



Agenda Item No:7

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel

Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 11.00am

North Somerset Council Offices, Castlewood

Councillor Members Present:-

Nigel Ashton (Chairman), Richard Brown, Mike Drew, Heather Goddard, Francine Haerberling, John Swayne, Gary Hopkins, Tony Lock, Jeff Lovell, John Parham, Heather Goddard, Afzal Shah, Jane Warmington, Roz Willis.

Independent Members:-

Roger Kinsman, Andrew Sharman.

Officers in attendance:-

Patricia Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Lisa Brett and Rosa Hui.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Public Forum

The Panel heard from David Redgewell. The statement was circulated in advance of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2015

Resolved – that the Minutes of the last meeting on the 12th February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Chairman's Business

None.

6. Commissioner's Update

The Commissioner introduced the report and highlighted the following areas: -

- Lighthouse Victim Care – attention was drawn to the initial referral figures set out in the report. Consideration was being given as to how best to capture the information going forward. Significant work had been carried out by the OPCC team which had been rated as one of the most successful commissioning teams in England Wales.
- Partnership and Commissioning Update – funding decisions for Community Safety Partnerships would be evaluated in the coming weeks.
- CSE Innovation Fund Bid - outcome of the bid was expected in early March and preparations were ongoing in consultation with partners.

Below is a summary of the key issues/questions raised by Panel Members: -

- The Commissioner noted that another charity called Lighthouse was operating in Weston. The Name Lighthouse was reached after considerable consultation with victims,

- Shape Mendip – the project was progressing well but it was recognised that some delays had been experienced. The Acting Chief Constable had taken steps to resolve blockages.
- The Commissioner responded to the suggestion that detection rates were going in the wrong direction. It was noted that this area was linked to the OPCC's Review of Performance and as such was scrutinised very carefully. All figures were available on the website.
- The Commissioner noted that the Panel was interested in costings and figures around road safety cameras – what was spent and the income from each area. The Panel was advised that a more useful breakdown could be provided later in the year. The point was made that all fine income was paid to the Treasury. It was anticipated that the scheme would be cost neutral by the summer. This was considered ambitious given back office costs of £1.8 million and the costs attached to running safety courses.
- Councillor Dowding drew attention to a dangerous blind bend on the A358. Efforts to have double yellow lines laid to reduce the risk of accidents had to date proved fruitless and the Commissioner agreed to take the matter up with Richard Corrigan, the lead officer for road safety and report back.
- The Community Trigger would be formally launched on 27th April, showcasing several successfully resolved cases of ant-social behaviour and highlighting lessons learnt so far.
- It was pointed out that the Police and Crime Needs Assessment had highlighted a 5% increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Avon and Somerset's roads since 2011. This appeared to be conflict with the Police and Crime Plan where this area was described as low risk. The Commissioner stated that both statements were

true on the basis that whilst the Constabulary had the second lowest lowest rate of deaths/serious injuries, there had been an increase in accidents since 2011.

- It was reported that a large proportion of fatal accidents in Somerset involved a motorcycle. The Commissioner was aware of this and was involved in discussions with Cheddar Valley Motorcycle Group who had offered their observations and would now work with the Constabulary to address the issue. It was also noted that 400 people had been put through a national bike safety course in Castle Coombe and a number of other bike safety training courses were also available.
- It was reported that the lack of refuge provision across the Force area was impacting on the legal duty to provide a place of safety for people in immediate danger. The problems was compounded because Local Authorities and charities were no longer in a position to provide the support they once did, so compounding the problem. The Commissioner advised that additional funding was available through the DCLG Refuge Fund.
- Concerns were expressed that the Strategic Alliance with Wiltshire Constabulary was placing officers under undue pressure in a number of areas including the distances they were being required to travel. The Commissioner confirmed that this was the subject of on-going discussion and collaboration. She would not be supporting the campaign against on-going cuts during the lead up to an election.

Resolved:-

- (1) Costings and figures around road safety cameras to be provided later in the year.**
- (2) The Commissioner to report back on the A358 issue following consultation with Richard Corrigan.**

7. Review of the Police and Crime Plan

The Panel considered the Commissioner's final report of her term of office. Whilst not a statutory requirement, updates on the plan had been provided on an annual basis to take account of extensive changes year on year in terms of legislation and changing responsibilities. The plan has been informed by extensive public consultation, primarily via the Commissioner's Police and Crime Survey and local engagement activity and events, which generated 3000 contacts.

Dan Howitt introduced the report and the following key points were made: -

- the plan now included an additional strategic priority to improve road safety for all road users.
- There was now a clear Constabulary lead for Community Speed Watch and work around mobile and static enforcement cameras to reduce risks.
- With newly commissioned services, shared objectives and a greater focus on restorative justice, victims were now at the heart of the criminal justice system.
- The vision for policing over the next 2 years included a commitment to on-going modernisation and investment in technology, better integrated and co-ordinated local services and greater collaboration with other forces - a major enabler for delivering savings and providing greater resilience.
- Partnership working – the focus was now on what partners were aiming to deliver.
- The plan recognised cybercrime and safeguarding risks. The Cyber Policing Strategy would be built on and keep the Constabulary ahead of the technology and techniques used by offenders.

- Performance – the Constabulary aimed to be a top performing force nationally across all of priority areas by 2017 and make year on year improvements in the services it delivers. As part of its core policing duties, the Force was on track and had achieved “good” and “outstanding” from the HMIC PEEL Assessment. The performance framework had been expanded to support the plan and would provide broader delivery, openness and transparency.
- Accessibility for all sectors of the community was critical to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. Documents were available in audio, braille and the 9 most prevalent languages. An easy read version of the plan would also be published.
- The 9 local plans had been revised and updated and were available today. These were aimed at local communities to capture the Commissioner’s objectives in each of these areas.
- A range of partners had been extensively consulted on the plan including Safeguarding and Wellbeing Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Fire Authority.

Below is a summary of the discussion that followed: -

- The implementation of a Cyber Policing Strategy was welcomed.
- The Commissioner’s on-going commitment to Neighbourhood Policing was also well-received. However concerns were raised about the low level enforcement ability of PCSOs. The Commissioner clarified that PCSOs had now been designated with a power of detention which was the key concern for local communities. Any additional powers such as the ability to issue fixed penalty notices matter for the Constabulary.

- There was a discussion around 101 and 999 calls and the circumstances that would classify as an emergency. It was noted that a stolen vehicle or property damage would no longer an emergency call unless the act was on-going as the call was made.
- The Commissioner was commended for the HMIC assessment of the Force as “outstanding” in delivering a value for money service.
- It was suggested there was now an opportunity to expand following the £16 million in procurement savings achieved through Southwest One.
- Appropriate training for PCSOs was emphasised. PCSOs were specifically concerned about their first line accident response role in relation to the A303.
- It was felt that the loss of 600 officers since 2010 was impacting on efforts to promote the visibility of the Force, and that confidence could be increased by promoting the other area of the Force which was operating in plain clothes in unmarked vehicles. It was accepted that increased visibility had a positive impact on public confidence but recognised that the allocation of resources involved difficult decisions.
- The Commissioner was thanked for her response to crimes involving the business community. It was reported that a spike in shoplifting was placing additional demands on already overstretched officers. The Panel would like to see a more of a focussed strategy to partnership working in terms of business crime.

RESOLVED :-

- (1) that the report be noted.**
- (2) the Commissioner to consult with the Constabulary in relation to the areas of concern raised by the Panel.**

8. Work Programme

The Panel noted the updated Work Programme.

RESOLVED – that future dates for Panel Meetings in 2015/16 be circulated following the May elections.

9. Link Member reports

Councillor Willis updated the Panel on her voluntary sector role. It was reported that the charter used by the OPCC to shape the major commissioning work carried out in the sector would now be recognised with an award from the Cabinet Officer in relation to the areas of best practice developed as part of this work.

10. Cybercrime Presentation

The Panel received a detailed and informative presentation on Cybercrime from Superintendent Sue Scott. A copy of the presentation material was circulated after the meeting.

The presentation enabled the Panel to make an assessment of the individuals and groups most at risk, the areas being exploited by criminals and the training provided to officers. It was agreed that this overview would inform the areas the Panel would like to look at in more detail at a future meeting.

Councillor Parham reported that since the last meeting and following his appointment as the Panel's Cybercrime Link Member, local research indicated that people were most affected by the following areas: -

- Phising
- Credit and debit card cloning
- Identity theft
- Buying stolen property on-line
- Unroadworthy vehicles.

- Grooming
- Wedding/money scams
- Business fraud.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the presentation be noted.**
- (2) that the presentation and Councillor Parham's work as link member should inform the areas the Panel looks at in more detail at a future meeting.**

11. Standing Complaints Report

The Panel considered and noted a report of the Chief Executive (OPCC) providing an oversight of all complaints made against the Commissioner.

It was agreed that the dip sampling of files would continue when an appropriate complaint was lodged.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the dip sampling of files would continue when an appropriate complaint was lodged.**

12. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved - 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).**

13. Panel Briefing – Service Delivery Assurance

(Exempt Paragraph 7 – Information relating to an action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime)

The Panel received a briefing from the Commissioner in relation to service delivery, including the work undertaken to improve the service provided to vulnerable individuals.

It was reported that holding a series of Service Delivery Assurance sessions would be held to 'check and test' the police response in the 3 Local Policing Areas to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

A representative of the Panel was invited to attend the three sessions being run.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the Panel nominates a representative to attend the assurances sessions.**

14. Membership

The Panel noted the forthcoming local authority elections with the exception of Somerset County.

The Panel paid tribute to Councillor Swayne, commending his work on the Panel and at Sedgemoor district Council over a number of years. He was wished every success for the future.

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10th June at 11.00am (AGM)

(the meeting ended at 1.30pm)

CHAIRMAN