



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

24 October 2023

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
Newcastle City Council	Councillors P Lovatt and J Sathian
North Tyneside Council	Councillor T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillor G Stewart
South Tyneside Council	Councillor J Welsh
Sunderland City Council	Councillors S Laws and P Stewart

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
K Laing	- Chief Finance Officer

Gateshead Council

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors C Burdis (North Tyneside Council), C Horncastle (Northumberland County Council), J Foreman (South Tyneside Council), C Rowntree (Sunderland City Council) and Mr J Klajn and Mr K Kundi

17. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

Councillor P Lovatt has replaced Councillor K Robinson as a representative of Newcastle City Council on the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

19. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The PCC reported that further active bystander training sessions had been arranged and a leaflet was distributed. Members should inform their colleagues about the training.

20. 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 – SEPTEMBER 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 in September 2023 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

13. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – FIGHTING CRIME

The PCC submitted a thematic report on fighting crime setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

The PCC reported that the force had arrested 660 wanted suspects since August 2023. Through focused operations, the force has targeted drug dealers, manufacturers and county lines with 60 arrests and £40,000 of drugs recovered. The force has obtained authorisation for the use of drones and officers were currently receiving the required training. The drones will be deployed at incidents, etc in the near future.

Some 134 new police officers had now been deployed in the neighbourhood teams to undertake a range of duties in their local areas.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The indicator for the serious violence offences in the report was to be amended to show a decrease after this had been pointed out.

Scrambler and e bikes were causing problems in many areas and residents were asked to report details of where they were coming from to help identify them. The PCC replied that this was a national issue. The use of drones will be operational from the end of November and further details of the motorbike anti-social behaviour

unit will be provided. Incidents can be reported to 101, online, by e mail and to Crimestoppers. The police seize and crush a lot of bikes and it was suggested that this should be reported to the public to show that the police were taking action.

The PCC explained the preventative work and the campaigns being undertaken in regard to knife crime. Over 30,000 young people taken part in the knife crime awareness sessions and there had been a lot of work in schools with drama groups, virtual reality interaction and discussions on including it in the education programme. The families of victims of knife crime also tell their story about the human cost of knife crime. The knife angel, made from knives returned in a knife amnesty, which had a powerful impact on making people think about knife crime was to return to the force area next year.

The new police officers deployed in the neighbourhood teams were welcomed by the Members. The PCC pointed out that the force still had some 400 officers less than it had in 2010.

The police were commended for the action and arrests to tackle anti-social behaviour in a ward in Sunderland which had been explained to residents by the police and a public meeting. It would be good to see more of this.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the information be noted.
 - (ii) That a senior police officer give a presentation on the force's operations and activities at a future meeting.

14. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The PCC's draft annual report 2022-23 was presented. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 specified 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 was 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 2021-25 Police and Crime Plan was launched in 2021 and was refreshed on an annual basis and progress towards the Plan was reflected in the annual report.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was suggested that further details to inform the public of the work being undertaken to tackle motorbike anti-social behaviour including the number of bikes seized and crushed could be included.

Members should submit any further comments they may have on the draft annual report to the PCC by 31 October 2023.

- RESOLVED -
- That the PCC be advised that in accordance with Section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel made the indicated suggestion and agreed with the format and content of the draft annual report 2022-23.

15. MEMBER'S VISIT TO THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE, PONTELAND

The PCC reported that, as previously agreed, Member visits to the Northumbria Police Communications Centre, Ponteland had been arranged for 25 October and 13 November 2023.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the information be noted.
 - (ii) That Councillor Laws and Councillor Lovett be provided with details of the visits.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Panel will be held on Tuesday, 13 December 2023 at 2.00pm.