

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013  
AT 10.30 AM**

**Present**

**North Somerset Council**

Councillor Nigel Ashton (Chairman), Councillor Roz Willis

**Mendip District Council**

Councillor John Parham

**Bristol City Council**

Councillor Pete Levy

Councillor Doug Naysmith

**Taunton Deane District Council**

Councillor Mark Edwards

**Sedgemoor District Council**

Councillor John Swayne

**South Somerset District Council**

Councillor Tony Lock

**Bath and North East Somerset Council**

Councillor Lisa Brett, Councillor Francine Haeberling

**South Gloucestershire Council**

Councillor Mike Drew

**Independent Members**

Rosa Hui

Roger Kinsman

Brenda Steel

**Officers Present:**

Ian Pagan – Lead Officer Bristol CC

Patricia Jones – Clerk to the Panel, Bristol CC

Sue Mountstevens – Police and Crime Commissioner

John Smith – Chief Executive OPCC

Joanna Coulon – Head of Criminal Justice, Youth and Health Partnerships OPCC

**PCP**

**49.3/12**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wallace and Councillor Lovell.

**PCP**

**50.3/13**

**MINUTES – AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME  
PANEL – 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013.**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel held on the rise of the Confirmation Hearing on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**PCP**

**51.3/13**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

David Redgewell highlighted the on-going good work carried out by the Transport Police in protecting the public transport network. He emphasised the importance of tackling the force-wide issue of hate crime and its effect on LGB, BME and other minority groups. Mr Redgewell welcomed the new working relationship with the Commissioner.

**PCP**

**52.3/13**

**COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE**

The Panel noted the Commissioner's briefing note circulated in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**PCP**

**53.3/13**

**CONSULTATION ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The Panel received a report (agenda item 6) relating to the consultation on the Police and Crime Plan.

Below is a summary of the key points made and the ensuing discussion:-

- The Panel would like to have been seen the actual feedback/data arising from the consultation given the draft plan

was based on this – evidence of who was consulted, what they said and how this was reflected in the plan. It was suggested a more collaborative approach should have been adopted, with input from the Constabulary.

- The Commissioner stated that discussions with the Constabulary had taken place. However the legislation required her to take responsibility for the strategic plan, as opposed to the District Plans which were the result of a joint piece of work with the District Commanders. The Commissioner confirmed that consultation had been carried out using a range of methods and it was felt that the plan summarised the mechanisms and data used to formulate the plan. The Commissioner would be happy to share more specific consultation data with the Panel as the year progressed.

**RESOLVED - (1) that the report be noted.**

**(2) that specific consultation data be shared with Panel in the future.**

**PCP**

**54.3/13**

## **REVIEW OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The Panel considered a report (agenda item 7) on the development of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

Below is a summary of the comments and issues raised by Panel:-

- The plan lacks detail in relation to basic policing, assurance, and the ability to deal with emergency situations.
- The Panel would welcome the Chief Constable's comments and thoughts on the objectives contained in the plan.
- A statement on those areas not considered priorities would be useful.
- ASB was massively under-reported, for fear of reprisal or because the public lack faith in what the police can do. It was acknowledged that the plan aims to improve public satisfaction with how anti-social behaviour is dealt with, but the plan did not say how it will be reduced. This should be evidenced to instil confidence in what is being said. There should be specific

information in the relevant section of the Plan including contact details for reporting incidents of ASB and a dedicated telephone number.

- PCSOs were losing their effectiveness because the 3 year ringfence was no longer implemented and their knowledge of local areas and offenders was being diminished. Serious consideration should be given to giving PCSOs a power of arrest and a promotional structure. Increasing the number of warranted officers on the streets should also be considered so there was less reliance on PCSOs. The Commissioner should continue her discussions with the Chief Constable regarding these operational issues.
- Women and children were often the victims of organised and hidden crime in BME communities – human trafficking and abuses of women. Developing a good relationship with community leaders was key.
- Domestic Violence – overly gender specific. The plan could go further to acknowledge that abuse can happen between people of all ages, cultures, sexual orientation, religion and classes. Add a statement to encourage victims to come forward.
- Whilst appreciating that women and children were disproportionately affected, the word “victims” was potentially more appropriate in the section on tackling domestic and sexual violence.
- A commitment to listening to the “quiet voices” when victims services were commissioned next year.
- There was no reference to all pervasive IT crime.
- A reference to Street Pastors could usefully be included at page 33 of the plan.
- Hate crime – requires a specific category. There is no mention of crimes motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person because of their disability, gender-identity, race, religion or faith and sexual orientation. How can it be communicated to the public that services are available ?
- The plan should provide information on collaborative approaches - Constabulary and cross border, and instances when

responsibilities are being shared with the voluntary sector and partner organisations.

- The plan should include a reference to the other key personnel to give both the Commissioner and the Constabulary greater identity. The document should include details of the name, role and function of the Chief Constable. It should also include job titles and very brief description of roles and contact details of leads in the Commissioner's Office, of Police District Commanders and local champions.
- District Plans - accessibility was a potential issue in terms of some of the colours used.
- Reoffending had been given a light touch in the plan. More emphasis on reducing the reoffending rate.

The Commissioner placed on record her appreciation of what had been achieved by her team in the timeframe available. In addition to the strategic plan required by law, six District Plans had also been produced to in recognition of the complex and diverse composition of the force area, and relative differences in the issues faced by different local communities. The process had started late November involving the strategic leadership group and key practitioners across the force. A series of working groups had developed from this to advance the different aspects of the plan. Measures and targets were carefully determined and consideration given to performance outcomes to make benchmarking against other forces possible.

**RESOLVED - (1) that the report be noted.**

**(2) that that Panel writes to the Commissioner to outline the recommendations for formal response.**

**PCP  
55.3/13**

## **COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Panel considered a standing complaints report from the OPCC that provided an oversight of all complaints made against the Commissioner to date (agenda item no. 8).

**RESOLVED - that the report be noted.**

**PCP**

**56.3/13**

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel noted the updates Work programme and the following comments were made:-

- Training for the independent members on the role of Scrutiny and its purpose would be useful.
- The planned training session should include a session on the resources available to the Panel to strengthen their role – experts, LGA, courses etc.
- Panel members could usefully speak to their District Commanders in relation to the District Plans and how they link to the main strategic plan. This could inform the Work Programme. It was agreed that this should be co-ordinated to enable the Independent Members to participate in discussions.
- The panel would welcome feedback from the Chief Constable on the plan and his new role. The CEX agreed to ascertain a suitable time for the Chief Constable to attend a Panel meeting.
- Meeting dates for next year should be fixed as soon as possible.

Councillor Lock stated that the Panel's direction of travel in terms of the Work Programme was unclear.

**RESOLVED - that the Work Programme be noted.**

**PCP**

**57.3/13**

## **ISSUES RAISED BY PANEL MEMBERS**

Councillor Levy stated that notwithstanding the recent positive indications around PCSOs and recruitment, turnover in staff remained an issue. He added that a firm indication as to whether front line policing would be maintained should also be sought.

Councillor Levy suggested that the Commissioner's on-line events diary should also include the dates when she was unavailable.

The Panel decided that an invitation should not be extended to the Childrens Society to give evidence at a Panel meeting.

**PCP**

**58.3/13**

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Recommended - that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended).**

**PCP**

**59.3/13**

**COMPLAINT HEARING**

Panel Members considered a complaint escalated to the Panel for informal resolution in accordance with the Complaints Protocol.

**PCP**

**60.3/13**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 10.30am. There will also be a training session in May/June and the date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

(The meeting ended at 2.15pm)

CHAIRMAN