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**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022, 2.00PM**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE & FIRE JOINT HEADQUARTERS, SHERWOOD LODGE, ARNOLD, NOTTS**

**Attendees:** Caroline Henry, PCC

Sharon Caddell, Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer, OPCC

Chief Constable Craig Guildford, Nottinghamshire Police

Dan Howitt, Head of Strategy and Performance, OPCC

Katy Owen (Minutes), Executive Assistant, OPCC

**Apologies:** Rachel Barber, Deputy Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police

1. **Draft Terms of Reference**

Sharon Caddell gave an overview of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Accountability Board, detailing the purpose of the Board, role of the PCC and legislative framework within which the Board will operate. The terms of reference were agreed and finalised subject to minor technical amendments.

**2. PREVENTING: A1. Making our streets, villages, towns and city safer**

The Chief Constable provided evidence-based assurance of the force’s commitment to delivering the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan relating to ‘Preventing: making our streets, villages, towns and city safer’.

The PCC commended the force on the consistently strong call answering performance for the 999 emergency service, as evidenced via recently published Home Office statistics - 88.7% of calls being answered within 10 seconds.

The PCC sought assurance that steps are being taken to address HMICFRS recommendations in respect of the identification of repeat and vulnerable victims and provision of crime prevention advice at point of call. The Chief Constable noted that every contact made with the force is recorded through Saab SAFE records, which offers innovative technology to immediately identify repeat callers, locations and vulnerable victims through manual THRIVE and intelligence assessments. Thrive training is embedded as part of the training for staff alongside additional Vulnerability training.

Call dip sampling is undertaken by the supervisors on a regular basis. The Chief Constable and PCC discussed opportunities for additional qualitative scrutiny and dip testing of call handling records in order to provide further independent assurance.

The PCC highlighted findings from her quarterly Police and Crime Survey which indicate reductions in the proportion of victims receiving crime prevention advice over the last year, alongside an increase in demand for crime prevention advice among victims of crime. The Chief Constable suggested that this may be a result of the changing crime profile, given marked reductions in serious acquisitive crime over the last year – an area traditionally targeted for crime prevention advice. The Chief Constable and PCC discussed opportunities to enhance the force’s universal crime prevention offer whilst minimising the impact on officer workloads.

The PCC sought assurance on the steps being taken to improve the way the force consults and engages diverse communities in local problem solving activity, in view of recommendations set out in the 2022 HMICFRS PEEL inspection. The Chief Constable provided an overview of the structures and processes in place, including work being undertaken by hate crime officers, the IAG and in recruiting from diverse communities.

The PCC and Chief Constable discussed the Community Trigger process as part of PCC proposals to drive improvements in the consistency and coordination of the partnership response to ASB in 2022/23.

1. **PREVENTING: A2. Steering Vulnerable young people away from crime**

The Chief Constable provided evidence-based assurance of the force’s commitment to delivering the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan relating to ‘Preventing: steering vulnerable young people away from crime’.

The PCC highlighted sustained reductions in the level of ‘hidden harm’ identified and recorded by the force over the last year, particularly in terms of NRM referrals for Child Criminal Exploitation (down 30%), police recorded modern slavery offences (down 40%) and police recorded Child Sexual Exploitation crimes (down 17%). The Chief Constable explained the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, including opportunities to reach children and young people that have been away from their usual education settings.

The Chief Constable provided assurance that the PCC’s ambition to increase the volume of hidden harm identified remains realistic and achievable, and that work continues to drive improvements in this area. The PCC commended the excellent work of the Schools and Early Intervention Officers (SEIO’s), particularly in how they have adapted their delivery programmes throughout the COVID pandemic.

The PCC asked to what extent the SEIOs are equipped to identify the potential ‘causes’ of children and young people becoming impacted by serious violence and exploitation, such as neurodiversity, speech and language issues and trauma. The Chief Constable provided assurance that staff are academically trained with input from the Outreach Recruitment Team. A co-ordinator has left the force in a much better position.

The PCC noted that the Neighbourhood Disruption Panels (NDP) in the County have been extremely valuable in supporting children and young people at risk and enquired whether there are any plans to replicate these in the City. The Chief Constable provided assurance in relation to the effectiveness of alternative structures that are in place in the City.

The PCC asked to what extent force plans, policies and procedures are trauma informed and whether officers adopt a trauma-informed approach when interacting with vulnerable members of the community. The Chief Constable provided assurance that all PPU officers are trained in trauma informed approaches and that training had been provided to the officers via the Violence Reduction Unit.

The PCC raised concerns regarding an apparent disconnect between OPCC, police and partnership activity to support vulnerable children and young people. The Chief Constable agreed that there are areas for improvement and provided assurance that a member of staff with extensive experience and of exceptional calibre has been recruited to help take this work forward.

The PCC noted areas for improvement identified via the HMICFRS PEEL inspection with regard to the way the force involves partner organisations in problem-solving activity and regularly audits and assesses the outcomes of prevention activity. The Chief Constable provided assurance in respect of the processes in place (e.g. Crest Advisory Deep Dives, 4Action – and the Chief Officer governance and oversight arrangements relating to HMICFRS recommendations. The Chief Constable and PCC discussed opportunities for benchmarking with forces known to be delivering best practice in this area.

The PCC also asked the Chief Constable to what extent the police and partnership analytical functions were sufficiently resourced and developed. The Chief Constable advised that this remains under review as part of the ADA process and that the force has focused investment more heavily in researchers over the last year.

**4. Complaints, Vetting and Misconduct**

The Chief Constable provided assurance in respect of the efficiency and effectiveness with which the force manages complaints, vetting and misconduct, with a particular focus on trust, confidence and victim satisfaction.

The PCC commended the report and asked to what further work is required to maintain a strong national position in this area. The Chief Constable provided assurance that his focus will be on maintaining staffing levels for force vetting, noting that all key posts have now been re-vetted and are fully up to date. The Complaints Department is a fairly well resourced unit, with a DCI transferee soon to be joining the team. The Chief Constable also highlighted HMICFRS’s positive feedback on the Counter Corruption Unit.

**5. Performance and Insight Report: Key exceptions**

The Chief Constable discussed the latest ‘prevention’ performance picture based on both the quarterly Performance and Insight Report and the Police and Crime Survey programme. Positively the force is maintaining one of lowest levels of neighbourhood crime (vehicle crime, burglary and robbery, theft from person) since the Police and Crime Survey began in 2017, whilst police recorded burglary has fallen by 37% compared to the 2019/20 pre-Covid baseline year.

The force has also seen a marked increase in the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Notices (rising by 66% over the last year), with longer term improvements being also being recognised via the latest HMICFRS PEEL inspection. Whilst commending the strong performance in this area, the PCC noted the low volume of Stalking Protection Orders secured each year (<10). The Chief Constable explained the challenges relating to this, and in particular the high evidential thresholds in place. Some further research is required on this and the Chief Constable agreed to provide further information in due course. Plans are in place to run a stalking conference.

The PCC and Chief Constable also discussed the rising level of violence with injury (+25%) and violent knife crime (+15%) seen over the last year, particularly following a sporadic rise in violent knife crime incidents in March. Whilst rises in violent crime were expected in view of the reopening of the night time economy and relaxation of COVID restrictions, trends in this area are being closely monitored. The Chief Constable confirmed that knife crime in Nottinghamshire remains below the national average and that the force has invested in two knife crime teams, detections levels remaining strong.

The PCC and Chief Constable discussed the range of short and long term interventions in place or in development to address the underlying causes of serious violence and further increase safety and feelings of safety in the City’s Night Time Economy.

The PCC and Chief Constable also discussed the reductions seen in feelings of safety outside in neighbourhoods after dark (falling from 62.5% to 56.9% in the last year), which have been particularly pronounced among young people aged 16 to 24 and female respondents to the PCC’s Police and Crime Survey. The Chief Constable and PCC discussed opportunities to improve communications and engagement in response to this emerging local and national trend.

**6. Make Notts Safe Delivery Plan Dashboard**

The PCC and Chief Constable reviewed the Delivery Plan Dashboard and progress made in delivering specific objectives linked to the Make Notts Safe Plan. The Dashboard highlights significant achievements in the delivery of prevention-based initiatives in 2021/22, but a need for a greater focus on ‘exposing hidden harm’ and ‘supporting communities to help make Notts Safe’ in 2022/23. The coming months will see an increased focus on Community Grants – particularly in supporting improvements in the coverage and consistency of Community Speedwatch, and in continuing to improve services available to potential victims of modern slavery.

**7. Key Business Decisions**

All key business decisions were signed off with the exception of one which requires further detail.

**8. Any Other Business**

The Chief Constable stated that the Force had received positive feedback from partner organisations in relation to the football event over the weekend. Sharon Caddell, CEO thanked the Chief Constable for the reports that had been submitted for today’s meeting.