



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

13 December 2022

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillor A Douglas (Chair)
Newcastle City Council	Councillor J Sathian
North Tyneside Council	Councillor C Johnson
Northumberland County Council	Councillors C Horncastle and G Stewart
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Co-opted Member	Mr J Klajn

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
R Snaith	- Director of Commissioning and Policy
K Laing	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

A Simmons-Mather	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors P Maughan (Gateshead Council), K Robinson (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis (North Tyneside Council), J Foreman and J Welsh (South Tyneside Council) and C Rowntree (Sunderland City Council)

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

23. APPOINTMENT PANEL FOR AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE PANEL

The Panel received the minutes of the meeting of the above Panel held on

5 December 2022. The Panel recommended that Kami Kundi be appointed as an Independent Member of the Panel.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Minutes of the Appointment Panel held on 5 December 2022 be agreed.
 - (ii) That Kami Kundi be appointed as an Independent Member of the Panel until the PCC elections in May 2024.

24. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

There were no national and regional events reported.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

25. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

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 - November 2022 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

26. 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.

The PCC emphasised how important the work supporting victims was and the systems in place needed to be on their side. There had been some horrific crimes and she outlined the work that was being undertaken in the area. The force still had over 400 less officers than it had in 2010. Northumbria has the lowest precept in the country and there were significant financial pressures because of the rising inflation. Greater Government investment in public services was needed.

Rachel Snaith gave a presentation on Victims' commissioning impact so far this year, Victims' Champions, Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioning Forum, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and Safer Streets Fund Round 4.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

There were a lot of important work and projects being undertaken by the PCC and the community safety partnerships which the police officers and police community support officers had very limited knowledge about. The PCC replied that the officers build up intelligence and awareness of their local areas and the context of the police and crime plan but were not expected to be aware of the strategic issues discussed at the Panel meetings, etc.

The proposals for a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) would be a great improvement. The PCC replied that the victims needed to feel safe and supported after what had happened to them and in their drive towards getting justice.

Hate crime remained high but this was because of the increased confidence of victims to report this to the police. Hate crime was unacceptable, support was provided to victims and there were specialist officers in the engagement teams to help address these issues. Campaigns have focused on reducing hate crime and young people have received hate crime awareness sessions.

The PCC was working with the police, Councils and others to tackle anti-social behaviour and was listening to residents to see how progress could be made together.

The funds from the recovery and confiscation of proceeds from criminal activities were reinvested back into the community with grants of up to £5,000 available for projects to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and violence and there had been some good results.

The issue of young people getting home safely from work was raised. There were some good Council projects which could be extended to other areas

The HALO project and the SARC were good examples of what can be achieved when all stakeholders, etc worked together to provide support to victims. An explanation of the process for victims to access services was given.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

27. BUDGET SETTING PROCESS 2022/23

Kevin Laing, the PCC's Chief Finance Officer, gave a verbal presentation on financial planning 2023/24, budget setting/business planning process, Autumn Statement 2022, precept consultation 2023/24, budget setting timeline and medium term financial plans.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

Concern was raised at the lateness of the Government's settlement announcement and that it would only be for one year even though there was a four year Police and Crime Plan. The settlement also needed to take into account the increased costs due to the rising inflation.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 2.00pm.