

# WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

## Defining the Relationship with the Commissioner

### 1. General Principles

The role of the Panel is to review or scrutinise the decisions and actions of the Commissioner in the exercise of his functions.

The Panel will exercise its functions with a view to supporting the Commissioner in his role.

### 2. Purpose

The roles of the Commissioner and the Panel are set out in the regulatory framework under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011. We will follow the framework in a constructive and positive way. This protocol sets out the broad principles and processes which will guide our work.

### 3. Our principles for successful partnership working

Given the respective roles of the Commissioner and the Panel, it is vital that they:

- (i) work in a climate of mutual respect and courtesy;
- (ii) have a shared understanding of their respective roles, responsibilities and priorities;
- (iii) promote and foster an open relationship where issues of common interest and concern are shared in a constructive and mutually supportive way;
- (iv) share work programmes, information or data they have obtained to avoid the unnecessary duplication of effort.
- (v) Recognise the desire of the panel that their work will be a balance between assistance and scrutiny.

Whilst recognising the common aims and the need for closer working, it is important to remember that the Office of the PCC and the PCP are independent bodies and have autonomy over their work programmes, methods of working and any views or conclusions they may reach. This protocol will not preclude either body from working with any other local, regional or national organisation to deliver their aims.

### 4. Shared values and behaviours

At the heart of a successful relationship is **trust**. Building trust takes time, but it only takes an instance to damage it. Agreeing shared values and behaviours, which are interrelated and impact on each other, is critical to the development of trust. We have set out below our shared values and expectation. We will hold each other to account and measure ourselves against these principles:

**Taking an evidence-led approach**

**Valuing and respecting each other**

**Acting in the Public interest**

**Building capacity**

**Acting ethically**

## **5. Specific protocols and procedures**

It may be necessary, over time, to develop and agree additional protocols and procedures to deal with specific issues.

## **6. Work Programming**

The Secretariat of the Panel will work with Commissioner's staff to co-ordinate and align the work of the Panel with the work of the PCC.

The Panel has a statutory right to seek information that it reasonably requires to carry out its functions. However there are safeguards where it would jeopardise safety or prevent detection of crime or apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Where the PCC is required to provide information to the Panel, the Panel should aim to give 15 working days' notice of the date of the meeting and set out the nature of the agenda item and the information required. In exceptional circumstances and when there is agreement between the PCC and Chairman of the Panel, shorter notice may be given.

Any information provided to the Panel by the PCC will be caught by the Access to Information provisions and therefore, unless falling within the exempt or confidential categories contained therein, will be public documents.

Where the Panel requires the PCC to attend it may also request the attendance of the Chief Constable to answer questions which appear to the Panel may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions.

## **7. Scrutiny and Review Meetings**

The PCC will present his Annual Report on policing to the Panel. The PCC will attend other meetings of the Panel to answer questions which the Panel considers necessary to enable it to discharge its functions. The Panel expects to hold 6-8 meetings per year.

## **8. Working Arrangements**

The proposed timescales for responding to proposals put forward are aimed at ensuring that matters are dealt with promptly. With the agreement of the PCC and

Chairman of the PCP timescales may be amended having regard to particular circumstances. The expectation shall be that the Chief Executive Officer of the PCC should inform the Panel Secretariat, at the earliest opportunity, of indicative timescales of matters likely to be referred to the Panel to enable meetings to be scheduled accordingly.

As the Police and Crime Plan will be the key document by which the performance of the PCC is to be measured, the PCC will provide regular reports on performance against objectives. Such reports would normally be quarterly in line with best practice.

All meetings must add value and discharge the duty to scrutinise, but also support the Commissioner in the exercise of his functions. The format of meetings to deal with the following issues will be agreed with the PCC to that end. The meetings are to review:

**A. The Draft Police and Crime Plan**

**B. Annual Report**

**C. Proposed Precept**

**D. Senior Officer Appointments (other than the Chief Constable)**

**E. Chief Constable Appointment**

**F. Suspension/Removal of Chief Constable**

**G. Suspension of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

**H. Appointment of an Acting PCC**

**I. Complaints**

**9. Resolving Differences**

In any new arrangements there will inevitably be differences of opinion on issues. We will take a positive and constructive approach to resolving any issues in accordance with the arrangements set out in the relevant Protocol or Procedure. In general officers will attempt to resolve an issue in consultation with the Chair of the PCP and the PCC before referring the matter to the full PCP.

**10. Summary**

This protocol reflects work in progress. We recognise that these are new and different arrangements and there will be issues to work through and resolve. The quality of our relationship will be more important than any written agreements. If we invest time and energy in maintaining a good partnership working relationship,

together we can make a huge difference. We are committed to doing that in a constructive and positive way, remembering always that our shared priority and the reason why we exist is to serve the people of Wiltshire and Swindon.

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