

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**31 July 2018****PRESENT:**

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and S Hawkins
Newcastle City Council	Councillor K Webster
North Tyneside Council	Councillors C Burdis and T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillors S Davey and J Riddle
South Tyneside Council	Councillor G Kilgour
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Member	Mr S Isaacson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria**

Dame V Baird QC	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
H McMillan	- Assistant Chief Constable, Northumbria Police
K Laing	- Head of Finance, Northumbria Police
H Murphy	- Business Intelligence Manager, Northumbria Police

Gateshead Council

D Hill	- Legal and Democratic Services
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors H Rahman (Newcastle City Council), J Welsh (South Tyneside Council), G Miller and M Mordey (Sunderland City Council) and Mrs J Guy

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Douglas and Mrs Guy be appointed as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel for 2018/19 respectively.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

The membership of the Panel for 2018/19 is as follows:

Gateshead	Councillors Angela Douglas and Sonya Hawkins
Newcastle	Councillors Habib Rahman and Kyle Webster
North Tyneside	Councillors Carole Burdis and Tommy Mulvenna
Northumberland	Councillors Susan Davey and John Riddle
South Tyneside	Councillors Geraldine Kilgour and Joyce Welsh
Sunderland	Councillors Graeme Miller and Michael Mordey
Independent Members	Janet Guy and Shlomi Isaacson

RESOLVED - That the membership of the Panel for 2018/19 be noted.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 April 2018 be approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to Minute 61 – 2017/18:-

- (a) The PCC circulated information on the groups and organisations that had been provided with funding from the Supporting Victims Fund and the Commissioner's Community Fund.
- (b) The PCC reported that the action plan to address the decrease in the hate crime victim satisfaction levels had been considered by the Strategic Management Board and the Strategic Independent Advisory Group and the PCC's Advisory Groups had also been consulted.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That a further report on the application criteria, types of projects and processes for the PCC's Community Fund be submitted.
 - (ii) That an update on the action plan to address the decrease in the hate crime victim satisfaction levels be provided.

5. DELIVERING POLICING PRIORITIES

Further to minute 65(a) – 2017/18, Assistant Chief Constable McMillan provided an overview of the force's tactical and strategic response to volume crime and how resources are balanced against priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.

Since 2010/11, total recorded crime has increased by 86%, from 82,463 crimes per annum to 153,040 crimes with increases in the majority of crime categories.

Since 2015/16, there have been year-on-year increases in recorded crime, across all major crime types, attributable to the increasing confidence of victims to report crime, improvements in crime recording and actual increases in the crime types outlined. Additionally, there is an element of unknown demand from the significant under-reporting of some crime types.

Over the last 8 years, Northumbria Police has had to make £135.6m of cuts and efficiencies as central funding for policing has been reduced by 37% in real terms.

The number of police officers has reduced by 24% and police staff and police community support officers by 35%. General reserves have reduced by 87% from £71m to £9.4m.

There have been changes in demand and performance with the nature, manner and means of committing crime rapidly evolving. This includes the advancing levels of technology, demand from complex, high-harm incidents and with the greater awareness of vulnerability, the increased need to provide multi-agency, problem-solving approaches and enhanced support. The current position and the actions taken by the force in regard to the increase in calls for service, safeguarding demand, risk of crime, investigation and outcomes, public confidence and victim satisfaction were outlined.

Details of the operational response provided by the force including the Force Strategic Assessment and Control Strategy, burglary dwelling tactical tasking, Area Command management and structure, violent crime, managing offenders, raising investigative standards, prevention and deterrence and community engagement were submitted.

As the complexity facing policing becomes more challenging, the traditional policing approaches will not be sufficient to address the growing and complex demand. The Force's change programme is considering the future force operating model and developing the capability to enhance services with a specific focus on vulnerability, community engagement, responding to the public, investigation and prevention and problem solving.

The force is also looking at investment in technology and strengthening partnerships and collaboration.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked if the force needed more resources to tackle the increases in crime. It was replied that the new operating model focuses on the top 100 offenders in the community in each Area Command to change their behaviour and move them away from crime. Neighbourhood policing is the bedrock of the force and the officers should work closely with residents, agencies, etc and be embedded in the community.

It was commented that a holistic approach was needed to work with these families. In a trial in South Tyneside, the neighbourhood officers were working with doctors, etc. It was crucial that the neighbourhood officers got to know the local community and were seen to be part of it. The force and its police officers and police staff were, to their credit, doing the best they can within the reduced budgets

RESOLVED - That the presentation be noted.

6. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Mr Isaacson reported that he and Councillor Welsh had represented the Panel at the Local Government Association's (LGA) Police and Crime Panels Workshop on 11 July 2018. There was a presentation on the experience of becoming a Police, Fire and Crime Panel from the Essex Panel. No information was given on the

resources needed to expand the Panel but consultation on further guidance for Panels was to be undertaken in the near future.

An update on the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels was also given. There were now 24 Panels involved. The issue of whether the Association's proposed subscriptions could be paid from the Home Office grant for the servicing of the Panels was being looked into. Further details on the Association were to be sent to the Panel Chairs.

There was also a presentation on - reflections on recent developments in crime, community safety and policing – an LGA view, which included Home Office statistics on crime trends.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

7. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

The Panel's draft work programme for 2018/19 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the work programme for 2018/19 be approved.

8. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT

The PCC presented her update report to the Panel which covered the following:-

Bravery Awards to two Northumbria Police Officers
New Deputy Chief Constable
Commissioner's Community Fund
Northumbria Local Criminal Justice Board
Youth Crime Reduction and Sport
Northumbria Police Stop and Search Annual report
HMICFRS Child Protection Inspection Report, June 2018
General Data Protection Regulations
Complaints
Nexus Campaign
Mindful Employer
Breathalyser Limit
Day of Remembrance
National Consultations and Inquiries

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was commented that North Tyneside Council had also undertaken good work with Nexus to deal with a problem of youth anti-social behaviour on the metro at Whitley Bay and Cullercoats. School children had also taken part in a poster competition. More partnership working was needed because of the reduced budgets to address these issues. The PCC reported that she was lobbying the Home Office to try and stop the budget cuts in Northumbria because it had been hit the hardest.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

9. INTRODUCING PERFORMANCE THRESHOLDS

The Police and Crime Plan performance report includes a range of measures or key performance indicators (KPIs) that enable the Panel to monitor progress against achieving the Plan. By providing data, measures can be used to answer the key performance question, are desired levels of performance being delivered.

A KPI has limited value unless it can be compared to something. There is value in monitoring change over time but unless it is known what change is required, it can be of little value. Previous performance reports comparing performance over time, do not consider seasonal changes, national policy changes, and local resource changes.

The PCC and Northumbria Police have developed and agreed thresholds for measures within the plan. Thresholds describe acceptable ranges for performance to ensure that attention and resources are focused on the right areas, identifying true performance concerns rather than highlighting fluctuating changes against an arbitrary comparison.

If performance is the same as or better than the threshold the measure has been graded green, if it does not meet the threshold it is red.

Each performance threshold has been agreed individually based on what is an acceptable level of service and protection the community should expect; what is stretching but realistic given previous performance, current resources, and how Northumbria Police would compare nationally, or be assessed by the HMICFRS.

The performance thresholds will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they reflect current priorities and remain meaningful from November 2018.

The development of performance thresholds is not suitable for all the indicators, with some measures only being monitored eg an increase in the number of reported domestic abuse incidents can be seen as both a positive and negative outcome.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

10. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – APRIL – JUNE 2018: THRESHOLDS AND PERFORMANCE

The Panel considered thresholds and performance information relating to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan for April to June 2018.

The Panel raised the following issue:-

The threshold rate for the priority 1 incidents in urban areas was 10 minutes but it was 14 minutes in the first quarter of the year. It was replied that the priority 1 demand had increased by 10% as the new call handler training had improved how vulnerable victims were identified.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

11. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – QUARTERLY REPORT TO JUNE 2018

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer for the quarter ended June 2018 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

12. STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18 AND THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS CONCLUSIONS

The 2017/18 Statements of Accounts were to be published on 31 July 2018 along with the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit. They were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 and in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The 2017/18 revenue budget was approved at £262.543m based upon:

- Increases in pay and prices of £6.800m; budget pressures of £2.300m, including an annual budget increase of £0.800m relating to the Government's introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy;
- Budget savings of £12.200m in 2017/18;
- The use of £1.529m from the Commissioner's reserves to support the revenue budget and provide headroom to manage savings going forward; and
- An increase of £5 on the Council Tax precept in 2017/18.

The PCC delegated a budget of £252.943m to the Chief Constable in 2017/18 to enable the discharge of the activities under his control. The in-year budget strategy and regular monitoring resulted in an outturn of £254.227m, reflecting an overspend of £1.284m, primarily attributable to the Northumbria response to the increased counter terrorism threat level and pay settlements in excess of the budgeted 1%.

The 2017/18 approved budget for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was £2.262m. The outturn was £1.853m, an underspend of £0.409m. Of the underspend, £0.258m is within earmarked reserves to pilot additional support for victims in specialist domestic violence courts and pilot additional project support for the Local Criminal Justice Board.

The 2017/18 capital financing budget, which is also under the PCC's direction, was £7.338m comprising interest on borrowing and investments and the minimum revenue provision for repayment of borrowing. The outturn of £7.173m reflected an underspend of £0.165m resulting from tactical decisions in the Treasury Management Strategy to defer long term borrowing at higher interest rates with shorter term borrowing at lower rates and using cash balances to fund expenditure.

The PCC incurs expenditure on capital related items, including acquisition of fixed assets, building alterations, information and communications technology, vehicles and other major items of plant and equipment. The total capital investment for 2017/18 was £9.553m.

Regulations require each public body to produce an Annual Governance Statement that provides an assessment of the adequacy of the governance arrangements and

their effectiveness which accompanies the Statement of Account. The PCC and Chief Constable's Joint Governance Monitoring Group have reviewed the governance and internal control arrangements and prepared an Annual Governance Statement for each body. These were scrutinised by the Joint Independent Audit Committee on 23 July 2018 and subsequently authorised by the PCC and Chief Constable. The process did not identify any weaknesses in the governance arrangements.

The audit of the Statements of Accounts and Annual Governance Statements for both the PCC and Chief Constable is now complete. The external auditor Mazars has issued an unqualified opinion, without modification, on both the Statements of Accounts. The unqualified Value for Money conclusion also confirms that both organisations have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in their use of resources.

The Joint Independent Audit Committee considered and recommended the Statements and the Audit Completion reports at its meeting of 23 July 2018.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the preparation of the 2017/18 Statements of Accounts and Annual Governance Statements be noted.
 - (ii) That the 2017/18 financial outturn position be noted.
 - (iii) That the arrangements for the scrutiny and certification, leading to the publication of the final Statements of Accounts by 31 July 2018 be noted.
 - (iv) That the issuing of an unqualified opinion, without modification on the Statements of Accounts and Value for Money assessments for both the PCC and Chief Constable be noted.

13. KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER

The PCC advised the Panel of the following key issues she would be addressing in the next quarter:-

Continuing to drive forward the work with the Local Criminal Justice Board to improve criminal justice with the Board's manager funded by the PCC/Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts.

Developing the medium term financial strategy and engaging with the Home Office around the funding settlement.

Finalising the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to deliver the Police Transformation Fund whole system approach across the seven forces.

Publishing the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Report – including the provision of a Court Independent Domestic Violence Adviser funded by the PCC.

Working with the Home Office to implement stage 3 of the complaints legislation, including the appointment of an appeals officer within the Office of the PCC.

Working with the Home Office and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and hoping to be a pilot area for the devolution of justice around pre-trial support for victims.

Appointment of a business apprentice

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

14. THEMED TOPICS

The following issues have been suggested as possible themed topics for discussion at future Panel meetings:-

- (a) Causes of the increase in violent crime and the strategies for dealing with it.
- (b) How the PCC and the police are working with their partners and Councils to tackle environmental crime.
- (c) How the local Community Safety Partnerships' plans and priorities are considered in relation to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan priorities.

RESOLVED - That (a) above be agreed as the themed topic for the Panel's next meeting.

15. DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, 30 October 2018 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 5 February 2019 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 5 March 2019 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 23 April 2019 at 2.00pm