

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2014 AT 10.30 AM AT KELHAM HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

(A denotes absent)

Chairman - Executive Mayor Tony Egginton – Mansfield District Council

Vice-Chairman - Christine Goldstraw OBE – Independent Member

Rizwan Araf – Independent Member

Councillor Chris Baron – Ashfield District Council

Councillor David Challinor – Bassetlaw District Council - A

Councillor Eunice Campbell – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor Georgina Culley – Nottingham City Council - A

Councillor David Ellis – Gedling Borough Council

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor John Handley – Nottinghamshire County Council

Suma Harding – Independent Member - A

Councillor Rosemary Healy – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Neghat Khan – Nottingham City Council

Councillor Pat Lally – Broxtowe Borough Council

Councillor Bruce Laughton – Newark and Sherwood District Council - A

Councillor Keith Longdon – Nottinghamshire County Council

Councillor Debbie Mason – Rushcliffe Borough Council

Bob Vaughan-Newton – Independent Member

Councillor Simon Greaves – Bassetlaw District Council (Substitute for Councillor David Challinor)

OFFICERS PRESENT

Heather Dickinson – Group Manager, Legal &) Nottinghamshire

Democratic Services) County Council

Keith Ford – Team Manager, Democratic Services) (Host Authority)

OTHERS PRESENT

Paddy Tipping – Police and Crime Commissioner

Chief Constable Chris Eyre – Nottinghamshire Police

Charlotte Radford – Chief Finance Officer, OPCC

Wendy Aubrey – Commissioning Manager / Competition Support Manager
Ministry of Justice

Alan Goode – Assistant Chief Officer
The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and
Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED 2014/015

That Executive Mayor Tony Egginton be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED 2014/016

That Christine Goldstraw OBE be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the 2014/15 municipal year.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2014, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true and correct record and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Suma Harding and Councillors Campbell, Challinor and Laughton.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Christine Goldstraw OBE declared a private and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Transforming Rehabilitation as the Chair of the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust Board.

Executive Mayor Tony Egginton declared a private and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Transforming Rehabilitation as a Member of the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust Board.

Bob Vaughan-Newton declared a private and non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Transforming Rehabilitation as a mentor at Nottingham Prison.

6. REVIEW OF BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE

Keith Ford introduced the report which outlined the Panel's legal requirement to review its membership at each annual meeting to ensure it met the balanced appointment requirement.

RESOLVED 2014/017

1) That the changes to membership be noted.

- 2) That it be agreed that the Panel's revised membership currently met the balanced appointment objective and therefore no further changes were required at this point.

7. TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION

Wendy Aubrey (Commissioning Manager/Competition Support Manager, the Ministry of Justice) and Alan Goode (Assistant Chief Officer, The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited) gave a presentation on progress with implementation of the new Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

The presentation highlighted the timetable for the changes, the competition process, the main changes, the Offender Rehabilitation Bill, the local focus of cases and the chief officers within Nottinghamshire Divisions of the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).

In response to issues raised by Members, the following points were clarified:-

- the risk level of offenders who had been escalated from the CRC to the NPS would continue to be monitored and redefined as appropriate. If their risk status was reduced in future they would continue to be managed by NPS, although it could be the CRC who delivers their programme. This approach was designed to avoid ongoing and excessive turnover and disruption in case management;
- with regard to the significant increase in the volume of cases due to the new requirement to manage offenders serving over 12 months in prison and the consequent possible implications for staff welfare, it was underlined that the majority of such offenders were expected to be managed by the CRC. It was stressed that the Probation Service had been faced with relentless pressure for many years and that the management of risk would continue to be paramount. The new approach would offer greater freedoms to the CRCs to establish their own offices and systems. However, it was recognised that risks would increase if officers' workloads became too large;
- domestic violence had been a high priority for the Probation Trust and it would continue to be for the CRC. The ongoing importance of this issue had been highlighted as part of the competition process for bidders;
- both the Commissioner's Office and the Force were represented on the Local Advisory Panel, which helped to highlight good and bad practice in the area.

The Chair thanked Ms Aubrey and Mr Goode for their presentation.

RESOLVED 2014/018

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Keith Ford introduced the update report and sought the views of the Panel and the Commissioner on the possible introduction of a 'public question time' agenda item.

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- the Commissioner underlined his willingness to partake in a public question time, whilst highlighting the potential risk of people seeing it as an opportunity to ask questions of the Chief Constable. The Chief Constable felt that any means of helping to create a dialogue with the public were beneficial;
- Members felt that the public already had opportunities to raise questions and concerns via the Panel and suggested an alternative to a question time whereby the Panel could actively seek the views of the public once or twice a year via engagement events (with the Commissioner also possibly in attendance);
- the Commissioner underlined that he had attended approximately 150 evening engagement events during his first year in office and underlined the importance of talking to the public;
- with regard to the future work programme, Members queried whether any assessment had been undertaken as yet of potential differing practice around the use of "No further action" as the outcome of an arrest. Further discussions would take place with the Commissioner's Office about this as a potential future agenda item.

RESOLVED 2014/019

- 1) That the work programme be noted.**
- 2) That further consideration be given to ways of improving public engagement with the Panel (including the related issue of future Panel meeting venues).**
- 3) That the forthcoming national Police and Crime Panel (PCP) conference being held at County Hall on 10 July 2014 be noted.**

9. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN (2013-18) – ANNUAL REPORT

The Police and Crime Commissioner introduced his annual report and highlighted a number of successes during 2013/14 including delivering a balanced budget (with the Commissioner's Office also being amongst the lowest costing nationally), an increase in Police Officers (78) and Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) (67), a 38% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) since 2011-12, and progress on the domestic violence and victims agendas.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- the first cohort of Police Cadets had been appointed and a second cohort was being progressed (both included a good proportion from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds). The Nottinghamshire cadets had recently won an award as the best Cadet Force nationally;
- Members raised concerns about the increase in crime in Partnership Plus areas despite additional funding from partner agencies and highlighted the Ashfield District Council pilot Prevention Strategy which aimed to address ASB in Sutton East and Sutton Central. The proposals included purchasing a property in the area which would be turned into social housing afterwards. Dedicated District Council officers would be deployed and ideally it was hoped that the Force would take a similar approach, to ensure commitment and knowledge of the area.

The Commissioner acknowledged the importance of continuing to target the Partnership Plus areas in the County and the Priority Wards in the City (the latter of which accounted for 25% of all crime in Nottinghamshire). A multi-agency review of the Partnership Plus areas had been undertaken and the Commissioner and the Chief Constable agreed that a lot more could be done to improve outcomes in these areas. The Chief Constable underlined the Force's commitment to prevention, with a prevention team currently being funded through the National Police Innovation Fund and Ashfield being one of the first areas targeted. The Force continued to prioritise resources towards areas of greatest need, with local policing services deployed primarily to deal with local policing matters. The importance of developing such services with partners, rather than addressing problems in isolation as previously, was also recognised. The Commissioner stressed that the Force deployed resources to deal with crime and ASB hotspot areas and underlined his commitment to the project in Ashfield. Broxtowe Borough Council was also looking to address similar issues through innovation, including the use of new powers to tackle ASB.

In terms of making a real difference in such areas, the Commissioner highlighted that previous sources of funding were no longer available but added that money alone was not the answer. Examples of good practice, such as the successes in Cotgrave, needed to be replicated and he felt that currently there was insufficient analysis of work being undertaken to ensure a real difference was actually being made in areas that had experienced social deprivation for over sixty years. Members felt that in the past largely cosmetic improvements had been made to estates in these areas but the difficult issues surrounding individuals and their behaviour had not been resolved. The loss of beat officers with local knowledge, which was recognised as a result of the financial issues affecting the Force, also reduced the impact which the Force could have. Members felt that the issue of how to secure improvements in these areas should be considered by the Panel as well as the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

In response, the Commissioner underlined the significantly reduced resources available to the Chief Constable compared to three years ago and highlighted

the recent rise in crime in Nottinghamshire and neighbouring authorities such as Leicestershire and Derbyshire. HMIC was keen to see improvements in how the Force dealt with issues such as domestic violence and serious organised crime and the only way in which that could be achieved in a period of reduced funding was by working smarter and in partnership, focussing on the largest areas of risk such as burglaries, vehicle crime.

With regard to progress in the priority City wards, the Commissioner stated that the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership continued to be very active, receiving joint funding from Nottingham City Council and the Commissioner. Areas like the Arboretum and St. Anns were being targeted with additional Force resources. Project Aurora in the City was recognised as best practice nationally, with joined-up working on issues such as licensing providing effective solutions;

- Members queried the reasons for the poor performance in criminal justice processes, such as the quality and promptness of case files. The Chief Constable felt that currently there was an overcomplex approach as to what needed to be included in case files, with processes geared more to ensuring all boxes were ticked (however relevant) rather than whether the contents of a file were appropriate to prove an offence. The HMIC had criticised Forces for overbuilding case files in the past but officers were keen to build cases to address any areas of potential challenge, recognising the pressures that the Crown Prosecution Service faced in review files. An officer from Nottinghamshire had been chosen as the national lead on file quality and criminal justice and different technical solutions were being developed for specific types of offences, such as theft and public disorder.

With regard to the rate of effective trials, Members queried whether there was a localised problem with Court timetable listings. The Chief Constable stated that this was a judicial issue which he had no influence over and was therefore inappropriate for him to comment upon. The Commissioner underlined that the Courts were also outside of his remit but underlined that the Chief Constable had regular discussions with Court Services and the Crown Prosecution Service;

- Members queried the reasons behind victims' dissatisfaction with the services they received from the Police. The Commissioner agreed to provide further information about this and report back on Nottinghamshire's progress as one of the early implementers in delivering Victims' Services;
- Members queried progress with the proposed savings of £12.7m in 2014/15. The Commissioner stated that there were 142 budget lines which would contribute to the savings and these were monitored on a regular basis. He felt that the major areas of potential savings were overtime and regional collaboration. The new Target Operating Model would enable more appropriate utilisation of staff and officers, a better operational mix and more opportunities for collaboration. Wherever possible, specialist services need to be delivered in collaboration and the next areas being considered were around IT, criminal justice, HR, business and finance. The Commissioner underlined

that Nottinghamshire was involved in all of the existing collaboration agreements in the region;

- Members queried the Commissioner's plans for contract management and how Value for Money would be assessed in future contracts. In response, the Commissioner recognised that the public sector had traditionally not been good at contract management. He had changed areas of responsibility amongst his Officers to better deal with commissioning issues. The Force's Procurement Unit served most of the Forces in the region and had reviewed all of the main contracts, although further progress was needed. The Unit was in discussion with other Forces outside of the region with a view to procuring on a larger scale, for example, around the purchase of uniforms.

The Force was progressing the sharing of back office costs with Northamptonshire and Cheshire and had also made a bid to the Home Office for funding to develop the shared provision of IT. The Home Office bid for the implementation of on-body video cameras covered all five Forces in the region. The Chief Constable added that collaboration was being progressed with three other Forces for operational support, firearms, dogs, and road crash investigation. A single Head of Criminal Justice post for all four Forces would help simplify case administration, although the challenges caused by the different information management systems used currently were recognised.

Members queried the differing levels of projected savings from collaboration amongst the five forces in the region. The Commission and the Chief Constable underlined that the Forces had different starting points with regard to their existing levels of service and therefore contributed varying amounts and achieved differing levels of savings and benefits. The Commissioner added that the Force was undertaking careful cost/benefit analysis of any areas of collaboration to ensure that any potential hidden costs were considered.

- Members highlighted that the average order value of Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation and forfeiture orders was shown as a 33.7% increase on last year. This was at odds with the regular performance updates to the Panel which had shown a consistently reduced level of performance (with the figures reported to the April meeting of the Panel showing a 33.7% decrease). The Commissioner agreed to seek clarification on that issue and update the Panel. He also stated that the Chief Constable had put extra resources into this area to improve performance.

RESOLVED 2014/020

That the Panel's views on the Annual Report be noted.

10. REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced the report which had been commissioned by the five PCCs in the region. He acknowledged the report's overall findings that the

initial momentum and early progress with collaboration had not been maintained and that further progress was required as a matter of priority.

Members queried if there was any contribution which the Panel could make, in its support role, in helping to progress partnership working in general. The Commissioner felt that it would be helpful to have a robust discussion about the Restorative Justice Strategy in future. With regard to possible input into the Victim's Strategy, the Commissioner stated that he would bring an update on that issue to a future meeting.

RESOLVED 2014/021

That the contents of the report be noted.

11. ESTATES AND FRONT COUNTER PROPOSALS

The Commissioner introduced the report which sought to update the Panel on the latest proposals as part of the wider consultation on the changes

During discussions, the following issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed the development of the shared service area at Sir John Robinson Way in Arnold. With regard to the proposed closure of Carlton Police Station, Members highlighted two pieces of critical infrastructure that were currently located at Carlton:- the purpose-built identification suite and the communications system for Police Headquarters. The Commissioner was aware of those issues and alternative means of provision had been identified which would be costly but would achieve savings ultimately;
- Members suggested that the footfall figures to the various stations may need re-examination, highlighting that residents in a lot of areas around Newark & Sherwood (such as Lowdham) would head for Carlton Police Station as first port of call. The Commissioner stated that usage of Carlton was relatively high compared to, for example, Eastwood Front Counter which had an average monthly footfall of 30 people. He hoped to keep a front counter in Carlton but underlined that there were no guarantees this could happen. The Chief Constable underlined that these were difficult decisions, with the reasons for closure understood and appreciated by the vast majority of staff.

Members felt that the proposed closure of Carlton was causing concerns for both the public and staff based there and queried the timescales. The Commissioner stated that the decision about closing the front counter had effectively been taken but any decision to close the station would not be taken until after the consultation. If agreed, implementation of the station closure would take approximately twelve months. The Commissioner felt that Gedling Borough Council had been a valuable partner in this work to help ensure that the Force had a route into local services in Carlton. Discussions about joint delivery of services were ongoing with the Council and other partners such as the Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service. Members felt that the model followed in Arnold, whereby the Force had moved into the shared

services hub prior to the station closure, was a helpful approach. The Chief Constable recognised the importance of sequencing of changes and underlined that the discussions aimed to deliver the most effective partnership approach, with all business cases including a partnership assessment. He highlighted that some senior officers within the Force were opposed to the move to Sir John Robinson Way but in retrospect it was felt to be the correct decision;

- Members welcomed the relocation of the Force in Harworth and felt that Harworth & Bircotes Town Council still offered a central location;
- Members queried whether there was a strategic plan in relation to custody suites. The Commissioner stated that discussions were ongoing to explore whether custody suites could be delivered in a cheaper way, including through collaboration to enable a 'street to suite' service. He highlighted that the Court Service was about to make an announcement about future court listings at Worksop Court and it was likely to mean a focus entirely on civil, rather than criminal, matters in future. He added that 50% of Worksop Police Station was currently not used and discussions were underway with Bassetlaw District Council about the potential for joint provision on the site of the Old Town Hall, leading to the closure of Retford Police Station.
- Members queried whether there was likely to be further investment in virtual counters. The Commissioner acknowledged the success of the approach in Eastwood whereby people talked to a camera, via which they could see the operator.

RESOLVED 2014/022

That Members' views on the information contained in the appendix be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.57 pm

CHAIRMAN

M_18June2014