

Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Panel

Friday, 21 February 2020

PRESENT: Councillor A. Lloyd-Jones (Chair)

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:

Councillors K. Howell, J. Prosser and E. Schiavone;

Ceredigion County Council Members:

Councillor K. Evans;

Pembrokeshire County Council Members:

Councillors M. James and S. Joseph;

Powys County Council Members:

Councillors D. Evans, L. George and W. Powell;

Independent Members:

Prof. I. Roffe;

Mrs. H.M. Thomas;

In attendance from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Mr. D. Llywelyn - Police and Crime Commissioner;

Mrs. C. Morgans - Chief of Staff;

Ms. B. Peatling - Chief Finance Officer;

The following Officers were in attendance:

R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Haverfordwest: 10.00 am - 12.25 pm and 1.00 pm - 1.35 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lloyd Edwards (Ceredigion County Council) and Councillor Rob Summons (Pembrokeshire County Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest made at the meeting.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM PANEL MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The Chair advised that no question on notice had been received from Panel members.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair advised that no question on notice had been received from members of the public.

5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's report on anti-social behaviour.

The Commissioner commented that the report had also been discussed with representatives of the Force at Police Board meetings and he was grateful for their cooperation. In presenting the report, he advised that there had been a downward trajectory of recorded anti-social behaviour. He added that further investment in

Neighbourhood Policing Teams was being looked into and it was hoped that technological investment would help improve the reporting and tackling of anti-social behaviour.

In terms of the recommendations put forward by Baroness Newlove in her last report as Victims' Commissioner the Police and Crime Commissioner did not consider that any significant changes to primary legislation would be required to take them forward. The Panel was reminded that there was now a dedicated rural crime team with officers actively involved in addressing anti-social behaviour through initiatives such as educating dog owners on their responsibilities.

Members welcomed the grant funding the Commissioner had provided to community initiatives such as Dr. Mz and Hafren.

RESOLVED

5.1 that the report be received;

5.2 that the results of the victim satisfaction survey for victims of ASB recently introduced by the Force be reported back to the Panel.

6. RURAL AND WILDLIFE CRIME

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's report on Rural Crime.

In presenting his report the Commissioner referred to the forthcoming Rural Crime Conference on 6 March 2020 which he had organised. The report detailed the positive progress made by both the Commissioner and Dyfed-Powys Police in their commitment to working with rural communities in order to fully understand their needs and requirements.

The Commissioner commented that whilst wildlife crime was not currently at the forefront of the Rural Crime Team's work due to its commitment to tackle agricultural crime it would in time be paid greater heed. He added that it was hoped that amongst new recruits to the Force there would be individuals with an understanding of life in rural areas. The Commissioner agreed to convey to the Rural Crime Team the importance of engagement with community councils.

Reference was made to the important role farmers themselves could play in helping to curb rural crime such as installing security cameras.

The Police Commissioner, in response to a query, commented that the Force had access to drones when their use was considered to be advantageous.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. DEEP DIVE REVIEW - VICTIM WITHDRAWAL

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's report on the Deep Dive Scrutiny Review into Victim Withdrawal within Dyfed-Powys Police.

Whilst it was evident that victims were a priority for the Chief Constable and for Dyfed-Powys Police as a whole the review recommended a number of areas where improvements could be made to ensure delivery of the best possible service to victims and to ensure that the Force was truly victim centred.

The Commissioner commented that the issue of duplication between departments and services with regard to who was supporting and updating victims needed to be addressed. He agreed to follow up a suggestion that it might be helpful to arrange a seminar for GPs in the Force area to apprise them of the issues covered in the Review.

The Commissioner stated that he was reassured that the work being undertaken by the Force to address domestic violence was safeguarding more people and he commended the Chief Constable in making it a key priority.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

[The Panel adjourned for lunch at this point]

8. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER

The Panel considered a report on decisions taken by the Commissioner between 29th January 2020 and 14th February 2020.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

9. FEEDBACK FROM THE POLICING ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD ON THE 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

The Panel received a verbal report from Councillor Emlyn Schiavone on the Police Accountability Board meeting held in Carmarthen on the 17th February 2020. Councillor Schiavone stated that issues discussed had included access to police stations, increased visibility of police officers on patrol, greater use of mobile vans, Force finances, responses to 101 calls and monitoring of police time when out of office.

The Panel thanked Councillor Schiavone for his report.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

10. MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Professor Ian Roffe presented the minutes of a meeting between Jane Hutt AM, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, and the Police & Crime Panel Chairs / Vice Chairs held in Cardiff on 22nd January, 2020. The purpose of the meeting had been to raise concerns with the Minister regarding how panel members were appointed and how the panels were funded and, in particular, that the unique status of the Welsh Panels placed them at a disadvantage in comparison with their English counterparts. Professor Roffe commented that it had been a positive meeting and that he had, at the request of the Deputy Minister & Chief Whip, assisted the WLGA representative in producing a short note summarising the issues and what could be done to address them. Further developments were awaited.

The Panel thanked Professor Roffe for his report.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

CHAIR

DATE