

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2022 AT ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, ST.JOHN'S STREET, DEVIZES SN10 1BN.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali (Chairman), Cllr Ross Henning (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Abdul Amin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Jenny Jeffries, Cllr Vijay Manro, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Tony Pickernell and Mamie Beasant

Also Present:

Philip Wilkinson – Police & Crime Commissioner
Russell Holland – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Naji Darwish – OPCC
Zara Prendergast – OPCC

Perry Holmes – Wiltshire Council
Kevin Fielding – Wiltshire Council

Total in attendance: 17

52 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Bucknell – Wiltshire Council, Cllr Rich Rogers – Wiltshire Council and Anna Richardson – Independent Member.

53 **Minutes and matters arising**

Decision:

- **The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 3 February 2022 were agreed as the correct record and signed by the Chairman**

54 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

55 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were Chairman's Announcements.

56 **Public Participation**

Paul Summer – Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch thanked the Commissioner for his extensive consultation re the police and crime plan, and stressed the importance of good data gathering – and giving lone voices the opportunity to feel included.

57 **Update on engagement for Police and Crime Plan**

Zara Prendergast – OPCC and Philip Wilkinson – Police & Crime Commissioner outlined the report which provided the panel with a summary of the public consultation process undertaken by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to inform the new police and crime plan 2022-25: Making Wiltshire Safer.

Points made included:

That the PCC had always been clear that he wanted to ensure the voice of Wiltshire and Swindon's residents were heard, listened to and directly influenced the strategies which were the blueprint for the policing service they received from Wiltshire Police.

This engagement and consultation process had begun in October with the launch of the PCC's Use Your Voice campaign. Residents were asked to respond to questions of confidence in the policing service and identify which policing priorities were important to them and their community.

The main focus was to ensure as wide an awareness of the consultation and engagement process as possible to ensure residents were directly influencing the priorities in the new police and crime plan, as well as achieving statistical significance to numbers of people responding to the survey.

Feedback and engagement was consistently encouraged via an online survey, open for six weeks, but options to respond via email and social media were also offered.

During December and January, a draft police and crime plan was placed on the PCC website for download and feedback was invited.

Residents and interested parties were able to fill in feedback forms on the PCC website, ask questions via an online form, as well as joining in a public forum on the PCC's digital platforms. Formal responses were also requested from Wiltshire Police and other key partners including local authorities, from within the criminal justice system and from our commissioned services.

A number of engagement and consultative activities to inform Making Wiltshire Safer:

Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 (P&C Plan) were carried out.

Key findings:

- 81.9% of respondents were aged 40+
- 47% of people felt a little or much less safe than 2 years ago, with 48% reporting no change with females more likely to report feeling less safe than male in the last two years (51.8% Females, 44.4% males)
- 70% of people felt safe during the day in their community
- 36% of people felt unsafe at night in their community, with 39% feeling very or quite safe
- 71% of people felt confident they could contact the police
- 47% of people did not feel confident to contact their local CPT
- 62% felt the police treated them with respect when contacted

That initial analysis indicated the top concerns for the public were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Drug use and dealing of drugs
- Speeding and other road traffic offences
- Fly tipping and Environmental Crime
- Violence and Knife Crime

Where people believed that the following are where the PCC should direct funding:

- Safer Streets
- Early intervention
- Road Safety
- Community engagement
- Victim support (was third priority for under 40s)

Points made by the panel members included:

Could Neighbourhood Watch have a seat on the panel?

Perry Holmes advised that Secretary of State approval for this would be required, but that he would look at what other PCPs were doing re panel make up.

It was discussed that perhaps other interested stakeholders could be invited by the panel to come and speak on an ad hoc basis at PCP meetings, giving updates and outlining what their organisation/group did.

Concerns were raised that too many voices would make the panel just a talking shop, but it was agreed that stakeholder involvement was a positive thing.

The importance of the public believing that by getting involved in the consultation that they could help shape a police service that actually delivered for them.

That Wiltshire Police and the justice system needed to improve moving forward.

Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board – that the Commissioner now had increased powers to make changes and could engage more with the CMPs.

The importance of the Commissioner working with the Chief Constable to create an outward facing force.

The importance of a police force that the residents of Wiltshire could be proud of.

That Wiltshire Police were transparent in their business.

Decision

- **That the Police and Crime Panel noted the report and engagement process that had been carried out by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Commissioner thanked Cllr Ali and Cllr Amin for their help in facilitating better engagement with the Asian community.

The Chairman thanked Zara Prendergast and the Commissioner for the report.

58 Final Draft Police and Crime Plan

The Commissioner provided the police and crime panel with the final draft of the Police and Crime Plan (P&C Plan) 2022-25 for their input and comment.

Points made included:

That the P&C Plan set the direction, priorities and resources for policing and community safety in the local area.

That following the August 2021 PCC election, the PCC was required to have a new P&C Plan in place before 31 March 2022.

That the sharing of the final draft P&C Plan followed extensive consultation that had been conducted across Wiltshire and Swindon.

That once any final comments from the Police and Crime Panel were received this version would be designed and published.

The Plan set out the direction for community safety, policing and coordination of criminal justice. The document set the PCC's priorities and identifies where improvements were needed in across policing and crime.

The P&C Plan provided direction for partnership strategies and plans such as Community Safety Partnerships Plans and the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board Strategy 2022-2025.

The Chief Constable had provided operational advice to the PCC to inform the plan and would continue to be consulted as the plan developed.

The P&C Plan set out how the PCC was fulfilling the national strategic policing requirements and the national crime and policing measures set by the Home Secretary.

The structure of the draft Police and Crime Plan 2022-25

The Plan sets out the PCC's direction and vision and principles in the foreword and principles.

- Priority 1: A police service that meets the needs of its communities
- Priority 2: Reduce violence and serious harm
- Priority 3: Tackle crimes that matter to local communities
- Priority 4: Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

Points made by the Panel members included:

That it was good to see a Commissioner so passionate re community engagement.

The importance of positive police visibility – re-enforcing the neighbourhood policing teams.

The importance of the role of the PCSOs in our communities.

The importance of good joined up working – where everybody knew where they fitted in to the policing plan.

A good plan – but we need to be able to measure what had been achieved.

That the Police and Crime Panel liked the Commissioner's confidence in what could be achieved.

Decision

- **That the Police and Crime Panel noted the final draft plan and provided feedback.**

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner for his report.

59 **Delivering the Plan**

Naji Darwish – Chief Executive, OPCC outlined the report which set out a summary of the changes underway to deliver and monitor the Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 (P&C Plan).

Points made included:

That the P&C Plan set the direction, priorities and resources for policing, community safety and criminal justice coordination in the local area. This was a strategic document which the PCC was supported and scrutinised in its delivery by the PCP and ultimately the public.

That there were four main organisations / partnerships who drove delivery of the P&C Plan. Wiltshire Police, through the Chief Constable are accountable to the PCC, and deliver the majority of the P&C Plan. Increasing the wider remit of the PCC required key elements to be delivered by the OPCC and partnerships such as the Community Safety Partnerships and the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board.

That the paper provided an overview of the ongoing work to deliver the new P&C Plan, its principles and objectives. It would also set out the approach the PCC would take in ensuring delivery of his plan, providing reassurance that the PCC is fulfilling his role.

That after discussions with the PCP Chairman and Vice-Chairman, from the 9 June PCP, the first of the P&C Plan 2022-25, the PCC would provide a quarterly summary of his assessment of delivery, what action had been taken to ensure delivery of the plan and any key issues or risks that were arising.

Decision

- **That the Police and Crime Panel noted the report and the proposed next steps to assist the PCP to scrutinise and support the PCC**

The Chairman thanked Naji Darwish for his report.

60 **PCC Update**

The Commissioner advised that the drug dealing operation which had commenced on Monday 7 March 2022 was making good progress across Wiltshire with some very productive outcomes already.

That a press statement would be released shortly (currently embargoed).

61 **Forward Work Plan**

It was agreed that a Quarterly Plan Delivery update would be added for the June, September and December 2022 meetings, and that PCC Update would become a standing agenda item on future agendas.

62 **Future meeting dates**

The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be on Thursday 9 June 2022 - venue to be confirmed.

Future meeting dates were:

- Thursday 29 September 2022 - venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 15 December 2022 – Swindon Borough Council

63 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Decision

That the Police and Crime Panel agreed that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Items Number 12 and 13 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

64 **Update of the Police & Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee in relation to Complaint reference COC136172**

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.35 am)

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