the quality of the officers of Norfolk Constabulary.
- 6.3 The Panel thanked the Constabulary and Sgt Barney for the detailed and informative demonstration of the new OPTIK technology.

## **7. Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's End of term Report**

- 7.1. The Panel received the report from the PCC which gave an overview of the progress made by the PCC towards delivering his plan since its publication in 2017.
- 7.2 The Chair highlighted that this would be the last meeting the PCC would attend as he was not standing for re-election in the May elections.
- 7.3 The Chair invited the PCC to introduce his report, and his introduction is attached at appendix A.
- 7.4 During discussion, the following points were raised and noted;
  - 7.4.1 The Panel heard that the PCC had spent the five years of his office meeting the volunteers of the services that his office commissions services from. He had been immensely impressed the wonderful volunteers, their commitment and their humour. He added that there is more to do and more partnership working to be done through the help hubs and the multi-agency services hub (MASH) working together can achieve so much more.
  - 7.4.2 The Chief Constable added that the relationship between the Chief Constable and the PCC was a critical one. He had been very fortunate to work with the PCC in a manner which both roles could operate. The PCC had recognised and

respected the responsibilities of the two offices and allowed the Chief Constable to get on with the job. He had supported the raise of precept and designed and delivered the crime plan which met the expectations of the community of Norfolk. Norfolk was one of the best performing forces in the country, with more uniformed police officers than when he started and a policing estate that most chief constables would be envious of. The Chief added that although they had not always agreed, they showed a united front, and the disagreements were never aired in public. He could reflect on a hugely successful period and it was hoped that it would become the benchmark for future PCC's. He added his thanks to the PCC.

7.4.3 The Panel appreciated the focus on the victims and the vulnerable and the protection and support for those but had been disappointed recently to read the responses to articles on the shared stories that women had told in the light of the death of Sarah Everard. Women were fearful inside and outside of the homes and unsure who to turn to. The PCC was asked for reassurance for women who felt unsafe. The PCC added that too much money was being spent on rehabilitating individuals who commit crime and more money should be spent on educating them not to, and this should start in school. The Police could enforce but there needed to be education through families and partnership working. Within OPCCN, there were various ways of reaching out to many different areas of the community through the Independent advisory group, and if the PCC were to stay in office longer, he would set up an advisory group for women.

7.4.4 The Panel expressed concern around the low levels of reporting the harassments of women and girls and if there was more that the police could do to increase the levels of reporting and convictions in future. The PCC explained that the technology was increasing such as body worn cameras to be able to get the evidence at the time of the incident. Any reports of domestic abuse were followed up with a visit from the Constabulary, and in those circumstances, police assess the situation and know where to turn for the appropriate support.

7.4.4 The Panel heard that visible policing had been greatly improved in the PCC's term but the type of crime had changed and although crimes such as robbery and car theft had decreased, the number of crimes such as domestic abuse and cybercrime were now much higher. There has been an increase in the number of digital investigators to 22. They sit behind the scenes and are able to listen in on mobile technology and support the front-line function. People in the community want to feel safe, and for public assurance, the number of beat managers had been increased to 105 who can be recognised in the community.

With regards to the priorities in the plan all were just as important as one another but combatting rural crime was important for Norfolk as 51% of Norfolk was classed as rural. The PCC had joined the National Rural Crime Network which had given a boost to combatting rural crime, and recent statistics had evidenced that. The PCC had taken pride in what had been achieved in that area and what had been done with the Chief Constable and the OPCCN to achieve a more effective and efficient police force.

7.4.5 The PCC explained that his advice to his successor were to set up an advisory group for women, re-visit the business case that had been prepared for shared governance of police and fire and to be more active and in vigorous pursuit of

criminal justice. It was taking too long for cases to come to court and this was unfair on all who were involved. If the PCC were around longer, then he would challenge the chair of the Criminal Justice Board.

- 7.4.6 The Chair asked if it was possible to have a list of all the projects that had been funded over the last 5 years through the commissioning services and possible success stories. It was felt that these were not appreciated enough in the community. It would also be useful to receive some positive statistics on drones, Speedwatch teams and officers with body worn cameras.
- 7.5 The Panel **NOTED** the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk End of Term Report and **REQUESTED** a list of the projects that had been funded through the commissioned services over the last 5 years, and some positive statistics on the use of drones, Speedwatch teams and officers with body worn cameras and other useful statistics.

## **8. Information bulletin – questions arising to the PCC**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 As part of the discussion, the following points were raised and noted;
  - 8.2.1 The PCC hoped to see a police covenant which ensured the welfare and wellbeing of police officer and retired police officers and their families come out of the Policing Bill that was being discussed this week in Parliament. He also hoped that there was increased sentence for common assault on police officers.
  - 8.2.2 With reference to page 47 of the agenda, the PCC had a virtual call with the Policing Minister on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 where he had raised with him the Covid-19 vaccinations for police officers. The PCC raised that they should have received their vaccination at an early stage and been one of the first to have received them. Several hundred police officers have received their Covid-19 vaccinations to date.
- 8.3 The Panel **NOTED** the information bulletin.

## **9. Norfolk Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2020-21.**

- 9.1 The Panel received the report which set out the Panel's activity during the past year and provided an opportunity for the Panel to reflect on its own progress throughout the term of office of Norfolk's second Police and Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green.
- 9.2 The PCC asked if the Panel had considered holding the meetings in other locations such as King's Lynn.
- 9.3 The Chair encouraged Panel members to share the report to colleagues to keep the up to date on the work of the Panel.

- 9.4 The Panel **RESOLVED** to **ENDORSE** the publication of the Panel's annual report. The final version would be placed on the website and circulated to Members of the Panel.

**10. Forward work programme**

- 10.1 The Panel received the forward work plan for the period June 2021 – May 2022.
- 10.2 The Panel **AGREED** the forward work programme.

The Chair thanked the PCC for the way he had worked with the panel during his term of office. The effective functioning and effective relationship ensured that the Panel was able to carry out their role and make a positive contribution to policing and community safety in Norfolk. The Chair was looking forward to building a similar relationship with the PCC's successor and to continue the good working with the officers of OPCCN.

The meeting ended at 12:50pm.

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



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