



## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**23 October 2018**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas and S Hawkins
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillors H Rahman and K Webster
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillor J Riddle
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors G Kilgour and J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor M Mordey
<b>Independent Co-opted Members</b>	Mrs J Guy and 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
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
N Shukla	- Policy Performance and Scrutiny Officer
H McMillan	- Assistant Chief Constable, Northumbria Police
P Godden	- Head of Corporate Development, Northumbria Police

#### **Gateshead Council**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors C Burdis and T Mulvenna (North Tyneside Council), S Davey (Northumberland County Council) and G Miller (Sunderland City Council)

### **16. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED -** That the minutes of the PCC's Chief of Staff confirmation hearing and ordinary meeting held on 31 July 2018 be approved as correct records.

## **17. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 6 – the budget cuts figures in the minutes and the draft annual report were different. This was because they referred to different financial years.

Minute 9 – the thresholds for the measures within the plan were locally based taking account of national targets and could still be compared nationally with other forces.

Minute 14 – how the local Community Safety Partnerships' plans and priorities are considered in relation to the PCC's police and crime plan priorities was agreed as the themed topic for the Panel's next meeting.

## **18. CAUSES FOR INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME AND THE STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH IT**

Further to minute 14 – 2018/19, Assistant Chief Constable McMillan gave an overview of the causes for the increase in violent crime and the strategy for dealing with it.

The Government's response to serious violence is set out in the Serious Violent Crime Strategy launched in April 2018.

The drug markets drive changes in serious violent crime through robberies to service drug dependence and violent competition and disputes between drug dealers. Northumbria Police work with agencies to tackle and disrupt organised crime and to support families impacted by drug misuse.

Alcohol use of by victim, perpetrator or both occurred in violent crimes prior to the offence being committed. Alcohol was included in neighbourhood priorities where there are community concerns and a night time economy plan has been developed.

Improvements in recording practices, increases in emerging crimes and improved response to underreported crimes have increased the volume of recorded crime. Focused police activity can cause a short-term increase or problem solving with other agencies can reduce serious violence.

A violent crime is when someone physically hurts or threatens to hurt someone and crimes where a weapon is used. The Police record a crime as violent if the offender clearly intended to physically harm a person, regardless of whether or not it resulted in a physical injury.

Recorded knife crimes in the force area have reduced although nationally they have increased. The force maintains a robust, intelligence led approach to knife crime through its support of the National Operation SCEPTRE, launched by the Metropolitan Police Service.

The discharge of firearms in Northumbria remains low compared to other forces. 18% were linked to suicides or suicide attempts and the rest with organised crime. The force's dedicated team focussed on investigation, arrest, recovery of weapons and the disruption of crime groups. Firearms licensing officers regulate those licensed to possess weapons and work to control the sale and movement of weapons. In November 2017, the force led the way in a national surrender.

In the 12 months to July 2018, Northumbria ranked 9<sup>th</sup> lowest nationally and the lowest compared to most similar forces for homicide offences per 10,000 (0.06 compared to 0.12 nationally). 36% of the murders committed in the last five years were domestic homicides. The force and community safety partnerships conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews to ensure that lessons were learnt when a person has been killed. The force has a centralised homicide and murder enquiry team.

There have been no acid attacks in the force area. Offences recorded include the use of ammonia mainly comprising threats not actual use. Northumbria officers are trained to deal with corrosive substance attacks.

In the 12 months to July 2018, Northumbria ranked 18<sup>th</sup> lowest nationally and the third lowest compared to most similar forces for robbery offences per 10,000 (0.6 compared to 0.82 nationally). Robberies have increased, particularly personal robbery, due to improved crime recording and reporting and genuine increases. The criminal justice positive outcome rate was 20% for the period, the tenth highest nationally. 2% of robberies involved the firearms or replicas and 17% used a knife.

There have been no recorded instances of County Lines in the force area ie an organised crime group from an area extending their drug dealing enterprise across county boundaries.

Some 90% of people in Northumbria's night time economy locations feel safe. The night-time economy plan targets resources to protect the vulnerable and reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder. There were also door staff briefings, Newcastle City Centre street and taxi marshals and Street pastors and Pubwatch Schemes. The force has a role in local authority licensing of licensed premises and there was a drugs protocol in Newcastle to prevent use and supply in licensed premises.

The force's partnership arrangements manage violent offenders and protect the public, including previous victims of crime, from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was suggested that social media played a part in fuelling knife crime particularly in London. It was replied that there was a link in London but this had not been seen in this area with knife crime reducing.

There had been two armed shop robberies in the Whitburn and Seaburn areas recently and a shop assistant was fatally stabbed. Residents were concerned and crime was increasing in rural areas. It was replied these types of robberies were unusual in rural areas and the police will work to reassure the community. The police were thanked for their fantastic response to these isolated incidents.

It was asked whether the police monitored the triggers causing race hate, etc and if there was a way to record this. It was replied that the police only recorded the different crime types and not the reasons or triggers for the offences.

It was asked if stop and search was used successfully in this area. It was replied that it had been used successfully to target specific crimes or individuals on an intelligence led basis.

It was queried what the main reason was for the increase in crime. It was replied that there were no specific reasons. Culture, social media, glorification, etc were all factors and the police were tackling new offences eg human trafficking.

It was asked if there was an overarching drugs and alcohol strategy because of the links to violent crime. It was replied that the Area Commands use a bespoke approach with the community safety partnerships and partners and this was linked to the Government's overall strategy.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be noted.

## **19. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

The Annual Conference for Police and Crime Panels was to be held at Warwick Conference Centre on Monday, 12 November 2018. As the Annual General Meeting for the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels was to be held at the conference, it was proposed that Councillor Welsh represent the Panel at the conference. The Association's draft constitution was circulated for Members' comments.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Welsh represent the Panel at the Conference.

## **20. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT**

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

- Change in senior leadership for Northumbria Police
- Ponteland site sold – resources reinvested back in to policing
- New business apprentices
- Princess Royal visits Victims First Northumbria
- Planning for 2019/20
- Safetyworks
- Fire collaboration
- Funding opportunities
- Specialist Domestic Violence Courts – how special are they?
- Workforce attraction, recruitment, retention and progression
- Advisory Groups
- Victims Strategy
- Dignity in custody
- National consultations and Inquiries

Further to Minute 4(i) – 2018/19, N Shukla, from the PCC's office, gave an overview of the Commissioner's community fund including the application assessment process, a breakdown of grants by local authority area and successful projects.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The rigorous process to decide on the community fund applications was praised. There was a lot of work for the projects but there were massive benefits. The PCC was thanked for the support she had given to the project in South Tyneside.

It was asked how long the application process was open and what was the total fund available. It was replied it was open for one month and the fund total was approximately £100,000.

As many small groups as possible should be informed about the fund. This was acknowledged and the PCC's advisory groups were asked to circulate details of the fund in their networks and ideas to improve this were welcome. Help was given to small groups to help them with the application process.

The mentoring and one to one intervention for the early intervention youth fund bid would be provided by Streetwise. Further details will be provided to the Panel if the bid was successful.

The PCC reported that the difficulties in recruiting individuals from a BME background had been a longstanding issue for the force. A lot of work has been undertaken to try and address this.

It was asked if the PCC expected any extra funding to be given in the forthcoming budget. The PCC replied that the Chancellor had stated that no extra funding for policing was to be given. Also, a review of the police pension fund, could cost the force over £11 million in the next two years and the PCC had submitted her concerns on the impact this would have to the Home Secretary.

RESOLVED – (i) That the information be noted.  
(ii) That the Panel visit Safetyworks and hold a future meeting there.

## **21. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018: THRESHOLDS AND PERFORMANCE**

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

The Panel raised the following issues:-

Reference was made to the quality of file submitted by the police to the Crown Prosecution Service post charge failure rate of 30%. It was replied that there was a national shortage of experienced detectives and the force had carried out a lot training to support its officers to raise standards and improve compliance.

The reductions in the accurate recording of domestic and sexual abuse may affect the confidence of victims to report these crimes. It was replied that the police has to undertake further investigations if a rape offence was reported by a third party which may take it outside the specified 24 hours.

It was disappointing to see that the percentage of victims satisfied with the resolution without deployment was decreasing because if handled appropriately this could save money and release police officer time. This was acknowledged and there was a concern that this could affect the public's confidence in the police. This was to be monitored.

The attendance rates at incidents with vulnerable victims had increased which meant they were waiting longer for a police response. It was replied that as the identification of vulnerable victims was now more focussed demand for a response had increased.

It was asked what would be recorded as racial harassment. It was replied that this could be low level violence or abuse. The information provided related to satisfaction levels of hate crime victims with the policing response provided rather than number of offences.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **22. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – QUARTERLY REPORT TO SEPTEMBER 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 September 2018 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **23. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

The PCC's draft annual report 2017-18 was presented. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 specifies that a PCC must produce an annual report on the exercise of their functions in each financial year, including the progress made in meeting the priorities in the police and crime plan.

It was the role of the Panel under section 28(4) of the Act to review the annual report and make a report or recommendations to the PCC.

The PCC's 2017-21 police and crime plan, was published in April 2017, and the priorities were reflected in the annual report.

The annual report will be available on the PCC's website and hard copies will be shared with Panel Members and key stakeholders.

Panel Members made the following suggestions for the annual report:-

Rural and wildlife crime – delete “correctly” in the first paragraph.

The money we receive and how it's spent – funding for Northumbria should be £261.014million.

RESOLVED - That the PCC be advised that in accordance with section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel agreed with the format and content of the draft annual report 2017/18, subject to the suggestions outlined above.

## **24. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS 2019/20**

In February 2018, the PCC agreed the 2018/19 revenue and capital budgets and the 2018/19 – 2021/22 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The force was reviewing the assumptions which underpin the budget and MTFS estimates in relation to central government funding for police forces, future budget pressures and inflationary increases and the capital investment priorities over the medium term.

The process and timetable to set the 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets and complete the revision of the MTFS were outlined.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **25. KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER**

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

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.

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

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

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

Work 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.

Work with the Home Office and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners for the devolution of justice around pre-trial support for victims.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **26. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 2.00pm