

**Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel
21 June 2018
A National Association for Police and Crime Panels**

Recommendations

- (1) That the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel joins the new National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels for an initial term to November 2019.
- (2) That the Panel reviews its membership prior to the end of November 2019 with a view to deciding whether to continue membership.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 17 February 2017 Councilor Nicola Davies, Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, attended a meeting with representatives from Panels across England and Wales to explore the proposal to establish an association. The consensus of that meeting was that an association should be established and a steering group was set up to look at options for creating an association. A further meeting in July 2017 reiterated support for an association as a way of providing a collective voice to Government and a channel for the sharing of best practice and so assist in the effectiveness and development of PCPs. It was also evident that it was the wish of panels that the association should be low cost and non-bureaucratic.
- 1.2 A discussion paper was sent out to all Panels and was considered by this Panel at its meeting on 14 September. The paper set out three options:
 - Setting up an independent association
 - Setting up a special interest group with the Local Government Association
 - Setting up a special interest group, with a view to establishing an independent organization at a later date.
- 1.3 The Panel supported the creation of an association provided there is a clear statement of purpose and objectives. The majority of Panel members were in favour of the third option (a special interest group with the possibility of progressing to a fully independent association) as this seemed to represent the best value for money. The Chair submitted the views of the Panel to the lead on the steering group (Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel). The majority of responses were in favour of using the LGA special interest group (SIG) mechanism and this was reported to a meeting of PCP Chairs in October and to the Frontline Consulting annual Police and Crime Conference in November.
- 1.4 A discussion paper setting out proposed terms of reference for a SIG was considered at a meeting of Panel Chairs and Vice Chairs on 19 April 2018. Councillor Derek Poole, Vice Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, attended that meeting.

2.0 Establishment of an LGA Special Interest Group

There were 21 panels represented at the meeting. At least 10 LGA members are required to establish a SIG and 16 PCPs have already confirmed their commitment as listed below.

Dorset
Kent and Medway
Northumbria
Derbyshire
Essex
West Midlands
Nottinghamshire
Hertfordshire
Sussex
Norfolk
Bedfordshire
Northamptonshire
Cleveland
South Yorkshire
West Yorkshire
Merseyside

The remaining five panel representatives (including Warwickshires) had not yet had the opportunity to put the proposal to their Panels.

The meeting agreed that the SIG be named the 'National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels' and that the 'nature of the common feature or interest' be '*The National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels will represent the views and interests of police and crime panels/police, fire and crime panels, which are hosted by local authorities and on which all English and Welsh authorities outside London are represented.*'

3.0 Terms of Reference

Proposed terms of reference had been previously circulated in the papers for the meeting. These were agreed (with amendments indicated).

1. To provide a forum for collaborative discussion of issues relating to and impacting on Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PCPs/PFCPs).
2. To share ideas and experience in response to the expanding role of PCCs and PFCCs and thereby PCPs/PFCPs.
3. To create a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs/PFCPs and the Home Office. *The word liaison replaced 'lobby' as it would not be appropriate for this to be a lobbying body.*
4. To provide an opportunity for dialogue with relevant bodies such as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Association of Police and Crime Chief Executives and others.

5. To support the development of joint PCP/PFCP responses to relevant consultations.
6. To promote professional standards.
7. To share good practice and create guidance and other supporting materials for PCPs/PFCPs.
8. To ensure stability and collective memory in a landscape where PCPs/PFCPs can have significant changes in membership.
9. To provide capacity for horizon scanning across all PCPs/PFCPs.
10. To promote better understanding of the role of PCPs/PFCPs. *This replaced 'to raise the public profile' as better reflecting the need for Panels to have adequate recognition to enable them to fulfil their role effectively.*

4.0 Management and support structure

The LGA can provide limited support (arrange a meeting room subject to availability, distribute agendas and minute meetings for up to three meetings a year). Most SIGs have paid membership to provide capacity for their work (e.g. for research, developing materials, arranging meetings with other bodies). There is an option for Frontline Consulting to support the work.

An initial annual subscription of £500 was agreed as a starting point and subject to the development of a costed workplan. Essex PCP support will provide assistance for this work.

5.0 Interim Chair and Vice-Chairs

The following appointments were agreed as interim appointments subject to a meeting following the Annual Frontline Consulting Conference in November, when a full vote could be taken:

John Gili Ross (Chair of Essex PCP) – Interim Chair
 John Adams (Vice Chair, Dorset PCP) – Interim Vice Chair
 Alison Lowe (Chair, West Yorkshire PCP) – Interim Vice Chair

Paul Cain (Vice Chair, Bedfordshire PCP) – Interim Treasurer

6.0 Initial work plan and next steps

6.1 A constitution will be developed and presented to the 12th November Frontline Consulting Conference for PCPs and PFCPs. (Cllr Dr Christopher Kemp, Vice Chair Norfolk PCP to lead on this with support from Cllr Carla Thomas, Chair of Merseyside PCP).

6.2 The focus for the first year is to be:

1. Meetings with relevant partner organisations and the Home Office.

2. The development of guidance for PCPs handling complaints
3. Updating the existing suite of LGA/Centre for Public Scrutiny guidance for PCPs.
4. Exploring the impact of changes to FRA governance and the enhanced role for PCCs, and therefore PCPs, in this area.
5. A review of panel resourcing.
6. Promoting and sharing best practice
7. Increasing the public's understanding of the role of panels.

6.3 Next steps for the interim Chair:

1. Encourage other panels to get involved in the NAPFCP.
2. Submit an application to the LGA Leadership Board formally to establish a SIG.
3. Commit to working with group members further to develop the work plan.
4. Further develop proposals for how the SIG could operate, in terms of the involvement of panel support officers as well as panel members (i.e. the Constitution).
5. Develop a comprehensive set of proposals in each area, for consideration at the AGM of the group to be held at the Frontline Consulting Conference for PCPs and PFCPs on Monday 12 November. (The LGA's annual PCP Workshop on Wednesday 11 July to provide an opportunity for a group meeting and update on progress, if required.)

7.0 Next Steps

There is evident enthusiasm to make the SIG work, with attendees putting forward a range of areas of possible work and a genuine desire to share best practice with a view to ensuring their panels are working as effectively as possible.

It is proposed that the Panel agree to join the NAPFCP and to pay the subscription of £500 for the first year. This can be met from the Panel's Home Office Grant.

Membership (and the subscription level) should be subject to review by this Panel. It is suggested that the Chair report back regularly to the Panel on progress and that the Panel review its membership after a year of operation (by November 2019).

Background papers

Agenda and notes of the meeting of PCP/PFCP Chairs and Vice Chairs held on 19 April 2018

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