



**Agenda Item No:4**

**Bristol City Council**

**Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 11.00am**

North Somerset Council's Castlewood Offices, Clevedon

**Councillor Members Present:-**

Nigel Ashton (Chairman), Richard Brown, Stuart Dowding, Mike Drew, Heather Goddard, Gary Hopkins, Tony Lock, Jeff Lovell, John Parham, Jane Warmington, Roz Willis.

**Independent Members:-**

Rosa Hui, Andrew Sharman.

**Officers in attendance:-**

Shana Johnson, Patricia Jones and Tim Borrett

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Francine Haeberling and Roger Kinsman.

**2. Public Forum**

The Panel heard from David Redgewell. The statement was circulated in advance of the meeting and a copy placed in the Minute Book.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**Resolved – that the Minutes of the last meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

#### **4. Introduction to Acting Chief Constable John Long**

The Acting Chief Constable (JL) reported as follows to the Panel:-

- The Panel was briefed on the current Chief Officer Group arrangements, including the appointment of Gareth Morgan as Interim Deputy Chief Constable. It was confirmed that the team was now up to full strength.
- JL was particularly conscious of the projected deficit of £15 million in 2015/16 and the challenges this would bring.
- The emerging operating model for the Constabulary was evidence and resource driven and was aligned to key priorities. The revised model would be more responsive to the needs of local people as well as deliver required savings. It had been positively commented upon by HMIC. £8.7 million in savings were anticipated from the deployment of response control resources.
- Front line policing would remain protected and there remained a commitment to the neighbourhood style of community policing and the gains made by PCSOs and neighbourhood officers. Numbers remained constant across most policing areas.
- The aim was to make the force the most modern organisation it could be with a viable estates strategy and the embedding of new technologies across the organisation.
- The Panel was updated on the badger cull conducted over the summer (Operation Harlech). Defra had reported that the aims of the cull had been met.
- The Home Office was looking to Constabularies to review how the tactic of Stop and Search was used. The arrest

rate resulting from Stop and Search was currently 7%. In future, the approach of stop and search would be intelligence led and used only in limited circumstances. Body worn video equipment would assist with keeping the process transparent. Efforts had been made to establish community expectations with help from a young film maker in St Pauls.

- An academic report had been commissioned from UWE to improve the recruitment process and attract diversity to the service. The hope was that the Constabulary would continue recruiting for the years ahead.

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

- Asked about the roles and responsibilities of partners and other agencies arising from the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, JL stated that the best policing resulted from collaborative working. His view was that there would be opportunity to continue in this way with neighbourhood policing allowing the Police to prioritise and respond to local needs.
- JL was asked to comment on the allocation of neighbourhood officers to rural and semi-rural areas, specifically Somerset where a reported gap of 19 officers existed. JL confirmed that a significant report on allocation of resources had been undertaken and an evidence based approach adopted by aligning officers to demand. It was confirmed that all vacancies that existed last year had been filled.
- The size of rural beats and the perception of crime in these areas were discussed. It was noted that recent transport solutions and mobile devices would improve the dynamic between patrols and members of the community, making officers more visible more of the time.

- The sensitivities around the use of body worn video equipment were acknowledged. It was reported that the Commissioner had engaged with regional colleagues on best practice. There was clear governance around its use and the storage of the related film material and this fed into the criminal justice system.
- It was recognised that PCSOs were a contributing factor to the success of neighbourhood policing. It was confirmed that a proportionate number would be kept across the force area but the resource was unlikely to extend beyond that. There were no plans to fill any gaps created by local authority cuts.
- Rosa Hui highlighted on-going issues/intimidation experienced by the Chinese community and new immigrants. JL confirmed that the Constabulary was engaging with these specific areas of concern.
- There had been a range of events and face to face contact with staff in developing the new operating model. It was accepted that there was a degree of uncertainty about the future and that it was important that this did not translate into a drop in performance. JL was alert to the significant factors in policing nationally that were affecting the outlook of staff.
- Avon and Somerset was the national lead for the Integrated Offender Management strategy and was working alongside partners who provided the key threads to the public. The success of the strategy in addressing levels of criminality was reflected in the Constabulary's crime statistics.
- It was suggested that too much emphasis was placed on public demand for officer visibility and reassurance when

most crimes were solved through off the streets by way of intelligence/investigation.

- JL was invited to look at the relationship between PCSOs and young people which was described as failing in one area. JL agreed to look at this but there was general agreement that this was not the case in other areas.

**Resolved – that the report be noted.**

## **5. Half Yearly Performance Update**

The increase in public confidence in local policing from 71% to 78.6% placed Avon and Somerset well nationally. More recent data was not yet available and it was hoped that the new operating model would make a positive difference to the remaining 22%.

It was noted that the proportion of fully resolved ASB cases had increased from 38% to 51% since the launch of the Police and Crime Plan in March 2013. This reflected a successful multi-agency approach.

Overall victim satisfaction had increased steadily throughout 2013 and the Lighthouse Integrated Victim Care Approach was driving the approach to the commissioning of services.

Reports of both domestic and sexual abuse continued to increase.

Panel members welcomed the Lighthouse approach but it was suggested that the external services being commissioned were disappointing with no specialist service for FGM or child sex exploitation. The Commissioner provided an overview of her vision and agreed to discuss the matter further with Councillor Brett outside the meeting.

It was recognised that cybercrime continued to grow. Work was being carried out both regionally and nationally and

support was available from the National Crime Agency's specialist resources. Local scams and offenders were targeted locally if possible, but perpetrators were often widespread. JL confirmed that work to address cybercrime had been incorporated into an action plan and a further report would be available in the future.

Domestic and sexual violence – detection rates bear up nationally but it was agreed that a profile/breakdown of the figures could be provided to provide assurance and identify any significant disparities in terms of the reporting, detection and prosecution of offences. It was accepted that the same level of performance could not be expected for historical cases and performance could be more usefully compared by separating these out.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) A report on cybercrime and the work underway to address to be provided to a future meeting at the appropriate time.**
- (2) Domestic and Sexual violence - a profile/breakdown of performance figures to be provided to provide assurance and/or identify any significant disparities in terms of the reporting, detection and prosecution of offences.**

## **6. Child Sexual Exploitation**

The Commissioner reported that a multi-agency review had been conducted involving the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards, clinical commissioning groups and with all LAs represented. There was general agreement that the safeguarding boards were the right place to work on this. The resulting report was with stakeholders and would be shared with the Panel when finalised.

Funding was available through Barnardo's Innovation fund to provide specialist support for victims and discussions were on-going. Commissioners across the country were also in talks with the Home Office in an effort to secure additional resources for the increased demand.

It was confirmed that the OPCC already had a mechanism in place for consulting/obtaining views from young people on a range of issues including their relationship with PCSOs.

The Commissioner agreed to report back to the Panel on the safeguards in place to ensure perpetrators/suspects did not fall off the radar when they moved out of the area.

Reference was made to Panorama's coverage of events in Rotherham. The Commissioner confirmed that the recommendations from the independent Inquiry had been acted upon in Avon and Somerset. Two key things emerging from the review were the availability of proactive victim support services and robust collaborative working across all agencies.

**Resolved -**

**(3) Multi-agency review report to be shared with the Panel when finalised.**

**(4) Report back to the Panel on the safeguards in place to ensure perpetrators/suspects were kept under review as necessary when they moved out of the area.**

## **7. Commissioners Update Report**

The Commissioner highlighted the following from her report:-

The Government continued to progress the Transforming Rehabilitation programme and the Working Links Programme was taking this area of work over in Avon and Somerset from

April 2015. A Regional Reducing Reoffending Board would provide governance and oversight of issues including transition to new services, impact on performance and partnership working.

The IPCC had completed their report following an investigation into the Constabulary's actions in the days leading up to the death of Bijan Ebrahimi in July 2013. More information could be shared when the related criminal proceedings were concluded.

The total cost of the command centre infrastructure including reactive speed cameras was £160K. It was anticipated that it would be operating on a cost neutral basis by June 2018. Any money raised by speed cameras would be used for road safety purposes only.

A floods review meeting was taking place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Policy and good practice would be developed from recent experiences.

An action plan was being developed in response to a recent Domestic Violence Scrutiny meeting.

Commissioning Services - John Smith agreed to contact Rosa Hui outside of the meeting to clarify the application form/deadlines.

Restorative Solutions had been appointed as Delivery Partner, tasked with working with partners to map, evaluate and design future victim-led restorative justice services. Work was now complete and a final report would be published alongside an Implementation Plan in the near future. The Commissioner was confident that the new Restorative Justice Development Manager together with co-ordinators across the Force area would resolve the blockages in referrals and patchy provision identified.

## **8. Establishment of a Complaints Sub-Committee**

The Panel considered a report from the Complaints Officer seeking agreement to establish a Complaints Sub-Committee.

**Resolved – that a Complaints Sub-Committee be established and the proposed Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 1 to the report be agreed.**

## **9. 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.

**Resolved – that the report be noted.**

## **10. Panel Link Member Reports**

It was noted that Councillor Swayne had provided a Business Crime update and this had been circulated to the Panel for information.

## **11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED - that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.**

## **12. COMPLAINT**

*(Exempt paragraph 1 and 2 – information relating to any individual and information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual)*

The Panel considered a complaint referred to the Panel for informal resolution.