

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

MINUTES OF THE WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT ASSEMBLY ROOM, TOWN HALL, DEVIZES.

Present:

Cllr Junab Ali (Chairman), Cllr Abdul Amin, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Caroline Corbin, Cllr Ross Henning (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jenny Jeffries, Cllr Brian Mathew, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Rich Rogers and Cllr Richard Britton

Also Present:

Philip Wilkinson, OBE – Police and Crime Commissioner
Kieran Kilgallen – OPCC
Naji Darwish – OPCC
Chris McMullen – OPCC

Kevin Fielding – Wiltshire Council

9 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mamie Beasant & Anna Richardson – Independent members.

10 **Minutes**

Decision:

- **The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman**

11 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that at a recent briefing with Kieran Kilgallen - OPCC Chief Executive, himself and the vice-chairman had suggested that the PCP members could look at setting up a system for members to take on a number of areas of responsibility rather than all of the panel taking on all the details.

Whoever took on the responsibility for a particular area would then be able to inform the Panel with greater detail.

That it would be helpful if members of the committee would indicate if they would be interested in taking on one of these topics.

The four areas to cover were:

- Finance
- Complaint
- Performance
- Work force mix (warranted officers, PCSO's, police staff and specials)

Points raised included:

- That time was needed to discuss whether the four headers were the correct ones or should be refined.
- That it may be useful to carry out a skills and interests audit for all members to help match members to topics.
- That it may be useful for the Commissioner and PCP Chairman to discuss the structure and the way forward.
- The need to focus on the key areas, with a flexible and dynamic approach.

Cllr Brian Mathew outlined a discussion document which had been circulated to the panel members.

That following the PCC election it was important that the priorities that were voiced by all the candidates and voted for in large numbers were captured and used to help the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner develop his own policies going forward. These had been assembled from all of the candidates words.

Priorities for Wiltshire:

Funding Formula:

- The current under funding of Wiltshire Police by central Government.

The Police Estate:

- A dedicated modern police station for Salisbury. The issue of having a police station and custody centre in Salisbury.
- Retaining the police stations currently for sale. Once they are gone, they will never return.
- Cancelling the sale of Parkfields land in Devizes, which is damaging to wildlife and opposed by residents.
- 'Pop up Cop Shops' where police stations have been closed.

Police Management:

- Improving mental health care both internally while building team morale and externally building on Wiltshire and Swindon's crisis team and the Bluebell Ward, which is a health-based place of safety in Devizes.
- Increasing community policing visibility.
- Improving the current very low detection rate.
- Moving away from the 'crime number culture'.
- Promoting 'Green' Policing – Fast electric cars for e-response & electric bikes for visible neighbourhood policing.
- Wise spending and zero tolerance of corruption in the force.
- Nurturing the support of the law abiding public.

Working with schools and youth:

- Activate and train retired police to volunteer with schools to engage with the pupils. To give talks, show films and act as a trusted ear to help neighbourhood policing teams and the CID tackle county lines drugs gangs, anti-social behaviour and to establish in the minds of the pupils the function and purpose of policing through consent (the 'Peelian' Principles), thus helping to establish a healthy attitude among the young to the Police Force.
- Helping to create facilities to divert youth and young adults away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Victim Support:

- Giving the victims of crime a higher priority, tasking a senior staff lead to support victims.
- homelessness and similar projects.

Tackling Crime and building community trust:

- Rural Crime - improving rural policing coverage and dealing with farm equipment and livestock theft, and wildlife crime - hare coursing, badger baiting, fox hunting.
- Proper attention to pet theft.
- Giving violence against women and girls more protection and attention.
- A traveller & Gypsy liaison officer to both assist where they are victims of crime and to help coordinate when travellers are believed to have been involved.

- Build a more visible policing presence through a stronger focus on community policing.
- Protect children and the vulnerable.
- Internet fraud. Build more resources to tackle cybercrime.

Speeding and community volunteers:

- Speeding – promoting intelligent speed cameras to target those who seriously endanger all of us, with high speed and often lack of insurance a killer combination. Specifically the recognition of the value of data collected by community speed watch groups using the Auto Speed Watch system (www.autospeedwatch.com), for identifying and targeting repeat serious speeding offenders for Wiltshire Police's own official speed cameras. The lack of support being shown to community volunteers such as CSW, which is causing a lot of disillusionment.

Crown Prosecution Service

- Urgently work to find solutions to the appalling delays in the CPS's schedules post COVID-19 so that victims of crime can be better served with justice and the guilty punished and rehabilitated in much more timely order.

13 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

14 Introduction of the New Police and Crime Commissioner

Philip Wilkinson, OBE – Police and Crime Commissioner was welcomed to his first meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

Points made by the Commissioner included:

The importance of engagement with both civil and un-civil parties in order to put his new plan into place.

The need to have good constructive engagement with our local MPs, PCP, local councils and the Area Boards.

The importance of engagement through representative bodies to get things working better.

The intention to work in a much more executive fashion.

That a good working relationship between the PCP and OPCC would mean that issues could be tackled and things got done.

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner and looked forward to working with him.

15 **Quarterly data (Q1) - Performance**

Philip Wilkinson, OBE – Police and Crime Commissioner & Kieran Kilgallen – Chief Executive, OPCC outlined the Quarterly data report.

That Wiltshire Police were reporting the second lowest nationally for recorded crimes per 1000 residents and considered by HMIC to be 'better than peers'. For the 12 months to May-21 Wiltshire were second lowest within our MSG.

That 53.3 crimes were reported for every 1000 residents in the county of Wiltshire, significantly below the MSG average of 66.0.

Wiltshire Police had reported a -6.3% reduction in the volume of crime for the 12 months to June-21 compared to the previous 12 months, 3.1 percentage points better than the average national decrease.

The average reported national decrease was -3.2%; South West Region was an average reduction of -4.9%; MSG is an average reduction of -4.9%.

Eight forces nationally had reported an increase within the same time period.

That Wiltshire's crime volume was demonstrating a long term stable trend with the most recent months experiencing expected seasonal increases. During quarter one crime volume had been below the forecast when using pre-covid volumes. This enabled the force to understand where it was expected to be by removing the exceptional activity as a result of the covid-19 pandemic and the related lockdown periods.

June-21 volumes reported at 4.1% below where they were forecasted to be. Meaning that the seasonal high so far this year had not been quite as high as expected.

The rolling 12 month forecast was showing signs of increase in crime volumes. This demonstrated that although Wiltshire were reporting a year on year decrease crime volumes were returning to expected levels now that restrictions had eased considerably and society was opening back up.

That despite the fact Wiltshire were experiencing these increases, the county of Wiltshire continued to be one of the safest places to live in the country.

Points made by the panel members included:

- That better outcome rates would be welcomed.
- That speeding traffic and antisocial behaviour were regular complaints – a police presence in our communities could make a real difference.

- What was the point in Wiltshire Police recording crime statistics if nothing gets followed up.
- That a better social media presence outlining what officers were doing may help the public's perception of how officers spend their time.
- The need for a more intelligence based culture to find out what was happening in communities – ask young people, re county lines drug issues etc.
- Tackling Speeding – that auto speedwatch was great way of attacking this crime and also dove tails into other crimes such as burglary and antisocial behaviour issues.
- That officers needed to feel valued by both government and the local residents that they served.
- That some people would rather prefer to see more warranted and special constables rather than PCSOs
- Cyber Crime – the need to have specialist units tackling this global and growing crime.
- The need to improve the outcome rates of domestic abuse cases.
- The need to continue to push the recruitment of ethnic officers into the force.
- Complaints – the importance to getting things properly investigated and the culture changed where needed.
- Frustrations re CPT Inspectors and officers that keep moving on, would like better continuity and be able to form better relationships with local officers, and a better handover process when they move onto other duties.

The Commissioner gave a brief update on Operation Uplift.

That the Force remained on track to deliver the requirements of Uplift and increase the number of officers in Wiltshire Police. The year to 31 March 2022 would be the second year of the Uplift Programme.

That plans were in place to achieve the second phase of the requirement and assessments by the national programme team placed Wiltshire in a good position.

Wiltshire had been allocated 46 extra officers by March 2022. Allocation of additional officers in year two also included allocations specifically to tackle Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), and an allocation to Counter-Terrorism Police (CTP). Funding for tackling SOC would be shared across the network of Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU).

In order to achieve the uplift numbers, in addition to maintaining the numbers required due to officers leaving the organisation, Wiltshire would be required to recruit approximately over 400 officers up to March 2023. It was estimated at this stage that one in eight applicants got through the process, resulting in needing approximately 3,200 applicants for police officer jobs in Wiltshire.

That Wiltshire Police ran a campaign in May 2021 which were currently going through the recruitment process which included familiarisation, vetting, fitness, assessment and qualification checks. Successful candidates would be starting in January 2022 at the earliest. The next intake advert was being planned for early 2022, taking the learning from previous campaigns.

Decision

- **The Police and Crime Panel noted the content of the report**

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner and Kieran Kilgallen for the report and update.

16 **Risk Report and Register**

The Commissioner and Kieran Kilgallen updated the Police and Crime Panel on the PCC Risk Register.

Points made included:

That the risk register was aligned to the lifespan of the Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021) and the most recent review took place on 12 August 2021. The format for the PCC risk register were updated in anticipation of the PCC elections in May, including identification of a number of new risks.

All risks were split into two categories – they were either inherent risks and would remain on the register regardless of score, or topical risks which would be removed when they had a score of 10 or under. This would assist in ensuring focus remained on current risks and what additional mitigations or plans were needed to reduce the score and thus remove the risk from the register.

The register was a dynamic document and was intended to capture live management of risk and mitigation, rather than being a record of all possible risks.

Decision

- **The Police and Crime Panel noted the content of the report and the risk register**

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner and Kieran Kilgallen the update and the report.

17 **Draft Annual Report 2020/2021**

The Commissioner and Naji Darwish – Deputy Chief Executive, OPCC outlined the draft version of the PCC Annual Report 2010-20.

Points made included:

That as required by the Police Reform and Responsibility Act 2011, the PCC was required to produce an annual report on the performance against the Police and Crime Plan (P&C Plan).

The report identified the highlights of the year, areas to improve, progress against his plan and future challenges and opportunities. Presenting a short summary of the progress against the progress against the current P&C Plan, the priorities and the performance covering the financial year 2019-20.

Due to the recent PCC election the annual report was drafted to concisely with a focus on specific progress against the P&C Plan, noting this was commenting on a previous PCC's plan and actions.

During preparation for the next Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 would consider overhauling the annual report and meeting the new requirements for PCCs in publishing local performance information.

A final version would be circulated to PCP members and published on the OPCC website.

That the Commissioner would continue to push the case for fairer funding for Wiltshire Police.

Decision

- **That the Police and Crime Panel noted the Annual Report as provided in draft form.**

The Chairman thanked the Commissioner and Naji Darwish the update and report.

18 **Forward Work Plan**

The forward work plan as noted with the panel keen to move things forward now the Commissioner was in post.

19 **Future meeting dates**

Future meeting dates detailed below were noted:

- Thursday 16 December 2021 – Swindon Borough Council Offices
- Thursday 13 January 2022 – venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 3 February 2022 - venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 10 March 2022 - venue to be confirmed

20 **Any Other Business**

Cllr Russell Holland – Swindon Borough Council briefly introduced himself.

The Police and Crime Panel were asked to ratify the appointment of Cllr Russell Holland as the Deputy Commissioner

Decision

- **That the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel agreed the appointment of Cllr Russell Holland as the Deputy Commissioner**

21 **Close**

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.40 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kevin Fielding of Democratic Services, direct line 01249 706612 EXT 21612, e-mail kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk