

**Minutes of the meeting of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel  
held on 21 June 2018**

**Present:**

**Members of the Panel**

Councillors:

David Reilly	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Andrew Thompson	Warwick District Council
Nicola Davies	Warwickshire County Council
Tony Jefferson	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Derek Poole	Rugby Borough Council
Adrian Warwick	Warwickshire County Council
Neil Dirveiks	North Warwickshire Borough Council
Barry Longden	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Mike Brain	Stratford on District Council
Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council

Independent Members

Andy Davis  
Bob Malloy

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Neil Hewison	Chief Executive
Philip Seccombe	Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Elizabeth Hall	Treasurer
David Patterson	Performance and Scrutiny Policy Officer

Warwickshire County Council Officers

Jane Pollard	Legal Services Manager
Hassan Hafiz	Trainee Solicitor (Interim Panel Support)
Virginia Rennie	Strategic Finance Manager.

**1. Appointment of Chair to the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel**

Jane Pollard invited nominations for the role of Chair. The Panel agreed to elect Councillor Davies as Chair for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

## **2. Appointment of Vice Chair to the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel**

The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice-Chair. The Panel agreed to elect Councillor Poole as Vice-Chair of the Panel for the 2018/19 municipal year.

## **3. General**

### **(i) Apologies**

None

### **(ii) Disclosure of Interests**

None.

### **(iii) Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed and introduced the new members of the Panel namely, Councillor Mike Brain (Warwickshire County Council), Councillor Barry Longden (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) and Councillor David Reilly (North Warwickshire Borough Council).

The Chair also introduced David Patterson (Performance and Scrutiny Policy Officer) to his first meeting of the Panel since his appointment.

The Chair reminded the Panel of the forthcoming LGA Police and Crime Panel Workshop on 11 July 2018 and also the Frontline Consulting Police and Crime Panel event on 12 November 2018. The Chair informed the Panel that should they wish to attend either of these events that they contact Janet Purcell (Democratic Services Manager) to register their interest.

### **(iv) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March 2018**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Public Question Time**

None.

## 5. Police and Crime Commissioner Update Report

### Athena

The Chair invited the PCC to introduce his update report. The PCC highlighted the ongoing issues with Athena and reassured the Panel that Critical Incident Management Meetings (CIMM) are taking place to manage these issues. Neil Hewison stated that David Patterson has been instructed to conduct research into Athena to identify the underlying causes of the problems in relation to performance data and identifying vulnerability. David Patterson agreed to report to the Panel with the findings of his research by an email update. He stated that he expected to complete his research within the next four weeks.

### Knife Crime

The PCC reassured the Panel following the recent Sunday Times article that knife crime had risen by 15% Warwickshire and not 180% as was suggested by the article.

Bob Malloy noted that although knife crime was not rising as high as the Sunday Times article had suggested, it was nevertheless rising and questioned the accuracy of the figures provided by the PCC given the issues with Athena. The PCC stated that he was working in close collaboration with Warwickshire Police to support them in tackling knife crime and to understand the motives of people who carried knives. In relation to Athena's recording of knife crime, Neil Hewison stated that he was reasonably confident that the figures provided were accurate.

Councillor Longden noted that the fear of crime had contributed to many people carrying knives as a defensive measure. He also felt that Warwickshire Police were not attaching adequate priority to tackling racially motivated crimes and cited a case where the Police had failed to act effectively. The PCC stated that he agreed that some people were carrying knives out of fear and stated that "stop and search" when properly conducted, was effective in reducing the number of knives on the streets. The PCC emphasised that tackling hate crime remained high on the agenda for both the OPCC and Warwickshire Police. Neil Hewison stated that victim satisfaction rates for hate crimes remain high as compared to most other crimes. He also stated that if Councillor Longden could provide further information after the meeting, he would be happy to request an update from Warwickshire Police in relation to the specific case that Councillor Longden had cited.

David Patterson stated that following the meeting he would circulate to the Panel a copy of the Government's "Serious Violence Strategy" which

contained the relevant national discussions about tackling knife crime and the funding available to address this issue.

Councillor Reilly, referring to the report, noted that 47% of knife related crime was committed by strangers and sought reassurance that strategies were in place to tackle such crime. The PCC responded by acknowledging that the statistics in relation to knife crimes were deeply concerning particularly the fact that a significant proportion of such crimes were carried out by young people between the ages of 16-24. The PCC explained that Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Safeguarding Teams were visiting schools to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives and importance of making the correct life choice. In response to a question from the Chair, he added that a number of the OPCC's grants were allocated to youth organisations and charities who offer targeted support and intervention to young people. The PCC reiterated the effectiveness of stop and search in tackling the issues discussed.

### Road Safety

In terms of Road Safety the PCC noted the increase in fatalities on Warwickshire Roads in 2017/18 compared with the previous year. He explained that the overall number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) is on a downward trend. The PCC stated that he was keen to use the financial reserves accrued to improve road safety and emphasised the continued success of Neighbourhood Speed Watch Schemes. The PCC provided a short summary of his engagements since the last Panel meeting.

### Public meetings

Following a question from Councillor Thompson, the PCC highlighted the outcomes of some of his public meetings, including work with the Sikh Council to improve race relations as well his meeting with the National Farmers Union to tackle the high levels of suicides among farmers. The PCC agreed that in future, as part of his report, in addition to listing his public meetings, he would select one or two such meetings and briefly describe the outcomes achieved.

### Performance Summary

The Chair thanked the OPCC for the inclusion of Appendix B within the Performance Summary report, which contained the responses of the Assistant Chief Constable to the questions of the PCC in relation to the Force's performance.

The Panel felt that, given the evidence of the scrutiny provided within Appendix B, there were no further questions to be asked in relation to the Performance Summary report.

## **Actions**

1. David Patterson to provide the Panel with a report regarding the outcomes of his research into Athena by email once this has been completed.
2. David Patterson to circulate a copy of the Government's "Serious Violence Strategy" to the members of the Panel.

## **6. Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report 2017/18**

The Chair invited the PCC to introduce his annual report, which provided an overview of his activities over the past year, and how they contributed towards delivering the objectives in his Police and Crime Plan. The Panel were advised by the Chair that a formal response to the report must be made by the Panel following the meeting, as part of their statutory duties. This written response would be produced by the Chair in collaboration with the support officers.

Andy Davis noted that in relation to the "Looking Forward" section of the report it would be useful in the future to have a paragraph containing a commitment, on behalf of the PCC, to continue to secure a fairer deal for Warwickshire in terms of funding. The PCC and Neil Tipton agreed that a short paragraph reflecting this commitment would be included in any future report.

In response to a question from Bob Malloy, the PCC explained that Warwickshire Police had been rated by the HMICFRS 2017 report as "good" in its overall inspection and noted Bob Malloy's concerns that despite this, two out of the three areas of inspection required improvement. The PCC explained that from next year West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police will be inspected separately by the HMICFRS, but clearly where functions remained collaborative under the Alliance model (such as with protective services) gradings would be similar. The PCC stated that under the new policing model, local policing will move from under the control of the Alliance to the Chief Constable, which it is hoped will lead to greater reactivity and efficiency for Warwickshire Police when tackling local crime. The PCC stated that he looked forward to an improved grading for Warwickshire Police in the next HMICFRS report.

Replying to a question from Councillor Dirveiks, Neil Hewison clarified that whilst it was a legal requirement for the OPCC to respond to the HMICFRS report, the OPCC has not, to date, had its responses acknowledged by the Home Secretary and a reply has not been received. However, Neil Hewison stated that the OPCC will continue to respond to the HMICFRS as they recognised the importance of the report in evaluating the performance of the police.

The Chair expressed the Panel's frustration at the lack of acknowledgment to the OPCC response to the HMICFRS report but thanked the OPCC for their persistence in providing a response.

The PCC and Neil Hewison thanked David Patterson for his efforts in producing the annual report in such a short space of time following his recent appointment.

### **Resolved**

That the Panel provides a written response to the PCC's annual report following the meeting.

## **7. Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2017/18**

The Chair introduced the Panel's annual report and explained that this was a record of the Panel's work over the past year. The Chair, thanked the members of the Panel and the OPCC for their continued support. Councillor Poole moved a vote of thanks for the PCC for his work over the course of the last twelve months.

### **Resolved**

That the Panel notes the 2017/18 Annual Report.

## **8. Restorative Justice**

The PCC briefly introduced the report on restorative justice. He noted that restorative justice aimed to build a bridge of communication between perpetrators and victims of crime and allowed offenders to confront their actions. The PCC highlighted the high levels of satisfaction from both victims and offenders with the current restorative justice interventions available in Warwickshire.

Neil Hewison explained that there had been significant activity in 2017/18 with the PCC providing funding to both Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police to develop a co-ordinated approach to restorative justice. He also explained that the PCC provided had £60,000 in grant funding to Victim Support to deliver restorative justice interventions and initiatives.

In relation to the final paragraph of the report, the Chair asked whether the consideration of different delivery models will be done before the commissioning of a collaborative Restorative Justice Service. The PCC clarified that this will be the case.

The Chair asked about the scope of the Restorative Justice Service. Neil Hewison replied that it would be wider than the existing victim support

initiative and would cover victims of sexual violence, as well as drug and alcohol related crime. He explained that commissioning this service as a contract would allow the PCC to manage the performance of the contract unlike grant funding where it would be more difficult to manage performance.

Councillor Reilly noted the difficulties faced by the Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company) and asked whether the commissioning of new services would enhance and improve the CRC. The PCC replied that Home Office has recently announced that there will be a number of pilot schemes available for PCCs to apply for in relation to victims and witnesses as well as CRC and that although he was currently in discussions to enter one or two pilot schemes, he was not sure whether the CRC pilot will be applied for.

Neil Hewison noted that he regularly meets with the Head of the Staffordshire and West Midlands CRC and understands the difficulties that they are facing. He informed the Panel that the Ministry of Justice has suggested that PCCs ultimately assume responsibility for CRCs. He stated that given the challenges facing the Warwickshire OPCC, his advice was that it may not be appropriate to take on this responsibility at present. The PCC stated that he would only decide to take on such a responsibility where it was felt a difference could be made and results could be delivered. In response to a question from Councillor Reilly, the PCC stated that he would fully engaged with and consult the five district Community Safety Partnerships before any such decision was made.

## **9. Road Safety on Warwickshire's Roads**

The PCC offered a brief summary of the report and expressed his concerns with the number of fatalities on Warwickshire roads in 2017/2018. On a positive note, he explained that financial reserves of £1.2 million were available from NDORS courses and that the OPCC is keen on using these funds to tackle Road Safety issues.

Councillor Chattaway stated that it was vital that consultations should begin with all relevant stakeholders and decisions made, by the appropriate body, as to how reserves will be spent. The PCC stated that he would provide an update regarding the spending of the financial reserves at the next PCP meeting. The Chair stated that as part of the PCC's update it would be useful to have clarity as to what the financial reserves can be spent on.

Councillor Warwick asked for an update from the PCC regarding the enforcement against drivers using mobile phones. The PCC stated that the police are continuing to take this crime very seriously and reassured the Panel that anybody caught committing the crime was being dealt with by the police.

Councillor Longden stated that often new road safety measures can be perceived as an attack on motorists and that it was important that the purposes behind such measures are effectively communicated to the public. The PCC noted Councillor Longden's concerns but emphasised that road safety remained a principal concern of Warwickshire residents and that it was vital that people are as safe as possible on the roads.

Neil Tipton stated that the Warwickshire and West Mercia Safer Road's Partnership were conducting a well-received campaign called "Road Monsters" to raise awareness of poor driving practices and the dangerous consequence that they can have.

Councillor Reilly expressed his dissatisfaction with aspects of the report and was of the opinion that some of the conclusions drawn within the report were misguided regarding the progress being made. The PCC replied that he understood Councillor Reilly's concerns but assured the Panel that he was acutely aware of the challenges faced in relation to Road Safety in particular, casualty reduction. The PCC explained that there was no room for complacency and that he will continue to monitor the progress of Road Safety issues closely.

### **Resolved**

That the PCC provide an update on discussions regarding the spending of the accrued financial reserves at the next PCP meeting.

## **10. Report of the Planning and Performance Working Group**

Bob Malloy, Chair of the Planning and Performance Working Group, provided the Panel with an overview of the Groups findings at their meeting on 17 May 2018. Bob Malloy stated that many of the issues discussed at that meeting in relation to Athena, knife crime and HMICFRS report had already been addressed in the present meeting.

Bob Malloy noted that it was unfortunate that the ongoing issues with Athena were preceded by a lengthy period where it became difficult to compare year on year data due to changes in reporting criteria. He also noted the Group's concerns regarding the low levels of outcome rates in relation to certain crimes. Bob Malloy welcomed the research to be undertaken by David Patterson regarding Athena and hoped that the Panel would have a more accurate and stable data set on which to rely in the future.

Bob Malloy asked what was being done to challenge the Chief Constable in relation to outcomes data. Neil Hewison stated that the OPCC has, and will continue, to challenge Warwickshire Police on the issue of outcomes data. He stated that he had meeting with key individuals within Warwickshire Police regarding this area of challenge and stated that this will a key priority moving



forward. He stated that the research to be undertaken by David Patterson will also play a key role in trying to understand whether the outcomes data was accurate which will then allow us to gauge whether crimes are being investigated properly.

Bob Malloy informed the Panel that in relation to the IOPC report, the Group had requested more accessible data in relation to the number of complaints. He stated that David Patterson had agreed to provide more simplified data, comparing the total number of complaints against the total number of complaints upheld.

## **11. LGA National Association**

The Chair invited Councillor Derek Poole to introduce the paper which set out proposals for the National Association for Police, Fire and Crime Panels. Councillor Poole briefly explained that the purpose of the association was to act as a special interest group (SIG) for PCP's (Police and Crime Panels) to collaboratively discuss key challenges and share best practices. He explained that he had attended a meeting in April 2018 at which several PCPs confirmed their commitment to join the SIG. The Panel discussed the merits of the Warwickshire PCP joining the SIG.

Councillor Chattaway, explained that in principal he was for membership however he stated that the PCP should only join for one year and assess the impact of the SIG and ensure that it was not duplicating the work of other LGA Groups. Councillor Davies noted that the proposals were for a one-off commitment after which the Panel could decide to withdraw or continue its membership depending on the value the SIG delivered.

Councillor Chattaway queried the number of PCP's that had confirmed their commitment to join the SIG. Councillor Poole clarified that the most recent information he had received suggested that a significant number of the 43 PCPs had joined the SIG. The Panel agreed to join the SIG for an initial term and to review its membership upon expiry of the term.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel joins the 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.

## **12. Appointments to Working Groups**

The Chair introduced this report and explained that the Planning and Performance Working Group and the Budget Working group had historically been very useful to the Panel, enabling it to share its workload and undertake further in depth support and scrutiny work. It was agreed that the Panel would reappoint both of these groups.

It was agreed that Councillor Derek Poole would replace Councillor Pomfrett (who is no longer a member of the Police and Crime Panel) as a member of the Budget Working Group.

The Chair noted that both of the working groups now had the required minimum of three members each. However should further members wish to join either of these groups then additional appointments could be agreed outside of the meeting.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the Police and Crime Panel reappoints the Planning and Performance Working Group and Budget Working Group.
- 2) That Councillor Derek Poole replace Councillor Pomfrett as member of the Budget Working Group.

## **13. Work Programme**

The programme was noted and agreed as timetabled.

## **14. Dates of Meetings**

The Chair invited the Panel to take note of the future meeting dates to take place at Shire Hall:

- Thursday 20 September 2018.
- Thursday 22 November 2018.

## **15. Reports Containing Confidential or Exempt Information**

The Chair moved that, in light of the remaining items on the agenda, that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for item 16 on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Resolved**

That members of the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**16. Complaints**

The Panel was provided with an update.

The meeting rose at 12: 35 pm

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Chair