



## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Virtual Meeting held on 11 August 2020**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas (Chair) and S Hawkins
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillors C Penny-Evans and K Webster
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors J Mole and T Mulvenna
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillor M Swinburn
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor M Mordey
<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
R Durham	- Chief of Staff and Monitoring officer
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
Superintendent K Wilson	- Northumbria Police

#### **Gateshead Council**

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council) and J Riddle (Northumberland County Council)

### **10. MINUTES**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

### **11. THEMED REPORT – HATE CRIME**

Further to Minute 8 – 2020/21, Superintendent Wilson, Northumbria Police, provided an update on hate crime performance and highlighted areas of good practice.

The force continually monitors hate crime performance and the hate crime action plan.

Hate crime and incidents continue to rise increasing by 9% in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19. There have been increases in Northumberland (29%), South Tyneside (27%), North Tyneside (25%), Gateshead (17%), and Sunderland (3%). Newcastle has decreased by 4%.

Hate crimes targeted at disability has increased by 44% compared to 14% nationally. Increases in sexual orientation (17%), faith motivated hate crime (5%) and racial offences (2%) are in line or below the national picture for 2018-19.

The force had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest number of hate crimes per 10,000 populations in England and Wales (18.7 compared to 17 nationally).

The greatest proportion of hate crimes in Northumbria in 2019-20 are related to public disorder (60%), violence against the person (16%) and harassment offences (14%).

8% of all hate crime in 2019/20 was committed online compared to 4% in 2018/19. Harassment and public order offences committed online included: disability hate crimes (17%), transphobic (18%) and against a person's sexual orientation (9%). In response, the community engagement teams are providing crime prevention advice to community groups who are potential victims of online crime.

The positive disposal rate for hate crimes has remained at 13%. The conviction rate is 86%, above the national picture of 85%.

At force level, hate crime victim satisfaction with the whole experience of service has decreased in the 12 months to February 2020, from 84.9% to 82.5%. This performance is monitored by the local policing board. Actions are in place under the hate crime action plan to address this with training planned for all frontline staff.

The force continues to drive awareness of hate crime, ensuring visibility at community events eg Pride and Hate Crime Awareness week.

Community Engagement Teams continue to work alongside community groups and partners building trust and confidence and addressing any hate crime concerns. Significant engagement has been undertaken throughout the pandemic due to targeting of the Chinese community.

The hate crime workplace champions scheme was in the process of being delivered to private and public sector organisations to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of hate crime prior to Covid 19. It is supported by the PCC and the Home Office and has received very positive feedback from agencies involved.

Hate crime tension monitoring groups are now embedded across the six Councils. This ensures a partnership approach with statutory and third sector agencies to increase intelligence and seek to prevent hate crime occurring.

There is ongoing work alongside the Crown Prosecution Service, Victims First Northumbria and third sector agencies to enhance support for hate crime victims and improve satisfaction for victims involved in the Criminal Justice System.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was asked how the force considered that the increase in hate crime offences was positive because of increased confidence to report offences and not that there had been an increase in the number of hate crime offences being committed. It was acknowledged that the force had done a lot of work but it had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest number of hate crimes per 10,000 populations in England and Wales compared to 7<sup>th</sup> in 2018/19. Also, the hate crime victim satisfaction with the whole experience of service had decreased from 84.9% to 82.5% up to February 2020. It was replied that through the partnership approach with the six Council groups and the force's community engagement teams, there was greater engagement with community groups, etc with honest feedback that was not data driven. The force was working to reduce and prevent hate crime offences. Also, the force contacts reported hate crime victims within 72 hours, there is a low drop off rate and it is improving victim follow up under the new force operating model to hopefully improve victim satisfaction levels.

The PCC thanked the force for its good work and good community relations. The six Councils had been very supportive and the Violence Reduction Unit was looking at prevention schemes. Feedback to victims was an issue that should be focused on.

RESOLVED - (i) That the information be noted.

(ii) That the following themed topics for future meetings be agreed:-

20 October 2020 – perception of anti-social behaviour in local communities

8 December 2020 – provision of better equipment for police officers

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

The National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels' findings of the Police Fire and Crime Panel survey were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

## **13. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER REVIEW**

The Government is launching a review of the Police and Crime Commissioner Model. The terms of reference of the review, stakeholder briefing and key research questions were submitted. The Local Government Association is to submit a response to the review and is seeking comments, suggestions and evidence from all Panels on any issues.

RESOLVED – That a Member's Focus Group be set up to consider the Panel's response to the Government's review of the Police and Crime Commissioner Model.

**14. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – APRIL TO JULY 2020**

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 April to July 2020 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

**15. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20**

The PCC's draft annual report 2019-20 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 PCC's 2017-21 police and crime plan was launched in April 2017 by the previous PCC. The draft annual report includes progress on the plan and the current PCC's key priority issues since July 2019.

The annual report will be distributed online and available on the PCC's website.

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

Anti-social behaviour had reduced during lock down but it was increasing again with loud music and people drinking outside of houses which the police were aware of.

It was suggested that in the section over the last 12 months, it should be included that people feel more confident in reporting crimes to the police and the reasons why.

Also, the typing errors in the report should be corrected and abbreviations used eg. NHP team should be more clearly explained.

The annual report was user friendly and well laid out and should be distributed more widely through social media. It was replied that the distribution of the annual report would predominantly be digital using newspaper and media channels and social media. The PCC will be unable to distribute hard copies of the annual report in community buildings, doctors' surgeries, etc as done in previous years.

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 2019/20, subject to the suggestions outlined above.

Mrs Guy declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in the above matter because she is a Trustee of Victims First Northumbria.

## **16. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER REPORT**

The PCC presented her report which covered the following:-

Violence Reduction Unit  
Recruitment  
Tackling burglary  
Improving lives  
Protecting Places of Worship  
Independent Sexual Violence Advisors  
Independent Custody Visitors  
Developing the coronavirus response  
Supporting victims of domestic abuse  
Review of PCCs

The Panel raised the following issues:

It was agreed that Violence Reduction Units needed longer term funding certainty in order for them to continue to be effective and it was hoped that the representations to the Government would be successful.

It was disappointing that the force's crime reduction plans in its recent bid to the Government's £25m Safer Streets fund, including burglary prevention funding to support households in Hendon, had been unsuccessful. The PCC had written to the Policing Minister as she was not happy with the decision made.

It was asked if more funding in some areas to support victims of domestic abuse was needed. It was replied that an increase in funding was needed in all areas. The two successful bids for additional funding had been used to help new and currently commissioned services and organisations as outlined during the current pandemic. Work continued throughout the force area to tackle domestic abuse and identify new and innovative ways to do this

RESOLVED – (i) That the information be noted.  
(ii) That the PCC's letter to the Policing Minister and the response received be sent to the Panel Members.

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

Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 2.00pm