

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STRATEGIC RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

COMMENCING AT 11.15 AM

MEMBERSHIP

(A – denotes absence)

- A Paddy Tipping - Police and Crime Commissioner
- Emma Foody – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kevin Dennis - Chief Executive, OPCC
- Charlie Radford - Chief Finance Officer, OPCC
- Craig Guildford - Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
- A Rachel Barber - Deputy Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Police
- A Mark Kimberley - Head of Finance, Nottinghamshire Police

OTHERS PRESENT

Noel McMenamin – Democratic Services, Nottinghamshire County Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping, DCC Barber and Mark Kimberley. In the Police and Crime Commissioner's absence, the Chair was taken by Emma Foody, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

3. PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update in relation to domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences, child abuse, vulnerability and safeguarding, Force activity and progress following the IICSA Investigation and scrutiny issues.

A number of issues were raised and points made during a wide-ranging discussion:

- There had been an increase in domestic violence, as well as in stalking and harassment at both national and local level in the wake of the pandemic. Increases in stalking offences was strongly linked to cyber bullying. However, there had been big reductions in physical violence, rape and serious sexual assaults, in line with national reporting trends;

- There had been a large drop-off in referrals from schools, but these were starting to pick up again with increased physical contact time with pupils;
- While the Public Protection Unit (PPU) had expanded significantly, there were ongoing challenges in retaining detectives within the Unit, with promotion and opportunities at regional level attracted detectives from the Unit. However, it was useful to disseminate the public protection message throughout the Force through having had experience of working in the PPU;
- It was acknowledged that there was a careful balance to be struck in retaining focus on these less visible activities at a time when front-line officers were under ongoing pressure in respect of the unique challenges of policing during a pandemic;
- The Force was ready to work with the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill, but cautioned that getting cases to meet Crown Prosecution Service thresholds would be a challenge;
- Additional resource to tackle child criminal exploitation had been made available;
- It was explained that the Missing from Home Team had been reorganised and was working closely with a range of partners to identify and assess need and risk, and had proved very effective in locating at-risk children and vulnerable adults.
- Increased use of technology and 'soft' knowledge from partners had proved particularly useful tools in addressing the issue of missing persons, and numbers continued to decline.

RESOLVED 2020/037

To note the report.

At this point, it was agreed to consider agenda item 13.

13. UPDATE ON OPCC MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE IICSA INVESTIGATION

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on Nottinghamshire OPCC's management response following the IICSA investigation into Children in Care of Nottinghamshire Councils.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- A new sexual violence hub was to be launched in January 2021. Existing staff were being migrated into the service and feedback from survivors' groups was very positive;

- Tackling stalking was seen as a priority in reducing repeat offending, and support was expressed for having the Adult Safeguarding Board hold an oversight role for this activity. A review of stalking clinics was being considered, with a view to aligning partnership working more closely;
- Good progress had been made on the delivery of a new purpose built Sexual Abuse Referral Centre. A Project Lead was in place and design had been informed by input from sexual abuse survivors;
- Both OPCC and the Force expressed support for increased joint working on addressing HMICFRS recommendations on victim engagement and support;
- It was reported that there had been a lot of work on 'deep dives' into child and adult rape cases, and again there was strong support for joint working to align support, and to feed into plans to tackle child sexual exploitation, which was being led by Nottingham City.

RESOLVED 2020/038

To note the report.

4. MODERN SLAVERY

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on the Nottinghamshire Police performance and response to modern slavery.

Several points were raised during discussion:

- It was agreed that national and local focus was shifting from forced labour to addressing the challenge of County Lines. A dedicated Detective Inspector was in place, and it was expected that further resource would need to be deployed;
- The approach being adopted was very much one of targeting the dealers and safeguarding the children involved;
- Nottinghamshire Police charge rates for modern slavery-related crimes remained high, which in the Chief Constable's view reflected more an ongoing focus and awareness in this area, rather than there being an increased prevalence.

RESOLVED 2020/039

To note the report.

5. CYBER ENABLED CRIME AND AND KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE ONLINE

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on the capacity and capability of Nottinghamshire Police to tackle cyber-crime and cyber-enabled fraud offences.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- Nottinghamshire had seen a 26% rise in Action Fraud crimes reports over the past year, which was 10 percentage points higher than the national increase. However, the increase needed to be seen in the context of having increased dedicated resource, which in turn raised awareness, improved intelligence and identified more cases, leading to high positive judicial outcome levels;
- It was acknowledged that cyber investigations required a highly defined set of specialist skills which needed ongoing development to keep pace with the latest cyber crime trends;
- The collaborative pilot arrangement between Nottinghamshire Police and Vision West Nottinghamshire College to recruit an individual from within the Cyber Security Technologist cohort for a 2 year period was an exciting development, and the Chief Constable welcomed the opportunity to avail of further similar pilots in future.

RESOLVED 2020/040

To note the report.

6. MISSING FROM HOME UPDATE

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on the performance and situational context of the Missing From Home (MFT) Team.

In view of the consideration of Missing from Home issues under the wider discussion on public protection and safeguarding at item 3 above, the report was noted without substantive further discussion.

RESOLVED 2020/041

To note the report.

7. EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on work undertaken to address Nottinghamshire Police's duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- It was reported that at the outset of the pandemic there had been a spike in hate crime incidents involving the Chinese community, but that these had receded over time. Anti-Islamic hate crime remained the most prevalent, with incidents often triggered by national or international events;

- There were strong lines of communication with victims, and victim satisfaction forms' details were followed up irrespective of the outcome of investigations;
- Mechanisms in place to help retain BAME employees included mentoring and buddying up schemes, as well as providing support with the promotions process. The demographic profile of the Force was evolving to better reflect the community it served, but it remained alive to the need to challenge unconscious bias on an ongoing basis;
- The Force's youth engagement strategy in respect of cadets and mini-Police was still being delivered online, but there would be a fuller physical presence in schools once they re-opened.

RESOLVED 2020/042

To note the report.

8. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2018-2021 THEME ONE 2020-2021 DELIVERY PLAN – PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM HARM

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on delivering the strategic activities in respect of Theme One of the Police and Crime Plan.

It was confirmed that the only item where progress had stalled was for Item 10 – VRU - developing a response plan for high volume service users, where information sharing between partners was proving problematic.

A focussed analytical group and dedicated lead had been established to reinvigorate this piece of work. It was also acknowledged that the status of the item should currently be Amber, not Green.

RESOLVED 2020/043

To note the report.

9. PERFORMANCE AND INSIGHT REPORT TO SEPTEMBER 2020

The meeting considered the report, which provided an update on key performance headlines for Nottinghamshire Police over the 12-month period to September 2020.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- Overall crime had decreased very significantly during the reporting period. While Covid-19 had reduced the opportunity to commit crime, the reduction reflected a direction of travel that been established pre-Covid;
- Violent knife crime figures continued to perform well, bucking the national trend, but it was acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic had greatly reduced the opportunity engage with young people;

- It was also confirmed that there had been an increase in online crime during the pandemic, and that resource was been deployed accordingly to address this;
- The rise in abandoned call rates to the 101 non-emergency service were largely attributable to the effects of the pandemic in its early stages, staff turnover rates and the need to bring in a new cohort of call handlers, who were now fully trained.

RESOLVED 2020/044

To note the report.

10. QUARTER 2 2020-2021 CAPITAL YEAR TO DATE POSITION

The meeting considered the report, which updated the meeting on the forecast financial outturn position for capital for the 2020-2021 financial year.

During discussion, it was reported that progress on key capital projects had been less adversely affected by the impact of Covid-19 than had originally been feared, and that significant disposals had progressed well.

RESOLVED 2020/045

To note the report.

11. QUARTER 2 2020-2021 REVENUE YEAR TO DATE POSITION

The meeting considered the report, which updated the meeting on the forecast financial outturn position for revenue for the 2020-2021 financial year.

It was confirmed that Performance Grant was being received monthly and this had alleviated cash flow issues caused by Covid-19. It was also confirmed that during the reporting period that there were no virements greater than the £100,000 threshold to sign off.

RESOLVED 2020/046

To note the report.

12. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S UPDATE REPORT NOVEMBER 2020

The meeting considered the report, which updated the Police and Crime Commissioner on significant events and work that had taken place since the update received in March 2020.

The Chief Constable highlighted the success of the latest recruiting round in attracting applicants from the BAME community. Nottinghamshire Police had achieved the highest rate of BAME recruit of any Police Force during the reporting period.

The Chief Constable also confirmed reductions in a broad range of crimes, including burglary, robbery and theft from vehicles, which had continued to fall despite increases at regional level.

RESOLVED 2020/047

To note the report.

14. REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The meeting received a brief verbal update on regional collaboration. The view was expressed that the current charge levied from the region to Nottinghamshire Police was excessive, and that the current funding formula was to be discussed regionally in December 2020.

RESOLVED 2020/048

To note the verbal update.

15. WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2020/049

That the contents of the work programme be noted. The next meeting was scheduled for 10 March 2020.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm

CHAIR