



Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2019 at 10am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

Members Present:

Cllr William Richmond (Chairman)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Martin Storey	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tim Adams	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Michael Edney	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Kevin Maguire	Norwich City Council
Cllr Jade Martin	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Mr Peter Hill	Co-opted Independent Member
Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt	Co-opted Independent Member

Officers/Others Present:

Mr Greg Insull	Assistant Head of Democratic Services, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Mrs Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, NCC
Mr Simon Bailey	Chief Constable
Mr Lorne Green	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk
Ms Sharon Lister	Director of Performance and Scrutiny, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN)
Mr Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN
Dr Gavin Thompson	Director of Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN
Mr Dominic Chessum	Director of Communications (Interim)

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

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Cllr Colin Manning, Cllr Sarah Butikofer and Cllr Mike Smith-Clare substituted by Cllr Jade Martin.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Members to declare Interests

3.1 No interests were declared.

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

4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5. Public Questions

5.1 No public questions had been received.

6. Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's 2018-19 Draft Annual Report

6.1 The Panel received the PCC's draft Annual Report 2018-2019, which contained the PCC's view of his achievements during 2018-2019, the challenges that had arisen during 2018-2019, and known future challenges.

6.2 During the discussion, the following points were noted;

6.2.1 The Panel acknowledged the good work that was expressed in the report and congratulated the PCC for the achievements that had been made during the period.

6.2.2 The Panel noted the drop in percentage of emergencies responded to within target time, which was a significant issue in north Norfolk, and asked the PCC what was being done to address this. The Chief Constable explained that it was purely a case of not being able to bring new recruits up-to-speed quickly enough with their driver training following the move from Police Constable Support Officers (PCSO's) to Police Constables (PC's). There were no other factors involved. Officer numbers were approaching 1600, which was far more than the PCC had inherited. The additional resources that the PCC had made available to the Constabulary were having a positive impact, but this had also created additional challenges.

6.2.3 The Panel asked the PCC what he would focus on during his final months in role. The PCC explained that he would focus on three areas in order to keep the county safe: firstly, protecting the protectors (by encouraging the Home Secretary to accelerate the police covenant and change the sentencing guidelines for assaults on emergency workers); secondly, prevention (in particular through his commissioned services); thirdly, ensuring that the county's police force continued to be one of the most efficient and effective in the country.

6.2.4 The Panel asked if there was a particular reason for the reduction of hare coursing in Norfolk, where there had been less than 20 incidents in comparison with neighbouring counties such as Cambridgeshire where there had been more than 100. The Chief Constable explained that the relationship with the farming community had never been so

good. Operation 'Moonshot' had played a big part in the figures being so low. Officers' deterrent action and robust response to incidents (seizing money, dogs and vehicles) were a positive product of the new policing model.

- 6.2.5 The Panel drew the PCC's attention to the performance metrics on page 25 of the agenda, in particular the number of killed and seriously injured (KSI) collisions and asked what more he could do with partners to deliver his pledge and ensure he left a good legacy. The Panel noted that the metric recorded the number of collisions and not the number of people who had been killed or seriously injured. The Chief Constable explained that through partnership working nationally, the number of incidents had declined over the last ten years and had only recently begun to increase again. More drivers on the road, their changing age profile, the number of miles driven, all combined to influence the statistics. Most concerning for him was the increasing number of incidents involving "drug driving", of which Norfolk had the third highest number in the country. While a big investment had been made in partnership working, including the PCC's investment in the Safety Camera Partnership, this was not just a policing issue. There was an increasingly important role for partners to invest in prevention and education activity if the number of incidents were to be reduced. The PCC added that he had been greatly concerned about young people in car accidents, which was why he had initiated his '#Impact' safety campaign. If there continued to be an increase in KSI collisions, it would be important to explore whether the local partnership strategy was fit for purpose for 2020 and beyond.
- 6.2.6 Referring to page 35 of the agenda, the Panel recognised the positive impact that specialist detached youth workers could have and asked what feedback had been received, if any, from the Norwich area pilot and if this might be expanded to other areas such as Great Yarmouth. The PCC commented that the county had had enormous success in attracting Early Intervention Youth Fund money and credited his team for their contribution. The Director of Policy and Commissioning explained that OPCCN was looking to attract funding from other streams, which would enable the pilot to be expanded.
- 6.2.7 Referring to page 31 of the agenda, the Panel noted that crime appeared to be rising across the piece. The PCC was asked how this squared with the preventing offending priority in his Plan. The PCC commented that there were stories in the current day's media, which reported the fact that robbery and violent crime figures were rising nationally and reflected the impact of austerity. The Chief Constable highlighted that while the statistical trend was not good, Norfolk remained one of the safest counties and the number of incidents of acquisitive crime was extremely low. A national conversation continued to take place about the rise in violent crime and he stressed again that this was not just policing matter, but that a focus on more proactive and preventative work was needed. Asked if he would expect to see the trend reversed in three years' time, the Chief Constable said that he could not be sure. In his view, the scale of the problem was not yet understood. It was likely that the number of people reporting domestic violence and hidden crimes such as exploitation would continue to rise, and the resources needed to address not only those matters but other complex criminal activity such as cyber crime would also need to increase.
- 6.2.8 The Panel commended the PCC for continuing to revise his performance reporting, which provided increasingly clear and variable data. The Panel asked the PCC if it

would be possible to provide additional narratives in future reports to illustrate the impact of crime within urban and rural areas of the county. The PCC commented that in his view, any line drawn between urban and rural areas, in respect of crime, was a false one.

- 6.2.9 Referring to page 27 of the agenda, which stated that the Gateway to Employment campaign had resulted in only six job starts from 26 job offers, the Panel questioned whether the approach was working and whether there were identifiable barriers to individuals starting work. The PCC commented that he was proud of the programme. In his view, getting one individual into work made the effort invested worthwhile. The Director of Policy and Commissioning explained that this was a ground-breaking national initiative, delivered in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) without cost to OPCCN. There had been limitations with data recording, as the DWP did not follow individuals through the programme. Significant resource would be needed to identify the types of barriers referred to, which may detract from the overall effectiveness of the programme.
- 6.2.10 Noting that the PCC did not have a presence on Instagram, one of the more popular social media applications used by young people, the Panel asked the PCC if he felt he was making the best use of technology to communicate with the local community. The PCC commented that the approach could be improved and the Chief Executive added that OPCCN was reviewing its use of social media platforms. One Panel member went on to suggest that there could be opportunities for local authorities to collaborate further in preventative activity through technology. North Norfolk had tried to invest in Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), but had been unable to access the different rate available to the police, which meant that the cost was prohibitive. The Chief Constable agreed to respond separately to the Member on the matter.
- 6.2.11 The Panel commented that the number of days available to the PCC to deliver his Plan were getting fewer. It asked the Commissioner where, out of his seven key priorities, he had made the most and least impact and whether, with hindsight, he would have chosen different ones. The Commissioner replied that Norfolk had an effective and efficient police force, but he wished to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff and officers. He also recognised the importance of providing greater support for, and strengthening the resilience of, the most vulnerable members of society through commissioned services and partnership work.
- 6.2.12 With regards to the forecast budget gap for 2022/23, the Panel asked the Commissioner how he was planning to address the challenge and what the likely implications were. The Commissioner replied that £2.9m worth of savings had already been identified, but further efficiencies would need to be found to bridge the gap and the challenge was enormous. He would continue to seek additional resource from Government. The Chief Constable added that the current Government had indicated it would provide a one-year funding settlement the following year, and that while the level of grant was unknown, the policy commitments around bolstering the police service meant he was anticipating the settlement would go some way to bridging the remaining gap. While the commitment to provide more police officers was to be welcomed, austerity had meant the force was extremely lean. Additional funding would also need to be found for new recruits' training, the associated infrastructure and kit, as well as staff to ensure they were paid. While the force was deficient in terms of officer numbers compared with 10 years ago, the

direction of travel was improving. An additional 200-250 more officers over the next three years would take Norfolk to an all time high of approximately 1600 officers. He would be lobbying the PCC to raise the precept to its maximum amount again next year. The PCC responded that before asking people to pay more through tax, he would wish to assure himself that planned efficiency savings were being delivered and all opportunities for future efficiencies were being explored. The Constabulary had been judged by HMICFRS to be in the top 4 efficient forces and despite making significant savings was still maintaining a high level of service. The Chief Constable added that one of the challenges for the Constabulary was conveying the message that Norfolk was a safe county, and that if local communities were not seeing police officers that was good news. The days of providing a bobby on the beat in every community was no longer possible.

- 6.2.13 The Panel asked the PCC if there were any other advances in technology that could be brought in to assist the effectiveness of the Constabulary. The PCC explained that every officer now had body worn cameras and tablets were used daily, which was more efficient than processing written paperwork. He also referred to the use of ANPR in tackling county lines and drones, not just in tackling rural crime but their use in partnership with other emergency services.
- 6.2.14 With regards to the collaboration with the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, the Chief Constable told the Panel that the integration of the services at the Wymondham control room could not have gone better, which was a result of the existing good working relationships. The PCC added that there was always room to build on this. He highlighted that the combined governance of Police and Fire and Rescue services remained on the Government's agenda and he personally remained of the view that the county would get better, more effective services through shared governance.
- 6.2.15 The Panel NOTED the PCC's draft Annual Report 2018-19 and AGREED the following recommendations:
- 1) Priority 4 – Prevent Offending: For the PCC to consider further exploring the reasons behind the low proportion of job starts achieved through the Gateway to Employment campaign, to identify whether there are particular barriers preventing individuals from taking up job offers locally and further services which might be available to support them.
 - 2) For the PCC to explore the possibility of providing performance data in an additional format, in future reports, to enable comparison of urban and rural locations across the county.

7. Complaints Policy Sub Panel - Update

- 7.1 The Panel received an update from the Complaints Policy Sub Panel.
- 7.2 The Sub Panel's Chairman drew Members' attention to the fact that the Home Office had now advised PCCs that they should expect regulations to come into force at the end of January / early February 2020, at which point they would assume their enhanced role in police complaints.

7.3 The Panel **NOTED** the update.

8. Information Bulletin – questions arising to the PCC

8.1 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.

8.2 The Panel asked how the Police Accountability Forums (PAFs) were going and if they had been well attended. OPCCN confirmed that there had been a good attendance in Fakenham and that young people had been well represented when the PAF met in Great Yarmouth, at the East Coast College.

8.3 In response to a question by the Panel, it was confirmed that the survey into domestic abuse services in the county, being run by the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership, would be open until 31 July 2019. Once the results were published, they would be made available to the Panel.

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

9. Work Programme

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

Meeting ended at 11.45am.

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



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