

MINUTES of a meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held on 25 June 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

PRESENT

Councillors F Atkinson (Amber Valley Borough Council), M Bagshaw (Chesterfield Borough Council) A Barrow (High Peak Borough Council), R Bright (Derbyshire Dales District Council), V Clare (Erewash Borough Council), D Collins (Chesterfield Borough Council), J Frudd (Erewash Borough Council) C Hart (Derbyshire County Council), D McGregor (Bolsover District Council) (substitute member), J Patten (South Derbyshire District Council), P Pegg (Derby City Council), G Potter (Derby City Council), M Potts (NE Derbyshire District Council), J Smale (Derby City Council), B Woods (Derbyshire County Council) and V Newbury & Dr S Handsley (Independent Member).

Derbyshire County Council officers also in attendance: Paul Stone, (Finance & ICT) I Walters (Democratic Services) and L Wild (Legal Services).

Also in attendance: H Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner, K Gillott, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, D P Peet, Chief Executive (OPCC), A Dale, Chief Finance Officer (OPCC) and P Goodman, Chief Constable

9/20 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR RESOLVED** that V Newbury be appointed as Chair of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

V Newbury (in the Chair)

10/20 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR RESOLVED** that G Potter be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

11/20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Mee, C Moesby and P Niblock.

12/20 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 23 January 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

13/20 **MATTERS ARISING** Complaints Procedure (Minute 4/20 refers)
Following comments from members, it was confirmed that although a meeting of the working group that had been established to review the complaints procedure had been arranged, it never convened, largely due to the covid-19 situation. This would now be progressed again and those previously invited with the addition of Councillor Hart would be contacted to arrange a new date.

14/20 **COVID -19 -UPDATE** The Police and Crime Commissioner provided members with an update on the work that he and Derbyshire Constabulary had been carrying out during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members had received a copy of the detailed briefing report in advance of the meeting and an earlier briefing had been issued to members some weeks ago.

Peter Goodman, Chief Constable attended the meeting and also made comment on the work that had been undertaken during the covid-19 pandemic and praised the work of all those involved

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments which were duly noted or answered.

The Chair noted that the Chief Constable was due to retire shortly and placed on record the Panel's thanks and appreciation to Peter for his service to the Derbyshire Constabulary and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Chief Constable responded by saying that it had been a privilege to work in Derbyshire and that he had received tremendous support from a great team around him. He thanked all of his staff, the Police and Crime Commissioner and his office, and The Police and Crime Panel for the excellent working partnerships that had been established during his time in office.

RESOLVED to note the update

15/20 **MEMBER QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** Members were provided with a written response to the Police and Crime Panel to the pre-submitted questions raised by individual Panel members.

Councillor Atkinson: With Tory austerity driven cuts to Policing budgets and to other services which support our communities. in particular youth provision, would the PCC comment on the Chief Constable's remarks to the PCP at our last meeting that austerity has had a negative impact on policing in Derbyshire by giving examples of where this might be the case?

PCC Response : I have reported to the Panel previously that the cuts to policing since 2010 that formed part of the government's austerity policy has had a major impact on policing in our city and county. The Panel will be aware that Derbyshire lost approximately 450 police officers and nearly 300 police staff and, as the Chief Constable stated in his open letter dated 13th January 2020 regarding police funding, this meant that "the Constabulary has been operating at a level at which we have only been able to deliver essential service." Even the promised extra police officers, whilst needed and welcome, will not take Derbyshire Constabulary back to its pre-austerity numbers of police officers and does nothing to address the loss of PCSOs and police staff.

As well as impacting on the Forces ability to prevent and investigate crime, those cuts to police numbers affected public confidence in the police with nearly every community I visited raising the issue of the lack of police visibility and requesting a greater police presence. This is an issue that has troubled me greatly because our model of policing very much depends on the relationship between the police and the community they serve.

Austerity has also impacted on the services provided by partner agencies, often resulting in increased demand on policing. One of the most obvious areas had been cuts to children's services budgets. The loss of youth services for example, has placed greater demands on the police with the public now regularly turning to the police as the lead agency to deal with anti-social behaviour involving young people. Police officers dealing with this type of "quasi-youth work" then have less time available to deal with other demands. Another noticeable consequence has been that both principle local authorities have contributed less to their respective MASH sites, making it more difficult for meaningful information sharing and early intervention to happen.

The recent flooding incidents brought to light the extra demand placed on the police call centre by the public telephoning the police for non-policing highway emergencies when they are unable to contact their local authority out of hours. Whilst that particular instance was perhaps an extreme occurrence, other examples have also been brought to my attention.

My office has also experienced increased demand, both in terms of victim services and requests for funding, due to some partners either withdrawing or reducing their provision of services. This has included my office stepping in to take over responsibility for the commissioning of standard risk domestic abuse services in the City that would have otherwise been lost.

As you know my office runs a number of grant schemes throughout the year and I have noticed a real upturn over the course of my four years in office of the number of applications for projects delivering activities for young

people. This year for example, over fifty percent of funding requests for large grants were from organisations working with young people, many of these applications cited the loss of council youth provision as part of their rationale for seeking my funding. Whilst I have been able to support a number of these applications, I have not been able to support all of them and my funding is of a one-off nature rather than on going.

Another key issue we have faced is support for those who have mental health issues or other vulnerabilities. As I have explained to the Panel in the past this is a key priority for me as too much time is spent by our contact centre and by staff and officers dealing with issues that would be better dealt with by mental health and other professionals. In response I have driven forward the delivery of the mental health triage hub, based within our contact centre, that sees professionals from a variety of agencies working together to get the right support to those who need it. Once again, money and police time spent on plugging this gap isn't then available for use on more obvious policing activities.

It could be said that policing is a victim of its own success. It is seen as the service of last resort and is often where people turn to when they are not getting services elsewhere. However, as resources for all public services are under significant strain this impacts on the police's ability to deliver against its core functions as it is picking up the slack from elsewhere.

Councillor Potter : How many Derbyshire Constabulary Police Officers and Civilian staff are or have been employed on secondments within any organisations serving outside the Derbyshire Constabulary area since 2010?

PCC Response : There have been 60 individual officers who have been on secondment in the last 10 years.

There have been 36 Police Staff who have been on secondment. Of these 96, 16 have been seconded but have worked within the East Midlands region.

My Chief Executive is about to go on a 6 month secondment to lead on work around the policing submission for the Spending Review from the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners and National Police Chiefs' Council linking into the Home Office who will ultimately make the submission to the Treasury.

RESOLVED to note the question and answer session

16/20 **CHALLENGE TOPIC : SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS – DERBYSHIRES APPROACH** Hardyal Dhindsa, PCC, informed the Panel

of the role and function of neighbourhood policing and Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs).

Neighbourhood policing was a fundamental part of how Derbyshire Constabulary sought to keep its communities safe. There were 94 SNTs covering Derby City and Derbyshire. (Details of these were given in Appendix A to the report)

It was clear from the #D383 tour and conversations with the public that a visible neighbourhood presence provided reassurance to local communities and was greatly valued by the people of Derbyshire. The PCC's belief in the importance of neighbourhood policing had ensured it has remained a cornerstone of Derbyshire's approach at a time when neighbourhood resources had seen significant cuts in other police force areas. This neighbourhood presence was supported by other parts of policing which dealt with higher threat and risks to keep the public safe, but were less visible to the public. A good combination of the two is required to effectively 'Make Derbyshire Safer Together'.

Much of the work is based on the College of Policing's guidelines for effective neighbourhood policing which is based on seven guidelines or pillars. These were:

Engaging Communities Working with the police and crime commissioner to deliver and support neighbourhood policing and ensure it is built on effective engagement and consultation with communities.

Solving Problems Ensuring officers, staff and volunteers use structured problem solving to deal with local priorities, working collaboratively with communities and, where appropriate, private, public and voluntary sector partners.

Targeting Activity Ensuring policing activities within neighbourhoods are targeted according to the needs of different communities, taking account of threat, risk, harm and vulnerability.

Promoting the Right Culture Promoting an organisational culture that encourages the public to participate in neighbourhood policing. We will take steps to ensure that all police contact with colleagues, partners and the public seeks to build trust and is consistent with procedural justice.

Building Analytical Capability Ensuring there is sufficient analytical capacity and capability necessary for problem solving.

Developing officers, staff and volunteers Supporting and equipping officers, staff and volunteers to work in neighbourhood policing and ensure they receive learning and continuing professional development on the areas identified in these guidelines.

Developing and sharing learning Working with the College of Policing, the wider police service, partners and academia to identify and share learning about neighbourhood policing and current threats.

Over the past 18 months the force had reviewed its approach to SNTs. This was intended to consider the previous allocation of resources and determine if they met the current threat and risks faced to ensure that the investment or uplift of additional resources were placed in the right place. The force also renewed its approach to neighbourhood policing to ensure the best return on this additional investment to deliver the best outcomes for our communities.

It was important to note that whilst the delivery of SNTs was a policing response, it was heavily reliant on engagement with and support of other partners in order to make Derbyshire Safer Together. Long term sustained problem solving cannot be achieved as a single agency.

Following the increase in Council Tax precept agreed by the Panel, the PCC and Chief Constable agreed to invest in a refresh of the Operation Relentless approach to tackling volume issues within communities.

Specific areas of focus included targeting burglars, car thieves and those involved in robbery offences.

Officers had been carrying out a series of warrants, identifying handlers of stolen goods, conducting checks of scrap metal dealers and locking up suspects in a concerted effort to reduce burglary, auto crime and robbery.

SNTs would be engaging with local people to mark items and issue crime prevention advice to keep themselves, their homes and vehicles safe.

A proactive media plan was in place to inform the public about Operation Relentless activity and to share results. As part of the campaign journalists are being invited to accompany officers on a series of warrants and events to help also raise public awareness of the activity that was taking place.

The Operation would run for the next year; as part of the suite of activity, there would be the opportunity for Local Policing inspectors to bid for funding to facilitate innovative problem-solving projects to tackle issues that were a concern to local communities. These projects would be informed by

‘Derbyshire Talking’ and the ‘Derbyshire Alert Survey Tool’ which would provide an evidence base for identifying what mattered most to local communities.

In summary, Neighbourhood policing was at the heart of public confidence and feelings of safety. The force recognises this and is ensuring it develops best practice, has a sustainable partnership problem solving approach and mindset, with professionalised roles and motivated staff to deliver the best outcomes and services that it can.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments which were duly noted or answered.

RESOLVED to note the report

17/20 **ANNUAL RETURN FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020** Members were asked to consider the position regarding grant funding available to the Police and Crime Panel from the Home Office for the period of April 2019 to March 2020 and to inform members of the grant funding available for the year 2020/21.

In establishing Police and Crime Panels, the Home office agreed that funding would be available to ensure that there was a Police and Crime Panel for the police area able to carry out its scrutiny functions and responsibilities as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. A limited grant was provided on application to each Local Authority acting as the Host Authority for the provision of administrative and management support to facilitate the Panel.

The grant available does vary from year to year. For the financial year 2019-2020, the funding available is a grant of up to £67,100. The letter dated 16th August 2019 confirming the offer of the grant was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the grant agreement was attached at Appendix 2. The grant was paid upon application and a return detailing costs incurred. Usually, there was a requirement to report at the mid-point of the year as well as at the end of the financial year. However, this year, the Home Office had agreed that the return need only be provided at the end of the financial year. Details of the return for 2019-2020 were provided to the Home Office in early March and are attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

Costs claimed for panel administration included officer time in supporting and advising the Panel as well as administrative costs in respect of the production and circulation of reports (including printing and postage), the cost of meeting rooms and training. For this year costs claimed had included the training session provided by Frontline Consulting in October 2019; attendance at the National Conference for Police (fire) and Crime Panels in

November 2019; subscriptions to the regional network and the national network; and catering for the training event and meetings.

The grant could also cover member expenses and allowances. However, the Panel arrangements for the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel confirm that no allowance or expenses payments would be made by the Panel itself to councillor members and that any allowances or expenses payment which may be made to councillor members arising out of Panel Membership shall be determined and borne by the appointing council for each Panel member individually. Derbyshire County Council as the host authority reimbursed reasonable expenses to independent members provided that this is agreed as part of the annual budget approved by the Panel.

Details of the grant for the financial year 2020/2021 had now been received and a letter dated 29th May confirming a grant of up to £67,100 was attached at Appendix 4 to the report. A report regarding the formulation of a plan to maximise the use of the available funding will be brought for consideration by the Panel to the next meeting.

Members made a number of comments in relation to how the figures in the report were presented and it was agreed that these would be provided in a more easy to read format in the report to the next meeting.

Members also reiterated their comments made at previous meetings of the need for some dedicated scrutiny officer support to the panel and that some of the available grant should be used towards this

The issue of payment of allowances to the Panel's Independent members was raised and after discussion it was agreed that this would be investigated further and included in the report to the next meeting,

RESOLVED (1) to note the position regarding grant funding for the year April 2019 to March 2020;

(2) to note the funding available for the year 2020/2021;

(3) that a future report regarding the formulation of a plan to maximise the use of available funding would be brought for consideration by the Panel to the next meeting; and

(4) that this report would include details of the allowances available to the Panel's Independent Members.

18/20 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PCC** Hardyal Dhindsa, the Police and Crime Commissioner announced the following:

The recruitment process for a new Chief Constable following P Goodman's retirement had begun, with interviews scheduled for the end of July. Once an appointment was made a Confirmation Hearing of the Police and Crime Panel would be required and a date for this would be arranged by the Panel's officers.

The National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (NAPCC) and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) were actively reviewing all procedures following the impact of the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter campaign.

The next meeting of the Strategic Priorities Assurance Board was on Monday 29 June 2020 and details were available on the OPCC website

Announcements would be made shortly on the strengthening of victim support services following maximum funding being secured.

RESOLVED to note the announcements from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

19/20 **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** It was noted that the National Police and Crime Panels annual conference would be held later in the year and more details would be provided at the September meeting.

20/20 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** **RESOLVED** to note that the next meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel would take place on Thursday 10 September 2020 commencing at 10.00am