



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

20 January 2022

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillor A Douglas (Chair)
Newcastle City Council	Councillor D Wood
Northumberland County Council	Councillor C Hardcastle
South Tyneside Council	Councillors E Gibson and J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Members	Mr J Klajn and Mr A Shepherd

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
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
S Stewart	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors C Penny-Evans (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis (North Tyneside Council) and D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council)

22. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Councillor G Stewart has replaced Councillor C Dunbar as a representative of Northumberland County Council on the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

24. MATTERS ARISING

It was queried whether it would be possible to have some comparable data in respect of the Police and Crime Plan. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner advised they would look at this and determine what would be available and comparable.

25. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Councillor J Welsh advised that she attended the National Association of Police and Crime Panels Annual Conference and that it was a little bit strange. Councillor Welsh was unable to attend all of the events as she took ill. She advised that she did not get the value from it that she usually had in previous years.

Councillor Welsh is still a member of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels Executive Committee.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

26. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

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 October - December 2021 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

27. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – IMPROVING LIVES

The PCC submitted a thematic report on improving lives setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities support for victims and tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence in the Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

Ruth Durham gave a presentation on the commissioning of victims services which included: the role of victims services, impact, core victim service, specialist services, accountability and service improvement, bringing the impact to life and commissioning cycle.

The PCC also reported on the work being done in Northumbria around violence against women and girls and the Safer Transport Northumbria App that has been launched which can be used very discreetly if a woman or girl is concerned about their safety.

Concerns have been raised about the 101 and 999 call waiting times. There are a number of reasons. This issue is being monitored weekly and 50 new call handlers are being recruited and it is firmly on the radar of the PCC.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The Panel felt that the lateness of the settlement and the fact that it is only a yearly settlement is unacceptable. It was noted that the PCC has committed and given reassurance to the organisations that they commission and will do everything to provide funding for the three years but it is very difficult.

It was queried whether the team provides protection for victims, in particular those who are stalked or have regular damage to property.

It was noted that some victims may receive long term support and this is also one of the reasons that the team work hand in hand with the police. Nine out of ten offenders are getting away with their offending and getting victims to Court is difficult or they decide they do not want to proceed to Court. This is also the reason for the increase in body worn camera footage so if the police think the perpetrator is guilty, they can use other evidence and this reduces the barriers to prosecution.

It was also noted that Court waiting times were an issue before Covid but are not even more of an issue.

It was also noted that the support workers are commissioned by the PCC to support the victim, whilst everyone wants to see the perpetrator in Court, if the victim does not want to go to Court that has to be okay.

The work on the 101 and 999 issues which have been raised was welcomed.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

28. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS 2022/23

Mike Tait, the PCC's Chief Finance Officer, gave a verbal presentation. The Panel were advised that the document is being finalised and a paper will be circulated for the budget meeting on 1 February 2022. There is to be a Regional Crime Unit meeting tomorrow with the PCCs. Final figures have not yet been confirmed and times remain challenging.

The work on the Police Funding Formula is gathering pace and it is something which will need to be considered over the next twelve months. There is no news on when this will need to be implemented.

Northumbria will be getting a share of the 20,000 new officers. It would be better to have a three year settlement to manage the budget rather than short term one off funding amounts.

It was noted that with regard to the funding formula, Northumbria will put in a robust submission as to what the force needs.

The Panel was advised that Mike is retiring and the Panel will, therefore, need to hold a confirmation hearing for a new Chief Finance Officer.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 2.00pm.