



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

12 September 2023

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
Newcastle City Council	Councillor Sathian
North Tyneside Council	Councillor T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillors C Horncastle and G Stewart
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent 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

Gateshead Council

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

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

9. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

It was clarified that Councillor Foreman remained as a representative of South Tyneside Council on the Panel although Councillor Ellison was currently covering some of his duties.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

11. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

There were no national and regional events reported.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

12. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – APRIL – AUGUST 2023

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 April - August 2023 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

13. 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 had written to the Home Secretary after being informed that the Home Office will no longer be funding two existing key projects. The first project Operation Cloak proactively targets men who seek to take advantage of women in vulnerable situations in the Night Time Economy. In the last 12 months, there have been 700 patrols, 821 policing interventions and 62 arrests. The second project saw extra police, security personnel and youth workers deployed across the transport network to tackle rising ASB. Operation Princess has seen falls in theft offences (78%) and public order (68%) on key sections of the Metro network. The PCC should be allowed to invest where there is proven success, based on local needs. There was too much reliance upon one-off funding announcements in which Government ministers decide what is best for people living hundreds of miles away. The Home Secretary was asked to reverse the decision not to fund existing Safer Streets projects.

The cuts in mental health services had impacted on the police as it was tying up a lot of the force's resources. There had been an alarming rise in concerns and incidents and mental health professionals were needed not the police. Specialist 999 contact centre staff were being trained to help alleviate the pressure but this was not a long-term solution.

Rachel Snaith gave a presentation which included: introducing our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-25, Priority 1: Prioritising Prevention, Priority 2: Supporting Victims-Survivors, Priority 3: Action Against Perpetrators, Priority 4: Creating Stronger Systems.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was considered that the Government was being very short sighted in taking away the funding for the very successful women's safety projects. The Panel supported the PCC's request to the Home Secretary to fund the existing Safer Streets projects.

Women and girls should not be subjected to domestic violence and exceptional work was being undertaken as part of the PCC's vital VAWG Strategy.

The rural community was interacting with the Council in Northumberland through family hubs which could be discussed with the PCC. The PCC reported that more long-term funding was required to provide the community support that was needed. The PCC has committed funding to support victim services up to the end of March 2026 to bring much needed stability to a very stretched victims services sector.

It was suggested that all businesses, organisations, schools, universities, etc should be involved. The PCC replied that the Chamber of Commerce network had been very supportive. The opportunities for women in universities, at work, etc needed to be increased. The PCC's critical action plan included, schools, workplace champions, active bystander training in a wide range of organisations, etc. A regional conference to increase the awareness of all the issues discussed for Councillors etc could be considered.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Panel will be held on Tuesday, 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

16. COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL ON THE MANAGEMENT OF UNREASONABLE COMPLAINTS BEHAVIOUR (Paragraph 1)

RESOLVED - That the second stage of the above Protocol be invoked in regard to the case outlined.