

## NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

14 January 2020

### PRESENT:

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas and S Hawkins
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillor C Penny-Evans
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors S Graham and J Mole
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors A Strike and J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor D MacKnight
<b>Independent Co-opted Member</b>	Mrs J Guy

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

#### Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
P Godden	- Head of Corporate Development, Northumbria Police

#### Gateshead Council

S Ramsey	- Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors K Webster (Newcastle City Council), T Mulvenna (North Tyneside Council), R Moore and J Riddle (Northumberland County Council) and M Mordey (Sunderland City Council).

### 30. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 September 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to Minute 24 being amended as follows: Although there had been an increase in the conviction rate, this had reduced to 53% in recent months and the force was below the national position of 63.8%.

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

Further to Minute 23, details seeking applicants for the Independent Members positions on the Police and Crime Panel are to be placed in the local press and on Constituent Councils' websites and circulated to relevant partners, organisations and individuals who might be interested in applying in the near future.

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

The report of the Conference for Police Fire and Crime Panels and the notes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels held on 19 November 2019 were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

### **33. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

The PCC's draft annual report 2018-19 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 is 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 report covers the previous PCC's last year in post and the current PCC's views on the year ahead.

The PCC's 2017-21 police and crime plan was launched 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 suggestion for the annual report:-

Rural and wildlife crime – the partnership working mentioned should be made clearer.

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 2018/19, subject to the suggestion outlined above.

### **34. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS REPORT/KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER**

The PCC presented her progress report/key issues in the next quarter to the Panel which covered the following:-

Launching the Violence Reduction Unit  
Police Recruitment  
Police Funding

Standing up to Domestic Abuse  
Supporting Victims  
Complaints  
Priorities for the next quarter  
Keeping in contact  
Out and about – groups she has met and visits made

The Panel raised the following issues:

It was asked if there were clear criteria and method for measuring outcomes for the Home Office funding for the Violence Reduction Unit project in Northumbria. The PCC replied that as the project develops, it is hoped that more detail will become available on what is needed to improve peoples' lives in the area in addition to the criteria set by Government.

It was asked if consideration had been given to encourage more women and the BAME community to apply to become police officers. The PCC replied that a focused approach including a series of events and pre-application assistance had been taken and it was important that this is maintained to ensure that the force reflects the make up of its area population.

RESOLVED – (i) That the information be noted.  
(ii) That an update on the allocation of the supporting victims fund be submitted.

### **35. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019: TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE**

The Panel considered the key performance areas, crime tables at force and local authority level and an overview of the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) relating to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan for July to September 2019.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The request that percentage figures be included for all the information for the putting victims first objective was agreed.

It was commented that the new report format was better and more concise. The video made to encourage people if they see something to report it to the police was very good and the increase in vehicle crime should be looked at. The PCC replied that as part of Operation Cloak, officers in the night time economy looked for people showing signs of vulnerability and those who might look to take advantage of this vulnerability. The Operation had been well accepted. The increase in vehicle crime was to be addressed.

Further details regarding first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System was requested. The PCC replied that they were predominantly young males. The number of first time entrants is high and this could be used to measure the success of the violence reduction programme. Further information will be provided.

The number of reported domestic abuse incidents has continued to increase but the conviction rate is down. The PCC replied that this was mainly due to the delay in cases going to Court. She was working with the Local Criminal Justice Board to try and address this and the Crown Prosecution Service was to be involved.

In regard to the HMICFRS spotlight report: shining a light on betrayal, it was confirmed that the force complied with the national guidance on vetting and the new processes introduced had addressed the backlog.

With reference to the PEEL annual inspection recommendation that efficiency required improvement, the PCC reported that an action plan had been agreed and there was a lot of work underway to address the identified issues.

It was agreed that the report that 100% of emergency calls being answered on average within 10 seconds lacks clarity and was to be looked at.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

### **36. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2019**

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 between September - December 2019 was submitted. No complaints against the PCC had been received.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

### **37. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS 2020/21**

The PCC reported that she had not received any settlement details or guidance from the Government for her to consider her proposed precept for policing in Northumbria for 2020/21. The public need to have a properly funded force so that the costs are not passed on to the most vulnerable.

The Panel was concerned about the delay as it must review the proposed precept and make a report to PCC on it by 8 February 2020.

The Home Office had stated that it was aware of the timescales involved.

It was commented that the funding for policing should not be on an annual basis as this makes it difficult to tackle long term policing issues. The PCC was to lobby the Policing Minister for change and improvements to the current policing funding arrangements.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

### **38. THEMED TOPICS**

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

(a) 101 service, including a Members' visit to the force communications centre

- (b) Knife and violent crime
- (c) Mental health, homelessness and begging and their impact on the Police and Local Authorities
- (d) Perception of anti-social behaviour in local communities
- (e) Provision of better equipment for police officers
- (f) Hate crime
- (g) Effective partnerships – working with other agencies

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That (a) above be agreed and a Members' visit to the force communications centre be arranged.
  - (ii) That (b) above be agreed as the themed topic for the Panel's meeting on 17 March 2020.
  - (iii) That (c) above be agreed as the themed topic for the Panel's meeting in June 2020.

**39. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 4 February 2020 at 3.00pm