

**Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel
Planning and Performance Working Group held on 15 February 2018**

Present:

Members of the Working Group

Councillor Neil Dirveiks

Councillor Nicola Davies

Bob Malloy (Chair of the Working Group)

Warwickshire County Council

Stefan Robinson, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Rebecca Parsons, Policy and Research Officer

Neil Hewison, Chief Executive

1. General

The Panel were informed that in addition to Stefan Robinson leaving Warwickshire County Council, Rebecca Parsons would also be leaving the Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to take up a new role with West Midlands Police on 9 March 2018. All present offered their congratulations and thanks to Rebecca for her hard work in supporting the Panel and the work of the PCC.

(1) Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Andy Davis. Andy submitted a list of comments and questions in advance of the meeting which were discussed by the Working Group as set out in these minutes.

(2) Disclosures of interest

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017

With reference to the minutes, Bob Malloy asked whether the OPCC had checked with the Victim Management Unit that all Domestic Abuse cases were being followed up. Rebecca Parsons explained that this was taking place. The Chief Constable was also doing roadshows within the Force to emphasize the importance of follow up contact with victims.

The Working Group approved the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

(4) Working Group Action Log

Andy Davis had submitted a comment to the meeting concerning the request made for the challenges of future policing to be better communicated to the public. He suggested that the information was available for the public online

and in Panel reports, but that it was not presented in a way that engages with them. There was a need for a clearer, open, and more transparent way of accessing this information, and 'telling the story' around the challenges facing policing in Warwickshire. This would support more informed responses to consultations, he suggested. Neil Hewison said that more work could be done to raise the profile of the challenges facing the Force, but time was needed to discuss the approach to this within the OPCC.

In relation to the letter sent by the Panel to the PCC supporting his precept rise, Neil Hewison explained that the aim was to respond to the Panel by 1 March 2018. However, this could be delayed because of the PCC's availability and work to be done with the Force in finalising the response in relation to officer numbers.

In relation to the number of complaints made and upheld against the Force, the group agreed to consider the issue later in the meeting, and at the next meeting. They would then decide whether it would be valuable to invite a member of the Professional Standards Department to attend.

Neil Hewison explained that the OPCC website was due to be refreshed, and that the Gifts and Hospitality Register would be updated at a similar time.

2. Quarter 3 Force Performance Report

Neil Hewison explained that the implementation of Athena had caused several issues for the Force that needed to be worked through. He said Athena was a once in a generation system that merged previous systems including; case management, custody, intelligence and crime systems. To date, a consortium of 9 forces had gone live with the system.

There was a significant reduction in the recording of some crime types within the performance management report, and the Working Group was advised that this was not accurate. The Performance Team had advised that the data did not reflect the current situation, and the inaccuracies were due to the implementation of Athena. Instead, there was an understanding that crime was continuing to rise in some areas. It could be several months before the Force gets back to a position of stable recording, as officers become more familiar with the new system.

Neil Hewison said some of the issues with the system were challenges for the Force. However, these were being addressed at a senior level. In response to questions, he explained that other forces were having similar issues with the system, but some matters were local to Warwickshire.

The Working Group noted that confidence in local policing was good. In response to questions, Rebecca Parsons explained that accessibility and visibility were key variables that affected confidence. Neil Hewison added that continued good work from the Victim Management Unit was likely to promote public confidence. Councillor Davies said that a reduction in repeat victims would provide a good measure of whether victim follow up was reducing the risk posed to victims.

In relation to Hate Crime, Andy Davis had submitted a comment. He asked what the majority of hate crimes were based on. Neil confirmed that most of hate crimes were racially driven. In response to questions, Neil said he would check what proportion of hate crimes were committed through social media.

Bob Malloy commented that the distinction between a hate driven crime is often not clear, and highlighted several cases as examples. Neil Hewison said that every hate crime case was scrutinised in detail and there was a robust victim management process in place. Victim satisfaction in this area had been high recently since a greater focus had been placed on the issue.

Bob Malloy asked how recently Fire and Rescue staff were assisting in searches for missing persons. Neil Hewison explained that this was a relatively new initiative, and they were called upon to help search for the most vulnerable people. The Blue Light Collaboration Group was looking to build on this type of collaborative work, and a number of other initiatives were being considered.

In response to questions about PCC's taking on responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service, Neil Hewison explained that Essex were the first to take on the responsibility. Proposals by several other PCCs were being considered by the Home Office, including for West Mercia. Bob Malloy asked if the West Mercia proposal would affect Warwickshire Police. Neil Hewison explained that it would affect accounting matters and the Enabling Services department, but this would be managed. Councillor Davies said that blue light collaboration would be something for the Panel to consider at a future meeting.

Bob Malloy said the Force did not fully answer the question posed by the OPCC regarding road safety, which asked whether the resources put into road policing over the Christmas period was comparable to the previous year. Neil Hewison said in 2018 the Force would undertake unannounced road enforcement initiatives. This was in response to a concern that drivers altered their behaviour when they knew enforcement initiatives were taking place.

Neil Hewison explained that the OPCC had allocated greater resource to looking at road enforcement activity. Recently, it became clear that £40 of the money paid for driver awareness courses was returned to the Force for ring-fenced spending on road enforcement. This had provided in the region of £1m that was held in reserve. The OPCC would be looking in more detail at how this money could be spent. It was highlighted that there was a recent Speedwatch meeting which the PCC attended that received positive feedback. Neil Hewison added that increasing congestion and the HS2 development would likely increase the risk taking behaviours of drivers in the coming years.

Councillor Davies suggested that the PCC had a role to coordinate the response to these challenges, and said the issue was scheduled for the June Panel meeting. Councillor Dirveiks said that the Chief Constable of Leicestershire was recently tasked with looking at the affect that motorway diversions onto the A5 were having on collision numbers.

In response to questions, Neil Hewison explained that burglary continued to rise, despite the fall in recording. He said the OPCC monitored this on a daily basis and there were many arrests and local successes in tackling the issue. Spree offenders had the potential to affect the level of reporting for the whole county. Recently, car key burglaries were becoming more prominent. The group also discussed the perception of crime when street lights were turned off, but it was clarified that there was no evidence to show that crime increases when street lights are switched off.

Bob Malloy asked about a new section in the performance report focussing on file submission quality to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Neil Hewison said that Athena had a case preparation module that officers submitted their files through, and the Force was aware that it needed to improve its file quality. Many of the quality issues were associated with officer use of Athena, rather than with Athena itself. It was clarified that the quality of file submissions did not have a detrimental impact on prosecutions.

3. HMICFRS Police Efficiency Report 2017

In response to a question submitted by Andy Davis, Neil Hewison said the OPCC could report back to the Working Group on the actions identified in the PCC's response to the HMICFRS Efficiency Report in 12 Months. Rebecca Parsons added that a working group was established to review the actions taken in relation to HMICFRS reports on a quarterly basis.

Bob Malloy sought clarity on what was meant by the need for improvements in the transfer of investigations, as stated in the report. Neil Hewison said this related to the transfer from local policing teams to the investigative unit, and ensuring that cases were handed over to people with the right skills. Referring to the report, Bob also sought clarity on how the Fire and Rescue Service dealt with calls from people expressing concern about the safety of people in their own home. Rebecca Parsons explained that missing persons cases would be forwarded to the Fire and Rescue Service for support, but it was not clear what the statement in the report was referring to.

4. HMICFRS Police Legitimacy Report 2017

Bob Malloy questioned why the pilot of having an NHS trained member of staff in the call centre was not continued if HMICFRS provided such positive feedback. Rebecca Parsons explained that the internal review of the post was inconclusive.

Andy Davis submitted a question asking whether any peer review work could be undertaken to improve the Force's approach to stop and search. Rebecca Parsons explained that Warwickshire was readmitted to the best use of stop and search scheme recently, and that it had been identified as a case for national best practice. She believed the description provided in the report was not a fair reflection of how stop and search was being used.

The Working Group noted that between 2013 and 2017, there was a significant improvement in the proportion of stop and searches being

processed correctly. Councillor Davies highlighted that the suspected item was found in over a third of cases. In response to questions, Rebecca Parsons clarified that HMICFRS carried out desktop data reviews, as well as interviews with staff and officers.

In response to questions, Neil Hewison explained that the use of Body Worn Video had improved the speed in which complaints were resolved, and he understood that these cameras were used during stop and search activities.

The Working Group noted Andy Davis' comments concerning the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Leadership Commission, and its role in scrutinising the diversity of leadership in the region. Andy said there may be some useful learning points for the Force as a result of this work. Bob Malloy requested that when the PCC's response to the Legitimacy Report is available, that it be placed on the next available Working Group agenda.

5. Complaints

Bob Malloy highlighted that there was an action in the Legitimacy Report for the Force to provide assistance to those who may struggle to make complaints. He said that there was still a need to review the number of complaints that were upheld against the Force. Neil Hewison offered to ask the Professional Standards Department to present to the Panel on complaints. The Working Group agreed to schedule this only after it had considered another set of quarterly data on complaints.

Neil Hewison explained that the PCC would be looking to take on the appeals stage of complaints against the Force, in line with the requirements of the Police and Crime Act 2017, but this would not happen until 2019. Rebecca Parsons reported that there were still delays with the national complaint form going live because of issues with the website.

6. Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2018/19

Councillor Davies highlighted that the use of the Forces estates would be added to the Panel's work programme in line with the discussion had at the last Panel meeting. The Working Group requested that the Panel receive a briefing on the new Alliance Policing Model at their meeting on 19 March 2018. It would be beneficial to understand what involvement the PCC had with the Policing Model, and how he would monitor its impact. Neil Hewison said he would look at whether this could be done for the Panel's next meeting. The Working Group also agreed to add the transformation programme to the Panel's work programme as an item to be tabled.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 17 May 2018 at 10am. Further dates would be scheduled following the reappointment of the Working Group at the meeting on 21 June 2018.