



Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th December 2015 at 10.00 a.m.
Cranworth Room, County Hall, Norwich**

Main Panel Members Present:

Ms Sharon Brooks
Mr Alec Byrne
Mr Brian Hannah
Mr Terry Jermy
Dr Christopher Kemp
Mr William Richmond
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Alexander D Sommerville, CPM
Mr Fran Whymark

Co-opted Independent Member
Norfolk County Council
Norfolk County Council
Norfolk County Council
South Norfolk Council
Breckland Council
North Norfolk District Council
Co-opted Independent Member
Broadland District Council

Officers Present

Mr Greg Insull
Mrs Jo Martin

Assistant Head of Democratic Services
Democratic Services and Scrutiny Support Manager

Others Present

Mr Stephen Bett
Ms Sharon Lister
Mr Mark Stokes
Mr Ian Sturgess

Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Performance and Compliance Officer, OPCCN
Chief Executive, OPCCN
OPCCN Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
Reduction Coordinator
Business Manager, OPCCN

Mr Martin Barsby

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

1.1 Apologies received from Mr Brian Long, Ms Katy Stenhouse and Mr Keith Driver.

2. Members to Declare any Interests

2.1 None declared.

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

3.1 None

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2015

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 2015 were confirmed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Panel congratulated the Constabulary on receiving a rating of outstanding following an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The Panel congratulated the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) on receiving a prestigious national award for openness and transparency from CoPaCC, a national organisation which monitors police governance by comparing Police and Crime Commissioners.

5. Public Questions

5.1 No questions received from the public.

6. Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk's 2016-17 budget Consultation

6.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from Jo Martin, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, which included an outline of the Commissioner's proposed approach to his forthcoming budget consultation.

6.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- There would be two public meetings held during the consultation, one at County Hall in Norwich and one in Kings Lynn. Dates would be confirmed shortly.
- In response to a question raised by the Panel, the members were advised that no additional meetings were planned for local councillors; they were encouraged to attend the public meetings and participate within the same arena as the general public when responding to the budget consultation. It was important for councillors to be involved.
- The response to the budget consultation would be published on the constabulary's website as well as the commissioner's website.

6.3 The Panel noted the overview of the forthcoming budget consultation.

7. Police Integrity Reforms – update on managing police complaints

7.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from Jo Martin, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, which included an update from the Commissioner's Office on the development of a local model for managing police complaints.

7.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The workshops being facilitated by the Home Office were aimed at Commissioners' offices being given the opportunity to talk through the proposed legislation.
- Concerns had been raised at these meetings regarding the possible impact of the appellant functions of the OPCC on Panels. However, more information was due to be received and discussed. A report would be brought to the March meeting for the Panel to consider.
- The Commissioner stated he would not commit to which model he favoured until that further information was available. Model 1: Oversight, was confirmed as definitely happening. Commissioners could consider Options 2 and 3 in addition. More information should be available after the next workshop on the 12th January 2016.
- The Panel reiterated what had been mentioned at previous meetings, that a subcommittee/ working group should be formed to consider the implications of the new functions once further information had been provided.

7.3 The Panel noted the update.

8. Complaints Monitoring Report

8.1 The Panel received the suggested approach from Jo Martin, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Team Manager, which provided an update in relation to ongoing complaints to date.

8.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The complaints being made, although not large in number, were complicated to work through and took up a large amount of time as each complaint, no matter what, must be investigated thoroughly.
- The Panel's complaints handling process included steps to ensure that any vexatious complainants were dealt with appropriately.
- The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) handling of PCC complaints was a cause for concern as it lacked in consistency which made the process lack legitimacy.

8.3 The Panel noted the update.

9. OPCCN Commissioning Strategy – Update on Theme 3 (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence)

9.1 The Panel received the report from the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner which gave more detail on Theme 3 of his Commissioning Strategy (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence). It explained the extent to which Domestic Abuse is present within the county and the extent to which OPCCN is working with partners to deliver an effective response.

9.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- There had been a great deal of progress made within this theme, with campaigns having positive responses from the public. However, there was still a need for more acute support as well as early interventions to prevent incidents from occurring.
- This area was considered to be increasingly important as domestic abuse features in many serious crime cases in one form or another.
- Recognising that abusive behaviour in adults could be a result of early life experiences had led to work with other agencies such as early years and troubled families in an attempt to tackle this issue at source. There are seven Early Help Hubs planned across the districts, these link with the Troubled Families team and will feed into the M.A.S.H (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub). There had been three locality based domestic abuse coordinators appointed, with a network of champions being developed, 135 having been trained so far.
- An area that had been recognised as problematic was dealing with the needs of perpetrator who are likely to repeat behaviour, including if they move on to another relationship and continue the same behaviour. Caring Dads is an early intervention programme that had been funded to help deal with fathers who displayed aggressive behaviour at home. The programme was seen as important in acting as an intervention, with referrals coming largely from Children's Services. Unfortunately there was a high dropout rate which was likely due to individuals feeling forced to attend. The average cost per perpetrator per programme, is £2.5k.
- It was considered more complicated to deal with the issue of female perpetrators but various initiatives were being looked into.
- Much of the increase in the number of cases for sexual violence and domestic abuse was believed to be as a direct result of an increase in the confidence of victims to come forward. These types of crimes were previously under-reported.
- Training had been provided at all GP surgeries in the county to ensure that medical staff were aware of how to handle a situation related to domestic abuse or sexual violence as it was felt that the GP would in many cases be the first place individuals may go for help.
- Programmes aimed at younger people were being funded such as a Youth Offending Team programme called Step Up, there was also a programme aimed at training foster carers in restorative approaches.
- Working with minority groups such as the Travelling community was challenging as there would be a general reluctance to engage with authorities and a tendency to deal with problems within their own groups. Language could also cause a barrier.

9.3 The Panel expressed how impressed they were with the work being done and thanked Mr Ian Sturgess, OPCCN Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Reduction Coordinator for his report.

9.4 The Panel noted the report.

10. Information bulletin – questions arising to the Commissioner

10.1 The Panel received the report from the suggested approach from the Scrutiny Support Manager which summarised for the Panel both decisions taken by the Commissioner and the range of his activity since the last Panel meeting.

10.2 In reference to a question asked of the Chief Constable on the 16 November, the Panel queried what the response was regarding reporting crimes online. The Panel were informed that the Constabulary were adapting to this as they recognised more reporting was coming through social media. A strategy to deal with this was being worked on and the Chief Constable had been asked to provide a report for the accountability forum for further consideration.

10.3 Mr M Stokes, Chief Executive for the OPCCN, gave the Panel a brief update on the work being done in advance of the 2016 Commissioner elections. It was very important that there would be openness and transparency during the elections. Information was available on the Commissioner's website on the role of the Commissioner and the election process. The Commissioners Office had also invited all candidates for a one-to-one meeting with the Chief Executive of OPCCN and the Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary to gain an insight into what the role entails.

10.4 The Panel noted the report.

11. Norfolk Police and Crime Panel Forward Work Programme 2015- 16

11.1 The Panel received the report which outlined the Forward Work Programme.

11.2 The Vice Chairman informed the Panel about the Eastern Region PCP trial network meeting which had been attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Scrutiny Manager. It was felt there was a strong case to form a network as it would provide an opportunity to share best practice amongst Panels and compare best practice across the region.

Mr C Kemp proposed, seconded by Mr A Sommerville that the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel participate in the Eastern Region network at a cost of £500 for the subscription and review how beneficial it had been in a year.

The Panel Agreed.

11.3 The Panel noted the Work programme.

The meeting closed at 11:08am.

CHAIRMAN



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